

Lift Off!

Countdown to 2010 Asian Games

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Guangzhou will create something special for 16th Asian Games

Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah

President
Olympic Council of Asia



I would like to begin my first message in the first Sporting Asia of 2010 by wishing everyone a happy and healthy new year. I hope we can build even stronger friendship, cooperation and understanding in the coming months to keep the Olympic Council of Asia moving "Ever Onward."

This is a particularly exciting and important year for the OCA as we look forward to the 16th Asian Games in Guangzhou, China, from November 12-27.

We all witnessed a spectacular one-year countdown ceremony on November 12, 2009, and it was a pleasure for me personally to visit the Flower City of Guangzhou once again and see the preparations one year before the Games.

It is even more satisfying to know that the central government of China is giving its full support to the organising committee and

to the city of Guangzhou, and I hope to work together throughout the year with my colleagues in Guangzhou, the organising committee and with the central government to prepare the best environment possible for our Games.

With my small experience as president – I have witnessed six Asian Games and this will be my seventh – I am very confident the 16th Asian Games in Guangzhou will be one of the best Games in the history of Asia.

I think Guangzhou will create something to make the Guangzhou Asian Games special, just as Beijing did for the 2008 Olympic Games and Doha did for the 2006 Asian Games, with different tastes but keeping the culture of China and the culture of Asia.

I am sure they will create something special to make Guangzhou a special Asian Games.

Finally, on behalf of all my colleagues at the Olympic Council of Asia, the National Olympic Committees and the athletes, I would like to express my gratitude to everyone involved in the "Road of Asia" tour to promote the 16th Asian Games.

It was a long trip by road and sea, lasting one year and covering thousands of kilometers through 37 countries and regions, and was very successful in spreading our message across the continent. It was a great idea – and a great success.

AYG provides stepping stone to YOG

Singapore will host the first Youth Olympic Games from August 14-26, 2010, when 3,600 athletes from 205 National Olympic Committees will compete in 26 sports. Sporting Asia caught up with Organising Committee Chairman Ng Ser Miang to learn of the progress.

Sporting Asia: How are preparations for the first Youth Olympic Games?

Ng: It's a very challenging and exciting time. I am happy to say things are on track, on time. We had a coordination commission from the IOC last month (November) and they are happy with the progress.

What is the next milestone?

We will be having the Chefs de Mission meeting in Singapore in March, when the NOCs will be able to have more understanding of the various sports competitions and the culture and education programme. They will be able to see the venues both for sports and for culture and education, and visit the Games Village.

What did you learn by staging the first Asian Youth Games in Singapore last summer?

We learned a lot of useful lessons about the various aspects of organising a multi-sport games, the various challenges. The

OCA, the President Sheikh Ahmad, the Executive Board and our friends in the NOCs were all very supportive and helped to make the first Asian Youth Games a fantastic event for the youth and a great learning experience for us.

Congratulations on your appointment as IOC Vice President. What would you like to achieve in this role?

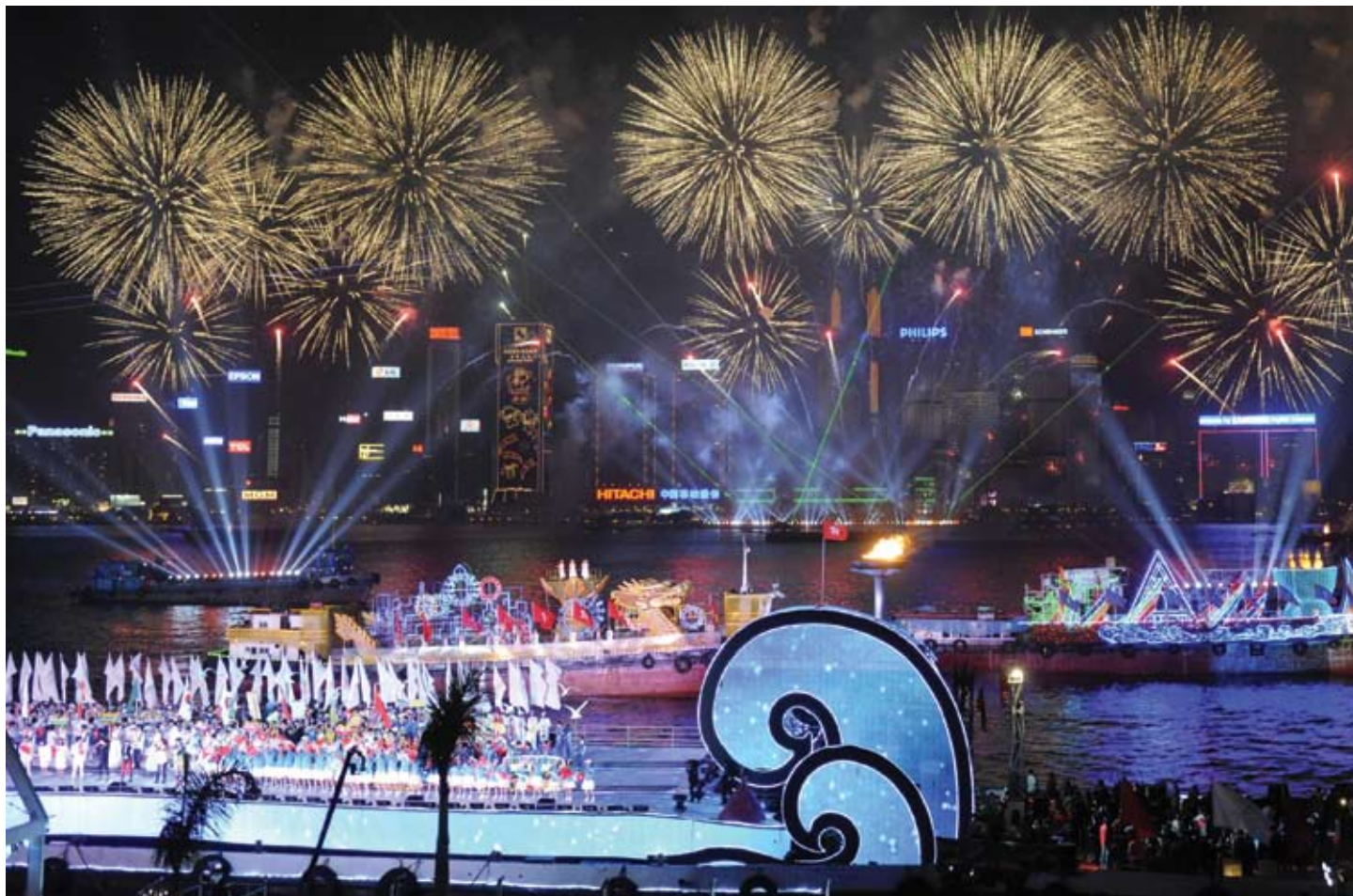
I will continue to support the President, the Executive Board and the IOC itself. Obviously I will also be looking after things for Asia and giving an Asian perspective in addition to playing my role as an IOC Member. Also I am chairing the OCA Advisory Committee and that could be a two-way flow of knowledge and information, from the IOC to my Advisory Committee for the OCA and vice versa. So I think I will be in a position to do more for Asia.



Ng Ser Miang

Cover Photo

Chinese hero Liu Xiang on his way to winning the 110-metre hurdles at the 5th East Asian Games in Hong Kong. His big target for 2010 is the 16th Asian Games in Guangzhou.



The Hong Kong skyline is a kaleidoscope of colour during the spectacular opening ceremony of the East Asian Games in Victoria Harbour

Hong Kong, Laos make Asia proud

Two of the five zones within the Olympic Council of Asia held their regional games in the final month of 2009. Hong Kong hosted the 5th East Asian Games from December 5-13, and Laos staged the 25th South East Asian Games from December 9-18. Both events were memorable, but for differing reasons.

While high-tech Hong Kong dazzled and sparkled like never before under the spotlight of the East Asian Games, laid-back Laos charmed and captivated visitors to the SEA Games in the ancient capital of Vientiane.

Under the appreciative eye of the IOC President, Jacques Rogge, Hong Kong staged a unique opening ceremony on Saturday, December 5, transforming the historic Victoria Harbour and the famous island skyline into a kaleidoscope of colour.

There was no grand entry into the main stadium this time for athletes and officials from the nine competing countries and regions; just a small parade of team delegates on a floating stage and a Disney-style sail-by of 44 decorated vessels.

The VIPs, led by President Rogge and China's State Councillor Madam Liu Yandong, looked on from the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Piazza on the Tsim Sha Tsui waterfront, and hundreds of thousands of spectators shared the occasion on both sides of the harbour.

Among the VIPs was Japanese IOC Member Shun-ichiro Okano,

who spoke for everyone who had witnessed the ceremony when he commented: "It was fantastic. I have never seen such an opening ceremony like this before, with a floating stage and so many decorated ships sailing past in the harbour.

"The fireworks were great, and overall it was very impressive. I did not expect such a fantastic opening ceremony."

Land-locked Laos, on the other hand, will be remembered as a most gracious host of the 25th SEA Games – earning the prestigious IOC President's Trophy in the process.

The award was presented by IOC Vice President Ng Ser Miang of Singapore to the Standing Deputy Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, His Excellency Somsavat Lengsavad.

"You have organised excellent Games and extended your warm and wonderful hospitality and friendship to all the participants and visitors to the Games," said Mr Ng.

"To each and every one of the 3,100 athletes from the 11 SEA Games countries, you have competed, lived and embraced the Olympic values of Excellence, Friendship and Respect. Congratulations on your outstanding performances."

☀ For more details on the East Asian Games, turn to Pages 4-5. For a special report on the SEA Games, see Pages 6-7.

Hong Kong's athletes rise to the occasion

The 5th East Asian Games were supposed to end on December 13, but the celebrations continued long after the closing ceremony.

For many days after the official conclusion of the Games, local TV stations were jammed with messages of congratulations to the Hong Kong athletes, and newspaper columnists hailed the start of a new era for Hong Kong sport.

It wasn't just the 26 gold medals and 110 medals in total that had set the town buzzing; it was more about the enthusiasm and the pride of the people in supporting the event and their own athletes – as if the former British colony had finally discovered its true sporting identity as a Special Administrative Region of China.

"For the first time I think Hong Kong is experiencing a real sporting culture," said Timothy Fok, President of the Hong Kong NOC and Vice President of the Olympic Council of Asia.



"Everyone in the past has thought of Hong Kong as a financial capital with high-rise buildings, but we have proved that sport is an important element of society. The Games is about the athletes, and the Hong Kong team as the host has risen to the occasion."

Fok's voice was cracking with emotion as he spoke these words one evening at Kowloon Park Swimming Pool, where Hong Kong claimed a silver medal in a furious finale to the women's 4 x 100-metre freestyle relay.

"Let's see if Hong Kong can win the bronze," Fok had said, on taking his seat for a final which featured the three regional heavyweights China, Japan and Korea. In the end, Hong Kong's silver felt like a gold as China needed a Games record time to hang on for the win.

Local pride and support for the Bauhinia (Hong Kong orchid-

style flower) emblem was never more in evidence than at the football final against Japan.

The 32,000 flag-waving, chanting Hong Kong fans created a crackling atmosphere, and produced two rousing renditions of China's stirring national anthem, "March of the Volunteers" – the first as the teams lined up before kick-off and the second after Hong Kong had received their gold medals following a penalty shootout victory.




Hong Kong's Korean head coach, Kim Pan Gon, was quick to thank the fans for their support.

"That was the power of us," he said. "I would also like to thank our players. They were ready to die for Hong Kong. It was a great night. We were one, as a unit, because of football."

"You could feel tonight how important sport is, especially football, for a country's power."

Hong Kong's athletes had certainly taken up the challenge of the Games slogan, "Be the Legend", and succeeded beyond the wildest expectations of local sports officials.

Final Medal Table

Rank	Country				T	RT
1	China	113	73	46	232	1
2	Japan	62	58	70	190	2
3	Korea	39	45	59	143	3
4	Hong Kong	26	31	53	110	4
5	Chinese Taipei	8	34	47	89	5
6	Macau	8	9	12	29	6
7	DPR Korea	6	8	11	25	7
8	Mongolia	0	4	16	20	8
9	Guam	0	0	1	1	9
	Total:	262	262	315	839	



OCA Vice President Timothy Fok enjoys the opening ceremony, alongside China's State Councillor Madam Liu Yandong and a flag-waving HK SAR Chief Executive Donald Tsang.



All on his own: Liu Xiang wins the 110-metre hurdles

Chinese stars shine for East Asian Games fans

Long before the East Asian Games started, three things were clear: China would finish on top of the medals table, Liu Xiang would win the men's 110-metre hurdles and Guo Jingjing would build on her reputation as the diving diva by collecting another gold.

These things were certain – but it did not stop the spectators and the media flocking to the venues to catch a glimpse of the Olympic heroes in action for the big red sports machine of the People's Republic of China.

Of the 262 gold medals up for grabs in the nine-team, 22-sport Games, China won 113 -- and two of them were particularly sweet for the organisers.

The first of those came on December 11, when the picturesque Tseung Kwan O Sports Ground in the New Territories was buzzing with the appearance of hurdles hero Liu Xiang, the 2004 Olympic champion. This was only his fourth event after recovering from the injury which forced him out of the 2008 Beijing Olympics, and his easy victory in a modest 13.66 seconds was another step on the road to full fitness.

"This is my third East Asian Games and I am proud to have a triple championship," Liu told a press conference packed with some 200 media representatives. "I am pleased with the performance and happy to win the gold medal at the end of the season, but the time was a bit less than desirable."

His big target for next season, he concluded, was the 2010 Asian Games in Guangzhou – a major stepping stone on the way to the 2012 Olympic Games in London.

Two days later, the EAG media spotlight switched to Kowloon Park Swimming Pool for the eagerly-awaited appearance of China's diving queen Guo Jingjing, a four-time Olympic champion.

In partnership with Wu Minxia, the 2004 and 2008 Olympic champions easily won the women's 3-metre synchronised springboard, captivating the audience with their grace, agility and precision. There were strong rumours that this would be the last event in the illustrious career of Guo, but the 28-year-old diver said reports of her impending retirement were news to her.

Hong Kong swimming official Ronnie Wong was full of praise for China's support of the East Asian Games, especially in sending the superstar Guo.

"Everybody has been looking for tickets to see her," said Wong. "If we had been able to sell 5,000 or maybe 8,000 tickets we would still have had a full house, but Kowloon Park holds only 2,000 even after renovation."

"It shows the support China is giving to Hong Kong. There are so many top divers in China they could have sent many others capable of winning the gold medal, but it shows they are really supporting us."



Guo Jingjing in the post-presentation press conference

Laos charms as SEA Games host



By **Sieh Kok Chi**

Honorary Secretary
Olympic Council of Malaysia

I was quite excited when Laos decided to host the 25th SEA Games in Vientiane in 2009, as I expected the same metamorphosis of the city's sports infrastructure as experienced by Kuala Lumpur in 1965 and by Hanoi in 2003.

I had visited Vientiane a few times from 2005 to 2008 and there were practically no suitable sports facilities. There was the old Chao Anu Vong football stadium, an open-air venue with around 8,000 concrete seats. There was no international-standard swimming venue or indoor stadium. The couple of sports halls were located in the Laos National University, and the site of the proposed National Sports Complex was an empty, open area, about 10 kilometres from the city centre.

At the Opening Ceremony of the 25th SEA Games on December 9, this open area had been transformed into the National Sports Complex, with the 20,000-seat capacity National Stadium, the National Aquatics Centre, two indoor stadiums, a shooting range and a tennis centre. Other venues constructed included a SEA Games golf course, the Booyong Gymnasium for taekwondo and the Budo Centre for judo.

The National Stadium, which hosted the opening and closing ceremonies, athletics and football, was a state-of-the-art stadium and will certainly be put to good use after the 25th SEA Games, particularly for football, the most popular sport in Laos.



Peace and harmony at the closing

The National Aquatics Centre was also of a high standard, with seating capacity for 2,000. It is designed to cater for all four disciplines of aquatics – swimming, diving, water polo and synchronised swimming, and also for fin swimming.

As it was the first occasion that the NOC of Laos had organised the SEA Games, expectations were mixed as to how well the 25th SEA Games would be run. The fact that Laos is a small, developing country with a population of around 6 million, and Vientiane a population of about three quarters of a million, did not add to the confidence of many sports people.

Fortunately the sceptics' worries were unfounded when they discovered on their arrival in Vientiane how well the organising committee had fulfilled their commitments and responsibilities. The volunteers were young, bright and enthusiastic university students or fresh graduates, all with good command of English. They were well trained, well mannered and were most professional in carrying out their duties.



Villagers come out to cheer the SEA Games cyclists



ceremony of the 25th SEA Games



Security measures were reasonable and discreet. Police escorts were provided for VIPs, for guiding their vehicles through the heavy traffic around the sports venues. The police escorts were young female police officers on motorbikes, with one as the rider and the other the pillion. The pillion had a whistle and a flag and expertly guided the VIPs' vehicles smoothly through the heavy traffic without any sirens or hassles.

As the SEA Games in Vientiane was the 25th edition, spanning 50 years, the norms and requirements of a SEA Games are quite standard. As such there were no complaints, only compliments. One of the positive feedbacks from athletes and officials was that the Athletes Village, because it was brand new, was very good, second only to the Athletes Village of the 20th SEA Games held in Brunei Darussalam in 1999, which was excellent.

There was a certain freshness and innocence in the way the Laotians experienced the 25th SEA Games, and the whole country was proud of their hosting role and totally behind the effort to use the Games as a publicity campaign for Vientiane and Laos.

The people of Vientiane were very supportive of their national athletes and their national teams. They were further motivated by the exceptional performance of the Laos men's football team, who, against all odds, entered the semi-finals. There were sold-out crowds at all the matches played by the Laos football team. The fanatical supporters waved large Laotian national flags and painted the national flag on their faces.




The Games will leave a long legacy, not only because Laos will be able to

bid for more regional, continental and even world sports events, but also because the great performance of their athletes (33 gold medals, 110 medals in total) will encourage youth around the country to participate in sport and strive for international acclaim.

The number of visitors to Vientiane for the 25th SEA Games was phenomenal. If it was not for the SEA Games, most if not all of the visitors would not have gone to Vientiane. Most of the flights during the period 6th to 18th December were fully booked. Through the hosting of the 25th SEA Games, the tourism potential of Laos with the other 10 countries in the Southeast Asian region would have increased significantly.

Overall, the organisation of the 25th SEA Games was a great success. The Laos NOC has every right to be proud of its achievements, both on and off the sports arenas. The standard of Laotian athletes will surely improve further and will certainly make the SEA Games more competitive. Vientiane and Laos have proven once again that the hosting of the SEA Games could bring much benefit to sport and to the country.

Final Medal Table

Rank	Country				T	RT
1	Thailand	86	83	97	266	1
2	Vietnam	83	75	57	215	2
3	Indonesia	43	53	74	170	3
4	Malaysia	40	40	59	139	4
5	Philippines	38	35	51	124	5
6	Singapore	33	30	35	98	7
7	Laos	33	25	52	110	6
8	Myanmar	12	22	37	71	8
9	Cambodia	3	10	27	40	9
10	Brunei Darussalam	1	1	8	10	10
11	Timor-Leste	0	0	3	3	11
	Total:	372	374	500	1246	



The proud host nation enters the stadium for the opening ceremony



Oman ready to shine for

Sun, sea, sand and sport...Oh yes, it's Oman!

At the end of this Asian Games year, Muscat will play host to the 2nd Asian Beach Games from December 8-16, 2010.

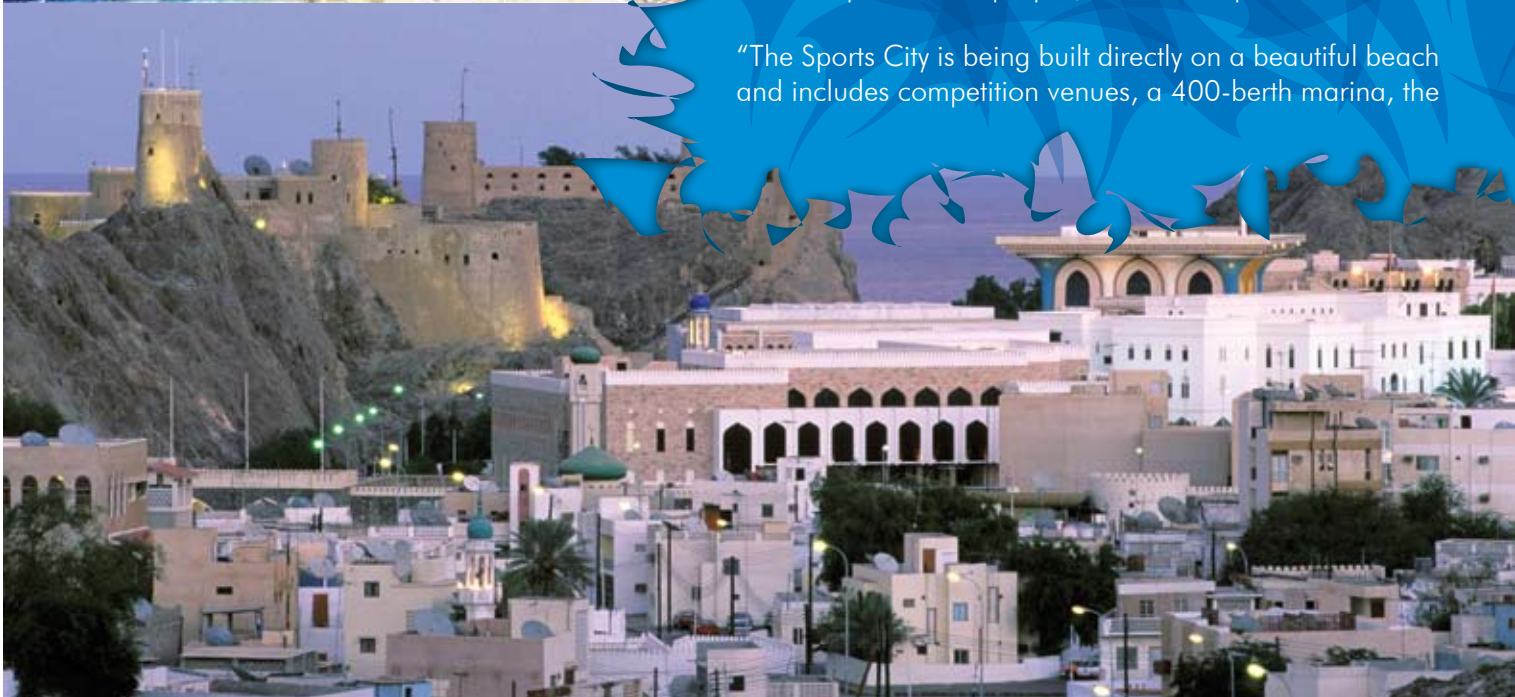
Not only will it be a wonderful opportunity for Asia to assemble in the picture-postcard Sultanate, it will also allow Oman to showcase its rich tradition and leave a legacy for sport, tourism and the economy.

"Visitors will have the chance to experience a unique culture and the warmth of Omani hospitality," says Habib Macki, Director General of the Muscat Asian Beach Games Organising Committee (MABGOC).

"Athletes will compete in perfect Beach Games conditions and will enjoy our new state-of-the-art Sports City built especially for Muscat 2010," added the IOC Member.

Sports City (pictured left) is located at Al-Musannah, some 120 kilometres from Muscat, and is a spectacular one-million square metre project, as Macki explains.

"The Sports City is being built directly on a beautiful beach and includes competition venues, a 400-berth marina, the





2nd Asian Beach Games

Athletes' Village, the Main Command Centre, the International Broadcast Centre, Information Technology Control Centre, a hotel, serviced apartments, restaurants and shops. The construction is set for completion in September and works are currently progressing on schedule."

The 2nd Asian Beach Games, with a slogan of "Together We Shine", will be the biggest international sports event Oman has ever held, and will present the Sultanate as a progressive, outward-looking and uniquely hospitable part of Asia.

Muscat by numbers

12 sports: beach soccer, beach handball, beach kabaddi, beach sepaktakraw, beach volleyball, bodybuilding, jetski sport, marathon swimming, sailing, tent pegging (pictured below), triathlon and beach woodball.

2,000 athletes and team officials

45 National Olympic Committees affiliated to the OCA

600 technical officials

250 strong workforce

3,300 volunteers

500 local and international media



MUSCAT 2010
2nd ASIAN BEACH GAMES



Guangzhou impressed with Hong Kong support

Support for the 16th Asian Games in Guangzhou, China, this November is gaining momentum – especially in nearby Hong Kong.

At a rally in Hong Kong on Saturday, January 23, the Special Administrative Region (SAR) of China impressed visiting Guangzhou dignitaries with a parade of decorated taxis, pledges of promotional activities from 1,000 schools and over 70 major shopping malls, plus the promise of the largest delegation sent to an Asian Games by Hong Kong's National Olympic Committee.

"We are very grateful for this wonderful support from the Hong Kong community," said a proud Xu Ruisheng, Vice Mayor of Guangzhou Municipality and Executive Deputy Secretary General of Asian Games organisers GAGOC.

"This event is very meaningful and important, as it kicks off a series of promotional events in Hong Kong all the way through to the Asian Games in November.

"It will help educate and drive the public in the build-up to the



A taxi driver proudly displays the Asian Games slogan



Hong Kong youngsters show their support for Guangzhou

Games, as Hong Kong is not only an important city in southern China but also a gateway to the world."

More than 100 taxis took part in a motorcade displaying the colourful Games emblem and slogan "Thrilling Games Harmonious Asia", as well as flags to attract attention from the public throughout the SAR.

The event was organised by the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference – a political advisory body for the People's Republic of China – and held at Sha Tin Jockey Club in the New Territories.

OCA Vice President Timothy Fok, President of the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, said the November 12-27 Guangzhou Asian Games would underline the rise of Asia on the global stage following the success of the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing.

"The Asian Games will become another milestone in Chinese sport, and Hong Kong will send their largest ever delegation to an Asian Games," he said.

"Hong Kong and Guangzhou are close neighbours on the Pearl River Delta, so Hong Kong will feel the same glory and happiness, the same excitement and drive, as Guangzhou in hosting the 16th Asian Games."

GAGOC prepares for 10,000 media



OCA Media Committee Chairman Manuel Silverio has assured the 10,000 media representatives attending the 16th Asian Games that they will receive full support from organising committee GAGOC.

Speaking in Macau recently, Mr. Silverio said all efforts were being made to assist the media in their job of spreading the Asian Games news around the continent and the world.

"The OCA has worked continuously with the media to promote and enhance the development of Asian sport, and understands the importance of assisting the media in their work," he said.

Mr. Silverio pointed out that GAGOC had organised the first World Broadcasters' Meeting in Guangzhou last September, followed by the first World Press Briefing in December. The broadcasters' meeting was attended by 36 Asian broadcasting representatives and observers, while 200 media attended the press briefing.

"During these meetings the OCA and GAGOC gathered many suggestions from the media to help us adjust the services and provide even better quality to the media," added Mr. Silverio.

GAGOC is expecting 10,000 media to cover the 16th Asian Games: 5,000 journalists and photographers, 3,000 from the host broadcaster and 2,000 from rights-holding broadcasters.

Wei leads OCA team to Kazakhstan

The Honorary Life Vice President of the Olympic Council of Asia, Wei Jizhong, led the OCA Coordination Committee visit to Kazakhstan – host of the 7th Asian Winter Games from January 30-February 6, 2011.

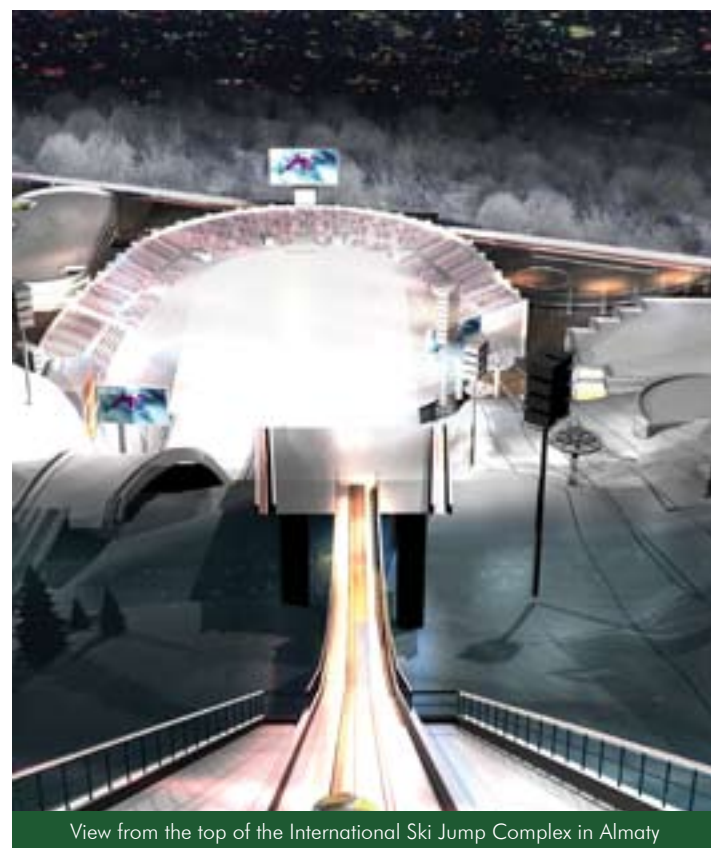
The delegation spent four days in mid-December visiting the venues, first in Astana and then in Almaty, and discussed issues such as accommodation, transportation, medical services and doping control, Information Technology, promotion and marketing, cultural events, volunteers and broadcasting.

Mr. Wei gave a lot of hope and encouragement to the people of Kazakhstan, who are focused on not only developing their own country but also on providing a top-class winter sports destination for the whole of Asia.

"On behalf of the delegates here and the Olympic Council of Asia, it is our opinion that the 7th Asian Winter Games will be organised at the top level. Our visit has underlined this view," said the veteran Chinese sports leader.

The guests began their tour in Astana at the National Indoor Cycle Arena where the short track and figure skating competitions will take place. Construction was 75 percent complete, and the venue will come into operation in the second quarter of 2010.

Everybody was surprised by the impressive Indoor Football Stadium, where the opening ceremony will be held on January 30, and by the Indoor Speed Skating Stadium, which has few rivals in the world with its array of winter sports facilities: two 400-metre race tracks, two ice courts, a fitness centre, basketball hall, cafes and restaurants, a hotel and training gyms.



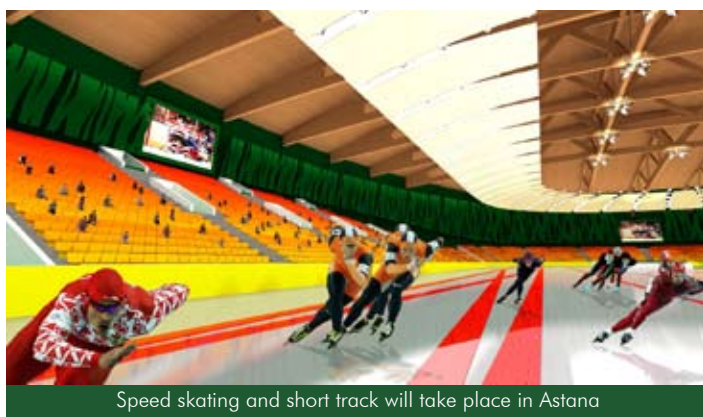
View from the top of the International Ski Jump Complex in Almaty

The last venue in Astana was the Kazakhstan Sports Palace, which is already operational and under renovation to add a new ice training site with stands for 1,000 seats. The Palace will stage the men's hockey competition.



The five venues in Almaty are the Baluam Sholak Sport Palace (women's hockey and closing ceremony), the International Ski Jump Complex, Soldatskoye Valley (cross-country skiing, biathlon and ski orienteering), the Medeu Alpine Ice Arena (bandy) and the Shymbulak Alpine Sport Resort (Alpine skiing and freestyle skiing).

Kazakhstan has invited fellow Asian NOCs to use their venues for training camps ahead of the Winter Olympic Games in Sochi, Russia, in 2014.



Speed skating and short track will take place in Astana

Hosts aim for top-two finish

The Minister of Tourism and Sport of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Mr. Temirkhan Dosmukhambetov, has set a top-two finish as the target for the host nation for the 7th Asian Winter Games in 2011.

With 69 disciplines in 11 sports, Kazakhstan hopes to garner enough medals in home conditions to challenge for top honours.

"Our team has a goal to win not less than second place in the general team classification," he said. "As the saying goes, at home even the walls help."

"As for the organisation of the Games, here we have no questions. The fact that the country is ready to host such a large amount of guests was endorsed by the successful hosting of the World Tourism Organization Congress in Kazakhstan recently. The potential of Kazakhstan was highly praised."

"There is no doubt whatsoever that the venues will be ready on time and in good quality, especially taking into consideration the special attention being paid by the leader of Kazakhstan, Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev, to the construction of the venues, and also to the continuous governmental monitoring."



Incheon maps out key year in build-up to 2014

The coming year will be important for not only Guangzhou – host of the 2010 Asian Games – but also for Incheon, which will stage the 17th Asian Games in 2014.

Incheon Metropolitan City, the third largest city in the Republic of Korea with a population of 2.8 million and a land size of 1,007 square kilometers, is preparing an Asian Games to reflect the dynamic growth of Incheon as a major international hub of East Asia.

The main focus in 2010 for organising committee IAGOC will be the development of slogans, emblems and mascots for the Games. IAGOC has been holding competitions, meetings and public hearings with experts, media, academia and foreign ministries in order to finalise these important issues in the first half of this year.



Second, Incheon will use the flag-handover ceremony at the 16th Asian Games in Guangzhou in November to start building momentum towards 2014, raising the interest in Korea and throughout Asia to foster a positive atmosphere for a successful Incheon Asian Games.

Incheon builds bridges for Asian Games

The Olympic Council of Asia is all about building bridges to connect the continent through sport, particularly the Asian Games.

When it comes to the 2014 Asian Games in Incheon, Korea, the bridges don't come any bigger or better than the newly constructed Incheon Bridge.

Over 21 kilometres in length and with a lifespan of 100 years, the striking architectural marvel will link Incheon International Airport with Songdo International City and Cheongna Area – a core infrastructure of the Incheon Free Economic Zone. It will

Third, IAGOC will lay the foundations for the Information Technology infrastructure system, a step-by-step road map in order to make the Games a state-of-the-art event from an IT aspect, too.

Finally, IAGOC will establish professional advisory committees for slogan and emblems, broadcasting, design, IT, cultural affairs and ceremony production to ensure the Incheon Asian Games are the best ever Games.



Incheon - main Stadium

also lead to the smooth running of the 2014 Asiad, due to the convenience in linking all areas key to the success of the Games. Another bridge under construction is the OCA-Incheon Vision 2014 Programme, aimed at closing the gap between Asia's sporting giants and minnows. A fund of US\$20 million has been allocated for seven years, from 2007 when Incheon was chosen as host city through to 2014.

A steering committee decides the recipients each year for the fund, which helps NOCs without Asian Games medals to be able to train their athletes, develop their sports and coaches and increase their chances of winning medals in Incheon.



Incheon Bridge



Afghanistan

A visiting sports delegation from Afghanistan led by NOC President Zahir Akbar attended a banquet in Beijing given by Liu Peng, Minister of the General Administration of Sport of China and President of the Chinese Olympic Committee. Liu expressed his thanks to Zahir Akbar for Afghanistan's participation in the Beijing Olympic Games as well as other sports events held in China. He also hoped Afghanistan would send a delegation to the 2010 Asian Games in Guangzhou to help realise the grand reunion of the Asian sports family.



Bahrain

HRH Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al-Khalifa, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain, restructured the High Council of Youth and Sports and appointed NOC President HH Sheikh Nasser Bin Hamad Al Khalifa as a Member of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports to further strengthen the sporting structure in the Kingdom.



Bangladesh

Dr Mohammad Omar Faruque, Chairman of the Medical Committee of the Bangladesh Olympic Association, passed away on November 23, 2009, in Apollo Hospital, Dhaka. In addition to his NOC function, Dr Omar was serving as Secretary of the Medical Committee for the 11th SAF Games, scheduled to be held in Dhaka from January 29, 2010. Dr Omar Faruque served as a member of the OCA Medical Committee from 2003 to 2007.



Brunei Darussalam

Brunei Darussalam was selected as one of the four NOCs to host an IOC medical course out of the 11 applicants in Asia. Dr M. Jegathesan, Chairman of the OCA Medical Committee and Anti-doping Commission, revealed the news during his speech at the opening of the 2nd IOC Sports Medicine Course 2010 at the Orchid Garden Hotel. His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkih, President of Brunei Darussalam NOC, officiated at the course.

"One of the key elements in favour of Brunei Darussalam was the track record of the country in organising the first course. The sponsors were very impressed with the effort by the organising committee," said Dr. Jegathesan.



Cambodia

The Cambodian delegation at the SEA Games in Vientiane, Laos, faced a two-day bus journey home, with police escort to the border, according to The Phnom Penh Post. Most of the athletes, coaches, managers and officials were in joyous mood, reflecting on the 40 medals won in Laos, the Kingdom's best tally for decades and a significant improvement on the 18 collected at the 2007 SEA Games in Thailand.

In the afternoon, when the buses reached the city limits, the three gold medallists -- Chan Sokmean, Heng Than and Chov Sotheara -- were invited into a special car at the head of the motorcade. The athletes received a hero's welcome from the crowd members, who waved and cheered as the procession snaked its way through the capital on its way to the Olympic Stadium, where tearful relatives awaited.



China

An exhibition marking the 30th anniversary of China's return to the Olympic family opened at the headquarters of the General Administration of Sport of China (GASC) in Beijing. Attending the opening ceremony were Liu Peng, President of the Chinese Olympic Committee and Minister of GASC, IOC President Jacques Rogge, He Zhenliang, COC Honorary President and IOC Member, Yu Zaiqing, Vice President of both the COC and IOC, and Timothy Fok, IOC Member and President of the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China.



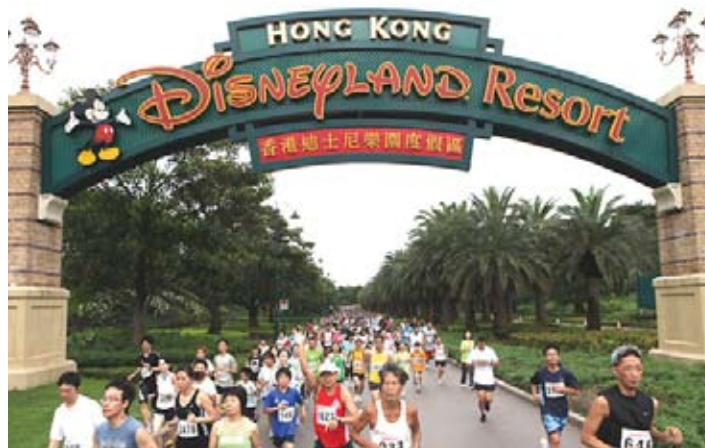
DPR Korea

The China-DPR Korea Sports Exchange Protocol 2010 was signed in Jinan of Shandong Province by sports leaders of both countries. The two sides agreed to have more exchanges and cooperation between their sports departments to help strengthen the friendly relations between the two countries. COC President Liu Peng, Minister of the General Administration of Sport, had a talk with Pak Hak Son, Chairman of the DPRK Physical Culture and Sports Guidance Commission and NOC President, and exchanged views on how to strengthen ties between the two sports departments.



Hong Kong, China

Following the runaway success of the NOC's 2009 Olympic Day Run at Hong Kong Disneyland Resort, the entry quota has been raised from 4,000 to 6,000 for this year's edition. The date has been fixed for Sunday, June 27, and runners (and walkers) of all ages will be welcome. "It's a 'Sport for All' project, and, with the help of the sponsors, we will make it a family affair with a programme of entertainment," said Pang Chung, Hon. Secretary General of the NOC.



India

The first Coordination Committee meeting of the National Club Games was held at FICCI House, New Delhi. Members from all the State Olympic Associations and Sports Federations (seven) attended this one-day session led by Mr. Randhir Singh, Secretary General, Indian Olympic Association. Mr. Suresh Kalmadi, MP, President Indian Olympic Association, Mr. Atul Singh, Chairman, Sports Committee, FICCI and Dr. Amit Mitra Secretary General, FICCI also addressed the session. The session was very interactive and the State Olympic Associations received clarifications with respect to implementing the National Club Games at the

Panchayat level and then carry the momentum through State level. Most encouraging feature was the commitment demonstrated by the State Olympic Associations for ensuring the success of National Club Games.



Iran

The Iranian NOC organised the first Advanced Sports Management Course under the auspices of Olympic Solidarity. Spread over seven modules, held each month from 2009 to 2010, the course brings together 11 participants representing several sports federations and organisations. The first module was launched in December 2009 by NOC Secretary General Bahram Afsharzadeh and the second was held on January 4-5, 2010.



Iraq

IOC President Jacques Rogge met with Iraqi NOC President Raad Hammoodi Al-Dulaimi and Secretary General Adel Fadhil Ali in Switzerland in January.



Japan

Dr Yoshio Kuroda, the former OCA Medical Committee Chairman, has been presented with the Pierre de Coubertin Medal. Dr Kuroda, President of the Japan Anti-Doping Agency (JADA), received his medal at an IOC Awarding Ceremony at the Grand Prince Hotel in Akasaka, Tokyo. IOC member Professor Arne Ljungqvist of Sweden, Chairman of the IOC medical commission, delivered a congratulatory message and presented Dr. Kuroda with the award. Also in attendance were Japanese Olympic Committee President Tsunekazu Takeda, IOC Member Shun-ichiro Okano, former IOC Vice President Chiharu Igaya and Dr Ichiro Kono, Chairman of JADA.



Jordan

Generations For Peace, the global peace-through-sport initiative created by HRH Prince Feisal Al Hussein, is set to reach and benefit all five Olympic continents following official recognition granted by the IOC. Official IOC status will enable Generations For Peace to connect and partner with all the organisations within the Olympic Family by offering a proven model of sport enabling social development and peace. Generations For Peace, which started in 2007, has already trained 373 leaders of youth from 31 countries experiencing conflict in Asia and Africa. These delegates have since trained 2,000 new trainers and the end result is that over 42,000 young people in conflict regions have begun a process of reconciliation through sport.



Kazakhstan

The 7th Asian Winter Games 2011 Organising Committee in Almaty conducted a Republican Academic and Research Conference on "Volunteering in Kazakhstan: present and future" on December 3, 2009. Representatives of international organisations, NGOs and youth movements took part in the event. The conference discussed the role and place of volunteering at the Asian Games and problems with volunteer development in Kazakhstan. It is planned that about 2,500 people will be attracted to help with the service of the Asian Winter Games. The conference was dedicated to the International Day of Volunteers.



Korea

Liu Peng, Minister of the General Administration of Sport of China, President of the Chinese Olympic Committee and President of the Guangzhou Asian Games Organising Committee, met Lee Yun-Taek, President of the Incheon 2014 Asian Games Organising Committee (IAGOC) at The Garden Hotel in Guangzhou. Both sides agreed that Guangzhou and Incheon should strengthen communication and cooperation on how to stage a successful Asian Games.



Malaysia

Three-time Olympic swimmer Alex Lim Keng Liat has been appointed Malaysia's Chef de Mission for the 1st Youth Olympic Games in Singapore this August. Lim is the most outstanding swimmer Malaysia has produced, winning the gold medal in the 100m backstroke at the 1998 Asian Games in Bangkok. The OCM Executive Board has approved the OCM Athletes Commission, which has been established with seven members. The Chair of the Commission, Ms. Phan Su Ming (wushu), and a representative, Ms. Elaine Chee (ice hockey), were appointed to the OCM Executive Board.

In other news from the OCM, the following five athletes and officials were inducted into the OCM Hall of Fame at the 17th OCM annual dinner on January 16: Dr. A. E. Delilkan (cricket), Darshan Singh (cycling), James Selvaraj (badminton), Alex Lim Keng Liat (swimming) and Ho Ro Bin (wushu). The OCM-Coca-Cola Olympian of the Year Awards for 2009 were won by swimmer Daniel Bego and the women's badminton team.



Mongolia

The Mongolian NOC organised its annual "Burtu Chono" Olympic gala in cooperation with national television. Those present included NOC President Demchigjav Zagdsuren, IOC honorary member Shagdarjav Magvan, Chairman of the National Sports Board D. Surenkhorloo, Sports Minister S. Lambaa and Prime Minister Sukhbaatarjav Batbold.



The Athletes of the Year for 2009 were: P. Serdamba, the first Mongolian boxing world champion, and B. Tsagaanbaatar, the first judo world champion. B. Munguntuul (chess), G. Usukhbayar (national wrestling), M. Davaajargal-Hakuho (sumo), U. Munkh-Erdene and N. Tugtsogt (boxing), B. Odonchimeg and O. Burmaa (women's wrestling), D. Tumurkhuleg (judo) were selected by the Mongolian sports media as the Top 10 in 2009.

In other news, the General Assembly of the Mongolian NOC was held at Olympic House in Ulaanbaatar. Members discussed numerous important issues concerning the Olympic Movement

in the country. Finally, all members of the NOC selected the host city for the XIII National Sports Games in 2011 for the first time by Olympic-style procedure with the participation of three bidding cities. As a result of a secret ballot, the city of Choibalsan won with 21 votes, followed by Erdenet (19) and Zuunmod (13).



Oman

The Muscat Asian Beach Games Organising Committee took part in the annual Oman Olympic Day Run held at Sahwa Park in Muscat. Organised by the Oman Sport for All Committee, the Olympic Day activities were held under the auspices of His Excellency Eng. Ali Bin Masoud Al Sunaidy, Minister of Sports Affairs, Chairman of the Oman Olympic Committee and Member of the 2nd Asian Beach Games Board of Directors.



Palestine

Palestine plans to compete in taekwondo, judo, swimming and football in Guangzhou in November, according to Saba' Jarrar, a member of the Palestinian Olympic Committee.

"I believe that we will not have any gold or silver or anything, but we will have the chance to exchange our experience and see what the world is. We need to have a challenge in their mind," she says. "We will have maybe 40 athletes in the team, but in my dream I hope all our athletes can come and compete in facilities they did not see before. As Chef de Mission I will try to have more than 40."



Philippines

Joey Romasanta, the spokesperson of the Philippine Olympic Committee, has been named RP Team Chef de Mission to the 16th Asian Games in Guangzhou. POC President Jose 'Peping' Cojuangco appointed Romasanta to the post in a bid to start early the country's preparation for the November 12-27 Asiad. Romasanta is Deputy Vice President of the Philippine Karatedo Federation.



Qatar

The Qatar Olympic Committee organised the second module of the Masters Programme in Management of Sports Organisations in collaboration with the IOC in Doha from January 11-17, 2010, with the participation of 38 students from 38 countries.

HE Sheikh Saoud Bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, QOC Secretary General, stressed the importance of the module, especially the topic of marketing as a vital subject for sports promotion. The second module included lectures on marketing, strategic management of sports organisations, implementation of marketing plans and branding of sports organisations.



Singapore

The NTUC FairPrice Foundation has presented sports scholarships to local athletes for their outstanding performances at the 1st Asian Youth Games in Singapore. NTUC FairPrice Foundation, a registered charity set up by NTUC FairPrice in March 2008, sponsored a total of \$108,250 to the sports scholarships for the medallists. The awardees receive no cash, but a sports scholarship with a cash value that can be used for training equipment, vitamins and supplements, tickets to training camps, hiring of coaches etc.

Receiving top honours was Quah Ting Wen with \$16,250. Ting Wen was also named Female Athlete of the AYG. Next was bowler New Hui Fen, who received \$16,000. A total of 29 athletes out of the 90 who participated won medals and were rewarded with the sports scholarship from NTUC FairPrice Foundation.



Chinese Taipei

The 13th Symposium on Sports Exchanges across the Taiwan Strait was held in Beijing on January 18, 2010. Present at the meeting were Liu Peng, President of the Chinese Olympic Committee (COC), Feng Jianzhong, Vice President of the COC, Thomas W. Tsai, President of the Chinese Taipei Olympic Committee, together with three of his vice presidents, as well as representatives from the sports circles across the strait. After the friendly negotiations, the two sides agreed to launch 12 key programmes in the new year and encourage their local sports associations and organisations to carry out various forms of sports activities for each other.



UAE

The Ministry of Education has praised the United Arab Emirates NOC for their efforts in promoting sport in schools in an official letter of thanks and appreciation. The letter was sent by the Minister of Education, H.E. Humaid Mohammad Al Qattami, to the President of the NOC, H.H. Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammad bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

"The Ministry of Education will spare no effort to promote sport in schools through mutual cooperation and the kind support of Your Highness. May God always guide your path for the welfare and good of the public," the letter said.



Uzbekistan

The NOC of Uzbekistan welcomed Richard Fosbury, President of the World Olympians Association. Mr Fosbury, famous for the "Fosbury Flop" in the high jump, visited Uzbekistan to study the unique and successful experience of Uzbekistan in educating and training young Olympians, and to support retired Olympians in the process of social integration on the conclusion of their athletic careers.



The NOC and the Uzbekistan Olympians Association, which was founded by the NOC in 2004, introduced their main activities and projects to Mr Fosbury. He showed particular interest in a unique three-stage system of sports competitions among school, college and university students.

OCA to host judo youth camp in Bangkok

The Olympic Council of Asia will turn the attention from shooting to judo when it hosts its second youth camp in Thailand this summer.

In collaboration with the International Judo Federation, the Asian Judo Federation, the National Olympic Committee of Thailand and the Thai Judo Association, the OCA will be conducting the Asian Youth Camp for young judokas in Bangkok from July 18-31, 2010.

All 45 NOCs affiliated to the OCA are invited to send a maximum of two judokas under the age of 17 to participate in the camp.

The OCA has initiated the youth camp project to promote sport among the youth of Asia and also to keep Asia at the top of Olympic sports in which it excels.

The first Asian Youth Camp was held for shooting (10-metre air rifle) at the Sports Authority of Thailand in August 2009 and proved to be a huge success. The camp attracted 73 athletes and coaches from 23 countries and regions in Asia under the expert tuition of chief instructor Anton Belak, of Slovakia.

The OCA will organise a youth camp in each of the years of the 2009-2012 Olympic quadrennial.



Judo will be the focus of the 2nd OCA youth camp in Bangkok this summer

Diary of Events

2010



March 23
OCA Advisory Committee
Singapore



March 29 - 31
Chef de Mission Seminar, 7th Asian Winter Games
Almaty, Kazakhstan



April 8 - 9
8th OCA Coordination Committee, 16th Asian Games
Guangzhou, China



April 12
OCA Finance Committee
Taipei, Chinese Taipei



July 13
Olympic Solidarity/OCA Forums for five zones
Muscat, Oman



July 14
Chef de Mission Seminar, 2nd Asian Beach Games
Muscat, Oman



July 18 - 31
OCA Youth Camp - Judo
Bangkok, Thailand



September 13
9th OCA Coordination Committee, 16th Asian Games
Guangzhou, China



September 16 - 17
2nd OCA Coordination Committee, 7th Asian Winter Games
Almaty, Kazakhstan



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



November 12
56th OCA Executive Board Meeting
Guangzhou, China



November 13
29th OCA General Assembly
Guangzhou, China



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



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

2011

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