

editorial



Dear Friends,

"Beijing, Beijing, Beijing..." That's all we can hear, we can think of, all that the sports community of the world can focus on ever since the last chord was played at the Closing Ceremony of the Athens Games. Ever since that day, we – and with us the Olympic

sports – have been riding ahead on the sometimes bumpy road the final destination of which is the Chinese capital and the 2008 Olympic Games.

But now we, members of the world's weightlifting community, must pause for a moment and utter with awe: "Chiang-Mai, ChiangMai, Chiang-Mai!" Because this nice city in

Northern Thailand deserves to be remembered and merits our highest respect and gratitude. And so do the others: the Thai Amateur Weightlifters Association (TAWA), under the chairmanship of Mrs. Boossaba Yodbangtoey, our great friend, Maj. Gen. Intarat Yodbangtoey, who can make everything move and run smoothly, as well as the city of

ChiangMai and the Kingdom of Thailand. Yes, we must stop and say: THANK YOU!

Because we are sure that on the track leading to the next Games the most significant and beautiful stopover we could just make was the 2007 Royal World Weightlifting Championships.

When in 2004 our Thai friends presented their bid to the IWF Executive Board and won the right to carry out the Main Olympic Qualification Event, there was some scepticism as to whether they would indeed be able to abide by what they had offered and deliver the Championships at the level then forecasted.

Well, after ChiangMai, we are more than happy to state that not only did the Thais keep their promises, but what they effectively provided went beyond all expectations. Excellent hotels, great food, flawless transport, outstanding competition organisation, good training facilities, breathtakingly beautiful opening and closing ceremonies, top-level meeting facilities and services, nice and lavish banquets, ample and helpful volunteers, professionalism and technical skill: all of that was there in

The IWF President thanking Maj.Gen. Yodbangtoey the Thai traditional way





towards its Olympic destination, but the kind of 'fuel' used must be paid attention to. There will be checkpoints on the way and only those racing in a fair way can pass. Let the now 181-member strong International Weightlifting Family be the winner!

Dr. Tamás Aján
IWF President

Yannis Sgouros
IWF General Secretary

IOC Member and Sport Vice Minister Mr. Nat Indrapana
gave great support to the 2007 RWWC

ChiangMai this September. But most of all, it was presented with that world-famous Thai smile, a warmth, grace and kindness that is within the nature of Thai people. So, thank you again, ChiangMai and Thailand!

Wonderful and exciting duels, new world records in both sexes marked the World Championships rightly rated "Best of All Times". You can read a category-by-category account of the competitions on the pages of this 'Special World Championships Issue' of the World Weightlifting magazine. The IWF performed anti-doping controls on over 30% of the participants (!) and with a routine more rigorous than ever before. In addition to the medal winners and best-placed lifters, athletes were also tested randomly, independently from their competitions; as done in WADA or 'Olympics-style' controls. Consequence: some athletes had to be disqualified for anti-doping code violation (understand: reluctance or refusal to give a sample or manipulation of the sample) even before they competed. Others (unfortunately quite a few) were caught in the



analysis. The message is now clear, we hope, to everyone that nobody can escape; we mean business and there are no exceptions! Athens, in this sense, cannot be repeated! Our train Athens-Beijing is now dashing on and will have a few more, shorter, stops on the way. The Olympic Test Event is coming up in January in Beijing, followed by the five Continental Qualification Championships in March to

May 2008. The next – and before Beijing the last – time the world family of weightlifting can meet will be in Cali, Colombia, at the 2008 Junior World Championships, just reallocated following the withdrawal of Whitehorse, Canada. Weightlifting can be racing ahead at full speed

The Governor of ChiangMai
was thanked for the city's fantastic contributions

Photos:
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