



Media Contacts:

Leah Davis, MS&L

916-983-6965

[leah.davis@mslpr.com](mailto:leah.davis@mslpr.com)

Kate Talbot, MS&L

415-293-2804

[kathryn.talbot@mslpr.com](mailto:kathryn.talbot@mslpr.com)

## **42<sup>nd</sup> International Children's Games in San Francisco Attracts Athletes from Six Continents to Compete in Summer Games**

*More than 70 Cities Confirmed to Participate Thus Far*

**SAN FRANCISCO, Calif.** – March 4, 2008- The 42<sup>nd</sup> International Children's Games in San Francisco announced today the confirmation of more than 70 cities spanning six continents that will participate in the cultural festivities and Games scheduled for July 10-15. From Ghana to Slovenia to Costa Rica, teams are looking forward to making their way to the Bay Area for friendly competition, educational experiences and cultural enrichment.

"The Games provide a healthy level of competition, and are a great opportunity to learn about other cultures and create everlasting international ties," said Johnny Kiriakopoulos from Hamilton, Canada. Kiriakopoulos is vice president of the ICG Executive Committee and Hamilton is a past host of the games. "The Games in San Francisco will help participants achieve higher goals, aspire to greater truths and understand and practice tolerance and respect for others."

This year's Games will bring an estimated 2,000 coaches and athletes (12-15 years of age) – from 100 cities and 50 countries around the world – to compete in track and field, tennis, swimming, volleyball, soccer, table tennis, basketball and golf.

First-time participants will join dozens of cities returning to the Games as past participants and former host cities. Lake Macquarie, Australia; Vadodara, India; South San Francisco, United States and San Jose; Costa Rico are all cities that are taking part in the events for the first time.

Opening and closing ceremonies, athletic competitions, participant housing and events, and the ICG Festival Village will take place in multiple venues throughout San Francisco, including Golden Gate Park, AT&T Park, Kezar Stadium, University of San Francisco (USF) and San Francisco State University (SFSU).

"San Francisco is the quintessential culturally diverse city to host the Games," states G. Bradford Solso, chairman of the organizing committee for the International Children's Games in San Francisco. "The participants and their families will gain much from the ICG experience and San Francisco. The many sights, from Coit Tower to the Golden Gate Bridge, will make their time in the Bay Area a memorable one and our rich cultural heritage demonstrates tangibly the mission of the International Children's Games."

The confirmed participant cities to-date are:

Lake Macquarie, Australia	Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
Eisenstadt, Austria	Alkmaar, Netherlands
Graz, Austria	Joure, Netherlands
Innsbruck, Austria	Auckland, New Zealand
Manama, Bahrain	Lahore, Pakistan
Brantford, Canada	Plock, Poland
Halifax, Canada	Hong Kong, PRC
Hamilton, Canada	Macau, PRC
Kitchener, Canada	Zhenjiang, PRC
Taipei City, Chinese Taipei	Medias, Romania
San Jose, Costa Rica	Lanarkshire, Scotland
Cesky Krumlov, Czech Republic	Singapore, Singapore
Coventry, England	Celje, Slovenia
Darmstadt, Germany	Maribor, Slovenia
Freiberg, Germany	Mislinja, Slovenia
Gelting, Germany	Murska Sobota, Slovenia
Kempton, Germany	Ravne na Koroskem, Slovenia
Kumasi, Ghana	Sentilj, Slovenia
Athens, Greece	Slovenj Gradec, Slovenia
Patras, Greece	Velenje, Slovenia
Sparta, Greece	Daegu, South Korea
Kecskemet, Hungary	Seoul, South Korea
Sopron, Hungary	Halmstad, Sweden
Szombathely, Hungary	Lausanne, Switzerland
Reykjavik, Iceland	Montreux, Switzerland
New Delhi, India	Vevey, Switzerland
Vadodara, India	Bangkok, Thailand
Tralee, Ireland	Uzhgorod, Ukraine
Jerusalem, Israel	Chesterfield, USA
Raanana, Israel	Cleveland, USA
Brescia, Italy	Florence, USA
Montego Bay, Jamaica	Marion, USA
Nairobi, Kenya	New York, USA
Kaunas City, Lithuania	Rochester, USA
Luxembourg, Luxembourg	So. San Francisco, USA
Monaco, Monaco	

The Team SF trials are underway and will continue through March to determine which young local athletes will represent the City of San Francisco and compete in the Games. Visit [http://www.sficg2008.com/Team San Francisco/Team SF Tryouts.htm](http://www.sficg2008.com/Team_San_Francisco/Team_SF_Tryouts.htm) for details on the trials schedule and locations.

**About the International Children's Games**

Endorsed by the International Olympic Committee, the International Children's Games is a premier global, youth athletic event that combines sports and educational programs, cultural exchange opportunities and economic development. The Games serve as a vehicle to promote alliances, friendships and common understanding among children around the world and have done so since 1968. Thirty-one different cities on four continents have hosted previous Games.

For more information, please visit [www.sficg2008.com](http://www.sficg2008.com).

###