The IOC 2001 Women and Sport Trophy Trophies have been awarded to the winners by the IOC President, during a ceremony held at the IOC headquarters last May. The trophy, established in 2000, is awarded annually to a woman/man athlete, coach, administrator or journalist for an outstanding contribution to the advancement of sports and for being a role model to women and girls in physical and sports activities, in coaching, in administrative and leadership sport structures, as well as the promotion of women’s sport in the media and of women journalists. Five continental trophies and one at world level are awarded. The winners were designated by the IOC Women and Sport Working Group, chaired by Anita L. DeFrantz, 1st IOC vice-president, from the forty candidates submitted by NOCs and FIIs: Sahar El Hawary, Egypt for Africa, Marion Lay, Canada for Asia, Ruth Brosche, Germany for Europe, and the Australian Olympic Committee (represented by Richard Kevan Gosper, IOC member in Australia) for Oceania.

Sahar El Hawary has been committed to women’s football in Egypt since 1993. As sport manager, communication, television commentator and referee, she has been very active and successful in fostering sport for women in Egypt and in the Arab world. Under her initiative, the first women’s football committee was established and led to the organization of the first Arab Women’s Football Tournament in Egypt in 1997. Appointed member of the FIFA Committee for Women’s Football in 1998, she has also been president of the first Arab League in women’s football since 2000 and is the first woman member of the Egyptian Football Association.

Marion Lay has contributed throughout her life to Canadian sport and to the advancement of women in sport in Canada and around the world as an athlete, coach, teacher, and administrator. As an advisor to both federal and provincial Government, she managed Sport Canada’s Women’s Programme and was a founder of the Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women in Sport and Physical Activity (CAAWS). Member of the Canadian Olympic swimming team at the 1964 and 1968 Olympic Games, she was a bronze medalist in the 4x100m freestyle relay in 1968. Ms Lay is currently director of programmes for “Promotion Plus", the British Columbia organization for girls and women in physical activity and sport, of which she is the founding chairperson.

The Malaysian Women's Hockey Association was the first all-women national sports association established in the country in 1974. It has been one of the most well-organized and -managed associations, raising its own funds and organizing its activities, relentlessly promoting women and sport in Malaysia and in the Asian region. Women involved in hockey have been the pioneers of women’s sport since the 1920’s. It has selected and trained numerous national women teams to participate in international women’s hockey championships as well as in the Asian Games and the Southeast Asian Games.

Ruth Brosche served as chairman of the Federal Commission for Women and Sport within the German Sports Confederation and encouraged the participation of women in disciplines that were until then considered as reserved for men and called for high-level competitions. She has worked, among others, for the inclusion of pole vault, hammer throw, weightlifting, football and waterpolo in female sports programmes. In 1972, she organized the first National Women’s Congress, of which the impact has been very important in raising awareness about issues faced by women in sport.

The Working Group decided to award the world trophy to the Australian Olympic Committee, in recognition of its important work on the occasion of the Games of the XXVII Olympiad in Sydney, which celebrated with special emphasis the hundredth anniversary of women’s participation in the Olympic Games - in particular during the Opening Ceremony, and marked a record participation for women athletes from all over the world.

The Swissair Group became the official airline of the IOC last May. This partnership, announced by the IOC President and Swissair Group Chairman and CEO, Mario Corth, encompasses key services, support and business development initiatives through the Group’s many operations, Crossair, the Nuance Airline, and Swissair, are part of the cooperation between the two Swiss-based international organizations. As the preferred carrier for the IOC, Swissair will play a major role in the passenger and cargo needs of the Olympic Movement.

The group’s Swissair division will handle the extensive operations required for the 112th IOC Session in Moscow. Furthermore, the Swissair Group will support the IOC’s global promotional campaign, ‘Celebrate Humanity’, and promote the Olympic Movement on and off board and through joint activities with other Olympic parties. Through the Nuance Group, the world’s largest airport retailer, the Swissair Group partnership will build on the success of The Olympic Store, a retail concept promoting the Olympic dream, which started in Sydney and has now moved successfully to Athens, Greece and will soon open in Zurich and Geneva. As the IOC works with Organizing Committees and other partners to raise the standard and quality of Olympic licensed merchandise, The Olympic Stores will soon be showpieces for the Olympic Movement. A long-term agreement was recently signed between the IOC and the Mizuno Corporation, taking the partnership between the two organizations up to the Games of the XXIX Olympiad in 2008. As official supplier to the IOC, Mizuno will supply uniforms outfitting members and staff of the IOC and of the Olympic Museum, various Commissions including the IOC Medical and Athletes’Commissions and other supporting technical staff working to help manage part of the Games’ operations. Mizuno has been a long-term supporter of the Olympic Movement and Official Supplier to the IOC since 1998. Upholding the IOC’s commitment to environmentalism, Mizuno, wherever possible, will construct the thousands of items using the latest environmental low-impact material, such as organic cotton and polyester from recycled plastic bottles.

Source : Bibliothèque du CIO / IOC Library