

Fists of Fury

Thailand welcomes martial arts warriors



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Unity, stability were vital in hectic 2009



Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah

President
Olympic Council of Asia

We are coming to the end of perhaps the busiest year in OCA history, a year in which Asia's sports leaders have shown great unity and forward-thinking.

Starting with the Inauguration Ceremony of the new OCA headquarters in Kuwait on March 11, and the first OCA Sports Congress from March 12-14, it has been a hive of activity behind the scenes in order to stage our three multi-sports events: the first Asian Youth Games in Singapore, the first Asian Martial Arts Games in Bangkok and, finally, the third Asian Indoor Games in Hanoi.

We have also held the OCA General Assembly, as well as many

other events such as Olympic Solidarity courses and Standing Committee meetings around the continent.

So I would like to take this opportunity to thank all 45 National Olympic Committees within the OCA for their hard work and dedication to the Olympic movement during this hectic year.

Unfortunately I have been unable to attend all the events, but a sign of the unity and stability within the OCA is the fact that everything has run smoothly, in accordance with our rules, regulations and protocol.

This is what a successful team is all about – a united effort and not just dependent on a few key players – and is why we can overcome the tragedy of war in some countries, political unrest in others and even the global threat of the H1N1 virus.

Next year, all roads lead to Guangzhou, China, and the 16th Asian Games in November 2010. This is "the big one" for the OCA, Asia's very own Olympics, and I am confident that everyone connected with the Games will put in maximum effort to make it a big success.

The Asian Games will be the first of three OCA events in a short period of time, with the second Asian Beach Games in Oman in December 2010 and the seventh Asian Winter Games in Kazakhstan in early 2011, so there is little time to rest. Together we can keep Asia moving 'Ever Onward'

Habib Macki elected to IOC



Oman's new IOC member, Habib Macki

Oman's Habib Abdul Nabi Macki was among six new members elected to the International Olympic Committee at the 121st IOC Session in Copenhagen, Denmark, on October 9.

The election of Habib Macki is recognition of the progress made by the Sultanate in the field of sports administration as well as the success achieved by the country's athletes.

Habib and his team were commended when Oman successfully hosted the Olympic Torch Relay in Muscat before the 2008 Beijing Olympics. The country is now preparing to host the second Asian Beach Games in December 2010.

Habib, Vice Chairman of the Oman Olympic Committee, said he was delighted to be elected as a member of the IOC for an eight-year term.

"It is an honour for all the Omani sportspersons and those involved with the Sultanate's sports," he said.

"It's an outcome of the extensive efforts of the sports community and all the officials who have been contributing to the sports," added Habib, who is also a member of the OCA Executive Board.

In other news from the 121st IOC Session:

- Singapore's Ng Ser Miang became an IOC Vice President. He joined the IOC in 1998 and has been an Executive Board member since 2005. He is chairman of the OCA's Advisory Committee and President of the Organising Committee for the first Youth Olympic Games in Singapore in August 2010.

- China's He Zhenliang, who will cease to be an IOC member at the end of this year, was elected IOC honorary member from January 1, 2010, after serving more than 10 years and giving exceptional service to the IOC.



Typically Thailand: The taekwondo competition takes place with an exotic backdrop

Golden smiles in Thailand

The first Asian Martial Arts Games were known as “The Games of Spirit, The Land of Smiles” – and Thailand succeeded on both fronts.

Not only did the host nation show plenty of spirit in the competition hall by finishing on top of the medals table, traditional Thai smiles greeted overseas athletes, officials and guests alike to create a warm and friendly atmosphere amidst the fists of fury.

“It was a very historic moment for us: the first and the last Asian Martial Arts Games,” said Maj. Gen. Charouck Arirachakaran, Vice President and Secretary General of the National Olympic Committee of Thailand, referring to the fact that the Martial Arts Games will merge with the Asian Indoor Games for the next event in 2013.

“We were very proud to host this festival of martial arts because the Thai people like these fighting sports.”

So do the Thai athletes, as they won 21 gold, 17 silver and 16 bronze for a total of 54 medals in the nine sports. The 21 gold came from Muay Thai (nine), jujitsu (three), kickboxing (two), pencak silat (two), taekwondo (two), wushu/kung fu (two) and kurash (one).




Kazakhstan finished second in the standings with 15 gold, seven silver and 12 bronze for 34, followed by the Republic of Korea (10-6-3-19), the People’s Republic of China (9-5-5-19) and Japan (9-2-3-14).

These teams filled the top five positions in the final medals table, but 32 NOCs went home with at least one medal.

“We didn’t expect to finish first in the medals table because we knew the likes of Korea, Japan and China would be very strong in taekwondo, judo and karate,” added Maj. Gen. Charouck.

“We thought second or third place would be good, but we were first so everyone in the organising committee was very happy, as were the people of Thailand.”

Final Medal Table

Rank	Country				T	RT
1	Thailand	21	17	16	54	1
2	Kazakhstan	15	7	12	34	3
3	Korea	10	6	3	19	7
4	China	9	5	5	19	7
5	Japan	9	2	3	14	11
6	Vietnam	7	11	21	39	2
7	Indonesia	5	6	5	16	9
8	Uzbekistan	4	5	12	21	5
9	Chinese Taipei	4	5	11	20	6
10	India	3	7	23	33	4
11	Pakistan	3	2	4	9	14
12	Philippines	2	6	9	17	8
13	Iraq	2	3	5	10	13
14	Malaysia	2	3	3	8	15
15	Afghanistan	2	2	8	12	12
15	Jordan	2	2	8	12	12
17	Syria	2	1	3	6	17
18	Laos	1	4	10	15	10
19	Mongolia	1	3	3	7	16
20	Bahrain	1	1	3	5	18
21	Lebanon	1	1	2	4	19
21	Macau	1	1	2	4	19
21	Turkmenistan	1	1	2	4	19
24	Hong Kong	0	2	3	5	18
24	Singapore	0	2	3	5	18
26	Kuwait	0	1	4	5	18
27	Brunei Darussalam	0	1	2	3	20
28	Myanmar	0	1	1	2	21
29	Sri Lanka	0	0	2	2	21
30	Bhutan	0	0	1	1	22
30	Nepal	0	0	1	1	22
30	Qatar	0	0	1	1	22
	Total:	108	108	191	407	



King of the jungle...the martial arts lion roars in victory



Getting in close



Phew ... that feels good!



Come and get me!



Fiercely focused



Take that!



I'm loving it!



That's my girl! Thais celebrate



How's that for ippon!

Asia's Warrior Heroes

A SELECTION OF COMMENTS FROM SOME OF THE MEDAL WINNERS



"I am very excited about the first Asian Martial Arts Games being held in my home country. There are many different kinds of fighting at this event, so that is good for the athletes and also for the spectators. It is an opportunity to show the attraction of the different martial arts." – **Dam Srirach**, Thailand. Gold medal in kickboxing (men's -81kg low kick).

"I am very proud to come here with the Jordan team. It's my third visit to Thailand and it's always very nice. Why taekwondo? Because I love it! It's a very nice sport and very famous in Jordan." – **Shaden Thweib**, Jordan. Silver medal in taekwondo (women's welterweight, 63-67kg).



"It is the first gold medal in Asia for me, for Indonesia and for judo. I have been in the national team for 20 years and this win is very important for me because it is at the Asian level." – **Krisna Bayu**, Indonesia. Gold medal in judo (men's half-heavyweight, -100kg).

"I started because I was crazy! It is my passion. My father used to do boxing in the Army and I would train with him, so needed to defend myself. That is how I got into jujitsu in 1998. My training includes 20 techniques every five minutes, non-stop for two hours every day." – **Shabina Nawaz Janjua**, Pakistan. Two gold medals in jujitsu (with Farah Riaz in women's duo and with Haroon Shakir Siddiqui in the mixed duo).



"Most of the athletes fought well, not only the two with the gold medals. But I am not very satisfied with some of the athletes because they trained very hard and were well prepared and it is a pity they could not show their technique and their spirit.

"Maybe their performance was only half or even 30 per cent of what they had put into the training." – China's taekwondo coach **Tao Cao**, commenting on the two gold medals for Zhang Hua (women's lightweight, 59-63kg) and Lei Jie (women's featherweight, 55-59kg).



"I feel very good because I am going home as the champion of Asia. The people are waiting for this medal. There has been fighting in my country for 30 years, so they are waiting for some happiness. My coach (Min San Hak from Korea) is the best coach. He came to Afghanistan four years ago and he gives us the training for free. He is like my father, my everything. He is great. I love him. He teaches us the real taekwondo, the Korean taekwondo." –

Bahawi Nesar, Afghanistan. Gold in taekwondo (men's lightweight, 67-72kg).

"I am so happy to be going home with the gold medal. I first took up wrestling aged 10 because my father was a wrestling champion. Then I changed to judo and now to jujitsu." –

Murtadha Mahmood, Iraq. Gold in jujitsu (men's 85-kg fighting system).



GAGOC cooks up treat for Chefs de Mission Seminar



Flag Plaza in the Athletes' Village, which will stage welcome ceremonies for the teams from November 5-11

BRING ON THE 16TH ASIAN GAMES!

That was the mood of the team leaders from the 45 National Olympic Committees after the three-day Chefs de Mission Seminar at the Guangzhou Garden Hotel from November 11-13.

The seminar, which attracted 221 delegates, began with a progress report on all aspects of the 16th Asian Games, including construction and renovation of Games venues, the competition schedule, Games services and promotional activities.

The remainder of the first day involved detailed presentations on 13 topics, such as accreditation procedure, accommodation, protocol and doping control, with each of the presentations being followed by a question and answer session between the Chefs de Mission and GAGOC departments.

On the second day, seven buses transported the delegates on a tour of Asian Games venues, starting at the Athletes' Village in Asian Games Town with the foundation stone-laying ceremony for the Wall For Harmony project.

Delegates were able to inspect sample apartments and offices in the village to check on the size and the services provided, and also see the general outline of Asian Games Town, which has an area of 2.73 square metres and is divided into three parts: Residential Zone, International Zone and Public Zone. The tour continued to venue clusters at University Town, Aoti and finally Tianhe.

The highlight of the three-day seminar came on Thursday evening with the one-year countdown ceremony to the 16th Asian Games at Guangzhou Gymnasium.

On the final day, the morning was devoted to a series of workshops to address specific issues and concerns. The closing ceremony in the afternoon was followed by a GAGOC/OCA news conference for the assembled media.

Summing up the Chefs de Mission Seminar on behalf of the OCA, Vice President Major General Charouk Arirachakaran of Thailand said everyone was very happy with the exchange of ideas and information.

"We have held the Asian Games four times in Bangkok, so we know how important these Chefs de Mission meetings are for the success of the Games," he said.



The leisure and recreation centre in the Athletes' Village



One of the apartment blocks in the Athletes' Village

OCA President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah begins the countdown with Wang Yang, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Party Secretary of the Guangdong CPC Provincial Committee



A parade of flags before the



Asia unites for Guangzhou

At 8pm on Thursday, November 12, the one-year countdown to the 2010 Asian Games took place at Guangzhou Gymnasium.

In front of a youthful audience, organisers GAGOC made all 45 National Olympic Committees belonging to the OCA feel at home in Guangzhou with a joyful ceremony full of surprises and cultural delights.

A three-part cultural festival followed the countdown and included a guest appearance by the renowned French pianist Richard Clayderman playing "365 Blessings".

The short and snappy programme took in folk music and dance from Syria, a Bollywood-style



Richard Clayderman performs "365 Blessings"



The mascots take the stage

the invitations are handed out



ou countdown ceremony

"Jai Ho" from India, and contributions from Thailand, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Japan and Korea.

On the official conclusion to the "Road of Asia" promotional tour, by land and sea through 37 countries and regions, representatives of the 45 NOCs took centre stage to receive their invitations to the 16th Asian Games from OCA President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah and from Liu Peng, Minister of General Administration of Sport of China, President of the Chinese Olympic Committee and President of GAGOC.

There was one last treat when Jackie Chan, king of kung fu cinema and promotional ambassador for Guangzhou 2010, made an appearance for the closing grand song and dance number.



ke centre stage

A Bollywood-style "Jai Ho", theme song of the smash hit movie "Slumdog Millionaire"



Jackie Chan shows his support for Guangzhou 2010

Rising Asia moves ever onward on global sports stage



OCA Executive Board Members during their meeting in Hanoi

OCA President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah started the 55th Executive Board meeting by highlighting the increasingly influential role Asia was playing in the Olympic movement.

In his introductory remarks at the Hanoi Daewoo Hotel on Saturday, October 31, Sheikh Ahmad said Asia figured very prominently in the IOC meetings in Copenhagen, Denmark, earlier in the month.

"The whole world gathered for the IOC Congress, and Asia was a main participant in many fields thanks to the findings of the 1st OCA Sport Congress in Kuwait in March," he said.

"This enabled us to contribute to the strategy of the sports movement for the next decade, so I would like to thank our Asian members within the IOC and the organisers of our Sport Congress for their valuable contributions."

Sheikh Ahmad had special words of praise for Japanese Olympic Committee President Tsunekazu Takeda, who had campaigned for Tokyo to try and bring the Summer Olympics back to Asia in 2016.

"Tokyo really was a good representative of Asia. You worked so hard and gave it your best effort – and trying is a success. The OCA would like to thank President Takeda for your efforts in your bidding and your sportsmanship."

Sheikh Ahmad concluded: "I hope that, through our solidarity and cooperation, we continue to reach and achieve our goals."

"We are doing well. Analysis shows that that the OCA is one of the biggest sports movements in the world, and it is thanks to the cooperation and solidarity of the NOCs."

Other news from the EB meeting included:

☀ The OCA approved the addition of tent pegging to the programme of the second Asian Beach Games in Muscat, Oman, in December 2010. Twelve countries and regions in Asia are active in the sport, which is played on horseback and has a

military background. Organisers can accommodate eight teams of five players and one chef d'équipe, and will provide four horses per team from a pool of 65 mounts.

☀ Organisers of the 17th Asian Games in Incheon, Korea, in 2014 want to include 38 sports, three more than approved at the OCA General Assembly in July. Sheikh Ahmad said the OCA would be flexible in negotiations because Incheon signed the contract in 2007, and the new resolution was passed in July 2009.

☀ Anyone from Asia elected to the IOC Athletes Commission, for example Moon Dae-Sung of Korea, will automatically be invited to join the OCA Athletes Committee led by Japan's Yuko Arakida.

☀ The 1st Asian Youth Games and 1st Asian Martial Arts Games in Singapore and Bangkok, respectively, were confirmed as doping-free by Medical Committee Chairman Dr. Mani Jegathesan of Malaysia.

☀ Prof. Hoang Vinh Giang of Vietnam will continue as an honorary Vice President of the OCA after the Asian Indoor Games until 2011.

☀ Bahrain has requested to host the second Asian Youth Games in 2013. Incheon is still interested, but all 45 NOCs will be invited to apply before a decision is made.

☀ Turkmenistan intends to apply officially to host the first combined Asian Martial Arts-Indoor Games in 2013. Again, all 45 NOCs will be invited to apply before a decision is made.

☀ Sri Lanka has invited the OCA to host its General Assembly there in 2012, after Guangzhou in 2010 and Kuwait in 2011. Sheikh Ahmad accepted the invitation, on condition of approval by the next General Assembly.

☀ All NOCs are invited to bid for the 2019 and / or 2023 Asian Games, as the OCA will decide on the next two hosts at the same meeting.

Vietnam targets 2019 Asiad after AIG success

Vietnam had a calming effect on the athletes and officials attending the Asian Indoor Games in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City and other cities and provinces around the country.

In the early days of the third AIG, the 43 participating National Olympic Committees encountered problems with transportation, hotels, training schedules and information flow. Everything was there – but no one knew where to find it.

By the end of the Games, however, the charm, hard work and hospitality of the Vietnamese had won over everyone, and led to a successful and memorable event.

As one representative stated at the final meeting of the Chefs de Mission: "When we arrived it was difficult to check in. Now it is difficult to check out."



With strong government support, organising committee VAIGOC had managed to turn things round and resolve all those early frustrations. Very much like a bumpy taxi ride along Hanoi's bustling boulevards, the journey included a few nervous moments and near-misses along the way, but they arrived safely in the end.

OCA Vice President Prof. Hoang Vinh Giang was the face of the organising committee throughout the Games, and he was so grateful for the support and guidance of the OCA and NOCs that he announced that Vietnam would be bidding for the fourth Asian Beach Games in 2016 and the 2019 Asian Games.

"We hope, with this experience, we can go on to the bidding process and that Vietnam has a chance to host one of the two events," said Prof. Hoang, Vice President-Secretary General of the Vietnam NOC.

In the competition arena, China finished on top of the medals table for the third consecutive Indoor Games, and Vietnam

jumped from 13th with two gold medals in 2007 to second in 2009 with 42 gold – way beyond the target of between 15 and 20. The host country was helped by eight gold medals in vovinam, the traditional martial art of Vietnam, early in the Games, and maintained their winning momentum to the end.



Games mascot Ho Chicken enjoys the opening ceremony

Medal Table

Rank	Country				T	RT
1	China	48	25	19	92	2
2	Vietnam	42	30	22	94	1
3	Kazakhstan	21	16	21	58	4
4	Thailand	19	17	34	70	3
5	Iran	17	15	13	45	6
6	Korea	16	14	16	46	5
7	India	6	9	25	40	7
8	Hong Kong	6	9	17	32	8
9	Indonesia	6	3	14	23	11
10	Uzbekistan	5	9	10	24	10
11	Japan	5	9	9	23	11
12	Saudi Arabia	4	3	2	9	16
13	Laos	3	8	14	25	9
14	Chinese Taipei	3	5	15	23	11
15	Malaysia	3	5	8	16	12
16	United Arab Emirates	3	0	3	6	19
17	Qatar	2	3	3	8	17
18	Singapore	1	7	3	11	14

Rank	Country				T	RT
19	Cambodia	1	4	7	12	13
20	Philippines	1	4	5	10	15
21	Jordan	1	4	1	6	19
22	Bahrain	1	3	1	5	20
23	Macau	1	2	3	6	19
24	Mongolia	0	2	5	7	18
25	Iraq	0	2	4	6	19
26	Afghanistan	0	2	2	4	21
27	Brunei Darussalam	0	1	6	7	18
28	Kuwait	0	1	4	5	20
29	Sri Lanka	0	1	2	3	22
30	Syria	0	1	1	2	23
31	Tajikistan	0	1	0	1	24
32	Bangladesh	0	0	1	1	24
32	Kyrgyzstan	0	0	1	1	24
32	Lebanon	0	0	1	1	24
	Total:	215	215	292	722	



Making a move



Agility in the shuttlecock



Strike a pose



A hat trick in the opening ceremony



Basketball action



Futsal fever



Doan Minh Truong Nguyen and Hong Thi Nguyen win gold for Vietnam



Swimming gold for HKG's Yvette Kong Man-yi



The artistry of wushu



Four-time women's world boxing champion MC Mary Kom of India has a breather on her way to the gold medal in the 46kg category

Something for everyone at AIG

From the Paso Doble to the pole vault, the third Asian Indoor Games had something for everyone in Vietnam from October 30-November 8, 2009.

One night you could be transported into a mini-Olympics, watching the thrills of the relay in the swimming pool, and the next you could be in the dance hall, marvelling at the splendour of the costumes and the high-speed artistry of the Samba and the Jive.

And then there was the E-Sports programme for the computer gamers, their moves being projected on to six big screens for the audience to follow, and the cultural appeal of indoor kabaddi, with its "Jungle Book" – style theme tune conjuring up images of a dusty village square in India – all in the centre of Hanoi.

While some of the sports were familiar, others were more of a curiosity – but what remained constant throughout the Games was the noisy backing of the flag-waving, drum-beating supporters, be it at the women's boxing or the Viennese Waltz.

Sporting Asia talks to four athletes who contributed to the success of the AIG:

Zhang Baiyu (China, dance sport, 19): I started dancing when I was 11, and now I practice four or five hours a day at least. Dance sport is popular all over the world so I really hope that one day it can be in the Olympics. It is good for your lifestyle and for

your body with all the exercise. When I was young I had something to do and had fun with dance, instead of getting into bad things.

Navneet Gautam (India, kabaddi, 26): This is a national game from my country and all the players are professional. There are so many tournaments in India and so many people play – about 3,000 in 250 teams. It is a technical game, a speed game, a power game. We practice to make our skills perfect. We must do this because it is a national sport.

Doniyor Shamuzafarov (Uzbekistan, E-Sports, 24): It is fun but you also feel adrenaline, some spirit when you play with your friends. The main thing is to be friendly, to play for the team and understand your friends. You must know what your teammate is going to do and what you need to do. You support each other and talk tactics and give your opinion. Before I went to Macau for the 2007 Asian Indoor Games I was playing for 18 hours a day for three weeks. I thought that if I went to sleep I would not win.

MC Mary Kom (India, women's boxing, 27): I have won the world championship four times and the Asian championship four times, but this gold medal is special because it is the Asian Indoor Games and part of the Olympic movement all over the world. I am looking forward to women's boxing in the London Olympics and hope to win a gold medal, although I need to gain a few kilos to make the minimum weight (48kg, now she is 45kg).



Afghanistan

AFGHANISTAN NOC ELECTIONS MAKE HISTORY

History was made when elections were held for the first time by the Afghanistan National Olympic Committee on Monday, September 28, 2009.

The Extraordinary General Assembly took place at the Hotel Serina in Kabul, in accordance with the statutes approved by the Afghanistan NOC General Assembly and by the International Olympic Committee. All 21 General Assembly members attended.

NOC President Mohammad Zahir Aghbar opened the EGA and presented a brief report on the activities of the NOC during the last six months. He said the Afghan NOC enjoyed an excellent relationship with international sports bodies, including the IOC and OCA, which resulted in the successful participation of Afghan athletes in the 1st Asian Martial Arts Games in Bangkok, the 2008 Beijing Olympics and the OCA General Assembly in Singapore in July 2009.

Mr. Aghbar thanked the IOC and OCA representative Reza Charim for being present at this ground-breaking meeting.

Before moving to the agenda items, the General Assembly unanimously decided that the following six new sports federations be included as full members with full voting rights: Afghanistan Karate Federation, Afghanistan Snooker Federation,

Afghanistan Golf Federation, Paralympics Federation, Afghanistan Martial Arts Sports and Afghanistan Bodybuilding Federation. The NOC now has 26 affiliated sports federations.

The Board of Directors – comprised of 17 members (11 elected and six appointed by the president) – is: President, Mohammad Zahir Aghbar; vice president, Sayeed Ahmad Zia Muzafari; secretary general, Jan Alam Hussaini; treasurer, Ms. Khatera Waqf; elected members, Ghulam Rabani Rabani, Ghaus Nakbeen, Dad Mohammad Payenda, Keramuddin Karim, Ameer Hussain Haideri, Bawar Hutak, Ms. Parwin Sofi.

Appointed members: Safiullah Sebat, Ms. Sabrian Saqib, Ms. Fahima Sarfraz, Ms. Naseema Niazi, Rohullah Nikpa, Abdul Rahman Mohammadi.

The house members expressed their happiness on the election of five women on the Board of Directors.



Mongolia



The Museum of Zavkhan province - the home province of Mr. Shagdarjav Magvan, IOC Hon. Member - has unveiled a commemorative stand in recognition of his tremendous contribution to the Olympic Movement and to sports development in Mongolia. The opening ceremony was held in Uliastai city and attended by in many dignitaries including Dr. D. Zagdsuren, NOC President, Mr. Ya. Sanjmyatav, Governor of Zavkhan Province, and Mr. E. Badar-Uugan, Beijing 2008 Olympic boxing champion.

Mr. Sh. Magvan, 82, started his career in Aldarkhaan county as a teacher and young physical education leader, rising to become NOC President, Sports Minister (1968-1978) and IOC Member (since 1977). The Zavkhan Province has donated a top horse to Mr. Sh. Magvan in traditional mongolian nomadic style.



Malaysia

The Olympic Council of Malaysia wishes to congratulate Encik Chua Hong Tam for being awarded the Sports Leadership Award of the Malaysian Schools Sports Council of the Ministry of Education Malaysia on October 30, 2009.

Encik Chua retired from the Ministry of Education on March 7, 2006, as the Director of the Sports Management Unit of the Sports and Physical Education Department of the Ministry of Education Malaysia. On his retirement he joined the Olympic Council of Malaysia on May 7, 2006, as a volunteer officer.

Contact us

Sporting Asia plans to expand its coverage of the 45 NOCs in 2010. All NOCs are requested to send their news and promotional activities to Sporting Asia Editor Jeremy Walker at: jeremy@ocasia.org

For Better 2014 Incheon Asian Games



Incheon builds towards 2014 Asian Games



Some of Asia's top sports leaders, led by OCA Vice President Timothy Fok, were given a vision of the future during a three-day visit to Incheon, Korea, from September 25-27.

The guests, who included five Asian IOC members and several high-ranking officials from National Olympic Committees, were given a detailed progress report on preparations for the 2014 Asian Games.

This was followed by a presentation on the multi-trillion dollar development of Incheon Metropolitan City, aimed at making it one of the top 10 cities in the world by 2020 in terms of infrastructure, business, communications, leisure, entertainment and sports. The Asian Games will play a big part in this, as explained by Joonhwan Kong, Director General, Planning and Operations Headquarters of the 2014 Incheon Asian Games Organising Committee (IAGOC).

Mr. Kong said the Games would run for 16 days from September 19 to October 4, 2014, and involve 38 sports, although the final number has to be confirmed with the OCA.

There will be 40 competition venues, 20 of which will be constructed for the Games and beyond, including a new 70,000-capacity main stadium. In addition to the 40 competition venues, IAGOC will also provide 56 training sites and two villages: one to accommodate 13,000 athletes and the other for 7,000 media. The villages will be just 1km from the main stadium.

Another initiative is "Vision 2014", which began in 2007 and has a budget of US\$20 million over eight years. Its objectives are to promote the Olympic movement in Asia and to nurture young athletes to become more competitive in international sports

events. The project provides training camps, coaches and other activities, and the NOCs of Mongolia, Indonesia, Tajikistan, Bangladesh, Thailand, Myanmar and Pakistan have already benefited from Vision 2014.

The highlight of the weekend was an International Forum "For a better 2014 Incheon Asian Games", hosted jointly by the OCA and IAGOC.

The Forum involved three keynote speakers, whose presentations were discussed by a panel of experts in order to share ideas, knowledge and experience five years before the Incheon Games take place.

IAGOC President Dr. Lee Yun-Taek welcomed the guests with the following words: "We are exerting our best efforts to take the 17th Asian Games in Incheon to the next level, to become a model and symbol of a new Asian era in the 21st century.

"We will make the Incheon Asian Games a true festival of harmony and joy in Asia."

Dairy of Events

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

