

OCEANIA WEIGHTLIFTING FEDERATION

AFFILIATED TO THE INTERNATIONAL WEIGHTLIFTING FEDERATION

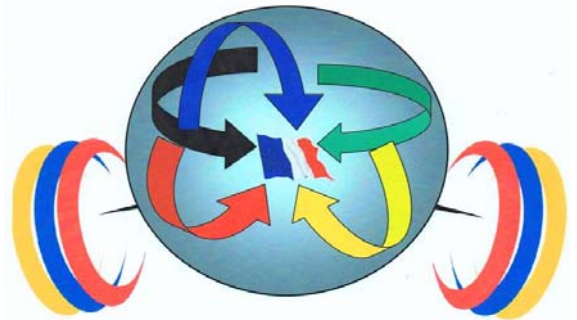
LATEST NEWS, July 2008

NEW CALEDONIA..... A GREAT SUCCESS !!

- **World Cup in New Caledonia, January 2009**
- **Francophone International Tournament - January 2009**
- **Oceania Weightlifting Institute – being built in Noumea**
- **Institute lifters make it to Beijing**
- **New Caledonia joins I.W.F**

WORLD CUP- JANUARY 2009

In February of this year, New Caledonia became the home of the Oceania Weightlifting Federation and the Oceania Weightlifting Institute. And within five months, Dr. Tamas Ajan, IWF President was delighted to allocate the 2009 World Cup to New Caledonia. **The World Cup will be held on January 21st to 25th in Noumea.**



At the same time in conjunction with the World Cup, the first ever French speaking countries International Weightlifting tournament will be held. The event will be known as the **Francophone International Weightlifting Tournament.**

Having the World Cup and the Francophone International Tournament is a big coup for New Caledonia. Some of the greatest weightlifters of the world, including Olympic medalist will be competing. The Organizing Committee expect in the vicinity of 40 countries, to take part as it is an open event world wide.

Also during the World Cup the official opening of the new **Oceania Weightlifting Institute** will take place. We expect to have with us, the President of the IWF – Dr Tamas Ajan, IOC Member, the President of the OWF – H.E. Marcus Stephen, the President of the CWF – Mr. Vinson Detenamo, the President of the EWF – Dr. Antonio Urso, the President of the French Weightlifting Federation Mr Jean-Paul Bulgaridhes and we hope to also have with us the President of the Asian Weightlifting Federation – Sultan Bin Al Sheikh Mejren Also invitation will be extended to regional National Olympic Committees and other sporting organizations.

The official invitations to the World Cup & Francophone International Tournament will be extended to all the countries during the Olympic Games in Beijing by the Organizing Committee.

INSTITUTE LIFTERS MAKE IT TO BEIJING:

Six Pacific Island lifters training here in New Caledonia this week have received invitation cards from the Tripartite Commission and the IWF to compete in Beijing at next month's Olympic Games. The six lifters are:

Sam Pera +105Kg – **Cook Islands**,
Joe Vueti 69Kg – **Fiji**,
Logona Esau 69Kg – **Tuvalu**,
Maamaloa Lolohea – +105kg **Tonga**,
David Katoatau 85Kg, – **Kiribati**
Wendy Hale 58kg, – **Solomon Islands**.

Lifters who also train at the Institute and whose countries have qualified for Beijing are:

Dika Toua 53Kg – **Papua New Guinea**
Yukio Peter 77Kg or Itte Detenamo +105Kg – **Nauru**

In addition two other lifters, Manuel Minginfel 62Kg – **Micronesia**, who was at the Institute until 3 weeks ago and has now returned to his island, qualified on his own merit. and Ele Opeloge +75Kg – **Samoa** who trained at the Institute until last December when the Institute was relocated from Samoa to New Caledonia, qualified on her own merit and also Samoa qualified at the Continental event last March in New Zealand..

If you add the two representatives from **Australia** – Deborah Lovely +75Kg, and Damon Kelly +105Kg and the two representatives from **New Zealand** – Mark Spooner 69Kg, and Richard Paterson 85Kg, the Oceania region is being represented in the sport of weightlifting by 12 countries.

This is a great achievement not only for the Institute but also for the region and a special thanks must go to the IWF and the Tripartite Commission for recognizing the talent which we have in the Pacific islands. This is the first time that we have received six invitations considering the limited number of spots which are available.

No question the assistance received from ONOC / IOC Solidarity towards funding the athletes at the Institute has paid dividends. And with the new Institute being built here in Noumea the future for weightlifting in the region looks extremely bright.

We already have Pacific athletes amongst the best in the world. Dika Toua from PNG is training exceptionally well, with Ele Opeloge from Samoa being the surprise package at these Games. Her coach Jerry Wallwork has informed the OWF that she is in excellent condition. And I am quite confident that many other lifters from the region will perform exceptionally well at these Olympics.

NEW CALEDONIA BECOMES IWF MEMBER:

During the World Junior Championships held in Cali, Columbia last month, New Caledonia became the 192 country to be affiliated to the IWF. The President of the **New Caledonia Weightlifting Federation**, Mr. Ronald Frère who was in attendance, was asked by the President of the IWF – Dr. Tamas Ajan to address the Congress. Mr. Frere spoke about his vision on the development of weightlifting in New Caledonia, he spoke about the Pacific Games to be held in Noumea in 2011, the building of the new Oceania Weightlifting Institute, the relocation of the Oceania Weightlifting Federation headquarters and the Commonwealth Weightlifting Federation Headquarters to New Caledonia. He also spoke on the big news of New Caledonia hosting the World Cup and the Francophone International tournament to be held in January 2009.



Sam Pera (Cook Islands) Ronald Frère (New Caledonia) and Paul Coffa (OWF General Secretary),