

Editorial



Dear Friends,



Outgoing AWF President Monico Puentevella received the IWF Award of Merit

(Photos courtesy Sheikh Sultan Bin Mejren/Mansour S. Houran)

The International Weightlifting Federation lays special emphasis on maintaining a harmonious and permanent collaboration with the Continental Federations. One of the key elements of such partnership is to ensure the representation of the Continental Federations on the IWF Executive Board, where the CF Presidents become Members with full rights by virtue of the Constitution.

It is only natural that there are significant differences between the degree of effectiveness and organisation of the various Continental Federations. The apropos of our choosing this subject for the Editorial was provided by the Electoral Congress of the Asian Weightlifting Federation, held on 2nd and 3rd February 2007 in Macao. In the last four years, the Asian Federation has progressed tremendously. The leadership elected in February 2003 at the Manila Congress did an outstanding job. As opposed to the earlier stagnation, the Federation's activities developed at fast speed. This progress became manifest both in terms of the Asian weightlifters' results and in the Federation's management. Asia has clearly become a leading power in our sport. No wonder the various positions on the AWF have become highly valuable. Prior to the elections in Macao, there were as many as six candidates to President and three as General Secretary of the Federation! The number of candidates –

each of them of serious potential – and their ambitious programs revealed that Asia possessed vast resources. As opposed to the situation four years ago, when the IWF's intervention was unavoidable, this time the members of the IWF Executive Board living on other continents, including the President and General Secretary, did not wish to interfere in the elections, because today Asia is strong and wise enough to decide about its leadership for the next four years. The IWF President was invited as Guest of Honour to the AWF Congress and, together with the experienced Asian leaders, he did his best to make sure that the elections in Macao be run in the spirit of co-operation and harmony, excluding, as much as possible, the dominance of personal opposition and rivalry. A record number of 39 Asian National Federations were present with their delegates at the Congress. The IWF offers its congratulations and best wishes for a successful work to

the elected President Sheikh Sultan Bin Mejren of the United Arab Emirates and the re-elected General Secretary Ali Moradi from Iran, as well as the Vice Presidents and Members of the AWF Executive Board and the Committees. Appreciation should go to the Macao Weightlifting Association for the elegant and excellent organisation of the Congress.

In the coming years, Asia will play an accentuated role in international weightlifting. This year, the Qualification World Championships will be

held in Chiangmai, Thailand and in 2008 the Olympic Games will take place in Beijing, China. The 2009 World Championships will be carried out in Goyang City, Korea. We believe that a united and strong Asia, in a joint effort with the IWF, will be able to successfully meet these great challenges and welcome the rest of the world to their homes.

Dr. Tamás Aján
President

Yannis Sgouros
General Secretary

GOAL: THE THREE THOUSANDTH MEDAL

Asia's strength is testified by nearly 3,000 medals its lifters have so far collected in world competitions, according to this chart:

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Olympic Games (Men)	16	21	31	68
Olympic Games (Women)	9	7	7	23
World Championships (Men)	160	158	217	535
World Championships (Women)	357	239	187	783
Junior World Champs. (Men)	180	163	282	525
Junior World Champs. (Women)	161	108	81	350
University World Cups (Men)	138	94	85	317
University World Cups (Women)	150	97	48	295
Total:	1171	887	838	2896

The AWF Congress participants



The new AWF Executive Board with the IWF guest