WORLD AQUATIC FAMILY GATHERS IN CHINA FOR FINA WORLD AQUATICS GALA 2017

The FINA World Aquatics Gala "Soiree des Etoiles," the fourth edition of its kind, is set to celebrate the best athletes and coaches of 2017 in Sanya, South China's Hainan Province, on Saturday December 2.

In addition to the biggest FINA Stars, several of the most outstanding Chinese athletes in aquatic sports will gather at the Gala, such as Olympic and World champion Sun Yang, Olympic medallist Fu Yuanhui, synchronised swimmers sisters Jiang Wenwen/Jiang Tingting, and former Olympic and World champions including Tian Liang, Xiong Ni, Guo Jingjing and Gao Ming, and many others.

The Gala will award 13 male and female athletes as well as celebrate 14 coaches who have played a crucial role in their athletes’ success in 2017.

Two Masters athletes will also be distinguished for their outstanding commitment.

Finally, the FINA Media Award of 2017 will be attributed.

You can watch the Gala and discover the winners LIVE on FINAtv. Start your free trial HERE

Winners biographies and interviews will be available on FINA website (homepage) as soon as they are announced.

The FINA World Aquatics Gala was first held in Doha (QAT), before the start of the 12th FINA World Swimming Championships (25m). The following edition was organised in Budapest (HUN) on January 31, 2016 and the 2016 awardees were known in Windsor (CAN) on December 4, 2016, a couple of days before the start of the 13th FINA World Swimming Championships (25m).

LE CLOS AND SJOSTROM CONFIRM 2017 SWC OVERALL TITLE

The 2017 FINA/airweave Swimming World Cup concluded last week in Singapore (November 19) as World champions Chad Le Clos (RSA) and Sarah Sjostrom (SWE) bagged the overall title and prize money available.
Both swimming greats had been leading the pool since the start of the season, in August 2017.

After an eight-leg circuit which stopped in Moscow, Berlin, Eindhoven, Hong Kong, Doha, Beijing, Tokyo and Singapore, the top three of the event with corresponding prize money unfolds as follows:

**Men**
1. Chad Le Clos (RSA), 447 points - US$ 150,000
2. Vladimir Morozov (RUS), 333 points - US$ 100,000
3. Kirill Prigoda (RUS), 270 points - US$ 50,000

**Women**
1. Sarah Sjostrom (SWE), 629 points - US$ 150,000
2. Katinka Hosszu (HUN), 482 points - US$ 100,000
3. Ranomi Kromowidjojo (NED), 299 points - US$ 50,000

This triumph was Le Clos’ fourth SWC overall title as he won in 2011, 2013 and 2014, while this was Sjostrom’s first ever overall victory of the event.

Both runners-up Vladimir Morozov (RUS) and Katinka Hosszu (HUN) have won the 2016 edition of the World Cup respectively. Hosszu had dominated the Series every year since 2012.

A total of 7 World Records (25m) were broken at the 2017 Swimming World Cup, all established by women.

**In Moscow**
- Sarah Sjostrom: 50m freestyle – 23.10
- 100m freestyle – 50.77

**In Berlin**
- Ranomi Kromowidyojo: 50m freestyle – 22.93
- Katinka Hosszu: 100m IM – 56.51

**In Eindhoven**
- Sarah Sjostrom: 100m freestyle – 50.58
- 200m freestyle – 1:50.43
- Mireia Belmonte: 400m IM – 4:18.94

Another 13 World Cup Records were also broken throughout the Series.

Take a look at the complete results book here

FINA SCHOLARSHIP HOLDER SAJAN PRAKASH OF INDIA IMPRESS IN SINGAPORE SWC

FINA Scholarship holder Sajan Prakash of India clocked his best time last weekend in Singapore at the ultimate meet of the FINA/airweave Swimming World Cup 2017, when he came fifth in the 200m butterfly in 1:54.49.

South Africa’s Chad Le Clos won the race in 1:49.25, while Japanese Daiya Seto in and Masaki Kaneko took silver and bronze in respectively 1:50.19 and 1:52.23.

Breaking the national records on four occasions during the World Cup 2017, Sajan Prakash is the most prolific swimmer in India to this day and represent a huge hope for his country, a market with vast potential for the sport.

Back at the training camp with his coach Miguel Lopez, Sajan came back on his great race alongside overall Series winner Chad Le Clos.

“My main aim is to achieve a world class performance in or before 2020 and I realised I am not too far to do so.

“I realised it's just small things I need to improve, like I need be more athletic and improve my technical stuff inside the water. “I started working on small things
technically which make a big difference, like improving on athleticism and being consistent and focused after every race helped me to achieve this time in 200m fly.”

“Since I have been competing in the same events than Chad, which is since 2014, I had never really been in the same line up with top swimmers like him or Daiya Seto.

“I respect their commitment to the sport and they are my inspiration at this level of swimming. It was great swimming next to these legends. They motivate to do many more things for my country.”

Read full interview

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Fédération Internationale de Natation (FINA)

The Fédération Internationale de Natation, FINA (founded in 1908) is the governing body for aquatics worldwide. Its five disciplines - Swimming, Open Water Swimming, Diving, Water Polo and Synchronised Swimming - are all included in the Olympic programme. High Diving is on the World Championships programme since 2013. FINA organises World Championships, World Swimming Championships in 25m-pool and World Masters Championships every two years. FINA counts 207 affiliated National Federations on the five continents and has its headquarters in Lausanne (SUI).

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