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Maglione is anticipating the best World Championships of all times

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The 17th FINA World Championships hosted by Hungary could be the best tournament of all times- said dr. Julio C. Maglione, the President of the International Swimming Federation (FINA) at the usual opening press conference held in Duna Arena on Friday. The conference attended by members of the press featured Cornel Marculescu FINA Executive Director, Tamás Gyárfás FINA Vice-President and Éva Szántó Executive Director at Bp2017 LLC.

In his opening speech Julio C. Maglione praised the accomplishments of organisers and claimed that the newly-built Duna Arena is one of the most amazing swimming complexes in the world. He believes that thanks to the unique features of the complex as well as the excellent work done by organisers this could be the best World Championships of all times. The President of FINA expressed his gratitude for Hungary and Prime Minister Viktor Orbán in particular, for the warm hospitality and for the hard work done by the organising committee. Finally, he added that he was sure those following the broadcasts on the five continents will most definitely enjoy the World Championships promising to be remarkable.

Cornel Marculescu, Executive Director of FINA started off his welcome speech by emphasizing the significance of the World Championships. The gigantic event featuring tournaments in six disciplines in one of the key international sporting events which is also demonstrated by high viewing figures. The World Championships hosted by Barcelona in 2013 were followed by 5 billion, two years later the event in Kazan was followed by 6.8 billion viewers worldwide showing an increasing interest in the disciplines.



Photo: József Szarka

Water disciplines debuted in the digital platform at the Rio Olympics, while FINA TV launched at the World Championships in Budapest proves that FINA considers it highly important to promote the event visually by the means of modern technology. Marculescu referred to Duna Arena as one of the best swimming complexes in the world and continued to emphasize the natural beauty of Balatonfüred and the City Park.

Éva Szántó, Executive Director at Bp2017 LLC, the company in charge of organising the World Championships welcomed officials and members of the press on behalf of Hungary. She expressed her thanks to FINA and the Government of Hungary for their support and highlighted that this efficient cooperation allowed for organising the event successfully.

Following the speeches in response to questions by journalists the President of FINA added that the amazing facilities established for the World Championships will in the long run serve the interests of swimming in Hungary and of future generations.