

ASIA SPARKLES

at Youth Olympic Games

Olympic Day celebrations

OCA/OS Continental Forum

OCA Judo Youth Camp

Games Updates

News from Asia's 45 NOCs



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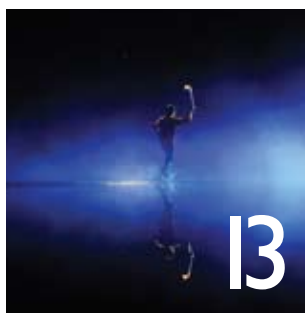


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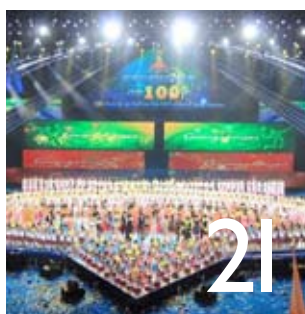
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SPORTING ASIA

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OMAN WILL BENEFIT FROM ASIAN BEACH GAMES LONG AFTER THE CLOSING CEREMONY



The Olympic Council of Asia always places a strong emphasis on the legacy of hosting a major multi-sports event.

We have seen this with the 1986 Asian Games in Seoul, paving the way for a landmark Olympic Games two years later. Seoul is not the same city in 2010 as it was in 1986, thanks to the development of the infrastructure and the international exposure the Korean capital received.

Beijing hosted the Asian Games in 1990 and laid the foundations for their successful bid – and ultimately spectacular triumph – of the 2008 Olympic Games in the Chinese capital.

And look at Doha. The incredible spectacle of the 2006 Asian Games has catapulted the Qatari capital on to the map of world sport.

The OCA is delighted with the sporting and cultural legacy left behind by these three events in particular, and Asia in general is valued highly in the Olympic Movement for its ability to stage a wide range of multi-sports events.

With this in mind, I am certain the same can be said of the Sultanate of Oman, which is preparing to stage the 2nd Asian Beach Games in December. With so many athletes, officials and media attending the Beach Games, Oman will receive a huge boost in international profile and in tourism.

I am also very happy that the organisers, MABGOC, have decided to allow spectators to watch the 14 sports free of charge. This will help to generate a beach party atmosphere and make the local people feel part of the festival and the fun.

The Asian Beach Games is still relatively new and still building up its own unique identity, but I am convinced it will establish itself as one of the most attractive and rewarding events on the OCA calendar.

Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah
President, Olympic Council of Asia

THE OLYMPIC COUNCIL OF ASIA – EVER ONWARD!

The Olympic Council of Asia is the governing body of the Olympic movement in Asia. It was founded in 1982 and is based in Kuwait. The predecessor of the OCA was the Asian Games Federation, which was formed in 1949 to promote sports development and organise the Asian Games every four years. The OCA serves the interests of 45 National Olympic Committees.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President

Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad A-Sabah (Kuwait, 1991)

Secretary General

Raja Randhir Singh (India, 1991)

Vice Presidents

Gafur Rakhimov (Uzbekistan, 1999) – Central Asia

Timothy Fok Tsun-Ting (Hong Kong, China, 1999) – East Asia

Lt. Gen. Syed Arif Hasan (Pakistan, 2007) – South Asia

Maj. Gen. Charouck Arirachakran (Thailand, 1995) – South East Asia

Sheikh Issa Bin Rashid Al-Khalifa (Bahrain, 2007) – West Asia

Yu Zaiqing (China, 2003) – 16th Asian Games, Guangzhou 2010

Shin Yong-Suk (Korea, 2008) – 17th Asian Games, Incheon 2014

Temirkhan Dosmukhambetov (Kazakhstan, 2007) – 7th Asian Winter Games, Astana-Almaty 2011

Prof. Dr. Hoang Vinh Giang (Vietnam, 2007) – 3rd Asian Indoor Games, Vietnam 2009

Habib A. Macki (Oman, 2007) – 2nd Asian Beach Games, Muscat 2010

Chair of OCA Standing Committees

Yuko Arakida (Japan, 2007) – Athletes Committee

Hemasiri Fernando (Sri Lanka, 2003) – Culture and Education Committee

Dr. Chang Feng-Shu (Chinese Taipei, 1995) – Finance Committee

Bahram Afsharzadeh (Iran, 1991) – Information and Statistics Committee

Rita Subowo (Indonesia, 2006) – International Relations Committee

Manuel Silverio (Macau, 2003) – Media Committee

Dr. M. Jegathesan (Malaysia, 2007) – Medical Committee

Sheikh Talal Al-Fahad Al-Sabah (Kuwait, 2003) – Rules Committee

Yu Kyung-Sun (Korea, 2007) – Environment Committee

Gen. Souhail Khoury (Lebanon, 2007) – Sport For All Committee

Zhang Jilong (China, 2009) – Sports Committee

Natalya Sipovich (Kazakhstan, 2003) – Women's Committee

Ng Ser Miang (Singapore, 2007) – Advisory Committee

Tsunekazu Takeda (Japan, 1999) – Coordination Committee

HRH Prince Feisal Al-Hussein (Jordan, 2007) – Peace Through Sports Comm.

Administration

Husain Al-Musallam (Kuwait, 1999) – Director General & Technical Director

Note: The year refers to the year of election

IOC, OCA OFFER FULL SUPPORT TO TIMOR-LESTE NOC

The International Olympic Committee and Olympic Council of Asia have offered their full support to the newly-elected National Olympic Committee of Timor-Leste. In a letter dated August 23 from IOC headquarters in Lausanne, the IOC and OCA send their congratulations and best wishes to the NOC President, Jose Luis Guterres, and the Secretary General, Francisco Kalbuadi Lay.

The letter is signed by Pere Miro, the IOC's NOC Relations Director, and by Husain Al-Musallam, Director General and Technical Director, OCA.

The correspondence reads: "Following the report received from Mr. Haider Farman (OCA) in relation to the Elective General Assembly of your NOC which took place on 31st July 2010, we have taken note of the results of this Elective General Assembly meeting and in particular of your election as President and Secretary General, respectively, as well as the election of the other

members of your NOC Executive Committee.

"We wish you the best of success in your new positions and we will be at your entire disposal in order to assist you in accomplishing the tasks linked to your respective functions.



"We hope that your NOC will be able to establish and consolidate a sound basis for the future and to work efficiently and constructively for the benefit of the Olympic and sports Movement and of the athletes in Timor-Leste in a united and coordinated manner with all your stakeholders. You may

count on our full support to assist you as much as possible in that way.

"We look forward to our future collaboration and we remain at your entire disposal."

IOC RECOGNISES ARIMORI'S MARATHON EFFORTS

As a marathon runner in Japan, Yuko Arimori knows all about dedication and determination, and staying the course when things get tough.

She was the first Japanese woman to win an Olympic track and field medal for 64 years when she finished second in the 1992 marathon in Barcelona, and won bronze four years later in Atlanta.

Now she has another award to cherish, thanks to her untiring efforts and ceaseless campaigning for women in sport. On the occasion of Olympic Day, June 23, at the IOC headquarters in Lausanne, Arimori received the IOC Trophy for Asia in the 2010 Women and Sport Awards.

Five continental trophies and one world trophy were given to exceptional personalities who have all made a significant difference to boosting the development, participation and involvement of women and girls in sport around the world.



©IOC/Richard Juilliat

Japan's Yuko Arimori is pictured, fifth from the left, with her IOC Women and Sport Award for Asia at IOC headquarters on June 23.

PyeongChang moves on

On June 22, the IOC Executive Board decided unanimously that all three applicant cities for the 2018 Olympic Winter Games – Munich (Germany), Annecy (France) and PyeongChang (Republic of Korea) – should progress to the second phase of the bid process. The EB nonetheless asked Annecy to review its venue concept. The full IOC Session will vote on the host city in Durban, South Africa, on July 6, 2011.

IOC to monitor Indian sport

A fruitful meeting took place on June 18 between the IOC, the NOC of India and representatives of the Indian government to review the situation of the Olympic and sports movement in India as a whole. All pending issues were discussed at length and resolved. The Executive Board was very satisfied with this outcome, but also stressed that the IOC will monitor the situation and will ensure that the Olympic Charter is respected in India.

IN BRIEF

Dr. Jega becomes Tan Sri

Dr. M. Jegathesan, Chairman of the Olympic Council of Asia's Medical Committee, has been awarded the title of "Tan Sri" by the King of Malaysia. The award is the Penglima Setia Mahkota (PSM) given by the King of Malaysia in recognition of services to the country. This year there were 33 recipients of the Tan Sri award on the occasion of the King's birthday.

This award, the equivalent of a knighthood, caps the government's recognition for a career-long contribution to sports and to medicine and the sciences, both nationally and internationally. The award is effective from June 5, 2010, and enables Tan Sri Dr. Jegathesan to carry the PSM title after his name.

Good news for Incheon AG

OCA Vice President Shin Yong-Suk has been appointed Chairman of the Transition Committee for Incheon Metropolitan City's Mayor-elect, Song Young-Gil. Mr. Shin has been a very close political ally to the Mayor-elect for many years and is also in charge of the 2014 Incheon Asian Games Committee of the Transition Committee.

This is good news both for the OCA and Incheon regarding Asian Games preparations because Mr. Shin can coordinate very closely with the new Mayor and also get support from central government.

Singapore honours hero Tan

The Singapore National Olympic Council, whose President is Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean, awarded the 2010 IOC "Sport: an Inspiration to Youth" trophy to Tan Howe Liang, Singapore's first Olympic medallist.

Tan, now 77, won a silver medal in weightlifting at the 1960 Rome Olympics. The ceremony was held during the awarding of the 2010 sports trophies, which recognised the best athletes and coaches of the year.

IOC mourns Mohamed Mzali

The International Olympic Committee was greatly saddened to learn of the death of Mohamed Mzali, IOC member in Tunisia, at the age of 84. Mr. Mzali held a number of ministerial posts in his country (defence, health and education) before becoming Tunisian Prime Minister in 1980 for six years.

Elected as an IOC member in 1965, he was a member of the Executive Board from 1973 to 1980; Vice President from 1976 to 1980; President of the International Olympic Academy from 1977 to 1988; and a member of the following Commissions: Press and Public Relations (1967-1972), Information and Cultural (1973-1974), Press (1974-1980), Tripartite (1977-1980) and Culture and Olympic Education (since 2002).

GREEN DAY IN MUSCAT

The Muscat Asian Beach Games Organising Committee has something special to celebrate: not gold, silver or bronze – but a Green win!

MABGOC received a Special Commendation for Green Campaign of the Year in the Oman Green Awards for not only promoting the 2nd Asian Beach Games Muscat 2010 and the natural beauty of Oman, but for raising awareness about the need to conserve the habitats of the Muscat 2010 mascots – three unique animals found in Oman and which are facing endangerment.

The ceremony, hosted by United Press and Publishing in association with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs, honours outstanding environmental vision, endeavours, initiatives and achievements of organisations, groups and individuals in Oman.

The three characters – Al-Jebel, a tahr representing the mountains and land; Al-Reeh, a houbara representing the fresh air; and Al-Med, a green turtle representing the pristine Omani seas – are the fictional platform by which MABGOC is addressing real life issues.

Commenting on the award, MABGOC Director General Eng. Habib Macki said: "We not only wish to hold a most successful Asian Beach Games, but also highlight the natural beauty and unique wildlife found in Oman to the 45 National Olympic Committees attending the Games.

"We also wanted to reach out to Omani youth to bring awareness of the need for conservation of these three animals, and how we must protect our environment today for future generations."

Olympic Council of Asia Director General Husain Al-Musallam took the opportunity to congratulate the organising committee on receiving the award.



His Royal Highness Tarik bin Shabib Al Said (left) looks on as the Minister of Environment and Climate Affairs, His Excellency Sayyid Hamood bin Faisal Al Busaidi (second from right), presents MABGOC Director of Support Mubarak Hill (right) and MABGOC PR Manager Deneille Dewar with the Special Commendation for Green Campaign of the Year.

ASIA UNITES IN OLYMPIC DAY CELE

Olympic Day was introduced in 1948 to commemorate the birth of the modern Olympic Games on June 23, 1894, at the Sorbonne in Paris. The goal was to promote participation in sport across the globe, regardless of age, gender or athletic ability.

Here's a look at some of the things that were happening in Asia on this special day – on or around June 23 – for the Olympic movement.

Uzbekistan: Around 10,000 people took part in Olympic Day Run regional competitions and over 1,500 of them attended the grand finals in Tashkent. Uzbekistan NOC President Malik Babaev told the gathering: "Olympic Day is an excellent stepping stone to start a better life." The runs took place over three distances – 0.3 miles, 0.5 miles and 1 mile – and the runners were aged from 6 to over 80.

Chinese Taipei: The 23rd Olympic Day Run organised by the NOC was held on June 6 in conjunction with the upcoming 2010 Taipei International Flora Expo and World Environment Day. Over 3,000 runners and parent-child pairings participated in 10-km and 3-km races respectively. President Ma Ying-Jeou and NOC President Thomas Tsai led the dignitaries.

Mongolia: The Olympic Day Run involving 250 participants was held in Darkhan, the second largest city in Mongolia, on

June 19, with the attendance of IOC Honorary Member Shagdarjav Magvan. The NOC organised a week of Olympic activities under the title "Olympism in Darkhan". At the closing ceremony entitled "Olympism in a nomadic family", local sports-lovers donated a race horse to Mr. Magvan to take part in all races at Darkhan on behalf of the Mongolia NOC.

Hong Kong: The annual festival was successfully held on June 27 at Hong Kong Disneyland Resort at 7.45am. The opening ceremony was officiated by NOC President, OCA Vice President and IOC Member Timothy Fok and by Mrs. Betty Fung, Director of Leisure and Cultural Services of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government. The 5.6-km route attracted over 4,000 participants and 11 corporate teams.

Thailand: More than 25,500 sports fans joined in the Olympic activities on June 26 in Hua Hin, Prachuap Khiri Khan Province. The President of the NOCT, Gen. Yuthasak Sasiprapha, Vice President Suwat Liptapanlop and the Governor of Prachuap Khiri Khan Province, Weera Sriwathanatrakoon, opened the celebrations. On the programme were runs over three distances for participants aged 18 and under through to 50 years and above.

China: Thousands of people in nine Chinese cities put on their trainers and joined in an Olympic Day event on June 19. "Good health is where happiness comes from. Let's take part in the Sport for All campaign and live a happy life," said Liu Peng, COC



Olympic Day in Mongolia



Olympic Day in Chinese Taipei



Olympic Day in Sri Lanka



Olympic Day in Oman

CELEBRATIONS ACROSS THE CONTINENT

President and Head of the State General Administration of Sport. The cities included Beijing, Harbin, Guangzhou and Nanjing.

Indonesia: The NOC (known as KONI) joined Pelita Harapan University in celebrating Olympic Day on June 19 at the UPH campus in Karawaci. Olympic Day 2010 began with a fun run around the campus complex. Early activities also included the kindling of a flaming cauldron, which is part of the tradition of this celebration. KONI and UPH presented other competitions such as 3-on-3 basketball, martial arts and rugby.

Korea: The PyeongChang 2018 Olympic and Paralympic Games Bid Committee participated in the 2010 Olympic Day Run on June 20. Approximately 3,000 participants gathered on Peace Square in front of the World Peace Gates of Seoul's Olympic Park. Participants included several Olympic medallists from the Vancouver Games such as Lee Seung-hoon, Lee Sang-Hwa and Mo Tae-Bum.

Bangladesh: The Bangladesh Olympic Association scheduled this year's Olympic Day on June 22 in the capital Dhaka and five other divisional headquarters in the country. Activities included a children's art competition and blood donation programme.

Brunei: His Royal Highness Prince Hj Sufri Bolkiah, President of the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council, and the

Minister of Culture, Youth & Sports, Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerna Laila Diraja Dato Paduka Hj Hazair, took part in the Olympic Day Run. Thousands thronged to the Pedestrian Mall at the Indoor Stadium of the Hassanal Bolkiah National Sports Complex in Berakas to participate. The race was divided into five categories, in which the athletes with special needs category (2km) were further sub-divided into eight categories.

Cambodia: Youth Olympic Games Young Ambassador Chivinn Chum spoke to youngsters on the occasion of an Olympic Day Run to tell them about the many benefits inherent to sport.

Kazakhstan: With school holidays in June, the NOC brought their Olympic Day forward to May 22 to involve as many youngsters as possible. Some 5,000 took part in Almaty, while other cities also organised Olympic events.

Lebanon: The new-look NOC attracted 3,000 sports-lovers to their multi-sports promotion on June 27, when organisers were given permission to close the longest corniche in Beirut from 7-11am.

Sri Lanka: The Olympic Day celebrations were held in Jaffna on June 23 and included educational and cultural activities in addition to its core event – a six-km run for 1,000 school children. There was also an art competition for schools in three age categories, an Olympic quiz and tree-planting campaign.



Olympic Day in Uzbekistan



Olympic Day in Sri Lanka



Olympic Day in Hong Kong



Olympic Day in Chinese Taipei

OCA BREAKS NEW GROUND WITH OS FORUM

The Olympic Council of Asia gathered all 45 National Olympic Committees together to take part in the Olympic Solidarity/OCA Continental Forum for the first time instead of hosting five regional seminars.



His Excellency Ali Masoud Al-Sunaidy gives his address.

The two-day forum was held at the Shangri-La's Barr Al Jissah Resort and Spa in the Sultanate of Oman on Monday and Tuesday, July 12-13, and involved a series of presentations, workshops and question-and-answer sessions on three main topics.

The common practice is for the OS/OCA Forum to be conducted with representatives from the OCA's five zones – West Asia, Central Asia, South Asia, South East Asia and East Asia – but it was decided this time to bring everyone under the same roof.

The guest of honour at the opening session was His Excellency Ali Masoud Al-Sunaidy, Oman's Minister of Sports Affairs,

Chairman of the Oman Olympic Committee and board member of the Muscat Asian Beach Games Organising Committee.

In his keynote address, His Excellency said the two-day forum offered the 45 NOCs "the opportunity for constructive and fruitful contributions" to the management and day-to-day running of the Olympic Movement at grassroots level.

"It is through such exchanges of ideas that we will be able to further develop sport across Asia," he said.

"Like the Asian Olympic Movement, the sporting fraternity in our country is witnessing continuing development. Today marks a significant milestone as we bring together in Muscat the 45 National Olympic Committees of Asia.

"By working in cooperation we aim to provide a platform for useful dialogues that will lead to the progress of each NOC. We share a fundamental interest in understanding the needs and goals of each NOC. Most importantly, it is only through closer coordination that we can truly respond to the justified expectations of our fine sportsmen and women."

His Excellency added that everyone attending the forum held a responsibility to the journey of sport on the Asian continent.

"We are responsible for upholding and being fair to the pioneers of the Olympic Movement," he said. "The outstanding contributors who have come before us have set a framework for the promotion of sport and ethics of the Olympic Movement.

"We are accountable to carry out their work and to further develop and improve upon their valuable experiences. From this, we are responsible to deliver a legacy to future generations."



Delegates from all 45 NOCs take their places for the forum.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT FOR ASIA'S NOCS

Very professional and conducted by experts: That is how the Pakistan NOC delegation of Brig. (Retired) Arif Mahmud Siddiqui and Vice President Khawaja Farooq Saeed summed up the two-day OS/OCA Continental Forum.

"It was an excellent congress," the pair agreed. "In general we are not discussing these issues but they are very important. We learned a lot."

Olympic Solidarity's Manager for Asia, Olivier Niamkey, introduced the three subjects and urged the NOC representatives to ask questions and become involved in the issues so they could return home with clear guidelines and policy for the future administration of sport in their country.

Jerome Poivey, a project manager from the IOC's NOC Relations Department, gave the first presentation on **Autonomy of the Olympic and Sports Movement** – a subject close to the heart of several NOCs as they tussle for control with their government.

Eight NOCs – Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Uzbekistan and the Philippines – then provided short case studies, before the presentation ended with a question-and-answer session.

The afternoon session on the first day was devoted to **Ethics and Good Governance** presented by Paquerette Girard Zappelli, Secretary of the IOC Ethics Commission. Following the presentation the delegates split up into five groups to discuss various themes and announce their findings and conclusions to the forum at large.



The third and final presentation took place on the second morning of the forum, **Arbitration and Mediation in Sport** by Dr. Despina Mavromati, Counsel to the Court of Arbitration for Sport. Several high-profile cases were included in the report, which explained

the workings, funding and the procedures of the CAS – formed in 1984 and which received its first case in 1986. The highest number of cases to date in a calendar year is 311 in 2008.

At the conclusion of the forum, Niamkey urged the delegates to report the key issues of the three topics and the findings to their own NOCs as often as possible in order to avoid problems in the future and ensure the smooth running of sport in Asia.

The theme for the 2011 OS/OCA Forum will be "Preparing for the London Olympics" – one year ahead of the Summer Games in July 2012.



Olivier Niamkey from Olympic Solidarity Asia coordinates the forum.



Dr Despina Mavromati, Counsel to the Court of Arbitration for Sport

JUDO YOUTH CAMP ATTRACTS FULL 'DOJO' IN BANGKOK

The Olympic Council of Asia conducted its second youth camp of the Olympic quadrennial 2009-2012 at the Sports Authority of Thailand in July, and this year the chosen sport was judo.

The OCA invited two athletes and one coach from all 45 National Olympic Committees to attend the course, and no fewer than 35 of them readily accepted to create a full "dojo" of over 100 judo enthusiasts in the Sports Science Centre gymnasium.

"We are very happy to see so many athletes and coaches attend this camp," said the OCA's Haider Farman at the official opening ceremony on Monday, July 19.

"This is a unique project where we gather the Asian youth and coaches at the same time in the same venue to receive intensive theoretical and practical training from two of the top judo experts in Asia.

"The timing of the camp has been chosen carefully, ahead of the 1st Youth Olympic Games in Singapore in August and to benefit all those who are taking part."

The course instructors were Hatsuyuki Hamada from Japan and Jeon Ki Young from Korea.



The OCA Judo Youth Camp brought Asia together...from Mongolia, Iran, Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan, among many others.

Professor Hamada was head coach of the powerful Japanese national team from 1993 to 1996, including the World Championships in 1993 and 1995 and the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. His star student was Ryoko Tamura (now Tani), who won two of her seven -48kg world titles under Hamada and Olympic silver at Atlanta.

Jeon, meanwhile, is a judo legend in Korea and widely considered the sport's greatest middleweight competitor of all time. He won three consecutive world championships in 1993, 1995 and 1997, but the crowning glory came at the Atlanta Olympics with gold in the -86kg division.

Prof. Hamada said the camp held as much interest for him as it did for the young athletes and coaches from all corners of Asia.

"Under 17 years old, the youth age, is very important in judo, as it is in every sport," he said. "This is the time to learn the basic technique to prepare for competition, and from there an athlete can develop and move on to the next category.

"What's interesting for me is that the basic technique is different in each country, so we will have to watch them closely and check their techniques. We will focus on the fundamentals of judo, and maybe the athletes will not feel the benefits of this course for one or two more years."

The camp was held in conjunction with the National Olympic Committee of Thailand, the Judo Association of Thailand and the Judo Union of Asia.



At the opening ceremony (from left): Haider Farman, Maj. Gen. Charouck and Hassabodin Rojanachiva

MORE THAN JUST JUDO FOR ASIA'S YOUTH



Course instructors Jeon Ki Young of Korea (left) and Hatsuyuki Hamada of Japan take a souvenir photo with a keen young judoka.



Yemen's Ali Abdullah and Ali Abujaael get to grips with each other.



Singapore's Vanessa Ng in "Superman" pose.



Lebanon's Lea Farhat and Caren Chammas show their team spirit in the photo session.



Palestine's Haneen Khaled Audaall takes a breather during a tough training session.



Kuwait's Sara Bader Al-Salem and Rawan Hasan Jaafar listen to advice from their coach.

Although judo was the main course on the menu of the OCA Youth Camp, there were plenty of side dishes, too; such as the chance to meet like-minded youngsters from other parts of Asia, exchange ideas, share their culture – and send them crashing to the mat!

Here is a selection of comments from athletes, coaches and officials who combined to make the OCA Judo Youth Camp such a big success:

Haneen Khaled Audaall (Palestine, 16):

"I think it's a great idea, the chance to meet all the countries of Asia. They are so far away and we rarely see them, but here we can get to know them and train together."

Muhammad Ruzaini Bin Abdul Razak (Malaysia, 15):

"This gives me the experience to know more about judo. I can see the different techniques in different countries."

Hamoud Saleh Hussain (Kuwait, judo instructor):

"This camp gives everyone more information about judo. I think it can help the players from a psychological point of view, too. Usually, most of them are afraid when they hear 'Olympic Games', but when they come here and see all the athletes from other countries and train alongside them, they will not feel afraid. They believe in themselves more, and will trust themselves more."

Kim Kyong Su

(Deputy General Secretary, Judo Association of DPR Korea):

"We want to thank the OCA for organising this camp. It is a very good chance for everyone to get together and, through joint training and experience, contribute to the development of judo. It follows the Olympic ideals."

Hassabodin Rojanachiva

(President, Judo Association of Thailand; President, South East Asia Zone; Vice President, Judo Union of Asia):

"This camp is not only about youth judo. At this age it is very important in sport to have associations with other countries and to build relationships for the future."

Suman Gogi (India, coach):

"The camp is a very good idea because it gives the young athletes exposure and they can learn new techniques."

Maj. Gen. Charouck Arirachakaran

(Vice President and Secretary General, NOC Thailand):

"This is a very good project by the OCA. It is important to support the young athletes and to support their country by inviting them to the camp. We are always ready to cooperate with the OCA."

THE ASIAN ATHLETE REVEALED – PART TWO



The OCA Athletes' Committee pictured in Guangzhou on August 10.

The second phase of the Asian Athletes Survey was presented at the OCA Athletes' Committee meeting in Guangzhou, China, on Tuesday, August 10.

Committee member Dr Mansoor Sultan Al-Tauqi of Oman gave the presentation, based on the findings from the 3rd Asian Indoor Games 2009 in Vietnam. With the help of a team of volunteers, the OCA Athletes' Committee representatives collected 839 questionnaires from athletes in 38 countries and regions, 65 per cent from male athletes and 35 per cent female.

One of the most interesting statistics was that 45 per cent of the athletes polled were educated to university level, undermining the belief that athletes at the top of their sport lacked higher education, said Dr Mansoor. And with 30 per cent of the athletes aged from 26-30 (19 per cent) and over 30 (11 per cent), the committee's career transition programme would become increasingly important in the near future, he added.

Dr Mansoor also highlighted the rapid shift from amateur to professionalism, as 52 per cent regarded themselves as full-time athletes and 43 per cent amateur. When it came to financial support, 67 per cent received it and 33 per cent did not – and 57 per cent said what they did receive was not enough. (43 per cent thought it was enough).

Interestingly, 48 per cent received their financial support from the sport's governing body, and 26 per cent from the government. Only 6 per cent received it through the private sector, meaning corporate sponsorship.

The detailed findings will be presented to the OCA General Assembly in November.

The first survey was conducted at the 2008 Asian Beach Games in Bali. For the 16th Asian Games in Guangzhou this November, Dr Mansoor is targeting 3,000 replies with the help of 20-30

volunteers, and the survey will be completed at the 7th Asian Winter Games in Kazakhstan next January-February.

The results of the four surveys, and recommendations, will be compiled ahead of the OCA Congress in 2011.

☀ In other news from the OCA Athletes' Committee, Chairwoman Yuko Arakida reported that only 17 of the 45 NOCs had responded to their request to form an athletes' committee to look after the welfare, needs and conditions of athletes. The committee will step up their efforts in the coming weeks, including individual contacts with NOC leaders and a presentation at the OCA General Assembly in November.

☀ The committee will invite IOC Athletes' Commission Chairman Frankie Fredericks – the former Namibian sprinter – to the Asian Games in Guangzhou.



OCA Media Committee Chairman Manuel Silverio was the guest of the week on a recent edition of Asian Games Live! – a Radio Guangdong talk show conducted by three-time Summer Olympics sportscaster Jeff Ruffolo (right). The interview took place in Macau and focused on the media and broadcast services for the 16th Asian Games. An OCA Media Committee evaluation team is planning to visit Asian Games venues at the end of September.

Sporting Asia's eight-page YOG special starts here!

PROUD SINGAPORE OPENS NEW CHAPTER FOR IOC

Long before the first gold medal of the first Youth Olympic Games was handed out, the message to the athletes, coaches, officials and the world was already loud and clear: Let's start again and build a brighter future!

At a magical opening ceremony on Saturday, August 14, Singapore put on a magnificent spectacle to celebrate its unique history and point the way forward through the ambitious new project of the International Olympic Committee.

As IOC President Jacques Rogge told the 3,600 athletes from 205 National Olympic Committees in his official address: "You are our future!" -- with the emphasis firmly on the word "our".

Earlier in the evening, a two-hour show that involved 7,000 young Singaporeans in a glittering display of dance, movement, music and song also included a sequence of the modern world gone horribly wrong -- with images of war, the plundering of rain forests, natural disasters and global blazing rather than warming.

The show itself managed to break down barriers, with the athletes walking on to the floating platform in Marina Bay as one large group, as opposed to the more formal custom of team by team behind the flag. And there were photo opportunities galore for the 27,000 spectators when performers in eye-catching costumes made their way up the aisles -- or banged their drums or twisted acrobatically round poles at fixed positions in the grandstand.

Organising committee chairman Ng Ser Miang welcomed the Olympic Movement to Singapore before the President of the Republic, Mr S R Nathan, declared the YOG open. Two-time world champion sailor Darren Choy had the honour of lighting the cauldron, after a Disney-style dragon boat had ferried the flame to the floating stage.



COVER STORY: YOG – YUKA’S OLYMPIC GLORY



Japan's Yuka Sato displays her gold medal after the official press conference at Marina Bay to celebrate the first gold medalist of the first YOG

The first gold medal of the first Youth Olympic Games was won by an Asian athlete: Japan's Yuka Sato in the girls' triathlon.

As Singapore was still buzzing from a memorable opening ceremony the previous evening, the 18-year-old Japanese wrote her own name in the Olympic history books on an emotional Sunday morning at East Coast Park.

After finishing more than 14 seconds ahead of her nearest rival in the 750-metre swim, 20-km cycle and 5-km run, Sato exclaimed: "I made it! I knew this would be the first medal event of the YOG and it really got me motivated to go for gold. I really wanted to drive Team Japan."

Later, back at the Main Press Centre in Marina Bay, Sato explained how it was her mother who encouraged her to enter a mini triathlon when she was just nine years old. She won the race and never looked back.

By the time the Beijing Olympic Games came round in 2008, Sato was hooked on triathlon and decided to travel to the Chinese capital to watch the event.

"When I saw the race I was so inspired by the competition that I wanted one day to take part on this dream stage. That experi-

ence in Beijing really got me motivated to do it.

"At this moment I am very proud to be a Japanese athlete and to have been born in Japan. When I was on the top of the podium I felt like I was dreaming, but this is only a halfway step towards the Olympics.

"This is a junior competition and the Olympics is the elite, so there is a big difference and I have to work hard and train hard to get there.

"There will be hardships ahead, and I will use the memory of this success to manage those tough times."

The President of the Japanese Olympic Committee, Tsunekazu Takeda, said Sato's historic success was a great achievement for the athlete and an honour for Japan. "She has lifted the whole team. Everyone is together because of this," he said.

For the record

1st YOG, Girls' Triathlon
Sunday, August 15, 2010
East Coast Park, Singapore
Gold: Yuka Sato (Japan) 1 hour, 49 seconds
Silver: Ellie Salthouse (Australia) 1:01.04
Bronze: Kelly Whitley (United States) 1:01.13

'SHANGHAI TANG' – ALL THE RAGE IN SINGAPORE

The first Youth Olympic Games witnessed a new era for Chinese swimming. Let's call it the Tang Dynasty. Aged 17, freestyle flyer Tang Yi left Singapore with an astonishing six gold medals and played a major role in China's overall dominance of the YOG medal table. Her golden tally could so easily have been seven, but for a mistake by an over-eager teammate leading to disqualification in the girls' 4x100m medley relay final after China had romped home in first place.

"My target is to win every event, but I never expected to get so many gold medals," she told the media on the conclusion of the six-day swim meet at Singapore Sports School.

Clearly there will be more gold medals to come from Tang, who was born in Shanghai and entered the Shanghai Changning District Sports School in 1999 when she was just six years old. In 2004 she transferred to Shanghai Sport University and joined the Shanghai municipal swimming team the following year.

She was promoted to the national team in 2006 and won a gold medal at the Doha Asian Games in the 4x200m freestyle relay. Two summers later, at the Beijing Olympics, Tang was part of the 100m freestyle relay team who just missed out on a medal, finishing fourth.

"In Beijing I didn't get a chance to stand on the podium. Now I can," she added, of her exploits in Singapore. And the secret of her success?

"My secret is the team," she replied. "Unity is strength. I could not have done it without them."

The Tang Dynasty

- 50m freestyle
- 100m freestyle
- 200m freestyle
- Girls' 4x100m freestyle relay
- Mixed 4x100m freestyle relay
- Mixed 4x100m medley relay



Tang Yi celebrates one of her six gold medals.

KOREAN HOTSHOTS POT GOLD

Asia's "big three" of China, Republic of Korea and Japan collected enough YOG medals in a variety of sports to prove that their Olympic Games future is in good hands.

Not only did the Koreans excel in taekwondo – a sport they proudly describe as their "gift to the world" – they also produced golden moments in fencing, archery and shooting, among others.

One of the most popular winners was Kim Jang Mi, who progressed from Asian Youth Games gold medallist in 2009 to YOG champion in 2010 in the junior women's 10m air pistol at Singapore Sports School.

In the typically tense atmosphere of a shooting hall, Kim held her nerve throughout the 10-shot final round to emerge with another gold medal in her growing collection. Her precision, her demeanour and her bubbly character won her a large new fan base, which will surely grow around Korea, Asia and the world as she builds up to the 2012 London Olympics.

"The Asian Youth Games last year was my first international competition, so I didn't really know what to expect," she said.

"But since then I have taken part in many international games and have gained a lot of experience. It was very important to take the step up from AYG to YOG."

Another hot shot was archer Kwak Ye Ji, who thrilled the crowds at Kallang Field – and earned the nickname the "Korean Robin Hood" – by winning the junior women's individual final.



Korea's Kim Jang Mi won gold in the 10m air pistol.

YOUNG OLYMPIANS PUT



1



5



2



6



3



7



4



8

1. **Siripon Kaewduang-Ngam** of Thailand smiles and gives the thumbs-up after winning the gold medal in the girls' Techno 293 windsurfing competition.

2. **Kim Song Chol** of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on his way to gold in the men's 62kg weightlifting event.

3. **Abdullah Altuwaini** of Kuwait won the bronze medal in the youth men's 50m backstroke competing under the IOC flag due to the Kuwait NOC's suspension.

4. Indonesia lifted one medal at the YOG, a bronze from **Dewi Safitri** in the women's 53kg weightlifting.

5. **Sothea Sam** of Cambodia celebrates with her coach after clinching bronze in the girls' -44kg judo.

6. **Yuliya Kizima** of Kazakhstan competes during the individual all-around qualification match of rhythmic gymnastics.

7. **Kaveh Rezaei** won one of Iran's two gold medals, in the men's 55kg taekwondo.

8. Mongolia's **Ganbat Erdenebold** competes in the men's rings qualification of artistic gymnastics.

ASIA IN THE SPOTLIGHT

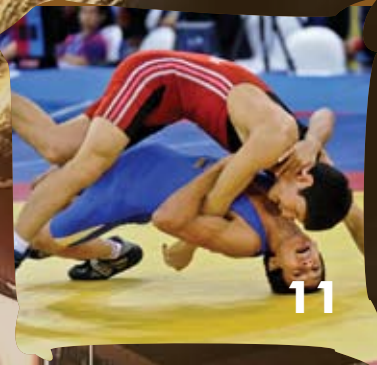
9. **Nilufar Gadaeva** of Uzbekistan celebrates her victory over Vietnam's Nguyen Thi Quynh Diem to claim bronze in 52kg women's freestyle wrestling.



10. **Thach Kim Tuan** of Vietnam lifts a weight on his way to gold in the men's 56kg weight-lifting final.



11. **Urmatbek Amatov** of Kyrgyzstan (red) in the 58kg gold medal wrestling match against Ukraine's Olexandr Lytvynov. Amatov won gold.



12. **Yuki Bhambri** of India returns the ball to Juan Sebastian Gomez of Colombia in the boys' singles tennis final.



13. Singapore's **Isabelle Li Siyun** lost the girls' table tennis final but won the hearts of the crowd, and the silver medal.



14. **Pandelela Pamg** of Malaysia won two silver medals, in the youth women's 10m platform and 3m springboard.



15. **Dana Touran** (right) of Jordan kicks Worawong Pongpanit of Thailand during the women's -49kg taekwondo final. Worawong won the gold medal.



16. **Michael Cheng Chun-Leung** of Hong Kong won the silver medal in the boys' Techno 293 windsurfing competition, maintaining Hong Kong's fine tradition in the sport.



ASIAN NOCS JOIN IN YOG MEDAL FEST



Ganbat Erdenebold celebrates his gold in the men's vault.

A look at the final medal table tells its own story – gold, silver and bronze galore for a host of Asian NOCs as they rose to the occasion of the first YOG. Among the highlights were a first Olympic gold for Vietnam in weightlifting, silver for Jordan's "Taekwondo Pearl" Dana Haidar Touran and bronze for tiny Cambodian judoka Sam Sothea. Let's recall some golden moments for Asia in Singapore:

Thailand: A badminton double for Sapsiree Taerattanachai (girls' singles) and Pisit Poodchalat (boys' singles) shook the shuttlecock establishment, and followed a gold for Worawong Pongpanit in the women's -49kg taekwondo. Thailand added a fourth gold on the penultimate day when Siripon Kaewduang-Ngam rounded off a sailing master class in the girls' windsurfing Techno 293.

Mongolia: Quality, not quantity, was the key, as 11 athletes in seven sports produced two gold medals: for gymnast Ganbat "The Bold" Erdenebold in the boys' vault and for Baatarzorig Battsetseg in the girls' 60kg freestyle wrestling.

Kazakhstan: The first day of medal competition, August 15, reaped an early gold for Zhanibek Kandybayev (men's Greco-Roman wrestling, 69kg), and weightlifter Zhazira "Zhazo" Zhapparkul followed two days later with victory in the women's 63kg category.

Iran: Heavyweight Alireza Kazeminejad, 16, lifted gold in the men's +85kg weightlifting, and lightweight Kaveh Rezaei won the men's -55kg taekwondo title.

Vietnam: Thach Kim Tuan won his country's first gold in any Olympic competition by stunning his Chinese rival in the men's 56kg weightlifting.

DPR Korea: Asian youth champion Kim Song Chol took gold in the men's 62kg weightlifting.

Kyrgyzstan: Bishkek Sports School student Urmatbek Amatov won the men's Greco-Roman 58kg wrestling title. He hopes to be an architect – and certainly built something special in Singapore.

SAUDI'S DALMA JUMPING FOR JOY



Dalma Rushdi Malhas won the bronze medal in the individual jumping.

Saudi Arabia's first female athlete in an Olympic Games, Dalma Rushdi Malhas, left Singapore with a breakthrough bronze medal after finishing third in the individual jumping event of the equestrian competition at Singapore Turf Club Riding Centre on August 24.

The 18-year-old, riding Flash Top Hat, was involved in a six-way jump-off for bronze after accumulating only four faults in her two rounds.

Another clear round, in a blistering 38.05 seconds, secured her the bronze medal. Uruguay's Marcelo Chirico, riding Links Hot Gossip, won the gold medal by beating Colombia's Mario Gamboa (LH Titan) in another jump-off after both riders had finished their two rounds with no faults.

"Before every round I get nervous but I have to just calm myself and forget about the pressure," she said. "I had a few mistakes throughout the round but luckily nothing that cost me points. I am very satisfied with my progress in this competition. I think that my horse, my coach and myself have all worked hard to get his medal."

The Director General and Technical Director of the Olympic Council of Asia, Husain Al-Musallam, said the OCA was delighted with her achievement.

"It is the first time a Saudi Arabian female athlete is participating in an international sporting event and this victory is definitely a very proud moment for the country," said Captain Husain.

"I am sure this will pave the way for more female athletes to come forward to compete in international events. The OCA President, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, will send a letter of congratulations to HRH Prince Sultan Fahd Abdul Aziz, President of NOC KSA, on this occasion."

THE YOG...IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"I think it is a fantastic idea and an opportunity for the young athletes to show themselves. These are the next generation, and everybody is honoured and privileged to be here and participating in history. The tree dedication ceremony for the NOCs is part of the charm of Singapore, and makes this event unique to Singapore." – **HRH Sheikha Maitha Mohd. Al Maktoum**, NOC representative, UAE.

"Singapore is very warm, very hot. It is like living in a sauna." – **Tatyana Kurassova**, 18, Kazakhstan girls' handball team.

"It is not like a competition. It is mostly like a camp. We do not feel like we are in strong competition with other athletes. It is very friendly, but maybe the athletes will feel different when the competition starts." – **Salamat Ergeshov**, Director, NOC of Kyrgyz Republic, on life in the Athletes' Village before the opening of the YOG.

"It is a really nice feeling because usually it is only competition. Here there is competition and friendship, and we learn about other cultures and have the chance to Chat with Champions." – Sri Lankan freestyle swimmer **Madhawe Weerathunga**, 17, visiting the Liechtenstein stall in the World Cultural Village.

"The pressure of participating under the IOC flag and not the Kuwaiti flag affected me because I can swim better, but I am still happy to win a bronze medal. I am looking forward to the local law being sorted out as soon as possible before Guangzhou because it affects not only me but all Kuwaiti athletes going to the Asian Games." – **Abdullah Altuwaini**, after winning bronze in the youth men's 50m backstroke and seeing the IOC flag raised in place of the suspended Kuwait NOC.

"It was indeed a great honour to win, but this was just a moment of glory. It's just the beginning, and it's now time to get back to training." – China's **Dong Yu** is not getting carried away by her victory on the trampoline.

"I could feel the pressure brimming inside me, and it flew out when the match started." – Republic of Korea's **Jeon Soo Yeon**, on her mindset before the women's -63kg taekwondo final. Needless to say, she won the gold medal.

"I am not happy with the bronze. Bronze was not my target. I always aim higher, for the gold medal." – Lebanon's **Michel Samaha**, not satisfied with his taekwondo result.




"I am very disappointed I could not win a gold medal for India. I am sorry I let India down. Sorry India. Sorry parents. Sorry coach." – **Pooja Dhandra**, after losing the women's 60kg freestyle wrestling final.




"I love Vietnam so much. I am so happy to make the country proud." – **Thach Kim Tuan**, after winning the men's 56kg weightlifting title – the country's first gold medal at any Olympic Games.

"With each fall I get more experienced. You cannot be a professional rider if you don't fall." – **Sultan Al Tooqi** (Oman), on the occupational hazard of being a show jumper.

"Everyone in Iran knows about archery because of Arash. The story says he put his whole life into the arrow so when he shot it he died. I hope that doesn't happen to me." – Iran's **Yasaman Shirian**, on the archer who in Persian legend died after firing an arrow to save his country.

Final Medal Table - top 10 and Asian NOCs

Rank	Country				Total
1	China	30	16	5	51
2	Russia	19	15	11	45
3	Korea	11	5	4	20
4	Ukraine	10	9	14	33
5	Cuba	9	3	2	14
6	Australia	8	13	8	29
7	Japan	8	5	3	16
8	Italy	6	9	5	20
9	Hungary	6	4	6	16
10	France	6	2	7	15
14	Thailand	4	3	--	7
25	Kazakhstan	2	2	2	6
27	Iran	2	2	1	5
33	Mongolia	2	--	--	2
41	DPR Korea	1	1	3	5
42	Vietnam	1	1	2	4
48	Kyrgyzstan	1	--	2	3

Rank	Country				Total
59	India	--	6	2	8
60	Uzbekistan	--	3	5	8
61	Chinese Taipei	--	3	--	3
62	Singapore	--	2	5	7
66	Malaysia	--	2	--	2
70	Jordan	--	1	1	2
70	Tajikistan	--	1	1	2
74	Hong Kong	--	1	--	1
74	Pakistan	--	1	--	1
74	Qatar	--	1	--	1
84	Cambodia	--	--	1	1
84	Indonesia	--	--	1	1
84	Kuwait	--	--	1	1
84	Lebanon	--	--	1	1
84	Saudi Arabia	--	--	1	1
84	Turkmenistan	--	--	1	1

Compiled by the host broadcaster, MediaCorp

SINGAPORE VIEWS FROM ASIAN OLYMPIC CHAMPIONS



Yang Yang

Date of birth: August 24, 1976

Age: 34

Country: China

Sport: Short track speed skating

Profile: Won two gold, two silver and one bronze medal in three Winter Olympics, from 1998-2006. Winner of 59 world titles during her professional career.

Joined IOC: 2010

I am very excited about the first Youth Olympic Games because I feel like it is something from the heart. From my experience, competing for 23 years of my life, I grew up through sport. That is the most valuable thing – not the medals.

I am jealous, because when I was young I did not have this kind of chance! A gold medal is just one result on one day, but over 23 years it is not worth it. When I look back on my career I do not think about the gold medals; I think about the experience of going round the world and meeting so many people who become friends.

Sport taught me how to be a good person – honest, hard-working, how to concentrate and always to respect other people.

My advice to young athletes is that if you want to win a gold medal you must keep your dream and your work on the same page. Work hard and be honest with yourself – see your weakness and improve your performance. That is very important, but it is not easy.

I also like the idea of the Culture and Education Programme. I might be too old to compete, but I am not too old for that!



David Moon Dae Sung

Date of birth: September 3, 1976

Age: 34

Country: Republic of Korea

Sport: Taekwondo

Profile: World champion in 1999, Asian Games champion in 2002, Olympic champion in 2004.

Joined IOC: 2008

The Youth Olympics are great for many reasons. First, young athletes must have many chances to compete because it is good for their future.

Second, it is a combination of sport, friendship and culture, so I hope the YOG is the platform to build long-lasting friendships and to learn about the important Olympic values. The Korean athletes, for example, although they cannot speak English well they have still been able to communicate and make friends from other countries.

Third, and in my opinion a very important issue for the future, is that the athletes will find their own skill level through the YOG. They will realise if they have talent and potential at this high level and will gain the confidence to go forward and try to compete in the Olympic Games.

But if they do not come up to this standard now they have to make a big decision. Do they step up their training, possibly at the expense of their education, or do they find another way, with the advice from their coach? The most important thing is that they can choose their own path and can coordinate their own future.

Most of them want to think they can go on to the Olympics, but in reality it will be maybe 30 per cent who make it. I am worried about athletes that when they retire they cannot do anything, so the YOG is great for their future.



‘FLOWER CITY’ IN FULL BLOOM FOR 100-DAY COUNTDOWN

The buzz of excitement outside Guangzhou Tianhe Gymnasium on the evening of Wednesday, August 4, told its own story: The Asian Games are coming to town!

Not just the organisers but the whole of the “Flower City” of Guangzhou celebrated the 100-day countdown as the clock struck 8pm – the time the Opening Ceremony of the 16th Asian Games will start on Friday, November 12.

As in previous multi-sports Games and countdown events in China, the organisers put on a glittering spectacle to showcase

the history, tradition and development of the host city, the sports to be contested and the community spirit generated by the hosting of such a massive international festival.

The costumes, choreography, music and variety kept the packed arena enthralled for the full 100 minutes, whetting the appetite for the cultural and sporting feast that will be presented come Games time.

There was a drum-beating dragon boat race high above the stage, a whirling wushu performance, a couple of high-speed dance sport pairings, a show-stopping display of strength, balance and grace in an astonishing ballet sequence, and even a musical mini-torch relay to set the scene for the real thing as the Games draw closer.

To round off a sparkling night’s entertainment, the final three candidates for the official theme song were performed for the audience: “Glorious Presence”, “Reunion” and “Sunshine Again”.

Torch Relay Key Dates

October 9: Flame-lighting and launch ceremony, Temple of Heaven, Beijing

October 11 - November 11: Relay through 21 cities of Guangdong Province

November 2: Host city flame welcoming ceremony, People’s Park, Guangzhou

November 3 - 8: Relay passes through 12 districts and county-level cities in Guangzhou

November 9: Guangzhou city centre

November 10: Lotus Mountain, near Asian Games Town

November 11: University Town

November 12: Opening Ceremony

No. of Torchbearers: **2,010**

OCA COORDINATION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TAKEDA THANKS COLLEAGUES FOR 'GREAT JOB' IN GUANGZHOU

The ninth meeting of the OCA Coordination Committee for the 16th Asian Games, held at the Garden Hotel in Guangzhou on Monday, August 9, was also the last before the November 12-27 Asiad.



Yang Shu'an and Tsunekazu Takeda

To conclude the final meeting, Committee Chairman Tsunekazu Takeda paid an emotional tribute to his colleagues, saying it had been a "great honour" for him to lead the team in tackling so many challenges, and that the mission had filled him with "great pride".

"We are definitely ready to welcome the world," said the Japanese Olympic Committee President.

Mr Takeda thanked all the committee members for making it a priority to attend the nine meetings over the past four years and share their knowledge and experience, and thanked the Chinese Olympic Committee, the Guangzhou metropolitan government and organising committee GAGOC for their great efforts.

"Congratulations!" he said to his hosts. "We are very happy to work together with you for four years, and we are very satisfied with the great job you have done. You have a wonderful team, and I am convinced the next Asian Games will be a great success.

"Every aspect of the Games is now ready to welcome the largest ever Games in Asian history."

Although this was the final Coordination Committee meeting, leading Chinese sports official Yang Shu'an warned that the work was far from complete.

"The Organising Committee has done an excellent job for the Asian Games, although I believe this is a very critical period because we need to integrate all the elements and different functions," said Mr Yang, Vice President of GAGOC, Vice Minister of the General Administration of Sport of China and Vice President of the Chinese Olympic Committee.

"We still need to maintain our close cooperation between GAGOC and OCA so all issues will be solved smoothly. I believe we will deliver the highest level of the Asian Games to our Asian family. We are in the same boat and need to work together. We will continue our team work," he added.

11,634 ATHLETES REGISTER FOR ASIAD

The 42 sports of the 16th Asian Games have attracted a provisional entry of 11,634 athletes, the 9th OCA Coordination Committee meeting heard on August 9. This was the total from the 45 National Olympic Committees when the "Entry by Number" deadline passed on July 31.

The figure may still change, however, as the deadline for NOCs to submit their "Entry by Name" forms is September 30.

The meeting heard that 26 men's teams and eight women's teams had entered the Asian Games football tournament, and that the women's final would be on November 24 and the men's final the following day. The Games will run from November 12-27.

The draws for the team sports will be conducted after the September 30 deadline for Entry by Name, but the OCA's Haider

Farman warned all NOCs that if they withdrew a team after the draw had been conducted they would face a financial penalty.

"We will remind them by sending out a notice asking if they want to continue or withdraw," said Mr Farman, Manager of the OCA's Asian Games department.

Earlier in the meeting, GAGOC Deputy Secretary General Gu Shiyang reported that 67 of the 70 competition and training venues had been handed over to the venue operation teams, and the other three would be delivered by the end of August.



VEIL OF SECRECY FOR OPENING CEREMONY

The 2nd World Press Briefing of the 16th Asian Games was organised from July 20-23 to tell the media everything they wanted to know. Well, not quite everything...

When it came to the Opening Ceremony on November 12, organisers tried their best to close the curtains as quickly as possible in order to retain an element of suspense.

But it proved to be an awkward task, as the Opening (and Closing) Ceremony will be held on Haixinsha Island, which is clearly visible from a number of vantage points, including offices, bridges and the busy road running alongside.

If the Opening Ceremony had been scheduled inside a stadium or gymnasium, then it's easier to control the amount of information to be released and to "protect" certain moments during rehearsals. On an island in the Pearl River?

Well, that's another story, especially as the construction is new and organisers will have to check all the installations and spectator flow for logistical and security reasons before the big night.

Rest assured, however, that it will be spectacular, and will involve a flotilla of boats along the Pearl River to showcase the Hong Kong-style backdrop of modern Guangzhou.

There will be only 5,000 tickets available at the box office, and the nearby Guangzhou Opera House will be transformed into a Media Centre. So, on this night at least, the media will have to sing for their supper after all.

Opening Ceremony general rundown for November 12: 19:58, countdown and fireworks display; 20:04, cultural performances (50 minutes); 20:57, Athletes' Parade; 21:42, Lighting of the cauldron.



Curious onlookers check out the progress of Haixinsha Square.

ALL THE INFO ON INFO2010

Just like every successful mission at a multi-sports games, it has to be a team effort. The vast INFO2010 project for the 16th Asian Games is no different, as it will require a huge team effort and plenty of planning to produce a winning formula.

INFO2010 is the dedicated news site for the Games, available at a terminal near you but not accessible through the Internet or available to download. Exclusively for Games participants, it is a mine of information – and the quickest and most reliable way to follow the events on and off the field of play.

The INFO2010 service for the Guangzhou Asian Games includes sections on transport, weather (updated every hour), competition schedule, medal standings, results, Games-time news, records, biographies and background information.

Sports data specialists Infostrada will provide the pre-Games information, and Xinhua News Agency will coordinate the all-

important Asian Games News Service. The Games-time news service team will involve almost 1,000 staff, including 250 paid professionals, 90 of them from overseas, and 676 trained volunteers.

Their duties will include sports previews, match and event reports, flash quotes from athletes and coaches in the Mixed Zone area immediately after a race or match, highlights from the official press conference and sports reviews. All this information, gathered in gold medal-winning time to make the Asian Games News Service as newsy as possible, will be edited, translated and uploaded into the INFO2010 network.

With this in mind, the OCA asks all NOCs, team managers, coaches and players to cooperate as much as possible with the news-gathering team in order to provide a fast, efficient and reliable service.

OMAN SHINES AT MABGOC'S WELCOME DINNER

Organisers of the 2nd Asian Beach Games in the Sultanate of Oman provided a taste of things to come at the official welcome dinner on Monday, July 12, ahead of the Chefs de Mission Seminar.

The team leaders from the 45 National Olympic Committees were treated to a charming cultural performance before a video presentation set the scene for the 2nd Asian Beach Games, which will run from December 8-16.

With a catwalk included in the set design of the Majan Main Ballroom of the Al Bustan Palace Hotel, organisers staged a fashion show to display the various type of official uniform to be worn during the Games. The lines included casual wear, business attire, technical officials' uniforms and the more formal dress for the victory ceremony and opening and closing ceremonies.

Other presentations included the gold, silver and bronze medals to be awarded in the 14 sports, the three mascot dolls and, finally, the launch of the official theme song "Together We Shine" – matching the slogan of the Games.

All in all it was an evening to remember for the appreciative audience, who can look forward to more of the same high level of Omani hospitality and cultural delights when they return for the Games in December.

In welcoming the guests to the dinner, MABGOC Director General and IOC Member Habib Macki told the audience: "In less than five months time we look forward to the arrival of your athletes and team officials to our shores in celebration of the 2nd Asian Beach Games.



MABGOC Director General and IOC Member Habib Macki

"We hope the meetings and discussions planned for this week will provide you with all the information you need to make your final preparations for the Games.

"We have many exciting moments before us as the clock ticks down to the Opening Ceremony on December 8. Each milestone brings us one day closer to when the OCA's shining sun will join the 45 Asian National Olympic Committees to participate in nine days of competition and cultural celebration"

The MABGOC programme continued with a venue tour on Tuesday afternoon and the Chefs de Mission Seminar on the morning of Wednesday, July 14.



Guests were treated to a Beach Games fashion show during the welcome dinner.

AL MUSANNAH – A JEWEL IN OMAN'S CROWN

When it comes to a sporting and lifestyle legacy from hosting an OCA event, they won't come much bigger or better than Al Musannah Sports City in the Sultanate of Oman.

Al Musannah will stage seven of the 14 sports at the 2nd Asian Beach Games in December, and 150 NOC delegates had a glimpse of the future when they visited the site on July 13 during the Chefs de Mission gathering.

With a 50-berth marina, four-star hotel, serviced apartments, athletes' village, events plaza and other operational buildings, the 1 million square-metre development will be another jewel in Oman's crown. Although construction work continues unabated, the visitors could at least grasp the scale and the lay-out of the vast complex, located 125 kilometres from Muscat.



Listen up! Wei Jizhong offers more sound advice.

The seven sports at Al Musannah are: beach handball, beach sepaktakraw, beach soccer, beach volleyball, beach waterpolo, sailing and jetski sport.

The following day it was down to the main business of the week, the Chefs de Mission Seminar at the Shangri-La's Barr Al Jissah Resort and Spa – the OCA's administrative headquarters for the Beach Games. Here are some of the main points to emerge from the seminar:

☀ Tickets will be free of charge for spectators for all events, other than the opening and closing ceremonies. This is to encourage as many locals as possible to come along and support the Beach Games.

☀ NOCs were urged to enter the tent pegging competition, which offers the highest number of gold medals of all 14 sports – 8. Organisers will provide the horses, equipment and support staff for a maximum of eight teams for the sport, which has its origins in the military and tests the rider's skills with lance and sword. All the NOCs need to bring is the athletes.

☀ The deadline for Entry by Number is August 31; for Entry by Name October 30.

☀ ESPN Star Sports has been appointed Host Broadcaster.

☀ Each NOC will be allowed a maximum of 20 participants in the team welcome ceremony at Events Plaza in Al Musannah Sports City.

☀ OCA Hon. Life Vice President Wei Jizhong urged organisers to lay the imported sand for the venues as early as possible and allow athletes to test it to avoid last-minute problems.

☀ The official opening of the Athletes' Village at Al Musannah Sports City will be November 27; pre-opening November 20.

No.	Sport	Maximum entries per NOC				No. of Days	Gold Medals
		Men	Women	Open	Total		
1	Beach Handball	10	10	X	20	8	2
2	Beach Kabaddi	6	6	X	12	5	2
3	Beach Sepaktakraw	12	12	X	24	7	4
4	Beach Soccer	10	-	X	10	9	1
5	Beach Volleyball	4	4	X	8	9	2
6	Beach Waterpolo	7	-	X	7	5	1
7	Beach Woodball	8	8	X	16	4	4
8	Bodybuilding	6	-	X	6	3	6
9	Jetski Sport	-	-	11	11	3	4
10	Marathon Swimming	4	4	X	8	2	4
11	Sailing	-	-	6	6	7	6
12	Windsurfing	4	4	X	8		
13	Triathlon	2	2	X	4	1	2
14	Tent Pegging	-	-	6	6	4	8
15	Waterski	6	6	X	12	3	6

Maximum number of athletes per NOC: 158
Total number of gold medals: 52

FACT BOX

45	NOCs
250	workforce
2,000	athletes & team officials
600	technical officials
500	media
50,000	spectators
3,300	volunteers
14	sports
8	venues
2	venue clusters

NOC news and sports round-up



Afghanistan

Officials from Afghanistan's National Olympic Committee, led by NOC President Muhammad Zahir Aghbar, inaugurated a new, US\$27,000 sports ground in the Panjsad Family area of Kabul city on July 5. Afghan actress Leena Alam was present at the ceremony, and Afghan athletes played football and taekwondo to celebrate the event.

In other news, 16 Afghan athletes won one gold medal and eight bronze medals at the 2010 Asian Open Championships in the martial art of Muay Thai in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.



Bahrain

The Secretary General of the Bahrain Olympic Committee, Shaikh Ahmed bin Hamad Al Khalifa, conveyed the greetings of the First Vice President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sport and the BOC President, Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, to local media representatives on June 21. He was speaking at a meeting held at BOC premises to discuss arrangements for media coverage of Bahrain's participation in the 16th Asian Games in Guangzhou, China, this November. Present at the meeting were BOC media committee head Tawfiq Salhi and the BOC officer responsible for sports associations, Mohammed Al Zayed.



Bangladesh

The Hon. Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, rewarded Bangladeshi medal-winners at the 11th South Asian Games Dhaka 2010 at a formal ceremony on May 24.

Also in attendance were the President of the 11th South Asian Games Organising Committee, the Hon. Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith, MP; State Minister for Youth and Sport Ahad Ali Sarkar, MP; the Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Youth and Sport, Jahid Ahsan Russel, MP; the President of the Bangladesh Olympic Association and Chief of Army Staff, General Abdul Mubeen, ndc, psc; Sports Secretary Mahbub Ahmed and BOA Secretary General Kutubuddin Ahmed.

Bangladesh finished third in the 11th SA Games with 18 gold, 24 silver and 55 bronze medals.



Bhutan

The Bhutanese bodybuilding team returned home with a bronze medal from the 7th South Asian Men's Bodybuilding Championship held in Nepal from June 17 to 20. From the four Bhutanese participants, "Mr Bhutan" Tshering Dorji won a bronze medal in the under 75 kg category. Some 75 contestants from the South Asian countries participated in nine categories.

The competition witnessed world and top class bodybuilders from other Asian countries. Tandin Wangchuk, Vice President of the Bhutan Bodybuilding Federation, thanked the Bhutan Olympic Committee for supporting the team in every possible way. "We hope to receive continuous support in the future too," he said. (Bhutan Observer)



Brunei

The most successful Brunei athlete at the June 10-19 Malaysia Games in Melaka, Md Yazid Yatimi Yusof, was mobbed by fans and well-wishers after he touched down at the Brunei International Airport with the rest of the contingent. Everyone wanted to shake his hand, everyone wanted to take a photo with him, everyone wanted to talk to him.

Winning the discus throw and claiming third in shot put, his haul helped Brunei finish with a respectable one gold and seven bronze medals.

The 23-year-old prison warden recorded his best throw of 42.87m in his fourth attempt of the discus to clinch the title, while in the shot put he threw 13.61m. (Brunei Times).



Cambodia

Two taekwondo players from Cambodia are attending a six-month training course in Korea as part of the Vision 2014 Programme being run by the Incheon Asian Games Organising Committee. The two female athletes have joined the Incheon City Hall women's team.

Team coach Kim Jung Kyu said the course was about building up technique and a lasting friendship.



China

On the afternoon of June 22, China's Minister in charge of the General Administration of Sport, Liu Peng, met with the Indian Youth Affairs and Sports Minister, Manohar Singh Gill, in Beijing. The two sides discussed issues of common concern on sports exchanges and cooperation between China and India. Liu Peng, the COC President, stressed that China would never forget the great support and help from India during Beijing's bid and preparation for hosting the 2008 Olympic Games.

He mentioned that while India will host the Commonwealth Games in October, China will host the Asian Games in November, and hoped the two countries would work closely in exchanging experience in organisation of large-scale sports meets.

The Indian Youth and Sports Minister commended the great sports achievements made by China in recent years, expecting more exchanges and visits by the two sides in such sports as archery, gymnastics, table tennis and hockey as well as close cooperation with China in fighting against doping in sport.



DPR Korea

Kim Song Chol became DPR Korea's first gold medallist at the Youth Olympics in Singapore when winning the men's 62kg weightlifting title at Toa Payoh Sports Hall on August 16.

The 16-year-old student at the Junior Sports School in Pyongyang had won the same category in the 2010 Asian Youth Championships in Uzbekistan. He names the female judoka Kye Sun Hui – a three-time Olympic medallist in three different weights – as his idol.



Hong Kong, China

The Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China, signed an agreement with Adecco Support Services at Olympic House in Causeway Bay to strengthen the post-competition careers of athletes. The signing was conducted by NOC President, OCA Vice President and IOC Member Timothy Fok and by Patrick Glennon, Global Director, Adecco IOC Athlete Career Programme.

Elite athletes were in attendance, including retired East Asian Games silver medal-winning swimmer Sherry Tsai Hui-wai, footballer Lee Kin-wo, windsurfer Ho Chi-ho and renowned goal keeper Fan Chun-yip.



India

Under the aegis of the International Olympic Committee, the Indian Olympic Association conducted its first ever national workshop on the IOC's Olympic Values Education Programme (OVEP) in the capital city of Delhi, the venue of the 2010 Commonwealth Games. The OVEP Programme had been officially launched in India by the IOC President, Dr. Jacques Rogge, during the Commonwealth Youth Games held at Pune in October 2008. In the course of the five-day interactive workshop, national delegates from the various Indian states and union territories were introduced to the IOC values-based educational resource, "Teaching Values: an Olympic Education Toolkit", with key focus on how to use the manual effectively in the classroom and taking the programme into the heart of sport.



Indonesia

Indonesian athletes included in the government initiative "Gold Indonesia Programme (PRIMA)" and who are projected to participate in the Asian Games 2010 and SEA Games 2011 will be trained at the headquarters of the elite army of Kopassus in the West Java provincial capital city of Bandung, Kompas.com online news quoted a minister as saying on Thursday, June 17. "The spirit of struggle, the spirit of competing must be created.



Iran

This is one of the aims of the character-building training," said Minister for Youth and Sport Andi Mallarangeng in Bandung. As many as 124 athletes, coaches and managers will gain education and training of character building for two weeks.

The men's national rugby team of the Islamic Republic of Iran beat Pakistan 19-6 in the HSBC Asian 5 Nations Division III Final. Iran will be promoted to Division II next season. The win was Iran's first tournament championship in the HSBC A5N after they took second place in the Kyrgyzstan regional (2008) and finished in third place in last year's Division III competition in Manila. Iran had beaten Guam 49-11 in the semi-finals.

In the final, Iran's try-scorers were hooker Iraz Abdi, No. 8 Yousef Jalali and centre Sajad Izadi. (www.asian5nations.com).



Iraq

Olympic football team coach Nathem Shaker named a provisional squad of 32 players ahead of the 16th Asian Games in Guangzhou this November. The coach said the Olympic team needed a lot of work and training in order to reach the required level of preparation and to be able to challenge for the much-coveted football gold. In other news, a delegation of Iraqi cyclists arrived at the Iranian city of Arak on Monday, July 5, to participate in the Milad Do Nuor International Cycling Tour through July 12.

The delegation was headed by the Deputy Head of Iraq Cycling Association, Kathem Dalih. (Alsumaria Iraqi Satellite TV network)



Japan

A six-member delegation from the Japanese Olympic Committee visited the Guangzhou Asian Games Organising Committee (GAGOC) on Monday, June 7. Led by Kenji Nishimura, Director of the Sports Department of JOC, the delegation had discussions with GAGOC's External Relations & Protocol Department, Games Services Department, Accreditation Centre and other relevant sectors on a number of topics regarding participation in the 16th Asian Games, such as accreditation, transportation and arrival and departure services.

Mr Nishimura expressed his confidence that Guangzhou would present a remarkable Asian Games and told the hosts that the JOC would send its largest ever delegation to compete in the event.

The JOC delegation also visited the Athletes' Village, Panyu Hotel and Royal Marina Plaza in Panyu District.

NOC news and sports round-up



Jordan

HRH Prince Feisal Al Hussein, President of the Jordan Olympic Committee, has held productive talks with representatives from the Russia Olympic Committee. HRH Prince Feisal was joined at the Amman meeting by Secretary General Lana Al Jaghbeer. They discussed areas of cooperation with Director General Jamal Vandev and Vladimir Zultakn, a member of the Russia Olympic Committee. In other news, the JOC has shown its support for an innovative sports programme being implemented in the Kingdom by the British Council and UK Sport. JOC Secretary General Lana Al-Jaghbeer attended lectures for the Al Ryadah Hayatuna (sport is our life) programme which was launched last year under the patronage of JOC President HRH Prince Feisal Al Hussein.



Kazakhstan

World-famous mountaineer Denis Urubko won the trophy in the NOC's climbing activity on the Nursultan peak. The Russia-born, Almaty-based Urubko has climbed to the summit of all 14 of the world's 8,000-metre peaks. Some 2,000 people took part in the hiking/climbing/running activity on July 4 to mark the 70th birthday of Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev two days later.



Korea Republic

World taekwondo athletes gathered in Korea for the 4th World Taekwondo Culture Expo in Muju, North Jeolla Province, in early July. Over 1,200 athletes and officials from 30 countries took part in the annual event sponsored by the World Taekwondo Federation and the Ministry of Culture, Sport and Tourism.

Taekwondo tournaments as well as performances and cultural activities, including a visit to Jeonju Hanok village, were held during the six-day event. "We will provide the athletes with a unique experience in the sport's Mecca," said Kim Kwang-ho, chairman of the organising committee. (Korea Herald)



Kuwait

Judo instructor Hamoud Saleh Hussain accompanied two female athletes from Kuwait -- Sara Bader Al-Salem and Rawan Hasan Jaafar -- to the OCA Judo Youth Camp in Bangkok, Thailand, in July.



Kyrgyzstan

The National Olympic Committee of Kyrgyz Republic is trying to help the troubled south by collecting sports equipment to send to sports clubs and athletes. Ethnic violence erupted in southern Kyrgyzstan in June, and, according to NOC Director Salamat Ergeshov, most of the buildings in and around the city of Osh have been gutted by fire. "It has not affected the NOC in Bishkek, but there is no sport in the south," Ergeshov said, on the sidelines of the OCA meetings in Muscat recently. "Eighty per cent of the buildings in the south, such as schools, universities and housing, have been burned. We have a strong wrestling club and boxing club in the south region, and we are starting a programme to help with equipment."



Lao

The HSBC Asian 5 Nations 2010 rugby championship came to a close as Laos defended its regional title with a 12-3 victory over Cambodia, the hosts of the HSBC A5N 2010 Southeast Asian regional tournament, on Saturday, June 26, in Phnom Penh. In front of almost 1,000 spectators, Laos scored second-half tries through centre Keohanam Mit Oudone (55th minute) and flanker Phouththavong Phouphet (78), the second one converted by fly half Chaleunesouk Anousith.

Cambodia had led 3-0 at the break with a penalty goal by skipper and fly half Ratana Pich.



Lebanon

The Lebanese Olympic Committee is on a mission to rebrand the Olympic movement in the country and raise its media and public profile. According to NOC Secretary General Ezzat Kraytem, Lebanese sports officials are organising a series of events to attract attention and promote the Olympic values.

Kraytem said the aim was to rebrand the Olympic movement and Olympic rings in Lebanon. "We were out of touch with the public of Lebanon, but since February the NOC has had a new committee and has held a series of events." Kraytem is involved in a number of sports, including chess and fencing, and is a Standing Committee Member of the West Asian Games Federation and the OCA.



Macau

A grand ceremony was held at the Ruins of St. Paul's in Macau on Saturday, July 31, to kick off a series of celebrations for the 100-day countdown to the Guangzhou Asian Games on Wednesday, August 4. More than 750 enthusiastic students from different schools in Macau took part in the launch ceremony to show their support for neighbouring city Guangzhou. The promotional events were co-organised by authorities of the two cities.



Malaysia

The President of the Olympic Council of Malaysia, YAM Tunku Tan Sri Imran ibni Almarhum Tuanku Ja'afar, has described the setting up of the OCM Trust Fund as a proud and historical moment for the Olympic Movement in Malaysia. The signing ceremony of the Trust Fund Deed took place on Tuesday, August 3, at Wisma OCM.

He added that the Trust Fund was a result of years of hard work, prudent expenditure, thriftiness and proper management of OCM's finances.

He said that the Trust Management Committee, with three well-known independent members and three senior office bearers of the OCM, was formed to ensure proper and transparent management of the Fund.

The next step for the Trust Management Committee is to draw up the guidelines for the management, administration and the disbursement of the Trust Fund for the approval of the OCM Executive Council. Once the guidelines are approved and the Trust Fund is in operation, disbursement of funds could commence.



Maldives

Maldives President H.E. Mohamed Nasheed participated in the Queen's Baton Relay 2010 Delhi. Inaugurating the relay, in front of the Official Jetty, President Nasheed said as a result of the Commonwealth Games the relations between nations represented in the Games had become stronger as they shared a common history. The President said New Delhi was emerging as one of the biggest cities in the world, and this year's Commonwealth Games would be a moment when Maldivian athletes and the Maldives were in the focus of the world. Vice President Dr. Mohamed Waheed and other senior officials of the government and many Maldivian athletes ran the around-Male relay.



Mongolia

The awarding ceremony for the 2009 "IOC Sport and Literature Contest" was held in Olympic House, Ulaanbaatar, with the presence of IOC Hon. Member Mr. Sh. Magvan, Mr. Ts. Damdin, NOC Vice President and Olympic silver medallist in judo, and Mr. J. Otgontsagaan, NOC Secretary General. First place went to B. Sodoo (up to 12 years) and E. Munkh-Uyanga (12-18 years) and IOC Trophies were presented by the dignitaries.



Myanmar

Two taekwondo players from Myanmar are taking part in a six-month training camp in Korea as part of the Vision 2014 programme run by the organising committee of the Incheon Asian Games 2014 and the OCA. The Myanmar athletes joined Incheon City's P.E team.



Nepal

As title sponsor of the Asian 5 Nations rugby championship, HSBC is committed to the development of rugby throughout Asia, including Nepal. HSBC is also a long-term sponsor of the Penguins International Rugby Club, which is represented by 30 nations and has provided coaching sessions to local communities in 62 countries. The commitment to grassroots development continued throughout the duration of the HSBC A5N with Youth Rugby Festivals reaching thousands of young rugby players in Singapore, Japan, Hong Kong, Korea, Dubai, Bahrain, Jakarta, India, Cambodia and Nepal. Led by former Scotland head coach Frank Hadden, the clinics are supported by a team of HSBC Penguins and HSBC A5N coaches as well as team stars from several Asian nations.



Oman

Soon after winning the Beach Soccer World Wide tour four-nation

tournament in Morocco, Oman's national coach Talib Hilal said his side was ready to defend the Asian Beach Games title when it is hosted by the Sultanate in December. "We have been travelling a lot in the past year and we desperately need a break. The Holy Month of Ramadan is a perfect time for us to relax," said Talib to Oman Times Sport, soon after returning to a warm welcome at the Muscat International Airport. Although he admitted his side would be under pressure as the hosts, the celebrated coach is keeping faith in his players. "As champions we will certainly be under pressure to defend the title but we have to be ready to face some tough games from the UAE, who have made tremendous improvement in the last year. We will go to any extent to retain the gold," Talib assured.



Pakistan

The Queen's Baton 2010 Delhi finally arrived in India in late June after travelling 170,000 kilometres around the Commonwealth. The long wait came to an end as Pakistan Olympic Association President Lt. Gen. Arif Hassan handed over the baton to Suresh Kalmadi, MP, Chairman, Organising Committee Commonwealth Games 2010 Delhi and IOA President, at the historic Wagah Border between India and Pakistan. (www.cwgdelhi2010.org/)



Palestine

For many of the young athletes at the OCA Judo Youth Camp in Bangkok in July, this was the first step on the ladder to international competition and maybe even the Olympic Games. Take the example of Palestine's Haneen Khaled Audaall. The 16-year-old judoka, from Beit Hanina, Jerusalem, gained valuable experience from the coaching and interaction with athletes and coaches from various Asian countries and regions. Haneen started playing judo less than two years ago when her uncle and coach at the OCA camp, Mohammad Sbeih, formed a new club. The "dojo" is near her home in east Jerusalem but it is a multi-purpose hall for the community. "It is a place for the city so every activity that happens happens in this building," she said. "The hall is not only for us; other people use it for meetings and study, so sometimes we have to cancel our training." The Palestinian Judo Federation is one of 39 affiliated to the Judo Union of Asia and is also a member of the International Judo Federation. Judo



Philippines

On a recent visit to Guangzhou, two representatives of the Philippine Olympic Committee were happy to talk about several aspects of the Asian Games, and about their team. But when it came to their best chances of winning gold, the curtains came down. "We do not want to say because you are telling your strong points to your competitors," quipped Joey Romasanta, the team's Chef de Mission. "Let them guess!" What is not a secret is the size of the Philippine delegation, with around 200 athletes. Considering that a quarter of them will be involved in dragon boat, which makes its Asian Games debut in Guangzhou, then this sport would appear to be high on the list of priorities for the POC. Filipinos have already proved their quality in this colourful and intense sport by winning two gold medals and one silver at the 9th World Dragon Boat Championships in Prague, Czech Republic, in August 2009. Chef de Mission Romasanta was accompanied to Guangzhou by Press Attache Clarito Samson.

NOC news and sports round-up



Qatar

In the framework of the Qatar Olympic Committee policy of honouring the achieving athletes and teams, His Excellency Sheikh Saoud Bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, the Secretary General, received in his office on Tuesday, August 10, the delegations of the Qatar youth national volleyball and athletics teams.



His Excellency congratulated the players, coaches and administrative staff of the volleyball team for winning the CCG Youth Championships and the performances of the athletics team in the World Junior Championships in Canada as well as in the Asian Championships in Vietnam. Sheikh Saoud conveyed to both delegations the appreciation of His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani, Heir Apparent and President of the Qatar Olympic Committee, for their performances. For their parts, Abdulla Al-Zaini, the Qatar Athletics Federation President, and Khalid Al-Mawlawi, President of the Qatar Volleyball Federation, valued the support of H.H. the Heir Apparent and affirmed that the performances achieved by the Qatari champions were due to H.H.'s support.



Saudi Arabia

MasterCard Worldwide and the Saudi Professional League Commission have announced a three-year sponsorship deal of the Zain Saudi Football League starting with the 2010-11 season. MasterCard is the official card of the Zain Saudi League with exclusivity rights in the financial services sponsorship category. Introducing their premier collaboration in an Arab Asian league, the sponsorship of the Zain Saudi League leverages MasterCard's long-standing commitment to the football community across the globe. Through a number of value-added initiatives, the MasterCard sponsorship of the Zain Saudi League will strengthen the participating clubs' competitiveness, encourage grassroots football development and enhance the overall football experience for the League's committed fans.



Singapore

As part of Anti-Doping Singapore's efforts to combat the use of drugs in sport, it engaged the National Sports Associations in an Anti-Doping Policy briefing session on July 8 at the Singapore Management University Ngee Ann Kongsi Auditorium. Formed on March 15, 2010, the ADS will take over the Singapore National Olympic Council's Anti-Doping in Sports Commission (SADSC) in overseeing anti-doping matters in Singapore. The purpose of having a separate anti-doping entity is a demonstration of the Singapore Government's commitment to the fight against doping in sport, when they ratified the UNESCO Convention Against Doping in Sport in 2007.



Sri Lanka

The National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka's Medical Committee, in collaboration with the International Olympic Committee, is conducting a sports medicine course for doctors from September 10-12. The teaching faculty will include foreign sports medicine experts. The venue will be the Olympic House, Independence Avenue, Colombo 07.



Syria

The West Asia football tournament draw was held in Amman, Jordan, and Syria drew the hosts and Kuwait in Group B. The tournament will run from September 24-November 3 and nine nations will compete for the title. The draw is -- Group A: Iran, Bahrain, Oman; Group B: Jordan, Kuwait, Syria; Group C: Iraq, Yemen, Palestine. The tournament will be good preparation for the Asia Nations Cup to be held in Qatar next year. The top team in each group will qualify for the semi-finals, along with the best second-placed team.



Chinese Taipei

To prepare for the upcoming 16th Asian Games, a delegation of 50 people composed of Chinese Taipei NOC representatives, technical officials of the Sports Training Centre, National Federations, sports media and press visited Guangzhou from July 26-31. Led by Chef de Mission Lin Hong-Dow, also Vice President of Chinese Taipei NOC, the delegation called on the Guangzhou Asian Games Organising Committee.



During the visit, GAGOC gave briefings on the progress of preparations and arranged a venue tour to Asian Games Town including the Athletes' Village, MPC and IBC, and sport venues for archery, athletics, baseball, bowling, cycling, equestrian, roller sports, rowing, shooting, softball, taekwondo, tennis, weightlifting. All the delegates found the trip helpful and productive for the preparation of the Asian Games, and appreciated the hard work of GAGOC in making the 16th Asian Games an unprecedented event for all participants.



Tajikistan

The National Olympic Committee of Tajikistan has nominated 15 Tajik athletes for London 2012 grants instituted by the International Olympic Committee, Murodali Teshayev, a spokesman for the NOC, said in an interview with Asia-Plus. They are: Rasoul Boqiyev, Muhammad Abdurahmonov and Sherali Bozorov (judo), Jahon Qurbonov, Anvar Yunusov and Mavzouna Choriyeva (boxing), Dilshod Nazarov and Galina Mityaeva (athletics), Yusuf Abdusalomov and Farhod Anaqulov (freestyle wrestling), Murod Tuychiyev (Greco-Roman wrestling), Sergey Babikov (shooting), Alisher Gulov (taekwondo), Firouza Zubaydova (archery) and Nizom Sangov (weightlifting), the spokesman said. The IOC Commission has not yet determined the grant amount, he added.



Thailand

The President of the National Olympic Committee of Thailand, Gen. Yuthasak Sasiprapha, presided over the awarding ceremony of the 2009 IOC "Sport and the Fight against Doping" Trophy to Dr. Varin Tansuphasiri, President of the Medical & Science Commission, and the 2010 IOC "Sport - inspiring young people" Trophy to Thai youth badminton player Ratchanok Intanon, who won the women's singles title in the BWF world junior championships two years in a row. Maj. Gen. Charouk Arirachakaran, Vice President & Secretary General of NOCT, delivered the speech at the ceremony. Other dignitaries included Kanokphand Chulakasem, Governor of the Sports Authority of Thailand, and IOC Member Dr. Nat Indrapana.



Timor Leste

From July 29 to August 7, the seventh edition of the CPLC Games was held in Maputo, Mozambique. Six East Timorese athletes were among more than 500 youngsters from the eight countries of the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLC) to participate in two sports: tennis and athletics. This biennial championship was first held in 1992 and is aimed at athletes aged up to 16 years.



Turkmenistan

The Ashgabat city track and field championship -- held in the Turkmen capital to mark the 15th anniversary of the adoption of the Health National Programme celebrated widely throughout Turkmenistan -- turned into a big sports festival. The organisers of the event are the State Committee for Sport and Tourism, the Ashgabat City Sports Committee and the Ashgabat athletics school. Through the efforts of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, the concern of the Turkmen state for the promotion of physical culture and sport in the society is vividly illustrated by dozens of sports facilities constructed throughout the country in the past years. These include the Olympic Stadium, the largest in Central Asia that can stage various sports competitions at international level. Each year it becomes the venue for international football and tennis tournaments. (State News Agency of Turkmenistan)



UAE

UAE sailing champion Adel Khalid has planned an ambitious training regimen that can eventually earn him a medal at the Asian Games in Guangzhou. "The plan is simple: my country needs a medal at a competition like the Asian Games and I want to be among the other athletes as a winner," Khalid told Gulf News. The youngster has prepared an intensive three-month training schedule leading up to the 16th Asian Games from November 12-27. "The schedule is meant to help me achieve certain goals leading up to the Asian Games," said Khalid, who will shift base to Lake Garda, Italy.



Uzbekistan

The annual Sydney Jackson Memorial Boxing Tournament was successfully held in Uzbekistan's capital Tashkent city. It's important to note that this Memorial Tournament has been organised annually for many years and originally was staged for boxers and the public of Uzbekistan to

commemorate the outstanding contribution of Sydney Jackson, the founder of boxing in Uzbekistan. This year the tournament attracted international participants, with over 100 boxers from six countries gathering in Tashkent to commemorate the great boxer as well as to improve their skills and gain new experience.



The opening ceremony and awarding ceremonies were conducted by NOC President Malik Babaev, Uzbekistan Boxing Federation President Ochilboy Ramatov, UBF Vice President and NOC Secretary General Mukhamadali Karimov and Asian Boxing Confederation Secretary General Zheng Guozheng. Olympic silver medallist Rufat Riskiev was also in attendance. (From Yulia Bredneva, PR Manager, National Olympic Committee of Uzbekistan).



Vietnam

On July 19, the Vice Minister in charge of the General Administration of Sport of China and the Vice President of the Chinese Olympic Committee, Feng Jianzhong, met with the visiting Vietnam sports delegation headed by H.E. Le Khanh Hai, Vice Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism, in Beijing. The two sides had a very friendly talk before signing the Agreement on Sports Cooperation between the General Administration of Sport of the People's Republic of China and the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, hoping to further promote bilateral communication and cooperation in the near future. Feng mentioned that Vietnam had given a good performance during the 3rd Asian Indoor Games in 2009. H.E. Le promised Vietnam would send its best athletes to the upcoming Guangzhou Asian Games, which he believed would be crowned with complete success after Beijing's hugely successful hosting of the 2008 Olympic Games. (Source: COC)



Yemen

Coca-Cola financed, in cooperation with Bin Humaid Company for Publicity and Advertising, projector screens for the viewing of the FIFA World Cup in the capital Sana'a. The project was implemented by Bin Humaid Company for Publicity and Advertising, owned By Mr. Maher Hassan al-Qubati. The project came as a response for the Yemeni fans of the World Cup as the international channels broadcasting the championship required expensive subscriptions, of which most Yemenis could not afford. The project was launched in downtown al-Thorafi stadium. The stadium accommodates about 10,000 people. The 5,000 Yemeni football fans who attended the launching project were able to see the soccer match comfortably through the huge projector screen and TVs all over the stadium. (Yemen Observer).

The snow and ice of Kazakhstan may seem a world away from the hot and humid summer months, but the next Asian Winter Games are just around the corner!

Less than a month after the closing ceremony of the 2nd Asian Beach Games in Oman on December 16, the flame for the 7th Asian Winter Games will be lit in Kuwait – home of the Olympic Council of Asia – on January 11.

The following day, the torch will arrive in Almaty, Kazakhstan, and embark on a city tour before beginning a 20-day nationwide journey to promote the Asian Winter Games. The relay will involve 800 torchbearers in total and will draw to a close in Astana on January 30, the day of the Opening Ceremony.

The 7th Asian Winter Games 2011 in Astana-Almaty are regarded as the region's biggest multi-sports event since the 1980 Moscow Olympics, and Astana Mayor Imangali Tasmagambetov has described it as a significant sports and political event.

"Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbaev is paying much attention to it," says the Mayor in a welcome address on the official website of Astana city.

"This is a grand event for our state and we must seriously prepare for it. The Asian Games are able to increase the status of the Republic and expand the sphere of influence of Kazakhstan on the world stage.

"Due to the Games, Astana will acquire additional investments directed at the development of the city. There will appear new sports buildings in the capital. City infrastructure will be modernised, streets will be improved, roads repaired."

He stressed that the Asian Winter Games was just the first step of transforming Astana into a sports hub of Asia.

"Acquired experience and improved sports infrastructure will give us the chance to fight for the right to hold in the capital the World Student Games and the Summer Asian Games," he said.



Diary of Events



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

OCA Sponsors Club

