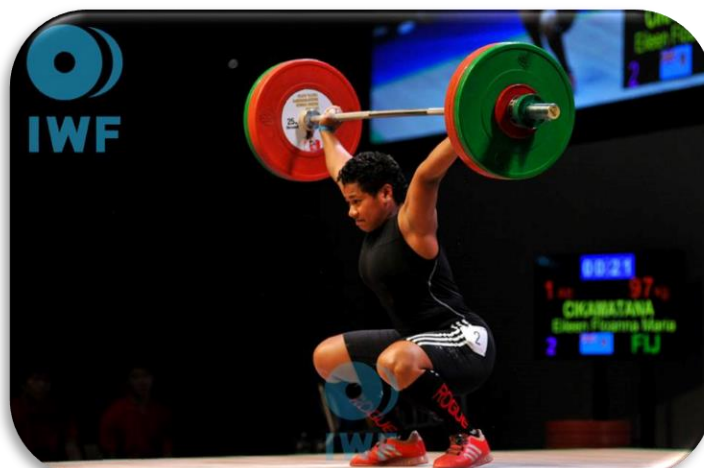


2 Silver 1 bronze to Cika...

Sensational weightlifter, 17 years of age, Eileen Cikamatana from Fiji, made history last month at the World Junior Championships held in Tokyo by winning two silver medals and one bronze medal. Eileen won a bronze medal in the snatch with a lift of 97kg, a silver medal in the clean & jerk with a lift of 132kg, only 1kg away from gold. She won the silver in the total of 229kg. In the crowd, to witness this great performance, was His Excellency, Isikeli Mataitoga, the Ambassador of Fiji to Japan.



Eileen Cikamatana on the way to snatch 97Kg



Eileen made history in the Pacific Islands

The two photos courtesy of the IWF

Eileen is the first Junior lifter in the Pacific Islands to win 3 medals at a World Championships. These are the medallists of the Pacific Islands at Olympic Games and World Championships:

- SILVER MEDAL Total – 2008 Olympic Games, Beijing- Ele Opeloge Samoa +75Kg Category Senior Event.
- SILVER MEDAL Clean & Jerk – 1999 World Senior Championships Greece, Marcus Stephen-Nauru 60kg Category
- SILVER MEDAL Clean & Jerk – 2005 World Senior Championships Qatar, Yukio Peter -Nauru 77Kg Category.
- SILVER MEDAL Clean & Jerk – 2006 World Senior Championships Dominican Rep. Manuel Minginfel Micronesia 62Kg Category
- SILVER MEDAL Clean & Jerk – 2017 World Junior Championships Japan Eileen Cikamatana -Fiji 90Kg Category
- SILVER MEDAL Total – 2017 World Junior Championships Japan Eileen Cikamatana -Fiji 90Kg Category
- BRONZE MEDAL Snatch – 2017 World Junior Championships Japan Eileen Cikamatana -Fiji 90Kg Category
- BRONZE MEDAL Snatch – 2005 World Junior Championships Korea Itte Detenamo -Nauru +105Kg Category
- GOLD MEDAL Clean & Jerk – 2016 World Youth Championships Malaysia Eileen Cikamatana -Fiji 69Kg Category
- BRONZE MEDAL Total – 2016 World Youth Championships Malaysia Eileen Cikamatana -Fiji 69Kg Category

Eileen was discovered by Joe Vueti on the island of Levuka Fiji, through the OTIP program. Eileen now trains full time at the Oceania Weightlifting Institute. She is an example of the work that the countries of the Pacific are doing through the OTIP program. Last year alone 3,237 girls from the Oceania region took part in the OTIP program and already quite a number of those athletes will be competing next month at the Gold Coast in the Commonwealth and Oceania Championships.

The OTIP program is the only continental talent identification program which exists and has been fully supported by the International Weightlifting Federation since its inception.

IWF ELECTORAL CONGRESS

The IWF Electoral Congress was held in Bangkok, Thailand, on the 29th – 30th May. Dr. Tamas Ajan was re-elected as President for his fifth term of office. Whilst the new General Secretary is Mr Mohammed Hasan Jalood from Iraq (Secretary General of the Asian Weightlifting Federation).

The first Vice-President elected is Major General Intarat Yodbangtoey.

Ursula Papandrea become the first woman to be elected as the first female Vice President in the history of the IWF. The OWF wishes Dr.Ajan, Mr Jalood and all the new elected Board Members a successful term of office.



Mohammed Jalood congratulates Dr Ajan on his re-election as President of the IWF.



Dr Tamas Ajan with the new General Secretary Mohammed Jalood , First Vice President Major General Intarat and the 5 Vice Presidents.

The two photos above courtesy of the IWF

2017 COMMONWEALTH & OCEANIA CHAMPIONSHIPS

With five weeks to go to one of the biggest weightlifting events ever held in the region. The city of Gold Coast on September 3rd to 9th, will host the 2017 Commonwealth and Oceania Championships for Senior, Junior and Youth. This event is also a test event for next year's Commonwealth Games. The championships has attracted 400 lifters and 150 officials coming from 37 countries.

The Organising Committee under leadership of Michael Keelan, the CEO of Australian Weightlifting, have done a brilliant job, especially in assisting countries who require visas to enter Australia. The OWF Annual Congress will be held at the Gold Coast at the Mercure Resort on September 4th.



GOLD COAST : NEXT STOP

INSTITUTE LIFTERS IN FRANCE

Ten institute lifters and one New Caledonia lifter were invited to compete in the French National Championships held in Mont de Marsan on June 10th & 11th. The competition was well organised and produced some outstanding results. The eleven lifters did very well winning five gold medals in the French Open and three silver medals.

The trip to Paris was funded by the office of the High Commission of France to New Caledonia. The stay in France was covered by the French Weightlifting Federation through the Sport Ministry in Paris. The lifters stayed at the magnificent sports institute (INSEP). The training facilities for all sports at the institute in Paris are outstanding.

Whilst in Paris, Mr. Charles Cali, the President of the CTOS and members of INSEP, made special arrangements for the lifters to visit the famous Eiffel Tower. Also the team had lunch with the Co-President of the Paris 2024 Organizing Committee, Mr Bernard Lapasset. Together with the Director of INSEP and also Mr. Charles Cali, Mr. Lapasset graciously showed the team the many facilities within INSEP.

OUR MEDALIST IN PARIS



Elson Brechtefeld Gold 56KgCat.



Dika Toua Gold 53Kg Cat.



Morea Baru Gold 62Kg Cat.



Luisa Peter- Gold +90Kg Cat.



Eileen Cikamatana – Gold 90 Kg. Cat.



Steven Kari Silver 94Kg Cat.



David Katoatau Silver 105Kg Cat.



Toua Udia Silver 77KgCat.

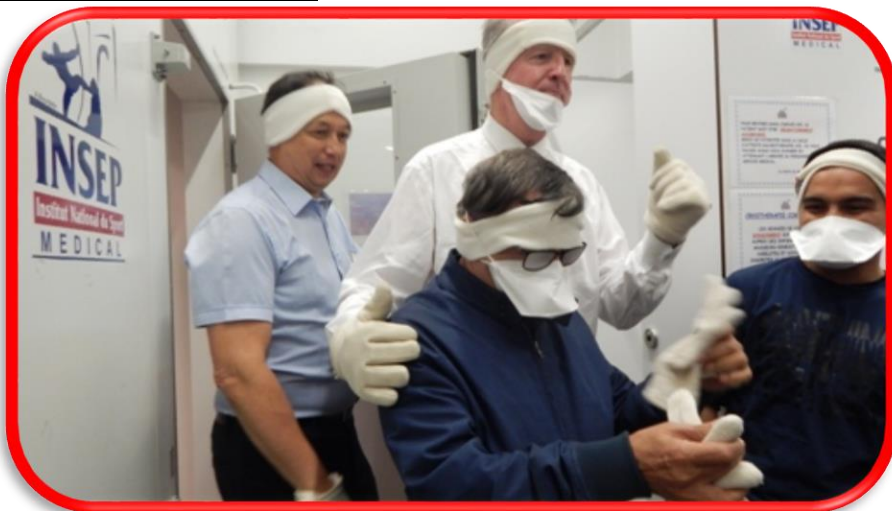


Taretiita Tabaroua 4th 77KgCat.



Jessica Idjan 11th 63Kg.Cat.

MEMORIES OF PARIS



Paul Coffa, Mr Bernard Lapasset and Elson Brechtfeld getting ready to enter the cryotherapy chambers – three in all. The third chamber temperature was minus 110 C. You can just imagine how the Pacific Islanders felt in such freezing conditions.



The weightlifting hall at INSEP- Paris



Paul Coffa and Charles Cali at the Eiffel Tower



Dika Toua after winning gold with Mr Pierre Forest NCL Director of Youth & Sports



Women first session presentation



The Oceania Institute lifters together with the CTOS President Charles Cali at the Eiffel Tower doing the Paris 2024 signal.



Steven Kari, Dika Toua Toua Udia Morea Baru and Thelma Toua at the Eiffel Tower.



Paris in the daytime.....



Eileen, Taretiita, David, Elson and Luisa at the Eiffel Tower.



The Co-President of Paris 2024 with all the Institute lifters at INSEP.

ROME TRAINING CAMP

The eleven lifters from the Institute who competed at the French Open Championships spent six days in a training camp in Rome on their way back to New Caledonia. The training camp was organised by the Italian Weightlifting Federation and it was held at the **Centro Sportivo Olimpico dell'Esercito in Rome**. Again another brilliant sports centre, with magnificent facilities. The six days of intense training was very productive. Obviously being in Rome, the lifters after their training sessions visited the many historical sites of Rome.

Special thanks must go to Commander Colonnello Remo Del Favero, Dr Antonio Urso the President of the Italian Weightlifting Federation and Maggiore Giuseppe Minissale the Vice President of the Italian Federation for their hospitality rendered to the institute lifters. Also special thanks must go to all members of the Italian Army at the Olympic Army Centre for making the team feel so welcome. In particular Domenico Marzullo the weightlifting coach at the centre who stayed with us for the six day duration and assisted the institute lifters with the site seeing.

ROME MEMORIES



Jessica Idjan and Dika Toua at Saint Peter's square.



Thelma Toua at St Peters Basilica



The Institute lifters at the Colosseum



The famous Trevi fountain



Elson Brechtefeld at Piazza di Spagna (Spanish steps)



Eileen interviewed on the Olympic channel



The weightlifting room at the Army Centre



Commander Remo Del Favero with the Lifters



The Army Olympic Sports Centre on the last night of our stay, organised a typical Aussie barbeque.



The famous boxing ring that Mohamed Ali won the heavyweight Olympic Gold Medal at the 1960 Rome Olympic Games.



Italian Weightlifting Vice President Major Giuseppe Minissale with the Institute lifters.



Commander Del Favero a very enthusiastic personality and a love for sport enjoying the barbeque night with Paul Coffa.



The army centre weightlifting coach Domenico Marzullo a magnificent and vibrant personality. The lifters enjoyed his company.

THE HIGH COMMISSION VISIT THE INSTITUTE

The High Commissioner of the Republic of France to New Caledonia, His Excellency, Thierry Lataste paid a courtesy visit to the Oceania Weightlifting Institute prior to the lifters departure to France for the French Open. Also accompanying the High Commissioner was the Mayor of Mont Dore, Mr. Eric Gay, as well as the New Caledonian Director for Youth and Sports, Mr Pierre Forest. They spent quite a bit of time with the lifters and enjoyed the training session. The High Commissioner wished all the lifters a successful championships in Paris.



From left: Mr Pierre Forest Director for Youth and Sports, Mr Eric Gay Mont Dore Mayor with his grand-daughter, The French High Commissioner, H.E. Thierry Lataste



The High Commissioner of France having a chat with Mr Eric Gay.

WORKSHOP

A special workshop was organised in New Caledonia for all pacific islands. It was the Training for Oceania Coaches and was conducted by CTOS-NC & INSEP. Part of this workshop was to visit the weightlifting institute in Mont Dore, where Paul Coffa was asked to talk on the coaching of elite athletes. The participants were also able to see a training session and meet all the resident athletes of the institute. The delegates came from PNG, Fiji, Nauru, Solomon Islands, Guam, Kiribati, Cook Islands, Tahiti, Vanuatu, Wallis & Futuna and New Caledonia.



The Delegates enjoyed watching training at the Institute



The PNG delegates meet the PNG lifters



The delegates attending the Training for Oceania Coaches - workshop.

NAURU PRESIDENT VISITS INSTITUTE

His Excellency Baron Waqa, President of the Republic of Nauru, made a short visit to the Institute whilst in New Caledonia for the 10th Conference of the Pacific Community (SPC) which was held in Noumea. Not only did he meet Larko Doguape, Elson Brechtefeld, and Isaiah Cain (Nauruan lifters who are resident at the institute) but he was also introduced to all the athletes from the different Pacific Islands.



President of Nauru, His Excellency Baron Waqa, with Madam Waqa enjoyed meeting Nauru's lifters residing at the institute.

KIRIBATI VICE PRESIDENT AND SPORTS MINISTER VISITS INSTITUTE

The Hon. Kourabi Nenem, the Vice President and Sports Minister of Kiribati, whilst also in Noumea for the 10th Conference of the Pacific Community, paid a courtesy visit to the Institute to meet with Kiribati five lifters. The Minister spent some time with them and spoke also about the future of weightlifting in Kiribati.



The Sports Minister at the institute meeting the Kiribati lifters, accompanied by Kae McKenzie, chief of protocol from the President's office. Minister Nenem is a past Secretary General of the Kiribati Weightlifting Federation and is keen to continue developing weightlifting.

LATEST NEWS

Fiji will be hosting the 2019 World Junior Weightlifting Championships. The Executive Board of the International Weightlifting Federation awarded Fiji these championships at its Executive Board Meeting held in Tokyo, Japan last month.

Paul Coffa
OWF General Secretary