

SAMOA IS READY

Samoa is ready to host one of the The 2012 Oceania & Commonwealth place in Apia from Wednesday 6th to for 7.00pm on Tuesday night the will be held early Tuesday morning of entries will be held at 5.00pm on

This event is also the last of the Europe, Pan America and Africa have pleased that we have with us for the duration of the championships, the President of the IWF, Dr. Tamas Ajan.

This event is fully supported by the Government of Samoa and coincides with the 50th Anniversary of Samoa's Independence. Therefore we sincerely thank the Prime Minister of Samoa, the Hon. Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi for his continued support to the sport of weightlifting. The whole country of Samoa will be in a celebration and festive mood all of next week. We expect the Tuanaimato Sports Complex to be filled to capacity.

Two hundred and twenty- six lifters have registered for this major event from twenty-five countries. Also 130 officials will be attending as well. The Australian contingent alone consists of 37 athletes and officials, with New Zealand having 34 athletes and officials. However the biggest contingent of all is India with 60 athletes and officials coming. The event will be televised fully by TV 1Samoa.

The Organising Committee, under the chairmanship of Jerry Wallwork, President of the Samoa Weightlifting Federation has certainly done a great job in organising this event. We are fully confident that it will be a huge success. We are pleased to see the return of Marshall Island to weightlifting again and also to see a delegation from Wallis & Futuna competing. Wallis & Futuna competed in the first Oceania Championships in 1980. Unfortunately in the last ten years they have been absent but we look forward to their first appearance again in a long time.

OCEANIA / COMMONWEALTH FEDERATIONS SEMINARS:

Thanks to the IWF Development Program, a coaching, technical, administrative, athlete education and medical seminar will be conducted in Apia. The speakers are all the best that you can get in their fields. On the technical side there will be Sam Coffa from Australia and Garry Marshall from New Zealand. In coaching there is Lyn Jones from Australia. Athlete education will be conducted by Mike Keelan from Australia, the medical seminar will be done by Dr. Moni Kami from Tonga. From the IWF, the Competition Director, Attila Adamfi will conduct the administrative seminar and verification of entries. The cultural assimilation seminar will be conducted by Trent Dabwido from Nauru. Included also will be an update on the final preparation for London, from Matthew Curtain, the Weightlifting Manager for the London Olympics. Also there will be a dedicated session on ADAMS whereabouts.

INTER-CLUB COMPETITION



The Australian Inter-Club competition held in Melbourne on Friday 23rd to Sunday 25th of March was an outstanding success. For the first time quite a number of Pacific countries took part as guests in the tournament. The lifters came from Fiji, Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Tuvalu, and Samoa. The organisation of the event was excellent with many good performances over the two and half days. Over 130 lifters took part from 43 clubs. This type of tournament is an excellent concept for club lifters, who have limited chances of making the national teams. It gives them the opportunity to compete at international level.

OCEANIA MASTERS

For the first time the Oceania Masters Championships will be held in conjunction with the Australian Masters Championships in Brisbane on June 15-17. The venue is the Chandler Theatre, Sleeman Sports Complex in Brisbane. Almost 100 lifters are taking part, Most of them from Australia and a number from New Zealand. Unfortunately the Pacific Islands still need to grasp the concept of masters. Whilst we understand the cultural aspect behind – not competing in Masters - the opportunities which are lost, to the many strong Pacific Island lifters over the age of 35 is a pity. The OWF in the next couple of years will do its utmost to see that this thought process changes, so that the older pacific lifters can gain immeasurable benefits from taking part in the Masters.



biggest weightlifting events ever held in the Pacific. Senior, Junior and Youth Championships will take Saturday 9th June. The Opening Ceremony is set 5th June, whilst the Oceania Electoral Congress at the Samoa Convention Centre. The verification Monday, 4th June.

continental Olympic qualifications. Already Asia, concluded their qualification events. We are very

ONOC VISIT

OWF General Secretary earlier this year on his way to Samoa, paid a courtesy visit to the new Oceania National Olympic Committee (ONOC) headquarters in Suva, Fiji. He also took the opportunity to spend some time with Dr. Robin Mitchell, President of ONOC and Mr. Dennis Miller, Executive Director of ONOC to discuss weightlifting in the Oceania Region, the institute and other areas associated to sport.



The new headquarters of the Oceania National Olympic Committee in Suva-Fiji.



Mr Dennis Miller Executive Director (ONOC) with Paul Coffa and Dr Robin Mitchell President (ONOC)

INSTITUTE LIFTER WINS SPORTS AWARD

Nineteen year old, Steven Kari, 85kg lifter from Papua New Guinea, triple gold medallist at the Pacific Games won the Junior Sportsman of the Year award in PNG. Steven established a new Commonwealth junior record late last year at the Commonwealth Championships held in Cape Town, South Africa.

REIKO CHINEN VISITS THE INSTITUTE

One of the leading female technical officials of the IWF, Reiko Chinen from Japan spent a number of days at the Oceania Weightlifting Institute together with her son Yuki. The purpose of this long trip from Japan was not only to visit the OWF headquarters but also to give her son the opportunity to train alongside lifters from the Pacific Islands.



Reiko with her son Yuki enjoying a dinner at the Institute (lot's of food)

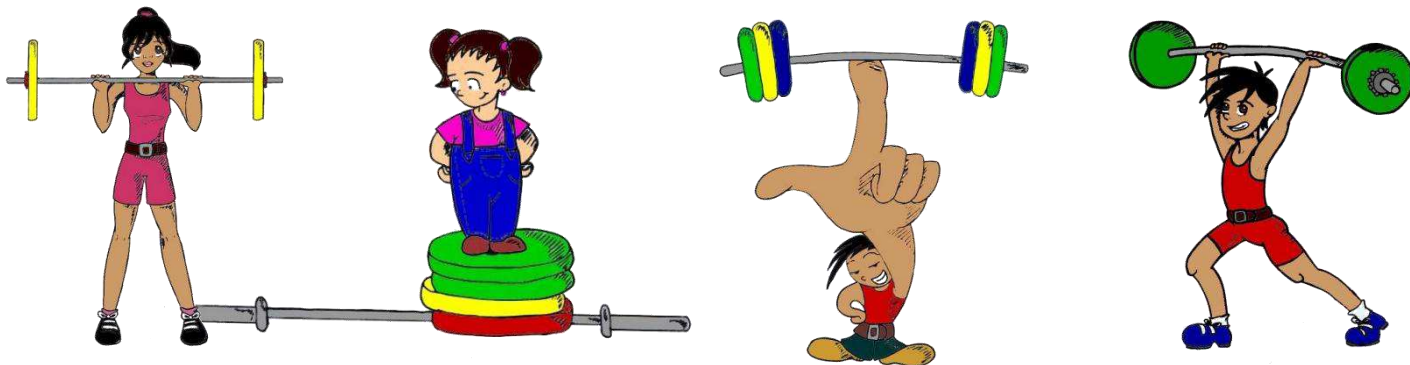


13yrs old Yuki training at the Institute.

THE O.T.I.P. PROGRAM

It is now happening. Thanks to Dr. Tamas Ajan and the IWF Development Program, the Oceania Talent Identification Program will be launched next week, June 4th in Samoa. The program has been named the 'School Lift' (the power clean & jerk) and it will be run throughout all secondary schools in the Pacific Islands. In Australia and New Zealand it will be run throughout all weightlifting clubs.

The purpose of this program is not only to identify potential talent for our sport but also to teach the students the correct and safe methods of lifting, which will assist them in future years if they train for other sports. The program will be supervised by experts in each country from their local weightlifting federations. It will be conducted between the months of June to August and it will be done during the sports period at the schools.



The local federations will collate all entries and then they will select one student (either girl or boy) whom they see as the best prospect. **This selected student will receive a free trip to New Caledonia.** The student together with all other students selected from different countries of the region will spend 10 days during the month of September at the Oceania Weightlifting Institute in New Caledonia for a training camp.

This program has been organised by the Oceania Weightlifting Federation in conjunction with every national weightlifting federation in the region. It is being funded by the International Weightlifting Federation, through the Continental Development Program and also is being assisted and supported by the Oceania National Olympic Committee, and by the Zhen-AO Group. *(Leading Chinese Nutritional Company who sponsors the Chinese Olympic Committee and Chinese Weightlifting Team)*

LONDON OLYMPIC GAMES



With less than 60 days to go, the Games of the XXX Olympiad will begin in London. The weightlifting event undoubtedly will be presented at its best. As we all know, the Weightlifting Manager is none other than Matthew Curtain and as such, we expect nothing but the best. We know that the stadium will be fully packed session after session.

The Oceania Weightlifting Federation wishes Matthew Curtain and his team in London all the very best and we all look forward to have a good representation from the Oceania region once again.

Matthew Curtain is coming down from London specially to address the countries competing in Apia on the final preparations of the weightlifting event for the Games.

WALLIS & FUTUNA VISITS THE INSTITUTE



The President of the Comité Territorial Olympique de Sportif (C.T.O.S) of Wallis & Futuna, Mr. Soakimi Polelei, paid a visit to the Oceania Weightlifting Institute together with the Executive Director of the Pacific Games, Mr. Andrew Minogue and the Executive Director of the Organising Committee of the Mini Games, Mr. Eddy Filipponi.

A lengthy meeting was held at the office of the OWF with regards to next year's Mini Games in Wallis & Futuna, and the Oceania Championships which will be run for the first time in conjunction with the Pacific Mini Games.

Paul Coffa
GENERAL SECRETARY

