



The IOC has announced that Singapore will host the first **Summer Youth Olympic Games** in 2010.

"Das Leben ist nicht einfach!" Such were the words often repeated to MTC members by **Karl-Heinz Zschocke**, who only days ago withdrew from this life, leaving us without words and with a looming sense of sadness and melancholy. The gymnastic community is indebted to him in so many ways. Karl-Heinz was a member of the FIG Authorities from 1968 to 1996; MTC President from 1984 to 1996. He was named Honorary FIG Vice-President in 1996.

The Executive Committee members held an extraordinary meeting in Lausanne (SUI) on January 26th to designate the future location of FIG headquarters. Two projects in the City of Neuchâtel and one in **Lausanne** were presented. After discussions and evaluation, the Executive selected the Olympic City. The FIG Office will move to Lausanne during the Summer of 2008, once the City Parliament has approved the project.



FIG President, Prof Bruno Grandi, Honorary Vice President Norbert Bueche and African Gymnastics Union President, Mr Mohamed Yamani attended the official inauguration of the International Gymnastics Centre in Thiès (SEN). The ceremony was conducted by Mr Mamadou Lamine Keita, Minister of Youth of the Republic of **Senegal**.

An interesting report related to the prohibited substance **Furosemide** has been released by Dr Michel Léglise, FIG Vice President and President of the Medical Commission. Furosemide is the banned drug most often used and found in all gymnastic disciplines, particularly in young women. Not a doping substance in and of itself, the drug is in fact a diuretic used as a masking agent to camouflage a doping substance.

The Executive body has designated the **World Cup Finals** for the 2007 – 2008 Cycle in its Olympic disciplines:

- Artistic Gymnastics, 14th Final: Madrid (ESP), Dec. 13 – 14, 2008;
- Rhythmic Gymnastics, 5th Final: Benidorm (ESP), Nov. 14 – 15, 2008;
- Trampoline Gymnastics, 9th Final: Togliatti (RUS), Sep. 19 – 20, 2008.

As per the FIG Council decision taken in Orlando (USA) in 2007, and in response to a proposal by its Technical Committee, **Trampoline** will no longer be organising a World Cup Final as of the next cycle. The discipline will hold a World Championship on an annual basis, however, with the exception of Olympic years.



The Puerto Rican gymnast **Diego Lizardi** (32 years) was killed, February 21, 2008, in a car accident. Diego was an outstanding representative of his country on the international scene prior to putting an end to his career in 2003. He participated notably in the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, and in 2000 in Sydney.

FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE GYMNASTIQUE

MEDIA OPERATIONS



On February 9, 2008, the International Gymnastics **Hall of Fame** formally inducted four gymnasts and one Order of Merit honouree. Our hosts, Hall of Famers Bart Conner and Nadia Comaneci, welcomed the inductees to Oklahoma City and to the Hall of Fame. This marked the 12th formal induction. Over the last twelve years, 64 of our sports' greatest stars and contributors, representing 19 countries, have been formally inducted into the Hall of Fames' elite group. This also marks the fifth year for the International Order of Merit award representing great achievement in non-competitive aspects of gymnastics. Five honourees from 4 nations have been inducted: L-R Shuji Tsurumi (JPN), Lilia Podkopayeva (UKR), Ma Yanhong (CHN) and Stoyan Deltchev (BUL) and one Order of Merit, Ludwig Schweizer (GER).



For the first time since its creation in 1992, the Rhythmic Gymnastics World Cup Tournament in **Kiev** (UKR) will feature Individual and Group exercises (March 21 – 23).



On March 4 - 6, 2008, **Doha's Aspire Dome** will roll out the red carpet for elite gymnasts of the Artistic Gymnastics World Cup circuit. This is a first for the Qatar Gymnastics Federation and its President, A-Rahman Al-Shathri, also President of the Asian Gymnastics Union.



Bulgaria's capital city of **Sofia** inaugurated a new sport hall reserved entirely for the practice of Aerobic Gymnastics. Henceforth known as the "Vasil Levski" National Academy of Sports, the structure was inaugurated by the President of the Republic of Bulgaria, Mr Georgi Parvanov, and the highest dignitaries in Bulgarian sport, along with Professor Maria Mineva Ph.D. (BUL), Vice President of the FIG Aerobic Gymnastics Technical Committee.

FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE GYMNASTIQUE

Philippe J. SILACCI, Media Operations Officer - FIG Office, March 1, 2008.