



Press Release

2 March 2012

BP to support Georgian National Olympic and Paralympic Teams for the London 2012 Games

BP today signed agreements with Georgian National Olympic Committee and National Paralympic Committee to support the country's national teams and a group of selected athletes in the run up to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Under the agreement BP Georgia becomes the official partner of the Georgian National Olympic Committee and the Georgian National Paralympic Committee for the London 2012 Games.

BP also announced today names of five Georgian athletes and the intention to sign an agreement with the sixth athlete, whom BP will support in the run-up and during the London 2012 Games. BP's three Olympic and three Paralympic athlete ambassadors are: David Marsagishvili – freestyle wrestling, Varlam Liparteliani – judo, Luba Golovina – trampoline, Iago Gorgodze – power lifting, Shota Omarashvili - power lifting, Nikoloz Tvauri – swimming.

Addressing the official launch event for BP's partnership with the NOC and NPC, Neil Dunn, General Manager for BP in Georgia said: "BP Georgia is proud to be a sponsor of Georgian National Olympic and Paralympic Committees. I am pleased that we are contributing to the Georgian teams' success at the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games in London and helping to insure that our athlete ambassadors will perform at their very best during the games. This is an exciting time for all of us in BP Georgia as we watch the progress of Georgian Olympic and Paralympic Teams during the run-up to the Games".

Gia Natsvlishvili, President of the Georgian National Olympic Committee, said: BP's support for Georgian Olympic team will help our overall success at the Games and strengthen our links internationally raising country profile".

Levan Odisharia, President of the Georgian National Paralympic Committee, said: "We believe our partnership with BP will help Paralympic committee and our athletes to

perform at their best at London 2012. BP's support will also help us raise paralympic sports profile and promote Inclusive life-style that drives success and deserves greater attention".

Notes to editors:

About BP in Georgia

BP is one of the world's largest energy companies, operating in more than 80 countries. BP first came to Georgia in 1996 and, on behalf of its partners now operates three major pipelines: the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline (BTC), the Western Route Export oil pipeline (WREP) and the South Caucasus Gas pipeline (SCP). BP also operates an aviation fuel business – Air BP – at Tbilisi's International Airport. Safe and reliable operations is number one priority for BP.

We also aim to ensure that our presence in Georgia, and wherever we operate, creates mutual advantage for us and for those with whom we come into contact. Using our collective experience and resources and working in partnership with others, we seek to respond to local needs and contribute to building the capacity of individuals, communities and institutions.

About Georgian National Olympic Committee

The Georgian National Olympic Committee was founded on October 6, 1989 and it was the first committee established among the Olympic Committees of former Soviet republics. Georgian NOC was recognized by the International Olympic Committee on March 9, 1992. Georgian Olympians' Association, Georgian Olympic Academy, Georgian Museum and Olympic Library together with the Georgian NOC are doing their best to promote the Olympic Ideals of the country.

Georgian athletes participate in the Olympic Games since 1952. The debut of the country with an independent team was in 1996 at the Olympic Games in Atlanta and in 1994 at the Olympic Winter Games in Lillehammer. Total about 260 Georgian athletes have taken part in the Olympic Games in twenty sports winning 112 medals including 36 gold, 25 silver and 51 bronze. With the number of gold medals (36) obtained during 1952-2008 Georgia ranks among first 25 of the 205 countries in the world.

About Georgian National Paralympic Committee

The Georgian National Paralympic Committee (NPC) was founded on 30 May 2003, with Davit Maisuradze elected as NPC's first president. On 28 November 2011, the elections of the new executives were held and Levan Odisharia was elected the new president of NPC.

Georgia first participated in the Paralympic Games in Beijing in 2008, where the country was represented by one athlete - Iago Gorgodze, who won a bronze medal in powerlifting. At present, three athletes are running up for the London Paralympics in two sports – Iago Gorgodze and Shota Omarashvili in powerlifting, and Nikoloz Tvauri in swimming.

The NPC aims at promoting the Paralympic movement and strives to ensure that the Paralympic sports become available to wider number of individuals with disabilities, to encourage and support the Paralympic sports activities.

Background on BP involvement with London 2012

- BP is the **Official Oil and Gas Partner** for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, providing advanced fuels and lubricants for the 4,000 official Games vehicles, LPG for catering and car washing facilities.
- As a **Sustainability Partner** and the **Official Carbon Offsetting Partner with Target Neutral** (www.targetneutral.co.uk) BP will contribute to a lower carbon Games.
- As a **Premier Partner of the Cultural Olympiad**, BP is building on its longstanding support of arts and culture in the UK, and providing millions of people with an opportunity to get involved in the build-up to the Games. The programmes that BP supports and which are part of the Cultural Olympiad include:
 - London 2012 Open Weekend: a yearly countdown celebration to the London 2012 Games. So far, over a million people have visited Open Weekend events across the UK, an opportunity for the public to try something new in arts and culture. <http://www.london2012.com/get-involved/open-weekend/>
 - Tate Movie Project: the first of its kind - an animated film made by and for children. With the talents of Aardman, the Tate Movie project aims to inspire 5 – 13 year olds across the UK to engage with and contribute ideas for the making of an animated movie. <http://www.tatemovie.co.uk>
 - BP Portrait Awards: Next Generation: Inspired by London 2012, this project encourages young people between the ages of 14-19 to increase their involvement with portraiture. Participants attend workshops and have the opportunity to meet and work with practising artists who have exhibited at the BP Portrait Awards. <http://www.npg.org.uk/whatson/exhibitions/bp-portrait-award-2010/bp-portrait-award-next-generation3.php>
 - The Olympic Journey: The Story of the Games: A BP collaboration with the Royal Opera House and The Olympic Museum in Lausanne. The exhibition will be created and staged at the Royal Opera House for the duration of the Olympic Games next summer from 27 July to 12 August 2012. It will include unique artefacts, graphics, film and audio from The Olympic Museum in Lausanne being shown in London for the very first time, and promises to be a highlight of the London 2012 Festival, the finale of the Cultural Olympiad. <http://www.bp.com/genericarticle.do?categoryId=2012968&contentId=7068860>
 - London 1612: Shakespeare's Theatre of the World, will open at the British Museum in the run-up to the London 2012 Games. It will be supported by BP and will explore the role of the capital as an emerging international city 400 years ago, interpreted through Shakespeare's plays
 - BP is supporting **the Young Leaders Programme**. In bidding for the 2012 Games, London 2012 made a commitment to deliver a project to

support 100 young people on an intensive personal development programme. The aim was for them to play a significant role in the delivery of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The London 2012 Young Leaders Programme (YLP), supported by BP, is designed to give a group of disadvantaged young people the chance to make positive change to their lives. This will be achieved by participation in a number of remarkable volunteering opportunities between April 2010 and the end of the Games in September 2012.

<http://www.london2012.com/youngleaders>

- BP is also inspiring young people through the Enterprise Trading Game and Roadshow. The Game is a work-related learning game that offers students the opportunity to put enterprise, maths and business skills into action through an exciting simulation of real-life oil trading. The Roadshow is a one-day schools roadshow focusing on maths and enterprise, delivered in all areas of the UK by the time of the Olympic Games in 2012.

<http://www.bp.com/sectiongenericarticle.do?categoryId=9036379&contentId=7067216>

- BP in London is supporting 6 outstanding British athletes as they prepare for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games: Jessica Ennis; Lizzie Amitstead; Shelly Woods; Richard Whitehead; Stef Reid and William Sharman. BP will be helping them to reduce their carbon footprint as they prepare for the Games using the Target Neutral framework of Reduce-Replace-Neutralise. To find out more about BP's athletes, go to www.bp.com/london2012

Further information:

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