

**Dear Readers,
dear Friends,**



Editorial

Wouldn't we wish to have three or four hundred lifters at the Olympic Games, just like in our open World Championships? Oh yes, we would not mind that. However, the Olympics are not the "aggregate" of the world championships of the individual sports on its program and, more importantly, it is the event of the International Olympic Committee that must define and set its limits in time, disciplines, events, and, of course, participant numbers. Therefore, it is only natural that the IOC demarcates the frames on each sport and it is the task of the International Sport Federation concerned to fill

considered, well elaborated and, very importantly, manageable and practicable. Whereby we mean that fundamentally it supports and promotes quality performance, within that the various weightlifting cultures. On the one hand it embraces the countries which constitute the strong pillars, the backbone of the weightlifting sport in the world; on the other hand it provides for universality, giving a chance to participation from a widest possible range so that even the small nations have the possibility of being represented at the Olympic Games. Last but not least, the system ensures that any outstanding talent from



The African Qualification Championships in Nairobi: (from left) John Ogolla, Chief Organiser, the IWF President and the IWF Delegate Dato Ong Poh Eng, Executive Member



those to its best benefit. The tool it uses to reach the objectives is in most cases a Qualification system. The structure of the Olympic Qualification system of the International Weightlifting Federation has been the same since the 1996 Games, and has undergone merely minor adjustments that became necessary. By now it can be said that the sport possesses an Olympic Qualification system that is very thoroughly

any point of the world, though the country is not strong enough to qualify, does get a slot at the Olympics based on his or her individual result. Following the 2010 and 2011 Qualification World Championships in Antalya and Paris, this year each of the five continents are having their Qualification Championships. When this magazine appears three of those have already been finished: in Africa Nairobi,



The chance of qualification attracted many countries to the European Championships in Antalya

Kenya; in Europe Antalya, Turkey and in Asia Pyeongtaek, South Korea hosted these significant events. The Pan-American and Oceania Qualification Championships are still ahead. Already the first three Continental Qualifications have shown that even such countries that do not have tens of thousands of weightlifters yet regularly participate, depending on their financial possibilities, in Regional, Continental and World Championships, have been able to win quota for London 2012.

The IWF Olympic Qualification System follows the same essence, the same guidelines as the International Olympic Committee, namely its leading principle is that the Olympic events should combine and integrate quality and universality, which means the right of participation. Weightlifting's Olympic quota is 260 athletes, including 156 men and 104 women. The Qualification period runs until 19th June 2012,



The host and newly elected EWF General Secretary Dr. Hasan Akkus enjoying the Opening Ceremony amongst other dignitaries

the Pan-American Championships in May and the Oceania Qualification in June to round up the series of events and make the weightlifting field complete. Like in its athlete Qualification regime, the IWF has adopted a similar philosophy in the selection of the Technical Officials to the Olympic

Games. TOs from all continents have been appointed in a careful procedure and they will fulfil their duty on the juries, in the referee squads, they will work as Technical Controllers, etc. We shall devote utmost attention to the quality of their work – under the conduct and keen eyes of the IWF Technical Committee Chairman Sam Coffa.

We have to aim at maximum fairness and correctness in refereeing and in TO activities – that is a moral and professional obligation to the athletes who, after long years of arduous work, deserve fair judgments. We all know that good results, let alone medals, at the Olympic Games may give inspiration and a sudden boost to the weightlifting sport in any country. As an example: Chinese Taipei won a bronze medal at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games and this success entailed significant support and financing from the government and the Olympic Committee. As a result, today, Chinese Taipei is one of the leading nations in weightlifting. We are absolutely sure that in London everyone will be there who deserves to be there and everyone has a chance to win glory for himself and his/her nation.

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