

" Our emphasis on gender equality was before our time and opened the door for dialogue towards equal opportunity for women. "

- Michelle Ford



The Athletes' Voice

By Michelle Ford-Erickson
with Anthony Edgar

Forty years ago, the IOC was a male-only club with few women holding senior executive positions in any sport worldwide. The Olympic Games had only 22% female participation in Moscow 1980. In Tokyo 2020 it was 50/50. But there is still so much to do to bring about significant, substantial, and lasting change within sport to represent true gender equality.

In 1981 a newly elected IOC President, Juan Antonio Samaranch, invited a group of 25 athletes from around the world to represent all athletes at the Olympic Congress in Baden-Baden, Germany.

They were the first group of athletes ever invited to present to the IOC Members and the wider Olympic Movement in the IOC's then 87-year history. They took their chance to be bold—gender equality, doping, boycotts, professionalism—little did they know then that they were laying the foundations for the creation of the Athletes' Voice within the Olympic Movement.

The following is a first-hand account of Michelle Ford-Erickson's experiences as one of those athletes invited to represent her peers in Baden-Baden.

Michelle's story reads more like a spy novel than an athlete's road to an Olympic gold medal. The meticulous notes kept for 40 years by someone who was there, in the room, brings history to life. A young athlete from the beaches of Sydney, Australia who had a dream, but to reach that dream she had to compete against misogamy, boycotts, state-sponsored doping, and even death threats.

This was to be a watershed moment in sport and would lay the foundation for the creation of the Athletes' Voice within the Olympic Movement.

Set against the politics of the cold war, an Olympic boycott and the emergence of systematic, state-sponsored doping, this was a time of great upheaval within the Olympic Movement.

Internationally, sport was operated and controlled by the International Federations (IFs). National Olympic Committees (NOCs) were static, passive bodies with no function except for the six months prior to the Olympic Games. The IOC's legal responsibility was limited to the Games period. Every four years there existed the Olympic Games (summer and winter), but between the Games there was no activity within the Olympic Movement.

The Olympic Congress in Baden-Baden followed the US lead boycott of Moscow 1980 with the expected retaliatory Soviet boycott of Los Angeles 1984, which hung over all athletes like a thick fog.

The East German doping programme, only confirmed after the Berlin Wall came down and the Stasi files were opened, had shown its ugly face in Montreal and Moscow. My deep-voiced competitors with hulking bodies and impossible speed dominated the women's events in the pool at both Games. In Baden-Baden we called it 'the most shameful abuse of the Olympic idea.' The IOC had held tight to its strict amateur code, yet there was a vast canyon between the full-time sports programmes that existed in many Soviet bloc countries



Michelle Ford punches the air after winning her gold medal in the 800m freestyle at Moscow 1980.

and those of us who needed to fit in training in and around work, or school like myself.

There was great gender disparity in sport with only 22 per cent female participation at the Olympic Games in Moscow, not one female IOC members and few women holding executive positions in sport worldwide. The boycott reinforced to us that the athletes played no part in the administration of sport. We felt we were treated as insignificant pawns by a political machinery. We were voiceless.

The IOC today loudly pronounces that ‘the athletes are the centre of the Olympic Games.’ This was not the case 40 years ago.

We wanted a seat at the table, the right to self-determination, the right to inclusion and equality. We wanted our voice, the athletes’ voice, to be heard.

The Congress in Baden-Baden would lay that foundation.

The 11th IOC Congress in Baden-Baden

It was my 19th birthday, 15 July 1981, and an A5 envelope arrived in the mailbox. The Olympic rings bottom left and embossed in capital letters the words ‘COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIQUE, SWITZERLAND’. With a hastened sense of excitement and curiosity, I carefully opened the fine paper envelope. The official IOC letterhead shone in the top right-hand corner.

Lausanne, 10th July 1981, ref number 5623/81

Dear Miss Ford,

May I first congratulate you on your selection as a participant in the forthcoming Xlth Olympic Congress, which is an event of extreme importance to the world of international sport ...

The letter, signed by IOC Secretary General, Monique Berlioux, stopped me in my tracks. I was to be one of a select group of Olympic athletes to attend the IOC’s Olympic Congress in Baden-Baden, Germany later in the year.

These were different times. Athletes were considered insignificant to the administration of sport, and in part, to our own destiny. We were told to stay in our place, that our job was to perform on the field of play, only, without consideration, and we were prohibited from making any financial gain from our sport activities, let alone be able to make a living from it.

We understood that any questioning of the authorities, or the way Olympic sport was governed or operated, how decisions were made and who made them, would result in adverse consequences.

We were now invited guests and to be active participants at the highest table in world sport, and participate we would, leaving a legacy to which all sport still aspires.

We had one shot, and we took it.

The Congress

A two-hour drive south of Frankfurt nestled in the Black Forest and renowned for its thermal baths, the small village of Baden-Baden is an impressive town. At its centre, streets of colourful buildings line cobbled streets and the narrow River Oos winds its gentle path through groves of lush green foliage.

Thirty-five athletes had been invited, with twenty-five attendings. Most were household names in their countries, some of world acclaim. Amongst us was one future IOC President, Thomas Bach, a future London 2012 Chairman and President of World Athletics, Sebastian Coe, and the future President of the Ice

Michelle Ford's gold medal in the 800m Freestyle at Moscow 1980 Olympic Games. Photo: Michelle Ford



Hockey Federation of Russia, Vladislav Tretiak. We represented the four corners of the world, each with different ideologies, colour and creed, but we were bound by a common thread: we had surmounted the odds and won Olympic medals.

Only six female athletes had been invited: myself, Australian swimming gold medallist in 1980; my roommate, Yuko Arakida, Japanese volleyball gold medallist in 1976; Svetla Otzetova, Bulgarian rowing gold medallist in 1976; Elisabeth Theurer, Austrian equestrian gold medallist in 1980; and the two winter athletes, Irene Epple, West German alpine skiing silver medallist in 1980; and Vera Zozulia, Russian luge gold medallist in 1980.

The athletes present were a convivial group, but all strangers. Some of the athletes had an 'interpreter' in tow, although we later came to understand that these were their political watchers, there to make sure they toed the party line.

Many of the athletes in the room had been victims of political plays by their governments. Seeing the African representative, I was reminded of the Olympic boycott by African nations in 1976, which followed the refusal of the IOC to ban New Zealand after their rugby union team toured apartheid South Africa earlier that year. I had a vivid memory of the African nations arriving at the Olympic Village in Montreal, and waiting for them at the opening ceremony, only to learn literally minutes before the parade of athletes that they had to withdraw. At 14 years old, this had been my first encounter with a boycott. At the time, I had felt extremely sad for these

athletes, among them medal prospects, who had their Olympic moment taken from them. Then, four years later, the impact of the 1980 boycott, of whether we would go or not, had been heavy on all of us. It is a sobering thought to consider how many athletes around the world were denied their dream

of competing in the Olympics Games of Munich, Moscow or Los Angeles because of boycotts.

The conversations and banter filled the room – some serious, some casual – about home, family, their athletic exploits. The official languages of the Congress was recorded in our circular as being French and English, but language didn't seem to be a problem among the athletes. It was obvious that many delegates at the Congress regarded us as a mere masquerade. This feeling was accentuated when we were joined by some of the IOC Members, national delegates, who sought to be seen with their star athletes.

School visits, excursions, wining and dining. It was all a far cry from my rigorous training routine. At 3pm after a copious lunch, some of the athletes present reassembled to discuss what the four athlete speeches should focus on. What struck me was the fact that, regardless of sport, nationality or personal background, we soon found a united, common voice.

For those present, there was limited understanding of the IOC and any knowledge of sports administration stopped at the door of our national and international sporting federations. Convinced we were there to 'contribute', we could not be blinded by the fan fare and attitudes of others.



Michelle Ford-Eriksson MBE, from Sydney Australia, was an Olympic gold and bronze medallist in Moscow 1980, and dual world record holder, and a member of the IOC Athletes' Commission (1985-1988). Michelle started her Olympic career in Montreal 1976, at age 14. In Moscow 1980 she was the only non-Soviet Bloc female swimmer to win gold medal in the pool, and Australia's only female gold medallist across all sports in Moscow. Australian female swimmers would not win another Olympic gold medal in the pool until Atlanta 1996. The Athletes' Voice is one chapter in Michelle's yet to be published autobiography.



Anthony Edgar was Head of Media Operations at the IOC (2002-2020) and Chair of IOC Press Committee (2015-2020). He was head of the Olympic Information Service 'OIS' and creator and manager of IOC Young Reporters Programme. Previously he was Press Chief of the FIVB and was responsible for sports content and publications for Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. He announced his retirement from the IOC in January 2021. He is currently Senior Consultant for Beijing 2022 and the founder of Oneshot Sport.



The Athletes' Voice is an edited version from the original longer article published in the Journal of Olympic History, 03-2021, published November 2021. The complete version can be found by scanning the following QR code.

The IOC Athletes Commission meeting
Lausanne, Switzerland 1985
IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch,
center, beside Michelle Ford



Nods of agreement set forth an interesting dynamic.

Complaining was not the way to be heard. Instead, we felt we had to show our value by being clear and concise, expressing our concerns, and calling for action. As we talked, a burning question emerged: how, in four five-minute speeches,

were we going to present all the topics that were important to us?

The quorum of athletes agreed: if this was to be our only chance to be heard and the integrity of the Olympic Movement was at stake, four short speeches would not be adequate.

Early the next morning we heard word that President Samaranch accepted our request to meet and agreed to an additional five-minute presentation and an extra 15-minute speech on the last day of the Congress. Word also came through that one of these must be presented by the Russian ice hockey legend – and later, the President of the Ice Hockey Federation of Russia – Vladislav Tretiak.

Preparing the Speeches

The clock was already ticking. We had one day to discuss and prepare, to determine what the speeches should address and then get them written. Five main topics emerged: issues that had bitterly affected the athletes over the past decade and consequently questioned the perennity of the Olympic Movement. We agreed our topics would be:

- Doping
- Rule 26 – the eligibility to compete in the Games, the so-called ‘amateur’ Rule
- The inclusion of athletes at the decision-making table and the participation of women in the Olympic Movement
- Political involvement and boycotts
- Olympic ceremonies.

We decided that Vladislav would present on Olympic Ceremonies, as this had been an important issue at the 1980 Moscow Games, where so many athletes

marched under the Olympic flag, which was also raised in lieu of their national flag for medallists.

Each topic touched a raw nerve. We had each been impacted directly or indirectly by these five key points, with the boycott and systemic doping being the most significant news stories from the Moscow Olympic Games. In my sport alone, the East German female swimmers did not win a single gold medal in the pool at Munich Olympic Games in 1972. They did not hold one individual world record. Four years later at the Montreal they won 11 gold medals, shattering 79 world records in the previous three years. In Moscow they won 11 of 13 gold medals in the pool, breaking 10 world records, and a further 15 silver and bronze medals. I was the only non-Soviet bloc athlete to win a gold medal in Moscow, in the 800m freestyle. It was to be another 18 years before the details of the systemic use of steroids on East German athletes, especially their female swimmers, became known.

It is now a matter of public record that Dr. Lothar Kipke, head physician for the East German Swimming Federation, had kept accurate records on the anabolic steroids supplied in both combination and pure form to female athletes as young as 12. The files stated that the ‘virilisation effect’ of the Oral-Turinabol, a synthetic anabolic agent which was found to increase the testosterone levels in young girls by a factor of three, effectively turning ‘girls and women into boys in sporting-performance terms.’ The devastating impact this doping programme had on the results in the swimming pool for Montreal and Moscow, as well as on these young women, is well documented.

The inclusion of women in the Olympic Movement was also a very important point for us to address. Women’s events counted for only a quarter of the

Olympic programme in 1980. There were no women among the IOC Members, nor were they to be found on any of the international or national federation boards. Although the Olympic swimming programme, for example, was almost identical for women and men, the imbalance across the spectrum of sports was astonishing.

The scars were evident – each had a story, but our passion turned into a dynamic that no one had expected. Although the social events had pulled some of our group away, those who remained wanted to seize this moment in the hope that they could protect the future generation of athletes from the harm we had suffered.

My small notepad was full of scribbled notes and thoughts on the experiences of the group: grief, injustice, lack of equality and suppression of fair play. The subject of the boycotts was raw, yet where I could express my strongest feelings. Under “Politics”, I drew a star, underlined it, then wrote:

- After preparing several years to participate in an Olympic Games an athlete may be faced with nothing
- Propaganda through sport and athletes to promote political ideas
- Athletes should not be punished by political decisions, and the IOC should be more proactive in setting up a body which governs the athlete
- We appeal to the press of the world not to make political issues out of sporting events
- We are proud to represent our country but make sure that it should not be abused
- Protected from geographical boycotts, athletes need to be chosen solely on their athletic ability

It was decided between us that there had to be unanimous agreement between all athletes for what would finally be presented. This in itself was quite extraordinary. We were between a Moscow boycott and a possible retaliation boycott at Los Angeles 1984, in the middle of Cold War, yet we were a small group of athletes, none of whom had met two days prior, representing East and West, North and South, working together in a spirit of esprit de corps for the benefit of all. It was truly refreshing. It was the Olympic spirit in action.

With limited time, we decided to divide into groups to write the speeches. I had taken notes and written a speech on boycotts and injustices: the indecision, and in my case, the Australian Government offering financial rewards directly to athletes to withdraw from the 1980 team, and death threats directed at me were all still weighing on me. However, after writing the speech, I felt it would be more powerful to have someone who had been a victim to a boycott present the speech. I turned to Kipchoge (Kip) Keino, unaware that he had not participated at the Montreal Games, telling him

that he should deliver this speech as he represented the African voice: those who had been subject to the boycott in 1976.

Kip, a two-times Olympic-champion distance runner who would go on to head the Kenyan Olympic Committee, was the only African delegate. At 41 years old, he was the oldest athlete amongst us – and after some coaching, he agreed to present the speech I had prepared, of which I was very proud.

Svetlana Otsetova, the 1976 gold medallist in rowing from Bulgaria, would deliver the speech on women’s participation, Thomas Bach a 1976 gold medallist in fencing from West Germany, who had a legal background, would deliver the speech on Rule 26, the ‘amateur rule’. Vladislav Tretiak, the Soviet ice-hockey goalkeeper, was to deliver the speech on Olympic ceremonies. And Ivar Formo, the Norwegian cross country skier and gold medallist in 1976, would be our lead off speaker, presenting our position on doping in sport.

We all agreed that Sebastian Coe, the track gold medallist at Moscow and a native English speaker from Great Britain, would present the final 15-minute speech on the last day of the Congress – the eve of Seb’s 25th birthday.

A Call for Action

We debated hard on every topic. On doping, if an athlete is found guilty should they get a life ban or not? Too harsh? Should the ban extend to the coach and athlete’s entourage? Doctors? Administrators? Why just the athlete? We understood that ‘life ban’ may not be possible on legal grounds, but it was also clear, too, that if we went in softly, nothing would change. We had to be tough and felt that athletes would understand, too much having been tolerated, too many having turned a blind eye. It had to be: a life ban on athletes, coaches and doctors would be our demand.

Back and forth, from one topic to another, each exchange became more animated and more poignant than the previous. These issues had touched our lives, maybe even destroyed our dreams. The amateur rule? East versus West? How could athletes, those from the East, receive cars, houses, full medical care, food and a monthly stipend and yet not fall foul of amateur rules, while other athletes from other countries were sanctioned? Athletes who had been given nothing and even had to pay for the privilege to compete? The sting of the Cold War in sport was real; we’d all felt it. There was consensus: the athlete from the West was falling behind and struggling, tied to a more stringent interpretation of the amateur rule than in the East, and athletes were struggling.

Was it time to relax this most stringent, barbaric law that controlled the athlete prohibiting them any financial gain? We believed so.

Analysing, discussing and questioning we realised that to be effective we had to insist that the IFs – those governing the individual sports – would be a more effective target because it was their duty to deliver an equal playing field for athletes. Until now, the IFs had remained independent from the IOC. If the Olympic Movement was to rebuild, the connection had to be stronger.

Our deadline was closing in. Our shorter five-minute speeches had addressed the issues and the congress was attentive. We decided that the final 15-minute speech had to go further. Discussion on the sanctions and recommendations continued. We had to agree. More changing and redefining, making sure our words, the words of the athletes, would not be misinterpreted or misconstrued. Our message was absolutely clear.

Satisfied that the earlier speeches had made their mark, we deemed it important to reiterate our disappointment that the IOC had no women in its ranks and that female participation in less than 25 per cent of events at the Olympic Games was not good enough and did not reflect the Olympic values.

With only hours left, we asked ourselves one last question: what about all those that had to forgo the opportunity to participate in the Games? Every athlete, we concluded, should have the right to compete without being subjected to political pressure or discrimination of any kind, and the Olympic Games must play host to the best athletes from all corners of the globe.

With the discos closed and the parties finished, silence had fallen over the small town. Only the rustle of our papers and our words continued to be heard in our hotel away from the mainstream of the congress. We had been together for eight days – and although we didn't know each other beforehand, a bond had developed, close friendships had formed, and our respect for each other had grown. The four of us, it seemed, had each come to Baden-Baden with determination and hope that we could make a difference. Before retiring to bed in the early hours that day, we granted ourselves a chuckle that anyone might have thought of us as window dressing, the 'unthinking robots' of the Games, there to perform only on the field of play.

Then, one last thought occurred: we all agreed we had no access to the decision-making process. We needed to change this by insisting on the independence of the

athlete's voice, which needed to stand apart from the NOCs and other governing authorities. We agreed that we would offer our services to continue to assist the Olympic Movement by representing the athlete's voice: a voice that had to be free from political persuasion, and a voice that would cater to all athletes.



The Closing Speech

By 7 am the next morning, 28th September, 1981, our presentation was ready by our deadline to hand over to the interpreters. Simple and direct, this was a wake-up call: a few words, a 15-minute speech, that we hoped would change the world of sport as we had known it.

Three hours later, tired but satisfied and pleased, we took our seats among the Olympic top brass and attendant dignitaries. Sebastian Coe stood, his words about to represent the athletes' voice at an Olympic forum for the first time in 87 years.

The group's final speech, delivered so eloquently yet forcibly by Coe, struck a chord. We were polite, but we were resolute.

On doping, we stated: 'we consider this to be the most shameful abuse of the Olympic idea.' We called for the life ban of offending athletes, as well offending coaches and doctors who administered 'this evil.

On Rule 26 we said that: 'it is illogical to expect one rule to be capable of attending to the individual needs of all the sports in the Olympic Movement. We therefore echo the call in Congress for greater independence for International Federations in determining exactly what the needs of their sports are.' We said that there was a moral obligation of the IOC to ensure that within the framework of Rule 26, provision needed to be made for the social consideration of the athlete.

On gender equality, we clearly and directly

Thomas Bach, Sebastian Coe and Michelle Ford (L to R) at the IOC Athletes Commission meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland in 1985. The formation of the Athletes Commission was one of the most important decisions made from our presentations in Baden-Baden, having far reaching impact on the IOC and the Olympic Movement worldwide. I was honoured to be asked to be the founding members of the Athlete Commission (1985-1988)



stated: **‘It is considered that this institution is out of step with modern thinking in its support and inclusion of women. We simply call for female equality of opportunity.’**

On the subject of the politicisation of sport and boycotts, we stated that “the athlete has the right to self-determination and on those grounds alone we reject all political pressure.”

We reaffirmed that it was the athletes’ wish to maintain the traditions of the Olympic Ceremonies, and supported the concept of one Olympic Village.

Not included within the five-minute presentations, but we posed the question that for four weeks every four years the IOC does a remarkable job in its preparation of the Olympic sports. What happens during the Olympiad?

We finished in support of the proposals of the IFs, and the commitment of President Samaranch, in saying: “We strongly suggest that this group of athletes be regarded as the consulting body to help us attain the way in which athletes can participate in the decision-making processes of our Movement.

The speech had now taken flight. Where it would land in the lives of athletes was yet to be seen. We could only hope that our words would resonate: that sports’ governing bodies would take action to enforce new rules around doping and protect the integrity of the athlete through more stringent doping measures and controls, that politics would no longer affect the

future participation of athletes at the Games, and that more women would participate on the field of play and in the boardroom. That the athlete’s voice would continue to influence and have an impact on the sporting world, to protect the athlete.

The athletes’ voice in Baden-Baden became a turning point for sport across the globe. With the redrafting of Rule 26, we achieved a wide-reaching effect across all sports, be it Olympic or other, whereby athletes could receive money for their participation.

Our emphasis on gender equality was before our time and opened the door for dialogue towards equal opportunity for women. Today, there is equal participation at the Olympic Games of male and female events and athlete numbers, though there is still a long way to go for equality in the membership and key positions in the administration of sport.

While doping is still the most serious crime against fair sport, it has been perhaps the most difficult to eradicate. Our statement of a lifetime ban on doping athletes and coaches was not established, for legal reasons. However, the IOC established out of competition testing through the creation of the World Anti-doping Agency (WADA). As an October 1985 press release from the IOC Athletes’ Commission stated, ‘The health of all athletes must remain a primary concern of all partners in the Olympic Movement’.

In October 1981, just one month following Baden Baden, President Samaranch announced the establishment of a ‘Commission for Athletes.’ The Commission would initially be composed of the six athletes who presented at the Baden Baden Congress: Thomas Bach (FDG), Sebastian Coe (GBR), Ivar Formo (NOR), Kipchoge Keino (KEN), Svetla Otzetova (BUL) and Vladislav Tretiak (URS).

The Commission was in flux for a few years, with the addition of two representatives from the Organising Committees (winter and summer) appointed in May 1982. In 1985, following the Los Angeles 1984 Olympics, the Athletes’ Commission membership represented all continents for the first time. I was honoured to be one of those founding members of the IOC Athletes’ Commission, from 1985-1988.

Change has taken time with still more to be done for equality, doping and, although it is written in the IOC charter as Rule 21, the creation of athlete commissions within NOC’s and IF’s is today still not complete. But at each step of the way since 1981, the voice of athletes has made a significant difference — an achievement that should never be taken for granted. 🙏



The Baden-Baden IOC Congress.

運動員發聲

文／Michelle Ford-Erickson 與 Anthony Edgar；摘要／薛慧妙

1981年9月29日，國際奧會在西德城市巴登巴登召開第11屆奧林匹克大會，當時仍是田徑選手的 Sebastian Coe 代表運動員發表演講，呼籲治理組織積極處理有關運動員權益的議題。這除了是奧會成立87年來首次有運動員在奧林匹克的平台上發聲，更成功推動奧會成立運動員委員會及國際運動禁藥管制組織（WADA）。這一切正是由一群不同國籍、身份和背景的運動員所促成，是奧林匹克價值最真實的體現。

1981年，奧林匹克活動正處於動盪不安的時期。不僅連續數屆奧運因美蘇冷戰遭到杯葛、有國家資助選手服用禁藥；各國奧會態度消極，國際體壇事務泰半由國際總會把持；奧林匹克憲章第26條規定職業選手不得參賽招致批評；選手及委員男女比例懸殊；甚至有選手面臨死亡威脅等等。此外，運動員缺乏管道為自己發聲，更自覺是政治機器運作之下，份量無足輕重的棋子。

不過，全球運動員的命運也在這一年迎來全新轉變。奧會新任主席 Juan Antonio Samaranch 開創先例，邀請19位男性和6位女性運動員代表全世界的選手出席大會，包括 Thomas Bach（擊劍）、Sebastian Coe（田徑）、Ivar Formo（滑雪）、Kipchoge Keino（田徑）、Svetla Otsetova（划船）與 Vladislav Tretiak（冰球），均是奧運金牌得主。他們體認到體壇近十年來在場內外面臨的挑戰日益嚴峻，尤以禁藥、業餘規定、運動員代表權與女性參與、政治介入與杯葛，以及奧運儀式等五大議題亟需改善，而這次盛會將是他們在奧會委員和各國代表面前，為各國運動員表達訴求的絕佳契機。

然而，當時的體壇和現在截然不同，運動員不但無權影響決策，也不得從運動之中獲取任何經濟利益，只能被動地「做好自己該做的事」——在場上比賽。他們深知質疑權威可能招致嚴重的後果，卻仍決定放膽一試，在大會呼籲體壇治理機構立法制裁禁藥違規涉案人員，捍衛體育賽事的清白；鬆綁業餘規定；提供女性平等機會參與運動和決策；杜絕政治壓迫；以及維持傳統延續奧林匹克儀式。

這群運動員原先並不曉得這樣的舉動能否為運動員的生活帶來影響，只希望好好傳達屬於自己的聲音；他們的性別觀念領先世人，打開對話的契機，率領體壇朝性別平權邁進。儘管體壇要走的路還很長，前人撒下的種子卻已萌芽而漸漸成長茁壯，永遠地改變了運動員的生命。🏆

Athletes Invited by President Samaranch to attend the Olympic Congress
23-28 September 1981, Baden-Baden

Invited and attended

Yuko Arakida, JPN, volleyball
Pär Arvidsson, SWE, swimming
Thomas Bach, FRG, fencing
Sebastian Coe, GBR, athletics
Alexander Dityatin, URS, gymnastics
Irene Epple, FRG, alpine skiing
Michelle Ford, AUS, swimming
Ivar Formo, NOR, cross-country skiing
Mohamed Gammoudi, TUN, athletics
Bernhard Germeshausen, GDR, bobsledding
Slobodan Kačar, YUG, boxing
Kipchoge Keino, KEN, athletics
Zoltán Magyar, HUN, gymnastics
Herminio Menéndez Rodríguez, ESP, canoeing
Robert Nightingale, GBR, modern pentathlon
Svetlana Otsetova, BUL, rowing
John Peterson, USA, wrestling
Juan Daniel Piran, ARG, fencing
Hans Kjeld Rasmussen, DEN, shooting
Esko Rechart, FIN, sailing
Jürg Röthlisberger, SUI, judo
Teofilo Stevenson Lorenzo, CUB, boxing
Elisabeth Theurer, AUT, equestrian
Vladislav Tretiak, URS, ice hockey
Vera Zozula, URS, luge

Invited but did not attend

Yavé Cahard, FRA, cycling
Nadia Comăneci, ROU, gymnastics
Władysław Kozakiewicz, POL, athletics
Luděk Macela, TCH, football
Darell Pace, USA, archery
Daniel Senet, FRA, weightlifting
Sara Simeoni, ITA, athletics
Radu Voinea, ROU, handball
Robert van de Walle, BEL, judo
Miruts Yifter, ETH, athletics

Jan. 2022



WOMEN

Discovering Asia's Women in Sports



VIEWPOINT FROM THE WORLD

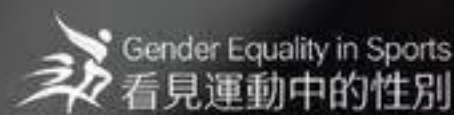
**Defying Odds, Girls in Nigeria
enjoy Cricket amidst COVID-19**

PEOPLE

**The Story of My Dream Path
to Journalism**

COVID Profile

**Turning Crisis into Opportunities:
CTUSF Engagement On and Going**



The Athletes' Voice
SPECIAL FEATURE

CHANGING THE MINDSET
SPECIAL INTERVIEW