



International Shooting Sport Federation
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The 52nd ISSF World Championship in all events
officially opened today in Changwon

Changwon (KOR), 1 September 2018 - The biggest competition of the 2018 shooting sport season kicked off today in Changwon, where more than 1800 athletes from gathered for the 52nd edition of the ISSF World Championship.

The opening ceremony of the championship took place at the Changwon Indoor Gymnasium, where hundreds of spectators were entertained by some colourful exhibitions of dancers and other performers. Among the many authorities who attended the ceremony: Mr. Olegario Vazquez Raña, President of the ISSF, Mr. Franz Schreiber, Secretary General of the ISSF, Mr. Lee Nak-yon, Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea, Mr. Kim Kyung-soo, Governor of the Gyeongsangnam-do province, Mr. Heo Seong-mu, Mayor of Changwon City, and Mr. Hwang Yongdeug, President of the Korea Shooting Federation, who was the first to take the podium.

“I would like to extend my sincere gratitude and appreciation to all the present authorities,” said Mr. Hwang. “For their full support, as well as the organizing staff for their dedicated efforts. Changwon City has been the herb of shooting sport in Korea, as it organized the ISSF World Cup for eight times since 2003, contributing to the development of our sport.”

Athletes and officials of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea also attended the ceremony, and they were greeted by all the authorities, including the Prime Minister of the host country: “I would like to mention the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea delegation, warmly welcoming them as my compatriots,” said Mr. Lee. “I hope your stay will be enjoyable and I wish you best of luck.”

Finally, the President of the ISSF, Mr. Olegario Vazquez Raña took the stage, officially declaring the 52nd ISSF World Championship in all events open.

“Authorities, athletes, judges, referees and officials, it is an honour and a great joy for me to welcome you all to the 52nd ISSF World Championship in the beautiful city of Changwon, which always welcomed us with warmth, generosity and open arms,” Mr. Raña also said. “Korea is the only Asian country that organized the ISSF World Championship twice. First forty years ago in

Seoul in 1978, where I participated as a competitor and where for the first time I thought I could one day become the President of the then UIT.”

The national anthem of the Republic of Korea and the one of the International Shooting Sport Federation were then played to the audience, sealing a remarkable opening ceremony.

Earlier today, Mr. Olegario Vazquez Raña met the former UN Secretary Ban Ki-moon at the Changwon World Peace and Democracy Forum.

Delivering a keynote speech to the forum, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon said: “I would like to thank the ISSF President, Mr. Olegario Vazquez Raña, and the ISSF Secretary General, Mr. Franz Schreiber for being here today. It is very meaningful to host this forum here in Changwon, in occasion of the 52nd ISSF World Championship in all shooting events.”

“Sport and peace have a profound relationship: sport can contribute to peace as it has the power to promote tolerance and mutual understanding. The ISSF World Championship is happening in the right place at the right time.”

Mr. Ban Ki-Moon continued: “A delegation of 22 North Korean athletes and coaches has arrived here in Changwon to take part in the championship. This is a great occasion to promote inter-Korean relationships and to build on the momentum. I believe it’s great that athletes from the North and from the South will get to compete in the same events.”

Footage of the Olympic events will be distributed worldwide via EBU and broadcasted live on the [ISSF website](#), on the Federation’s [Livestream channel](#), on its official [Facebook page](#) and on the [Olympic Channel](#).

Results of the competition, news and updates will be available on www.issf-sports.org, on bueno-saires2018.com and on all ISSF social media platforms: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), [Weibo](#) and [Youku](#).

For editorial photos [click here](#).

Notes for the editors:

The International Shooting Sport Federation is the governing body of the Olympic Shooting events, and it has over 160 affiliated National Federations worldwide. Shooting is an Olympic sport since the very first edition of the modern Olympic Games, Athens 1896. Find out more about the International Shooting Sport Federation at www.issf-sports.org.

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