

INTERNATIONAL SOFTBALL FEDERATION

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UPDATE

21 June 2006

SOFTBALL CONTINGENT MEETS WITH IOC PRESIDENT ROGGE

International Softball Federation (ISF) President Don Porter returned to the world headquarters facility last week from a meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland, with International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge. Mr. Porter was joined in the meeting by ISF Deputy Secretary General Ms. Low Beng Choo (Malaysia), ISF VP/Europe Mike Jennings (Great Britain), and ISF Counsel Ed Colbert. Mr. Porter called the approximately 90-minute meeting "productive and insightful."

SOFTBALL AT MICRONESIAN GAMES THIS WEEKEND

Softball will be played at the 6th Micronesian Games, which get underway this Friday, June 23. The event, which is held every four years and will take place in Saipan in the Northern Mariana Islands, is one of 16 multi-sport games that softball is on the programme of. Being played under ISF rules, the action at Miguel Pangelinan Softball Field will feature women's teams from the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, Palau, and Pohnpei, while the men's teams will come from those same three places, as well as Guam, Kosrae, and the Marshall Islands. Visit <http://cnmi.net/microgames/> for more information.



NUMEROUS COMPETITIONS AHEAD

The aforementioned Micronesian Games is just one of several international softball competitions ahead. As that tournament is concluding, another will have just begun in British Columbia, where the 13th Canada Cup is set to take place, featuring teams from nine countries. The attention following that event will shift to Oklahoma City (USA), site of the II World Cup of Softball. That tournament, which will consist of six national teams, will have extensive TV coverage from ESPN & ESPN International.



Overlapping that event will be the II World University Softball Championship in Taiwan, which will be made up of teams from seven countries. The month of July will then conclude with the XX Central American & Caribbean Sports Games in Colombia, which will feature both men's and women's softball. The marquee event of 2006, of course, will be the ISF XI Women's World Championship, August 27-September 5 in Beijing. This is also the sport's Olympic Test Event and a qualifier for the 2008 Olympic Games. Softball will also be played at this year's South American Games (November in Argentina) and the Asian Games (December in Qatar), with the 3rd Japan Cup taking place in between those two multi-sport events.



Construction continues on the venue in Doha where the softball competition will be played at the 15th Asian Games in December.



CONGRATULATIONS

Dr. Fernando Aren, an ISF VP/Latin America, was re-elected as president of the General Assembly of Argentine Sport Confederations.

Elsewhere, Dr. Jargalsaikhan, Advisor of the Mongolian State Committee for Physical Culture and Sport, has been chosen as President of the Mongolian Softball Federation. Mr. Ch. Naranbaatar, Chairman of the Mongolian State Committee for Physical Culture and Sport confirmed the selection to the ISF.

And, Hossein Sadeghi, President of the Softball Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has announced that Dr. Mohammad Reza Ali has been appointed as first vice president of that country's national governing body for softball.

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67 days until the ISF XI Women's World Championship



The softball stadium being built in Beijing for the 2006 Women's World Championship & 2008 Olympic Games.

Visit the official website of the 2006 ISF Women's World Championship at www.2006softball.org



第十一届世界女子垒球锦标赛
ISF XI Women's Fast Pitch
World Championship

TOKYO PHOTOS

In a prior edition of UPDATE, a visit by the ISF President to Tokyo was reported on. Below are photos acquired from that trip.



Left to right: Dentsu Inc. Director of Sport Business Yutaka Inagaki, Dentsu Inc. Managing Director Haruyuki Takahashi, ISF President Don Porter, Mizuno Sports President Masato Mizuno, ISF VP/Asia Steven Huang



Left to right: Japan Softball Association (JSA) Vice President Kiyohisa Kosa, ISF President Don Porter, Japanese Olympic Committee President Tsunekazu Takeda, ISF VP/Asia Steven Huang, ISF VP/Asia Masanori Ozaki, Mizuno Sports President Masato Mizuno



JSA President Taku Yamasaki (left) and his translator listen to ISF President Don Porter (right). Mr. Yamasaki is a close advisor to Japan Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi.



The softball officials pose with a softball team at Tokyo University, where a field test was being conducted of a new ball that Mizuno is developing for the ISF.

REMEMBER...

Past editions of UPDATE are archived on the ISF's official website. Go to the Newsletter portion of the Communications section of www.internationalssoftball.com.