

# editorial

**Dear Friends,**

*When we reach a venerable age we like to recall pleasant and significant milestones of our life. An international organisation's lifespan is measured in dimensions different from a man's yet at 104 years of age the International Weightlifting Federation has a long path with many landmarks to look back on. With the next Electoral Congress coming up soon, March 2005 brings back nice memories when besides the Congress the IWF celebrated the Centenary of its foundation in Istanbul.*

*We are indebted forever to the Turkish Weightlifting Federation for its exceptionally elegant and generous organisation of the jubilee event.*

*Four years have flown by. We are heading to another landmark in our activities, another Electoral Congress – this time in the Spanish capital, Madrid.*

*In the past three decades weightlifting has gone through enormous progress. In an increasingly challenging*



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*The IWF Executive Board's last meeting in this term, 19-20 February 2009, Budapest*

*environment of international sports we have been able to keep pace and win a solid position for our sport. Through successful Olympic Games, an unbroken series of world championships, reliability in management and administration, correct partnership with the other stakeholders of the Olympic and Sports Movement, and – last but not least – a relentless fight against doping we have achieved recognition.*

*Weightlifting is to be counted with as a fixture on any Games program and the IWF as its governing body has a presence at all meetings and forums.*

*Today, a leadership position on the IWF means a certain rank or prestige. Evidence is offered by the record number of 117(!) candidates proposed by 64 National Federations*

# Weightlifting Federation Board Meeting 2009 - Budapest



to the various governing positions of the Federation. Never before in the 104 years of history had so many applicants wished to be elected to the IWF Executive Board or Committees. Candidates represent all the five continents and we can have no doubt that each of them are aspiring to achieve leadership positions at the elections on 1<sup>st</sup> April in order to serve the sport. Naturally, each election is preceded by meetings, get-togethers, the coordination of interests and a speculation of chances. We can also feel that the level of adrenaline is rising – indeed, the stake is high and there are not too many positions available. The 117 candidates are aiming at various functions. There are five applicants to General Secretary. The six Vice President positions are desired by 29 people. 39 candidates are registered to membership on the Executive Board. The Technical Committee has 38 candidates, the Scientific and

Research 23 and altogether 17 doctors wish to be elected among the members of the Medical Committee. The three Auditors posts are applied by 11 individuals. The fact that there is only one candidate to President must not make us conceited or overly confident. It only means recognition of work in the past – thanks to all for that. It means that the Weightlifting Family agrees with the trend, with the path we have been walking on and we wish to follow in the future. It also indicates that you trust us and identify yourselves with our main targets. It also means that you appreciate the activities of the IWF Secretariat where experienced, professional and devoted staff keeps working truly in the service of the sport of weightlifting and of the National Federations. At the same time, it puts the heavy weight of responsibility on our shoulders conveying the message: be worthy of this confidence! And while wishing success

to all candidates, that is the message we can underline: those who will deserve the honour to be elected in a ruling position on the IWF should not consider it as a mere 'title', a matter for sheer prestige but rather as a chance to serve. To serve and be united, be partners, be friends; because that is the key to our success. And of course, we could never exercise our power if the National Federations and the Continental Federations were not behind us. Therefore this will be crucial and indispensable in the future as well. Tasks and duties we have enough. From this year on, we shall open a new path towards the young, adding to our calendar the Youth World Championships (for the 13-17 age group). The first edition of this new event will be hosted by Chiangmai, Thailand in May. That will also serve as the main qualification competition for the 1<sup>st</sup> Youth Olympic Games (for athletes aged 16 and 17)

to take place in Singapore, in 2010. So, we wish good luck to all colleagues to the elections and to the work facing them in the next four years. Weightlifting needs you to continue to develop and prosper even after Madrid and all over the world. Finally, we wish to thank in advance the Spanish Weightlifting Federation and the City of Madrid for welcoming the Weightlifting World to this important Electoral Congress on 31 March and 1 April 2009.

**Dr. Tamás Aján**  
IWF President

**Yannis Sgouros**  
IWF General Secretary