

JO-2016: A hope for karate?

By Guy Sahri ©

Recently the Council of businesses Russo-Japanese supported the candidature of the town of Tokyo for the organization of the Olympic Games of summer of 2016. Friday January 11, 2008 at the time of a press conference at the Russian embassy in Tokyo (Japan), the chairman of the Russo-Japanese board of the Council of businesses Mr. Aslan Atabiev formulated that: "It is a beautiful occasion to popularize the Japanese culture and traditions, to join together the schools of karate and to make karate enter in row of the Olympic disciplines..." After, the President of the Japanese Olympic Committee, Mr. Tsunekazu Takeda, informed the president of the Olympic International Committee (OIC), Jacques Rogge of the wish of the town of Tokyo to organize the Olympic Games of 2016. The Japanese capital already accommodated the Olympic Games (OG) in 1964. In addition to Tokyo, the other candidate cities are Chicago (United States), Madrid (Spain), Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), Prague (Czech Republic), Baku (Azerbaijan) and Doha (Qatar). The host city of the Olympic Games of 2016 will be announced during the summer 2009. One can wonder why this discipline is not Olympic. Francis Didier, president of the French Federation of Karate and Disciplines Associated (FFKDA) quotes: "It is a question which one always asks me. In 1988, Taekwondo found its arguments and a force to be made lobbying... And they did it well because they knew how to adapt to the requests of the Olympic International Committee (OIC). Karate had much delay and suffered from a lack of adaptation to the modern world. The rules laid down at the time were modernized in 1996 and that continued since (red and blue protections, reduction in the subjectivity of the arbitration in the actions...) so that general public understands better. Karate showed a very great force of adaptation to the world of modern sport. In 2005 in Singapore, we had missed by little the door in company of Squash, the Golf, Roller-Skate and Rugby. Karate was recognized as a discipline Olympic at the time of the 1st vote (51%). Then, there is another vote so that the sport is with the following OJ. It was necessary to collect 2/3 of the voices and we had 52% of them. Since, the statutes changed and were renovated. The vote is done from now on in the majority of the voices. Today, we are reassured and waiting for the next vote in Copenhagen in Denmark in 2009..." With the advent of a new hope for this discipline for a probability of Karate with the JO, Jacques Rogge, president of the Olympic International Committee (OIC), greeted Tuesday the progress made by China thanks to the Olympic Games. Mr. Rogge made these remarks during an interview granted to the French sporting daily newspaper "L'Equipe" in Olympia (Greece), where Monday March 24, 2008 the ceremony of lighting of the Olympic flame took place: "There are projections in China and it is thanks to the nearest arrival of the games in this country. The installation, since the beginning of the year, of a law on freedom of the press is applied and a new law on the control of pollution will have long-term effects ", was delighted Mr. Rogge. "In sixty years, the country (China) made immense progress, much more quickly than certain countries which prided themselves democratic. We, European, have more than two hundred years of social evolution... We do not think of requiring from them today which took us centuries to build", the chief of the OIC underlined. In addition he indicated that the OIC has for principal responsibility to offer the best possible games to the athletes who will take part in the Olympic tests, while affirming that if the athletes take part in it, they must "respect the Olympic charter what defends to them to manifest in the Olympic enclosures. If not, they are exposed to sanctions ". The 29th Olympic Games will be held of the 8 at August 24, 2008 in Beijing, the capital of China, making it possible to thus open a new prospect for debate on a Karate soon Olympic. To be continued ...