



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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IOC President to visit country

President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), Thomas Bach will be visiting Port Moresby from May 8th to 9th where he will participate in various events including a meeting with the Papua New Guinea Prime Minister and Minister for Sport, Peter O’Neill.

Bach will make the journey north following his stop-over in the Gold Coast, Australia for the Sports Accord – an international sport and business summit focused on driving positive change through international co-ordination and engagement with all stakeholders involved in sports development.

While this is Bach’s first visit to PNG, he is not the first IOC President to visit the country. The last IOC President to visit was Jacque Rogge who came to Port Moresby in 2009.

The meeting with the Prime Minister and Minister for Sport, Peter O’Neill will cover a range of topics including government support for sports. Both leaders will then witness the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the PNG Olympic Committee and the PNG Sports Foundation.

He will also officiate at the official opening of the PNG Olympic Haus, the new permanent headquarters of the PNG Olympic Committee.

There will be other events happening to commemorate his visit which includes a live exhibition of sports featuring some of the country’s elite athletes and a showcase of Team PNG Olympic participation.

“We are looking forward to welcoming the IOC President. It is a privilege to have the head of one of the largest organisations in the world visit our country and we are working with our partners in government and corporate sector to ensure that he has a memorable visit to our country,” said Secretary General of the PNG Olympic Committee and IOC Member, Auvita Rapilla.

Bach’s visit is also to promote Olympism and bring more awareness on the Olympic Movement and the important role it plays in contributing to good order, positive sustainable development and world peace using sports.

He will be accompanied on this trip by the President of the Oceania National Olympic Committee (ONOC) and Acting President of the Association of the National Olympic Committees (ANOC), Dr. Robin Mitchell and other senior members of the IOC.

Bach is a German Olympian who has represented his country at the Olympic Games in the sport of Fencing. He is a gold medalist in the sport from the Montreal Olympic Games in 1976. Other sports he played were tennis and football.

A lawyer by profession, prior to becoming President of the IOC in 2013, Bach also served as Vice President and was a founding member of the IOC's Athletes Commission.

The slogan of the Olympics (in Latin) is Citius, Altius, Fortius or Faster, Higher, Stronger.

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