

Congress 2012, Auckland

The ITU Congress and Grand Final in Auckland this year will be a very important time for all of us to be together. This year's Congress will be a milestone in our history as we elect the 8th ITU Executive Board and Committees to guide us through the next Olympiad.

It will also be a time to celebrate the achievements of the past four years including a record number of countries with athletes on the start line of our fourth Olympic Games appearance in London.



Since we last met in Beijing, China for the 2011 ITU Congress, the Executive Board, staff and ITU Committees and Commissions have been working hard to finalise a number of the goals and objectives as outlined on the 2009-2013 ITU Strategic Plan:

1. Achieve an extraordinary profile for the sport within the Olympic and Paralympic family.
2. Have an ITU presence in all triathlon events worldwide:
3. Establish successful and strategic relationships with all our partners (see diagram below) to engage them widely in all aspects of the sport.
4. Increase Triathlon in all regions by increasing the number of NFs with high performance athletes.
5. Implement sustainable best practices within ITU.

Some of the key achievements of these goals are:

- Our Upsolut partners and the World Triathlon Series continued to be the flagship of our organisation. 2011 was a very successful year with new highs in terms of television viewers, spectator appeal and outstanding performances from the athletes. With the calendar for 2013 ready for release at Congress, and several new global cities vying for a slot in the series for 2014, the future is very bright.
- Marisol Casado's role as an IOC member continues to bring significant benefits to the sport. As our profile within the Olympic movement evolves, the key focus is achieving "core sport" status on the Olympic Programme and the addition of the Mixed Relay as a medal sport.
- The development work by the Continental Confederations in collaboration with the ITU Development and Sport Departments set new standards in 2011 with a record number of events and certification of coaches, technical officials and facilitators. The 39 federations with athletes on the start line of the London Olympic Games is a strong indicator of the achievement in this area.
- Our inclusion in the programme of the 2016 Rio Paralympic Games has made an unprecedented impact on our athletes and national federations. There is a great deal of work ahead, but the Executive Board, Paratriathlon Committee and staff are working in a very positive way with our colleagues at IPC.
- The work of the ITU Committees and Commissions, with a liaison from the ITU Executive Board and staff, has been one of the highlights of the year. This combination is proving to be very effective as witnessed by; the growth in prominence of the multisport events; the plans for the 2nd Science and Triathlon Conference in 2013 and the involvement in the IOC water temperature study by the

Medical Committee; the collaborative way in which the technical committee is working to ensure our events continue to evolve in the safest and fairest way; in addition to the good work being done by the Women's Committee, Athletes' Committee et al.

- One of the most significant achievements of the year, in terms of our 2nd Strategic Goal, "Have an ITU presence in all triathlon events worldwide," was the staging of the WTS event in San Diego and the relationship building that took place with the USA triathlon industry. We also made significant strides towards our global role as an IF with key global event producers like WTC, TriStar, Challenge, X-Terra and Powerman. A drug free sport and compatible competition rules is a focus of our relationships.

Information about a travel / accommodation subsidy for National Federations sending delegates to Congress will be available shortly.

We also need to thank our hosts, Triathlon New Zealand and Garry Boone, President, as well as Dave Beeche and the LOC who are working hard to put on spectacular races for our athletes throughout the heart of the beautiful city of Auckland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Marisol Casado', with a large, sweeping flourish above the name.

Marisol Casado
President, International Triathlon Union
IOC Member