

The world of able bodied and disabled sport is changing. Funding for Paralympic sports is increasing every quadrennial cycle (The total funding rose from **£10,075,602** for Sydney to **£29,545,872** in Beijing, with the most notable increases (100% or more increase in funding) over the last quadrennial cycle in archery, boccia, cycling, fencing, goalball, equestrian, shooting, powerlifting and table tennis).

### ***Paralympic Developments***

In 2009, the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) celebrated its' 20-year anniversary, acknowledging the greatly positive impact that the Paralympic Games has exerted on disability issues.

Such an impact has been noted by the United Nations, with whom the International Olympic and Paralympic Committees share a bond. Wilfried Lemke, Special Advisor to the UN Secretary General on Sport for Development and Peace, commented that *'The IPC is an unparalleled success story.'* He went on to state: *'If I look back a decade and consider just the importance and the impact that the IPC has had and continues to have not only on the world of sports, but on our society as a whole, then you get an idea of what the IPC...has achieved in recent years'.*

Lemke went on to acknowledge the fact that, in the most recent Games (Beijing 2008), the

Paralympic Games had greatly and positively changed the lives of the 90m people with a disability that are currently living in China.

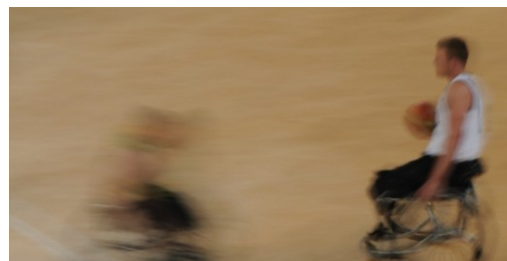


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### ***Media Coverage***

Encouragingly, the upcoming Vancouver 2010 Winter Paralympic Games has been assigned a record of 50-hour of High Definition TV coverage in both French and English.

It appears that LOCOG (The London Olympic Games Organising Committee) share an equal commitment to provision of adequate media coverage for Paralympic sport, with Lord Sebastian Coe, Chairman of the London Games, commenting that '[the Paralympic Games] are a golden opportunity to raise awareness of Paralympic sport, challenge stereotypes about disability and secure a legacy which would see every child with a disability having access to sport'.

*Passing the baton: Vancouver-London-Sochi*

The legacy for top-class provision of Paralympic sport will continue in Russia. Dmitry Chernyshenko, President and CEO of the Sochi 2014 Winter Games began their Paralympic legacy with the opening of the Equal Chances Sport Festival (Summer 2009); the purpose of the Festival was to raise the profile of Paralympic sport and disability sport within Russia.

Undoubtedly this event will be just the start of a long and comprehensive campaign to develop both the Paralympic and Olympic name in the run-up to the Sochi 2014 Winter Games

***START THE DISCUSSION***

1. Do you think that investment and support for disabled sport is increasing?
2. Do you think that parity will ever be achieved for disabled sport?

***FIND OUT MORE***

International Paralympic Committee  
<http://www.paralympic.org>

### ***CREDITS***

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