

TOP STORIES

- Lighting the Olympic Flame and start of the Tbilisi 2015 Olympic torch relay
- A collectable coin was dedicated to EYOF Tbilisi 2015
- A Famous director will lead Opening & Closing Ceremonies



QUOTES OF THE MONTH



- Welcome speech by the President of the Hellenic Olympic Committee, Mr. Spyros Capralos, at the Flame Lighting Ceremony

"The Flame has a significant meaning for the Greek Olympic Committee, since our two countries, Georgia and Greece, have had a close and special relationship for over 35 centuries. The Greek-Georgian relationship, according to historians, began during the Mycenaean Era, when the Greeks arrived at the shore of the Black Sea for the first time. This period was described in the myth of the Argonauts' Kolkheti campaign.

Today, the two countries have maintained the friendly relationship that started so long ago. For exactly this reason, our dear guests, dear members of the 13th Youth Olympic Festival, you see smiles upon our faces. These smiles are honest and they come from our hearts. I sincerely wish you great success in hosting the Youth Olympic Festival!"



- Speech by the Chairman of EYOF Tbilisi 2015, Aleksi Akhvediani, at the Flame Lighting Ceremony

"Along with our great excitement, we feel a great deal of responsibility. I promise that we will safely bring the Olympic flame to our country, where we will organize a large-scale, two-month long relay throughout the country. The torch relay will be accompanied by festivities along its path. I cannot even describe Georgia's excitement for the upcoming events. On the 26th of July, the day of the opening of Tbilisi 2015, the flame will enter the grand Opening Ceremony. Dear President, thank you for this impressive event, and thank you for letting every member of the delegation feel the Olympic spirit. We are proud to have the honor to bring the Olympic flame to our country."

Lighting & Handover Ceremony of the Flame for the European Youth Olympic Festival Tbilisi 2015

The Olympic Flame, a symbol of the 13th European Youth Olympic Festival Tbilisi 2015, was lit on May 26th in the ancient Greek city, Athens. The Lighting Ceremony took place at the Panathenaic Stadium. The Flame was lit during a special ritual dance led by the High Priestess Mrs. Katerina Lehou. Mrs. Lehou lit the Olympic torch with the power of the sun and handed the flame to the Greek pole vaulter, Emmanouil Karalis. He handed the flame over to the Georgian athlete, Lasha Shavdatuashvili, who was the first torchbearer from the Georgian side to relay the Flame around the Panathenaic Stadium. Lasha was a Gold medalist in Judo at the 2012 London Olympic Games. In 2013, he won the European Championships in Judo. He was also named Georgia's top athlete (as the top athlete of Georgia). He handed the Flame over to the second Georgian torchbearer, Mariam Bolkvadze, who was the Bronze medalist in Tennis at the EYOF in Utrecht in 2013. A number of Georgians living in Athens: famous Georgian athletes, public figures and representatives of a number of Tbilisi 2015 official sponsors attended the ceremony.

Gino Paradise was the official sponsor of the Olympic Torch of Tbilisi 2015.

Lighting of the Olympic flame and the start of the Tbilisi 2015 Olympic torch relay

On May 26th at 20:00, the Olympic Torch landed at the Batumi International Airport on a special charter flight.

The Chairman of the European Youth Olympic Festival Tbilisi 2015 Organizing Committee, Aleksi Akhvlediani, placed the flame in a secure case and handed it over to the President of the National Olympic Committee, Leri Khabelov.

At the airport, the President of the National Olympic Committee, Leri Khabelov, the State Minister of European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, Davit Bakradze, and the Chair of the Adjara Autonomous Republic Government Archil Khabadze, addressed the assembled audience.

Leri Khabelov stated, "The Olympic Flame is in Georgia. Congratulations on this historic day, which coincides with Independence Day of Georgia. On July 26th our capital city is hosting the European Youth Olympic Festival, which will aid young athletes in their careers. I would like to wish them great success."

Davit Bakradze stated: "It is the first time for Georgia to be the host of such a large-scale sports event. We are confident that we will host the European Youth Olympic Festival worthily and represent our country's best side."

Archil Khabadze stated: "Sport unifies cities, countries and continents. Today, in Adjara, we are witnessing a historic event. Georgia became the host of the European Youth Olympic Festival for the first time, and since Batumi is the first city where the Olympic Flame has entered, it is important for our region. The torch relay begins here."

After the Official Ceremony finished, Aleksi Akhvlediani announced that the torch relay had officially opened and asked the President of the National Olympic Committee, Leri Khabelov, to pass the torch onto resident of Adjara and World Gymnastics Champion, Rusudan Sikharulidze.

Twenty-two additional torchbearers took part in the Batumi torch relay, including famous athletes, singers, doctors, actors, poets and public figures.

Finally, Revaz Chelebadze, a veteran football player, brought the flame to the Piazza where a concert was held to celebrate arrival of the flame.



A collectable coin was dedicated to EYOF Tbilisi 2015



The National Bank of Georgia issued a collectable coin dedicated to EYOF Tbilisi 2015.

The colored emblem of the Olympic Festival and pictograms representing the Olympic sports are the central themes of the coin's design. The back of the coin features the emblem of the Georgian National Olympic Committee, the Olympic torch, and a map of Europe. The coin also features the emblem of the National Bank of Georgia and nine stars in the style of the European Union Flag, representing the nine sports included in the program.

Mamuka Gongadze created the design. The coin was minted by Mennica Polska (Poland).

The Chairman of EYOF Tbilisi 2015, Aleks I Akhvlediani, and the Executive Director of National Bank, Giorgi Melashvili, attended the coin cutting in Warsaw. A total of 925 silver samples of the 15.50 gram coin will be produced. There will be 3000 coins circulating in the market, and they will be available for purchase in June. As soon as the coins arrive from the factory, they will be available at the Central Branch of the National Bank and at the Kvareli Money Museum and its online shop: www.moneymuseum.nbg.gov.ge.

The decision to mint the coin by the National Bank will contribute to the promotion and representation of Georgian sport abroad. Furthermore, the coins will be great souvenirs for sport enthusiasts and tourists alike.



A Famous director will lead Opening & Closing Ceremonies

The Chairman of EYOF Tbilisi 2015, Aleks I Akhvlediani, presented the Organizing Group for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies.

The Georgian Government and the European Youth Olympic Festival Tbilisi 2015 Organizing Committee decided that the Opening and Closing Ceremonies for the European Youth Olympic Festival Tbilisi 2015 will be supervised by the Georgian Chamber of Culture.

The group will be guided by the President of the Georgian Chamber of Culture, Davit Okitashvili. For this particular event, the Georgian Chamber of Culture invited the world- renowned director, David Zolkwer. He worked on the Hong Kong Handover and Farewell Ceremonies in 1997, the Opening Ceremony for the Commonwealth Games in 2002, the Opening Ceremony for the Athens Olympic Games in 2004, was a consultant for the Opening Ceremony for the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008, the Opening Ceremony for the FIFA Confederation Cup in 2009, the Opening Ceremony for the FIFA World Cup in 2010, the Director of Great Britain's Royal Wedding, and has been the organizer and director of many other important events. Zolkwer was awarded with an honorary doctoral degree by the University of London.

For this event, David Zolkwer will be aided by the directors, Davit Doiashvili and Basa Potskhishvili, as well as the designer, Tamar Potskhishvili.

Aleks I Akhvlediani stated : "Our first request was to highlight in detail our nation's proud history. The Georgian Chamber of Culture and David Zolkwer will portray our history in the ceremonies. Regarding other details of the ceremony, unfortunately, I cannot say much, and we will have to wait for the 26th of July".



SPONSORS



Torch Sponsor

Tbilisi 2015 has 3 platinum sponsors



Official Carrier



Silver sponsor



Bronze sponsor



Advertising Agency



Partner



Media Partner



11 MACHABELI ST. TEL: (+995 32) 272 22 72
E-MAIL: INFO@TBILISI2015.COM
WWW.TBILISI2015.COM

www.tbilisi2015.com