



# ASSIST NEWS

FIBA ASSIST NEWSLETTER A BIMONTHLY COMMUNITY UPDATE JUNE / JULY 2006

## FIBA

We Are Basketball

FIBA.COM

### CHINESE VERSION OF FIBA2006.COM

FIBA will launch a Chinese version of fiba2006.com on the occasion of the 2006 FIBA World Championship in Japan. They have partnered with QQ, one of the biggest internet portals in China who will create a Chinese language version of fiba2006.com including all the existing content.

### WHAT'S IN STORE

## TEAMS GEAR UP FOR JAPAN



All 24 teams have started their preparation phase for the most prestigious basketball title on earth. Most head coaches recently announced the preliminary rosters for their teams and are gathering the players for preparation games. Some teams have even started to play in preparation tournaments to find the right mix in time, before they head to Far East.

The excitement of the players and fans is growing, and everybody looks forward what is supposed to be the most competitive basketball championship ever. The rosters are star loaded, and prediction for who will be able to finish their pool in the top 4 becomes almost impossible.



Leandro Barbosa wants to do great things for Brazil in Japan

### Record Media Registration

The excitement is certainly shared by the media. Despite the FIFA World Cup just coming to end in July, a record number of over 1.600 media representative from 60 countries have registered for Japan. This number

represents a new record for FIBA competition as the old record was set at 1.400 registrations in Athens in 1998.

The biggest media contingents besides Japan come from Argentina, Brazil, China, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Nigeria, USA, Turkey, Serbia & Montenegro, Spain, and Venezuela.

### Japan organisers are ready

The Local Organising Committee and the Japanese Basketball Association (JABBA) are preparing as profoundly as the teams. The four cities of the first round and Saitama are ready to welcome the teams and guests from around the world. Patrick Baumann, FIBA Secretary General, is confident about the state of preparations: "State of the art facilities and the well known fable of the Japanese hosts for detail and preciseness will guarantee a smooth running of the event and a first class celebration."

### Dedicated Event website

The championship will be covered with a dedicated event website with over 500 exclusive stories, behind the scenes reports, interviews, photos and video highlights from each game. Fans can also access live video streaming of all games which are not shown by their national TV channels. Further details and prices will be announced shortly. Don't miss the action on [www.fiba2006.com](http://www.fiba2006.com).

**WHAT'S IN STORE  
UPCOMING FIBA  
EVENTS  
PAGE 1/2**

**FIBA'S WORLD  
NEWS AND  
NOTES FROM  
EVENTS  
PAGE 3**

**BUSINESS  
CORNER  
RECORDS TUMBLING FOR  
FIBA WORLD CHAMPION-  
SHIP  
PAGE 3**

**PEOPLE  
NAMES AND FACES  
PAGE 4**

**STAY TUNED  
FIBA EVENT AND  
MEETING CALENDARS  
PAGE 4**

**DON'T GET  
DISCONNECTED  
FIBA DIRECTORY  
CHANGES  
PAGE 4**

Official Sponsor

**molten**  
For the real game



**2 MONTHS TO GO**

### ASIA NEWS FIBA ASIA CONGRESS MET IN KUWAIT

Sheikh Saud Bin Ali Al-Thani from Qatar has been re-elected as President of FIBA Asia for the 2006 – 2010 term of office. Dato' Yeoh Choo Hock and Hagop Khajirian have been confirmed as Secretary and Deputy Secretary General at the Congress meeting of FIBA Asia on 7 June 2006 in Kuwait. FIBA Asia has also nominated Sheikh Talal F.A.J. Al-Sabah from Kuwait, Mr. Yu Zaiqing, Executive Vice-President of BCOCG, Vice Minister of Sports and IOC Executive Board member and Ms Mabel Ching from China as members of the FIBA Central Board for the 2006 – 2010 term of office. The 2007 FIBA Asia Championships have been assigned to Japan (Men) and South Korea (Women).



## WHAT'S IN STORE STARS LOOK FORWARD TO JAPAN



The 2006 FIBA World Championship in Japan will be without a doubt the biggest assembly of basketball stars from around the world ever. 288 players from five continents and 24 countries will enter fierce battle for the James Naismith Cup, the trophy of the event. And everybody looks forward to the event. Here is a collection of quotes from the past months:

### Anderson Varejao – Brazil

"We'll go to Japan with two goals: firstly, to book a place at the Olympic Games. And second, we'll fight for a place on the podium. We want to represent Brazil and fight with all our might to secure a good result at the end of the tournament."

### Pau Gasol – Spain

"Not to reach the semi-final stages, and not to fight for a medal and conquer a medal at the World Championship in Japan will be a disappointment. We have a chance. International basketball has grown and has equaled the level in the United States, although the USA is still the national team to beat. The World Championship is going to be very competitive and we will see what options we have. It's clear we have talented players and I am really looking forward to see how far we can go."

### Manu Ginobili – Argentina

"We also went to Athens Olympics as one of the favourites. In my opinion, if you are truly good, it cannot affect you. Our group is not an easy group to get out of, but with so many teams you cannot expect it to be. There are a lot of teams who can make it to the final rounds, you saw that with Italy at the last Olympics. It will be a World Championship with a lot of talent."

### Andrew Bogut – Australia

"I will definitely play in the World Championship. We just go trying to take teams out as the underdogs and then we will be happy. The USA are always favourites. Serbia & Montenegro are also favourites and Argentina are defending Olympic champs so it will be tough. We are never favourites."

### Tony Parker – France

"I am going to go on holiday at the end of June and won't change my plans. But in July, there is a new challenge awaiting for me with the French team."

### Nikos Zisis – Greece

"Considering that we are European champions, everyone will be watching us. Our rivals will be more motivated and eager to beat us and that is why we must remain together as a team. It will be a very nice thing for me. It is the biggest basketball competition and just to be a part of it will be great."

### Dirk Nowitzki – Germany

"I think if I hadn't have played for Germany all those summers, I wouldn't have come back as a better player. You need competition in the summer to push you, you need that pressure on you I think, and I think playing for my country was big in my development over the years."

### Fabrizio Oberto- Argentina

"We have the players to win the trophy, and all teams will be looking for victory against the Olympic champions. The most important thing will be not to face Germany, who have Dirk Nowitzki in superb form, and Spain. If we do not make at least the semi-finals, it will be because we did not play well, because we have all the necessary talent to do a good job. There will be 24 national teams and so it will be the hardest tournament yet."

## WHAT'S IN STORE BARBOSA NAMES BRAZIL SQUAD

Brazil coach Antonio Carlos Barbosa has named his 21-strong squad to compete in forthcoming international tournaments, including the FIBA World Championship for Women which includes star players Janeth Arcain, Alessandra Oliveira, Helen Luz, Erika Cristina, and Iziane Marques.

The squad will play at the South American Championship in Paraguay from August 1-5 and then FIBA World Championship in Brazil from September 12-23 with an international match against Chile and the International Cup with Canada, China and Spain (September 6-9) in between.

### Strong help for USA

International superstars Lisa Leslie and Sheryl Swoopes were among the list of eight players selected to Team USA's squad for the FIBA World Championship for Women. Katie Smith, DeLisha Milton-Jones, Sue Bird, Tamika Catchings, Diana Taurasi and Tina Thompson were the other players named at a press conference of USA Basketball end of May.

### Media Registration

The last chance for all media wishing to attend the championship will be to fill in and submit the form via the internet. The application form is available on [www.fiba2006brazil.com/registration](http://www.fiba2006brazil.com/registration) and is protected by a password.

### Calendar

FIBA and the Local Organizing Committee have announced the final schedule and the tip of times for games. Here all games of the Preliminary Round:



Date	Local	GMT	Ibirapuera Arena	Barueri Arena
12 Sep Tuesday	13h00	16h00	KOR - ESP	
	13h00	16h00		FRA - CZE
	15h15	18h15	ARG - BRA	
	15h15	18h15		RUS - NGR
	17h30	20h30	LTU - AUS	
	17h30	20h30		CUB - TPE
	19h45	22h45	SEN - CAN	
13 Sep Wednesday	13h00	16h00	ESP - ARG	
	13h00	16h00		TPE - FRA
	15h15	18h15	BRA - KOR	
	15h15	18h15		CHN - RUS
	17h30	20h30	CAN - LTU	
	17h30	20h30		CZE - CUB
	19h45	22h45	AUS - SEN	
14 Sep Thursday	13h00	16h00	KOR - ARG	
	13h00	16h00		TPE - CZE
	15h15	18h15	BRA - ESP	
	15h15	18h15		FRA - CUB
	17h30	20h30	LTU - SEN	
	17h30	20h30		USA - RUS
	19h45	22h45	CAN - AUS	
	19h45	22h45		NGR - CHN



## AFRICA NEWS AFRICAN POWER IN JAPAN

For the first time in history, Africa will be presented by three teams in a FIBA World Championship. Angola, Nigeria and Senegal will all try to make an impact this time. And the chances are not bad at all. Angola has one of the most experienced teams in the competition, and Nigeria and Senegal will be full of talent. The 'African Power in Japan' could be the biggest surprise package of the event.



# FIBA WORLD CONGRESS

The 18th FIBA World Congress will take place in Tokyo, Japan, on 28th and 29th August 2006. It is for the first time, that the assembly of all 212 national federations associated to FIBA will meet during the World Championship and not before, as it used to be in past. This will give the delegates a chance to follow the action on court, as they can watch the games of the Final Round in the Saitama Super Arena.

The Congress is the supreme authority of FIBA and meets once every four years. It has, amongst others, the power to adopt and modify the General Statutes, elect the President of FIBA, ratify the composition of the Central Board, and examine and approve all reports.

## Registration

An online registration system has been set up for the registration of the participants to the FIBA World Congress 2006 at the following link: [www.fiba.com/worldcongress](http://www.fiba.com/worldcongress). All application forms have to be filled in and submitted via the internet.

## Delegates and Observers

Each National Federation is entitled to register 2 delegates for the Congress of which the first has voting right. In order to retain their right to vote at the World Congress, all national federations must have settled their 2006 annual membership fee as well as any pending dues by 1 August 2006.

## Hotel

The Tokyo Prince Hotel Park Tower is the official FIBA hotel where the FIBA World Congress will take place.

4-8-1 Shiba Koen, Minato-ku

Tokyo, 105-8563, Japan

Tel: +81-3-5400-1111

Fax: +81-3-5400-1110

[www.princejapan.com/TokyoPrinceHotelParkTower/](http://www.princejapan.com/TokyoPrinceHotelParkTower/)

The 1st delegate of each national federation will be accommodated at the cost of the Japanese Basketball Association (JABBA) and of the FIBA, from the 27th to the 31st of August 2006. The 2nd delegate and national federation observers will be responsible for the costs of accommodation him/herself at the Tokyo Prince Hotel Park Tower. If delegates or observers are extending their stay after the 31st of August, they may benefit from preferential rates at the Tokyo Prince Hotel Park Tower or at the Tokyo Prince Hotel. All participants are responsible for any extra costs to be settled at the hotel.

## Programm

The days will be packed with various meetings between 27th and 31st August, and the following gives a brief overview of the program (status June 2006):

27.08	9 – 11h	Central Board 2002 – 2006
27.08	10, 13, 17, 20h	1/8 Final Games
28.08	10-13h, 15-18h	World Congress
29.08	10-13h	World Congress
29.08	16:30, 19:30h	¼ Final Games
30.08	9 – 11h	FIBA Organizer Workshop with national federations
30.08	10 – 12h	WABC meeting
30.08	12 – 14h	Commonwealth BB Federation meeting
30.08	16:30, 19:30h	¼ Final Games
31.08	10 – 12h	Central Board 2006 - 2010

## Attendance at World Championship games

All Congress delegates will have a chance to attend the games during their stay in Tokyo for the Congress until the Final. Please find attached a complete schedule including tip off games for the 2006 FIBA World Championship.

## FIBA Help Line

If delegates have questions regarding registration or any other detail of the World Congress they can contact [WorldCongress@fiba.com](mailto:WorldCongress@fiba.com).



## BUSINESS CORNER

# RECORDS TUMBLING FOR FIBA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

## 2006 Men's World Championship in Japan set to become the greatest ever

Excitement is building in Japan and across the world as we head for a World Basketball Championship which is breaking records everywhere.

The 5 Championship venues across Japan have the greatest overall capacity for spectators of any Basketball World Championship, and ticket sales have been very strong with many matches already sold out, so we expect the largest live audience ever for a World Championship.

The Championships will be seen on television in 148 territories and we expect the total audience to exceed 1 billion, with a record number of hours coverage. Fans can also follow the matches through more different media than ever before as we offer a broadband service and we stream daily highlights via [fiba.com](http://fiba.com)

Print communications will reach record levels and we have already surpassed the number of media accreditations recorded at the last World Championship in Indianapolis in 2002. We will completely relaunch [fiba.com](http://fiba.com) in time for the Championship and more fans than ever before will follow stories and results on the Championship site [fiba2006.com](http://fiba2006.com).

All the international marketing rights for the event have been sold for a record figure and our licensees and sponsors will be investing more money than ever before in activating their involvement in more countries than ever before.

FIBA merchandise is now available across Japan in over 500 outlets where we hear that we are outselling FIFA World Cup merchandise!

Roll-on the World Championship!

## EUROPE NEWS VASSILAKOPOULOS RE-ELECTED

George Vassilakopoulos earned a second mandate as FIBA Europe President on 13 May in Munich, Germany at the 2006 General Assembly. Vassilakopoulos received 48 votes from the 49 national federations in attendance with one abstention. "I want to respect sport values on the basis of the pyramid of national federations, leagues and clubs," Mr. Vassilakopoulos said to delegates prior to the election. "Let's continue together, without exceptions and exclusions of the rich or poor, powerful or weak, important or insignificant. We need to do this and if we work hard our destiny will be secure in our role to further develop the success of FIBA Europe and European basketball." For more information please go to [fibaurope.com](http://fibaurope.com)



PEOPLE  
**NAMES  
AND FACES**

**DON'T GET DISCONNECTED  
FIBA DIRECTORY  
CHANGES**

**NEW POSTAL ADDRESS OF FIBA!  
FIBA**  
International Basketball Federation  
53, Avenue Louis Casai  
1216 Cointrin/Geneva  
P.O. Box 110  
Switzerland

Telephone and fax numbers including personal email address and telephone numbers for all FIBA staff will remain the same.

**Trinidad and Tobago Basketball Federation**  
New address:  
Maloney Indoor Sports Facility  
Maloney Gardens  
Trinidad  
West Indies  
Tel: +1 (868) 646 1663  
Fax: +1 (868) 646 1663  
Email: nbfft@yahoo.com



**GINGUBA TAKES THE HELM OF ANGOLA**

Angola are to be led by newly-appointed coach Alberto de Carvalho "Ginguba" at the FIBA World Championship. The African champions, the dominant force on the continent for a decade, agreed by mutual consent with Mario Palma it was time for a change and they have turned to Ginguba, who recently led Petro de Luanda to the title in Angola's top flight. Ginguba, 49, is the fourth national team coach in Angola history. He is well known in the country, having been a leading pro in the country as a player before embarking on a professional career in Portugal.



**ERIKA PUTS HOMETOWN AHEAD OF WNBA MOVE**

Brazil centre Erika has decided against playing in the WNBA, instead opting to stay in her homeland to be part of the national team's training sessions ahead of the FIBA World Championship for Women. The 24-year-old had agreed terms with New York Liberty, but performed a u-turn at the last minute. "I'm anxious to play the World Championship in Brazil and we'll fight for the title. I preferred to stay here from the start of the national team's training instead of playing the WNBA. The opportunity to play a World Championship in my country and be champion means more than anything else. Everybody here wants to show their talent and win a place in the squad."

**SAEZ TARGETS GOLD!**

The time has arrived for Spain to win a gold

medal at the FIBA World Championship. With Pau Gasol among those confirmed in the 12-man squad on Monday by coach Pepu Hernandez, Spanish Basketball Federation President Saez brazenly said: "This is the first World Championship where we can aspire to win gold. This list gives plenty of enthusiasm to basketball fans," Saez said. "Let's hope that these players can lift Spain all the way to the podium."



"There's no national team superior to us, but we will need that bit of luck in order to win those even games against the other nations," said Saez. "The time has come to achieve something great."

**RAPTORS MAKE BARGNANI FIRST EUROPEAN NO. 1**



The 2.09m (6.10) Andrea Bargnani from Italy joined Yao Ming (2002) as the only pure international players to be taken with the top pick in the NBA draft. The 20-year-old has three years of experience with Italian side Benetton Treviso. "Number one is incredible," said Bargnani, who has been likened to the Dallas Maverick's German superstar Dirk Nowitzki. "I tell you, I cannot describe the sensation. I have no words. I cannot describe because I am not able to describe in English well." Bargnani was one of several international players to be drafted. Senegalese forward Saer Sene, Swiss guard Thabo Sefolosha, Ukrainian forward Oleksiy Pecherov, English forward Joel Freeland and Spanish guard Sergio Rodriguez were also drafted in the first round.

**STAY TUNED**

**EVENT CALENDAR**

- JUNE**  
28/06/2006 & 02/07/2006 FIBA Women's World League, PR Group B, in Pecs, Hungary  
28/06/2006 & 02/07/2006 FIBA Americas U18 Championship for Men in San Antonio, USA  
28/06/2006 & 02/07/2006 FIBA Americas U18 Championship for Women in Colorado Springs, USA
- JULY**  
04/07/2006 & 14/07/2006 Wheelchair World Championship for Men, in Amsterdam, Netherlands  
18/07/2006 & 27/07/2006 FIBA Europe U18 Championship for Men in Amaliada, Olympia and Argostoli, Greece  
21/07/2006 & 30/07/2006 FIBA Europe U18 Championship for Women in Tenerife, Spain
- AUGUST**  
04-06/08/2006 FIBA U19 Oceania Championship for Men and Women in Nowra, Australia  
10-15/08/2006 Stankovic Continental Champions Cup in Nanjing, P.R. of China  
19/07/2006 & 03/09/2006 FIBA World Championship for Men in Japan
- SEPTEMBER**  
12-23/09/2006 FIBA World Championship for Women in Brazil

**STAY TUNED**

**MEETING CALENDAR**

- JUNE**  
15-18/06/2006 FIBA-Asia Clinic for International Referee Candidates in Biskek, Kyrgyzstan
- JULY**  
12-14/07/2006 World Congress of IWBF in Amsterdam, Netherlands  
12-14/07/2006 FIBA-Asia Clinic for International Referee Candidates in Biskek, Kyrgyzstan  
11-18/07/2006 FIBA-Asia Clinics for International Referee Candidates in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, and Dhaka, Bangladesh
- AUGUST**  
27/08/2006 Central Board of FIBA in Tokyo, Japan  
28-29/08/2006 World Congress of FIBA in Tokyo, Japan  
30/08/2006 World Association of Coaches (WABC) Meeting in Tokyo, Japan  
30/08/2006 Commonwealth Basketball Federation in Tokyo, Japan  
31/08/2006 Central Board of FIBA (2006 - 2010 term of office) in Tokyo, Japan
- NOVEMBER**  
Exact date tbd Central Board of FIBA in Geneva, Switzerland

**03 2006**

**For more information please contact:**  
FIBA Communications Department,  
53, Avenue Louis Casai  
1216 Cointrin/ Geneva  
P.O. Box 110  
Switzerland  
Tel: +41-22-545.00.00  
Fax: +41-22-545.00.99  
communications@fiba.com  
www.fiba.com

**Editing:**  
FIBA Communications Department

**Design concept:**  
Interbrand  
Zintzmeyer & Lux, Zurich

**Layout:**  
www.oikoservice.com

**Photos:**  
FIBA/AFP

**Printer:**  
G80 - Pescara - Italy



**FIBA**  
Official Sponsor

