

The International World Games Association (IWGA) selects Kaohsiung City – Chinese Taipei's second largest metropolis behind the capital – to host The World Games 2009. Mayor Frank Hsieh and IWGA President Ron Froehlich sign the contract to have the eighth edition of the elite multi-sport event held between July 16 and 26, 2009, at existing venues in Kaohsiung City, Kaohsiung County and adjacent Pingtung County.

The award of The World Games 2009 to Kaohsiung City – located in the southwestern part of the island – brings the lengthy bid evaluation process to a successful conclusion. IWGA President Ron Froehlich and IWGA Secretary General Co Koren inspected the city in November 2003. They reported to the IWGA Annual General Meeting – in May 2004 – and were mandated by the 32 International Sports Federations making up the association to finalize the contractual agreement with the Kaohsiung City government.

From the outset, the city's replies to the 16-part questionnaire – which the Candidature Committee provided in the 2009 Kaohsiung Bid Book – were deemed satisfactory in every respect by the IWGA. The venue inspections confirmed that Kaohsiung and its surrounding areas can count on the infrastructure to stage The World Games involving upwards of 30 sports and 3,000 athletes – without needing to invest in additional construction. The preliminary financial planning for hosting the multi-sport event in Kaohsiung at the highest level was considered sound, with the projections for expenditure and revenue judged realistic by every standard, and with the central government guaranteeing to underwrite any deficit arising from successful games in 2009.

The extensive institutional support pledged to 2009 Kaohsiung was backed up by more than two decades of active assistance – on the national level – which was provided jointly by the National Council of Physical Fitness and Sports and the Chinese Taipei Olympic Committee to the 30+ IWGA sports. Since 1981 Santa Clara, the Chinese Taipei Olympic Committee sanctions and supports the participation of its delegations to the quadrennial World Games, funding the athletes' training, subsistence and travel. Chinese Taipei's extensive support programs to sports in general, and particularly to those beyond the 35 carrying the label 'Olympic', have been considered exemplary in the past. What drew out the process of awarding The World Games 2009 to Kaohsiung City – almost despite the latter submitting an impeccable bid to the IWGA – were the frequently strained relations between the People's Republic of China (CHN) and Chinese Taipei (TPE)! Although exchanges between CHN and TPE in matters concerning sports are an established and straightforward practice ever since 1992, a clause in the host city contract requires the 2009 Kaohsiung Organizing Committee's strict

KAOHSIUNG (TPE) IN 2009!



adherence to the 1979 Nagoya Resolution as well as the agreement signed between the International Olympic Committee and the Chinese Taipei Olympic Committee in Lausanne, Switzerland, on March 24, 1981. They establish the formula which governs issues ranging from the host country's official name (Chinese Taipei – with the acronym TPE) to the precise protocol for the conduct of The World Games 2009.

From Taipei City – the capital and seat of the national government – President Chen Shui-bian hailed Kaohsiung's success in winning the right to host The World Games 2009, saying they will contribute to Chinese Taipei's drive to play an active role in world sports.

"This is encouraging news for us," Chen said. "We are excited and grateful for being able to host the prestigious multi-sports event in 2009."

On behalf of the more than 22 million people living on the island, Chen extended heartfelt thanks to the IWGA and to the IOC, under whose patronage The World Games are held, and whose formula allowed for their protocolary conduct to be agreed upon by organizers and sanctioning body.

Noting that international sporting events can provide an excellent platform for forging friendships and promoting world peace, President Chen said bilateral and multilateral athletic exchanges should transcend political barriers.

"We are very pleased to host The World Games in Kaohsiung and the 2009 Deaflympics in Taipei City. We cherish these opportunities and will make every possible effort to ensure that the events proceed smoothly," Chen assured the IWGA President and Secretary General upon receiving them at the presidential palace.

The IWGA sincerely hopes that The World Games 2009 Kaohsiung, as well as the Beijing 2008 Olympics, will help to further improve all aspects of the cross-Strait relations. IWGA President Ron Froehlich informed the IOC President, Dr. Jacques Rogge, in a personal letter of the signing of the contract with Kaohsiung City, reporting *"all the stakeholders committed to making sure that the 2009 World Games edition is going to be a true sporting event for the benefit of the IWGA sports and their athletes"*.





2009 世界走進來

The World Games 2009 Unity Through Sports

Frank Hsieh has been the mayor of Kaohsiung City ever since 1998. As the former chairman of the Democratic Progressive Party, he counts among the most popular politicians in his country. Promoter of Kaohsiung's 'Civic Trust Movement', Hsieh was given an impressively high approval rating by the city's residents in a recent survey.

In an interview on July 19, 2004, Frank Hsieh talked to Jewel Huang, a staff reporter of the Taipei Times, about The World Games 2009. Asked what the city needs – at five years out – to put on such a big international sports event, the mayor couldn't have been more explicit:

"Actually, we don't have much experience hosting an international event like this. We haven't built a stadium so far and we will need a lot of resources and support from the private sector. We are planning a series of trips to learn

from other countries' experiences. We will also hold a number of sports events as a warm-up for The World Games 2009. Besides that, we will have to deal with many problems that we've never faced before: adequate venues for the competitions, accommodations for the athletes and their families, public security, transportation and so on.

I also think the honors belong to all the people in our country, not exclusively to Kaohsiung City. Kaohsiung will share its experiences and accomplishments with Taipei, Tainan, Pingtung, and even with Beijing, the host city of the 2008 Olympics. Although it was Kaohsiung that won the bid for The World Games, I think we need help from everywhere.

We soon launch an official website to inform about Kaohsiung and let people know more about our beautiful harbor city.

We appoint a sports director to manage the overall arrangements and plans accordingly. We soon establish the organizing committee



and start off by holding the international croquet championships in Kaohsiung in October. In fact, the Chinese Taipei Olympic Committee and ESPN television help us by inviting many international championships to Kaohsiung, such as professional billiards tournaments. We will go to Germany to accept the flag conferred to us by the President of the International World Games Association in July next year.

I think the most important point of holding The World Games 2009 is that it gives our people a common goal after years of division. We have focused too much on politics in recent years – which is not healthy. I hope the games can transfer our people's attention away from political disputes to a more relaxed issue.

Honorable Mayor Hsieh, Dear World Games Hosts!

On behalf of the IWGA Executive Committee and all our Members, the International Sports Federations, I wish to convey the most sincere congratulations to you on the recent signing of the contract for The 8th World Games to be held in your city five years from now.

Our Members were unanimous in voting for Kaohsiung. And we are all looking forward to be your guests. We shall provide you and the many tourists traveling to your city with an opportunity to view our sports' finest athletes in action during The World Games 2009.

Ron Froehlich - IWGA President

