

Dear Friends,

In the past three months we have concluded some milestone events in our history. The 1st Youth Olympic Games took place in Singapore and weightlifting – held for the 16-17 year old – was a smashing success. We can be proud of being part and a partner of this magnificent IOC initiative and would like to thank Singapore for staging superb Games. Less than a month later we successfully completed the first Main Qualification World Championships for the 2012 Olympic Games, in Antalya, Turkey. Our gratitude is due to the Turkish Federation, to President *Dr. Hasan Akkus*, and his team. This edition of **World Weightlifting** is dedicated to the 2010 Antalya WWC. On these pages, however, allow me to deal with three other issues of international



weightlifting which, in my opinion, need to be in the focus of our attention. The first one is a situation that has developed since 1st April 2009 and created an obstruction in the work of many IWF officials, consuming too much of

their attention and energy and thus not letting them concentrate on the development of the sport. We have a bumpy road behind us since the Madrid elections; however, I strongly believe that finally the IWF

Dr. Hasan Akkus, host of the 2010 Antalya WWC and the IWF President (Photo: J. Szaka)

Editorial



Dr. Jacques Rogge, IOC President with IWF officials at the 1st YOG in Singapore (Photo: A. Németh-Móra)



that several National Federations that received membership in the IWF in the last 105 years have partially or fully stopped their weightlifting activities. For some, the only “activity” is a delegate showing up at the Electoral Congress to vote – his costs being paid by someone. For the IWF that is truly unacceptable. Some sports are gaining on popularity and it is the IWF’s primary

A token of appreciation for Dr. Aján from the NOC and Weightlifting Federation of Peru (José Quinones, NOC & PWF President, Ivan Dibós, IOC Member (Photo: A. Németh-Móra)

Executive Board, the Committees and Commissions have found the common grounds and joined forces to work for the weightlifting sport. Part of the referred unpleasant developments was that the European Weightlifting Federation (EWF), in a manner unprecedented in our Federation, opened litigation against the IWF at a Swiss Civil Court. My philosophy, I have followed for the last 34 years is that all “family disputes” can and should be cleared through discussion, negotiation, around the conference table and by no means in court, which can only have a negative impact on all involved. Well, following a series of meetings in the Executive Board and between the parties concerned, the EWF eventually chose the reasonable approach and withdrew its legal claim against the IWF, at the same time stating that they had not really opened litigation for the money claimed but to express their

disagreement with the IWF’s management. Well, that may not be the most suitable way to communicate such opinion. The floor is open for everyone to speak up. My second subject is the importance of the individual, the charisma of a Leader, in the progress of weightlifting of a National Federation or a certain region. The Commonwealth Games in Delhi, India, were held with enormous success for the sport of weightlifting. The turnout – over 200 competitors – exceeded all previous numbers. Eight years ago, in Manchester, some categories featured merely 3 athletes – now, in contrast, 18-20 lifters came to the start in most bodyweight categories. Such progress does not come by itself. In the past eight years, weightlifting in the Commonwealth countries has developed tremendously. In that, we must praise the efforts and the merits of the Commonwealth Weightlifting Federation, in

particular its President *Hon. Vinson Detenamo* and General Secretary *Paul Coffa*. Another regional organisation developing well thanks to an ambitious and capable leader is the Mediterranean Weightlifting Federation under President *Maurizio Lo Buono*. The recent Championships of the MWF were held in small Malta and we must also praise the Malta Weightlifting Federation for an excellent event. I mentioned these last two Federations as a transition to the third subject: the International Federations, among them the IWF, are in a process of reviewing their membership, i.e. the activities of the National Federations. In the past 18 months we have made two global surveys by means of questionnaires amongst our membership, in an effort to measure up their status, clubs, licensed members, equipment, management and potential. Beside many excellent and well-managed Federations, one sad conclusion of the survey is

duty to develop weightlifting the world over. If, however, a National Federation is passive and fails to be a partner in what has to be a joint effort we need to draw the right conclusions. When subjecting our members to a detailed and honest scrutiny, we must first give those inactive the chance to rejoin the mainstream of weightlifting and start working. However, there would be no sense in supporting “phantom” Federations as these can only consume valuable resource and energy to no avail and thus be a drawback to others willing and capable to develop. Alongside our “regular” activities and busy calendar, that is a main project for the IWF in the next few months. Our common goal is an active, progressing, “live” membership as together we shall be stronger.

Dr. Tamás Aján
IWF President