

GUIDING LIGHTS

June-September 2010



THE DEEDS OF MEN
NEVER ESCAPE
THE EYES OF GOD.



Dr.Supol Wuthisen talks to Dr.Jose Sulaiman



Champions with boxing leaders



Geoff Boycott--One of England's greatest opening batsman--meets the writer Ed Thangarajah. Boycott scored 100 first-class centuries twice in a season.

Challenges are part and parcel of the profession



Journalists have to fight their way in life. Like professional sportsmen, they must use skills and wits to forge ahead. Challenges are part and parcel of their profession, and it is common in every field of journalism.

Writers go flat out to register scoops and to outwit each other. In my 57 years of journalism, I enjoyed writing stories, which others took time to pick up. By the Grace of GOD, I was also in the right place at the right time. That was perhaps, the outstanding aspect of my success and it made me enjoy my profession. I have none to thank — but GOD — for giving me that vision, the love and of course the attachment to work. I always prayed before going out on assignments and GOD blessed me with many opportunities to do well.

Here are some examples. The Australian Cricket team, under Robert Baddely Simpson was enroute to England, for the 1964 Ashes series and they travelled by ship. They stopped over in Colombo for a one-day limb-loosener. I was with a team of scribes who got into the ship and all of us were trying to meet with the skipper, Bobby Simpson.

I spotted paceman Ian Meckiff and asked him to show me Simpson.

He said: “you can’t miss him. He is carrying a bump on his forehead, which he suffered

while having deck practice.” That was enough, to set me on my mission, looking for the man with a bump on his forehead. And surely enough, he was not far away. He was rushing to have his breakfast when I spoke with him and the charming team leader, promptly invited me to join him. Yes, I scooped everyone. In the group having breakfast, was Keith Stackpole who told me how he broke the batting order during a team selection match in Sydney, and scored fifty and how that feat won him his place in the Australian team. He also admitted, that he was fined for indiscipline. Very few expected Simpson’s team to do well on that tour. In fact, in the one-day game against Sri Lanka which was played at the Colombo Oval many expected the Sri Lankans to shine. But the Aussies did better, as they did on the tour of England.

The Australian Cricket Board had invited Simpson, to lead a young team but he carved a niche with his leadership. In the Old Trafford Test, Simpson scored 311, the second highest by an Australian against England at that time.

He hit 23 fours and a six .

On to the aftermath of the interview. Some fellow scribes were surprised when I emerged with the Australians from their breakfast and spread sour-grape stories. They claimed, “this Aussie team will never do well in England.” But I had the last laugh on them.

I also enjoyed meeting with several West Indian stars. Sir Frank Worrell, Charlie Griffith, Wes Hall, David Holford..... and a number of others at the Colombo Oval, and at the Galle Face Hotel where they were billeted.

As a schoolboy I enjoyed going out, autograph-hunting, each time touring teams played in Sri Lanka. When the West Indians under John Goddard played at the Colombo Oval, I approached the skipper who was seated in the pavilion, and asked him for his autograph. He stunned me, by asking me to sit next to him. He pointed at George Headley, who was at the crease saying: “You will never see him bat again.” The “Black Bradman” as he was called, was playing his last innings against the Ceylon Schoolboys team, and what

a sparkling knock he unfolded. He hit only fours and sixes. Yet he produced a brilliant 100 not out, and delighted the crowd. After Headley's innings, Goddard got all his players to sign their autographs on my book, and I thanked him profusely for his kindness. Later, I proudly showed my autograph book to my friends.

England's Sir Collin Cowdrey was a gem of a gentleman. He led England on a tour of Ceylon, India and Pakistan. Their tour to South Africa was cancelled, because the South African Cricket Board had protested against the inclusion of Basil D'Oliviera in the English side. England toured South Asia instead.

On that tour, Sir Collin Cowdrey was the star attraction. He won the admiration of everyone with his wit. England didn't do well, in the first one-day match against Sri Lanka. At the tea-break, when Cowdrey was leading the English team into the dressing-room, members of the British journalistic corp, ran up to Cowdrey and asked him whether he had any plans to win the match.

The amiable skipper took a few steps forward, towards the pavilion and told the scribes: “Yes, I do have a plan.” When the anxious scribes insisted what his plan was: “Of course we are now in Ceylon, therefore it has to be the Colombo Plan.”

Cowdrey was roundly applauded by all of us local scribes.

The West Indians always enjoyed tremendous popularity with Sri Lankan crowds. Pacemen Wesley Hall and Charlie Griffith were outstanding. During a match, when some of us shouted from the Press Box at Wes Hall and asked him to bowl more bouncers, after he had let go one, he pointed out at the umpire and said: “You will have to remove him first.”

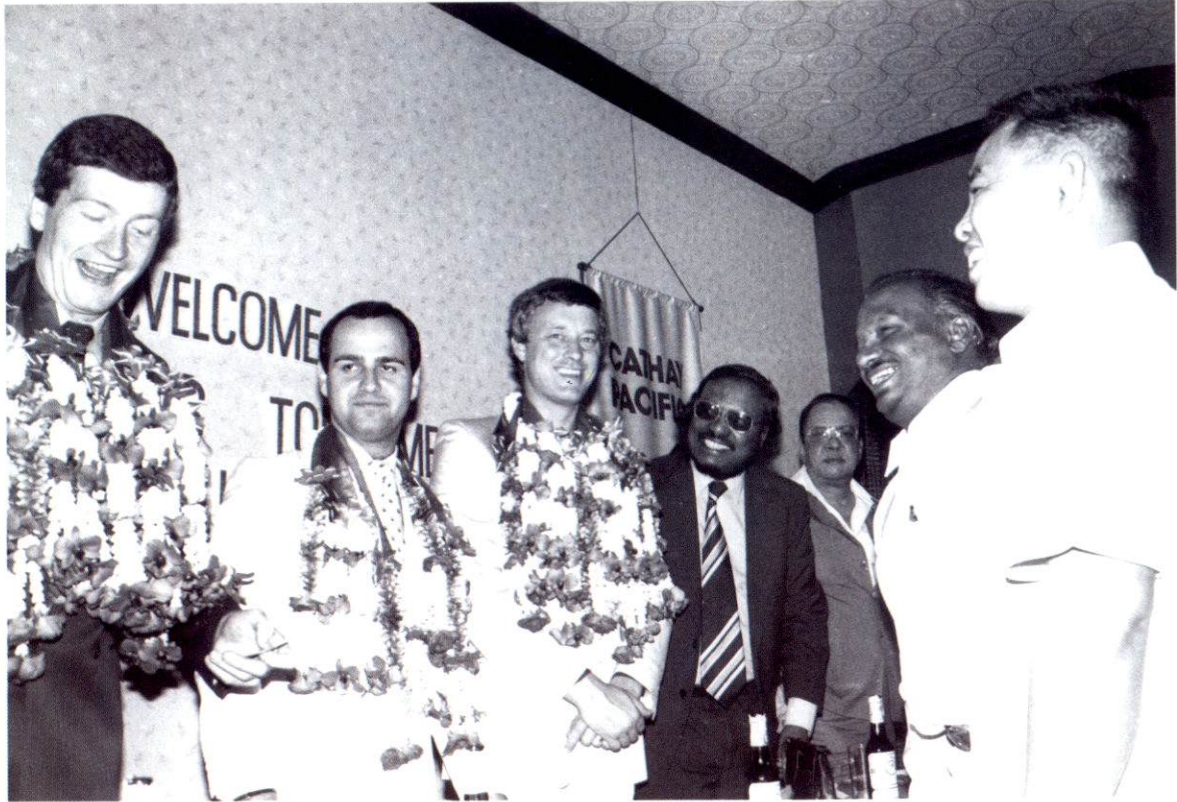
We had fun when touring teams played in Sri Lanka. A carnival atmosphere prevailed.

There was also an air of seriousness. Bill Lawry, who led the Australians to South Africa played with his team in Colombo and he was disappointed that the team had lost. When some Sri Lankan schoolboys wanted autographs, Lawry didn't allow his players to sign.

That was after the first one-day match they played against Sri Lanka.

In contrast, the West Indians were always very sporty. At the Colombo Oval, they signed autographs even on exercise books and small sheets of paper.

***Talking of cricket, this story will never be incomplete if I don't recall one of the most wonderful, outstanding characters I have known, with whom, I had the honour of playing. He was my skipper at a wellknown provincial institution, the Chilaw Sports Club. His name is still very popular in Ceylon sports and his feats are recalled each time cricket is played in Sri Lanka. The name Fairlie Dalpethado is synonymous with Ceylon cricket. He was one of Ceylon's top all-rounders. He played along with two of his brothers, Merle and Oscar Dalpethado. He was a paragon of modesty, though he enjoyed a litany of feats. He was humble, noble and an outstanding gentleman. He was soft-spoken too. Fairlie was the cricketing pride of Sri Lanka.



****Over to Thailand. I enjoyed the friendship of a wonderful sports developer, the late Sahasombhop Srisomvongse. Though outstandingly well known as a boxing developer, he also played a fabulous role in re-introducing snooker to the Kingdom. Interest for cue sports had waned, and most clubs had put up their shutters. It was then Thai TV Channel 7, of which the late Sahasombhop was manager, televised the All-England Snooker Championship featuring, Steve Davis, Tony Meo, Doug Mountjoy, Terry

Griffiths and several other top, snooker stars.

The late Sahasombhop asked me, whether it would be possible to bring these stars to Thailand, because there was awakened interest for snooker.

I telephoned my late brother George Thevarajah who was working for the Nat West Bank in England and he got in touch with Steve's manager, the well-known Barry Hearn and successfully negotiated with him to bring Steve Davis, Doug Mountjoy and Tony Meo, to Thailand.

That's how, the late Sahasombhp, whose tenth death anniversary will fall on December 27th this year, successfully brought snooker back to Thailand. Today, the sport is flourishing in Asia, thanks to Sindhu Pulsirivongse, who has made snooker and billiards outstandingly famous and popular.





HOW I VIEWED THE MAJESTIC ROYAL
GRADUATION CEREMONY
WHICH WAS HELD AT THE BANSOMDEJCHAOPRAYA
RAJABHAT UNIVERSITY
ON MARCH 1, 2010
BY PATTARAPORN PORNCHUTI
OF THE FACULTY OF EDUCATION



It WAS A FABULOUS ROYAL CEREMONY AND WAS HELD IN MAJESTIC SETTING, AT THE BANSOMDEJCHAOPRAYA RAJABHAT UNIVERSITY, UNDER THE AEGIS OF THAILAND'S CROWN PRINCE MAHA VAJIRALONGKORN. WELL OVER A THOUSAND INVITED GUESTS WITNESSED THE GRAND, GLORIOUS

EVENT, AND MILLIONS FROM ALL OVER THAILAND, WATCHED LIVE ON TELEVISION. THE CEREMONY ADDED A DISTINCT, AND OUTSTANDING CHAPTER TO EDUCATION, AND THE HISTORY OF THAILAND.

THE HONORABLE DIGNITARIES WHO WERE CONFERRED DOCTORATES WERE:

* ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR SOUKKONGSENG SAIGNALEUTH, THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LAOS

❁ PHILOSOPHY IN EDUCATION FOR LOCALITY DEVELOPMENT ❁

* MR.CHEA CHAMROEUN, THE PRESIDENT OF THE CHAMROEN UNIVERSITY OF POLY-TECHNOLOGY, CAMBODIA.

❁ PHILOSOPHY IN TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT ❁

* MR.GAO YUBAO, THE PRESIDENT OF THE TIANJIN NORMAL UNIVERSITY, CHINA.

❁ PHILOSOPHY IN EDUCATION MANAGEMENT ❁

* MR.INGUYEN BAN KHANH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES, HANOI, VIETNAM

❁ PHILOSOPHY IN TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT ❁

* Dr.JOSE SULAIMAN CHAGNON, PRESIDENT OF WORLD BOXING COUNCIL, MEXICO.

❁ PHILOSOPHY IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION ❁

Among those who earned the admiration of almost everyone, was the world-renowned President of the World Boxing Council, Dr.Jose Sulaiman. He claimed, that it was a magnificent honour for sports and boxing in the world, to be conferred with the Doctorate of Physical Education by the University of Bansomdejchaopraya Rajabhat which is today, emerging as a world famous institution both in reputation and in splendour.

He said, he has been to many parts of the world and has been conferred with several doctorates, but this ceremony was unique — because it had taken place in Thailand — a nation which he hails and recognizes as his second home.

He said: “I am sure, this remarkable University, will emerge among the world’s famous institutions, as it has outstanding credibility, to earn that coveted, and honoured distinction.”

He congratulated Bansomdejchaopraya Rajabhat’s administrators, headed by University President, Associate Professor Dr.Supol Wuthisen, Vice-Presidents: Associate Professor Dr.Chanvipa Diloksambandh, Assistant Professor Thong-Aim Soonsawad, Assistant Professor Nibhon Hongsomboon, Assistant Professor Dr.Sudarat Janlekha, Assistant Professor Krerik Wayakanon and Assistant Professor Somchai Rasamee.

And also.... the members of Bansomdejchaopraya Rajabhat University Council Committee, comprising the President of the University Council, Professor Dr.Pornchai Matangkasombat, Vice Presidents Prof Dr.Saiyut Champatong and Associate Prof Dr.Supol Wuthisen plus the Members elected from Vice-Presidents and Deans, Asst.Prof.Nibhon Hongsomboon, Asst.Prof. Dr.Sudarat Janlekha and Associate Prof.Lawan





Fungkajorn, for projecting such an imposing and memorable ceremony. He said that every recipient of honours will remember this magnificent occasion, all their lives.

“I am sure, all of us, will never ever forget beautiful Thailand and Bansomdejchaopraya Rajabhat University for this very thoughtful, memorable honours ceremony. As for me, this wonderful occasion, will be embossed in my heart and I will speak about it, all over the world.

“I am definitely going to spread the word around, about this glorious university. It is indeed an educational institution, with a fantastically fabulous future,” said Dr.Sulaiman, when I asked him what he thought about his trip to Thailand and of the ceremony, in which, he was conferred the honour.

Almost every dignitary made identical observations



and spoke highly about the thoughtful, glorious decorations, which were bestowed on them.

“It was a landmark celebration which has elevated Bansomdejchaopraya’s status, to an institute of world fame,” pointed out veteran scribe Edward Thangarajah, during a question and answer session held after the epoch-making function.

“Bansomdejchaopraya Rajabhat will be world-renowned from now onwards, because it has invited a wonderful.... world famous figure in Dr. Jose Sulaiman. I was unaware, that this is the oldest University in Thailand. Which means it has contributed marvellously, to the high educational standard that Thailand has so proudly achieved, over the years,” he said.

“I am sure Bansomdejchaopraya will earn a popular, distinct place in the world of education and



development,” he added.

He congratulated the recipients of honours and those who unfolded this well thought out, prestigious ceremony.

“Like me, they will carry with them, the glorious name of Bansomdejchaopraya Rajabhat University, everywhere they go. That is the remarkable aspect, of this well planned, superbly organized, shining honours festival. We are all proud of being part of this memorable celebration,” he added.

There is no doubt that Bansomdejchaopraya Rajabhat has soared in status, and will be remembered for time immemorial added Dr.Sulaiman, at the Suvarnabhumi Airport, before he flew back home.



The Glorious Miracle, the GREAT GOD PERFORMED



GLORY to GOD in the Highest.

Every doctor had given up hopes. But my 8-year-old daughter, Eucharista who was breathing her last for eight days, lived. She was knocked down by a double-decker bus, while crossing the road from the Holy Family Convent in Bambalapitiya, Sri Lanka, when a bus swerved and knocked her down.

She was bleeding profusely from her nose, as she lay on the pavement, after the accident.

I was on the third floor of the Pilgrimways Building, where we were billeted in a flat, when the accident occurred. My oldest 10-year-old daughter Angelina and Eucharista were coming together, after school in the evening, when the accident occurred. I had come early from work, to have lunch, and to proceed, to cover the Clifford Cup rugby encounter, between CH & FC and Havelocks. I was resting at home, when my daughter Angelina shouted from downstairs that Eucharista had been knocked down by a double-decker bus.



I ran down the flights of stairs and rushed my daughter in a taxi to the General Hospital. She was taken to the Emergency Ward of the Colombo General Hospital and from there, to the Neuro-surgical Ward where she was examined by a prominent Neuro-Surgeon — Dr.Darell Weinman. He looked at my daughter and said there was little he could do to save her, as she had suffered a contusion of the brain-stem, hence he could not operate on her.

Dr.Weinman asked me how many daughters I had. When I told him I had three, he asked me to forget about her.

“She is as good as gone,” he said.

I asked the doctor, whether anyone had lived after suffering such an accident and he said: **“Only one in a million.”**

I promptly knelt down in prayer at the hospital, walked to the nearby church in Slave Island and prayed.

On the following morning I went to the Holy Family Convent Church for Mass. I walked to the Fatima Church, and the HOLY INFANT CHURCH in Slave Island from Lake House, where I was working and over to the Neuro-Surgical Ward, saying the ROSARY. I saw my daughter in the same state — she was breathing her last.

Each night, I kept constant touch with the hospital authorities, but received the same message — that Eucharista was dying — and there was no change in her condition. My wife Florence, who was an epileptic, had a relapse. But I kept praying. I had a small altar in the house, where I continued to pray. Many were the nights I got up and prayed. Each time I got up, I rang up the hospital and received the same reply, “her condition hasn’t changed, she is dying.”

I appealed to **GOD**, to **OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**, to the **BLESSED MOTHER MARY**, appealed to them to save my daughter. The **ROSARY** was my weapon, which I carried openly, everywhere I went.

I was on the move, so were my lips, always moving, in prayer.

I walked to many Churches, hopped buses and taxis and went to St. Philip Neri’s in Colombo Fort, to the St. Anthony’s shrine in Kochchikade and to every Church I could go to — maintaining the same vigil— praying that my daughter’s life be saved.

One the eighth day, **GLORY BE TO GOD, PRAISE BE TO OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THANKS TO THE SWEETNESS OF THE BLESSED MOTHER MARY AND ALL THE SAINTS, ESPECIALLY ST.ANTHONY AND ST.PHILIP NERI**, my daughter sat up miraculously on her hospital bed and waved at me. On the ninth day she walked out of Hospital while everyone was stunned and surprised, as they watched my daughter walk along with me out of hospital.

Yes, we went to Churches and thanked the **GREAT GOD, OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, the BLESSED MOTHER MARY** and all the saints.... for the **MIRACLE** that **GOD** had performed on her.

Today, Eucharista is married and has three children. Her oldest son Steve who has adopted my surname has graduated and married. He is working. My daughter's youngest son Gavin Pathmarajan is doing well in school, so is her daughter, Maria.

THAT — in short — IS THE WONDERFUL, GLORIOUS MIRACLE THE MAGNIFICENT GOD PERFORMED ON MY DAUGHTER who was given up — as ready to die. Whom **HE..... YES THE GREAT GOD SAVED.**

PRAISE BE TO THE GREAT GOD AND GLORY BE HIS NAME.





Dr. Jacques Rogge — the IOC President talks to Guiding Lights



WE HAVE GREAT PLEASURE IN featuring — the President of the International Olympic Committee, **Dr. Jacques Rogge** in this issue of Guiding Lights. Dr. Rogge was a well-known Olympic yachtsman and a top rugby player who donned the National Jersey for his country, Belgium.

The unassuming but popular President of the International Olympic Committee was elected on July 16, 2001 at the 112th IOC Session in Moscow and is the eighth chief executive to hold the prestigious post.

An orthopaedic surgeon by profession he competed in three Games of the Olympiads, Mexico 1968, Munich 1972 and Montreal 1972 in yachting.

He served as President of the Belgian National Olympic Committee from 1989 to 1992 and became President of the European



Olympic Committee in 1989. He was IOC Member in 1991 and served as Executive Board member in 1998. He succeeded the late Juan Antonio Samaranch.

We feature Dr.Rogge, in a wonderful question and answer session, thanks to Thailand's IOC Member, Dr.Nat Intrapana and the Chief of Staff of the IOC, Christophe De Kesper.



QUESTION: The year 2010 is going to be a big year for sport. How does Dr.Rogge look at the year as head of the IOC?

ANSWER: Like all Olympic years, 2010 is an year that is rich, exciting and challenging. After the exciting and

very friendly Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver, we are now less than six months away from the first edition of the Youth Olympic Games in Singapore. This will be an important milestone for the IOC. Some 3,500 athletes — aged between 14 and 18 — are eagerly waiting for the Games to start on August 14. No doubt that they will inspire youth around the world to embrace, embody and express the Olympic values of Excellence, Friendship and Respect.

Another sports event that will generate huge passion and respect is the FIFA World Cup to be staged for the first time in South Africa.

The staging of successful events remains of course our primary mission. But the IOC does not lose sight of the challenges that sports continue to face today, such as the fights against doping, the fight against corruption, the promotion of women in sports, and attracting young people back to sports in order to combat obesity. It is our role to face all these challenges and continue to work hard to protect sports and ensure that it provides joy and hope to millions of young people around the world.



QUESTION: The world has been hard-hit by terrorism. In spite of splendid efforts made by the IOC to project sports to overcome terrorism and inhumane action, there is continuous dissent and unhappiness. What more plans do you, as IOC President, have in mind, to overcome this terrible situation?

ANSWER: As I have often said, sports is not a panacea for all ills of our society. The IOC and the sports community on their own cannot solve all the problems which constantly threaten peace in the world. This is the role of the competent authorities, such as governments or the United Nations. However, using sports as a tool the IOC and its partners implement various activities across the globe in fields such as humanitarian assistance, peace-building, education, gender equality, environment and the fight against HIV/AIDS. In recognition of these efforts, the IOC was granted observer status by the UN General Assembly meetings where it can take the floor and thus promote sports at a new level. This is a huge recognition of the role sports can play in contributing to a better and peaceful world.



Some examples: the “Giving is Winning” campaign during the Athens and Beijing Games, which did more than collect many containers full of sports equipment for distribution by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to refugee camps in Europe, Asia and Africa. Sports have also been used effectively

to promote HIV/AIDS education and prevention through sports. Recently, the IOC launched the “Sports for Hope” project, building infrastructure in developing countries, with the participation of local governments, NOCs and International Federations. And, last but not least, the IOC also strives for the promotion of peace through the International Olympic Truce Foundation’s work and the Olympic Truce ideal. To that end, several initiatives have been undertaken with UN peace-keeping missions.



QUESTION: Olympism has spread fast in many parts of the world. But some believe in West Asia, in a few parts of Europe and in Latin America, much more could be done to spread sports and Olympism. What are your thoughts?

ANSWER: Organising the Olympic Games remains a challenging exercise. It is the IOC’s role to ensure that the cities which will host the Games can provide impeccable competitions for the athletes. The quality of the Games will never be compromised with any other considerations. The IOC chose Rio de Janeiro to host the Summer Olympic Games in 2016 because they primarily had very strong project. We are of course thrilled to have the Games organised for the first time in South America.

In Vancouver, the IOC Session elected the city of Buenos Aires as host city of the 2013 IOC of Session. This will be a great opportunity to spread the Olympic

values in South America.

The IOC works very closely with the Association of National Olympic Committees of each continent in order to develop the practice of sports for all. A great example is the organisation of Olympic Day each year, which celebrates sports and values by bringing together hundreds of thousands of people across the globe. Over the last two decades, the event has been helped to spread the Olympic ideals to every corner of the world.



QUESTION: You said when you were elected that you will continue to support the NOCs and the International Federations to defend the autonomy of sport wherever it is threatened. Could you please elaborate?

ANSWER: One of the Fundamental Principles of Olympism, as described in the Olympic Charter is that the administration and the management of sport should be controlled by independent sports bodies. Part of the role of the sports organisations is to take measures aimed at protecting the independence of the Olympic Movement. At the same time, these bodies must work closely with public and private organisations.

The development of sports is possible only if there is strong cooperation between the sports, political, social and economic worlds, with mutual respect and understanding of each other's roles and remits. We also see, more than ever, the importance of good governance, and it is the Olympic Movement's responsibility to work in total transparency. That is why the principle at stake

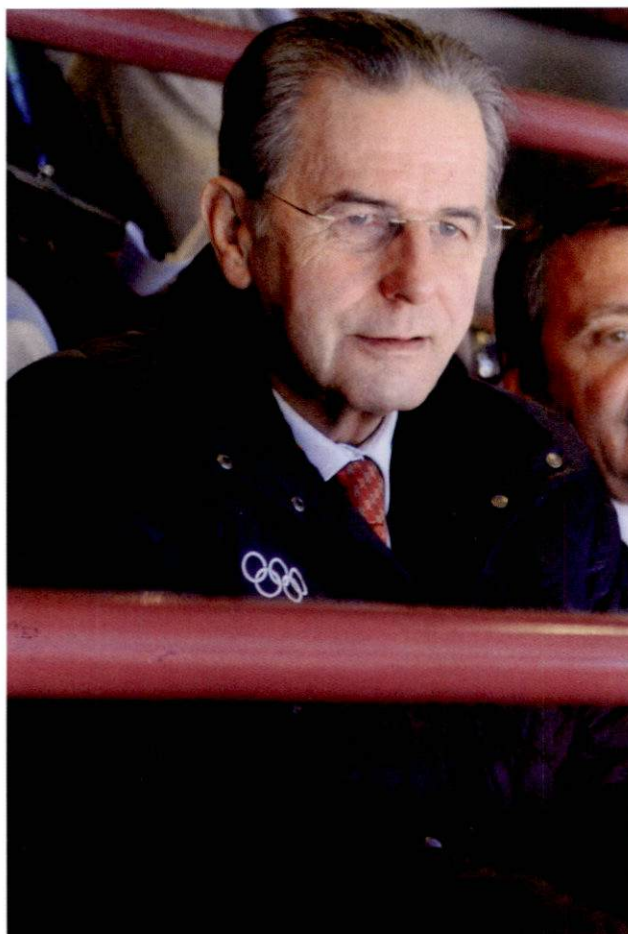


— avoiding government interference in sports and ensuring the autonomy of Olympic Movement — will always remain very high on the IOC's agenda, as will the protection of the integrity and fairness of competitions. This is why this theme was discussed during the Olympic Congress in Copenhagen in October 2009.



QUESTION: I appreciate your fight against doping and the use of performance-enhancing drugs. But I am afraid that many of the guilty athletes are being punished far too late. Long after they have been feted at the Olympics. Can't something be done to punish them quicker, as you did with Ben Johnson in 1988 in Seoul?

ANSWER: Fighting against doping is a priority for the IOC as it is important that we do our utmost to protect the athletes' health and ensure fair competition. We have a zero tolerance policy which means that we conduct an increasing number of tests, in and most importantly out-of-competition, we keep the samples for eight years, we do not allow athletes



who have been sanctioned more than six months to participate in the Olympic Games, and we do not hesitate to work with the police when we have suspicions.

All these measures send a strong message to the athletes and have undoubtedly a deterrent effect. People asked me in Vancouver if I was worried that only three violations have been registered during the Games. I simply respond that our determination to catch cheaters is well known out there. Athletes know we mean serious business and that we will not hesitate to retest their samples should new testing methods become available in the next eight years. But let's not be too complacent. We are not naive. Doping is to sport what originality is

to society. And our fight will be eternal.



QUESTION: The IOC under you has done a lot to publicise sports, and, through sports, it has helped the world. Well done! What new plans do you have in this direction?

ANSWER: Over the last 10 years, the IOC has developed a comprehensive programme using sports as a tool for local socio-economic development and for the humanitarian assistance. We implement and support numerous projects at field level with the National Olympic Committees and in cooperation with organisations specialised in development and humanitarian aid to improve the lives of underprivileged communities worldwide. The IOC has recently launched a “Sports for Hope” project, ahead of providing athletes young people and communities in developing countries with the same opportunities as their peers in developed countries to practise sports and be exposed to the Olympic values. Sports centres will be built to cater for indoor and outdoor sports, in accordance with the needs of the host countries. The first Olympic Youth Development Centre was inaugurated in Lusaka, Zambia in May.



QUESTION: Congratulations — the Youth Olympic Games are a wonderful idea. They should bring together more and more youngsters who were facing the danger of being led astray. What other plans do you have to

encourage more young people to compete regularly?

ANSWER: Thank you. As you know, the problem of youth inactivity did not start yesterday. Pierre de Coubertin already highlighted it more than a century ago when he



worried that young people in his native France were turning away from physical activity. Today, we see the same problem in the growing rate of youth obesity throughout the developing world. This issue was raised and discussed at the Olympic Congress in Copenhagen under the theme “**Olympism and Youth**”. The delegates unanimously said governments should build more sporting facilities and offer more time for sports in schools, at all ages and at all levels. Another recommendation was that at the national level, sports clubs and local schools should cooperate more closely, by, for example, developing more sporting events and competitions for young people at all levels.

With the Youth Olympics, we clearly show to the young people that our commitments is about action, not only words. We want to offer them an event of their own

in the spirit of the Olympic Games. There is no doubt that the Youth Olympic Games have great potential to prepare young athletes for their future Olympic life. However, the Youth Olympic Games are about much more than competition. They are about educating young athletes in Olympic values, healthy lifestyle and social responsibility.

In Singapore, the members of the IOC Athletes' Commission will be on site during the whole period of the Games. They will talk with the young athletes about their ideas and dreams, and how they dealt with crucial issues such as doping. And they will let them know that taking part in sports is a wonderful life experience.

This is also why the IOC has launched a promotional campaign. **"The Best of US"** to communicate the key Olympic values of excellence, friendship and respect to a global youth audience. The theme is simple, powerful idea that transcends cultures and borders, motivating young people around the world to participate in sports by proving that sports can bring out the best in them. The IOC has also launched a new vastly improved web site, www.Olympic.org We have also built stronger connections to young Olympic supporters with new initiative on social media such as Facebook and 'Twitter.





Rae-vadee's name has been written in gold

It was her outstanding enthusiasm, to serve humanity through sports, that helped Rae-vadee T. Suwan to exhibit her rich, talent and ability.

Khun Rae-vadee — ‘Rae’ as she is popularly known — enjoyed a fairy-tale beginning. She volunteered to help Thailand organise the maiden World Cup Golf tournament in 1975, at the picturesque Navatanee layout, and that set her on a blazing trail, which saw her develop and promote ladies golf, in Thailand, Asia, and in this part of the world.

She was an uncut diamond before, but glittered, the moment she was given the opportunity to display her

organisational ability. Soon her ability to lead and to promote, oozed. She shone like a sparkling diamond.

Displaying grit, guts and determination, the hallmarks of her character, she forged ahead. She never looked back, and never took 'no' for an answer. Always positive in outlook, she opened many doors and marched forward with determination in search of success.

Nothing ventured — nothing gained — was her motto. That's how, she succeeded in everything she ventured. A tireless worker, she soared dynamically, and became, a glorious asset, to promote ladies golf in this part of the world.

A three-year stint as Ladies Captain of the Royal Bangkok Sports Club's Golf Section, opened the doors for her to unfold and expose her vintage assets — as a top-class golf developer. She led teams to overseas tournaments....to Australia, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Singapore.

She opened many vistas for members of the fair sex to forge ahead. She opened the doors to establish strong, friendly ties and connections with nations of the world, through golf. She showed and proved, what the great game of golf could do, to create goodwill, understanding and friendship between nations.

The year 1978, was auspicious for ladies golf. It helped Khun Rae-vadee form the Thailand Amateur Lady Golfers Group which opened the doors to launch the inaugural Thailand Amateur Ladies Open Golf and the Inter-Club Team Championships. Played at the magnificent Rose Garden layout, at stake was the regal Her Majesty Queen Rambhai Barni Trophy. The tournament was celebrated by the Prime Minister of Thailand, who presented his trophy, and the

Mom Kobkaew Abhakara Cup.

To honour the glorious inauguration, a very attractive international field of 130 ladies from nine countries took part and Thailand's own MR Napasiri Buranasiri toasted victory. She earned the distinction of having her name engraved on Queen Rambhai Barni's prestigious trophy.

Khun Rae-vadee's triumphant march continued unabated. In 1979 Thailand's brave ladies, helmed by Khun Rae, and inspired by several others, founded and registered the Thailand Ladies Amateur Golf Association under the Royal Patronage of H.M. Queen Rambhai Barni. That's when the doors were opened to professionals. The name of the association was changed to Thailand Ladies Golf Association and Thailand's talented ladies, graduated to professionaldom.

Rae's dynamism continued to forge ahead. She unveiled another major event, the Asian Ladies Invitational Golf Team Championship for the Queen Sirikit's Cup and teams from nine countries took part in the inaugural competition. The tournament was an instant success. Countries not only loved the event, they took turns to host the Championship on their beautiful courses, on a rotational basis.

The number of participating countries swelled to 14. Today, the tournament has reached its 32nd year of participation. The competition has been recognized by everyone. The R&A has given honour to the event, recognizing it as the Asia-Pacific Golf Team tournament for ladies.... similar to the Asia-Pacific men's tournament for the Nomura Cup.

The name of the tournament, has since been changed to Asia-Pacific Ladies Invitational Golf Team Championship for



the Queen Sirikit Cup. Fourteen countries: Australia, China, Chinese-Taipei, Hong Kong-China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Singapore and Thailand compete for it.

In 1987 Khun Rae-vadee teamed up with Mr. Koichi Kato of Japan and launched the Kosaido Ladies Asian Circuit, a professional tournament featuring five countries with the Kosaido Group of Companies in Japan as its main sponsor. This Circuit proved to be the stepping stone for new players who later graduated to play on bigger Tours. They are today, among the world's top stars in ladies golf. Khun Rae-vadee served as Circuit Co-ordinator for 17 years. But tragedy struck the tournament. Kosaido's Chairman passed away.

An year later, a newly established Ladies Asian Golf Tour (LAGT), to support professional ladies golf in the region was

inaugurated and Khun Rae-vadee was elected President with Mr. Koichi Kato being appointed, as the Tour's Chief Commissioner. Launched in 2005, it is prospering until now.

Khun Rae-Vadee was elected member of the Administrative Committee of the International Golf Federation from 2005-2008 and she was one of those who inspired golf's entry into the International Olympic Committee.

YES..... for over three decades — Khun Rae-Vadee has worked hard — and dedicated all her time, to develop ladies golf in this part of the world. Her efforts..... no doubt..... have won the admiration of everyone who knows golf.

She has impressed many, that the great game of golf is a superb medium to create and build lasting friendship among people of all nationalities.

She has spear-headed goodwill, understanding and togetherness among heads of states all over the world, and planted the seeds of friendship among players, officials and owners of golf courses, besides developing golf at all levels, from juniors to seniors, amateurs to professionals.

The rich history of ladies golf in the world, and the names who adorn the game, will vouch for what she has done and achieved for the game.





Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva, wearing a WBC championship belt, greets WBC president Jose Sulaiman at parliament.



We are proud of you-Thai promoters to Dr.Sulaiman.
Also in pix is Pol Gen Kovid.



WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS

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WBC President Dr. Jose Sulaiman
the champion boxing leader of the world
with Thailand's world champions
--Flyweight Pongsaklek Wonjongkam
and Strawweight champion
-- Oledong Sithsamerchai.

