

Issy-les-Moulineaux, 27th of March 2008

32nd EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL PARIS MARATHON

The International Paris Marathon which will take off on Sunday the 6th of April at 8:45 AM (8:35 for the handisport race) was officially presented this morning at the Paris City Hall in the presence of Monsieur Bertrand Delanoë, mayor of Paris.

Joël Lainé, director of the event pointed out that for this 32nd edition, the registrations were closed over four months before the event. The 20th of November, over 35 000 participants had already entered the race and the different registrations via the foreigners correspondents of the organisation lifted the number of runners to a total of 37 000. The increasing number of runners for this event is the best proof of its success and the craze of the passionate for this great adventure in the streets of our capital.

Among the 37 000 competitors enlisted, 16.4% are women and 94 nationalities will be present. Close to 10 000 foreigners (30% of the competitors) including 2 994 English, 1070 Italians, 895 Germans, 785 Americans and 660 Belgians will be on the start line. The course will take the field from the Champs-Élysées to the Avenue Foch passing by the Place de la Concorde, the Rue de Rivoli, Bastille, the Bois de Vincennes, the Quais de Seine, the Trocadéro and the Bois de Boulogne.

Among the elite runners, the quality of the field promises a great battle that could even end up with a new event record, still held by Kenyan Mike Rotich in a time of 2h06'33 since the 2003 edition. The most impressive of the pack could this year be Japan's Takaoka Toshinari whose personal record is 2h06'16. In the women's race, the Ethiopians have again the ambition to put the name of one of their runners on the winners list. This year, Worknesh Tola (2h25'42) will be leading the team. Concerning the French, the best chance looks to be in the hands, or legs of James Theuri (2h14'05), who will have the mission to follow the leading group as far out as possible to hope for glory.

Sensitive to the respect of the environment, the organisers of the Paris Marathon have set up different solutions in order to reduce the consumption of energy, to develop the recycling of waste and more globally to master the environmental impact of the race that will be held right at the end of the "week for durable development".

For the first time on a marathon, a nurse supplied with a defibrillator will be present at every kilometre of the race in order to allow a fast healing rescue in case of a cardiac arrest.

From Thursday the 3rd to Saturday the 5th of April, Marathon Expo will freely open its doors at the Paris Parc des Expositions, Porte de Versailles (Hall 5). An international meeting point for the running world, Marathon Expo will offer to its 134 exhibitors the possibility to present their events and their products to the 60 000 expected visitors.

Saturday the 5th of April, the 7th edition of the Breakfast race will take off at the Parvis de l'Unesco, for a 5.2 kilometre friendly course that will help to prepare for the big day.

The television broadcast of the International Paris Marathon has regularly increased, this year again, Europe, Africa, Asia, North and South America, India and the Middle East will show footage of the 32nd edition.

For the 200 000 spectators expected in the streets of the capital, it'll certainly be a festive day. 75 musical and festive animations will transform the 42.195 kilometres of the course in a long colourful dancing and chanting snake.

Find all the information on the official website: www.parismarathon.com

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