

Dansk Atletik Forbunds bestyrelsesformand Karsten Munkvads tale fredag 28. marts 2014 på Moltkes Palæ til velkomstmiddag inden IAAF/AL-Bank VM Halvmaraton:

Your Royal Highness, Mr. President, General Secretary, Council members, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Two and a half years ago the City of Copenhagen, Sport Event Denmark and Danish Athletics Federation, were granted the opportunity, to host the IAAF World Half Marathon Championships. The idea behind was to build "The case of Copenhagen:"

- We had the right place.
- We would build the right programs.
- And the IAAF had the perfect event – the World Half Marathon Championships.

We wanted to organize a model-event – hosting an international competition – that other similar Athletics Federations could use, and be inspired by. We wanted to build a model-event that the IAAF could use, as an example of how great things can be achieved - with all of their events – not just the big ones.

The IAAF Council trusted us to deliver, in all of these aspects. The Council agreed with us, that this idea could become a "game-changer", and therefore we are here in Copenhagen today - to change the view upon athletics.

During the preparations we have become more and more confident, that the "Case of Copenhagen" – The IAAF/AL Bank World Half Marathon Championships – delivers a very strong and solid concept.

Tomorrow we will witness the world's top athletes compete, to become world champion – along with 30.000 recreational runners and 1500 volunteers. And more than 100.000 spectators along our fast, flat and scenic route, with live music and DJ's.

We expect to see thousands of personal records - maybe even world records. We will see the largest running event in Denmark ever - a giant runners party.

And tomorrow we will witness the world's largest sport. Global Athletics. The sport that creates active participation, more than any other sport is able to.

Denmark is a small country with limited resources. It's necessary for us to create new ideas, to promote our sport. These Championships is such an example. And we have more good ideas to come ☺

It has been an exiting and educating process, we have been through, and we sincerely hope that we're able to fulfil the "Case of Copenhagen" and the expectations from all participants and all of you present today.

On behalf of the local organizing committee, I would like to thank the IAAF – partners – sponsors – staff and volunteers for all their hard work. Without the dedication and engagement from all of you, this would not have been possible.

Welcome to Copenhagen. Please enjoy the evening. And tomorrow.