

## **THE VALUE OF SPORT INFORMATION: TOWARDS BEIJING 2008**

### **12<sup>th</sup> World Congress of the International Association for Sports Information Beijing, China May 19-21, 2005**

Founded in 1960, the International Association for Sports Information (IASI) encourages, develops, and supports activities in the field of sport information documentation and dissemination. IASI brings together an international network of information specialists, including librarians, documentalists, sports scientists, and information centre managers.

As part of its mission to foster the exchange of ideas and experiences, IASI organizes a World Congress every four years. The 12<sup>th</sup> World Congress will take place in Beijing, from May 19 to 21, 2005, hosted by the All-China Sports Federation and organized locally by the China Sports Information Center and Beijing Sport University.

### **WORLD CONGRESS THEMES AND SESSIONS**

Sport information experts of all professions will begin to prepare for the information demands of the 2008 Olympic Games by evaluating the services of their information centres, establishing new procedures for delivery of specialized data, and incorporating new technologies into their daily operations. To that end, IASI presents a World Congress addressing The Value of Sports Information: Towards Beijing 2008.

The primary sessions of the World Congress will be:

#### **Information Services for Olympic Games and International Competitions**

Major international sporting events cannot exist without a strong information service infrastructure. Whether supporting the bidding process, results reporting, media services, managerial decision-making, or coaches in the field, accurate and timely information is vital. This session will feature innovative and visionary solutions created by sport information managers. Specifically, this session will highlight:

- Information service programs supporting major competitions
- Olympic and sport documentation and study centres activities
- Competition results systems
- Media support services at international competitions
- New technology used in information delivery systems

#### **Sport Archives and Digitalization**

The conversion of paper documents to digital format offers potential benefits to information managers. Digitizing documents improves their accessibility via the Internet, promotes content analysis through the use of search engines, and allows for conservation of the original paper. As an increasing amount of information is created and published in digital form, however, information managers are required to develop new methods of organization, storage, and preservation. Topics to be addressed include:

- Impact of digitization on scholarly research
- Retrieval, delivery, and organization of digital documents
- Digitization and intellectual property law
- Data structure and metadata of digital documents and collections
- Digital conversion project case studies

### **Sport Statistics, Standards & Services**

Increasing demands have been placed on sports information professionals to organize and deliver a variety of sports statistics and other factual data. In particular, coaches and sport scientists are seeking the expertise of information professionals in organizing performance evaluation and enhancement statistics. Sports administrators are particularly interested in sport participation surveys, as well as service and program evaluation measurements. Information managers are asked to develop standards and guidelines for statistics databases. Discussions at this session will include:

- Identification of relevant statistics for coaches, scientists, and administrators
- Process of establishing standards for statistical reporting
- Use of organized statistics to enhance athletic performance
- Technological improvements in statistical information delivery
- User-friendly statistics databases: case studies

### **Sport Information for Elite Athlete Development**

Elite athlete development is a complicated integration of training methodologies, environment, equipment, and personal commitment. Providing information services in support of this system is a daily challenge for many information professionals. This session seeks to identify creative means through which sport information managers can contribute to the process of elite athlete development. Among other topics, this session will concentrate on:

- Development of training information databases
- Talent identification information systems
- Use of virtual games to enhance skill development
- Supporting the elite athlete's personal environment
- Sport testing and measurement standards databases

### **Future Needs of Sport Information**

Obsolescence comes quickly in the information profession. Information managers constantly seek to understand how technology infrastructure transformations will impact delivery systems. In addition, information managers grapple with rapidly changing copyright rules on the organization, delivery and use of information. This session will identify future trends and innovations in sport information management. Potential topics covered include:

- Information overload for coaches, administrators and researchers
- Lifelong learning and continuing education: Use of electronic/print/video/media
- Coach certification and licensing information
- The "wired" coach
- Mass media: Sport information's destiny or future

## **THE PROGRAM and PARTICIPANTS**

The World Congress will be held over a three-day period, May 19-21, with a 5-session structure. Each session, listed above, will include a plenary meeting, parallel sessions, posters and exhibitions.

The IASI business meetings (General Assembly, Executive Committee, and Open Forum) will be held before the Congress from May 16-18. All interested individuals are invited to attend the General Assembly and the Open Forum.

The official language of the World Congress will be English. All documents and papers must be written in English. Simultaneous translation of speakers in English and Chinese will be available.

Approximately 250-300 participants are expected to attend the World Congress. Participants come from all vocations in the sport world, including:

- information professionals and managers
- documentation centre directors
- journalists
- coaches, researchers, teachers
- sports executives and administrators

## **BEIJING**

Beijing, the capital of the People's Republic of China, has a population of 12 million. The city has a continental climate, with annual average rainfall of nearly 700mm, most occurring in July and August. Winter is dry and cold, with little snow. The best time to visit Beijing is in May, September, or October, when skies are bright and sunny. The city's long history has endowed it with wondrous sites of great aesthetic and cultural value. The Great Wall, a huge project begun more than 2,000 years ago, meanders through the mountains and valleys near Beijing. The Forbidden City, the largest ancient architectural complex extant today, is a splendid crystallization of ancient Chinese architectural art. Tian'anmen Square, the world's largest city square, is located in the city center.

As China's cultural center full of talent, Beijing is home to over 70 institutions of higher learning including the famous Beijing University and Tsinghua University. More than 500 scientific research institutions, over 300 publishing houses, as well as hundreds of newspapers and periodicals are located in Beijing. Also located here are many of the country's sports organizations, such as the State Sports General Administration, the All-China Sports Federation, and the Chinese Olympic Committee, as well as the national sports authorities and several research institutes. One of the Congress organizers, Beijing Sport University, is located in northwest Beijing and covers an area of 75 acres. The University has over 7000 students and is affiliated with seven institutes: Sport Coaching, Physical Education, Sport Management, Wushu, Sports Medicine, Adult Education and the Graduate School. The University has hosted the 21<sup>st</sup> Universiade Scientific Congress and the ICSSPE Executive meeting.

In 2001, the IOC announced that Beijing would host the 2008 Olympic Games, an event for which the city is now actively preparing.

## **REGISTRATION FORM**

To receive further information on the 12<sup>th</sup> World Congress, please fill in this registration form and return it to:

**Ms Liu Xiaohong**

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