
OLYMPIC SOLIDARITY



The Pan-American Sports Organization (PASO)

PASO, which groups together 42 National Olympic Committees (NOCs) in the Americas, held its general assembly from 25 to 27 July 1997 in Winnipeg, Canada, the host of the next Pan-American Games in 1999.

Each NOC receives an annual budget of US \$40,000 in direct aid from Olympic Solidarity, which can be used for the organization of technical seminars, national Olympic academy sessions, various other seminars, as well as for the procurement of sport equipment or educational materials.

A total of 130 seminars were planned in 1997. Olympic Solidarity also organized 14 seminars on sport administration and one on training for local sport administrators. In 1997, 46 athletes from 20 PASO member NOCs benefited from Olympic Solidarity scholarships.

The IOC Department of International Cooperation organized two seminars in the Americas in 1997: one on sport and women, from 18 to 19 July in Venezuela, with the participation of 10 NOCs, the other on sport and the environment in Barbados from 21 to 22 July, with representatives of 23 NOCs.



Special focus on Nagano

Nagano scholarship programme

Wishing to continue its support of the NOCs, Olympic Solidarity created for 1997 a special complementary scholarship programme for Nagano, with a total budget of US \$1,000,000. The aim of this assistance was to provide the NOCs with financial aid in order to prepare their athletes to participate in the Olympic Winter Games in Nagano. Forty-nine NOCs had the opportunity to take part in the programme, and of them 42 actually participated (1 in Africa, 7 in the Americas, 5 in Asia and 29 in Europe).

The NOCs had to submit a proposal reflecting their specific needs in all the sports on the Olympic Winter programme, with the exception of team sports. With each proposal received, Olympic Solidarity consulted the International Federations concerned for their opinion.

The majority of the activities requested was either for training programmes, study programmes abroad, athletes' participation in qualifying competitions, seminars, or the temporary hire of a personal trainer.

Each NOC has presented the names of the athletes who took part in the programme, thanks to which athletes from Armenia, Chile, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Virgin Islands, among others, have qualified for the Games in Nagano. The next issue of the *Olympic Review* will contain an overview of these athletes' performances in Nagano.

Aid to NOCs participating in the XVI-II Olympic Winter Games in Nagano

In July 1997, Olympic Solidarity informed all the NOCs that were planning to participate in the Games in

Nagano about the aid that would be allocated to them. The NOCs had the opportunity to receive part of the subsidy prior to the Games, in order that they could facilitate their preparation. The funds consisted in the reimbursement of air travel in coach class to Nagano for three athletes and one official per NOC. The Nagano Organizing Committee (NAOC) had committed to pay a US \$1,000 subsidy for travel costs for each participating athlete, not including those subsidised already by Olympic Solidarity. US \$6,000 in logistical aid was paid to the NOCs in December 1997.

Assistance is also allocated to cover the transportation and accommodation costs for each NOC president and secretary general (maximum US \$4,000 each).

After the Games, and upon receipt from NAOC of the official competition participation lists, each NOC will receive assistance funds calculated based on US \$1,200 per athlete who actually took part in the events, with the exception of the three athletes already defrayed for their air tickets. This subsidy, which compensates the NOCs for their contribution to the success of the Games, will help each of their teams prepare for the XIX Olympic Winter Games.

Also, NAOC requested a security deposit from each NOC to guarantee the cost of potential damage in the Olympic Village. The IOC, through Olympic Solidarity, made an agreement with NAOC facilitating this payment.

International Youth Camp in Nagano

In December 1997, 59 NOCs had registered participants in this camp with NAOC. Olympic Solidarity will pay the air fare for one participant per NOC.