

# Oceania Weightlifting Federation News



September 2008

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION BEIJING!

The Olympic Games in Beijing are now over. And looking back what a great event it was especially for our Oceania region. For the first time in its history, the OWF had 12 countries participating in weightlifting at an Olympic Games.

Fourteen lifters represented the 12 countries. This is 54% of the Oceania member countries. It is interesting to note that it was the highest percentage of the five continents. Europe had 50% country representation, followed by Asia at 44% representation, Pan American 44% and Africa 24%.

For a continent which is the youngest in its formation and has the smallest population, the representation was excellent.

Many international leaders in our sport praised the performances of our athletes in Beijing. The most significant praise came from Dr. Tamas Ajan, the President of the International Weightlifting Federation and IOC Member. Dr. Ajan sent the following message to His Excellency, Marcus Stephen, President of the Oceania Weightlifting Federation:

Dear Marcus,

On behalf of the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF), I wish to officially acknowledge the Oceania Weightlifting Federation (OWF) upon its impressive performances at the recently contested 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

Specifically, I wish to provide my heartfelt congratulations to yourself, as the Continental President and to Paul Coffa, your General Secretary for his outstanding contribution through the results achieved from the athletes, which have trained at the newly relocated Institute in New Caledonia.

With the next edition of the World Cup to be held in Noumea, next January, it could be said that the focus of the weightlifting world is now on New Caledonia. To this end, I wish to re-confirm the support and confidence the IWF has in the OWF, the Oceania Weightlifting Institute and your invaluable leadership.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Tamás Aján  
IWF President, IOC Member

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## Beijing 2008 continued....

Also extremely pleasing was the performances of our athletes. Of the 14 lifters, 8 athletes achieved their best ever international performances.

### Men

Damon Kelly (AUS), 105+kg	Total 386kg ( <b>best ever</b> ) placed 9th
Itte Detenamo (NRU), 105+kg	Total 385kg ( <b>best ever</b> ) placed 10th
Samuel Pera Jr (COK), 105+kg	Total 350kg ( <b>best ever</b> ) placed 12th
Maamaloa Lolohea (TGA), 105+kg	Total 313kg, placed 14th
David Kataotoa (KIR) 85kg	Total 313kg ( <b>best ever</b> ) placed 15th
Joe Vueti (FIJ), 77kg	Total 279kg ( <b>equal best</b> ) placed 23rd
Richard Patterson (NZL), 77kg	Total 300kg, placed 21st
Mark Spooner (NZL), 69kg	Total 281kg, placed 21st
Logona Esau (TUV), 69kgT	Total 254kg ( <b>best ever</b> ) 23rd
Manuel Minginfel (FSM), 62kg	Total 275kg, placed 11th

### Women

Ele Opeloge (SAM), 75+kg	Total 269kg ( <b>best ever</b> ) 4th
Deborah Lovely (AUS), 75+kg	Total 248kg ( <b>best ever</b> ) 8th
Dika Toua (PNG), 53kg	Total 184kg, placed 8th
Wendy Hale (SOL), 58kg	Total 173kg, placed 12th



Ele Opeloge– Samoa

Ele Opeloge was undoubtedly the best Pacific athlete in any sport to achieve such a high placing in 4th, only 1kg away from the bronze medal winner. She set a new Commonwealth and Oceania records in the snatch and total in the +75Kg category. Ele snatched 119Kg, and totaled 269Kg.

Also Deborah Lovely from Australia set a new national record in the same category as Ele with 112kg snatch.

In the men, Itte Detenamo from Nauru set a new South Pacific senior record in the snatch with 175kg.

We definitely have the lifters to win gold medals in Delhi 2010 and with Yukio Peter coming back in to top form, Oceania athletes should feature very strongly at the next Commonwealth Games.

## VALE

Sadly the OWF has lost two of our dear friends and colleagues who passed away earlier this month.

We have lost Rod Kennedy from New Zealand. Rod was Secretary / Treasurer of weightlifting in New Zealand for the past 10 years until he got ill and was not able to carry on with his duties. He was a long time administrator, competitor, coach and in 1998 he competed in the World Masters winning the world title in the 77kg category.

The other colleague and dear friend who we lost suddenly was James Laore from the Solomon Islands. James was involved for a long time in our sport and was also a Category 2 international referee. He was the Vice President of the Solomon Islands National Olympic Committee and was the Chef de Mission in Beijing for the Solomon Islands.

It is sad when you lose a friend and colleague but to lose two within a few days of each other is a tragedy. On behalf of the Oceania Weightlifting Federations we extend our deepest sympathies to both gentlemen's families and their respective sporting bodies.

## COMMONWEALTH YOUTH GAMES

The 3rd Commonwealth Youth Games will be held in the City of Pune, India.

The weightlifting event is scheduled to be held on the 13th – 17th October 2008. We are pleased to see that 25 countries will be taking part in weightlifting of which 11 are from the Oceania region. The member countries of the OWF attending are: Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu.

## COMMONWEALTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2008 Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships (seniors and juniors) will be held in Cyprus from December 3rd to 8th. The championships will be held in the City of Limassol and have been organized under the leadership of the President of the Cyprus Weightlifting Federation, Mr. Damianos Hadjidamianou

Entry forms have already gone out to all countries, with the closing date for entries to be the 1 November 2008.

### LATEST NEWS...

#### OWF PRESIDENT VISITS UNITED NATIONS

The President of the Oceania Weightlifting Federation, His Excellency, Marcus Stephen MP, is currently in USA to attend the United Nations General Assembly. It is certainly great to see a 7 times Commonwealth Games Gold medallist, World Championships medallist and presently the Head of State attending such a significant event.

#### APPOINTMENT

Sam Coffa (AUS) Chairman of the IWF Technical division and 1st Vice President of the IWF has been appointed by the Commonwealth Weightlifting Federation Board as Chairman of the CWF Technical Division.

#### 2009 IWF WORLD CUP

New Caledonia is getting ready for the forthcoming 2009 IWF World Cup. An invitation dinner was held in Beijing during the Olympic Games to launch the World Cup and at the same time the first French Speaking Countries (Francophone) International Tournament will be held in conjunction with the World Cup.

At the dinner Mr. Ronald Frere, President of the New Caledonia Weightlifting Federation welcomed the 100 plus guest from 60 countries and formally invited everyone to New Caledonia for the World Cup to be held on January 14th – 18th 2009 in Mont Dore.

Dr. Tamas Ajan will be in attendance plus also the European Weightlifting Federation President, Dr. Antonio Urso. Mr. Ma Wenguang the President of the Weightlifting Association of the People's Republic of China assured everyone during the function that China will be in attendance in New Caledonia with the Olympic Champions.

#### OCEANIA WEIGHTLIFTING INSTITUTE

During the World Cup in the month of January 2009, in Mont Dore, New Caledonia, the official opening of the Oceania Weightlifting Institute will take place. New Caledonia is building accommodation and training facilities for weightlifting and will house the headquarters of the Oceania Weightlifting Federation and the Commonwealth Weightlifting Federation.

The Oceania Weightlifting Institute in the future will not only cater for Oceania weightlifters but also will be opened to athletes from the French speaking nations and Commonwealth countries as well. Already quite a number of countries are keen to send their lifters to train here in New Caledonia.

#### OWF WEBSITE

The OWF website [www.oceaniaweightlifting.com](http://www.oceaniaweightlifting.com) will be up again by the end of September.

Paul Coffa MBE  
OWF GENERAL SECRETARY