

**IAAF ATHLETES' COMMISSION
EVENT REPORT**



Competition: IAAF World Cross Country Championships, Fukuoka, JPN – April 1-2 2006

Filed by: Koji Murofushi

Areas to report on (from the athletes' point of view):

1. Accommodation (Number of hotels, quality etc.)

All the athletes and coaches stayed at the Sea Hawk Hotel. It is located on the beach with a nice atmosphere and the quality of the hotel and rooms were good.

2. Dining Arrangements (Quality, quantity etc.)

Overall everyone seemed to be satisfied, but below are a few comments that may help for future improvements.

- a) Athletes were asking for more variety of breads and cereals for breakfast.
- b) South African athletes noted that the food was mostly prepared in an Asian way, so more variety was needed for people from other continents.
- c) But on the other hand, athletes were wondering why there wasn't much Japanese food.
- d) Comments to note from Japanese athletes.
 - i) I wished there was plain steamed rice and miso-soup every morning.
 - ii) Almost the same menu every day. Wished for more seafood.
 - iii) Hoped there was more Japanese food, not enough.
- e) Comments to note from Coaches and athletes from Holland
 - i) There was too much fat in the meals.
 - ii) Should have been just plain pasta and rice with choices of sauces or toppings that you can put on to your preference.
 - iii) There was too much fat and sugar in the breads

3. Transportation (Schedules, availability, comfort etc.)

The buses to and fro the hotel and the venue(s) were crowded during peak hours. Also some people noted that the operation was not smooth and there was room for improvement in availability and comfort. Buses were leaving every 15 minutes, but perhaps in the future they should

increase the number of buses or have the buses to leave every 10 minutes instead during peak hours.

4. Team Attachés (Availability, languages spoken etc.)

English was not well spoken in Fukuoka, especially if you wander out of the hotel or the venue(s) area. Some of the athletes were asking for attaché or signs to help assist the athletes and coaches.

5. Arrival (Pick Up, Check in, Welcome desk etc.)

There were athletes and coaches from a few countries that were waiting in the lobby for up to 6 hours after they came in from the airport, to get into their rooms. Considering they have traveled a long way to get there, the travel itself is stressful. In order to make their travel, stay and overall experience more comfortable and less stressful, they should be able to get in their rooms in a more timely fashion.

6. Warm Up Area

Overall the athletes were satisfied with the course. But some say that the course should be a little longer. Also there was a comment for a need of toilets in the warm up area.

7. Cross Country Course

No specific comments noted for the course.

8. Mixed Zone (Press Area)

Everything was smooth and no specific comments were noted.

9. Interview Area

Well coordinated and no specific comments were noted.

10. Time Table

Punctual and no specific comments were noted.

11. Final Banquet

No specific comments were noted