

President Toomas Hendrik Ilves congratulated Gerd Kanter, who won the gold medal in men's discus at the Beijing Olympics yesterday, for his splendid and confident victory.

"I congratulate you on behalf of the Estonian state and the entire Estonian people on the occasion of your Olympic victory. Your tremendous dedication has shaped you into an undisputed leader and professional in your field. It is this same professionalism that enables you to perform confidently and to win the most important competitions in your life,"

Ilves said in his recent telephone call to Olympic champion Gerd Kanter.

The President thanked the Olympic champion for the powerful experience, which was shared by the entire Estonian nation. "Your Olympic gold medal is a beautiful and wonderful gift for all of us who will be gathering at the Tallinn Song Festival Grounds in a few hours to commemorate Estonia's freedom. We will also be celebrating your victory," the President said.

President also congratulated and thanked Kanter's coach Vesteinn Hafsteinsson and Raul Rebane, the head of the team, for their hard work.

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