

## Doctor Rita

Indonesia's  
Pride and Joy



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# GREEN SPORTS, CLEAN ASIA

**Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah**

President  
Olympic Council of Asia



One of the most important issues in modern times is concern for the environment, not only looking after our natural resources but enhancing them.

Through sport in general and the Olympic Council of Asia in particular we are in an ideal position to lead this challenge and set an example for others to follow.

This is why I would like to take the opportunity to praise the work of the OCA Environment Committee, who are taking bold steps in an effort to promote the environment and make sure that OCA events are green and clean and leave a lasting legacy for generations to come.

It is our aim that people will remember our Asian Games not just for the athletic prowess and the camaraderie of the competitors

but also for the sustainable development they will create and an environment which can be enjoyed and celebrated as much as the gold medal-winning performances themselves.

In the OCA we are very serious about facing our responsibilities, and we must promote the environment and our work in this field at every opportunity. By doing this we will raise the awareness of the younger generations and encourage them to adopt the environment as a major part of their daily lives.

We want wonderful stadiums and infrastructure for our events and for the host cities, but we must not sacrifice the environment in the quest for a bigger and better high-tech Games.

As well as the work of the OCA Environment Committee, I was also pleased to see the OCA involved in two tree-planting ceremonies on recent inspection tours. The first was at Incheon, Korea, host for the 2014 Asian Games, and the next was on the coast of Shandong Province in China, where Haiyang will stage the third Asian Beach Games in 2012.

Both tree-planting events attracted a lot of support from the respective local governments, the general public and the media, so the work and the concerns of the OCA were brought into the spotlight.

Protecting and enhancing the environment is not just a fashion and will not go away. We must make it one of our main concerns and themes and continue to spread the OCA Environment Committee message of "Green Sports, Clean Asia."

## COVER GIRL: PRIDE AND JOY IN AWARD FOR RITA SUBOWO



Mrs Subowo receives her award at Semarang State University.

The Olympic Council of Asia would like to congratulate Mrs Rita Subowo for being awarded an honorary doctorate degree by the Semarang State University of Central Java, Indonesia. The award was in recognition of her achievements and contributions to the sports world since 1987, and was presented on March 11.

Mrs Subowo is President of the Indonesian Olympic Committee and an Executive Board member of the OCA. Her hard work and friendly demeanour make her one of the most respected and popular figures in Asian sport, and she always has a ready smile and warm greeting.

OCA President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah congratulated Mrs Subowo on the award and said it was fully deserved for all her efforts and initiatives over many years. In particular, Mrs Subowo had played a leading role in the success of the 1st Asian Beach Games in Bali, Indonesia, in 2008, as Director General of the organising committee. The Bali Games set the standards for others to follow in what is becoming one of the OCA's most sought-after events.

The Secretary General of the Indonesian Olympic Committee, Arie Ariotedjo, has written to the IOC President, Jacques Rogge, informing him of the "pride and joy" felt by the Indonesian sports community.



# GROWING STRONG ROOTS FOR A GREEN FUTURE

The Olympic Council of Asia's firm commitment to the environment was in evidence during recent high-level visits to the Republic of Korea and China.

On Monday, April 5, the OCA Coordination Committee joined representatives of Incheon Metropolitan City and 2014 Asian Games organisers IAGOC in planting trees on the 65th Arbor Day celebration.

OCA Coordination Committee Chairman Tsunekazu Takeda told a large team of eager tree-planters in the Citizens' Forest of

Incheon Grand Park that sport and the environment were intertwined.

"As Chairman of the OCA Coordination Committee I would like to ask Incheon City and the organising committee to make sure that the construction of new venues and sites is carried out in an environmentally friendly manner," he said in his public address.

"Through numerous events and meetings, OCA takes great responsibility in terms of promoting sustainable development of the environment."

Incheon Mayor Ahn Sang-Soo said the local government had undertaken projects to increase the city's forested area by 10 million square metres.

Several of the OCA delegation, led by Director General Husain Al Musallam, left Korea for Haiyang City, Shandong Province, later in the day to prepare for a venue tour and meetings on Tuesday with organisers of the third Asian Beach Games 2012.

The Tuesday morning tour included another tree-planting ceremony, during which OCA Sports Committee Chairman Zhang Jilong was the focus of local media attention on his return to his hometown. One of the features of the Haiyang Beach Games will be the Commemorative Forest Park with a total of 9,031 trees of 67 species, some of them forever tagged with the OCA brand.



OCA Sports Committee Chairman Zhang Jilong joins in the tree-planting celebration in his hometown of Haiyang in Shandong Province.

## BOA RISES TO THE CHALLENGE

Formed on July 28, 2008, the Sports and Environment Committee of the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) has wasted no time in tackling the problems of today to guarantee a brighter tomorrow.

BOA Secretary General Kutubuddin Ahmed presented a very informative paper at a meeting of the OCA Environment Committee at Incheon, Korea, on April 3, and concluded that "the message is very clear now and the government is reacting well."



Bangladesh Olympic Association Secretary General Kutubuddin Ahmed shows off the souvenir T-shirt from the Sports and Environment Seminar, Dhaka 2009.

Mr Ahmed's report focused on two main themes: general initiatives to raise the awareness of sports and the environment, and specific measures undertaken when the capital Dhaka hosted the 11th South Asian Games from January 29-February 9, 2010.

The general steps included promotion in schools through posters and banners and the hosting of a Sports and Environment Seminar, Dhaka 2009, while green campaigns at the South Asian Games included a paper-free Games management system, noise pollution control such as a "no horn" policy for vehicles around all stadiums, and the use of converted natural gas (CNG) vehicles to reduce carbon emissions.

In other OCA Environment Committee news:

At the suggestion of OCA Director General Husain Al Musallam, the committee will submit a proposal to the OCA Executive Board for an annual award to the NOC displaying the most commitment to the environment. NOCs will be able to submit their environment projects, and the committee will compile a shortlist of three. After an inspection visit, the best NOC will receive a cash prize for further environment work.

All 45 NOCs will be sent "Green Sports, Clean Asia" posters and brochures for printing and distributing in their own language.

# HRH PRINCE FEISAL, YANG YANG ELECTED TO IOC

The Olympic Council of Asia had plenty to celebrate when the International Olympic Committee elected six new members during the 122nd IOC Session in Vancouver, Canada, on February 12, 2010. The six included His Royal Highness Prince Feisal Al Hussein, President of the Jordan Olympic Committee and Chairman of Generations for Peace, and China's Olympic speed skating champion Yang Yang.

HRH Prince Feisal (far left in photo) was nominated as an individual member, and Yang Yang (second from the right) was nominated as an active athlete. The new IOC members will serve eight-year terms.

"It is a great honour to have been elected as a member of the most historic, prestigious and influential sporting organisation in the world," said HRH Prince Feisal. "I would like to thank the IOC membership for putting their faith in me and, with all humility, I pledge to serve the Olympic Movement and uphold its fine traditions and values."

"The JOC and Generations For Peace will work tirelessly with all organisations within the Olympic Movement to promote the spirit of Olympism throughout Jordan and beyond."

Since his election as President of the JOC in 2003, HRH Prince Feisal has championed the power of sport "to make a difference". In recognition of his work promoting gender equality, HRH Prince Feisal was invited to become a member of the IOC Women and Sport Commission in 2007 and successfully hosted the IOC World Conference on Women and Sport a year later.

Within the Jordan Olympic Committee he has streamlined sports administration and has encouraged professionalism both on and off the sports fields.



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However, it is his own initiative, Generations For Peace, which has caught the world's attention by using sport as a means of bringing together communities in conflict.

Since the inception of Generations For Peace in 2007, hundreds of leaders of young people from 31 countries have been trained, resulting in nearly 40,000 youngsters reaching out across conflict division to embrace previous adversaries in the name of sport.

## NANJING TO FOLLOW SINGAPORE AS YOG HOST

Asia will have the honour of hosting the first two editions of the summer Youth Olympic Games after Nanjing won the right to stage the 2014 YOG at the 122nd IOC Session in Vancouver, Canada, on February 10, 2010.

Nanjing, the capital of eastern China's Jiangsu Province and the ninth largest city in China with a population of 7.4 million, will follow Singapore -- host of the inaugural YOG from August 14-26, 2010.

Nanjing won the vote by a narrow margin of 47-42 over the only other candidate city, Poznan of Poland. When the result was announced by IOC President Jacques Rogge, the Chinese bidders hugged each other with big smiles.

Talking about the close competition with Poznan, Zhu Shanlu, director of the Nanjing Bid Committee, said he felt nervous when seeing the narrow result.



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"I had thought about another result, because I always knew how hard and fierce it was to compete with Poznan," said Zhu, quoted by Xinhua. "Our victory came from the power of China, and also from my hometown Nanjing," Zhu added.

"We have a lot of things to do in the future, and we are ready to take the responsibility," he said.

The 2014 Games is scheduled to take place over 12 days with up to 3,500 athletes aged 14-18 competing in as many as possible of the 26 official Olympic summer sports.

## GAGOC BRIEFS OCA MEDIA COMMITTEE

Asian Games organisers GAGOC gave the OCA Media Committee an update on the broadcasting and media services for the 16th Asian Games at a meeting in Guangzhou on April 9.

Under Chairman Manuel Silverio, the OCA Media Committee heard that broadcasting services would provide a live feed of all sports except chess and sailing to rights-holding broadcasters, and there would be a total of 2,500 hours of TV signal.

To achieve such extensive coverage, 46 Outside Broadcasting vans will be in operation, including 28 providing high definition feeds.

On the media side, the Main Press Centre at Asian Games Town has a total area of 20,000 square metres and will be the base for the 5,000 accredited journalists and photographers. There

will also be Venue Media Centres at 53 competition venues and three non-competition venues -- the Athletes' Village, Media Village and OCA HQ hotel.

GAGOC is expecting 10,000 media to cover the Games in November: 3,000 domestic press, 2,000 press from overseas, 3,000 from the host broadcaster and 2,000 from rights-holding broadcasters. During the Games, 7,000 media will be accommodated in the Media Village and 3,000 at 12 media hotels.

Chairman Silverio said GAGOC was "setting a new benchmark for the media" and had received worldwide input from hosting the first World Broadcasters' Meeting and the first World Press Briefing last year.

"I think we are in an excellent position to carry out the plans we have discussed," he said.

## OCA FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETS IN TAIPEI

After a gap of 20 years, the OCA Finance Committee meeting was once again held in Chinese Taipei on Monday, April 12. Excellent preparations were made by the Chairman and by the host NOC for the successful meeting. Before commencing the meeting the Taipei Elementary School students' band gave a warm reception during which the City Mayor and NOC President showed their gratitude to OCA for choosing Chinese Taipei to host the meeting.

From 2011 onwards the committee decided to release 100% of

the NOC activities budget in one installment subject to approval on financial activities for the previous year. The committee also approved the audited statement of accounts for the year ended December 31, 2009, and praised various activities being undertaken by the OCA management, including the second phase of OCA Marks registration.

The committee also suggested to include a question about the financial support (accommodation, air tickets etc.) the Asian Games Bidding Cities can provide while sending bid documents.



The OCA Finance Committee meeting in Taipei.



## IOC LEGEND JUAN ANTONIO SAMARANCH TRANSFORMED OLYMPIC MOVEMENT

Country: Spain

Born: July 17, 1920

Deceased: April 21, 2010

NOC Member: 1956 -

NOC President: 1967 - 1970

IOC Member: 1966 - 2001

IOC Vice President: 1974 - 1978

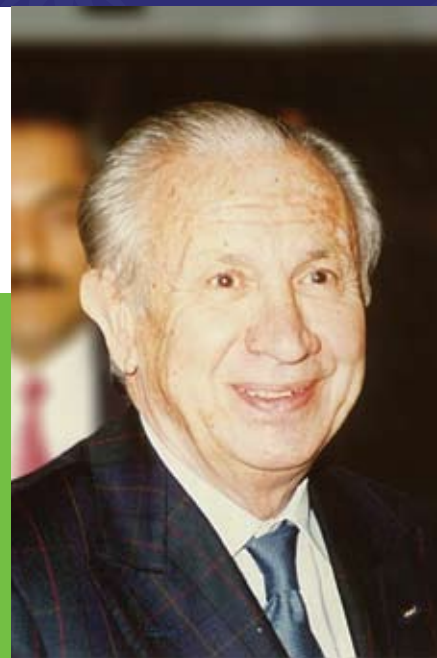
IOC President: 1980 - 2001

IOC Honorary President: 2001 -

**Juan Antonio Samaranch**

1920 - 2010

FACT BOX



It was with great sadness that the International Olympic Committee announced the death of its Honorary President, Juan Antonio Samaranch, on Wednesday, April 21, 2010, aged 89.

Samaranch, who was IOC President for 21 years, from 1980 to 2001, was widely credited with renewing and fundamentally changing the landscape of the Olympic Movement.

"I cannot find the words to express the distress of the Olympic Family," said IOC President Jacques Rogge.

"I am personally deeply saddened by the death of the man who built up the Olympic Games of the modern era, a man who inspired me, and whose knowledge of sport was truly exceptional."

"Thanks to his extraordinary vision and talent, Samaranch was the architect of a strong and unified Olympic Movement. I can only pay tribute to his tremendous achievements and legacy, and praise his genuine devotion to the Olympic Movement and its values. We have lost a great man, a mentor and a friend who dedicated his long and fulfilled life to Olympism."

Born in Barcelona in 1920, Samaranch pursued an outstanding career as diplomat and sports administrator before leading the

IOC for 21 years.

Soon after his election in 1980, Samaranch worked towards the abolition of amateurism at the Olympic Games. Despite two boycotts -- in Moscow in 1980 and in Los Angeles in 1984 -- Samaranch managed to maintain the quality of the Games and increase the number of participating countries.

He was the man behind improving the financial health of the Olympic Movement, developing TV rights and sponsorship negotiations and strengthening Olympic Solidarity, the organ by which the IOC redistributes its revenue in order to ensure the training and participation of athletes at the Olympic Games.

A hugely energetic man, he was responsible for the new IOC headquarters building in Vidy and for inaugurating The Olympic Museum in Lausanne. He will also be remembered for championing the representation of women in the IOC, overseeing the entry of the first female members in the 1980s.

He was likewise responsible for setting up the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), and for involving the athletes themselves in the decision-making of the IOC by creating the IOC Athletes' Commission.



## OCA: SAMARANCH WAS A GREAT FRIEND OF ASIA

### **Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah**

**President, OCA:** "It was a very sad day for world sport when we learned of the passing of His Excellency Juan Antonio Samaranch. Not only was he a visionary leader of the Olympic Movement, he was also a champion for Asia and was always prepared to listen and to assist the OCA in our development."

"My father built up a mutual understanding of friendship, trust and respect with the IOC President and formed a partnership which I was honoured and privileged to maintain over many years in the IOC. Everyone in the OCA mourns the passing of our late, great leader Mr Samaranch and we will be forever in his debt for the global sports community he fostered during his 21 years as IOC President and beyond."

### **Wei Jizhong**

**Honorary Life Vice President, OCA, President, FIVB:** "The passing of President Samaranch is a big loss, particularly with regards to the Olympic Movement. The FIVB has always considered him as a leader of not only the Olympic Movement but also of the FIVB, who has guided volleyball, especially beach volleyball, to today's achievements."

"President Samaranch is the founder of the contemporary Olympic Movement if Baron Coubertin was the founder of the modern Olympic Movement. As FIVB President I have learnt a lot from President Samaranch. I remain always his student."

### **Husain Al-Musallam**

**OCA Director General:** "Mr Samaranch was a great leader for the Olympic Movement and a great supporter of the National Olympic Committees. He established the Olympic Solidarity Programme to help the NOCs and to develop the NOCs and the athletes. He was a great friend of Asia and was a close

partner of the late Sheikh Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the first President of the OCA."

### **Liu Peng**

**President, Chinese Olympic Committee:** "Mr Samaranch is an old friend and good friend of the Chinese sports community who contributed a lot to the resumption of China's rightful status in the International Olympic Committee, to China's two Olympic bids and to the success of the 2008 Olympic Games. In August 2008, Beijing successfully hosted the Games of the 29th Olympiad, fulfilling the long-cherished wish of Mr Samaranch to stage an Olympic Games in China."

### **Vinod Tiwari**

**OCA Manager of International and NOC Relations:** "Mr Samaranch was the first sports leader to visit Kuwait when the OCA office reopened after the 1990 invasion of Kuwait by Iraq. He was the person responsible for the establishment of the Olympic Museum in Lausanne. It was his dream project which has now become a landmark."

### **Joseph "Sepp" Blatter**

**President, FIFA:** "I met Juan Antonio when I started to work for FIFA, over 35 years ago, and I can vouch for the fact that he was a great football fan and supported this beautiful game with genuine enthusiasm."

"I remember that in 1996 he was responsible for bringing women's football into the Olympic Movement, one of the most important landmarks in the history of the discipline."

"We worked tenaciously together in support of transparency and fair play and our efforts came to fruition with the creation of the World Anti-Doping Agency."



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## FACTS AND FIGURES FROM 8TH OCA CC MEETING

The eighth meeting of the OCA Coordination Committee for the 16th Asian Games took place at GAGOC HQ in Guangzhou on Thursday, April 8, under the chairmanship of Tsunekazu Takeda.

Gu Shiyang, Deputy Secretary General of GAGOC, gave an overview on the progress of the preparations, before various departments presented more detailed reports. Here are some key points from the meeting:

- With the addition of three weight categories in women's boxing, the total number of competition events in the 42 sports is fixed at 476.

- International and Asian Sports Federations have appointed 59 Technical Delegates.

- 27 test events are scheduled to be held in conjunction with Asian, national, provincial and municipal championships. In addition, 15 specific tests will be carried out to check venue operations and readiness of facilities and equipment. Seven test events have been held since August 2009.

- Asian Games Town, incorporating the Athletes' Village, Technical Officials' Village, Media Village and Main Media Centre, will be handed over to GAGOC in June.

- A total of 46 sponsors have been secured: seven prestige partners, six official partners, four official sponsors, 12 exclusive suppliers and 17 non-exclusive suppliers.

- Broadcasting rights have been sold to eight TV stations, with other deals pending.

- Total number of tickets available for sale to NOCs, ticket agents and the public is 2 million.

- Public health teams will involve 471 staff, with 297 in 48 teams at competition venues and 174 in 10 teams at non-competition venues. There are 38 designated hospitals.

- To date, 17 heads of state/government/royal family members and eight ministers of sport will be among the international dignitaries attending the Games.

GAGOC Vice President Yang Shu'an, who is also Vice Minister of the General Administration of Sport of China and Vice President of the Chinese Olympic Committee, described it as a "very constructive meeting" and thanked the OCA for all the valuable advice.

"This is a very, very critical moment for the Organising Committee because the venues are already completed and now we need to make the integration of the Games services at the venues and non-competition venues," he said.

"We are in the same boat and in the same team, and we will use our teamwork to deliver a high-level Asian Games -- a big showcase for the magnificence of our continental movement."

The ninth OCA CC meeting will take place on Monday, September 13.



The 14th Asian Sailing Championship in March was held as a high-profile test event for the 16th Asian Games at Shanwei, some 300 kilometers from Guangzhou. Media services for the Asian Games regatta will include a photo shoot opportunity from a helicopter, on this occasion providing an overview of the boat yard and other buildings in the vast complex © GAGOC.



## CANTON FAIR PROMOTES ASIAN GAMES

**A** midst all the frenzied buying and selling at the 107th Canton Fair in Guangzhou, one stand in particular was attracting a lot of interest from home and abroad. With a wide range of eye-catching goods on display, the 16th Asian Games licensed products stall had something for everyone.

"I am not a sportsman, but I had to buy something because the merchandise is so attractive," said Md. Faizur Rahman, proudly displaying his souvenir drinking beaker.

Mr Rahman, Chairman of South Bengal Fertilizer Mills Ltd and Managing Director of Noapara Cement Mills Ltd, had travelled from Bangladesh for the event, known formally as the 107th Session of the China Import and Export Fair.

Sales staff Lucy Liao of Lidu Gifts Chain Store – 16th Asian Games franchise manufacturer and dealer -- said several items had sold out, with the model trains, planes and buses proving particular popular.

"Also the coins, key rings, pictograms, stamps, pens, the models of the Cocachin boat...so many different products have been bought by customers from all over Asia, the United States, France and many other countries," she said.

Nearer home, Hu Xiyu – a machinery exhibitor from Hubei – chose the Le Yangyang mascot toys for his family. "I bought it as a souvenir," he said. "The Asian Games in Guangzhou is a time to celebrate. All the products look very good."



Canton Fair visitor Md. Faizur Rahman of Bangladesh is happy with his Asian Games souvenir.

## 2,010 runners for 2010 torch relay

**A** total of 2,010 torchbearers will be selected for the 2010 Asian Games Torch Relay around Guangdong Province, organisers GAGOC have announced.

In May and June the Ceremonies and Cultural Events Department of GAGOC will recommend torchbearers whose eligibility will be confirmed in July and August. The official list will be announced in September.

The selection will be made of Chinese citizens from varied walks of life, including government officials, athletes, workers and business entrepreneurs who have made significant contributions to the Asian Games, Guangdong Province and Lingnan Culture as well as PLA soldiers, policemen and policewomen, volunteers, media representatives, youth representatives, ethnic minorities, farmers and community representatives.

The number of torchbearers will be as follows: torch relay cities - 810; Olympic Council of Asia, National Olympic Committees and Chinese Olympic Committee - 150; GAGOC - 60; sponsors of the Guangzhou Asian Games and the torch relay - 560; social groups and organisations - 430.

## Youth Camp to involve 183 young ambassadors

**T**he 16th Asian Games has announced that 183 young ambassadors from across Asia will be selected to participate in the Asian Games Youth Camp in Guangzhou from November 10-21.

Of the 183 participants aged between 16 and 18, 92 will be recruited internationally and 91 from the Chinese Mainland. The youth camp members will be confirmed by the end of June.

The 92 international participants will comprise 88 recommended by 44 Asian National Olympic Committees and four international prize winners in the 16th Asian Games Youth Across Asia Art & Essay Writing Competitions.

The 91 recruited domestically will comprise 85 recommended by the committee of the Communist Youth League of China in each province, autonomous region and municipality directly under the Central Government and six domestic prize winners in the 16th Asian Games Youth Across Asia Art & Essay Writing Competitions.



## PROUD HOST BANGLADESH FINISHES 3RD WITH 18 GOLD

Although regional powerhouse India romped away at the top of the medals table, Bangladesh could regard themselves as a winner, too, at the 11th South Asian Games 2010.

Bangladesh hosted the regional multi-sports event for a third time, from January 29-February 9 in the capital Dhaka, and collected a record 18 gold medals to finish third in the eight-team standings.



Women's football fever at the 11th South Asian Games in Dhaka.

India won 90 of the 158 gold medals up for grabs and garnered a total of 174 medals with the addition of 55 silver and 29 bronze. Pakistan finished a distant second with 19 gold medals, followed by a proud host Bangladesh with 18.

Sri Lanka came in fourth with 16 gold, followed by Nepal (8), Afghanistan (7), Bhutan (0-2-3) and Maldives (0-0-2). More than 2,500 athletes took part.

In front of 20,000 enthralled spectators at the closing ceremony, President Zillur Rahman said he hoped the South Asian Games would continue to flourish and foster stronger ties between the sub-continental neighbours.

"I hope that the fraternity and friendship built among the participating countries through the 11th South Asian Games will bring the people of this region closer," he said.

The President lauded the participants, the organisers and officials for making the largest sporting extravaganza of the region a success.

"I extend my heartiest congratulations to all players and officials

## Final Medal Table

Rank	Country				T	RT
1	India	90	55	29	174	1
2	Pakistan	19	25	36	80	4
3	Bangladesh	18	23	56	97	3
4	Sri Lanka	16	35	54	105	2
5	Nepal	8	9	19	36	5
6	Afghanistan	7	9	16	32	6
7	Bhutan	0	2	3	5	7
8	Maldives	0	0	2	2	8
Total:		158	158	215	531	

T - Total number of Medals - RT - Rank by Total

Rank by Total is calculated by total number of Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals.

for their sportsmanship and wish for their gradual improvement and prosperity," he said.

The Bangladesh Olympic Association had expected to win a maximum of 17 gold medals, but the athletes proved they were capable of achieving more -- despite their failures in the two key disciplines of athletics and swimming.

Bangladesh's female athletes did an excellent job in winning medals and made the nation proud, even though their numbers (101) were less than half the size of the men's team (231). The female athletes won eight gold medals compared to the 10 earned by their male teammates.

The 18 gold medals for the hosts were comprised of: 4, karate; 3, shooting; 2, boxing, golf, wushu and taekwondo; 1, football, cricket, weightlifting.

India will stage the 12th South Asian Games, but no dates have been set.



Kabaddi action from the 11th South Asian Games in Dhaka.



## KIM, WANG LEAD ASIA'S WINTER CHALLENGE

From the grace and technical precision of Kim Yu-Na to the power and determination of Wang Meng, Asia played its full part in a memorable Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver, Canada, from February 12-28, 2010.

The Korean teen with the James Bond theme to her short programme captivated the judges and dazzled the watching world with a stunning victory in the women's figure skating, while Wang set the ice on fire with three gold medals in women's short track speed skating.

In the final rankings based on gold medals, the Republic of Korea finished fifth with six gold, six silver and two bronze, behind only Canada (14-7-5), Germany (10-13-7), the United States (9-15-13) and Norway (9-8-6).

China collected five gold medals, two silver and four bronze to claim seventh place, level with Sweden. Japan failed to win a gold medal but took home three silver and two bronze, while Kazakhstan celebrated one silver medal.

Looking back on the performance of the Korean superstar nicknamed "Queen Yu-Na", international judge Chihee Rhee told Sporting Asia it was not only Kim's technical expertise that swept her to gold but also her ability to express the music and attract the judges and spectators.

"Her skating ability is so excellent that most of the judges thought she really stands at her own level," said Rhee, Vice President, Figure Skating, of the Korea Skating Union.




"She has great posture, a great figure – just right for skating -- and strong mind control, which is very difficult for some skaters. In the Olympic Games, especially the ladies make mistakes, but this time Yu-Na did not make any mistakes. The judges all said they could judge a perfect performance in the short and free programme, and that they were happy to be there to see this."



If "Queen Yu-Na" brought Korea to a standstill on her way to gold, China's Wang Meng left her short track rivals in her slipstream as she won the women's 500 meters, 1,000 meters and 3,000-metre relay, the latter in world record time.




In Torino 2006, Wang won a gold, silver and bronze, and now has six Winter Olympic medals to her name, including four gold.

### Final Medal Table

Rank	Country				T	RT
1	Canada	14	7	5	26	3
2	Germany	10	13	7	30	2
3	United States	9	15	13	37	1
4	Norway	9	8	6	23	4
5	Korea	6	6	2	14	7
6	Switzerland	6	0	3	9	11
7	China	5	2	4	11	8
7	Sweden	5	2	4	11	8
9	Austria	4	6	6	16	5
10	Netherlands	4	1	3	8	12
11	Russian Federation	3	5	7	15	6
12	France	2	3	6	11	8
13	Australia	2	1	0	3	18

T - Total number of Medals - RT - Rank by Total

Rank by Total is calculated by total number of Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals.

Rank	Country				T	RT
14	Czech Republic	2	0	4	6	13
15	Poland	1	3	2	6	13
16	Italy	1	1	3	5	15
17	Belarus	1	1	1	3	18
17	Slovakia	1	1	1	3	18
19	Great Britain	1	0	0	1	24
20	Japan	0	3	2	5	15
21	Croatia	0	2	1	3	18
21	Slovenia	0	2	1	3	18
23	Latvia	0	2	0	2	23
24	Finland	0	1	4	5	15
25	Estonia	0	1	0	1	24
25	Kazakhstan	0	1	0	1	24
Total:		86	87	85	258	

## OCA CONGRATULATES

### KOREA



Total: 14  
Ranking by gold medals: 5  
By total: 7

#### Gold: 6

- ▶ Kim Yu-Na, Figure Skating - Ladies
- ▶ Lee Seung-Hoon, Speed Skating - Men's 10,000m
- ▶ Lee Jung-Su, Short Track Speed Skating - Men's 1,000m
- ▶ Lee Sang-Hwa, Speed Skating - Ladies' 500m
- ▶ Mo Tae-Bum, Speed Skating - Men's 500m
- ▶ Lee Jung-Su, Short Track Speed Skating - Men's 1,500m

#### Silver: 6

- ▶ Short Track Speed Skating - Men's 5,000m Relay (Kwak Yoon-Gy, Lee Ho-Suk, Lee Jung-Su, Sung Si-Bak)
- ▶ Sung Si-Bak, Short Track Speed Skating - Men's 500m
- ▶ Lee Ho-Suk, Short Track Speed Skating - Men's 1,000m
- ▶ Lee Eun-Byul, Short Track Speed Skating - Ladies' 1,500m
- ▶ Mo Tae-Bum, Speed Skating - Men's 1,000m
- ▶ Lee Seung-Hoon, Speed Skating - Men's 5,000m

#### Bronze: 2

- ▶ Park Seung-Hi, Short Track Speed Skating - Ladies' 1,000m
- ▶ Park Seung-Hi, Short Track Speed Skating - Ladies' 1,500m

### KAZAKHSTAN



Total: 1  
Ranking by gold medals: 25  
By total: 24

#### Silver: 1

- ▶ Elena Khrustaleva, Biathlon – Women's 15km individual



## ASIA'S WINTER WONDERS

### CHINA



Total: 11  
Ranking by gold medals: 7  
By total: 8

#### Gold: 5

- ▶ Wang Meng, Short Track Speed Skating - Ladies' 1,000m
- ▶ Short Track Speed Skating - Ladies' 3,000m Relay (Sun Linlin, Wang Meng, Zhang Hui, Zhou Yang)
- ▶ Zhou Yang, Short Track Speed Skating - Ladies' 1,500m
- ▶ Wang Meng, Short Track Speed Skating - Ladies' 500m
- ▶ Figure Skating - Pairs (Zhao Hongbo, Shen Xue)

#### Silver: 2

- ▶ Li Nina, Freestyle Skiing - Ladies' Aerials
- ▶ Figure Skating - Pairs (Tong Jian, Pang Qing)

#### Bronze: 4

- ▶ Curling - Women (Wang Bingyu, Liu Yin, Yue Qingshuang, Zhou Yan, Liu Jinli)
- ▶ Liu Zhongqing, Freestyle Skiing - Men's Aerials
- ▶ Guo Xinxin, Freestyle Skiing - Ladies' Aerials
- ▶ Wang Beixing, Speed Skating - Ladies' 500m

### JAPAN



Total: 5  
Ranking by gold medals: 20  
By total: 15

#### Silver: 3

- ▶ Speed Skating - Ladies' Team Pursuit (Maki Tabata, Masako Hozumi, Nao Kodaira)
- ▶ Mao Asada, Figure Skating - Ladies
- ▶ Keiichiro Nagashima, Speed Skating - Men's 500m

#### Bronze: 2

- ▶ Daisuke Takahashi, Figure Skating - Men
- ▶ Joji Kato, Speed Skating - Men's 500m

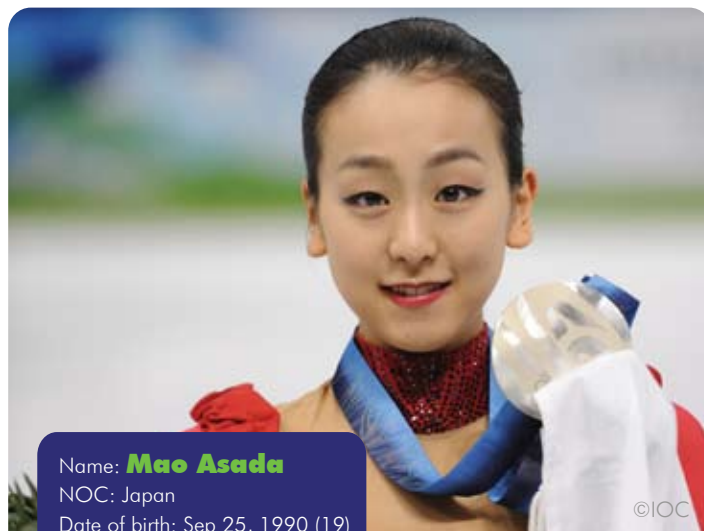
## FOCUS ON FOUR ASIAN MEDAL-WINNERS



Name: **Kim Yu-Na**  
NOC: Republic of Korea  
Date of birth: Sep 5, 1990 (19)  
Sport: Figure skating  
Medal: **Gold**

**Comment:** "I can't believe this day has finally come for me.

I still can't believe the score I received (228.56). I'm really surprised. In the past I was afraid I wouldn't be able to do what I wanted, but I am really happy that I was able to show everything I did in training. Watching previous figure skaters I always wondered why they cried after their performance. Crying for the first time today, I still don't know why I did."



Name: **Mao Asada**  
NOC: Japan  
Date of birth: Sep 25, 1990 (19)  
Sport: Figure skating  
Medal: **Silver**

**Comment:** "I did everything I could. To complete both

triple axels well at the Olympics was one good thing about my performance. But I am not happy with the rest of my performance. I do feel regretful." (Asada would go on and win the 2010 world championship crown in Torino and enter the Guinness Book of World Records for completing a total of three triple axels in her Vancouver programme.)



Name: **Wang Meng**  
NOC: China  
Date of birth: April 10, 1985 (25)  
Sport: Short track speed skating  
Medal: **Gold (3)** in 500 metres, 3,000-metre relay, 1,000 metres.

**Comment:** "History has been made by the Chinese

ladies' team. I am so very proud. I really feel these three medals belong to my team. I have now achieved all my Olympic dreams. I have not been well the last few days and I want to thank my coach and teammates for their support. As captain of the Chinese short track team it means even more to me." (China swept the four gold medals in short track)



Name: **Elena Khrustaleva**  
NOC: Kazakhstan  
Date of birth: Sep 28, 1980 (29)  
Sport: Biathlon  
Medal: **Silver**, 15-km individual

**Comment:** "During the training season I said with a

smile I would be from first to sixth at the Olympic Winter Games. I had finished sixth at the world championship in Korea, and decided as a minimum I needed to be at the same level in skiing and have no penalties in shooting. When I won the silver medal I thought 'I did it!' At first I need to thank my father, Vladimir Khrustalev, and my coach, Viktor Smirnov. Secondly, the head of the Republic Sports School, Kaigeldy Zhanpeisov, and the leader of our federation, Vladimir Smirnov."



## OMAN'S 'THREE MUSCATEERS' READY FOR ACTION IN BEACH GAMES

**M**et Oman's "Three Muscateers" – Al-Med, Al-Jebel and Al-Reeh!

Or maybe we should call them the "Three Mascoteers", as they are the cute and eye-catching trio of mascots revealed recently by the Muscat Asian Beach Games Organising Committee.



Al-Med is the Green Turtle – amongst the oldest and most important marine species in Omani waters. Thousands of them return to Oman each year to nest. Al-Med, meaning "the tide", has been chosen to represent the sea.



Al-Jebel is the Tahr – a wild goat native to Oman and found on the steep, rocky slopes. Al-Jebel means "the mountains" and was chosen to represent the land.



Al-Reeh is the Houbara – one of the most beautiful birds of the desert. Meaning "the wind", Al-Reeh represents the clear blue skies and fresh air of Oman.

They all have very different characteristics but share one common plight: they are endangered species and need protecting, so the high profile of the Asian Beach Games can aid their cause.

MABGOC Director General Eng. Habib Macki described the unveiling of the mascots as another exciting milestone in the countdown to the 2nd Asian Beach Games, which will run from December 8-16, 2010.

"We've spent a considerable amount of effort to make the Muscat 2010 mascots truly unique," he said. "We wanted to ensure the characters represent the ideals of the Games and excite all Games participants. From the athletes who will come from across Asia to the local children and youth, we wanted to be sure the mascots bring people together as one as we prepare to shine at Muscat 2010!"

Explaining the concept of the mascot designs, Eng. Habib Macki added: "We wanted to represent the vast and varied regions and areas of Oman with our mascots. As such we created the concept of using three unique animals found here. The Green Turtle, Houbara and Tahr each represent an area of Oman's landscape, and together will generate excitement in the lead-up to the Games."

Over the coming months MABGOC will host "Meet the Mascots" opportunities for the local public in order to generate excitement in the Games.

Despite their differences in habitat and character, the "Three Muscateers" will follow the principles of the Three Musketeers themselves in making the Beach Games a big success: "All for one – one for all!"

✦ Omantel has become the first Official Partner of the 2nd Asian Beach Games in a ceremony held under the auspices of His Excellency Ali Bin Masoud Al Sunaidy, Minister of Sports Affairs and Chairman of the Oman Olympic Committee.

With the product category of 'Fixed and Mobile Telecommunications,' Omantel will be providing MABGOC and the estimated 5,000 Games participants from across Asia with the highest level of telecommunications services and support.



Al-Jebel the Arabian Tahr, Al-Reeh the Houbara and Al-Med the Green Turtle enjoy an afternoon on the beach.

## A WINTER'S TALE OF TWO CITIES

It is never straightforward organising a multi-sports event, especially a Winter Games when Mother Nature can tear up the most detailed of plans. So what about a Winter Games in two different cities?

The good news to come out of the Chefs de Mission Seminar on March 30 for the 7th Asian Winter Games 2011 was that Astana and Almaty are doing just fine, despite the double challenges of co-hosting.

The two cities are 950 kilometres apart as the crow flies – or as national carrier Air Astana flies – meaning a 90-minutes flight. On land it's much longer, 1,200 kilometres or 14 hours by train on a good day (and night). By road in winter? Forget it, as temperatures can drop as low as minus 40 degrees C in Astana.

But the Olympic Council of Asia is satisfied that the Games can function smoothly, with three venues and the opening ceremony in Astana and six venues and the closing ceremony in Almaty.

"It is going to be an historic moment when we have the Asian Winter Games in two cities," said Haider Farman, Manager of the OCA's Asian Games department.

"The Organising Committee has put a lot of thought and effort into overcoming all the challenges they face in this process, and is providing free trains and flights for the athletes and officials in Almaty wanting to attend the opening ceremony in Astana.

"The response from all the National Olympic Committees is very positive. We are expecting these Games to be one of the most successful Asian Winter Games."

Delegates heard that the Torch Relay will start with the lighting

ceremony at OCA HQ in Kuwait on January 11. The flame will be transported to Almaty before a 20-day relay involving 800 torchbearers travels through the country, arriving at Astana for the opening ceremony on January 30.

It has also been decided that the men's ice hockey competition will be played in two groups to avoid one-sided games, with the stronger nations of Japan, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea and China in Group A and the lower-ranked teams such as Hong Kong, Malaysia, Kuwait and UAE in Group B.

The three-day Chefs de Mission Seminar programme from March 29-31 also included the 10-month countdown launch ceremony in downtown Almaty, during which OCA Sports Committee Chairman Zhang Jilong represented the OCA.



The 10-month countdown ceremony on March 30 attracted a lot of interest from supporters and passers-by.

## Venues sparkle in spring sunshine

It was a long journey, some six hours by bus, but well worth it to witness the five venues on the tour programme and also the truly spectacular scenery of Almaty.

Each delegate had their own favourite of the venues on display, but everyone was simply in awe of the snow-capped mountain peaks and winding roads through the steeply-banked pine forests. It was even suggested that Almaty should put itself forward as a host city for a James Bond movie as well as the Asian Winter Games, as the rugged beauty of the landscape offered perfect backdrops for 007 to indulge in hair-raising sports car chases and daredevil escapes across the snow and ice.

The vast outdoor skating rink of Medeu Alpine Ice Arena will stage the bandy tournament and is worth the trip up the moun-

tain just to experience the setting, while the narrow road continues to Shymbulak Alpine Sports Resort at 2,260 metres above sea level. The resort was in full working order and busy with winter sports enthusiasts making the most of the glorious weather, setting the scene for the Alpine skiing events of the Winter Asiad.

The final port of call was the new International Ski Jump Complex, which has quickly become a landmark on the outskirts of town and will feature two competition hills and three training hills, as well as a 5,000-capacity spectator stand.

"This is my highlight," said Park Chul-Keun of the Korean Olympic Committee. "It is not easy to decide to build something like this because it is very expensive, so my feeling is that it is the first step of a bigger plan."



## HAIYANG PLANS INTERNATIONAL BEACH PARTY

The view from the balcony of the Sea View Hotel was one of peace and tranquility. As the sun rose to alleviate the spring-time chill, a handful of locals braved the bracing sea breeze to take their morning exercise along the beach.

In just over two years' time, in June 2012, organisers of the 3rd Asian Beach Games are predicting an altogether different scenario when the OCA roadshow comes to town.

With 11 attractive sports on the programme and athletes and officials from 45 National Olympic Committees, the sleepy resort town of Haiyang will be transformed into a noisy, colourful beach party to celebrate through sport the internationalisation of this small stretch of the Shandong province coastline.

An OCA delegation led by Director General Husain Al Musalam and Sports Committee Chairman Zhang Jilong – returning to his hometown -- paid a two-day visit to Haiyang on April 5-6 to meet with government officials and representatives of the Chinese Olympic Committee.

Thanks to an informative reception manual and guided tour of the planned venues and infrastructure in excellent English by Haiyang City Vice Mayor Chen Xin Zi, the OCA delegates were well prepared for the official meeting on the morning of April 6.

The dates have been set provisionally for June 16-22, 2012 – more than one month before the London Olympics open on July 27 – and Haiyang organisers are coordinating the flag hand-over ceremony with their counterparts in Muscat on the closing of the 2nd Asian Beach Games on December 16 this year. Preparations for a two-year countdown ceremony on June 16, 2010, are also underway, and the final list of events in the 11 sports is being discussed with the OCA.

"It is going in the right direction," said Captain Husain. "We are ready to cooperate and communicate for the best interest to conduct the Games."

*Note: \* The dates are provisional and must be confirmed by OCA.*



Haiyang City Vice Mayor Chen Xin Zi conducts the venue tour for OCA officials.

## IAGOC HOSTS 1ST CC MEETING

The 1st OCA Coordination Committee meeting for the 17th Asian Games took place at the Hyatt Regency Incheon, Korea, on April 4.

As well as receiving a progress report on the 40 competition venues, including 20 new constructions, the committee members were able to witness the rapid development of the transport, business and leisure infrastructure of the Incheon Free Economic Zone, highlighted by the dramatic expanse of the 21.4-kilometre Incheon Bridge.

OCA CC Chairman Tsunekazu Takeda said he was convinced the multi-billion dollar investment would lead to a successful Asian Games in 2014 and add to the legend of the OCA.

"By touring the city we could see that the venues are set close to the city centre," said the Japanese Olympic Committee President. "All the sites are close to each other in a compact manner, allowing easy access for athletes as well as spectators."

Chairman Takeda, however, said organisers should always bear

in mind market trends and try to reduce the cost of the Games.

"We do not have the luxury to spend immense amounts of money to make the Games a success," he said. "This means we have to make tough decisions from time to time. We have to think what is best for the athletes. Let us not forget the athletes are at the centre of the OCA's concern."

Although the number of sports has to be finalised, the programme will not include bodybuilding or cue sports, which have been allocated to other multi-sports events run by the OCA

In another development, organising committee IAGOC revealed that the Main Media Centre will be located in the new, 72,000-capacity Main Stadium. Covering an area of over 25,000 square metres, the MMC will incorporate the International Broadcasting Centre and Main Press Centre and will be just 1 kilometre from the Media Village.

Organisers are convinced it will create a more convenient working environment for the media.



OCA CC Chairman Tsunekazu Takeda during a venue tour in Incheon, Korea.



## ALL ABOARD FOR A JOURNEY THROUGH THE OCA



### Afghanistan

As well as winning seven gold medals and 32 medals in total at the 11th South Asian Games in Dhaka, Afghanistan produced one of the stars of the football tournament in Belal Arezou, who scored all six of his team's goals on the way to the final, where they lost 4-0 to host Bangladesh.



### Bahrain

Around 500 of Bahrain's finest sportsmen and women from recent years were honoured at a glittering ceremony at the National Action Charter Stadium in Sakhir on April 21, the Gulf Daily News reports. His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, led the celebrations on behalf of His Majesty King Hamad. Bahrain Olympic Committee President Sheikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa and General Organisation for Youth and Sports President Shaikh Fawaz bin Mohammed Al Khalifa were also present.



### Bangladesh

The Bangladesh Olympic Association participated in the "Meet the People" programme arranged by the government's Department of Environment on March 11, reports BOA Secretary General Kutubuddin Ahmed. The BOA's Sports and Environment Committee requested the DoE to help introduce technology to produce environmentally friendly Green Games.



### Bhutan

Bhutan's senior national cricket team competed in the prestigious ACC Trophy Elite tournament for the first time when it was held in Kuwait from March 31 to April 9. The tournament involved 10 non-Test playing nations, reports the Bhutan Observer.



### Brunei

Brunei Darussalam will host the 9th Asia-level tug-of-war competition in 2012. The President of the Brunei Darussalam Tug-of-War Association, Pg Haji Jadid bin Pg Haji Omar Ali, has been appointed Deputy President of tug-of-war of the Asia-level for a period of two years, reports the Borneo Bulletin.



### Cambodia

The historic Angkor temples in Siem Reap once again provided the backdrop for a display of human exertion with the inaugural Angkor Wat International Triathlon on March 21, which organis-

ers named Series Zero. Thirty-three participants consisting of four Japanese, one British, one Dutch and the rest Cambodian competed in the event organised by the National Olympic Committee of Cambodia, reports the Phnom Penh Post.



### China

On the evening of April 19, a visiting sports delegation from the International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) led by President Olegario Vazquez Rana attended a banquet in Beijing given by Liu Peng, Minister in charge of the General Administration of Sport and President of the Chinese Olympic Committee. Liu expressed his thanks to the ISSF chief for his support and help to China's successful bid for the 2014 Nanjing Youth Olympic Games and the hosting of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. (Source: COC)



### DPR Korea

OCA officials will welcome an entry from the DPRK men's ice hockey team for the 7th Asian Winter Games in 2011, and will decide if they should play in the elite Group A or Group B for the smaller hockey-playing nations.



### Hong Kong, China

To mark the opening of the Bank of China (Hong Kong) 53rd Festival of Sport running from March to June, the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong (China) held a two-day opening programme including sports trials and sports demonstration highlighted by an opening ceremony from March 13-14 at Sha Tin Town Hall Plaza.



### India

The Indian Olympic Association has allotted the 37th National Games to Chhattisgarh. The Host City Contract was signed by the IOA, Government of Chhattisgarh and Chhattisgarh Olympic Association on March 30. On behalf of the IOA, Suresh Kalmadi, MP and NOC President, and Randhir Singh, Secretary General, signed the contract.



## Indonesia

After a year of preparations, the first Batam Open Asia-Pacific Beach Volleyball Tournament was held from April 21-24 featuring 39 teams from 12 countries. Unlike other beach volleyball contests, this was played at night and held on man-made courts purpose built on a cliff at the Turi Beach Resort in Nongsa, Batam, with a nice view to Singapore and Johor, Malaysia, reports The Jakarta Post.



## Iran

Marjan Kalhor broke new ground for women in sport by becoming the first female Iranian athlete to compete at the Winter Olympics in Vancouver. The 21-year-old alpine skier hopes to inspire more Iranian sportswomen to compete in major events.



## Iraq

Iraq was one of five teams to qualify for the inaugural Youth Olympic Games in Singapore from the Asian Weightlifting Championships in Tashkent. The competition was held in two age categories – under 17 and under 20 – and brought together athletes from 23 countries. The teams to advance to the YOG from August 14-26 were Iraq, Uzbekistan, Saudi Arabia, Turkmenistan and DPR Korea, reports the State News Agency of Turkmenistan.



## Japan

Japan plans to send its biggest ever team of athletes to the 16th Asian Games after an expansion of the regional Olympics programme, the Sankei newspaper reports. The Japanese Olympic Committee estimates it will send at least 680 athletes to Guangzhou and the number is expected to rise even further as the committee will negotiate with national federations governing three sports making their debut: 20-20 cricket, roller sports and dragon boat. The previous Japanese record was the 678 athletes it sent to the 1994 Games at home, in Hiroshima.



## Jordan

Jordan's sports media has completed the voting process for selecting the Kingdom's top performers of 2009 and the results will be announced soon. The Black Iris Sports Media Awards enters its fifth year and was set up by the Jordan Olympic Committee as a way of recognising and awarding sporting excellence within the local sports scene across seven categories.



## Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan's Vancouver Winter Olympics silver medallist Elena Khrustaleva has vowed to continue her biathlon career through to the Sochi Games in 2014, guaranteeing big crowds when she competes in the 7th Asian Winter Games in 2011 in Astana-Almaty.



## Korea

The Korean Olympic Committee paid a courtesy call to the Guangzhou Asian Games Organising Committee on April 12 and hailed the preparations for the upcoming Games from November 12-27. The five-strong delegation was headed by Park Chul Keun, Director of International Games under the KOC. Representatives from GAGOC's External Relations & Protocol Department, Marketing Department, Finance Department, Games Services Department and accreditation centres attended the workshop and discussed a wide range of issues such as transportation and the Athletes' Village.



## Kuwait

A group of 11 journalists from Kuwait gathered in Guangzhou on Tuesday, April 13, to prepare for their coverage of the 16th Asian Games at the invitation of the Information Office under the People's Government of Guangdong Province. The visit included a tour of Asian Games Town.



## Kyrgyzstan

The National Olympic Committee of Kyrgyzstan held its General Assembly on April 3 and elected its governing body: President, Murat Saralinov; Secretary General, Kanat Amankulov; Vice President, Kuvanychbek Kongantiev; Vice President, Sharshen Kasenov. Report from: NOC Director Salamat Ergeshov.



## Lao

Budget shortfalls at the Lao National Sports Committee mean Laos will not send wrestling, sepak takraw or weightlifting teams



to the 16th Asian Games in China later this year, reports the Vientiane Times.



## Lebanon

Lebanon has confirmed its participation in the upcoming Asian Regional Forums as well as the Chefs de Mission Seminars for the Guangzhou Asian Games and Muscat Beach Asian Games. The NOC will conduct Olympic Solidarity Technical Courses in May.



## Macau

The Macau Sport Development Board was among the exhibitors at the SportAccord Convention in Dubai from April 25-30. MSDB funds competitive sport and recreational activities in Macau and hosts major sports events designed to increase the quality of life, drive tourism and boost international exposure of Macau's sophisticated venues. After hosting several countries' training camps for the Beijing Olympics in 2008, MSDB is welcoming another training camp this summer for the Youth Olympics in Singapore.



## Malaysia

A total of three Basic Sports Administration Courses were planned by the OCM's National Olympic Academy for 2009 and 2010. The first course was successfully organised from March 25-28, 2010, at the Ulu Klang Recreation Club. A total of 23 sports officials attended, including five from national and state sports associations. The course was organised by the Ulu Klang Recreation Club headed by Andrew Gopal for the National Olympic Academy.



## Maldives

Sonee Sports has sponsored the 20-20 cricket tournament 2010, Haveeru News Service reports from Male. Vice Chairman Farhath Jaleel signed on behalf of the Cricket Board and Assistant General Manager Maumoon Abdulla signed on Sonee Sport's behalf in a special function held at House of Sonee Sports. Four teams took part.



## Mongolia

Mongolian Ser-Od Bat-Ochir won the Brighton Marathon on the south coast of England on April 18, the Mongolian Light Athletics Federation announced. The Brighton Marathon was held for the first time and attracted 10,000 runners, Xinhua reported from Ulan Bator. Ser-Od, who trains with the Morpeth Harriers athletics club in north-east England, finished in 2 hours, 19 minutes and 05 seconds.



## Myanmar

Khin Maung Lwin, Joint Secretary General of the Myanmar Olympic Committee, has promised to hold the cleanest and greenest SEA Games in history in 2013 thanks to a strong focus on the environment. His pledge came at the OCA Environment Committee meeting in Korea on April 3.



## Nepal

The Nepal Olympic Committee's Women & Sports Commission held a Felicitation Programme to honour female medal-winners from the 11th South Asian Games in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on April 8 in Kathmandu.



## Oman

The Muscat Asian Beach Games Organising Committee met with representatives from the national sports associations (NSAs) and committees relevant to the Muscat 2010 sports programme on April 17 to discuss the involvement of the NSAs in the 2nd Asian Beach Games from December 8-16.



## Pakistan

Naseem Hamid made history at the 11th South Asian Games in Bangladesh by becoming the first Pakistani woman to win the 100 metres. "I don't have the words to express my feelings. I actually can't believe that I am the fastest woman of the subcontinent," said Naseem, who ran 11.81 seconds. "I have been working hard for this success but it was a distant dream. It is a wonderful feeling that gives me great motivation to look forward. I think this will continue to inspire the upcoming female athletes of the country to come forward."



## Palestine

Sixteen teams are taking part in a two-week tournament known as the Gazan Football "World Cup", according to BBC News. The teams are Palestine, England, Turkey, USA, Italy, Russia, South Africa, Ireland, Egypt, Algeria, Spain, Serbia, Germany, the Netherlands, France and Jordan. They are mostly made up from players from the amateur Gaza Football League, alongside foreign workers in Gaza from the respective countries.



## Philippines

The Philippine Olympic Committee is hoping to enter as many as eight figure skaters in the 7th Asian Winter Games 2011 in Kazakhstan, according to Ric Camaligan, President of the Philip-

pine Skating Union. The local skaters train in Manila at the Mall of Asia in Pasay City, but others study in the United States, with eight in California, one in Michigan and one in New York. The national championships take place in November and POC is expecting 30 entries.



## Qatar

His Excellency Sheikh Saoud Bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Secretary-General of the Qatar Olympic Committee, met with His Excellency Joseph Evan LeBaron, the United States Ambassador to Qatar, at the QOC headquarters on Tuesday, April 13. Sheikh Saoud thanked him for the support of the American Embassy in Doha for the QOC's Overseas Students Scholarship Office, enabling local students to resume their higher education in American universities. The American envoy urged the QOC to delegate two of its staff to study sports-related matters in the States.



## Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia's National Olympic Committee is on the lookout for winter sports talent among the Kingdom's 100,000 students living overseas in time for the 7th Asian Winter Games in Kazakhstan in 2011. Saudi Arabia was represented at the recent Chefs de Mission Seminar in Almaty by Mohammed Sehaibani, who explained that a worldwide network had been set up to contact students living in North America, Europe and other parts of Asia who had taken up winter sports as part of their daily lifestyle.



## Singapore

Mr Teo Chee Hean, President of the Singapore National Olympic Council and Deputy Prime Minister, told the Chefs de Mission Seminar for the Youth Olympic Games on March 22 that more than 100,000 young people had participated in events organised around the Olympic values during the two years of preparations. In addition, many of the 500,000 schoolchildren in Singapore had been motivated to learn about the values of Olympism through the twinning of their schools with one of the participating NOCs or through the Olympic Education Programme.



## Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka produced the fastest man of the 11th South Asian Games as Shehan Saearuwan Abeypitiyage won the 100 metres in 10.46 seconds. "I have worked hard to achieve this feat and the moment is unforgettable," said Shehan. "I am a devoted admirer of Usain Bolt and I follow his style and steps. The title has inserted more confidence in my heart to go forward and bring laurels for the country. My next target is the Commonwealth Games and the Asian Games. I don't know where I will stop but being the fastest man of the subcontinent motivates me to repeat the feat again and again."



## Syria

Syria's long-distance swimming star Saleh Mohamad was among more than 80 competitors from 17 teams in the 4th Asian Open Water Swimming Championship, 4th Arab Open Water Swimming Championship and 10th GCC Open Water Swimming Championship at Qantab Beach, Oman – a major test event for the 2nd Asian Beach Games in Muscat in December. Saleh Mohamad was voted MVP of the 1st Asian Beach Games in Bali 2008.



## Chinese Taipei

Chinese Taipei rugby sevens captain Lin Chia-Wei believes rugby's inclusion in the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro provides a wonderful opportunity for Taipei officials to promote the game on the island. Looking ahead to the 16th Asian Games, Lin feels Japan will be the team to beat in what promises to be a fiercely-fought competition.







## Tajikistan

Tajikistan claimed third place in the Asian Football Confederation's Challenge Cup 2010 by beating Myanmar 1-0 in the Sri Lankan capital Colombo. Numondzhon Khakimov scored the crucial goal in the 11th minute. DPR Korea beat Turkmenistan in the final to qualify for the AFC's showpiece event, the Asian Cup, to be held in Qatar in January 2011.



## Thailand

Thailand's football coach, the former England and Manchester United captain Bryan Robson, has started preparations for the 16th Asian Games by holding a training camp for 25 players on April 20. Robson confirmed that Thailand would play India in a friendly in September as part of the Guangzhou build-up. (Source: nationmultimedia.com)



## Timor-Leste

A sports seminar on "Sports Development Perspectives in Timor-Leste: Human Resources preparation for the Glory of the Nation" has been organised by the State Secretariat for Youth and Sport and will take place on May 14-15 in Hotel Arbiru Beach in Dili. The aim of the seminar is to improve the perception and knowledge of sports professionals in the areas of sports management, industry and health, and to invite the public to participate in the promotion and development of national sport as a form of national unity.



## Turkmenistan

The show jumping disciplines included in the Olympics were held at the State Hippodrome in Ashgabat. The National Equestrian Sports Centre of the Turkmen Atlary State Association, the Ministry of Culture and Broadcasting of Turkmenistan and the Ashgabat Khyakimlik organised the event. Profound attention is paid in Turkmenistan to the popularisation of equestrian events that directly contribute to the promotion of horse breeding, notably the world-renowned Ahalteke breed, training racehorses and horses for international sports competitions. (Source: State News Agency of Turkmenistan)



## UAE

From school playing field to Olympic champion...that is the ambitious plan of the NOC of the United Arab Emirates. In a recent edition of their weekly newsletter "Gold", the UAE NOC says steps are under way for a major talent identification scheme via a School Olympiad, following the initiative of His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum,

President of the NOC. The NOC's Technical Olympic Commission met at the Park Hyatt Hotel in Dubai under the chairmanship of Mohamed Al Kamali.



The meeting was also attended by representatives from the Ministry of Education and the School Sport Federation.



## Uzbekistan

The traditional awarding ceremony of the year's best representatives of the arts, culture and sports for 2009 was held in Tashkent. The sportsmen and women of Uzbekistan won 166 gold, 151 silver and 361 bronze medals – a total of 678 medals – at world and continental championships, the World Cup and Asian Games. Awards -- Brightest Sports Star, Vadim Menkov (kayak/canoe); Most Experienced, Abbos Atoyev (boxing); Sports Hope, Azizbek Muradov (wrestling); Most Talented, Anastasia Svechnikova (athletics); Most Active Federation, Tennis Federation; Best Team, women's water polo national team. (Source: Uzbekistan National News Agency)



## Vietnam

Sepak takraw aces Luu Thi Thanh, Nguyen Hai Thao, Nguyen Thi Bich Thuy and seven other top players took part in the Korean Open in April to gain experience ahead of the 16th Asian Games in Guangzhou. The Vietnamese players participated in team and double events. (Source: english.vovnews.vn)



## Yemen

Yemen has firmly stated that it is ready to host the 20th Gulf Cup of Nations football tournament on time, refuting rumours that it could be withdrawn from Yemen and given to Bahrain due to the lack of sports facilities, construction delays and security concerns. Ahmed Saleh Al-Ayisi, head of Yemen Football Association, said that Yemen had made great strides in the preparation phase of the tournament, which will be held in Aden from November 22 to December 6, 2010. (Source: Arab News)

# READY, STEADY, GO FOR YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES

Who can forget the atmosphere surrounding the 1st Asian Youth Games in Singapore last summer?

The young athletes from around the continent turned the clock back to a bygone era as they embraced the Olympic values of Excellence, Friendship and Respect to make the 1st AYG an outstanding success, both on and especially off the field of play.

Now it is the turn of the YOG to create another milestone in Olympic history, as Singapore prepares to host the International Olympic Committee's inaugural Youth Olympic Games from August 14-26.

Games organisers are expecting to welcome some 5,000 athletes and officials from the 205 National Olympic Committees, as well as 1,200 media representatives, 20,000 local and international volunteers and 370,000 spectators.

Young athletes - aged between 14 and 18 years - will compete in 26 sports and take part in a culture and education programme. Looking back on the AYG in 2009, it was the cultural aspect that

contributed as much to the success of the Games as the sports themselves, and organisers are expecting the same feelgood factor at the YOG.

"The objective is to create an exciting and memorable Youth Olympic Games for the Young Olympians and the youth of the world," says IOC Vice President Ng Ser Miang, who is Chairman of the Singapore Youth Olympic Games Organising Committee.

IOC President Jacques Rogge paid a three-day visit to Singapore in March to check on the preparations, and was very impressed with what lies in store.

President Rogge said: "This visit to Singapore has been a fruitful and constructive one and I am pleased with the way the preparations for the Youth Olympic Games are unfolding. The Singapore Youth Olympic Games Organising Committee is doing a great job and it warms me to see that their enthusiasm for the upcoming Games matches mine. I am looking forward to a superb first edition this August."



IOC President Jacques Rogge and IOC Vice President Ng Ser Miang join in the fun of the YOG.

## Diary of Events



July 12 - 14  
**Pre DRM for the 16th Asian Games, Guangzhou 2010**  
Muscat, Oman



July 12 - 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



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

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