

61ST WORLD MEN BODYBUILDING CHAMPIONSHIPS

JEJU, SOUTH KOREA

25TH – 29TH OCTOBER 2007

IFBB, A SPORT FAMILY, A DYNAMIC WORKING GROUP

On behalf of IFBB and all the countries participating at the 2007 World Championship, I wish to extend our thanks and recognition for the great support provided by H.E. Kim Tae Hwan, Governor of the Special Self Governed Province of Jeju.

The championship will be broadcasted by Eurovision to many televisions in Asia, America, and Europe, that will provide the best images of our competitive sport in the environment of the beautiful island of Jeju.

Jeju Island has all the available services, climate and environment, to become a very attractive place to run international sport events.

We are pleased and honoured to be associated again with Jeju and Korea. We know that this championship will be a landmark for sport, solidarity and healthy lifestyle promotion worldwide. Our thanks go as well to the Korean Bodybuilding Federation, to the organising committee for their commitment and efficiency; and to my dear friend Datuk Paul Chua, for his leadership.

One year has passed since the 2006 World Congress held in Ostrava; in which I was honoured with the full support of all our colleagues attending that historical meeting, being elected IFBB President.

I wish to thank the IFBB Congress, our National Federations and members for their trust and confidence on me. It was a great honour that I accepted, based in the inspirations and achievements received from President Weider in the spirit of a unified family that share passion and compromise.

I took this responsibility and challenge with full confidence in the great team working capacity and enormous potential for development for our sport and lifestyle.

2007 has been an active year, with a dynamic growth in all the different areas and programs established as strategical lines to the development of our sport and lifestyle for the present and the future.

Before stepping in details, I wish to thank all and each one of the IFBB Executive Council members, for their dedication and working capacity that make easier and pleasant all my duties, making possible all this tremendous success.

Thank you to all our National Federations officials who, with their daily actions put the IFBB name closer to bodybuilding athletes and enthusiasts worldwide.

Let's now review the concrete actions and results achieved in the different areas during the year 2007 (the complete report is included in the 2007 Congress Agenda):

NEW SPORT DISCIPLINES

Santa Susana continues its role, writing a new chapter in 2007, as World Capital of Fitness, hosting the 2007 World Women Championships. IFBB Patron, Joan Campolier and the new Major of Santa Susana, Josep Monreal, supported the monumental world level effort of Jose and Carlos Ramos, and the Spanish Federation, being together key players behind another successful achievement for the history of our female sport.

Men Fitness, like Women Fitness, represent an excellent image presentation of our sport, providing fans and supporters the opportunity to see outstanding physical athletes, displaying incredible routines of free style exercises, in which strength is combined with flexibility in a dynamic display of athletic performance that has proved a great capacity of attraction for television and media.

As a matter of fact, Eurovision has recently confirmed that the satellite broadcast program of Santa Susana 2007 World Women Championships was followed by 125 television channels in America, Asia and Europe.

Classic Bodybuilding World Championship is the latest addition to this new set of events that include as well bodyfitness and men's fitness. Again, the generous contributions and determined efforts of Jose Ramos and the Spanish Federation make possible the IFBB to start with this new program.

Classic Bodybuilding Championships made its debut in Ostrava, with occasion of the 2006 World Men Championships, and it is going to be, for the first time, included in a separate program in 2007.

The benefits of Classic Bodybuilding are becoming already evident for our National Federations, and we strongly recommend approaching the local club and area association to encourage them to establish this type of events, with the subsequent benefits in the incorporation of many new active competitive athletes at all levels.

The World Junior & Master Championships, as well submitted to a very dynamic growth in the number of participating countries and athletes; is a continuous source of inspiration and good news, due the amazing display of great athletes in the Master classes, combined with the young talents in Juniors.

The concept of **“bodybuilding, the ideal anti aging lifestyle”** gets its complete mean at the new Master category over 60 years. The over 50 years old new weight divisions, give as well more opportunities for a continuous growing number of athletes that wish to remain in competitive trend for a longer period.

This year, Budapest will be again the witness of a new challenging edition, under the capable organization of the Hungarian Federation President, Istvan Huber and his Executive Team; with the special care and supervision of the IFBB Judges Committee Secretary, Axel Bauer.

In June 2007, I travelled to Tyumen, Siberia, to attend the European Junior & Master Championships; a superb organized event, arranged by the Russian Federation, with Vladimir Dubinin and Eugene Koltun making a perfect example of the huge potential for Junior & Master events at continental and national level.

The Mediterranean Championships held in Syria past September, was honoured with the full support of H.E. Mr Bashad al Ashar, President of the Syrian Arab Republic, and distinguished with the presence at the finals of the Syrian Prime Minister, Mr Mohamed Nagy Al Otry. Dr Adel Fahim coordinated in the most efficient way the inspection visit and the final program;

supporting Kassem Yazbek, President of the Syrian Federation and IFBB Vice President Malih Alaywan, who carried out the representation of the IFBB on these championships, in which they took part athletes from Asia, Africa and Europe.

The Mediterranean Women Championships will be held next November in the historical country of Greece, birthplace and origin of the occidental culture.

Jordan & Penny Leventelis are diligently working, counting with the support of the Greek Government and in coordination with the chairman of the IFBB Judges Committee, Pawel Filleborn, to achieve a great success for our female sport.

As President of IFBB, I was very pleased to join my Executive Assistant Paul Chua, and be direct witness of the impressive Asian Championships & Congress held in Shangai, in which Osama Al Shafar, young and capable sport official, became elected President of the Asian Federation.

The South American Championships in Quito, Ecuador, with the complete participation of all the countries that are included in this region was a great achievement of Aquiles de Cesare and all the Executive Council in command of the continental federation. I was very pleased to be there, sharing this nice sports program with our Latin-American friends.

A basic idea about the vast level of actions in the IFBB Sport Program is the amazing number of over 1.400 competitions at regional, national, continental, intercontinental and world level have been organised during this season under the IFBB Rules and leadership.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS

President Samaranch visit during the recently held World Women Championships, constitutes an unforgettable memory for the officials that had the opportunity to greet him at the Onabrava Hotel in Santa Susana.

The traditional good relationship held by the IFBB with the **World Games** was reinforced with the January 17th letter received from President Froehlich, confirming the incorporation of Fitness into the IFBB program at the next coming World Games.

I attended the General Assembly of International Sport Federations, joined by my Executive Assistant Paul Chua, I was able to hold very friendly and constructive meetings with **GAISF President, Mr Heinz Verbruggen** and other international sport leaders.

I shall attend representing the IFBB to the next **WADA** Congress that will be held in Madrid, as well, with the goal to remain both relationships and follow up personally the next WADA Assembly, in which this organization will change its leadership and will discuss important items of direct interest to all the sport federations.

PARTICIPATION IN MULTISPORT EVENTS & GAMES OF THE OLYMPIC PROGRAM.

Immediately after Ostrava, past December 2006, the IFBB participated in the **Asian Games** held in Doha, Qatar, under the leadership of Paul Chua, as medallist sport.

This success was possible due the very efficient structure of the Asian Federation and the great dedication and capability of Paul.

The participation at the **First European Games** (July 2007, Kiev) gave the IFBB a great opportunity to be incorporated in these Games, which are called to have a determinant brilliant role in the international sport events.

At the finals of the bodybuilding championships, IOC member, and representative of President Rogge at the Games, **Sergey Bubka**, received the IFBB Gold Medal, offering a very inspirational and positive speech to the auditorium.

Mr Gintautas Vileitas, First Vice President of the European Games, and other distinguished guests watched our event; which had wide television coverage.

The **South Pacific Games** coordinated and controlled by the area Vice President, Philip Hope, gave another landmark of success for bodybuilding, which holds a great prestige and popularity in the region due this brilliant participation in the Games, arranged by the Olympic Committee organisation.

Next December, we shall be present at the **South East Asian Games**, as consequence of the good handling of Douglas Latchford from Thailand, assisted by our Vice President for Asia, Paul Chua, providing a new good achievement for our federation in our way for the next coming steps of recognition.

The next coming presence at the **South American Games** will become a test in our way for the full participation at the **Pan American Games** in Guadalajara, Mexico 2010; being bodybuilding already fully recognised by the Pan American Sport Organisation.

Very meaningful as well was the participation in the **World Police & Fire Games**, in Australia, with Paul & Carole Graham placing an outstanding bodybuilding championship; making an example of our growing potential in new areas of the society.

TELEVISION AND MEDIA

Following the overall guidelines submitted to the Congress in Ostrava, I took as a priority for our federation the increasing relationship with television.

I am particularly proud to report our Congress in Jeju that the first retransmission held under this regulation, the 2007 **World Women Championships in Santa Susana**, was reported by EBU to have the **images served in the satellite broadcast to 125 channels** in Asia, America and Europe.

In the overall concept of IFBB – TV relationship, the IFBB is going to participate officially for first time at the **Sportel event in Montecarlo**; a world meeting attended by the sport department of practically all the televisions worldwide.

This situation is providing an enormous opportunity for millions of fans worldwide and new viewers that enjoy the performance of our athletes, making the possibility of future important developments in the sponsorship and educational program.

JUDGES COMMITTEE

A very active and dynamic working group, with Pawel Filleborn as Chairman; General Secretary Axel Bauer; and the invaluable support of Bill & Wanda Tierney; Javier Pollock; Erich Janner, Andrew Michalak; Gabriela Mlsnova; Calvin Yew; Christina Kam and a selected group of officials that make possible the smooth running of our events worldwide.

This committee is being successful in many areas, including the incorporation of the World Judges Seminar Tour; technical seminars at the championships; incorporation of the new statistician program, which is helping tremendously to the fast delivery of results and data and that will be incorporated in all our events, helping as well the Press Commission, in the delivery and publishing of results.

A special mention deserves as well the Women Committee, led by the always discrete and efficient Wanda Tierney, who is creating a working group including dynamic officials like Gabriela Mlsnova and Christina Kam. This committee is one of the driving forces behind the great success and continuous growth of our female sport.

MEDICAL COMMISSION

The new role of assistance to the Educational Program and their care and support to the always sensitive doping control issues; area in which they are assisted in a very efficient manner by the new Anti Doping Commission.

Dr Bob Goldman, Prof. Friedhlem Beuker, with Dr Eduardo de Rose as special advisor, are performing their duties in the most professional manner.

PRESS COMMISSION

The IFBB Press Commission, launched after the Ostrava Congress, led by Pierre Scatolini, has proved to be one of the most dynamic growing areas in our sport, coordinating amongst other actions:

The complete renewal of our website, with the incorporation of a weekly virtual magazine (IFBB Newsletter) in multilingual edition, is one of the most effective tools originated by the Press Commission. This Newsletter is already available in English, French and Spanish; and will be available very soon in Russian, Polish, Arab, Chinese and other languages.

A very complete data file of our best world athletes, including a photo gallery, actually in progress, will provide a great informative service available to fans, federations, specialized magazines, press agencies, etc...

Pierre Scatolini, as chairman, joined by Andrew Michalak; Pawel Kleineder; Jeff Tournier; Yann Leclech; Arnold Tokko and the other members working in close and direct relation with me; I wish to thank them for their great outstanding services provided to our federation in their short history and for the extraordinary assistance and enjoyment that I am having in my daily work with the Press Commission.

THE EDUCATIONAL COMMISSION, A NEW AREA SUBMITTED TO A DYNAMIC GROWTH

The program of this commission includes courses that have been created to:

- Provide first class level of education with unified criteria worldwide
- Certify these courses with the IFBB Diploma, as world authority for weight training and physical condition
- Provide the National Federation an important marketing, business and prestige tool

The current courses that are available are: Personal Trainer; Advanced Bodybuilding & Fitness Specialist; Basic Nutrition and Advanced Nutrition.

In coordination with the World Championships, there are other activities from the Educational Commission, linked with different areas of activities, like the Judges Courses, which involve two activities:

- World Judges Seminar Tour
- Technical Seminars & Meetings at the IFBB major events
- Athletes Information Form
- Organizational Guidelines

The third area of activities in the Educational Commission is the elaboration of researches, programs and material for different key areas in which bodybuilding can play an important service for the society.

Complete actions have been taken this year in the elaboration of researches and presentations on the area of:

- Bodybuilding, the ideal Anti Aging Lifestyle
- Bodybuilding, the Anti Obesity Lifestyle

In cooperation with the IFBB Press Commission, we have created the IFBB Informational Brochure.

The activities of the Educational Commission are arranged from the office in Madrid, and I wish to take this opportunity to thank Mauricio Arruda; Pawel Filleborn; Dr Bob Goldman; my wife, Nieves (pharmacist and nutritional specialist), together with many other professionals from various fields, make this ambitious project become a reality.

THE IFBB, AN EFFICIENT TEAM ON DUTY, A TEAM IN ACTION FOR SUCCESS

All the above mentioned programs and achievements are only possible because of the great human team plenty of capacity, generous commitment and passion for sport, that make up the IFBB.

I wish to thank you to all you, and all the officials, that at international, continental, national, and local level make the IFBB a great family and a team working for the enjoyment and success, in the solidarity of sport.

Rafael Santonja
IFBB President