



Greetings from Rio!  
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Welcome to the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro! I am honored to offer a greeting in this Olympic issue to the scientists, medical professionals, and academics that provide a solid foundation for wrestling. I still remember the International Olympic Committee Congress in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 2009. It was held right after the 2009 Wrestling World Championships, also in Denmark. This allowed me to be one of the few Brazilian National Federation presidents to attend such an important meeting. The outcome of this meet-ing could change our lives and the life of every person involved with wrestling in Brazil for years to come.

I vividly remember arriving the day before the voting session, and feeling an electric environment in the air, with heads of states, celebrities, bidding teams, and rehearsals. There was something magical about that day preceding the vote, where all the hard work that was put into the bid was stopped for some small last adjustments, calm was in the air and somehow, I already felt like a winner. I shared this feeling with every Brazilian in the room, as the Rio 2016 team was ready to make the impossible come true, and I was there as a witness!

Seven years have passed since that great day, and now only a few days separate us from our Olympic dream coming to life on the mats on August 14. I know that the wrestlers, coaches and fans will enjoy the Carioca 2



Arena. It is a new and beautiful venue with a 10,000-seat capacity. Even with all the difficulties to organize such a large event such as the Olympic Games, being held for the first time in South America I have faith in the people of the Organizing Committee, and expect that Brazil will deliver fantastic Games to be remembered for a long time. It will be different, Rio is different, and though we have several problems as a country, the place has an energy that I have not found in my travels around the world. The Brazilian people will be the difference for this Olympic Games. No crowd is like ours, we have hospitality in our blood! The action will be cheered as never before, especially when a

Brazilian step on the mats, as this is the first time in history we are competing for Olympic glory.

These games need to be spectacular for wrestling. Our wrestling family has faced several difficulties in the recent past and we changed our path under the leadership of President Nenad Lalovic, who put wrestling back on the right track. Hosting the Olympics has energized and helped to grow wrestling in Brazil. It is my hope that Rio 2016 will be a great Olympics, to be remembered by the wrestling family for a long time, and be kept as a beautiful memory in a special place in our minds and hearts.

