

editorial

Dear Friends,

Depending on its Constitution, each International Sports Federation would hold its electoral congress every four or five years. In the life of the International Weightlifting Federation, one term in office means four years and the last one expired on 31st March 2009. Thus, an IWF's Electoral Congress had to be held and it duly took place in the Spanish capital, Madrid, hosted by the City of Madrid and the Spanish Weightlifting Federation. The Congress lasted for two days in succession: the first day of reports followed on 1st April 2009 by the election of the Federation's new leadership. The turnout of delegates surpassed all previous numbers: over 250 representatives from 132 affiliated national federations were in attendance.



Dr. Tamas Ajari

Mr. Ma Wenguang



Mr. Yannis Sgouros became Honorary Life General Secretary of the IWF and was thanked for leaving a great legacy to the sport of weightlifting

As regards the elections, in the 104-year old history of our Federation the most intense race of all times was noted for each of the positions either on the Executive Board or the Committees. The 39 posts

were targeted by an incredibly high number of candidates: 117 – representing 62 countries. Similarly unprecedented was the concentration of continental, regional or other alliances influencing the out-

come of elections. Individual ambitions were amplified by organised campaigning and support-raising activities launched long before the Congress and reaching into the sessions. All that keen competition proves nothing less than the fact that each and every position on the IWF purports high prestige, international presence and significance – undoubtedly the achievement of many decades of hard and systematic work in establishing a good standing and high reputation, as well as enhancing the status of weightlifting and of its Inter-

national Federation. Not quite unexpectedly, major changes occurred in the composition of the IWF's leading bodies. To start "from the top", Asian and Chinese weightlifting received due recognition by the election of the first ever General Secretary from outside Europe with the co-signatory of this Editorial. The Executive Board received "new forces" through most of our Vice Presidents and Board Members. We are pleased to see as many as two representatives from Oceania on the Executive Board and a strong presence of Pan-America and Africa. Now, our goal for the next four years cannot be anything else but to do, each and every one of us, our utmost to learn to work and act in unison. Once again, we must be a TEAM. In that, our focus can only be peace and harmony in the sport and effective work towards the benefit of weightlifting worldwide. The building of the future started immediately after the

Electoral Congress. The assortment of IWF events became enriched by the introduction of the Youth World Championships for the age group of 13 to 17 years old. The global rendezvous of the youngsters – girls and boys alike – will henceforward be organised every year except in the years of the Youth Olympic Games. The latter is another new event in the world of sport, with the first one to take place in August 2010, in Singapore. The 1st EGAT Youth World Weightlifting Championships, as it was officially called, was the main qualification competition to the Games, hosted by the unparalleled "Team Thailand". ChiangMai offered outstanding conditions at reasonable prices: no wonder the participation exceeded even the most daring of expectations. We must thank the Thai Amateur Weightlifting Association and the EGAT (Thailand's Electric Company sponsoring the YWWC) not

only for the astounding organisation of the Championships and lavish hospitality but also for allowing the IWF Executive Board to officially start its activities and attend to its first duties.

Following its informal gathering right after the elections in Madrid, the Executive Board sat down to serious business for the first time in Chiang-Mai and then in Bucharest. At the ChiangMai meeting, in accordance with the IWF Constitution, the remaining two Members were selected to the Executive Board and four members each to the Technical, Medical and Coaching & Research Committees. The latter three could therefore also start their 4-year activities in June, with meetings held in Bucharest. Let us congratulate all the officials of the IWF – either on the Board or in the Committees – and wish them successful work in the time ahead of us. And let us thank from the bottom of our hearts to

Mr. Yannis Sgouros, who signed this **World Weightlifting** Editorial for eight years and made unforgettable contributions to the sport of weightlifting. As far as the two of us, re-elected President and new General Secretary are concerned, we can promise you to walk and work in tandem, hand in hand and in concert with one common goal on our minds: the advance and benefit of weightlifting.

Dr. Tamás Aján
IWF President

Ma Wenguang
IWF General Secretary

The new IWF Executive Board

