

IOC VICE PRESIDENT



Dr. Un Yong Kim has been elected Vice President of the International Olympic Committee by the 115th Session held in Prague, CZE. He prevailed against the other candidate, Gerhard Heiberg (NOR), in elections which took place on July 4, the last day of the 2003 Session.

Member of the IOC since 1986, Dr. Kim has been on the Executive Board between 1988 and 2000 and has held an IOC Vice Presidency once already (1992 — 1996).

The Korean sports leader was also among the initiators of the World Games concept and even chaired the constituting meeting of what later became the International World Games Association. Named as its Honorary Founding President, he continues to maintain very close ties to the IWGA. As in many of the previous years, Dr. Kim was again present at the 2003 IWGA Annual General Meeting in Madrid. In his brief address to the delegates, he commended their vision in leading the association towards a bright future and congratulated them on opening the new headquarters in Colorado Springs.

WORLD GAMES WATCH



While The World Games are an event about as unique as one gets, their name is not inimitable. More than 20 *World Games* coexist with those making the use of the preceding definite article mandatory. To look at some of the others more closely — particularly when their scheduling coincides with that of an issue of the IWGA quarterly — should also help to promote the use of the distinguishing *The*, with capital *T*, every time one is referring to **The World Games**.

The World Police and Fire Games, already in their 10th edition, take place in Barcelona, ESP, between July 27 and August 3. 7 500 medals are contested in close to 70 different sports or disciplines of sports — in all, something like 2500 different events — by more than 10 000 participants.

In their majority, the sports on the program are those generally practiced by sportsmen and sportswomen everywhere, listing alphabetically from *Angling* to *Wrist Wrestling*. But among them are a few that are a more exclusive domain of athletes in law enforcement and in fire fighting: *Police Pistol Combat*, *Stair Races*, etc. The levels at which the sports are performed range from world class to recreational. Athletes compete in several age divisions, from the *Open* to the *Senior*, from the *Master* to the *Grand Master*, the latter being fractioned further at increments of five years: i.e. the *Grand Master C* is age 60 through 64.

The World Police and Fire Games attract participants from all over the world and seek to be a biennial and international forum for a range of issues concerning *publicly employed and full-time firefighters and peace officers*. Exhibitions, symposiums and lectures on relevant topics complement the competitions of the sports program. Joan Clos, Mayor of Barcelona, estimates the Games' direct and indirect financial impact on his city at over 50 million, since family and friends, as many as 20 000, are expected to accompany the participants.

The California Police Athletic Federation is the parent organization of the multi-sport Games. The CPAF started off with a regional version, back in 1967, before going global in 1985 with the concept of uniting in sports all those rendering an essential service to mankind.



FIG ATHLETES IN PROFILE



The International Gymnastics Federation chose the Sports Aerobics World Series Finals in St. Petersburg (RUS) to launch an online display of athletes' biographies for all of its competitive gymnastics disciplines.

Comprehensive data on the athletes competing in the 2003 sports aerobics finals, which took place in St. Petersburg's Zimny Stadium, were available from www.fig-gymnastics.com. The biographies complemented the other online coverage and afforded a first look at an original product developed in-house by FIG.

The IWGA is very keen on monitoring the development and implementation of this and similar systems by its member federations, since it works — jointly with the Duisburg Organizing Committee — towards having a complete and unified database with biographies of 3 000 athletes available by July 2005. In the sports of The World Games, where even the top athletes are very far from being household names, a proper presentation of the men and women behind the exploits becomes an absolute necessity. Philippe Silacci, FIG's head of media and communications, will provide valuable insights on this topic in the October issue of THE WORLD GAMES FORUM.

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