

# Dear Readers, Dear Friends,

At the beginning of September, Buenos Aires, Argentina hosted the most important event in international sports: the 125th Session of the International Olympic Committee. Both the Olympic Movement and the entire World of Sports have concentrated on this convention with exceptional interest and excitement.

The IOC Session 2013 had as many as three major decisions on its Agenda each of which had a pivotal impact on the future. The first such subject was choosing the host city of the 2020 Olympic Games. Following an evaluation and elimination process, three candidates out of 5 remained



Mr. Yang Shuan, Vice Minister of Sport of China offered a welcome to the IWF Executive Board in Beijing

on the final ballot: two from Europe, Madrid and Istanbul, and one from Asia: Tokyo. All three cities presented fantastic bids and it is worth mentioning that none of them were first-time candidates. For Madrid it was their third consecutive attempt, for Istanbul it was Turkey's fourth bid and Tokyo, as host of the 1964 Games, has been a candidate for the second time. No doubt the Olympic Movement takes a distinguished position in society – it is by no mere chance that the five-ring logo of the IOC is the world's best known symbol. All three cities were perfectly prepared, ready to go, and submitted their presentations involving their most illustrious representatives. The Spanish delegation was headed by the Crown Prince Felipe but of course the Prime Minister and the Spanish IOC Members were also present. The cleverly assembled Istanbul delegation was led by Turkey's Prime Minister. Similarly, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was present but perhaps the greatest impact was made by Princess Hisako's whose proficiency in English and French was simply enthralling. Each candidate made it clear: they are almost ready to go; for

instance Madrid possesses 80% of the facilities. All the three presentations were splendid, whereupon the IOC Evaluation Commission gave a report on its conclusions. Before the vote the IOC Members and the Summer Olympic International Federations had a chance to ask questions. Madrid was eliminated in the first round after losing a tie-breaker with Istanbul, and in the final round of voting Tokyo received 60 votes to Istanbul's 36 and was given the right to host the 2020 Summer Olympic Games. The IOC President's announcement was received with cheers and happiness overflowing in the Japanese camp. I am fully convinced that Tokyo will stage fantastic Games in 7 years' time. The second weighty subject of the Session came from the decision by the IOC Executive Board this February which 25 core sports should feature on the program of the Summer Olympic Games. I can state with great pleasure that this proposal by the EB was endorsed by the IOC Session and weightlifting is among those 25 core (obligatory) sports, giving us ultimate recognition. At the same time, as it is generally known, wrestling was temporarily at a

risk of dropping out and I also made a lot of efforts to keep that sport in. Eventually, wrestling was voted to remain on the program as the 26<sup>th</sup> sport. For the 2016 Rio Games golf and rugby seven make the program complete. An additional acknowledgment for weightlifting is the fact that – appreciating the work the IWF has been doing – the IOC upgraded our Federation into a higher category of the distribution of the Games' TV revenues.

The third key topic on the Agenda of the Session was the election of a new President to the IOC. A President is elected for eight years and it can be extended for a further 4-year term. After 12 years in office, the mandate of Jacques Rogge was running out now in Buenos Aires. Six outstanding persons, six fellow IOC Members were in the race for the President's position. If I may say: each of them are brilliant personalities and each of them are fully competent but the "frontrunner" who counted as the favourite was Thomas Bach, President of the German Olympic Committee, Olympic champion in fencing and Chairman of the IOC Legal Commission. As expected,

he won already in the second round of voting, having received absolute majority. In my opinion, Thomas Bach is a fully accomplished and respectful man and I have no doubts the governance of the IOC will be in good hands.

is that it was a pleasure to participate in this Executive Board meeting. The leading body of the IWF is now an excellent team, resolute, free from intrigue and full of energy. It was my concept that at this meeting we need to lay

down the foundation for the next four years. As planned, we came to very important decisions regarding the technical, financial, the anti-doping or development issues, appointed the Chairs to the Committees and Commissions.

In the positive and constructive atmosphere of the meeting we were able to accomplish our mission and, I am sure, we shall be able to work more productively than ever for the future of weightlifting. I would also like to express

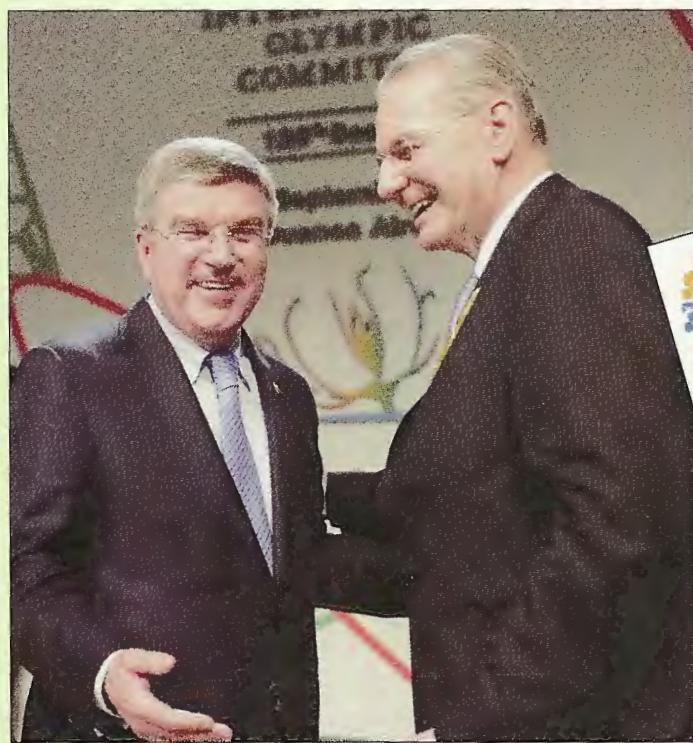


The IWF Executive Board and staff

He declared immediately that he wanted to work together with everybody and would like to consult his former rivals to the ultimate benefit of the Olympic Movement, what, in turn, each of these distinguished colleagues were eager to confirm.

Finally, coming back to our own "household": since the elections in May, the new IWF Executive Board has already had its first meeting.

We assembled in Beijing, upon the invitation of the Chinese Olympic Committee – at the same time demonstrating their full support to Mr. Ma Wenguang as re-elected IWF General Secretary. All I can say



our gratitude to Mr. Ma and his team for the excellent organisation of the meeting and the kind hospitality in Beijing.

Dr. Tamás Aján  
President



Mr. Jacques Rogge congratulates Mr. Thomas Bach, his successor as IOC President

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