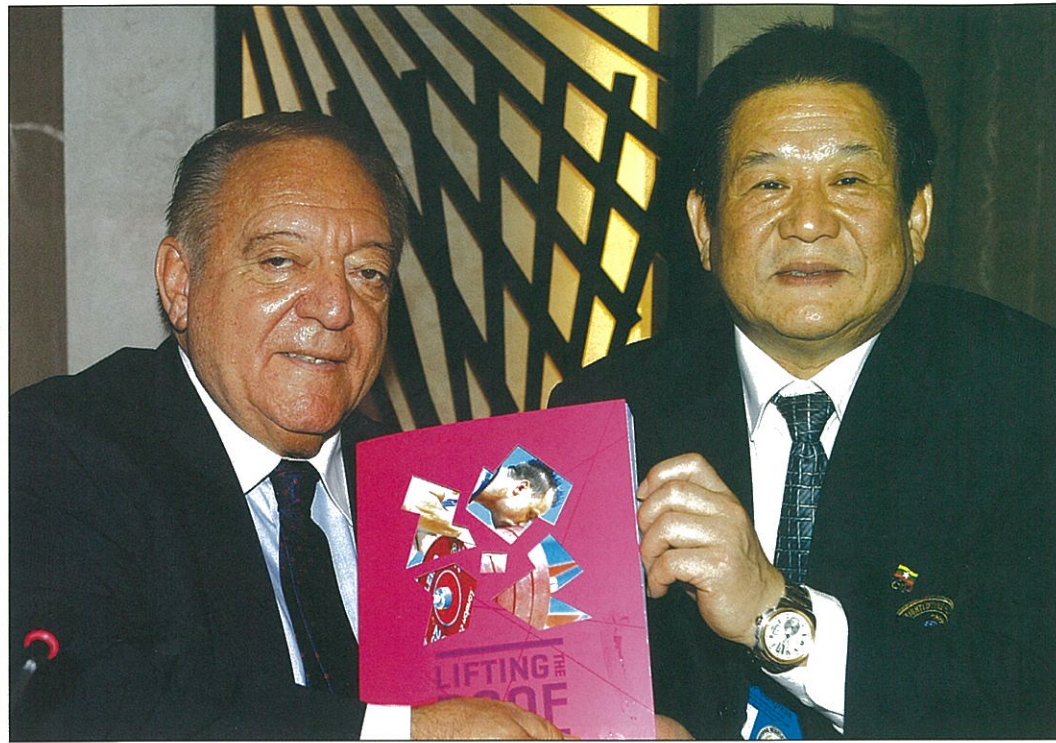


Dear Friends,

Though the Olympic Games were undoubtedly the peak event of 2012, life in international weightlifting was far from stopping in London. The post-Olympic months, right up to December, were highly meaningful and eventful from our sport's point of view. We may summarize the second part of the year listing its main events in order of significance: the IWF Congress in Baku in December, two World Championships; one of them, for the Youth held in Kosice, Slovakia in the month of September, and the other one, the World University Championships in Eilat, Israel; as well as two IWF Grand



At the Baku Congress the IWF's London 2012 Olympic album "Lifting the Roof" was distributed which scored great success among the delegates

Prix: one in Baku, Azerbaijan, and the President's Cup in St. Petersburg, Russia. Thanks to the chain of events of such great calibre the sometimes inevitable post-Olympic aridity was successfully forestalled and the general effervescence was maintained until the end of the year.

Keeping the order of importance, we should first focus on the Congress in

Baku. That was a momentous event for our 108-year old Federation. Why? To date, every four years we duly updated our Constitution, Rules and Anti-Doping Rules, but this time we wanted more than just cosmetic adjustments to these basic documents of our Federation. It was our intention to create a complex set of documents that would be fully up to the challenges of the 21st Century, provide

for modern governance and satisfy the requirements of transparency and rules of democracy. At the same time, we intended to restructure our statutes, leaving the principal articles in the Constitution and creating a set of By-Laws to go into details or explanations to facilitate the implementation. On the pages of this issue of **World Weightlifting** we shall dwell on this subject and on the Congress in detail. At



The IWF expressing its appreciation to Mr Azad Rahimov, Minister of Youth and Sports of Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan

this point we would only like to express our appreciation and gratitude to our Swiss Law expert Mr Francois Carrard for his invaluable contributions to the elaboration of the Constitution and its presentation to the Congress delegates.

On the second day of Congress the Technical and Competition Rules and Regulations were on the agenda for deliberation. We owe great thanks to the IWF Technical Committee, but in particular to Mr Sam Coffa, Chairman, who presented the updated Rules – similarly restructured as the articles – and divided into Rules, and Regulations to the rules. Mr Coffa was



2012 YWC host Slovakia passing on the IWF flag to 2013 YWC organiser, Uzbekistan

traditionally warm hospitality. Assured by the courtesy and generosity of the Azerbaijan Weightlifting Federation President Mr Jahangir Askerov,

performances at this event were impressive and some youth world records were improved. SWF President Dr Pavol Mutafov, General Secretary

significance was born in Eilat: a Chinese superheavyweight lady Meng Suping set a new absolute world record in clean and jerk: 188kg.

The international competition calendar of the year was rounded up by the first IWF Grand Prix held in Baku, Azerbaijan, following the Congress. With this Baku International Cup the Azerbaijan Federation celebrated the inauguration of its brand new weightlifting hall and training centre, an ideal facility for the future development of the sport. The IWF and the Azeri Federation have agreed on a joint project of an International Weightlifting Academy to

During the Congress the IWF President was received by Mr Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan



aided by Ms Moira Lassen, the Secretary of the Technical Committee, and Mr Attila Ádámfi, Competition Director, both of them among the main contributors to the new document. Naturally, the document package served as the subject matter of our Congress, however, we must point out – not only out of sheer politeness – that the framework provided for the sessions by the Azerbaijan Federation played an equally essential role. Our hosts offered conditions and facilities at the highest possible level: accommodation and meals in the five star luxury JW Marriott Absheron Hotel, in the centre of Baku, and

and under the support of Mr. Azad Rahimov, Minister of Youth and Sports, Mr Ismail Ismailov, Deputy Minister of Sport and Vice President of the Azeri Federation, the hospitality and perfect organisation were also to be thanked to the unfailing efforts and competence of Mr Isgandar Asgarov, Executive Director of the Federation and his staff. However, since the Olympic Games there have been two world championships that should not go unmentioned either. The 2012 edition of the IWF World Championships for Youth (13-17 years of age) was carried out by our Slovak friends in Kosice. Per-

Mr Jan Stefánik and Organising Committee head Mr Stefán Korpa received well deserved appreciation from all participating teams, officials and guests for hosting and excellent event. Just two months later, early November, the 3rd FISU World University Championships took place in Israel's beautiful seaside resort, Eilat, under the auspices of the Academic Sport Association of Israel. We must thank ASA President Mr Arie Rosenzweig and Organising Committee President Dr. Shimon Barak for providing an excellent organisation and hospitality to all participants. A new world record of historical

provide an opportunity for any country in the world to carry out training courses, symposia or various education projects. Both the Academy and the facilities enjoy the full support of the Sports Minister and the Olympic Committee of Azerbaijan.

Thanks should go to all those who have contributed to the lively weightlifting activities of the second half of 2012. We are now heading into 2013: a no less exciting year in the life of the IWF

Dr. Tamás Aján
President

Ma Wenguang
General Secretary