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Philippe Silacci

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2007 WORLD GYMNAESTRADA

D-day – 730 and Record Participation!

Moutier, July 8, 2005: At exactly two years to the day (July 8) prior to the opening of the 13th World Gymnaestrada in Dornbirn, Austrian organisers are saying provisionally that some 22,415 gymnasts have signed on! The number suggests international gymnastics' growing passion for this unique event, the most significant on the FIG calendar.

It looks like a new record will be broken by numbers that surpass even those of the 2003 edition in Lisbon (21,600).

The Swiss en Masse



Bordering Switzerland, Austrian Vorarlberg will undergo a very real but peaceable invasion when the 4,500 (!) registered Swiss arrive for this long-awaited event. Japanese, Americans, Brazilians, Australians, Indians and a good amount of Europeans will meet in Dornbirn with gymnasts from all over the world to present various gymnastic programmes in groups. Those in the National Federations and Clubs are getting the choreography ready for the national soirées that are seeing such extraordinary success with the public and television.

AUS	250	FIN	1500	LIE	150	SVK	50
AUT	500	FRA	1000	LTU	80	SWE	1500
BEL	800	GBR	1000	MEX	30	USA	600
BRA	300	GER	2000	NED	1200	UZB	20
CAN	500	HUN	50	NOR	1000		
CHI	30	ITA	1300	POR	1750		
CZE	800	IND	50	QAT	30		
DEN	850	IRL	150	RSA	200		
EST	150	LAT	75	SUI	4500	total	22415

Incredible Organisation

Organisers have been at it since 2002. The task is huge for Ms Marie-Louise Hinterauer, OC President, and her colleagues. And as Manuel Boa Jésus, President of the World Gymnaestrada in Lisbon, put it in 2003 with a slight tremor to his voice, city officials will “*serve the first breakfast to 25,000 people at 7 am!*”

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In Dornbirn, mobilisation means something and solidarity is exemplary. And they'll need it to manage a large-scale organisation such as this, one that will require the help of several hundred volunteers. Eighty of them are already at work today.

At exactly two years from the event, things are looking good for local organisation as well as for the FIG General Gymnastics Committee and its President, Margaret Sikkens-Ahlquist, who is heading up the operation../*phs*