The brand new Aquatic venue that will host the upcoming 17th FINA World Championships in Budapest, Hungary, was officially inaugurated on Tuesday 21 February as Hungary Prime Minister Viktor Orban received FINA Executive Director Cornel Marculescu and FINA Vice-President Tamas Gyarfas in his office in the Parliament.

Though the grand opening is scheduled for May, the new complex called the Danube Arena and its warm-up pool – also a full Olympic size pool – are ready to welcome the athletes.

All parties and authorities agreed that Budapest is read to stage the best ever FINA World Championships, an argument proved by the fast and efficient way the new Arena was constructed for the World Championships in record time.

Government Commissioner Balazs Furjes said:

"Despite the short notice, we have proved once more, that FINA can rely on us, Hungarians, as we are keeping our promises. Few would have believed last May, when we laid down the steppingstone here, that we would be ready on time, or now let me say, two months before the deadline set, while keeping the cost plans."

FINA Executive Director Cornel Marculescu also praised the constructors in his speech at the inauguration:

"I have never witnessed something similar in the past, to deliver a construction of such scope in such a short term. To tell the truth, when I am here, I don’t feel I am in a swimming pool. This place is much more than just a pool. It is a masterpiece, a perfect setting for the World Championships this summer."
Budapest Mayor Istvan Tarlos symbolically handed over the keys of the Danube Arena to three-time Olympic champion Katinka Hosszu who later inaugurated the first pool together with Hungary’s other swimming greats, World champion Laszlo Cseh, Olympic champion Daniel Gyurta, World short-course champion Peter Bernek who swam a virtual race. The swimming competition during the World Championships will run from 23-30 July.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS WATER POLO DRAW TO BE LIVE STREAMED!

Both the Men and Women’s Water Polo Draw for the FINA World Championships will be held on Friday February 24 in the Hungarian capital and the event will be live streamed on FINA Youtube channel (12:00-12:40 local time in Budapest).

Don’t miss it, follow this link!

Both World Championships water polo tournaments will be held from July 16 to July 29 (schedule).

In addition, the Draw for the FINA World Men’s and Women’s Junior Water Polo Championships to be held in Belgrade (SRB) from August 5-13 and in Volos (GRE) from September 3-9 respectively, will also take place this Friday.

Please follow the same link to watch the draw live.

SHI TINGMAO & CAO YUAN AMONG DIVERS TO PERFORM IN DWS FIRST LEG

The 2017 edition of the FINA/NVC Diving World Series is just around the corner, with the first leg to be held in Beijing, China, on March 3-5.

Beijing has been hosting a leg of the Series consecutively since 2011.

The world’s diving elite will then return in China for the second leg which will be organised in Guangzhou City from March 23-25. Kazan (RUS) and Windsor (CAN) will stage the third and fourth meets of this prestigious circuit.

Among the stars announced to dive in the Beijing Water Cube at the beginning of next month are Malaysia's Pandelela Pamg, Canada's Meaghan Benfeito, Australia's Maddison Keeney and Esther Qin. In the men's field, Jahir Ocampo of Mexico, Great Britan's Tom Daley and Germany's Sasha Klein among others will be present.

Beijing schedule unfolds as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY 1 – 3 March 2017 (Friday)</th>
<th>DAY 2 – 4 March 2017 (Saturday)</th>
<th>DAY 3 – 5 March 2017 (Sunday)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:00-10:39 10m Synchro Women Final</td>
<td>10:00-10:36 3m Women Semi-Final A &amp; Semi-Final B</td>
<td>10:00-10:36 10m Women Semi-Final A &amp; Semi-Final B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:44-11:30 10m Synchro Men Final</td>
<td>11:06-11:33 3m Men Semi-Final A &amp; Semi-Final B</td>
<td>11:06-12:00 10m Men Semi-Final A &amp; Semi-Final B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Award ceremonies</td>
<td>18:35-19:09 3m Women Final</td>
<td>18:35-19:09 10m Women Final</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:00-15:39 3m Synchro Women Final</td>
<td>19:14-19:55 3m Men Final</td>
<td>19:14-19:55 10m Men Final</td>
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<tr>
<td>19:14-19:55 3m Men Final</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
15:44-16:30  
3m Synchro Men Final  
Award ceremonies

20:10-20:44  
3m Mixed Synchro Final  
Award ceremonies

20:10-20:44  
10m Mixed Synchro Final  
Award ceremonies

>>PLAY THE VIDEO<<