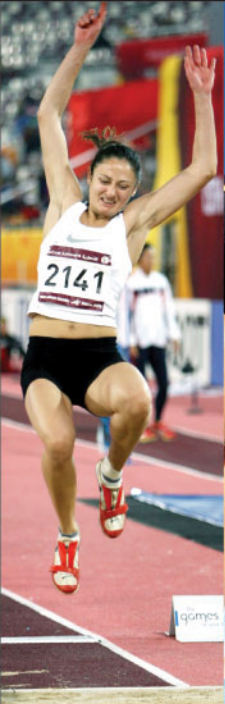


BLACK IRIS



THE JORDAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

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JORDAN'S WORK IN THE FIELD OF WOMEN AND SPORT HAS FURTHER STRENGTHENED THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HRH PRINCE FEISAL AND DR. JACQUES ROGGE

JORDAN TO HOST WORLD CONFERENCE

DR. JACQUES ROGGE, PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (IOC), HAS ANNOUNCED THAT JORDAN WILL BE HOSTING THE 4TH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN AND SPORT IN MARCH 2008.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE AT THE WORLD WOMEN AND SPORT AWARDS CEREMONY HELD AT THE OLYMPIC MUSEUM IN LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND, AND WAS ATTENDED BY HRH PRINCE FEISAL AL HUSSEIN, PRESIDENT OF THE JORDAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (JOC), WHICH WILL ORGANISE THE EVENT WITH THE IOC WOMEN AND SPORT COMMISSION.

"THIS IS A VERY PROUD MOMENT AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO HOSTING AN EVENT TO THE WORLD CLASS STANDARDS EXPECTED BY THE IOC," SAID HRH PRINCE FEISAL. "JORDAN HAS ACHIEVED A GREAT DEAL IN THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN, NOT ONLY IN THE FIELD OF

SPORT BUT ACROSS ALL INDUSTRIES AND SECTORS. BOTH HM KING ABDULLAH AND QUEEN RANIA FERVENTLY BELIEVE THAT THE INCLUSION OF WOMEN AT ALL LEVELS OF SOCIETY IS A POWERFUL AND NECESSARY ENGINE FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

"IN ADDITION, THE REGION HAS MADE HUGE STRIDES IN THE EMANCIPATION OF WOMEN. WE TRULY BELIEVE THAT THE TIMING COULD NOT BE BETTER FOR HOSTING THE 4TH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN AND SPORT WHICH WILL BE OF GREAT VALUE TO THE REGION BY NOT ONLY REASSERTING WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED SO FAR, BUT ALSO BY INSPIRING WOMEN TO STRIVE FOR GREATER SUCCESS."

HRH PRINCE FEISAL HAS ALREADY BEEN RECOGNISED BY THE IOC FOR HIS WORK IN THIS IMPORTANT FIELD BY BEING SELECTED TO JOIN ITS WOMEN AND SPORT COMMISSION IN 2006.

THE TWO-DAY CONFERENCE WILL WELCOME UP TO 1,000 DELEGATES

FROM INTERNATIONAL FEDERATIONS, INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES, NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES AND SPORTING BODIES FROM ACROSS THE WORLD AND WILL FURTHER ENHANCE THE KINGDOM'S REPUTATION AS A CENTRE OF REGIONAL EXCELLENCE FOR HOSTING MAJOR SPORTING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES.

THE EVENT WILL BE HELD AT THE WORLD-CLASS KING HUSSEIN BIN TALAL CONVENTION CENTRE WHICH HOSTED THE WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM IN 2003, 2004 AND 2005 AND WILL HOST IT AGAIN IN MAY OF THIS YEAR. ITS LOCATION ON THE BANKS OF THE DEAD SEA WILL PROVIDE A BREATHTAKING BACKDROP FOR THE WORLD'S DECISION MAKERS AND THOUGHT LEADERS IN WOMEN AND SPORT.

SEVERAL FIVE-STAR HOTELS ARE LOCATED WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE OF THE CENTRE CAPABLE OF HOSTING THE HUNDREDS OF VIP GUESTS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL SPORTING COMMUNITY.

"INVEST IN US" URGES PRESIDENT

HRH PRINCE FEISAL HAS CALLED UPON THE WORLD'S SPORTING COMMUNITY TO INVEST IN SMALLER NATIONS LIKE JORDAN.

DELIVERING A KEYNOTE ADDRESS TO THE EXCELLENCE IN GLOBAL SPORTS' CONFERENCE IN LONDON, HRH PRINCE FEISAL ADMITTED THAT MAJOR MULTI-SPORT EVENTS SUCH AS THE OLYMPICS AND THE ASIAN GAMES WERE BEYOND THE MEANS OF A COUNTRY LIKE JORDAN, BUT HE ENCOURAGED THE WORLD'S INTERNATIONAL SPORTING FEDERATIONS TO WORK CLOSER WITH 'SMALLER' COUNTRIES FOR HOSTING THEIR MAJOR EVENTS IN THE FUTURE.

"YOU ONLY HAVE TO LOOK AT THE FOUR CITIES THAT WERE BIDDING FOR THE 2012 OLYMPICS ALONGSIDE LONDON - MADRID, MOSCOW, NEW YORK AND

PARIS," SAID HRH PRINCE FEISAL. "ALL FIVE YOU COULD TERM AS 'SUPER' CITIES AND THE RUNNING FOR THE 2016 GAMES IS SET TO BE NO DIFFERENT. AS A RESULT, STAGING SUCH A GREAT SHOW HAS CREATED A LIST OF SPORTING SUPERPOWERS, WHERE THE COST OF HOSTING SUCH EVENTS, HAS PRICED OUT THE MAJORITY OF THE 202 NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES.

"FOR US IN JORDAN, THE DREAM OF HOSTING AN OLYMPICS, OR EVEN AN ASIAN GAMES, WILL PROBABLY ALWAYS REMAIN JUST THAT - A DREAM. SPENDING BILLIONS ON SPORTS' INFRASTRUCTURE FOR A POPULATION OF LESS THAN SIX MILLION PEOPLE DOES NOT APPEAR TO MAKE ECONOMIC SENSE.

"BUT NEVERTHELESS, LIKE ANY COUNTRY OF OUR SIZE, WE CAN TAILOR OUR 'HOSTING' EXPECTATIONS AND AMBITIONS TO MATCH OUR ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE. JORDAN TYPIFIES SMALLER NATIONS,

PARTICULARLY IN THE EMERGING CONTINENTS OF ASIA AND AFRICA. WE ARE AMBITIOUS AND REGARD SPORT AS AN IMPORTANT TOOL FOR NATION-BUILDING.

"CURRENTLY, THE JOC IS ENCOURAGING ALL OF ITS NATIONAL FEDERATIONS TO THINK BIG WHEN IT COMES TO HOSTING. WHETHER IT IS WEST ASIAN, ARAB, ASIAN OR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS, OUR FEDERATIONS AND THEIR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS CAN RELY ON THE SUPPORT OF THE JOC TO HOST THESE EVENTS TO THE HIGHEST STANDARDS."

HRH PRINCE FEISAL URGED INTERNATIONAL FEDERATIONS TO BUILD CLOSER TIES WITH SMALLER COUNTRIES LIKE JORDAN AND DEVELOP LONG-TERM WORKING RELATIONSHIPS TO ESTABLISH AND BUILD THE GLOBAL POPULARITY OF SPORTS.

PUTTING OUR ATHLETES FIRST

AS PART OF ITS STRATEGY OF "PUTTING OUR ATHLETES FIRST", THE JOC'S AWARD WINNING WEBSITE WWW.JOC.JO WILL BE PLACING A LOCAL SPORTING ICON IN FOCUS EVERY WEEK.

WITH NEARLY ONE MILLION VISITORS LOGGING ONTO ITS SITE IN 10 MONTHS, THE JOC WILL BE PLAYING ITS ROLE IN RAISING THE PROFILE OF JORDAN'S RISING STARS BY INCLUDING A WEEKLY IN-DEPTH INTERVIEW.

KICKING OFF THE SERIES WAS ASIAN GAMES' SILVER MEDALIST YAHYA ABU TUBEIKH. OTHER STARS OF JORDANIAN SPORT WILL FEATURE OVER THE COMING MONTHS.

AS AN ADDED FEATURE, THE SITE IS ALSO CARRYING HEALTH TIPS FOR GIVING UP SMOKING, EATING HEALTHY AND HOW TO LIVE A HEALTHIER LIFESTYLE.

SPORTS PORTFOLIO EXPANDS

THE NUMBER OF FEDERATIONS UNDER THE JOC'S JURISDICTION HAS INCREASED TO 35 AND IS SET TO GROW FURTHER WITH THE WORLD'S SECOND MOST POPULAR TEAM SPORT - RUGBY - FINALLY GRABBING A Foothold IN THE KINGDOM.



THE MARTIAL ART OF BRAZILIAN JIU JITSU (PICTURED) HAS SERVED ITS PROBATIONARY PERIOD AND MET ALL THE CRITERIA FOR BECOMING A FULLY INDEPENDENT FEDERATION, WHILE RUGBY HAS ESTABLISHED ITS FIRST 'UNION' AND WILL BE MONITORED FOR TWO YEARS.

ASIAN PRAISE

JORDAN'S REPUTATION AS A WORLD-CLASS SPORTING HOST WAS ENHANCED AFTER DRAWING HUGE ACCLAIM FOR THE ASIAN CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS.

OVER 150 ATHLETES FROM 22 COUNTRIES COMPETED, AND THE UNANIMOUS VERDICT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WAS THAT JORDAN PASSED THE TEST.

ON THE SIDELINES OF THE EVENT, WHICH WAS SUPPORTED BY THE JOC, A NUMBER OF VIP'S WERE HOSTED BY HRH PRINCE FEISAL INCLUDING PRINCE NAWAF BIN MOHAMMED AL SAUD, PRESIDENT OF THE SAUDI ARABIA ATHLETICS FEDERATION, AND MR. SORESH KALMADI, PRESIDENT OF THE INDIAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE, IN ADDITION TO PRESIDENT OF THE INDIAN AND ASIAN ATHLETICS FEDERATIONS.