



Thank you, Singapore!

Asian Youth Games a big success



Inside this edition

Page 2:	OCA President's Message; OCA mourns Iranian judo tragedy.
Page 3-4:	OCA General Assembly news and views from Singapore.
Page 5-12:	Eight pages of reports, photos and comments from the first Asian Youth Games in Singapore.
Page 13:	Games Update...Kazakhstan and Vietnam.
Page 14-15:	NOC News from around the region.
Page 16:	OCA Youth Camp, Diary of Events, OCA sponsors.

Youth of Asia set example in friendship, understanding



Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al-Sabah

President
Olympic Council of Asia

The first Asian Youth Games in Singapore was an outstanding success, on and off the field of play.

The concept of the AYG was to bring the youth of Asia together through sport, and to build friendship and understanding that will endure much longer than the period of the Games.

It was heartwarming, therefore, to see the youth of Asia embrace these ideals and achieve this goal with a smile on their face.

In fact they even surpassed our expectations with their impeccable behaviour and positive attitude, producing an environment of fun and cooperation on one hand and sporting excellence and sportsmanship on the other.

Even though they were representing different countries and regions, and speaking a variety of languages, they were able to communicate as one and fill the organisers and the OCA with pride.

If anything, they even provided lessons to the adults in how to work together; building trust in what they had in common as opposed to allowing their differences to force them apart.

It is the role of sport and the OCA -- our duty, in fact -- to bring the world together and promote respect and tolerance, and the AYG was a big step in this direction.

Some of the athletes and the NOCs have suffered great hardships in the recent past, from war-torn regions such as Iraq and Palestine, so it was a wonderful opportunity for them to leave their troubles behind and share in such a joyous occasion in Singapore.

The young athletes of today will be the leaders of tomorrow in sport, politics and government, and I hope they will always remember the friends and the festival atmosphere of the first Asian Youth Games, and what can be achieved if we work together.

It is events like this that make you feel optimistic for the future of the world at large, and we have our youth to thank for this.

Hironoshin Furuhashi: Hero and role model for Asia



Hironoshin Furuhashi, a father figure of swimming in Asia, passed away on Sunday, August 2, in his Rome hotel room on the last day of the World Swimming Championships.

Prof. Furuhashi, 80, was president of the Asian Amateur Swimming Federation for almost 20 years and had recently been elected honorary life president. He was also vice president of world swimming governing body FINA.

In his capacity as president of the Japanese Olympic Committee, Prof. Furuhashi conducted the successful 1994 Asian Games in Hiroshima.

The wisdom and knowledge of Prof. Furuhashi, who was known as "The Flying Fish of Fujiyama" during his world record-breaking freestyle career, will be greatly missed.

The Asian sports legend leaves a void which will be difficult to fill, and the OCA mourns the loss of Prof. Furuhashi and extends its heartfelt condolences to his family and friends.

"Asia will always remember him as a great sports person and role model," the OCA said in a statement.

OCA mourns Iranian judo tragedy

The Olympic Council of Asia was shocked and saddened to learn of the tragic deaths of the Iranian national judo youth team in a plane crash on Wednesday, July 15.

Eight team members, two trainers and the delegation chief were among 169 passengers and crew who perished when the Russian-made Iranian passenger plane crashed shortly after takeoff from Tehran. State television said all on board were killed.

The Caspian Airlines Tupolev TU-154M jet had taken off from Tehran's Imam Khomeini International Airport and was headed to the Armenian capital Yerevan. It crashed about 16 minutes after takeoff near the village of Jannat Abad outside the city of Qazvin, around 75 miles northwest of Tehran, civil aviation spokesman Reza Jaafarzadeh told state media.

The Iranian judo team was heading to Yerevan to train with the Armenian team before taking part in competitions in Hungary on August 6.

The Director General of the OCA, Captain Husain Al Musallam, expressed deepest condolences to the families of the victims and to the Olympic movement in Iran.

"It is a tragic loss for judo and for sport," said Captain Husain. "They were young athletes at the start of their careers with dreams and ambitions, and sadly we will never know what they could have gone on to achieve."

"The OCA mourns their passing. We are united in our grief."

OCA General Assembly approves sweeping changes



General Assembly top table

The 28th General Assembly of the Olympic Council of Asia took place in Singapore on Friday, July 3, and will be remembered for the radical changes made to its competitions and schedule.

The biggest change involved the OCA's flagship event, the Asian Games, the continent's Olympics held every four years. First, the OCA agreed to reduce the number of sports from 42 to 35; second, the Asian Games will be moved from its current position of two years before the Summer Olympics to one year, starting in 2019.

The 16th Asian Games will be held in Guangzhou, China, in November 2010 and will feature 42 sports. Organisers of the 17th Asiad in Incheon, Korea, in 2014 had hoped to stage between 46 and 48 sports, but the OCA decided the Asian Games had grown too big, putting them out of reach of smaller countries hoping to host them.

The decision was taken, therefore, to limit the number of sports to 35, starting in 2014 and comprising the 28 sports on the Olympic Games programme plus seven non-Olympic sports chosen from a list of 10 compiled by the OCA's Sports Committee.

Not only would this move provide Asian athletes in the Olympic disciplines with valuable experience in their build-up to the Summer Games, it would also leave room for non-Olympic sports specific to one of the five zones of the OCA; for example kabaddi for South Asia and sepaktakraw for South East Asia.

Another major change is the OCA's decision to reduce the number of multi-sports events from six to five. This will be achieved by merging the Asian Indoor Games with the Asian Martial Arts Games, and will enable the OCA to organise just one event per year from 2016, except in the years of the Asian Winter Games when two events will be held.

The five events will be: Asian Games, Asian Winter Games, Asian Beach Games, Asian Youth Games and Asian Indoor-Martial Arts Games.

The allocation of sports for the OCA events, excluding the Asian Youth Games, which involved only nine sports in Singapore, is as follows:

Asian Games: Archery, gymnastics, athletics, badminton, basketball, volleyball, boxing, canoe kayak, cycling, aquatics, equestrian, fencing, football, handball, hockey, judo, sailing, shooting, table tennis, rowing, weightlifting, taekwondo, wrestling, tennis and soft tennis, modern pentathlon, triathlon, new Olympic sport, new Olympic sport (28). Plus seven from the following 10: Sepaktakraw, kabaddi, wushu, cricket, rugby, golf, bowling, squash, baseball, softball. The two new Olympic sports, to be decided by the IOC in October 2009, will be included automatically in the 2014 Asian Games.

Asian Beach Games: Beach basketball (3 on 3), beach handball, beach kabaddi, beach sepaktakraw, beach soccer, beach volleyball, beach waterpolo, body building, dragon boat racing, jet-ski sport, marathon swimming, paragliding, sailing, water ski, woodball, surfing, roller skating.

Asian Winter Games: Short track speedskating, speed skating, ice hockey, biathlon, alpine skiing, snowboard, cross country skiing, freestyle skiing, figure skating, curling.

Asian Indoor-Martial Arts Games: Aerobic gymnastics, chess sports (chess and Xiangqi), cue sports, dance sport, dragon and lion dance, electronic sports, extreme sports, finswimming, futsal, hoop sepaktakraw, indoor athletics, indoor cycling, indoor hockey, indoor petanque, pencak silat, kurash, muay, short course swimming, shuttlecock, vovinam, kickboxing, jujitsu, karatedo, kongfu (sanshou).

Transition of the Asian Games cycle

Year	Olympic Games	Asian Games
2009	None	Asian Youth Games, Singapore; Asian Martial Arts Games, Bangkok, Thailand; Asian Indoor Games, Hanoi, Vietnam.
2010	Winter Olympics, Vancouver; Youth Olympics, Singapore.	Asian Games, Guangzhou, China; Asian Beach Games, Muscat, Oman.
2011	None	Asian Winter Games, Astana- Almaty, Kazakhstan.
2012	Olympic Games, London	Asian Beach Games, Haiyang, China.
2013	None	Asian Youth Games; Asian Indoor-Martial Arts Games, Doha, Qatar.
2014	Winter Olympics, Sochi; Youth Olympics.	Asian Games, Incheon, Korea.
2015	None	Asian Beach Games.
2016	Olympic Games	Asian Indoor-Martial Arts Games.
2017	None	Asian Winter Games; Asian Youth Games.
2018	Winter Olympics; Youth Olympics.	Asian Beach Games.
2019	None	Asian Games.
2020	Olympic Games	Asian Indoor-Martial Arts Games.

OCA hopes for Tokyo success

Fresh from the success of the Beijing Olympics in 2008, the Olympic Council of Asia hopes the continent will be staging another Olympic Games in seven years' time.

Speaking at the 28th OCA General Assembly in Singapore on July 3, OCA President Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al-Sabah wished Tokyo all success when the International Olympic Committee decides the 2016 host at a meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark, on October 2.

"The OCA will always support sporting activity in any city of Asia and is extremely pleased and happy that Tokyo is one of the cities bidding to host the 2016 Olympic Games," Sheikh Ahmad said from the platform of the General Assembly in the Raffles City Convention Centre.

"We hope for the success of an Asian city at the next IOC Congress in Copenhagen."

A high-profile delegation from Tokyo attended the General Assembly, including Tokyo Governor Shintaro Ishihara, Bid Committee Chair and CEO Dr Ichiro Kono and Japanese Olympic Committee President Tsunekazu Takeda.

Mr. Takeda, a former Olympian in equestrian, described the General Assembly as "a great success" and "a big help" for Tokyo.

"I believe Asia is one world, united," he said.

Tokyo, which hosted the Olympics in 1964, is competing against Madrid, Rio de Janeiro and Chicago.



Lord Sebastian Coe (left), former track hero and Chair of the London 2012 Olympic Games Organising Committee, paid tribute to Asian organisers and Games hosts during a progress report at the OCA General Assembly.

In the very room in Singapore where the IOC awarded London the 2012 Olympics four years ago, Lord Coe spoke of how the Beijing Olympics in 2008 had "energised" the organisers of the London Games, and he fully

endorsed the comments of IOC President Jacques Rogge that they were "a truly exceptional Games."

Just like in Seoul 1988, Beijing had set new standards and "left a spectacular legacy for the Olympic Movement," said the former Olympic middle-distance champion.

"We learned much from Beijing and before that from the Asian Games in Doha in 2006, and we will continue learning at the next Asian Games in Guangzhou in 2010," he said.



IOC President Tsunekazu Takeda

* China's Zhang Jilong was confirmed as the successor to Wei Jizhong as chairman of the OCA's powerful Sports Committee at the General Assembly. Mr. Zhang, Director of the China International Sports Exchange Centre, has been prominent in the Asian Football Confederation for many years, and was a key member of the organising committee for the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Mr. Wei, president of the International Volleyball Federation (FIVB), has resigned his Sports Committee post after 24 years, as he will spend much of his time in Lausanne, Switzerland.

"We thank Mr. Wei Jizhong for his long service and dedication to the OCA, and wish Mr. Zhang Jilong success, although he has a hard act to follow," said OCA President Sheikh Ahmad. "We trust him with his experience and are happy to have him with us."

* The OCA has welcomed a new sports federation into the family -- Xiangqi, or Chinese chess. The OCA's Sports Committee approved the application of the Asian Xiangqi Federation at its meeting in Singapore on June 29.

The AXF, whose president is OCA Vice President Timothy Fok, was established in 1978 and has 16 member Asian countries/regions, one more than required by the OCA to gain official recognition.

"Currently there are billions of Xiangqi amateurs in Asia alone and quite a good percentage are actively involved with Xiangqi activities," Mr. Fok said in his application letter to OCA President Sheikh Ahmad.



Pictured at the closing ceremony are (from left): Ng Ser Miang, Timothy Fok and MVPs Quah Ting Wen and Chang Gyu Choel

AYG: Chapter 1

Who better to sum up the success of the OCA's first Asian Youth Games than the star athlete of the host nation. "I learned a lot about the people from other countries and I learned a lot about sportsmanship," said Singapore's Female Athlete of the Games, swimmer Quah Ting Wen.

"I made a lot of friends, so it has been really great," added the 16-year-old freestyler, who bagged four gold medals and one bronze to be crowned Princess of the Pool.

And who better to sum up the contribution of the athletes than Ng Ser Miang, chairman of the Steering Committee organising the Games and an Executive Board member of the International Olympic Committee.

Describing the 1,400 participants as "an exuberant group of talented young athletes," Mr. Ng said Asia, through the AYG, had "embraced the Olympic movement with passion and commitment."

These two qualities were in abundance; not just as the athletes strived to achieve their best and hopefully win a medal, but also in their efforts to create a feel-good factor around the Games. Aged from 14 to 17, the athletes turned the clock back to a bygone era of friendship and respect, for each other and for officialdom, and to a time when winning was important but by no means the only goal of the Olympic movement.

In the competition arena and in the Games Village, the youth of Asia pointed the way to a brighter future and a more peaceful and tolerant world with their conduct and conviviality.

It was refreshing, it was rewarding, and over the next seven pages of this souvenir edition of Sporting Asia, celebrate the splendour and the success of the AYG!

Medal Table

Rank	Country	G	S	B	T	RT
1	CHN	25	16	11	52	2
2	KOR	20	17	17	54	1
3	THA	11	7	2	20	4
4	SIN	9	6	15	30	3
5	HKG	5	8	5	18	5
6	JPN	5	6	4	15	6
7	IND	5	3	3	11	8
8	KAZ	4	6	4	14	7
9	KUW	3	3	5	11	8
10	PRK	1	4	4	9	10
11	IRN	1	3	2	6	11
12	TPE	1	2	7	10	9
13	YEM	1	0	0	1	14
14	QAT	0	2	0	2	13
15	VIE	0	2	0	2	13
16	KSA	0	1	2	3	12
17	SRI	0	1	2	3	12
18	PHI	0	1	1	2	13
19	MAC	0	1	0	1	14
20	UZB	0	0	3	3	12
21	BRN	0	0	1	1	14
22	INA	0	0	1	1	14
23	MAS	0	0	1	1	14
24	MYA	0	0	1	1	14
25	PAK	0	0	1	1	14
	Total	91	89	92	272	

A to Z of the Asian Youth Games

The first Asian Youth Games will always be remembered for the tropical setting, the attractive venues, the feel-good factor among the athletes and, of course, the picture postcard scenery of Singapore.

Memories will last a lifetime, not only of the sports themselves but also of the world-famous tourist attractions of Singapore.

In this lighthearted lookback on the June 29-July 7 festival, Sporting Asia's A to Z of the AYG recalls some of the highlights.

A

AYG, meaning, of course, Asian Youth Games. Like IOC and OCA, AYG has a certain ring to it. An Olympic ring!



B

Beach volleyball: A big hit for fans and players alike at Siloso Beach on Sentosa Island.

C

Chilli crab: One of the delights of Singapore, enjoyed by all!



D

Diving: With an eye-catching backdrop and tense, exciting action, the diving competition was poetry in motion at Toa Payoh.

E

Education: During his visit to Singapore, former Asian Football Confederation secretary general Peter Velappan described the friendly atmosphere around the AYG as "an education you cannot find in books" for the youth from so many Asian countries and regions.

F

FRASIA: The cuddly Lion mascot, whose name came from the phrase "FRiends of ASIA", was the most photographed VIP of the AYG!



G

Gold: 91 of them were handed out in 90 events. No, not a mistake! There was a dead heat in one of the swimming races, resulting in two gold medals, no silver and one bronze.



H

H1N1: The Games were held in the shadow of the new flu virus, but only 12 cases were reported -- six athletes or officials from overseas and six locals involved behind the scenes, such as venue security.

I

Incheon: The Korean port city is the venue for the 2014 Asian Games, and the likely host of the second AYG in 2013, subject to government approval.

J

Jurong Bird Park: A popular destination for athletes and officials in their free time.

K

Kazakhstan: Even in the tropical heat of Singapore, organisers of the 2011 Asian Winter Games in Astana-Almaty were still able to create a wintry atmosphere with their video presentation from Kazakhstan.



L

Logo: The colourful star, watched over by the rays of the OCA sun, was simply everywhere to be seen around Singapore.

M

Merlion: The half-fish, half-lion symbol of Singapore which attracts more than 1 million tourists a year. It was just a short walk from the official hotels, and souvenir photos of the Merlion will be kept for a lifetime by AYG participants.

N

Night Safari: The perfect place to unwind in the evenings after a hard day's work at the AYG.



O

Opening Ceremony: A pure delight in its sweet simplicity and its emphasis on youth, setting the stage for the action and ambience to follow.

P

PRC: Or simply China to you and me! Just like at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, the People's Republic topped the medals table in Singapore with the most gold medals (25). A warning -- and a worry -- for the future!



Q

Quah: Yes, Quah Ting Wen was Singapore's princess of the pool, winning four gold medals and one bronze to earn the OCA's Female Athlete of the Games award.

R

Raffles: Sir Stamford Raffles began the transformation of a small fishing village to the marvel of modern-day Singapore -- historic host of the first AYG! His legacy is everywhere, such as the Raffles City Convention Centre, venue for the OCA General Assembly.

S

Singapore: What else?

Singapore Sling...Shopping...Sales...Sentosa...Sport!

Already on the Asian map as a sports city, the Youth Olympic Games next year will propel the Garden City to the world stage.



T

Table tennis: The young Asian wizards thrilled the crowds at Toa Payoh Sports Hall.



U

United: No, not Manchester United, the most popular team in Singapore. Korea United! North met South when the Democratic People's Republic of Korea played the Republic of Korea in the football final. More significant than the result was the spontaneous way in which the players of both teams joined hands, white shirt then red shirt along the line, to salute the fans after the final whistle.

V

Village: The decision to use the Swissotel The Stamford as the Games Village was an outstanding success. The professional, experienced staff were able to solve all problems, and the athletes were able to mingle freely in the lobby, in the restaurant and in the nearby shopping centre. No construction deadlines and sell-on pressure with this particular Athletes' Village!



W

Women in Sport: OCA officials were delighted to see so many female competitors from West Asia and the Gulf region at the AYG -- proof that the hard work behind the scenes in promoting women's sport is reaping rewards.

X

eXcellence: Yes, we know it starts with an 'e', but the key words of Excellence, Friendship and Respect were in evidence from the first whistle of the AYG to the last.

Y

YOG: Youth Olympic Games, to take place from August 14-26, 2010, in Singapore 3,600 athletes, 205 NOCs, 26 sports, 201 events. The IOC can rely on Singapore to write a successful first chapter in the new event.



Z

Zoo: Singapore has a good one, and its attractions brought out the child in everyone -- not just the youth of Asia!







The colourful Oman booth attracted many visitors during the Asian Youth Games

All smiles at the Friendly Games

There's no doubt about it -- the first Asian Youth Games won a gold medal from the people who matter most: the young athletes of Asia.

The atmosphere around the Games Village and the pristine venues was so good, in fact, that the AYG could have been renamed the FG: Friendly Games!

As the young athletes from all corners of the continent competed hard for medals, they still found time to mingle and chat, to swap team pin badges and email addresses, take photos and collect souvenirs for lifelong memories.

The CEP (Cultural Education Programme) played a huge part in bringing together the athletes, volunteers and local schoolchildren around the colourful cultural booths set up in the fourth floor atrium, connecting the two official hotels.

With 15 kiosks in operation at any given time, the 45 National Olympic Committees of the OCA each had two days in the spotlight over a period of six noisy, action-packed days.

The cultural booths were packed with information, such as maps, language and currency, competitions, national dress, music, dancing and singing, and the athletes were able to complete a check list in a personalised passbook and receive a gift from the organisers.

Singapore's Ministry of Education deserves top marks for the initiative and enthusiasm in which it set about the task, making all

visitors feel welcome in Singapore and providing free and entertaining lessons in geography, history and so much more. Quite simply, the AYG would not have been the same without the CEP!



Singaporean schoolgirls offer a Myanmar greeting

Sensational Singapore!

Here is a selection of athletes' comments from around the Games:



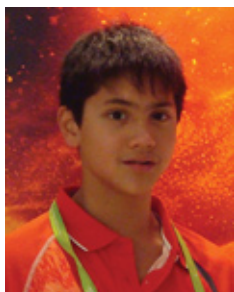
Tran Quoc Binh

(Vietnam, 16, shooting): I love the views of Singapore. It's always so bright. I have gained a lot of experience competing in another country, and I want to come back some day. My best memory will be of our Liaison Officer, who has worked so hard for us.

Sneh Rana (Nepal, 16, shooting): It is very nice, the first Asian Youth Games in Singapore. I love this place! It is entertaining. It is amazing. We have the chance to learn many things about different countries and to share many ideas. It is great to be here.

Soulmaz Rahman Mohammad Pour

(Iran, 15, table tennis): The competition, the hotel...everything has been very good. This is my first visit to Singapore and it's so nice. I am very happy. We have changed pin badges with many countries...Japan, Singapore, China, Mongolia...so many!



Joseph Schooling

(Singapore, 14, swimming): It's been a great experience for the athletes from Singapore, to hear the cheers of the home crowd. When they announce your name the whole stadium goes crazy! It really inspires you. Singapore has put on a fantastic games. The accommodation, everything is perfect.

Zhang Qi

(China, 15, swimming): It is a beautiful city and there has been a very good atmosphere among the athletes. When it is time to compete we compete, but after that we are good friends.



Lionel Khoo

(Singapore, 14, swimming): This has been very good preparation for the Youth Olympic Games next year. I am sure it will be very successful, because even if people do not come from overseas the Singaporeans will watch it. This is a base for next year. I have talked with my competitors a lot. Despite the rivalry we manage to be friends. I could communicate with the Chinese swimmers because we speak Mandarin, but with the Koreans we use sign language.



Mallika Bhandarkar (India, 14, table tennis): The arrangements were really great and we have all enjoyed it so much. I have competed in other tournaments overseas but they have never been as well organised as this. Actually, the people here are really sweet.

Mina Barani (Iran, 17, shooting): There is a very nice atmosphere here at the Asian Youth Games, and with shooting I think there is the best relationship between the athletes. In shooting, if you don't have a good relationship with everyone else you cannot shoot well. It affects your performance. In the hotel we talk together with other athletes and exchange badges, and chat about our matches and results. We are learning a lot about other countries, and have made some friends who hopefully we will meet again in future competitions.

(With Iran in the news at the time due to the civil unrest following the government elections, Mina is asked if athletes from other countries are asking what it's like back home in Tehran. Her reply is emphatic): No! They are just athletes – and we are not politicians! We are just in sports, and have come here to take part in competitions. They do not ask us anything about what is happening.



Asia is united at the closing ceremony

'Fantastic' AYG opens new era for OCA

At the opening ceremony of the first Asian Youth Games on June 29, OCA Vice President Timothy Fok said he was confident the event would add "a new and bright chapter" to the Asian sports movement and set a benchmark for the future.

Eight days later, the Hong Kong sports leader had been proved right in spectacular fashion, as the AYG surpassed all expectations.

"Thank you, Singapore, for nine days of wonderful hospitality," Mr. Fok said at the official press conference to wrap up the Games on July 7.

"I can only describe them as a fantastic Games, played out in a great atmosphere.

"Many things have touched me during the Games, especially the work of the volunteers and watching the young athletes of Asia enter the arena for the opening ceremony behind the flags of the 45 National Olympic Committees.

"Singapore can be proud to be known as a strong sporting country, and not just a financial centre."

Mr. Fok said that 15 members of the International Olympic Committee had attended the Games, giving organisers a lot of confidence for the first Youth Olympic Games in Singapore in August 2010.

At the same news conference, OCA Director General Husain Al-Musallam praised the organisers for their "excellent work" in a short period of time. He said the OCA really appreciated the success of the first AYG, combining sport, culture and education to lay the foundations for peace and understanding.

"Asia is the biggest continent in the world with great diversity in

politics, religion and culture, and we need to get the youth of Asia together and understand each other and work together for the future," said Captain Husain.

The OCA Director General had special words of encouragement for Yemen. "They won their first ever gold medal in the history of the Asian Games (Waleed Saleh Ali Layah) in the 1,500 metres in track and field, and with that the government will pay a lot of attention to support sport."

Captain Husain later reported that the Games had been free of doping, with all 170 urine samples coming back negative from the lab in Tokyo.

"This augurs well for the fight against doping as 'today's youth will be the champions of tomorrow' and they are starting right," he said.

"The OCA, together with its partner WADA, will continue to strengthen its anti-doping programme in all its facets, paying increased attention to education and prevention whilst continuing with detection and deterrent activities."

A green - and clean - AYG!

AYG Facts and Figures

female 471	male 850	athletes
	600	officials
	5,500	volunteers
29 June 2009		opening ceremony
07 July 2009		closing ceremony
	90	events
	9	sports
	170	athletes tested in anti-doping
	0	the number of positive tests



Wheels in motion in Astana-Almaty

Under the slogan of "Unity of Purpose -- Unity of Spirit!", Kazakhstan regards the seventh Asian Winter Games in 2011 as the biggest sports event in the former Soviet Union since the 1980 Moscow Olympics.

There will be 11 sports, 69 disciplines and nine venues in the two host cities of Astana and Almaty, and a US\$1.3 billion investment by the government will safeguard the budget amidst the financial crisis. Almost 80 percent of the construction or renovation work has been completed.

Another important issue is transportation between Astana and Almaty during the Games. The distance between the cities is 950km by air (flight time 1.5 hours) and 1,200km by land (travel time 14 hours), and national carrier Air Astana will provide transportation during the Games.

Here's a few key points about Astana-Almaty 2011:

Opening ceremony: January 30, at the new 30,000-capacity indoor football stadium, Astana.

Closing ceremony: February 6, at the indoor Sports Palace, Almaty.

Sports: Cross-country skiing, ski orienteering, bandy, ski jumping, figure skating, freestyle skiing, biathlon, speed skating, ice hockey, short track speed skating, Alpine skiing.

Bandy? Field hockey on ice, or ice hockey with a ball; popular in Scandinavia and Central Asia, played in the open air.

Logo: A wheel of the nomadic bullock cart, symbolising perpetual motion and development.

Mascot: Irby, a baby snow leopard -- strong, smart and graceful inhabitant of the high mountains of Kazakhstan.

Torch relay: Over 2,000 torchbearers will carry the flame through all 14 regions of Kazakhstan during a 30-day journey covering 15,000 kilometres. Flame will be lit at OCA HQ in Kuwait and visit Changchun, China, host of the sixth Asian Winter Games.



Big numbers expected in Vietnam



Over 14,000 people are expected to be involved in the third Asian Indoor Games in Vietnam from October 30 to November 8, 2009.

The figure is comprised of 4,500 athletes, team officials, technical delegates and VIP guests, 2,000 media and 8,000 volunteers at the venues in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

A Chef de Mission meeting will take place from August 26-30, and the deadline for entry forms by name is September 15.

The programme includes 20 official sports and one demonstration sport, with 219 events in total.



Kazakhstan will offer a winter wonderland in 2011



Bahrain

Bahrain Olympic Committee board chairman Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa attended Olympic Day celebrations in the presence of Bahrain Royal Equestrian and Endurance Federation president Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, BOC board members and presidents of sports federations.

Shaikh Nasser watched various activities in which 314 athletes took part, including swimming, handball, basketball, table tennis, fencing, volleyball and taekwondo. He also attended the Olympic flag-hoisting in handball, basketball and volleyball gymnasiums.



China

Almost one year after the event, medals are still being awarded for the Beijing Olympic Games. Three of its state-of-the-art venues have been awarded two gold medals and a bronze medal at the 2009 IOC/IAKS Awards (IAKS: International Association for Sports and Leisure Facilities), as well as two International Paralympic Committee (IPC)/IAKS Distinctions.

The big winner is the Olympic Stadium in Beijing, better known as the "Bird's Nest", which took two gold medals. The National Aquatics Centre, also known as the Water Cube, took the other gold, while the Beijing Olympic Green Tennis Centre was given bronze.

* The National Audit Office of China recently announced that the Beijing Organising Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad made a profit of approximately 146 million US dollars. The IOC has congratulated BOCOG on this excellent result.



Hong Kong

More than 130,000 athletes, performers and spectators participated in the Bank of China (Hong Kong) 52nd Festival of Sport from March to June organised by the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong-China, fully demonstrating the spirit of "Sport for All".

* The Hong Kong 2009 East Asian Games 100-day countdown and torch relay involving 65 carriers has been scheduled for August 29, also as part of the celebration for the 60th anniversary of the People's Republic of China.

The torch relay, with the theme "Light the Way to the East Asian Games", will start at the Kowloon Park Piazza, then proceed along Austin Road, Nathan Road, Salisbury Road, Tsim Sha Tsui Promenade, the Avenue of Stars, across Victoria Harbour to Expo Drive East, Harbour Road and Expo Drive to finish at the Golden Bauhinia Square in Wan Chai.



India

A five-member committee constituted by the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports visited Kerala from May 19-22 to assess the status of the existing sports infrastructure and the new competition and non-competition venues proposed for the 35th National Games scheduled from May 1-14, 2010.



Iran

On June 6, after two years of hard work, the new headquarters of the National Olympic Committee of Iran and the National

Olympic Museum were opened in Tehran. Mohammead Aliabadi, Deputy Minister of Iran and NOC President, NOC Secretary General Bahram Afsharzadeh, national federation presidents, athletes and high-ranking sports officials were present for the opening of this 17,000 m² four-storey building, three floors of which are devoted to the Museum.



Japan

Japanese Olympic legends joined Tokyo 2016's campaign to connect the world's youth with sport at a series of events designed to ignite young people's passion for Olympism.

The first event, 'Hello! Fencing!', took place on Friday, July 24, at Sugunami Junior and Senior High School, and was led by world-class fencers including Beijing 2008 silver medallist Yuki Ota and Beijing 2008 Olympian Shogo Nishida.

The second event - a day-long celebration of gymnastics - was held on Sunday, July 26, at a public gymnasium in Meguro -- one of 62 municipalities in the capital. Almost 100 youngsters were wowed by three-time Olympic medallist Yukio Iketani and Beijing 2008 silver medallist Kohei Uchimura.

Finally, a grand tug-of-war was staged on the iconic Nihonbashi bridge in Chuo municipality. The competition featured two of Japan's most celebrated Olympic champions, two-time wrestling gold medallist Saori Yoshida and two-time judo gold medallist Ayumi Tanimoto along other elite athletes.



Jordan

According to an assessment of the sports federations in the first quarter of 2009, JOC vice president Dr. Sari Hamdan announced that the federations have been divided into three levels according to performance evaluation. The results are:

Level 1 (80-100%): gymnastics, equestrian and paralympics.

Level 2 (60-79%): table tennis, bridge, wrestling, taekwondo, boxing, badminton, swimming, volleyball, cycling, marine sports, jujitsu, bowling, squash, chess, billiards, snooker, sports medicine, sports media, anti-doping, schools sport.

Level 3 (below 50%): basketball, football, handball, judo, athletics, kick boxing, karate, sports companies, golf, body-building.

* Lana Al-Jaghbeer has been appointed as General Secretary of the Jordan Olympic Committee.



Kazakhstan

China's vice minister in charge of the General Administration of Sport, Yu Zaiping, met with Dmitry I. Petrukhin, City Councillor of Almaty, the Republic of Kazakhstan, in Beijing on June 25.

With the approval of Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of Kazakhstan, Petrukhin started his global journey 18 months ago. So far he has toured 29 countries, with the purpose of promoting the image of Kazakhstan and the 2011 Asian Winter Games to be held in both Astana and Almaty. Beijing is his second stop in China after his visit to Guangzhou.

Yu praised Petrukhin's sparing no effort on promoting the 2011 Winter Asiad, believing that his global journey, which aims at promoting peace and friendship among people of the world, will surely be fruitful.



Korea

Gwangju was announced as host city of the 28th Summer Universiade 2015 on May 23 at the FISU Executive Committee

meeting in Brussels.

During the meeting, Stefan Bergh, chair of the Summer Universiade Evaluation Committee, presented the report on the candidate cities following site visits in April and May. The other two candidates were Edmonton, Canada, and Taipei.

With the credo "Challenge for the Best", Gwangju promised the best venues, management and also legacy programmes, naming funding for a sports event management system, a FISU-UNESCO programme and a Universiade sponsorship programme with Dentsu.



Malaysia

The Olympic Council of Malaysia is playing its full part in ensuring a green and clean capital. In association with Sports Toto and the City Hall of Kuala Lumpur, the OCM's community tree planting project was launched on July 19 at the football field, Jalan Wirawati 5, Taman Maluri, Kuala Lumpur.

Before the tree planting began there was a joint aerobic exercise with Jazzercise and a race walking clinic for young children by two national race walkers, Encik Y. Thirukumaran and Encik Lo Choon Seng. During the tree planting, Encik Adnan bin Mohd of FRIM gave some tips on the correct way to plant trees to ensure their survival and maximum growth. A total of 30 trees were planted at Taman Maluri.



Maldives

The Maldives Olympic Committee's election of officers for the cycle 2009-2013 was held on July 11.

The board consists of 13 members: President, Mr. Ibrahim Ismail Ali; vice president, Dr. Hussain Haleem; secretary general, Mr. Ahmed Marzooq; treasurer, Mr. Hussain Rasheed.

Ms. Aishath Sabah, female member; Ms. Aisha Manike, female member; Mr. Ahmed Hafiz (Maldives Basketball Association, Olympic team sport); Mr. Ibrahim Rasheed (Handball Maldives, Olympic team sport); Mr. Mohamed Kaleem (Swimming Association of Maldives, Olympic individual sport); Mr. Mohamed Sofwan (Gymnastics Association of Maldives, Olympic individual sport); Mr. Ali Manik (Athletics Association of Maldives, Olympic individual sport); Mr. Mohamed Nizam (Netball Association of Maldives, non-Olympic sport); Mr. Mohamed Saeed (Carrom Association of Maldives, non-Olympic sport).



Mongolia

During the Olympic Day celebrations at Olympic House in Ulaanbaatar, the headquarters of the Mongolian NOC, Sports Minister C. Naranbaatar and Mongolian Sports Medicine Federation President J. Khatanbaatar were presented with the 2009 IOC Trophy by IOC honorary member Shagdarjav Magvan, in recognition of their great contribution to the success of Mongolia's athletes at the Olympic Games in Beijing last August and the fight against doping.



Philippines

The Philippines Olympic Committee Executive Board for 2009-2012: Chairman, Monico O. Puentevella; president, Jose S. Cojuangco Jr.; first vice president, Manuel Luis T. Lopez; second vice president, Mario C. Tanchanco; treasurer, Julian G. Cama-

cho; auditor, Corinna B. Mojica; board members, Leonora Fe S. Brawner, David F. Carter, Mark P. Joseph, Jeff Antonio DL Tamayo. Other members: Deputy treasurer, Dr. Sim Chi Tat; deputy secretary general (ex-officio member), Salvador Andrada; media spokesperson, Joey Romasanta; special assistant to president, Go Teng Kok; legal counsel, Atty. Ramon Malinao.



Qatar

H.E. Sheikh Saoud Bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Secretary General of the Qatar Olympic Committee, laid the foundation stone of Al Zakhira Youth Centre, which is being built by the QOC Engineering Projects Department and is expected to be completed in 15 months.

The step comes in the light of the QOC priorities to look after the younger generation by providing them with the sports facilities where they can develop their sports abilities. It is in accordance with the directions of H.H. Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani, the Heir Apparent and President of the Qatar Olympic committee.

Engineer Hamad Lahdan Al Mohannadi, Director of the project, said that the new youth centre would serve the people of Zakhira and include playgrounds for football, handball and volleyball in addition to halls for snooker and table tennis, and a gymnasium. In addition, the new project will include administrative offices, library, computer hall and a store for sports equipment.



Saudi Arabia

The NOC of Saudi Arabia has launched a new sports development programme entitled "Saudi Olympic Falcon Programme – London 2012". Among the numerous personalities present at the launch ceremony were NOC President Fahd Abdulaziz and NOC Vice-President and IOC member Nawaf Faisal Fahd Abdulaziz. A video message from President Rogge was shown on this occasion. More info on www.saudiolympic.org.sa.



Singapore

The Singaporean NOC's Sports Awards 2009 ceremony was held on June 19. More than 500 people attended, including the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, and the NOC President, Teo Chee Hean, who presented the commemorative lapel pins to the three members of the silver medal-winning women's table tennis team at the Games in Beijing: Feng Tianwei, Li Jiawei and Wang Yuegu. The team also won the Team of the Year (Event) award. Later in the ceremony, the IOC President's Trophy was awarded to Wee Kiang Choo for his contribution to the development of table tennis. Lastly, the IOC 2009 "Sport and the Fight Against Doping" Trophy was presented to Kong Chuan The, in recognition of his important contribution in this field.



United Arab Emirates

Dubai will organise the 15th World Swimming Championships in 2013. This decision was taken by the International Swimming Federation (FINA) Bureau, which met on July 18 in Rome for the World Championships. Dubai will also play host in December 2010 to the 10th World Swimming Short Course Championships (25m).



Shooting star - the OCA Youth Camp will help Asia's young hopefuls

OCA youth camp targets shooters

The first Asian Youth Training Camp 2009 opened on Sunday, August 2, for the 10-metre air rifle discipline at the shooting range of the Sports Authority of Thailand. Organised by the Olympic Council of Asia in conjunction with the Asian Shooting Confederation, the National Shooting Sport Association of Thailand and the National Olympic Committee of Thailand, the youth camp has attracted 73 athletes and coaches from 23 countries and regions in Asia.

On behalf of the OCA, Asian Games department manager Haider A. Farman welcomed the visitors to the official opening ceremony.

"I am really impressed with the number of athletes here today," he said.

"In shooting, Asia leads the world, especially in the 10-metre air rifle. We led in Beijing at the 2008 Olympic Games and we want to stay in front in the future as well."

Mr. Farman said the youth camp, running from August 1-14, served three main purposes: to develop young athletes, to train coaches by inviting international experts, and to build friendship and exchange ideas amongst athletes and coaches in Asia.

"We wish all athletes success in the future, and hope this youth camp can play a big part."

The chief instructor is Anton Belak of Slovakia, who praised the OCA for the initiative in staging the youth camp.

"I think it is a really good idea because young people need this experience and can grow from this important meeting," he said.

"They can make new friends and get much new information. There is really good cooperation between the coaches in Asia so this is good for the future of the sport."

The OCA will organise a youth camp in each of the years of the 2009-2012 Olympic quadrennial, with judo to be the focus in 2010. The venue has still to be decided.

Dairy of Events

2009

October 29
55th Executive Board Meeting
Hanoi, Vietnam

October 30- November 8
3rd AIG Hanoi, Vietnam 2009
Hanoi, Vietnam

November 11
Sports Environment Committee meeting
Guangzhou, China

2010

November 12 - 27
16th Asian Games Guangzhou 2010
Guangzhou, China

December 8 - 16
2nd Asian Beach Games Muscat 2010
Muscat, Oman

2011

January 30 - February 6
7th Asian Winter Games, Astana-Almaty 2011
Kazakhstan

OCA Sponsors Club

