

Oceania Weightlifting Federation

Latest News

May 2009

IWF Electoral Congress

On April 1st, 2009, in Madrid, Spain, the IWF Electoral Congress was held with a record number of countries attending. **(131)** Congratulations to Dr. Tamas Ajan for being re-elected unopposed once again as President of the IWF.

The Oceania region for the first time in its history has now got two members on the IWF Executive Board. Mr. Sam Coffa from Australia was re-elected Vice President of the IWF, whilst Mr. Ronald Frere from New Caledonia was elected to the Executive Board. Of course also serving on the Executive Board is His Excellency, Marcus Stephen, President of the OWF. Congratulation to all three members.

Congratulations must also go to Mr. Lyn Jones for being elected to the IWF Scientific and Research Committee and to Mr. Pedro Sanchez for being elected to the IWF Technical Committee.



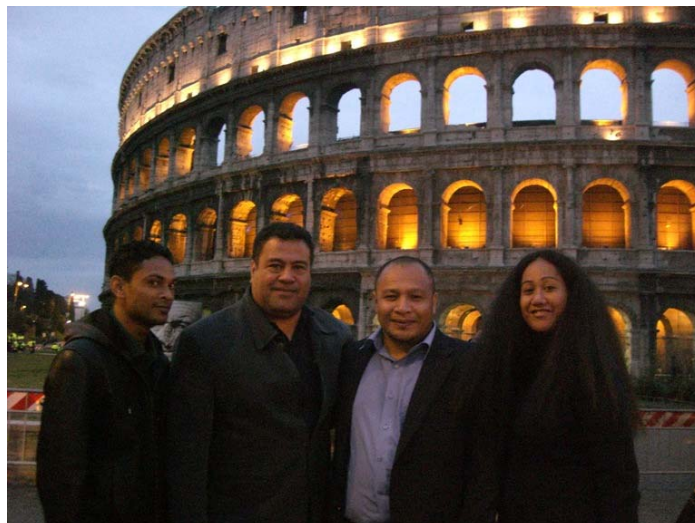
Dr Tamas Ajan President IWF

Scientific Seminar for Pacific Island Countries in Rome

A scientific seminar was held in Rome for coaches of the Pacific Island nations organized by the Italian Weightlifting Federation. The seminar was held during the period of the 28th and 29th March 2009 at the headquarters of the Italian Olympic Committee (CONI). The presenter was Dr. Antonio Urso, the President of the Italian and the European Weightlifting Federations. Dr. Urso also organized a tour of Rome which everyone appreciated greatly and enjoyed immensely.



Pacific members at the CONI headquarters in Rome with Dr Urso.



Tuvalu, Tonga, Vanuatu and Tahiti at the Colosseum

On behalf of the OWF and specifically the Pacific Island nations we would like to thank Dr. Urso for organizing such a memorable and successful seminar. We would like to also acknowledge and thank Mr. Attila Adamfi the IWF Technical Director and Mr. Sam Coffa, Chairman of the IWF Technical Division for organizing and conducting a seminar in Madrid on the 30th March, to update all Pacific Islands on the latest IWF rules and procedures for running international competitions.

Coaching scholarship to Joe Vueti

Joe Vueti, one of Oceania's top weightlifters has received a 12 month coaching scholarship from the IOC. The scholarship is to attend the Oceania Weightlifting Institute in New Caledonia where Joe will be staying for the next 12 months.

2009 Arafura Games & Oceania Championships

Twelve countries will take part this year in the Arafura Games and Oceania & South Pacific Senior and Junior Championships. The OWF congress will be held on Tuesday May 12th, whilst the competition dates are 13th to 15th May.



Oceania National Olympic Committee

Dr. Robin Mitchell from Fiji, IOC member, was elected President of ONOC during the ONOC Assembly held recently in Queenstown, New Zealand. Mr Ricardo Blas from Guam was elected the new General Secretary of ONOC. (Ric is currently in charge of weightlifting in Guam)

We are pleased also that the President of the Vanuatu Weightlifting Federation, Joe Carlo was re-elected as Executive Board member of ONOC. Jim Tobin, General Secretary of FSM Weightlifting was also elected as an Executive Board member, together with Baklai Temengil from Palau and Ken Tupua from American Samoa. Congratulations to all elected members and the OWF looks forward to continue working closely with ONOC.

New Zealand President visits the Institute in New Caledonia

The Oceania Weightlifting Institute had the pleasure of having a visit from the President of Olympic Weightlifting New Zealand, Mr. Garry Marshall and Mrs. Christine Marshall. Garry spent one week in Noumea, enjoying the French culture of the Pacific and at the same time visited the athletes during their sessions at the Institute. Garry was also given a tour of the new Institute building and accommodation by the President of the New Caledonia Weightlifting Federation, Mr. Ronald Frere.

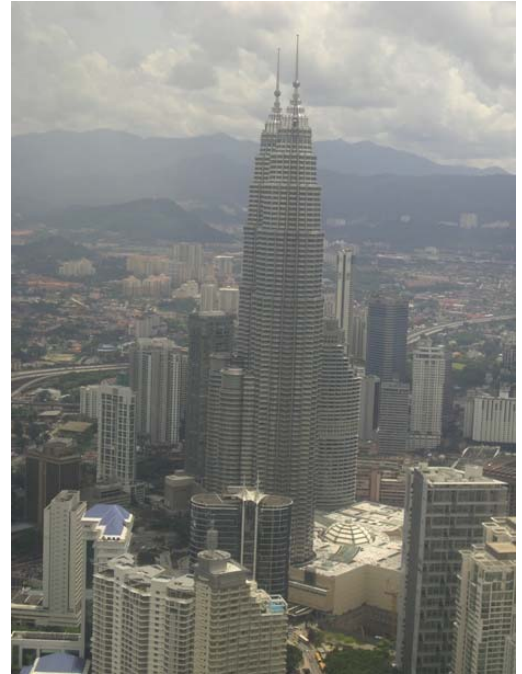
The multi-million dollar complex will be fully operational by the end of May 2009.

Penang, Malaysia to host the 2009 Commonwealth Championships

After a visit to Malaysia last month by the General Secretary of the Commonwealth Weightlifting Federation it was decided that this years Commonwealth Senior & Junior Championships will be held in the city of Penang in Malaysia. (October 18-23)

Paul Coffa

OWF GENERAL SECRETARY



Kuala Lumpur- Malaysia 2009



Pacific Officials visiting St Peter's Cathedral in Rome