



POC Online

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Rio de Janeiro – Host City, Olympics 2016 Philippines – Host Country, Olympics 20 ?



Rio de Janeiro has been chosen as the host city for the Games of the XXXI Olympiad in 2016. The Brazilian city was chosen by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) after a long process and three rounds of voting, edging out Chicago, Tokyo, and finally Madrid (Round 1: Madrid - 28 votes, Rio – 26, Tokyo – 22, Chicago – 18; Round 2: Rio – 46, Madrid – 29, Tokyo – 20 ; Round 3: Rio – 66, Madrid – 32).

The Olympics to be held in Rio de Janeiro will be the first for the city and the country, and the first for the continent of South America.

The Philippines is still reeling from the effects of the successive typhoons, flooding and mudslides and it might seem to be untimely to even think of holding the Olympics in the country sometime in the future. But life goes on and we must move forward. In the midst of tragedy, as we carry out our relief and rehabilitation work, we have to dream of precisely building from the devastation. We can, and should dream that out of this tragedy we will build a better tomorrow, and in the world of sports, the apex would be to hold the Olympics in the Philippines someday.

Some say that to even think of it is a pipe dream, an impossible dream. But nothing is impossible, as long as we put our mind to it. As the saying goes, “the difficult takes awhile, the impossible a little longer.” Let us hope that this generation can do it within our lifetime, but if not, let us plant the seeds for the future. Rome was not built in a day, and we cannot build the athletic and hard infrastructure needed to host the Olympics overnight, but we can lay the cornerstone today. As is said, “the journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step,” so let us take this step today.

It is incumbent on all those who are involved in sports today not only to participate in sporting events of this day, but to build for the long-term future of Philippine sports. Let us dream, and let us start to work that this dream will become a reality, so that one day our country will have the honor to host the Olympics. And when that day comes, future generations of Filipinos can proudly say that “not all were sleeping in the nights of their forefathers” (Jose Rizal).

Let all those in Philippine sports start this noble quest this day.

Benjamin I. Espiritu
Editor-in-Chief

RP team to compete in 2009 WTF World Taekwondo Championships

TWO-time Olympians Mary Antoinette Rivero and Tshomlee Go banner the 12-man RP-Smart taekwondo team seeing action in the 2009 WTF World Taekwondo Championships in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Rivero competes in the under-67 kg class while Go is entered in the under-63 kg class of the five-day tournament slated from October 14-18.

Aside from Go, also in the men's team are John Paul Lizardo (under 54 kg), Nicole Mapilisan (under 58 kg), Jeffrey Figueroa (under 68 kg), Marlon Avenido (under 80 kg) and Alexander Briones (plus 87 kg).

With Go in the women's side are Jyra Marie Lizardo (under 49 kg), Kathleen Eunice Alora (under 53 kg), Karla Jane Alava (under 57 kg), Maria Criselda Roxas (under 62 kg) and Kirstie Elaine Alora (under 73 kg).

Officials accompanying the team are Danilo Mojica II (delegation head), Raul Samson (men's team manager), Jesus Morales III (women's team manager), Kim Hong Sik (men's coach) and Dindo Simpao (women's coach).

"Our athletes have trained long and hard for this major international event," said Philippine Taekwondo Association (PTA) President Robert Aventajado.

Around 142 countries are participating in the meet including Korea, China, France, Spain, Iran, Turkey, Chinese Taipei and the United States.

The Filipino jins' campaign is being supported by Smart Communications Inc. and the Philippine Sports Commission.

RP karatekas take medals; PKF updates

TWO Filipino karatekas brought home bronze medals in a pair of international meets in the last two months.

Southeast Asian Games veteran Mae Soriano raised her ante this time by bagging the bronze medal in the female kumite-55 event of the 9th Asian Karatedo Federation (AKF) in Foshan City, China, held from September 25-27.



Mae Soriano

The RP delegation was composed of Team Manager and Philippine Karatedo Federation (PKF) Deputy Secretary-General Raymund Lee Reyes, coaches David Lay and Junel, referees Edward Ponce (AKF) and Rey Mendoza, and players Mae Soriano, Noel Espinosa, Marna Pabillore, Luche Metante, Ace Eso, Mike Dumayag, Ricky Elinon, Popoy Lagman, Ireneo Toribio and Melanie Perez.

Meanwhile, Ma. Raniella Isabel Gutierrez also won the bronze medal in the girls' kumite of the 7th World Wado Ryu Karate Championship in Tokyo, Japan last August. The group was led by PKF Upgrading Board Chairman Enrico Vazquez.

In other karate news, a number of referees attended the update seminar during the Kobe Osaka International (KOI) Championship in Kuching City, Sarawak, Malaysia.



Mr. Clemen Soo, AKF VP congratulates Mr. Raymund Lee Reyes

The group was led by WKF Referee Council Tommy Morris, PKF Referee Council Ramon Franco, Edward Ponce, Raymund Lee Reyes, together with PKF Middle East Component headed by Jerry Renta, Pol Poleros and Nestor Cala.

The PKF is now an official member of the KOI.

Likewise, upgrading Board and Referee Council Committee member Bro Mario Dacanay attended the 2009 Okinawan Traditional Shoring Karatedo Championship in Naha City, Okinawa, Japan.

This developed as the PKF successfully won the hosting rights for the 2012 Asian Karatedo Federation Cadet and Jr. Championship during the AKF Congress in Foshan City, China.

Foreign volleyball teams give aid to typhoon victims

THE foreign teams that competed in the recent 15th Asian Men's Seniors volleyball championship did its share by contributing financial support to victims of the recent calamities in the country.

The move was spearheaded by the Asian Volleyball Confederation in cooperation with the Philippine Volleyball Federation after being witness to the destruction brought about by tropical storm Ondoy and super-typhoon Pepeng, respectively.

AVC president Dr. Saleh Bin Nasser handed out the donation to the PVF headed by Pedro Mendoza and vice-president Gener Dungo. The PVF in turn, forwarded the cash contribution to the Philippine Sportswriters Association (PSA), which launched its own fund drive to support all calamity victims.

PSA president Teddyvic Melendres of the Philippine Daily Inquirer received the financial assistance during the dinner party tendered for all participating teams held at the Bayview Park Hotel.

The Asian Men's Seniors volleyball tournament was among the numerous sports events that had to be cancelled on that fateful Saturday when the large volume of rain from tropical storm Ondoy caused massive flooding in Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

The RP team finished 15th out of 18 countries that saw action in the tournament.

Japan won the title by beating Iran in the finals, 19-25, 25-18, 25-23, 25-22.

It was the seventh championship for the Japanese (1975, 1983, 1987, 1991, 1995 and 2005).

SEA Games flag bearer

MULTI-titled swimmer Miguel Molina emerged as the top choice to be the country's flag bearer in the 25th Southeast Asian Games in Laos.

RP Chef de Mission Mario Tanchanco said a lot of qualified athletes are being considered for the job, but acceded that the 25-year old Molina is definitely on top of the list.

“Yung pinalitan ni Manny Pacquiao as flag bearer natin sa Olympics ang isa sa pinaka-matunog sa amin,” said Tanchanco, who refused to mention the name of Molina but was obviously referring to the Fil-Am swimmer.

On account of being named the Best Male Athlete of the 2007 SEA Games in Thailand, Molina was earlier named official flag bearer of the RP delegation to the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

But he later gave up the function to give way to Pacquiao, whom President Arroyo named as her ‘Special Envoy for the Games of the 29th Olympiad.’

Molina could have been the third swimmer to carry the RP flag during the Olympic opener after Luis Ayeon in 1972 (Munich) and Eric Buhain in 1988 (Seoul).

Although a two-time Olympian, it was in the SEA Games two years ago where Molina really made his mark as a Filipino sports icon.

He won a total of four gold medals in Nakhonratchasima, three individuals (200-m breast stroke, 200-m individual medley and 400-m individual medley) and the 4x100 medley relay where he teamed up with Daniel Coakley, James Walsh and Ryan Arabejo.

The feat earned for him the Games' Best Male Athlete Award, becoming the first Filipino swimmer to win the title since Buhain in 1991.