

CHINA'S GOLDEN GAMES

Asian Games special

OCA General Assembly

News from 45 NOCs

Liu Xiang celebrates his gold medal in the men's 110m hurdles



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SPORTING ASIA

Sporting Asia is the official newsletter of the Olympic Council of Asia, published quarterly.

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PROGRESS BRINGS PRIDE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The torch lighting ceremony in Beijing for the 16th Asian Games on Tuesday, October 12, was a momentous occasion for the Olympic Council of Asia in particular and for the Asian sports movement in general.

Not only were we blessed with bright sunshine and clear blue skies over the majestic setting of the Temple of Heaven, the Asian Olympic family was also graced by the presence of His Excellency Hu Jintao, President of the People's Republic of China.

The fact that the Chinese President lit the torch to start the relay was proof of the high regard in which the Asian Games are held, and underlined the importance of the event for the Chinese government, Chinese Olympic Committee and Chinese people. With such strong support from the very top of the country hosting the 16th Asian Games, in Guangzhou, we were confident that everything that could be done would be done to guarantee the success of the Games and maintain the development of the OCA's multi-sports festival.

Since the Asian Games was last held in China, in Beijing in 1990, the OCA and the event itself have made significant progress, moving from the original ideals of Baron Pierre de Coubertin to a more professional footing.

The OCA is a valued partner of the International Olympic Committee, and the IOC Executive Board and Members have shown their trust and confidence in Asia by awarding the first two Youth Olympic Games to Singapore 2010 and to Nanjing, China in 2014.

With our diverse portfolio of OCA events, catering for beach sports, martial arts and indoor games as well as the more established summer and winter sports of the Olympic programme, we are expanding the reach of sport around the continent and promoting a healthy lifestyle for our youth.

We must continue to develop and to apply efficient governance, because our progress brings with it not only a great deal of pride but also responsibilities for the future.

Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah

President, Olympic Council of Asia



ROGGE HAILS 'DYNAMIC' OCA

IOC President Jacques Rogge believes Asia has become one of the most influential and dynamic continents of the five rings, thanks to the leadership of OCA President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah.

President Rogge used the platform of the 29th OCA General Assembly at the Garden Hotel, Guangzhou, on November 13 to highlight the achievements of the OCA, and the high esteem in which the organisation is held within the Olympic family.

"Thanks to Sheikh Ahmad's commitment and dynamism, the OCA has become one of the most active organisations in the Olympic Movement," he said.

"The energy of the OCA can be seen in the Asian Games, both Winter and Summer, the Indoor Games, the Beach Games and the many regional Games which are staged around the continent.

"Relations between the IOC and OCA have never been better than today, and I am sure they will increase in the future."

Noting that "Asia has become rich" in terms of hosting major multi-sports events, notably the "exceptional" Olympic Games in Beijing, the IOC President said the proof of Asia's rise was the outstanding performances of its athletes.



Jacques Rogge addresses the 29th OCA General Assembly.

"Asia is today a continent that has an increasing role and position in this Movement," he continued, before turning his attentions to the IOC's inaugural Youth Olympic Games in Singapore in August.

"I would like to thank you all for your active support, and in particular Mr. Ng Ser Miang, the chairman of the organising committee, for delivering a superb Games that will leave a strong legacy in Singapore.

"The Youth Olympics were truly an inspirational Games and will continue with the Winter YOG in Innsbruck in 2012 and the second Summer Youth Games in Nanjing in 2014."

OCA, IOC SHOW OLYMPIC SPIRIT TO PAKISTAN

The Olympic Council of Asia and the International Olympic Committee joined forces to send a total of US\$200,000 to flood-ravaged Pakistan in September.

In a joint statement, OCA President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah and IOC President Jacques Rogge said: "We have all witnessed the great tragedy that has taken place in various parts of Pakistan caused by heavy floods. The floods have caused extensive damage to the infrastructure in general, including the Olympic and sports facilities and a great amount of precious lives have been lost.

"We sincerely feel that in this hour of need the Olympic community should come forward to support the rebuilding efforts."

Both organisations donated US\$100,000 to the NOC of Pakistan to contribute towards the rebuilding of the sports infrastructure in the country.

The Pakistan Olympic Association praised the response of the OCA, led by President Sheikh Ahmad and Director General Husain Al-Musallam, following a distress call from POA President Lt. Gen. (Retired) Syed Arif Hasan.

"The POA is extremely grateful to the IOC and the OCA, especially to Mr. Jacques Rogge and Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad

Al-Sabah, for this gesture," said Gen. Arif, Vice President of the OCA representing South Asia.

"This grant will be spent in its entirety on either reconstruction or creation of new facilities in areas that have been ravaged by floods."

All the national sports federations and provincial associations affiliated to the POA were asked to contact sports officials in the hard-hit areas to assess the damage and submit a comprehensive report. The POA set up a Damage Assessment Committee

to verify the damage and evaluate the estimated expenditure.



Lt. Gen. Syed Arif Hasan

"It has also been decided by the POA that all sums will be spent after proper prioritisation and in the appropriately laid-down phases of completion," added Gen. Arif. "Total transparency will be ensured and proper real-time audit systems will be incorporated so that not a single dime is misspent."

OCA-USOC SIGN AGREEMENT

The Olympic Council of Asia and the United States Olympic Committee signed a contract of cooperation and exchange on Sunday, November 14. The contract was signed by OCA President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah and Lawrence F. Probst III, Chairman of the Board of the USOC.

When asked about the content of the agreement, Probst said: "It's about coaching, education... it's about helping each other with business development, athlete exchanges and just basically building a stronger relationship between the USOC and the OCA.

"We have been working together for the last few years and this is really just formalising the agreement, being more specific about the ways that we are going to work together over the next four years and having something that we can both work towards for our mutual benefit."

Explaining the attraction of the OCA as a partner, Probst added: "It's a great organisation - 45 countries. I think there are something like 22 or 23 IOC members in the OCA.

"It is obviously a growing part of the world and a thriving part of the world, and we need to get to know the OCA better and figure out ways to work more closely together between our country and the OCA."

NEWS IN BRIEF

✿ HRH Princess Haya Al Hussein (Jordan) was re-elected President of the International Equestrian Federation for a second four-year term at the FEI General Assembly in Taipei on November 5, collecting 90 of the 124 votes.

✿ IOC Member Chang Ung of DPR Korea received the Friendship Medal and the 20th Anniversary Medal of the Democratic Revolution from the President of Mongolia, Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj, on October 19 at the Presidential Office in Ulaanbaatar for his contribution to the development of the Olympic and sports movement in Mongolia.

✿ Dr. Wu Ching-Kuo (Chinese Taipei) was returned unopposed as President of the International Boxing Association for a further four years at the 2010 AIBA Congress in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on November 2.

✿ The Union of Arab National Olympic Committees, under the presidency of HRH Prince Sultan bin Fahad bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, issued a decree naming the Qatar Olympic Committee's Secretary General, HE Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, as a deputy president of UANOC. Doha will host the Pan Arab Games from November 11-25, 2011.



The slogan says it all - and now the IOC is urging the NOCs to spread the YOG spirit

ROGGE TO NOCS: GROW YOG SPIRIT

International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge has urged the 205 National Olympic Committees to build on the momentum of the first Youth Olympic Games held in Singapore this summer.

Speaking on the opening day of the IOC Executive Board meeting in Acapulco, Mexico, on October 24, President Rogge asked the NOCs to spread the spirit of the YOG in their own country in the run-up to the first Winter YOG in Innsbruck, Austria, in 2012.

The final EB meeting of the year convened with the 205 NOCs gathered in Acapulco for the XVII General Assembly of the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC). The NOCs expressed their enthusiasm for the inaugural YOG, which was hosted so successfully by Singapore from August 14-26, 2010.

The IOC President also urged the NOCs to ensure that more women attain key positions within their organisations, and to encourage and promote the participation of athletes in the IOC's Athlete Career Programme during their competitive years as well as after their retirement from high-level competition.

He also asked them to continue to promote Olympic Day, held around the world on June 23, as a regular celebration of the Olympic values.

In turn, the NOCs expressed their commitment to fully support the IOC's efforts to combat irregular betting in sport and to promote a common position across all continents.

In other news:

✿ The EB is looking favourably at the inclusion of Women's Ski Jumping, Ski Halfpipe, Ski Slopestyle, Snowboard Slopestyle, Biathlon Mixed Team Relay, Figure Skating Team Event and Luge Team Relay in the programme of the Sochi 2014 Olympic Winter Games. Before taking a final decision, the EB will monitor the respective World Championships during the winter season in 2011. The EB has empowered the IOC President to take the final decision on its behalf.

✿ The event of freestyle skiing – ski cross, which was provisionally included in Vancouver, will be maintained on the programme of the Olympic Winter Games.

✿ The sports programme of the 2018 Olympic Winter Games will be the same as the one in Sochi, with seven sports.

✿ The EB chose Colorado Springs, USA, as host of the 5th International Athletes' Forum to be held in October 2011.

✿ Los Angeles, USA, will organise the 5th IOC World Conference on Women and Sport in February 2012.

SUN, SEA, SAND AND SUCCESS

There's no doubt about it: the Asian Beach Games has been an instant hit for the Olympic Council of Asia.

With its party atmosphere, low costs of hosting and high potential for tourism, the Asian Beach Games is proving to be an attractive and affordable target for Asia's 45 National Olympic Committees.

The evidence was there for all to see at the 29th OCA General Assembly on November 13, when two more Beach Games hosts were signed up through to 2016, as well as the host city for the 2nd Asian Youth Games in 2013.

3,000km of coastline with many nice beaches, scenic beauty and wonders of the world.

"Nha Trang is one of the 16 most beautiful beaches in the world and considered one of the safest and friendliest destinations in Asia. I assure you that the 5th Asian Beach Games in 2016 will be one of the most successful events for the OCA, creating a good impression for our international friends."

The NOCs of Chinese Taipei and the Philippines were also interested in hosting one or both of the 2014 and 2016 Asian



OCA President Sheikh Ahmad signs the host city contract with Vietnamese officials for the 5th Asian Beach Games 2016 in Nha Trang.

The tourist hot spot of Phuket, Thailand, will host the fourth Asian Beach Games in 2014, followed by Nha Trang, Vietnam, in 2016; quite an accomplishment for the OCA just two years after the inaugural event took place in Bali, Indonesia, in 2008.

Looking ahead to the 5th Asian Beach Games in Nha Trang in six years' time, Prof. Nguyen Danh Thai, President of the Vietnam Olympic Committee, says: "Vietnam has a lot of potential for tourism and sea sports because we own more than

Beach Games, underlining the popularity of this OCA initiative. As for the Asian Youth Games, Nanjing will stage the second edition in 2013, one year before the IOC's 2nd Youth Olympic Games in the same Chinese city.

Just like with Singapore in 2009, the AYG will give the YOG host an ideal opportunity to test venues and operations one year in advance, as well as put into place the all-important culture and education programme for the young athletes.

Photo gallery



Sheikh Saoud Al Thani of Qatar



Yuko Arakida of Japan



Kutubuddin Ahmed of Bangladesh



(from left): B. Sivanthi Adityan, Zhang Guangning, Sheikh Ahmad, Jacques Rogge, Liu Peng, Yu Zaiqing and Dr. Phouthong.

OCA HONOURS SPORTS LEADERS

The Olympic Council of Asia presented five OCA Merit Awards to individuals for outstanding contributions to the Asian sports movement during the 29th OCA General Assembly.

In the presence of OCA President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, IOC President Jacques Rogge and Chinese Olympic Committee President Liu Peng, the awards were given to:

✿ **Zhang Guangning**, formerly the Mayor of Guangzhou from 2003-2010 and Executive Secretary General of 16th Asian Games organisers GAGOC. Sheikh Ahmad paid tribute to his leadership and long-term commitment to staging a successful 2010 Asiad.

✿ **B. Sivanthi Adityan**, Honorary Life President of the Indian National Olympic Committee, and former Chairman of the OCA Finance Committee for over a decade. He is a Vice President of the International Volleyball Federation (FIVB).

✿ **Yu Zaiqing**, OCA Vice President for the 16th Asian Games, IOC Vice President, for his outstanding contribution to

Asian sport, especially the 2007 Asian Winter Games in Changchun, China, and the 16th Asian Games.

✿ **Dr. Phouthong Seng Akhom**, President, NOC Laos, for the successful hosting of the 25th South East Asian Games in Vientiane in 2009. Sheikh Ahmad said that many people thought Laos could not pull off such a feat, but in the end had staged one of the best SEA Games in history.

✿ **H.E. Hoang Tuan Anh**, Commissioner of the Central Party in Vietnam and Minister of Culture, Sport and Tourism, for the successful hosting of the 2009 Asian Indoor Games in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

The Sheikh Fahad Hiroshima Science Award was presented to Professor Li Guoping, Director of the National Institute of Sports Medicine and President of Beijing Sports Medicine Hospital, during the General Assembly. Prof. Li is also Chief Medical Officer of the Chinese Olympic Committee and Vice President of the International Federation of Sports Medicine, among several other prestigious positions.



Timothy Fok of Hong Kong, China



H.E. Hoang Tuan Anh of Vietnam



Saba Jarrar of Palestine

GAMES GALORE ON 'GEN-SEM' AGENDA

Although the medals had already started flowing in Guangzhou by the time the OCA General Assembly convened on November 13, the 16th Asian Games was not the only multi-sports event on the minds of the delegates in the Garden Ballroom.

Representatives from the 2nd Asian Beach Games in Oman, 7th Asian Winter Games in Kazakhstan, 3rd Asian Beach Games in China and 17th Asian Games in Korea all provided progress reports. Not to mention a presentation by the organisers of the 2012 Olympic Games in London, plus the three cities bidding for the Winter Olympics in 2018: Munich, Annecy and PyeongChang of Korea.

Oman will host the 2nd Asian Beach Games at Muscat and Al Musannah from December 8-16, 2010, and the Sultanate's Minister of Sports Affairs, His Excellency Ali bin Masoud Al Sunaidy, attended the General Assembly to extend a personal invitation to all the NOCs and sports leaders.

"From the first edition in Bali we have developed our own



Ali bin Masoud Al Sunaidy

version of the Asian Beach Games involving a 1 million square metre water sports city at Al Musannah," said Al Sunaidy. "With the instant success of these new events, the OCA makes it difficult for the second city!"

Director of Operations Ramon Suzara reported that 32 of the 45 NOCs had submitted the names of 1,032 athletes and 516 team officials for the 14-sport beach festival, and that most of the team draws would take place on December 3.

Not long after the Beach Games closes, the focus will switch to snow and ice for the 7th Asian Winter Games in Astana and Almaty from January 30-February 6, 2011.

The torch will be lit in Kuwait – the home of the OCA – on January 11, before being transported to Almaty for the start of the 20-day relay around Kazakhstan from January 12. It will end at the opening ceremony at Astana Arena on January 30.

Kazakhstan will be the fourth Asian country to host the Winter Games after Japan, China and the Republic of Korea, and organisers are looking forward to the event kicking off a year of festivities to celebrate 20 years of independence following the break-up of the Soviet Union.

A total of 3,500 volunteers will be working during the Winter Games, with 1,500 at Astana and 2,000 in Almaty, and December 5 has been designated International Volunteers' Day.



A warm welcome to Kazakhstan's winter wonderland.

Sporting Asia's 16-page special on the 16th Asian Games starts here!

FLYING HIGH IN CHINA



GUANGZHOU CELEBRATES REC



Fan-tastic! Guangzhou citizens show their pride in hosting the Asian Games

A record number of sports, a record number of athletes, a whopping 70 venues for competition and training...the 16th Asian Games will go down in OCA history as a record-breaking Asiad in every way.

With its very own Asian Games Town, venue clusters and satellite hosting cities around Guangdong province, Guangzhou 2010 consolidated China's reputation as a world-class host for major multi-sports events, following the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

But it wasn't just the venues and other Games infrastructure that will leave a legacy for this southern Chinese metropolis; it will be the expanded rail network, the tree-planting projects and measures to improve the quality of the air and water that will remain long after the OCA roadshow has packed up and moved on.

In summing up the 16th Asian Games at his closing day press conference, OCA President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah described them as "one of the best events ever in the Olympic Movement in Asia".

He added: "I would like to thank our colleagues in the organising committee, the Chinese Olympic Committee and, of course, the Chinese government, Guangzhou government and the citizens of Guangzhou for preparing this beautiful Games and the best environment for the participants.

"I am very happy as President of the Olympic Council of Asia with what we have achieved in our Asian Games. The city of Guangzhou has done a very great job for the Asian Olympic Movement and the Asian Olympic Family."

When asked to describe the Games in one word, Sheikh Ahmad said "extraordinary", and hailed the performance of the athletes. Three world records were set, two by China's Li Ping in women's weightlifting and one by Korea's Kim Woo-Jin in men's archery.

The latter stages of the Asian Games were played out to the backdrop of heightened military tensions between the DPR Korea and Republic of Korea following an exchange of fire on November 23. The OCA President commented: "We are very sorry for what is happening between the two Koreas. Here we

Photo Caption

The flags of the OCA, People's Republic of China and Guangzhou Asian Games 2010 create a spectacular scene at the Temple of Heaven during the Asian Games Torch Relay Ceremony on October 12. (Page 9)

ORD-BREAKING ASIAN GAMES

are sports people and show the autonomy of sports. The athletes have participated shoulder to shoulder without any problems in our Asian Games."

Asia also seems to be winning the fight against doping, as some 1,600 tests yielded only two positive cases, both from Uzbekistan and for the same prohibited stimulant.

Nobody has followed the progress of the preparations on behalf of the OCA closer than Tsunekazu Takeda, Chairman of the OCA Coordination Committee for the 16th Asian Games.

"I am very satisfied. They did a very good job," said Takeda, President of the Japanese Olympic Committee.

"We have been working together for five years. It was a big challenge because the Asian Games is much bigger than the Olympic Games. It is a huge scale.

"I visited many different sports facilities and they were all top class and very well organised. The volunteers were well trained and worked well, always with a smile on their face."

OCA Vice President Timothy Fok, an IOC member and Hong Kong NOC President, described the 16th Asian Games as "an

emotional journey" due to the rise of Hong Kong's Pearl River Delta neighbour Guangzhou.

"The majority of facilities were built in Panyu, and when we talk about China opening up 30 years ago, I assure you that 30 years ago things were very basic – and look at them now, not only the Games.

"The city has a great future, with a healthy society and sports very much a part of that formula.

"We thank the OCA and vice-versa. They have worked very well and very hard together for seven years and I think both have elevated the level of the Games. As the OCA motto says, we go Ever Onward."

FACT BOX

10,156 Athletes

4,983 NOC Officials

45 NOCs

4,166 Technical Delegates/
Officials

42 Sports

58 Disciplines

476 Events

60,000 Volunteers

258,000 AD cards issued

2 million Tickets sold



Charming! The medal ceremonies were glamorous occasions.



Wonder wall: Preparing for the ceremony to ignite the Asian Games flame on October 9.

RELAY TO REMEMBER

From the majestic setting of the Great Wall of China to the glittering backdrop of the Pearl River, the Torch Relay for the 16th Asian Games captivated one country and one continent on its journey from the northern capital to the southern metropolis. Here are the key dates:

October 9:

The flame is ignited in a traditional sun-ray ceremony at the Juyongguan pass of the Great Wall in Beijing.

October 12:

Chinese President Hu Jintao lights the Asian Games torch at the Temple of Heaven in Beijing and signals the start of the relay. The torch travels through Harbin, Changchun and Haiyang, plus 21 cities in Guangdong province, building excitement and local pride along the way.

November 5:

The relay arrives in the host city Guangzhou for the final count-down.

November 12:

Beijing Olympics diving champion He Chong is the last of the 2,010 torch-bearers as the Asian Games cauldron is lit at the Opening Ceremony on Haixinsha Island.



Chinese President Hu Jintao at the Temple of Heaven.

'SUPER DAN' NAMED SAMSUNG MVP

A super Asian Games earned China's "Super Dan" the Samsung Most Valuable Player award ahead of four chief rivals.

Lin Dan, the 27-year-old badminton ace from Fujian province, won two gold medals at the 16th Asian Games: in the men's team event and the men's singles, beating Malaysia's Lee Chong Wei 2-1 in the final.

Endorsed by both the Olympic Council of Asia and the Guangzhou Asian Games Organising Committee, this award is presented to an athlete that has provided the most outstanding and memorable performance over the past 15 days. It was presented on Friday, November 26, the day before the closing ceremony.

The award comprises of a trophy, a Samsung LCD television and a cash prize of US\$50,000 for the affiliated National Olympic Committee of the winning athlete.

A steering committee consisting of representatives from Samsung, OCA, GAGOC and the media drew up a shortlist of candidates and five athletes were selected, namely Lin Dan, hurdler Liu Xiang and swimmers Sun Yang and Tang Yi from China, as well as Korean swimmer Park Tae-hwan, who won this award at the last Asian Games in Doha in 2006.

All accredited local and international journalists and broadcasters of the 16th Asian Games were invited to vote for a candidate to receive this honour and, after going through some 2,000 votes, Lin Dan emerged as the clear winner based on the media polling.

Lin is the only player to have all the titles that badminton offers globally - Olympics, World Championships, Asian Games, All England and all the Badminton World Federation circuit super series events.

The Deputy Secretary General of the Chinese Olympic Committee, Liu Baoli, received the award on behalf of Lin Dan as he is under a closed-door training session for the China Open.

Manuel Silverio, Chairman of the OCA Media Committee, said: "We are very delighted to give this trophy to Lin Dan, taking his excellent performance into consideration during the Asian Games. He is tenacious, strong-minded and determined to pursue sportsmanship and has presented perfect performance as an athlete."

The MVP Award has been handed out by Samsung, a prestige partner of the Guangzhou 2010 Asian Games, since 1998.



Lin Dan on his way to badminton gold - and the Samsung MVP award

'FLYING MAN' LIU COMPLETES ASIAD HURDLES HAT TRICK

Of all the medals for host country China at the 16th Asian Games, none brought more pleasure, and possibly relief, to the masses than the gold medal won by hurdles hero Liu Xiang.

After the massive disappointment of Beijing 2008, when injury denied him the chance to defend his Olympic title from Athens 2004, China's "Flying Man" completed an Asian Games hat trick by producing a masterful performance in the men's 110m hurdles final on Wednesday, November 24.

The silence that enveloped the 80,000 spectators – and an estimated TV audience of 600 million – at the start of the race gave way to euphoria at the finish line after he successfully negotiated the 10 high hurdles in a season-best 13.09 seconds.

He then threw his running vest into the crowd and wrapped a Chinese flag around his shoulders, his mission complete and Asian Games organisers assured of worldwide media coverage.

"I am very happy to win the Asian Games title for the third time," Liu, 27, said. "I am satisfied with the result and also a bit surprised because I did not expect to run 13.09. I was quite relaxed in the final, and the fans encouraged me a lot."

The result was his best since making his comeback in September 2009, following surgery on the Achilles tendon injury that shattered his Beijing dreams in August 2008.

"I am still trying to bounce back from the Beijing Olympic Games and was expecting to run 13.20 at my current level of

fitness," he added.

"There is still a gap between where I am now and my peak, but I think I can continue to improve and break 13 seconds."

Asked if the gold medal at the 2012 Olympic Games in London was still within his reach, Liu replied: "I believe I can win the gold in London but a lot of factors come into play.

"The Asian Games is important to me, and after that I will focus on my preparations for the 2011 world championships as well as the London Olympics in 2012."

It was clear from day one that China's medals machine would run away with most of the golden treasure, and so it proved.

The Republic of Korea and Japan completed the big three, as usual, but many other National Olympic Committees were able to celebrate success in a wide range of sports.

Debut sports such as cricket, dragon boat racing and dance sport pulled in the crowds, and brought colour and spectacle to the multi-sports carnival.




On the closing day, a proud Wei Jizhong – Hon. Life Vice President of the OCA – pointed out that 80 per cent of the 45 NOCs had won a medal.

"This means the OCA goal to share the medals has been reached," he said.



Liu Xiang romps to a hat trick of Asian Games gold medals in the high hurdles

MEDAL TABLE

Rank	Country				Total
1	China	199	119	98	416
2	Korea	76	65	91	232
3	Japan	48	74	94	216
4	Iran	20	14	25	59
5	Kazakhstan	18	23	38	79
6	India	14	17	33	64
7	Chinese Taipei	13	16	38	67
8	Uzbekistan	11	22	23	56
9	Thailand	11	9	32	52
10	Malaysia	9	18	14	41
11	Hong Kong	8	15	17	40
12	DPR Korea	6	10	20	36
13	Saudi Arabia	5	3	5	13
14	Bahrain	5	0	4	9
15	Indonesia	4	9	13	26
16	Singapore	4	7	6	17
17	Athletes from Kuwait	4	6	1	11
18	Qatar	4	5	7	16
19	Philippines	3	4	9	16
20	Pakistan	3	2	3	8
21	Mongolia	2	5	9	16
22	Myanmar	2	5	3	10
23	Jordan	2	2	2	6
24	Vietnam	1	17	15	33
25	Kyrgyzstan	1	2	2	5
26	Macau	1	1	4	6
27	Bangladesh	1	1	1	3
28	Tajikistan	1	0	3	4
29	Syria	1	0	1	2
30	United Arab Emirates	0	4	1	5
31	Afghanistan	0	2	1	3
32	Iraq	0	1	2	3
32	Lebanon	0	1	2	3
34	Laos	0	0	2	2
35	Nepal	0	0	1	1
35	Oman	0	0	1	1
37	Bhutan	0	0	0	0
37	Brunei	0	0	0	0
37	Cambodia	0	0	0	0
37	Maldives	0	0	0	0
37	Palestine	0	0	0	0
37	Sri Lanka	0	0	0	0
37	Timor-Leste	0	0	0	0
37	Turkmenistan	0	0	0	0
37	Yemen	0	0	0	0
Total		477	479	621	1577



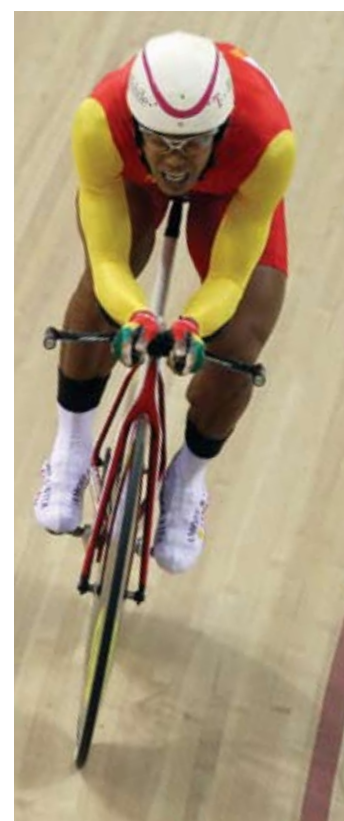
Triathlon: The tough get going



Sepak takraw: Amazing agility

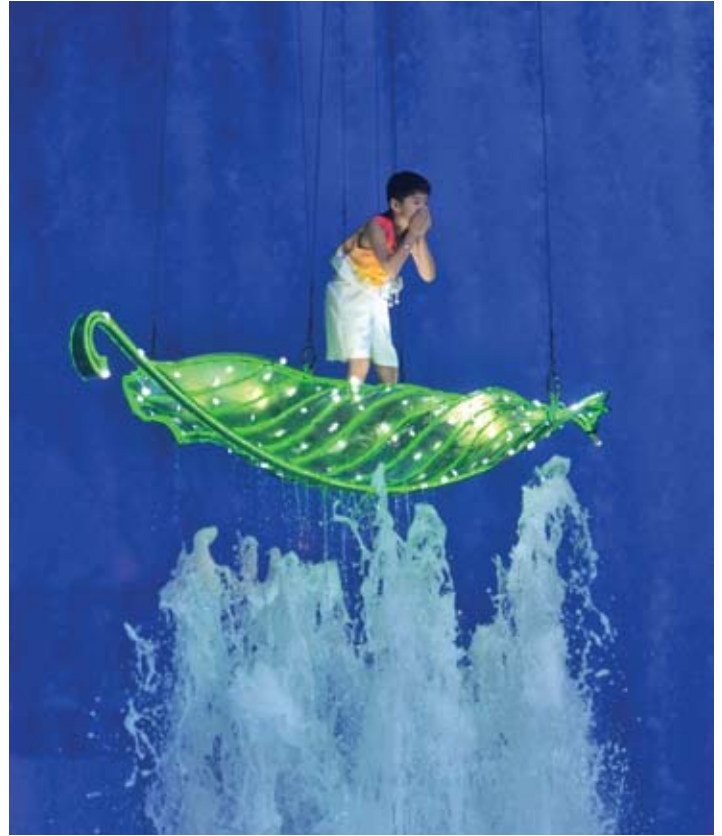


Hockey: Making a tackle



Cycling: Keeping focused

GUANGZHOU LIGHTS UP PEARL



RIVER FOR OPENING CEREMONY



16th Asian Games

Guangzhou, China: November 12 - 27, 2010

16 VIEWS ON THE



Omarguly Handurdyev

Age: 21
NOC: Turkmenistan
Sport: Weightlifting

Comment:

My home in the Athletes' Village is very nice, and the Dongguan Gymnasium for weightlifting is very good. I like the food so much... McDonald's, cola, ice cream. Sorry, I speak only a little English.



Mohamed Yusuf Salman

Age: 22
NOC: Bahrain
Sport: Athletics (triple jump)

Comment:

After the Olympic Games and the World Championships this is the third biggest event for athletics, and the results here are very close to world level. I have no problems here because all the volunteers can speak English. If you need any help they never say 'no'. It is really nice to see smiling people every time you go into the restaurant or the stadium.



Sheila Mae Perez

Age: 24
NOC: Philippines
Sport: Diving

Comment:

I competed at the Sydney Olympics in 2000 and the Beijing Olympics in 2008 and believe the facilities here are at the same level as the Olympic Games. The pool is huge, very modern, and the Chinese people are so friendly. I am playing video games in my spare time – but the karaoke will have to wait until I have finished my competition!



Wina Apriani

Age: 19
NOC: Indonesia
Sport: Dragon boat

Comment:

It is my first Asian Games and first time in China, and I am finding life easy here. The weather is colder than I am used to at home. In our spare time we are walking around, playing sepak takraw or jogging. The food in the dining hall is very nice...lots of rice! (Wina, right, with her dragon boat team mate, Raudani Fitra)



Olga Nassedkina

Age: 27
NOC: Kazakhstan
Sport: Volleyball

Comment:

The Athletes' Village is fine and the stadium is a high standard. All we do is room-food-room-food. I miss the food of Kazakhstan.

It is very different. It is okay here, but honestly I enjoyed myself much more at the Beijing Olympics.



Chan Ho Yee

Age: 25
NOC: Hong Kong, China
Sport: Athletics (sprinter)

Comment:

It is great here, for the culture and for the volunteers. The East Asian Games in Hong Kong last year and the Asian Games are totally different – only nine countries in the East Asian Games and a lot more here, so the Asian Games is much bigger and more international. Life in Guangzhou is similar to Hong Kong, but I miss the Internet and the TV in my room.



Huang Miao Hsiang

Age: 21
NOC: Chinese Taipei
Sport: Kabaddi

Comment:

I only started playing kabaddi this year. We had a match to choose the team to come to the Asian Games and I really enjoyed it.

I am tall so it is a good game for me. After the Asian Games I will go back to track and field, to the high jump.



Shiek Sojeb

Age: 16
NOC: Bangladesh
Sport: Archery

Comment:

I have been practicing archery for only two years, so as a new archer I am quite happy with my level at this moment. The Koreans have been playing for 18 years, and maybe it took them 4-5 years to reach my level. My standard is medium, so I know I have to improve more at this level of the Asian Games.

16TH ASIAN GAMES



Ryan Lo

Age: 13
NOC: Singapore
Sport: Sailing

Comment:

Taking part in the Guangzhou Asian Games has been a truly enriching experience. I learned a lot from the competition here and also from the other competitors who took part. Even though I was staying in Shanwei, a co-host city for the Games, I felt the buzz and passion of the hosts. This will be an experience that I will never forget.



Vathana Gopalasamy

Age: 31
NOC: Malaysia
Sport: Karate

Comment:

I have been to three SEA Games and my first impression of the Athletes' Village in Guangzhou was that the accommodation is better than the SEA countries. There is only two people in one room so it is more comfortable. But you cannot compare the two events because the last SEA Games was in Laos and now we are in China.



Mohammad Nabi Eisakhil

Age: 25
NOC: Afghanistan
Sport: Cricket

Comment:

We are very happy to participate in the Asian Games for the first time. It is very enjoyable and we appreciate the hospitality of the Chinese people, the environment and the facilities. My message to the Chinese people is come and watch the cricket. Twenty-20 cricket is very short, very interesting – and the weather is perfect. Hopefully this is a step on the road to the Olympic Games.



Daisuke Miyazaki

Age: 29
NOC: Japan
Sport: Handball

Comment:

This is my third Asian Games after Busan and Doha, and it is good to be among so many people from different sports and different countries again. The floor of the handball court is excellent, so it is great to play there. The biggest surprise about these Asian Games is seeing McDonald's in the dining hall! (Daisuke, second from right, with his handball team mates)



Nazima Aishath Nazima

Age: 30
NOC: Maldives
Sport: Volleyball

Comment:

This is our first Asian Games and we are getting preparation for the SAF (South Asian Federation) Games next year. It is beautiful here. We have played some hard matches but the local spectators have been fantastic. They never stop cheering for us. We have never played in an atmosphere like this before, or against such a strong attack and block. It is great experience.



Sneha Rajya Laxmi Rana

Age: 17
NOC: Nepal
Sport: Shooting

Comment:

Everything in Guangzhou has been great so far except for my performance. I started shooting because my maternal uncle and grandparents excelled in this sport and I was inspired by them.

I was in the Asian Youth Games in 2009 before this and I hope to improve my performance and continue taking part in other competitions.



Sobhi Sukkari

Age: 20
NOC: Palestine
Sport: Boxing

Comment:

I started training at 16 and I played in one other competition last year in Jordan. This is my first time in China and the Asian Games and I am very impressed by the attitude of the people. I also like the climate here. My event is over and I have had a chance to tour parts of Guangzhou and I think it is a beautiful city.



Faraj Musa Alhamad

Age: 20
NOC: Qatar
Sport: Gymnastics

Comment:

I was in the Asian Games in Doha but I think there are more athletes here in Guangzhou. I love walking and seeing people from other countries. I came here to the Games with my brother who is also a gymnast but he left today. We both started training when we were about 10, but he continued with artistic and I moved to trampoline. Right now I am just waiting for my competition tonight.

16th Asian Games

Guangzhou, China: November 12 - 27, 2010

ALL ABOARD FOR THE PRESIDENT

What better way to find out the quality and variety of services available to the athletes than sampling them first-hand for yourself?

So that's exactly what the OCA President did on Monday, November 15, sparking a media frenzy in the Athletes' Village and offering the photo opportunity of a lifetime for athletes from the 45 National Olympic Committees.

Let's follow His Excellency Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah on his journey through Asian Games Town on a warm and sunny afternoon in Guangzhou.



Sheikh Ahmad is greeted by Mayor Kong Shaoqiong.



Joining the fight against doping.



It's time for souvenir photos.



OCA President is greeted warmly.



Back into the golf buggies.



16 questions at the 16th Asian Games MPC.

NT'S ASIAN GAMES TOWN TOUR



First stop is the hair salon.



Then to the General Store.



Checking out the Asian Games stamps.



Sheikh Ahmad collects his tray and queues for his food.



Sheikh Ahmad signs the visitors' book.



Sheikh Ahmad is still in demand.



The tour is over - back to HQ.

A SEA OF GREEN AND WHITE SOLDIERS

At home like in many Chinese families, she is an only child. But at the 16th Asian Games she is a member of a 60,000 strong group of volunteers tasked with helping the Games run flawlessly. Meet Barbini Tan Kai Yin, a 21-year-old student at the Guangdong University of Foreign Studies.

Like many of her fellow classmates, she responded to the volunteer recruitment call last year. It was a long process but she was ecstatic when selected as more than 660,000 people signed up to volunteer but less than 10% were finally chosen to work in the venues and wear the ubiquitous white and green uniforms.

Like in any major sporting event, volunteers play a vital role in assisting with operations and Barbini's function here is not any different. She is based at the Garden Hotel and is tasked with helping guests and officials who have issues with their accreditation cards. It is now the fifth day into the Games and she narrates her typical day to me.

"I deal with guests from all over the world, I have never met so many international people and it is very, very exciting to have this opportunity to interact with them. They come to the office because they need to make a change in their accreditation card and usually they are in a hurry, so we try our best to get it done quickly."

She admits the first few days involved extremely long hours, however she likes the challenge as it gives her an immense sense of satisfaction especially when an irate guest turns a frown into a smile and says 'thank you'. Barbini deals with people from



Barbini Tan Kai Yin

different cultures and personalities and feels she has learned so much in the past week, an experience that she would have never gotten if not for the Games, therefore she is very happy being a part of this. She also has kind words for her managers and fellow colleagues and says the hard work and positive atmosphere has bonded them into a family. She enjoys her responsibilities so much that she is afraid of feeling lost when this ends. However she realizes that the Asian Games has placed Guangzhou prominently onto the world map.

This she believes will encourage people from all over the world to continue visiting her city, and in turn give the residents here a fantastic opportunity to continue learning about different cultures.

OCA ATHLETES' COMMITTEE CONTINUES SURVEY

As the medals flowed and the athletes went about their business, from village to venue and vice-versa, one group of workers behind the scenes displayed the teamwork and determination of champions.

Their efforts were all in the cause of helping the most important people at the 16th Asian Games – the athletes themselves.

Under the leadership of Yuko Arakida, Chair of the OCA Athletes' Committee, the team conducted an extensive survey of athletes, collecting 3,000 questionnaires during the Games.

It was a magnificent effort by the committee members and their hardy band of volunteers and Chinese athletes, as the results will provide a fascinating insight into the life of the modern-day competitor at the elite level. The questionnaire covered all aspects of daily life, from the training environment to the technical and financial assistance they received from the public and private sector, right through to their post-competition career plans.

"Without the hard work of the Chinese athletes and volunteers

we could not have reached this figure so quickly," said Mrs Arakida, when the magic number of 3,000 was achieved.

"Not only Chinese athletes and volunteers but also the members of the Athletes' Committee have had a priceless experience."

Mrs Arakida believes the comprehensive survey involving almost one-third of the athletes at the Asian Games has exposed the athletes to the activities of the OCA's Athletes' Committee.

"I am strongly convinced that we have succeeded in making the existence and activities of our committee known to many Asian athletes. This can be the first step for our future activities."

It was the third part of an exhaustive survey conducted by the Athletes' Committee, following earlier research at the 1st Asian Beach Games in Bali in 2008 and the 3rd Asian Indoor Games in Hanoi in 2009. The fourth and final survey will be carried out at the 7th Asian Winter Games in Kazakhstan early next year, and the results from all four events will be analysed to produce a detailed report and recommendations.



Fighting the good fight at the 16th Asian Games.

OCA, WADA REACH OUT TO ASIA'S YOUNG ATHLETES

Nestled in the corner of the 16th Asian Games Athletes' Village dining hall is the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) awareness booth. It is around two-thirty on a Friday afternoon and the place is buzzing with people who seem to be attracted like bees to honey.

Step inside and you will immediately notice groups of athletes huddling around computer screens, while others are proudly posing for the camera with their prize in hand after successfully completing a drug awareness quiz which is currently available in 24 languages.

Established in 1999 as an independent agency composed and funded by the sport movement and governments of the world, WADA's key activities include scientific research, education, development of anti-doping capacities and monitoring the Code, which is a document harmonizing anti-doping policies in all sports and in all countries.

Like many of its outreach programs all over the world, they are here on a mission to create a true playing field for all athletes, so it is vital to them to get their message across loud and clear that the athlete is ultimately responsible for what he or she consumes, hence education is key.

Understanding this message is Vikash Sharma who is representing India in karate. While playing the quiz he says, "Drugs improve performance but it is against nature and it is unethical."

And according to Muhammad Nasrum, a sepak takraw athlete from Indonesia who has taken part in several competitions in other countries, "I have seen this booth before but I keep coming back as I think this is a great outlet that provides information to all athletes regarding the fight against doping." And it is not just the athletes who find the booth informative.

Mehran Hatami, a basketball coach from the Islamic Republic of Iran, has asked all his players to come here to understand the seriousness of the fight against doping and how important it is for their health and careers as sportsmen. He is appreciative of WADA in helping create a level playing field and he is certainly not alone.

To learn more and to play the quiz, visit www.wada-ama.org



Visitors learn more about anti-doping rules.

16th Asian Games

Guangzhou, China: November 12 - 27, 2010

OCA PRESIDENT CLOSES 16TH ASIAD

OCA President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah declared the 16th Asian Games closed at Haixinsha Island on Saturday, November 27, as the focus switched from Guangzhou to Incheon – host of the 17th Asiad in 2014.

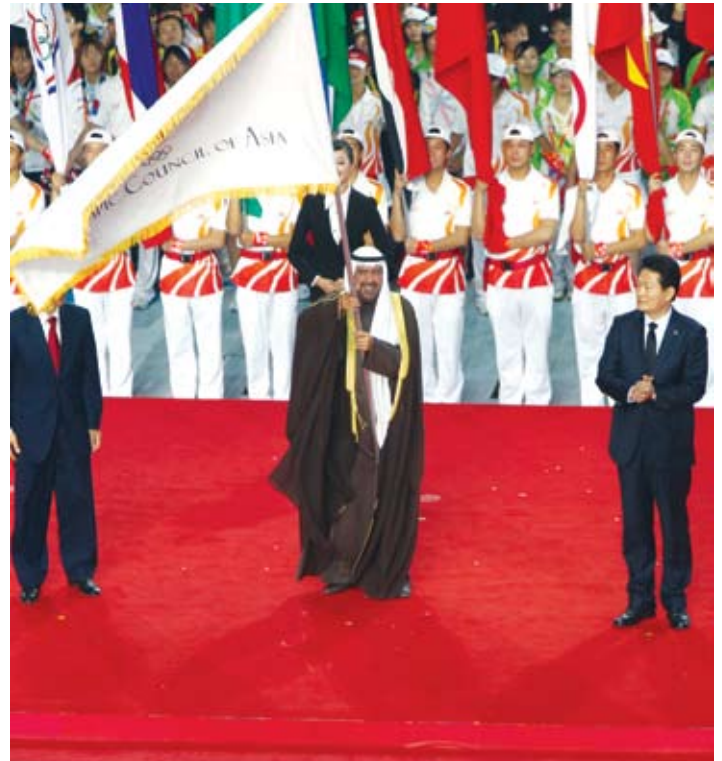
There was a party atmosphere to the occasion, with song and dance from around the continent replacing the extravagant props and presentations of the opening ceremony on November 12.

After the “Thrilling Games” it was now time for “Harmonious Asia” as music from India, Japan, Kazakhstan, Indonesia, Lebanon and Mongolia entertained the packed stadium before the athletes entered the arena to a rousing reception.

In his closing speech, Sheikh Ahmad paid tribute to everyone involved in the organisation of the Games.

“The Asian Games is the biggest, most important international sports competition in Asia, and staging such a huge gathering requires determination, commitment and skill. For that I congratulate the people of Guangzhou on a job well done,” he said.

Sheikh Ahmad called on the youth of Asia to meet again at Incheon, Korea, in 2014 for the 17th Asian Games, before the flag was passed from Guangzhou to Incheon and the cauldron was extinguished.



President Sheikh Ahmad proudly waves the OCA flag



Asian Games cauldron burns brightly



The mascots (Baram - Chumuro - Vichuon)

INCHEON GEARS UP FOR 17TH ASIAD

Organisers of the 17th Asian Games in Incheon, Korea, have unveiled their slogan, emblem and mascots for the next Asiad, which is scheduled to run over 16 days from September 19 to October 4, 2014.

On September 16, organising committee IAGOC announced the slogan “Diversity Shines Here!” – highlighting the rich history and diverse culture and religion that exist throughout the continent and come together at the Asian Games.

On November 4 it was the turn of the emblem and mascots to take centre stage in a special ceremony at Songdo Convensia attended by 300 guests.

The emblem, entitled “Asians Soaring Hand in Hand”, uses the letter “A” for Asia to form a pair of wings flying towards the shining sun - the emblem of the OCA – to signify the OCA motto “Ever Onward” for a bright future.

The mascots are based on the harbour seals which inhabit the coastal waters off Incheon and are named Vichuon (representing hope and light), Baram (good news and the sea wind) and Chumuro (joy and dance). With the seals roaming freely in the seas of the divided Korean peninsula, Asian Games organisers believe they symbolise the breaking down of barriers while promoting peace and unity around the world.

One of the visions of the organisers is to promote balanced sports development in Asia through the OCA-Incheon Vision 2014 Programme. This involves projects such as inviting

talented young athletes from around Asia to train in Korea, dispatching Korean coaches to Asian countries, providing sports facilities and equipment and offering financial support for NOCs to participate in OCA activities and sports events as well as regional games.

So far 21 NOCs have benefited from Vision 2014, including Bangladesh in aquatics, Myanmar in taekwondo and Nepal in archery.



The new Mayor of Incheon City, Song Young-gil

NOC news and sports round-up



Afghanistan

A three-day taekwondo competition for children under eight years old was held in Kabul. About 160 children from 40 different clubs participated in the event. The competition was put together by Afghanistan's National Olympic Committee with the aim of choosing the under-eight athletes for Afghanistan's national taekwondo team. (Afghanistan Online. www-afghan-web.com)



Bahrain

Bahrain lifted the overall title at the 44th Asian Bodybuilding Championships at the Bahrain Cultural Hall in Manama. The hosts bagged 11 medals - four gold, three silver and four bronze - after fierce battles with some of the continent's top-class bodybuilders from 26 countries in Asia.

Leading Bahrain's victory charge was former world champion Hussain Jassim, who clinched two gold medals in the 80kg and under-40 masters events. Other Bahraini gold medallists were Sami Al Haddad, who was crowned 100kg champion, and Ammar Yasser, who clinched top spot in the junior section. (Gulf Daily News)



Bangladesh

Asif Hossain Khan and Abdullah Hel Baki won Bangladesh's only medal at the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi, a bronze in the men's pairs 10m air rifle with a score of 1,173 points. India took gold and England silver.



Bhutan

Ugyen Wangchuk, who has earned a name for himself in the world of martial arts both within and outside the country, has brought home another gold medal from the All India Karate Independence Cup held in Kurukshetra, Haryana. This is his second gold medal in the same championship after winning gold in 2008. He participated in the individual fighting championship in the senior men's 60-65 kg category and won seven fights on his way to collecting the gold medal. More than 1,000 participants from all the states of India took part, forcing organisers to extend the competition by one day. (Bhutan Observer)



Brunei

The Brunei Darussalam Sepak Takraw Association (Pestabar) celebrated another achievement on its 40th anniversary when 30 Bruneians were promoted to National Level 1 referees. The announcement was made by Pestabar president Pg Hj Ali Hassan Pg Dato Hj Abas in a thanksgiving ceremony held at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium in Berakas.

A three-day training course for referees - organised by Pestabar in cooperation with the Brunei Darussalam NOC and the Department of Youth and Sports - saw the referees receive excellent results. (Brunei Times)



Cambodia

Cambodia was represented at the 17th ANOC General Assembly in Acapulco, Mexico, from October 19-24 by two members of the National Olympic Committee - Mr. Hem Thon (NOCC executive member) and Dr. Gabriel Ken Gadaffi (NOCC adviser) - and by the Under Secretary of State, Mr. Meas Sarin, representing the Ministry of Education, Youths and Sports.

Cambodian sport has received a great lift in the last few years through support from Olympic Solidarity and the IOC. The delegates reported on the NOC activities and made proposals for future sports development programmes for the Kingdom.



China

The Chinese version of a book by Arne Ljungqvist, Chairman of the IOC Medical Commission, has just been published by the Chinese Sports Ministry. The launch ceremony took place recently at Beijing Sports University. This book will be used for training anti-doping control staff in China. After the original Swedish version in 2008, and the Chinese in 2010, English and French versions should be released in 2011, followed by a Japanese version.



DPR Korea

Striker Jong Il-gwan was named Most Valuable Player of the Asian Football Confederation's U-19 Championship in Zibo, China, after almost single-handedly securing the title for DPR Korea on Sunday, October 17. The forward scored all three goals as Yun Jong-su's side - who were also handed the Fair Play award - rallied to beat Australia 3-2 in a thrilling final at Zibo Sports Centre Stadium. Jong had been the tormentor of the Australian defence throughout the game, with his pace and quick thinking causing them all sorts of problems over the course of the 90 minutes. The youngster clearly relishes the big occasion, with all five of his goals at the tournament coming when it mattered most.



Hong Kong, China

The Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China, and the Shun Hing Group jointly announced the 10 awardees of the Panasonic Sports Scholarship Programme. Under the programme, 10 local athletes will each receive a total subsidy of HK\$150,000 (US\$19,000) within 18 months from August 2010 to January 2012 to assist in preparations for the London 2012 Olympic Games.

The 10 athletes are: Hong Kong Amateur Athletic Association Limited, Ms. Leung Hau Sze; Hong Kong Badminton Association Limited, Ms. Yip Pui Yin; Hong Kong Cycling Association, Mr. Steven Wong; Hong Kong Equestrian Federation, Ms. Jasmine Lai Zin Man; Hong Kong Fencing Association, Mr. Cheung Siu Lun; the Gymnastics Association of Hong Kong, China, Mr. Shek Wai Hung; Hong Kong Amateur Swimming Association, Ms. Yvette Kong Man Yi; Hong Kong Table Tennis Association Limited, Mr. Chiu Chung Hei; Hong Kong Tennis Association, Ms. Wu Ho Ching; Hong Kong Triathlon Association Limited, Mr. Ivan Lo Ching Hin.



India

India's athletes rose to the occasion of hosting the XIX Commonwealth Games in Delhi from October 3-14 by finishing second in the final medals table, behind Australia. India won 38 gold medals, 27 silver and 36 bronze medals to pass the century mark with a total of 101. Australia finished at the top of the table with 74 gold, 55 silver and 48 bronze for 177. England came in third with 37 gold, 59 silver and 46 bronze for 142 in total. Shooting (14) and wrestling (10) provided the bulk of India's golden haul.



Indonesia

The Indonesian Olympic Committee, through funding from the Australia-Indonesia Institute's 2010 Allan Taylor Sports Award, held a five-day Australian Strength and Conditioning Association (ASCA) course for 25 Indonesian coaches at Universitas Negeri Jakarta.

The course, designed to improve the skills and qualifications of Indonesian coaches, was conducted by Australian Dr Greg Wilson, the physical consultant for the Indonesian Olympic Committee and an ASCA Level 3 Strength and Conditioning coach. The course focused on speed, strength, endurance and flexibility development, recovery and nutrition for elite athletes.

Upon successful completion of the course, participants were recognised by ASCA as accredited Strength and Conditioning coaches through the Australian Sports Commission.



Iran

His Excellency Sheikh Saoud Bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Secretary-General of the Qatar Olympic Committee, met HE the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Qatar, Abdullah Sohrabi, at the QOC headquarters in Doha on Tuesday, October 19. Sheikh Saoud greeted the Iranian envoy and lauded the relations between the two countries. The Iranian Ambassador hailed the strong ties between the two countries, and also admired Qatar's comprehensive development in all fields, particularly sport, and applauded the role played by the QOC in the promotion of the Qatari sports movement.



Iraq

The Iraqi delegation participated in the Guangzhou Asian Games determined to show the best of this war-torn country, an official of the NOC of Iraq said. Iraq was supposed to send athletes to compete in 19 of the 42 sports but could manage only 12 sports due to the difficult situations regarding finance and security in the country, said NOC Secretary General Adil Fadhl in an interview with Xinhua news agency of China published October 31.



Japan

Japanese Olympic Committee President Tsunekazu Takeda has been selected to the International Olympic Committee's 11-member Evalua-

tion Commission tasked with making a comprehensive technical appraisal of the three candidate cities bidding to host the 2018 Olympic Winter Games: Munich (Germany), Annecy (France) and PyeongChang (Republic of Korea).

The Evaluation Commission is composed of representatives of the Olympic Movement as well as a number of advisors. The JOC President is also Chairman of the OCA Coordination Committee for the 16th Asian Games in Guangzhou. He has been selected to the Commission as a representative of ANOC – the Association of National Olympic Committees.



Jordan

Jordan Olympic Committee President and International Olympic Committee Member HRH Prince Feisal Al Hussein delivered a rousing keynote speech at the Beyond Sport Summit in Chicago. HRH Prince Feisal, an ambassador for Beyond Sport, gave the keynote address on behalf of the Chairman of Ambassadors, the Rt. Hon. Tony Blair, and told delegates there had never been a more decisive time for sport to make a difference across the globe.



Joining His Royal Highness in Chicago was HRH Princess Sarah Al-Faisal, who is the organisation's CEO and also a member of the Beyond Sport Advisory Panel.



Kazakhstan

On the opening day of its Congress at the Rixos Hotel on November 1, the International Boxing Association (AIBA), the world governing body recognised by the IOC, announced a relocation of its planned international boxing academy from Becancour, Canada, to the host city of the Congress, Almaty in Kazakhstan. The Kazakhstan government has pledged US\$33 million to the project.

The AIBA Academy was first presented to the AIBA Congress on October 22, 2007, in Chicago, USA. The aim of the AIBA Academy is to offer development and training programmes along with education programmes to help boxers with their post-boxing careers. It will also offer sport management courses for boxers, coaches, referees and judges and administrative personnel of national governing bodies.

NOC news and sports round-up



Korea Republic

Lee Seung-hoon, an Olympic speed skating gold medallist, was named Korea's Most Valuable Player for raising the nation's sports status in the world. The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism selected the 22-year-old speed skater as the winner of the 48th Korea MVP award.

The student of Seoul-based Korea National Sport University bagged the gold medal in the men's 10,000 metres and the silver medal in the 5,000 metres at the 2010 Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver, Canada, in February. His medals helped Korea rank overall fifth, its best-ever Winter Olympic performance.

The best researcher award was given to Keimyung University physical education college professor Kim Ki-jin, the most distinguished service award to Korea Bowling Congress President Chi Joong-sup and the sports promotion award to Chang Young-do, chairman of Daegu City Council of Sport for All. (Korea Herald)



Kuwait

The Public Authority for Youth and Sports (PAYS) has signed a contract to build an indoor Olympic stadium complex for basketball and volleyball in Sabah Al-Salem. The deal is valued at over KD 15 million. The head of PAYS, Fuad Al-Falah, said the project would have a great impact on Kuwaiti sport. "This is the first of its kind that we have introduced in Kuwait, and I consider it to be the beginning of the real rising in sports that we are looking for. This is because we know that sport cannot advance if we do not provide the necessary infrastructure to our young sportsmen. It also gives us the opportunity to host regional and international sports events here in Kuwait," he added.

Rasha Al-Sayegh, the Project Manager, said the two-floor complex covered an area of 19,000 square metres, in addition to 9,000 square metres of parking space. It will include one primary stadium with a seating capacity of 5,000 and two secondary halls with 1,840 seats each, and will take 30 months to complete. (Kuwait Times)



Kyrgyzstan

The national taekwondo team took part in the European Cup open championship in Bratislava, Slovakia, from October 20-25, the press service of the State Agency for Physical Culture and Sports reports. The team included Rustem Akhmetzhanov, Veronica Tzoi, Abdulaziz Usmanov, Maxim Kim, Kuban Ashimbekov and Kantemir Ordobaev. (Kabar - Kyrgyz National News Agency)



Lao

Hardsouane beat Hardkieng in the final round of the men's traditional boat racing 2010 at Vientiane's Tha Vat Chanh (Vat Chanh Pier) annual pirogue fest on October 24. The victory was the first ever for Hardsouane rowers, who are from Thourakhom district, Vientiane province. Hardkieng won the first of the women's traditional boat racing after defeating the 2009 champion Phonhong. In the modified boat category, Khoksay grabbed the first prize after beating Sithane Tay.

This year's boat racing festival saw the participation of 28 pirogues,

including 14 men's traditional pirogues, eight women's racing boats and six modified boats. The annual festival of Vientiane is held one day after the end of the three-month Buddhist Rainy Season Retreat (Buddhist Lent) to mark the occasion. (Lao News Agency)



Lebanon

The Lebanese Olympic Committee held a press conference on November 4 at the Cite Sportive Press Centre to announce the official delegation to the 16th Asian Games in Guangzhou. The press conference was attended by the Minister of Youth and Sport, Dr. Ali Abdallah, Lebanese Olympic Committee President Mr. Antoine Chartier and Executive Board members, presidents and members of participating sports federations.

The press conference started with the national and Olympic anthems, followed by a detailed explanation by the NOC president on the challenges that face every Lebanese international delegation. He also emphasised the importance of the sponsorship and support of the Minister of Sport.



A detailed folder was distributed to all attendees explaining and clarifying the technical standards of the selection process and all related topics that cover the participation of the delegation.

Dr. Abdallah stressed the importance of Lebanese participation in such a prestigious event, which shows the will of the Lebanese people to challenge all obstacles and be present among the 45 Asian countries and regions.

Moreover he confirmed the importance of developing the culture of sport and the right of "Sport for All" as a way of life in order to improve the standard of living from all aspects. He said: "We are working on having sports facilities in every part of Lebanon, and we are going to financially support all sports organisations for the national awareness and participation in sports in hope of competitive results."

The Chef de Mission, Mrs. Rola Assi, EB member, announced the names of the five officials, 20 managers/trainers and 53 athletes from 15 national federations attending the Asian Games.

(From: Ezzat Kraytem, Secretary General)



Macau

A record number of 98 federations out of 101 attended the FIM (International Motorcycling Federation) General Assembly on Tuesday, October 19, on the occasion of the 125th FIM Congress at the Venetian Hotel in Macau, China. The members of the FIM General Assembly elected Mr. Vito Ippolito (Venezuela) FIM President for a second term by 55 votes versus 41 votes cast for his opponent, Mr. Jean-Pierre Mouglin. The FIM General Assembly also elected Nasser Khalifa Al Atya (Qatar), Jorge Viegas (Portugal) and David White (Australia) as FIM Vice Presidents. All the mandates are for four years.



Malaysia

The awards ceremony for the 2010 Women and Sport trophies of the Malaysian NOC, whose President is IOC member Prince Tunku Imran, was held at the end of September at the NOC's sports complex in the presence of the Minister of Women, Family and Community Development, Dato' Sri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil, and the Chair of the NOC's Women and Sports Commission, Low Beng Choo.

The 2010 winners are: Christina Chee Shin Lian (leadership trophy), Normala Abd Rashid (trophy for development of sport in the community), Lucy Read (trophy for grassroots sports development), Jamhariah Jaafar (trophy for women's sports journalism), Mr and Mrs Wong Loy Choy, parents of female badminton player Wong Mew Choo, (partnership trophy) and Choo Kon Lee (overall). The IOC Women and Sport Achievement Diploma went to Zaiton Othman, winner of the NOC's 2009 award and ranked third in the IOC 2010 Women and Sport Award for Asia.



Maldives

A new trophy for Haveeru Sports Awards winners has been launched. At a ceremony held at Nasandhura Palace Hotel in Male, Haveeru Chairman Dr Mohamed Zahir Hussein introduced the trophy designed by Sports Awards marketing partner Think Advertising.

Speaking at the ceremony, Haveeru Editor Moosa Latheef highlighted the significance of introducing a new trophy in the event's history. He further thanked the sponsors and Think Advertising for the event's success over the years. Twenty-three awards will be given in the 2010 Sports Awards, including the golden boot being awarded to the top scorer since 1994. (HNS)



Mongolia

It was at Olympic House in Ulaanbaatar that Mongolian NOC President Demchigjav Zagdsuren and IOC honorary member Shagdarjav Magvan recently hosted IOC member and International Basketball Federation (FIBA) Secretary General Patrick Baumann. Their discussions focused on the future development of basketball in Mongolia.

Patrick Baumann thanked the NOC for including basketball in the Olympic Solidarity "2010 Team Sport Support" programme, and also visited the Olympic Museum, accompanied by Lubomir Kotleba, FIBA Development Director, and the leaders of the Mongolian basketball federation.



Myanmar

Myanmar's under-23 team will play India in the first round of qualifying for the 2012 London Olympic Games men's football tournament. The two legs will be played on February 23 and March 9, 2011. A total of 35 Asian teams will be challenging for 3.5 slots reserved for the continent in the London Olympics.



Nepal

The First Sports Congress was organised on September 25-26, 2010, and attracted over 145 participants. This was the first national conference held in the sports history of Nepal and was a combined effort of various stakeholders including government and non-government. The programme was conceived and developed by Nepal Olympic Committee. The aim of the congress was to develop a synergy of sports development along with the International Olympic Movement and solidarity with government participation and support.



There were various speakers on a number of topics related to sports development. The papers presented were compiled and distributed to all participants. The congress was financially and technically supported by the Olympic Council of Asia and International Olympic Committee. (www.nocnepal.org.np)



Oman

The Oman Olympic Committee held a meeting for its board of directors under the auspices of the Minister of Sports Affairs, Ali bin Masoud Al Sunaidy, who is also the chairman of the committee. In the opening session, the council commended the achievement of young Sultan bin Hamoud Al Tooqi, who received a silver medal in Equestrian at the inaugural Youth Olympic Games, which is an unprecedented achievement for Oman at the highest level in sports.



Pakistan

The President of the Pakistan Olympic Association, Lt. Gen. (Retired) Syed Arif Hasan, has urged the Ministry of Sports to announce financial incentives for tennis star Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi after he qualified for two doubles finals in the US Open Tennis Championships in New York. Aisam reached the mixed doubles final with Czech partner Kveta Peschke and the men's doubles final with India's Rohan Bopanna, but failed to secure a grand slam title.

"We will request the Ministry of Sports to grant special incentives to Aisam on his outstanding performance in the US Open 2010," Arif was quoted as saying by the Associated Press of Pakistan. "The whole nation is proud of Aisam. I personally phoned his family to convey our sentiment on Aisam's feat," he added.

NOC news and sports round-up



Palestine

The IOC President, Jacques Rogge, concluded a visit to Jordan, Palestine and Israel in the first week of October. Beginning in the Jordanian capital, Amman, the President met various NOC members including Prince Feisal Al Hussein, NOC President and IOC member, and was received by King Abdullah II. The President and his delegation flew to Ramallah in the West Bank, where they visited a refugee camp before meeting the President of the Palestinian Olympic Committee, Jibril Rajoub, and the Palestinian Prime Minister, Salam Fayyad. In the evening they attended a football match between the Palestinian and Jordanian Olympic teams, which Palestine won 2-0.



Philippines

The national track and field squad underscored its readiness for the 2010 Asian Games after bagging six gold medals in the 87th Malaysian Open Athletics Championship held in MSN Stadium in Bukit Jalil, Kuala Lumpur. Beijing Olympian Henry Dagmil (men's long jump), Rene Herrera (men's 3,000m steeplechase), Arniel Ferrera (men's hammer throw), Danilo Fresnido (men's javelin), SEA Games champion Rosie Villarito (women's javelin) and Sheena Atilano (women's 100m hurdles) dominated their respective events as the Philippines wound up third overall behind host Malaysia with 12 gold, 25 silver and 24 bronze medals and Chinese Taipei with six gold, one silver and four bronze medals.



Qatar

His Excellency Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Secretary-General of the Qatar Olympic Committee, held the third meeting of 2010 with the secretary-generals and executive directors of sports federations at the QOC headquarters on Monday, October 4. The meeting dealt with a number of important subjects, including the approval of the minutes for the second meeting of 2010 held on April 21, and Qatar's participation in previous championships.



Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia has pledged its support for Qatar in its bid to be the first Middle East country to host the FIFA World Cup in 2022. "We have full confidence in Qatar's ability to organise the World Cup and ensure its complete success," said Prince Sultan bin Fahd, president of Youth Welfare Presidency, and chairman of the Federation of Arab National Olympic Committees. In his joint statement with Prince Nawaf bin Faisal, deputy president of the Youth Welfare Presidency, Prince Sultan reiterated his support for Qatari Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani and Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad, the heir apparent, in order for Qatar to win the right to stage the 2022 World Cup. They commended Qatar's experience in organising regional and international sporting events and hailed its modern and integrated sports infrastructure facilities. (Arab News)



Singapore

Singapore athletes returned from the 19th Commonwealth Games to a reward of S\$1.88 million. The Multi-Million Dollar Award Programme (MAP), administered by the Singapore National Olympic Council and

sponsored by the Tote Board and Singapore Pools, provides cash rewards for athletes who win medals.

Table Tennis led the way with S\$920,000. The shooters hauled in S\$780,000 while the badminton team earned S\$120,000. Singapore gymnasts had never won a medal since the country first took part in the Commonwealth Games in 1958 but in Delhi they won two medals to garner a total of \$60,000.

Shooter Gai Bin was Singapore's most successful athlete, bringing home seven medals. He will earn himself a \$270,000 reward for his efforts. Fellow shooter Jasmine Ser brought home four medals, and her wins will reap her a \$210,000 windfall. Under the programme, athletes are required to pay 20% of their winnings to their respective national sports associations. (Red Sports)



Sri Lanka

The National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka will be conducting the 10th annual Olympic Academy sessions at Bandarawela from November 30-December 5, 2010. At these sessions a wide variety of subjects ranging from Olympism and the Olympic Games to Sports and the Environment and Sports Psychology will be covered by experienced course directors, resource personnel and others. The current sessions open with the dawn of peace in Sri Lanka. Olympism is synonymous with peace and one of the goals of the Olympic Movement is to contribute towards building a peaceful and better world. The Olympic Spirit is achieved, therefore, by educating youth on friendship, solidarity, fair play and mutual understanding.



Syria

The 16th Arab Judo Championships for men and women concluded in Damascus on Sunday, October 31, with the participation of 13 Arab countries. Algeria led the overall medal standings with 11 gold medals, followed by Syria with 3 gold, 6 silver and 4 bronze medals. Saudi Arabia came third. Syria's three gold medal-winners were: Yousef al-Mounir (men's 100kg), Yahya Hasaba (men's over 100kg) and Sabah Khedr (women's 70kg). Syria, Jordan, Algeria, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Yemen, Palestine, Libya and Egypt took part. (Syrian Arab News Agency)



Chinese Taipei

A visiting delegation from the Chinese Taipei Olympic Committee, headed by its consultant Steven Chen, attended a banquet in Beijing given by Wu Qi, Vice President of the Chinese Olympic Committee. The two sides talked on sports exchanges and cooperation across the Taiwan Strait.

Wu extended a warm welcome to the guests, saying sport had served as an important channel as well as a bridge for cross-strait exchanges. Wu noted that through the joint efforts of sports leaders from both sides the cross-strait exchanges and cooperation had been greatly promoted. Wu hoped the two sides would continue to work closely and make new contributions to the common development of sport, further mutual visits and improvement of cross-strait relations. (Source: COC)



Tajikistan

President Emomali Rahmon has become a sponsor of Tajikistan's national youth football team. According to the Committee for Youth, Sports and Tourism Affairs under the Government of Tajikistan, 125,520 somoni (US\$28,000) will be allocated from the president's reserve fund to encourage development of youth soccer players and foster enjoyment of the sport. It is not the first time the president has supported the country's national youth team. Rahmon has previously allocated 394,000 somoni from the president's reserve fund for the team. (Asia-Plus)



Thailand

Gen. Yuthasak Sasiprapha, President of the National Olympic Committee of Thailand, together with members of the Executive Board, held a special reception at the National Stadium to welcome Thailand's four gold medallists in taekwondo, badminton (2) and windsurfing from the 1st Youth Olympic Games 2010 in Singapore.



Timor-Leste

Speaking at the ASEAN Football Federation Suzuki Cup 2010 in Vientiane, Laos, in October, Timor-Leste's national coach, Pedro Correia De Almeida, said his players must work more on the physical aspect of their game if they are to close the gap on their regional rivals.



Turkmenistan

Turkmenistan outlined a US\$5 billion plan to become a major player in Asian sport during a presentation at the 56th OCA Executive Board meeting at the Garden Hotel in Guangzhou on November 12. The report was made by Yalkapberdi Atalyev, Chairman of the State Committee for Tourism and Sport, and was accompanied by a video presentation.



Minister Atalyev explained that on November 5 Turkmenistan organised the foundation-laying ceremony of Olympic Town, which will consist of 30 sports venues and will be constructed in three phases through to 2016. The creation of Olympic Town will enable Turkmenistan to hold big sports events such as Asian and World Championships in different sports, regional and Asian Games, including the Asian Indoor Games followed by the Asian Games.



United Arab Emirates

His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai, will open the 10th FINA World Swimming Championships in Dubai from December 15-19, the Gulf News reports. This is the first time that a FINA event of this stature is being hosted in the Middle East. "This is already a record when compared to the 623 swimmers from 116 countries that participated in the previous championships in Manchester 2008," Dr Khalid Mohammad Al Zahed, the vice-championships director, said.



Uzbekistan

A partnership agreement was signed by the Presidents of the Uzbek and Japanese NOCs, Malik Babaev and Tsunekazu Takeda, at the end of September. The two discussed the Olympic Movement and the preparations for the London 2012 Games. The agreement focuses on athlete and coach exchanges as well as sharing experience in the field of science and anti-doping. The agreement also provides for long-term cooperation to develop and promote sports activities and the Olympic Movement in Uzbekistan and Japan.



Vietnam

Vietnam's traditional martial art of vovinam has received another boost with the formation of the the European Vovinam Federation. France will organise the third World Vovinam Championship in July 2013, after Ho Chi Minh City hosts the previous edition in July 2011. The martial art was founded in 1938 in Hanoi by late Grand Master Nguyen Loc. It is practised in 40 countries and has more than 100,000 practitioners. It is popular in France, Italy and the US. Vovinam will feature at the 26th Southeast Asian (SEA) Games 2011 in Indonesia as a competitive sport for the first time, according to the SEA Sports Council.

Vovinam's inclusion in the SEA Games will help promote the sport, which has gained recognition internationally in recent years, especially after the success of the first WWF World Vovinam Championship in Ho Chi Minh City and the OCA's third Asian Indoor Games last year. (VNS)



Yemen

His Excellency Sheikh Saoud Bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Secretary-General of the Qatar Olympic Committee, met HE Hamoud Abad, Minister of Youth and Sports in Yemen, at the QOC headquarters in Doha on Sunday, October 24. The visitors delivered an official letter inviting HH the Heir Apparent and QOC President Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani to attend the opening ceremony of the 20th Gulf Cup of Nations 2010 scheduled from November 22-December 5 in Aden, Yemen. The Yemeni Minister also handed over a similar invitation to the QOC Secretary-General.

The QOC Secretary-General applauded Yemen's sports infrastructure and arrangements to host the event, and reaffirmed the commitment of Qatar's government and people to support Yemen's hosting efforts. His Excellency also stressed that the QOC, jointly with the Qatar Football Association, would provide financial and personnel support to Yemen in organising the prestigious Gulf championship.

Haiyang ready to 'Share the Joy'



The mascots (Sha Sha - Yang Yang - Hai Hai)

Organisers of the 3rd Asian Beach Games in Haiyang City, China, in 2012 are promising athletes ideal working conditions for a varied sports programme on the Shandong province coast in 18 months' time.

Xu Hong, Deputy Director of the Organising Committee's External Relations Department, told the 29th OCA General Assembly on November 13 that temperatures in June would be between 20-22 degrees C – perfect for the performers and spectators alike.

At the moment there are 11 sports on the programme, including sport climbing, roller skating and powered paragliding. Climbing will offer four events each for men and women: lead, speed, boulder and speed relay. The other eight sports are beach volleyball, beach soccer, beach handball, beach sepaktakraw, beach basketball, beach kabaddi, dragon boat and woodball, although the OCA Sports Committee is requesting that some water sports be added, notably marathon swimming and water polo.

Organisers have identified five main sites in which to stage the Games, with the Olympic Park and Ecological Stadium hosting the opening and closing ceremonies and sport climbing. The beach sports zone will host beach volleyball, beach kabaddi, beach soccer, beach handball, beach sepaktakraw, beach basketball and woodball.

Powered paragliding will be in the air sports zone, while the flat water sports zone is located in a national forest park and will stage dragon boat racing. The land sports zone will host roller skating.

With a slogan of "Share the Joy", the Games will have three mascots based on the key elements of a Beach Games. Haihai (sea), Yangyang (sunshine) and Shasha (beach) were unveiled on November 3, and are sure to attract a young and enthusiastic crowd for the 3rd Asian Beach Games.

Diary of Events



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



December 8, 2010
OCA Women and Sports Committee Meeting
Muscat, Oman



December 9, 2010
OCA Sports for All Committee Meeting
Muscat, Oman



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



January, 2011
57th OCA Executive Board Meeting
Astana-Almaty, Kazakhstan



July 12 - 14, 2011
30th OCA General Assembly
Tokyo, Japan



June 2012
3rd Asian Beach Games, Haiyang 2012
Haiyang, China



2013
2nd Asian Youth Games, Nanjing 2013
Nanjing, China



September 19-October 4, 2014
17th Asian Games, Incheon 2014
Incheon, Korea



2014
4th Asian Beach Games, Phuket 2014
Phuket, Thailand



2016
5th Asian Beach Games, Nha Trang 2016
Nha Trang, Vietnam

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