

Oceania Weightlifting Federation

Latest News

October 2009

H.E. Marcus Stephen speaks at the United Nations

His Excellency, Marcus Stephen, President of the Republic of Nauru and President of the Oceania Weightlifting Federation on the 25th September, addressed the 64th United Nations General Assembly in New York with a very moving speech on the difficulties faced by small island nations as a result of the world economy and global warming. This is the second time that His Excellency has addressed the United Nations.

Last year he spoke strongly on environmental issues. He also attended a meeting between the USA and the Pacific Island Forum members. This is the first time such a meeting has taken place and Marcus spoke on behalf of the Forum members prior to each member having the opportunity to speak.

It should be noted whilst he had these high profile engagements in New York, he kept in contact with the OWF office, keen to learn about the results of the Mini Games in the Cook Islands and also very concerned about the tsunami disaster especially in Samoa, American Samoa and Tonga and the effects that it may have had on the young athletes.



His Excellency Marcus Stephen with President Obama and the First Lady.



The Pacific Island Forum members with Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton.

Success and Disaster at the Pacific Mini Games.

The VIII Pacific Mini Games were held in Rarotonga, Cook Islands with the weightlifting event being held on September 29th to October 1st. Weightlifting was regarded as the highlight of the Games due to world standard performances by quite a number of lifters. Fifteen countries took part in the event. The organization was almost faultless. The stage, the warm up facilities and the equipment were international standard. The new stadium was a magnificent venue for weightlifting with all facilities included such as VIP area, dope testing area, media centre, weigh-in rooms etc. The three day event was televised live with many Pacific Island nations tuning in.



Super star Ele Opeloge (Samoa) wins gold in the 75+kg, with a total of 275Kg



The crowd enjoyed weightlifting for the three full days..

The performances of some of the lifters were outstanding. No question Ele Opeloge of Samoa in the 75+kg category and Itte Detenamo, the super heavyweight champion of Nauru were real crowd pleasers with their record breaking performances. Ele's commonwealth record of 125kg in the snatch was very impressive, whilst Itte's snatch of 176kg was equally as impressive. Many other records were set including games records.

It was very pleasing to see also so many young lifters from Tonga, Fiji, Tuvalu, FSM, New Caledonia, Tahiti, Cook Islands, American Samoa, Kiribati, in their first competitions and doing so well. Interesting to note that almost all medals in the men came from the Institute based lifters in New Caledonia. In the women categories most of the winners were also past Institute lifters, which indicates the success of the program which was implemented a few years ago specifically aimed at lifters of the Pacific Islands.

All of this success could not have been possible without the tremendous support from ONOC and Olympic Solidarity towards the athletes. They have firmly supported the program for a number of years, in fact since the Institute was established, and it is great to see that the investment which they have made in the lifters through their respective NOC's is now paying off.



Itte Detenamo (Nauru) sets new record with 176Kg snatch in the 105+Kg category. Clean & jerk 210Kg –Total 386Kg.

The Gold medal tally was as follows: Samoa 13, Kiribati 9, Fiji 8, Nauru 6, FSM 3

It was pleasing to see that the silver and bronze medals were spread evenly amongst the countries, which again indicates that weightlifting is no longer dominated by one or two countries.

The Silver medals tally was as follows: Niue 6, Solomon Islands 6, Samoa 4, Fiji 3, Kiribati 3, Nauru 3, Palau 3, New Caledonia 3, Cook Islands 3, Tonga 2

The Bronze medals tally was as follows: Fiji 7, Kiribati 6, Samoa 5, New Caledonia 4, Tonga 3, Tuvalu 3, Cook Islands 2, American Samoa 1

Of course the tragedy which struck the Pacific in the early hours of Tuesday morning 29th September, with the massive earthquake of 8.3 magnitude and then the tsunami which followed within fifteen minutes, left everybody shocked. It all happened on the first day of lifting, just two hours prior to competition, which left many of the athletes, particularly from Samoa, American Samoa and Tonga devastated. It has been reported that over 190 lives were lost and many are still missing. We are not sure as to how many families of lifters were affected by this tragedy. At the beginning of the competition, on behalf of the IWF / OWF, a one minute silence was held for the victims.

A new President for the Cook Islands Weightlifting Federation

Three times Olympian, Sam Pera, prior to the Mini Games was elected the new President of the Cook Islands Weightlifting Federation. The General Secretary remains Tony Hole, who has held the post for many years. Congratulations to both gentlemen.

Congratulation to Maamaloa Lolohea (Tonga)



Maamaloa Lolohea (Tonga)

They said it would never happen, but it did. Maamaloa Lolohea this week got married to lovely Molilaaau Tressa Kailea. Congratulation to both from the OWF and all the lifters at the Institute. Maama was so happy at the Mini Games that he was getting married that even with very little training, still managed to grab two bronze medals for Tonga. Last year Maama spent a full year at the Institute in New Caledonia on an IOC Coaching Scholarship and upon his return to Tonga he became the national coach. And it is very pleasing to see so many young Tongans now doing weightlifting.

2009 Commonwealth Championships - Malaysia

We are pleased to inform you that 23 countries are taking part at this years Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships for Junior and Senior which is to be held in Penang, Malaysia on October 19th to 23rd. The Oceania region is well represented with lifters from Australia, Papua New Guinea, Nauru, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Samoa, Fiji, Niue, New Zealand and Cook Islands.

The 2009 Pacific Cup – New Caledonia

The 2009 Pacific Cup will be held at the Oceania Weightlifting Institute in Mont Dore – New Caledonia on December 11th & 12th. This event will be run in conjunction with the first New Caledonia National Championships. Australia will be sending 10 lifters to this event and we expect many countries to take part.



Port Moresby wins Bid for 2015 Pacific Games

Congratulation to Papua New Guinea especially to Sr John Dawanincura and his Team for winning the bid to host the XV Pacific Games in Port Moresby in the month of September 2015.

32 Sports will take part with 5000 volunteers involved. The weightlifting event will be held at the Multi Purpose Stadium.

Best picture awarded to Miles Wydall

Congratulation to Miles for winning the IWF Photo contest. The picture below of Yukio Peter (Nauru) which was taken by Miles during the Oceania Championships in Darwin last May was awarded first place. The competition was an outstanding success for the IWF with hundreds of photos being submitted. A great initiative from Mr Dezso Dobor the Head Press Officer .of the IWF, to showcase the creative talents of our photographers of our members.



Coming Events

October 19 -23	Penang Malaysia-	2009 Commonwealth Senior & Junior weightlifting Championships
November 17-29	Goyang City Korea-	2009 World Weightlifting Championships
December 11-12	Mont Dore- New Caledonia	2009 Pacific Cup Tournament

Paul Coffa MBE
OWF General Secretary