

INNSBRUCK 2012

Candidate City for the Youth Olympic Games



Press Release: 12. December 2008

Innsbruck Honored by Selection as First Winter Youth Games Host City

With the selection of Innsbruck as the host city for the First Winter Youth Olympic Games in 2012, the IOC today awarded its inaugural event for young Olympians to a city that twice hosted the Olympic Winter Games—in 1964 and 1976—and has maintained ever since a stellar inventory of world-class winter sports venues. “On behalf of all Austrians, I want to thank the IOC for granting our nation the tremendous honor of hosting the First Winter Youth Olympic Games,” said Leo Wallner, President of the Austrian Olympic Committee and Austria’s only IOC Member. “This is a great day for Austria and a great day for all winter sports fans,” Wallner said. “More importantly, it is a great day for the future generations of young athletes who are dreaming of becoming winter Olympians. As their first destination, Innsbruck will help them fulfill their dreams.”

“While we congratulate Kuopio, Finland, on a great campaign, we could not be more pleased with the IOC’s decision,” said Christoph Platzgummer, Vice Mayor of Innsbruck and President of the Bid Committee. “This decision, which reflects the IOC’s thorough examination of every facet of our plans, confirms Innsbruck’s reputation as a world-class winter sports destination.”

After bidding unsuccessfully for the 2010 and 2014 Olympic Winter Games with Salzburg, the Austrian Olympic Committee chose to put forth Innsbruck in hopes of strengthening the appeal of its winter sports tradition among the young. “As an alpine country, winter sports play a key role in our culture and helps to unify our nation as we celebrate our passion for snow and ice,” said Heinz Jungwirth, the Secretary General of the Austrian Olympic Committee.

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“Winning the right to host the First Winter Youth Olympic Games affirms the importance of winter sports within our nation. We will do everything in our power to serve and strengthen the Olympic Movement by ensuring the success of this inaugural event.”

The decision by the IOC Membership clearly reflected the conclusions of the technical report of the IOC Evaluation Commission, which asserted that Innsbruck offered the least risk as a host city and had a very well thought out plan that achieved the appropriate balance between sport, culture and education, the goal of the Youth Olympic Games.

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