

Games of the XXIX Olympiad in 2008

The files from the five candidate cities to host the Games of the XXIX Olympiad in 2008 (Osaka, Paris, Toronto, Beijing and Istanbul – in the official order of the draw) were received by the deadline of midnight on 17 January 2001. These five cities were accepted as candidate cities by the IOC Executive Board on 28 August 2000. The IOC Evaluation Commission, chaired by Hein Verbruggen, will be visiting these cities to carry out an on-site analysis and examine each city's ability to

organize the Olympic Games. The dates of the visits are as follows: Beijing (21-24 February inclusive); Osaka (26 February-i March inclusive); Toronto (8-11 March inclusive); Istanbul (21-24 March inclusive); and Paris (26-29 March inclusive). The Commission will compile a report which it will submit to the IOC members in May 2001. The host city for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad in 2008 will be elected on 13 July 2001 during the 112th IOC Session in Moscow.



Presentation of the candidate city files (from left to right), Gilbert Felli, the IOC President and Jacqueline Barrett.

Olympic Order

During an official ceremony organized at the IOC headquarters in early January, the IOC President awarded the Olympic Order to Albert Scharf, former President of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU), in the presence of, among others, Arne Wessberg, president of the EBU since 1 January 2001 and Director General of the Finnish broadcasting company YLE; Jean-Bernard Münch, Secretary General of the EBU; and David Lewis, head of the EBU's communications department. After beginning his career at the Bavarian Ministry of Finance, Albert Scharf joined the Bavarian television channel *Bayerischer Rundfunk* (which is part of ARD, Germany's public service broadcasting network) as a legal

advisor in 1966, and then became Deputy Director General in 1973, before being promoted to Director General in 1990. In 1964 in Tokyo, Albert Scharf became involved for the first time in Olympic Games tele-

vision broadcasting. He was one of ARD's representatives on the EBU's legal committee, which he chaired for 10 years. Elected President of the EBU in 1983, he retired at the end of last year.



Albert Scharf.

Lithuania

As a tribute to the Lithuanian Olympic medallists in Sydney, a postage stamp was issued, entitled "The Good Fortune of the Lithuanian Athletes at the Games of the XXVII Olympiad", thus honouring the achievements of gold medalists Daiva Gudzineviciute (shooting) and Virgilijus Alekna (discus), bronze medallists Kristina Poplavskaja and Birute Sakickiene (rowing) as well as Diana Ziliutė (cycling).

