
World Games

dation, uniforming and marching in ceremonies. Although this was the case, some National Olympic Committees such as Belgium have supported the participation of athletes from their nation, while others such as Chinese Taipei and Korea have also lent their support to the World Games participants.

In order to enhance the experience of the athletes as part of the international multi-sport Games, starting in Akita 2001 athletes will be organized as a national delegation. This will allow them the opportunity to mix with other athletes from their country, gain a wider experience from their participation in the event, and create further national interest in following the delegation to the Games. In this regard, we look forward to continued growth of the support of NOCs.

2001 and beyond

The host for the first World Games in the new millennium is also the first Asian venue for the event. From 16 to



26 August 2001, the northwestern Japanese prefecture of Akita and its capital Akita City, will welcome 2,500 athletes and officials representing 22 member federations of the IWGA. The organizers reached an agreement with Japan television company NHK for daily summaries of 52 minutes. There will also be live coverage of some sports, while the sales of the

international rights are currently being negotiated.

The announcement of Duisburg (Germany) as host of the VII World Games in 2005 was also confirmed in Monte Carlo. For the first time a bid of a host city included a letter of intent from a host broadcaster, West Deutsche Rundfunk (WDR), which will help guarantee the exposure, financial security and therefore athlete experience at future Games.

With this solid period of development, the exciting new elements for the Games, and continued support from the IOC and all constituents of the Olympic Family, the World Games have fast become a prominent element of the international sports landscape. We look forward to the continued growth of our Games and the maximum experience of exposure of our sports and athletes.

*President, International World Games Association.

News

Fair Play

The Italian striker Paolo di Canio was the subject of an exceptional act of fair play in an English Premiership match last December. His act came in the closing minutes of the match between his team, West Ham United, and Everton, which ended in a 1-1 draw. With the Everton goalkeeper lying injured on

the ground, di Canio refused to go for the ball in a goal-scoring situation and instead caught the ball with his hands so that his stricken opponent could be given medical treatment. FIFA President and IOC member, Joseph Blatter, wrote to Paolo di Canio: "Gestures like this are all too rare in

football, especially at the professional level. High-profile players like yourself are in the privileged position of role models who can have a positive influence on young people, but unfortunately this opportunity is taken only too seldom. Your spontaneous action in the game against Everton thus

deserves our special recognition and respect. I would like to congratulate and thank you on behalf of FIFA and all fair-minded football fans for this splendid gesture made in the true spirit of fair play, and encourage you to continue to set such positive examples for others to follow".