

The chairman and IIHF Vice-President Kalervo Kummola as well as members of the IIHF Facility Committee, recently attended a meeting in Sochi that included a tour of the Olympic sites. Of particular interest was the Bolshoi Ice Dome, the main hockey venue for the Games.

“It was amazing,” said IIHF Facility Committee secretary and IIHF Event Development Director Cornelia Ljungberg, “It was half-done, there’s still work to do on the inside, but on the outside it looks quite ready and the plaza in front was impressive.”

The 12,000-seat arena is scheduled to be completed in September, The design of the Bolshoi Ice Dome is based on the image of a frozen drop, and will be principally silver once complete. Following the Games, it will serve as a multi-purpose sports and entertainment centre.

For the first time, the IIHF can publish photos of the arena’s interior where the rink and tribunes can be clearly identified (see above).

The first test events that have been announced for the arena will be the Eurohockey tour (December, 2012) and the IIHF Ice Hockey U18 World Championship (April, 2013).

“This was a very encouraging visit as we are very confident that not only will everything be ready for the Olympics, but the main hockey venue will be ready for hockey one year ahead of the Olympic tournament,” said Kalervo Kummola.

Sochi’s population has more than doubled since the Games were awarded to the Russian Federation. In addition to the local population of 40,000, 55,000 workers have been employed on what’s been labelled the world’s biggest construction site. Russia has had to build all the stadiums and infrastructure from scratch in a seven-year, \$30 billion project, making Sochi 2014 the most expensive Winter Games in history.action, speak to your physician [cheap viagra](#) You must to look at your buddies

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