

OLYMPIC NEWS SECTION

OLYMPISM

Cities representing ten National Olympic Committees have submitted their application to the IOC to host the Games of the XXIX Olympiad in 2008. The ten cities are: Bangkok (Thailand), Beijing (China), Cairo (Egypt), Havana (Cuba), Istanbul (Turkey), Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), Osaka (Japan), Paris (France), Seville (Spain) and Toronto (Canada).

National Olympic Committees (NOCs) had until midnight, on 1st February, to notify the IOC that a city within their jurisdiction was interested in applying.

The host city election procedure was radically overhauled during the 110th IOC Session in December 1999. Interested cities will have to go through a bid acceptance procedure which will review their organizational capacity before they are accepted as candidates. This new system, currently being finalized by the IOC, will be formally reviewed at the IOC Executive Board in Sydney from 16th to 18th February. Full details will be given to bid applicants during the first information meeting with the IOC administration in Lausanne on 24th February.

No city will become a candidate until it is selected as such by the IOC Executive Board later this year. After being accepted as candidates, cities and their NOCs will sign a contract. The candidates will then be required to submit their candidature file and prepare for the visit of the IOC Evaluation Commission. Individual visits by IOC members, and vice versa, will not be allowed. The host city of the Games of the XXIX Olympiad in 2008 will be elected in July 2001 in Moscow.

On 24th February 2000 at the Olympic Museum, the International Olympic Committee met with the ten cities hoping to organize the Olympic Games in 2008, to present them with the new candidature procedure. This new procedure forms part of the reforms adopted by the 110th Session last December.

New aspects include the introduction of a candidature acceptance phase; the increased power of the IOC Executive Board, which will select the

candidates to be put to the Session for the final election; the greater responsibility of the National Olympic Committee throughout the candidature period; and the banning of gifts as well as visits by the members to the candidate cities.

The candidature acceptance procedure began on 24th February 2000, and the IOC distributed to the representatives of each city and its NOC a 42-page document containing the IOC Code of Ethics, the procedure governing the candidature acceptance phase and the questionnaire to be filled out by each applicant city between now and 20th June 2000. This questionnaire will enable the IOC to evaluate the ability of each city to organize the Olympic Games. The questionnaire contains 22 questions, grouped into 6 themes: motivation and concept, political and public support, general infrastructure, sports infrastructure, logistics and experience, and financing.

Once the questionnaires have been completed, they will be analysed by the IOC administration, which will report to the IOC Executive Board at its meeting on 28th and 29th August, where a final decision will be taken as to the cities which will be accepted as candidate cities. The chosen candidate cities will be announced on 31st August. In addition to the ban on visits and gifts, the cities will not be making a presentation to the IOC, nor will they be authorized to carry out any form of international promotion. Any breach of the present rules will be reported to the Ethics Commission, either by one of the cities or by the IOC. Regarding sanctions, the IOC Executive Board will have the power to decide whether or not to disqualify the cities at fault. (Olympic Highlights)

The IOC Working Group on Women and Sport, chaired by IOC Vice-president Anita DeFrantz, met in Paris last Saturday.

The Working Group evaluated the work accomplished over the past four years and agreed that while much progress had been made, there was still a great deal more to be undertaken, with further challenges to take up to ensure gender equality within the Olympic Movement. The Working Group addressed a range of issues and recommended the following:

OLYMPIC NEWS SECTION

increasing scholarships and training courses for women leaders, athletes and coaches and other officials, in particular through the Olympic Solidarity programmes and with special emphasis on women from developing countries.

manuals on gender equality in sport.

maintaining a minimum representation of women in National Olympic Committees and International Federations and other sports organizations, in keeping with the 1996 decision of the IOC Session.

the minimum representation of at least one woman in the national delegation at world and regional assemblies and other sports organization forums.

- 1 increased advocacy of women through better use of women sports leaders working with International Federations and National Olympic Committees in meetings and seminars.

continuing IOC regional seminars for women involved in sport.

(Olympic Highlights, Week 10, 12 March 2000)

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATIONS:

The International Basketball Federation (FIBA) announced its official game draw of the national teams which have qualified for the Olympic basketball tournaments, following the second Olympic sports draw for the Games of the XXVII Olympiad. The event will take place at Sydney Olympic Park, Homebush Bay, and will determine the two groups of six teams for the Olympic women's and men's basketball tournaments.

The teams which have qualified are, for the women's events: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Cuba, France, Korea, New Zealand, Poland, Russia, Senegal, Slovak Republic and USA; and for the men's: Angola, Australia, Canada, People's Republic of China, France, Italy, Lithuania, New Zealand, Russia, Spain, USA and Yugoslavia. (Olympic Highlights, week 4, 30 January 2000)

The International Tennis Federation (ITF) has announced that the men's tennis events at the Games

of the XXVII Olympiad in Sydney this year will, for the first time, offer world ranking points. ITF president Francesco Ricci-Bitti explained that this decision, resulting from negotiations between the ITF, the Association of Tennis Players (ATP) and the IOC, would thus promote Olympic tennis to the equivalent of a major tournament. Each country is eligible for four entries to the Olympic men's tennis event, up from three at the Games of the XXVI Olympiad in Atlanta. (Olympic Highlights)

The International Softball Federation (ISF) has announced its official game draw of the eight countries which have qualified for the women's competition at the Games of the XXVII Olympiad. Defending Olympic champions the USA and host country Australia will join the teams of: Canada, People's Republic of China, Cuba, Italy, New Zealand and Japan in the event, which will be held at Blacktown Olympic Centre from 17th to 23rd September. (Olympic Highlights)

NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES

Three-times Olympic fencing champion, Tatiana Samusenko of Belarus has died at the age of 62. Mrs. Samusenko took the gold at the Games of the XVII, XIX and XX Olympiad. The IOC President sent condolences on behalf of the Olympic Movement. (The Weeks Olympic News)

SYDNEY 2000

After receiving some 43,000 Australian applications SOCOG has released the names of 8,500 runners who will take part in the Olympic Torch relay. In all, 11,000 torch carriers will be involved, including 1,000 extra positions which have been allocated to community torch bearers following an increase in the number of relay legs. The Olympic Torch relay of the Games of the XXVII Olympiad will thus become the biggest relay in Olympic history, the 11,000 runners covering 27,000 kilometres in 100 days. The route of the relay has been designed to pass within an hour's drive of 85 per cent of the population.

OLYMPIC NEWS SECTION

The IOC has reached an agreement in principle with the Australian Olympic Committee whereby each will forego A\$11 million from their respective share of the budgeted surplus of the Sydney Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG). This agreement is conditional on the New South Wales government's agreeing to forego its own budgeted surplus of AU\$30 million from the Sydney Games.

The arrangement will alleviate SOCOG's budget of AUS\$52 million toward reaching a balanced budget for staging the Games of the XXVII Olympiad in Sydney. "The quality of the Games has always been foremost in our minds" said the chairman of the IOC Coordination Commission for Sydney Jacques Rogge. "It is proper that any consideration of profit distribution should be dealt with after the Games. We are very pleased that all parties have reached this agreement in support of SOCOG's efforts towards staging high quality Olympic Games."

Separately, the IOC and the AOC agreed to cooperate in the pursuit of post-Games national merchandising opportunities.

On 20th February the Organizing Committee (SOCOG) unveiled the Olympic Torch which will be sent into space in April. This torch, which was especially designed for the occasion, will travel on board the space shuttle which will leave Cape Canaveral in Florida (USA) for the International Space Station, situated 365 kilometres from the earth. On behalf of SOCOG, Australian astronaut Andy Thomas will present the torch to the members of the shuttle's crew before take off. This event will mark the launch of the torch relay.

SALT LAKE CITY 2002

Kristi Yamaguchi, Olympic champion in figure skating at the XVI Olympic Winter Games in Albertville in 1992, was recently appointed SLOC roving ambassador. (Salt Lake City News).

SLOC will open its doors in a new location on Monday, March 27, as the SLOC headquarters move to the American Stores office tower in downtown Salt Lake City

Nearly 400 employees in more than 40 functional departments will move to the new offices at the new address 299 South Main Street, located just a few blocks from its previous residence at the 257 East and 275 East 200 South addresses. SLOC, which has been headquartered in two separate buildings, will move to seven contiguous floors (10-16) in the American Stores building. The main reception area will be on the 13th floor.

The Organizing Committee's main switchboard telephone line (1)-801-212-2002 and fax line: (1)-801-364-7644 will remain the same.

The new address is: Salt Lake Organizing Committee for the Olympic Winter Games of 2002 (SLOC, 299 South Main Street, Suite 1300, Salt Lake City, UTAH 84111 USA Mailing address is: P.O. Box 45002.

The new website address is: www.saltlake2002.com.

(From: Salt Lake City News)