

WELCOME TO MUSCAT!

2010 BEACH GAMES SPECIAL

Thailand tops medal table
Malaysia's Water Baby
Sports City legacy

OCA congratulates Qatar 2022
FINA praises rising Asia
Inside the OCA



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Inside your 32-page Sporting Asia



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SPORTING ASIA

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BEACH GAMES CAN BECOME ONE OF THE BEST EVENTS IN THE WORLD

The 2nd Asian Beach Games in Oman was a big success, and the Olympic Council of Asia was very satisfied with all the preparations of the Organising Committee and with the overall operation of the Games.

The good thing about the Asian Beach Games is that we have host cities for the first five events through to 2016. This shows a very strong commitment in Asia and gives us the chance to develop these Games so we can market it to the other continents.

Now we must follow-up on the 2nd Asian Beach Games, look at all the positives and negatives and make our analysis so we can develop all aspects of the Games.

I firmly believe that the Beach Games can be one of the best multi-sports events in the world, maybe not under the umbrella of the International Olympic Committee, but maybe the continental organisations can hold it.

There are several reasons for this optimism, and they are the reasons why we have embraced the concept of the Asian Beach Games from the start.

First, it is good to have a better environment, and the beach always provides you with a natural environment and encourages a healthy lifestyle.

Second, it gives the hosts the opportunity to market their beaches and resorts, such as Bali in 2008, Muscat in 2010, Haiyang in 2012 and Phuket in 2014. If you follow up the names of the hosts you will find some of the best cities in the world, with maybe the Maldives in the future.

Third, another good thing is that the operational expenditure is not very high. You need only tents, nets and balls; you do not have to do a lot of things to organise these Games. This means it gives a lot of chance for many National Olympic Committees to host this kind of Games.

The 2nd Asian Beach Games brought an end to a very busy year. In 2011 we have the 7th Asian Winter Games in Kazakhstan at the end of January, followed by the General Assembly in Tokyo in July, so we must continue to work together and show the solidarity and unity of Asia.

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



OCA CONGRATULATES QATAR ON FIFA WORLD CUP 2022 BID SUCCESS

The Olympic Council of Asia would like to congratulate Qatar on winning the bid to host the FIFA World Cup in 2022. This was a magnificent and historic achievement by Qatar, and the OCA is convinced that the 2022 World Cup will be a huge success.

Everyone connected with the OCA will never forget the spectacle of the 15th Asian Games, hosted four years ago by Doha. The planning, preparations, organisation and operation of the 2006 Asian Games was first-class, and no doubt propelled Qatar into the global sports arena.

Since then Qatar has grown from strength to strength and has now become an international sports hub, not just in the Middle East and Asia but also in the world.

The OCA has every confidence that Qatar will succeed in its mission to stage a memorable FIFA World Cup in 2022, and provide further proof of Asia's ability to shine when hosting a global sports event.

In particular the OCA would like to honour the achievement of His Highness the Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani and Her Highness Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser Al Missned, along with the Chairman of the Bid Committee, His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani.



FIFA President Sepp Blatter makes the historic announcement

FIFA CHIEF BLATTER VISITS KUWAIT

FIFA President Sepp Blatter inaugurated the FIFA GOAL Project along with Kuwait Football Association President Sheikh Talal Al-Fahad Al-Sabah in a ceremony at the KFA premises in Adailiya on Wednesday, December 15.

After the ceremony, Blatter and his group, accompanied by Sheikh Talal and KFA officials, motored to the Courtyard Marriott Hotel for a press conference.

Blatter expressed his delight in meeting His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, describing their talks as fruitful and productive.

The FIFA chief also said he was delighted at having met the President of the Olympic Council of Asia and the President of the Kuwait Olympic Committee, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, and a number of veteran Kuwaiti footballers who took part in the 1982 World Cup.

Blatter then visited a number of sports construction sites in the country, followed by a meeting with the President of the Women's Football Committee in the KFA, Sheikhha Naeema Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and several female footballers and referees.

Sheikh Talal thanked Blatter for his visit and for what he had

done for the KFA in particular and Kuwaiti football in general, and for bringing the World Cup to Qatar in 2022.

Earlier in December, Blatter had visited Oman during the 2nd Asian Beach Games in Muscat and Al Musannah Sports City.



Sheikh Talal greets Sepp Blatter

OCA PRESIDENT RECEIVES OMAN AWARD

His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said has conferred the Oman Civil Order - Second Class on OCA President H.E. Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah.

The order was presented on December 16 by His Highness Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers.



Sheikh Ahmad is presented with his award

HH Sayyid Fahd said the felicitation reflected His Majesty's appreciation of Sheikh Ahmad's achievements. The Sultanate appreciated the role of the OCA in nurturing youth and organising sports events to promote better understanding and cooperation, he added.

Sheikh Ahmad expressed his thanks and appreciation to His Majesty for the high honour bestowed on him and conveyed the greetings and best wishes of the OCA to His Majesty. He thanked the Sultanate for organising such a successful Asian Beach Games and also praised the level of support accorded to the Omani youth.

FINA PRESIDENT PAYS TRIBUTE TO ASIA

One of the most influential leaders in world sport, FINA President Dr Julio C Maglione, knows he has a tried and trusted friend in Asia.

The 75-year-old Uruguayan has witnessed the rise of Asia, in and out of the competition arena, in recent years, and he is not referring only to swimming.

"I attended the Asian Games in Guangzhou in November and thought everything was at the Olympic level," he said, in an interview with Sporting Asia on the sidelines of the 10th FINA World Swimming Championships (25 metres) in Dubai on December 17.

"Here in the UAE the organisation of these championships and the facilities are really amazing. In 2011 we will be in Shanghai for the next World Championships and I am sure they will be excellent."

Dr Maglione, who has been an IOC member since 1996, says the development of Asia has been "extraordinary" and has helped to create a true balance of power in the global sports movement.

"In Asia there is more and more investment in sport and increasing possibilities," he added. "For this reason I have proposed to increase the number of members from Asia on the FINA Bureau."

With the big three of China, Japan and Korea leading the continent's charge for world and Olympic honours, other Asian nations and regions are rising to the challenge, according to the FINA President.

"The Asian countries are supporting FINA competitions more and more and they have proved themselves to be excellent organisers with first-class, world-class facilities. Asia has big power."



FINA President Dr Julio C Maglione in festive mood in Dubai

ASIA READY TO HELP SPORTS WORLD

The Middle East was the centre of the sports world for a few days in mid-December, with the FIFA Club World Cup in Abu Dhabi, the FINA World Swimming Championships (25 metres) in Dubai and the 2nd Asian Beach Games in Muscat all overlapping.

So it was a proud OCA Director General, Husain Al-Musallam, who was able to assess Asia's increasingly influential role in the sports world.

"We should be very happy in Asia that now most of the events are taking place in Asia," he said in Dubai. "There are three major events taking place within one hour from each other so that shows the area is flourishing; the area is looking to contribute to the sports movement more and more."

Captain Husain, a FINA Vice President, said the swimming event in Dubai would be a catalyst for growth throughout the region. "It will give an opportunity to improve the aquatic sport

in the Middle East and this is a good legacy for FINA because, at the end of the day, this area is rich, they have potential, they have the kids but they need something to lift them up with the aquatic sport – and this championship will lift the region."

However, it needs more than just money to earn a reputation as a world-class organiser of world-class sports events, according to Captain Husain.

"They have the money, they have the facilities, they have the infrastructure, they have the hotels...so in total you put all these together and it gives you a very good atmosphere or environment for the championship," he said.

Looking ahead to more world events in Asia, notably the FIFA World Cup 2022 in Qatar, Captain Husain concluded: "Asia is contributing to sport, Asia is moving in the right direction to help sport, and Asia is ready to spend money and effort just to promote more sport in the area and in the world."



Partners – the OCA and Kazakhstan

KUWAIT HOSTS AWG FLAME CEREMONY

The flame for the 7th Asian Winter Games in Astana-Almaty was lit at Kuwait Tower in Kuwait City in a special celebration ceremony on Tuesday, January 11.

OCA President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah and the Minister of Tourism and Sport of the Republic of Kazakhstan, H.E. Temirkhan Dosmukhambetov, ignited the flame together.

Kazakhstan figure skater Abzal Rakimgaliev was the first torch bearer and received the torch from Minister Dosmukhambetov, who is a member of the OCA Executive Board.

Five representatives from Kuwait, China and Japan were also among the torch bearers in the ceremony.

The flame ignition ceremony marked the starting point of the Asian Winter Games torch relay. The torch was transported to Kazakhstan on January 12 to begin an 18-day journey before arriving at Astana Arena for the opening ceremony on January 30. The AWG will run until February 6.

The OCA President welcomed all the delegates from Kazakhstan to Kuwait, the headquarters of the OCA and the capital of the Asian sports movement, and promised them the full support of the OCA.

“Thank you for the support that has been given to the 2011 Asian Winter Games by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, H.E. Nursultan Nazarbayev, and by the Minister of Tourism and Sport, Temirkhan Dosmukhambetov,” said Sheikh Ahmad.

“Today’s event is only the first step toward the great success that we are waiting for. Together with our solidarity, unity and capability we are able to reach high and achieve our goal. I can assure our colleagues from Kazakhstan that the OCA is your partner for the Winter Games, and that the athletes will be your brothers and friends in making the Games a success.”

The festivities had started the previous evening, when Kazakhstan Ambassador Kairat Lama Sharif hosted a reception at the Kuwait Sheraton Hotel for all the ambassadors who would be attending the ceremony on January 11.

More than 50 Kazakhstan artists presented a special musical event to all guests with traditional music and dance which deeply reflected the colourful and rich Kazakhstan culture.

AWG HISTORY

| Edition | Year | Host |
|---------|------|---------------------------|
| 1 | 1986 | Sapporo, Japan |
| 2 | 1990 | Sapporo, Japan |
| 3 | 1996 | Harbin, China |
| 4 | 1999 | Kangwon, Korea |
| 5 | 2003 | Aomori, Japan |
| 6 | 2007 | Chang Chun, China |
| 7 | 2011 | Astana-Almaty, Kazakhstan |

YOUNG ARTISTS RISE TO AWG CHALLENGE

The 7th AWG International Art and Essay Competition, which was held as part of the Cultural Asian Festival project, attracted some top-quality work from around the continent, as can be seen from the striking selection of entries displayed here.

The deadline was December 1, and the judging panel held a meeting on December 13 to select the winners in the two categories in two age groups (7-12 and 13-16).

The judging committee included local luminaries such as the honorary art worker of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Camille Mullashev, honorary art worker/critic Valentin Pak and the director of Astana's Contemporary Arts Museum, Nelly Shivrina.

The awards ceremony will take place in Astana on January 30, the day of the opening ceremony. All entrants will receive certificates as well as licensed AWG souvenirs and gifts from the organisers of the competition.

The four overall winners will be invited to the opening ceremony on January 30 at Astana Arena. As well as this honour, the

authors of the two best essays and the two top artists will be able to participate in all activities of the Cultural Asian Festival project.

The main aim of the competition is to attract the participation of children and teenagers in two age groups. The project is extremely popular among Asian countries which usually do not take part in the Asian Winter Games due to their tropical climates and absence of snow.

However, this competition provides a chance to all counties to participate, at least in cultural activities, of one of the main sports events in the continent.

Organisers received 500 entries in the art competition, with the most popular theme "Me and Irby", referring to the AWG's snow leopard mascot. Malaysia was the most active NOC outside of the host country.

The full list of winners in each category can be found on the website of Astana Direction: www.asiada.astana.kz.



1st - Mussin Ramil (12 years)



2nd - Iskakova Aizhan (12 years)



3rd - Nina Salina Bin Suziku (9 years)



1st - Ahmad Ajmal Bin Ramlan (14 years)



2nd - Tulebergenov H. (14 years)



3rd - Baimuratov Abay (14 years)

BUSY YEAR AHEAD FOR WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

The OCA Women and Sport Committee met in Muscat on December 8, 2010, and looked forward to an eventful 2011 across Asia's five zones. Chairperson Natalya Sipovich said the number of activities planned for the coming year highlighted the enthusiasm for promoting women in sport around the continent.

"Through these activities and management programmes we want to create more opportunities for women to become administrators and sports leaders so they can be nominated for positions in their NOC," she said.

In the first quarter of 2011, Thailand will host a follow-up seminar to an IOC Asian women and sport seminar that took place in Kuala Lumpur in November 2008.

Other events proposed include an OCA management course for women in sport for either the whole of Asia or just West Asia, hosted by the Syrian Olympic Committee in April or May; a seminar in September by Kyrgyzstan NOC; Olympic Solidarity-supported year-round activities in Tajikistan; and events in Mongolia in August and Olympic Solidarity activities, projects and courses in Cambodia.

During the meeting, Ahlam Al Mana (Qatar) presented a report on women's sport in the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council on behalf of the GCC Women's Sports Organising Committee.

Major events for 2011-12 include the second GCC Women's

Games in Abu Dhabi, UAE, from March 7-12, 2011, featuring futsal, athletics, equestrian (show jumping and endurance), table tennis, taekwondo, bowling, shooting and athletics for people with special needs; the first GCC Women's Basketball Championship in Doha, Qatar, from May 5-9, 2011; the first GCC Club Women's Games in February 2012 in the UAE; and a women and sport seminar in Oman in 2011.

☀ The Chairman of the OCA's Culture and Education Committee, Hemasiri Fernando, believes a coffee table-style stamp book documenting the culture, history and topography of all 45 NOCs will be a "masterpiece" of a publication for the Asian sports family.

The Sri Lankan sports leader has been working for over a year on the ambitious project, and plans to launch it during the OCA General Assembly in Tokyo this July.

☀ Under the Chairmanship of General Suhail Khoury, the OCA Sports For All Committee met in Muscat on Thursday, December 9. The committee composed a questionnaire for the NOCs in order to compile a comprehensive database on the status of "Sports For All" within each administration.

The committee will also review existing "Sports for All" activities conducted by certain NOCs, and make the utmost effort to initiate projects among other NOCs. They would also like to include a "Sports for All" activity within the OCA's continental or regional events programmes.



The OCA Women and Sport Committee meets in Muscat

Sporting Asia's 16-page special on the 2nd Asian Beach Games starts here!

MAJESTIC MUSCAT

Sultanate shines for 2nd Beach Games



The natural beauty of Oman provides the perfect setting for the waterskiing competition at Barr Al-Jissah

OCA DG: ASIAN BEACH GAMES



Husain Al-Musallam, OCA Director General

The Beach Games in Muscat were a success for a number of reasons, not only for Oman but particularly in the Middle East area.

It was successful in increasing the awareness of the meaning of sport in the region and also in introducing new sports to the region, especially the beach sports.

"Together we shine" was the official slogan of the 2nd Asian Beach Games – but this proved to be an understatement.

Oman did not simply shine as host for the OCA's beach and sea sports festival, it truly sparked to enhance its reputation as a jewel in the Gulf crown.

In perfect weather conditions, the Games showcased the natural beauty and distinctive characteristics of the Sultanate and enabled all the participants to slip effortlessly into a more relaxed and laidback lifestyle.

The OCA's Director General, HUSAIN AL-MUSALLAM, reflects on the success of the 2nd Asian Beach Games Muscat 2010.

A really good thing about the Games this time was the number of spectators. From what I saw in Oman, the Omani spectators really supported all the games in the different sports.

Oman and the region is considered a football nation but now there is some interest in different sports. This is really encouraging that the Middle East, and especially the Gulf, is going in the



Permanent: The new Sports City will leave a lasting legacy for Oman



Temporary: One of the attractive spect

‘CHANGED OMANI SOCIETY’

right direction to serve the Olympic Movement and sport.

I was very impressed with many aspects of the Games. The facilities were nice, the venues were nice, the new Sports City was nice and the climate and the beaches were really beautiful. Everybody enjoyed to compete and to watch.

The Sports City at Al Musannah will be added value for the sports movement in Oman, especially the place where it is located. It is very densely populated around the Sports City so

the local people will get the benefit, because the sports facilities in this area were very limited before and now they have the Sports City. It will really get the kids more into sport.

I read the Omani newspapers the day after the closing ceremony and all of them were happy and all of them were looking forward to hosting more major events in the future. This showed that the Asian Beach Games did make a change in Omani society.

Overall, Oman did an excellent job.’

FACT BOX

1,146 Athletes
43 NOCs
600 Technical Delegates/
Officials
14 Sports
16 Disciplines
52 Events
3,500 Volunteers
497 Media



Jacques Rogge, President, IOC

IOC CHIEF HAILS ‘CREATIVE IDEA’

“The Beach Games, I believe, is a very good idea, a very creative idea. They fill what I would call a niche in the sports movement. They are not expensive and they don’t need a lot of infrastructure.

“There will be no shortage of organisers because the costs are really on the low side, so that is a very good thing for sport.”



Spectator stands at Al Musannah Sports City



The natural beauty of Oman

FLAME BURNS BRIGHT FROM BALI TO MUSCAT



Passing on the flame of the 2nd Asian Beach Games

The torch relay celebrations for the 2nd Asian Beach Games began at the host of the inaugural event, Bali, on December 4 when the Indonesian Olympic Committee handed over the flame to their Omani counterparts.

Two days later, on the morning of December 6, the VIP arrivals area of Muscat International Airport was buzzing with activity and anticipation as the flame arrived in Oman for a short promotional campaign ahead of the opening ceremony on December 8.

Among the VIPs at the welcome reception was Oman's Minister of Sports Affairs, His Excellency Ali bin Masoud Al-Sunaidy, and a group of students from Al Amrat High School, wearing tradi-

tional Omani dress and waving flags of the 45 competing countries and regions, greeted the flame.

The relay started later that afternoon at Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex in Bausher and continued to the Countdown Clock in the Ministries' District in Al-Khuwair. The relay resumed on December 8 at Al-Musannah Castle and was carried to Al-Musannah Sports City for the opening ceremony.

A total of 45 local students, officials and dignitaries shared the opportunity to carry the flame during the relay, having been selected as representatives from various clubs, community groups and governmental bodies from across Oman.

Photo gallery



Students prepare to greet the flame



MABGOC DG Habib Macki holds the torch



The torch relay in progress

ALL ABOARD...TO AL MUSANNAH!



Bright colours and energetic dance at the Opening Ceremony

There was a special touch to the Opening Ceremony celebrations for the Olympic Council of Asia on Wednesday, December 8. A fleet of buses took members of the OCA family and their guests from their hotel headquarters in Muscat to Port Sultan Qaboos, from where two high-speed ferries transported the guests to Al Musannah.

After disembarking at Al Musannah Naval Base some 90 minutes later, more buses took the group to the venue for the Opening Ceremony inside the new, 1 million sq-metre Al Musannah Sports City in time for the 8pm start.

His Highness Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers, Sultanate of Oman, officially opened the 2nd Asian Beach Games Muscat 2010.

Hundreds of international dignitaries, including IOC President Jacques Rogge and OCA President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, attended.

Rising tennis star Fatma al Nabhani lit the cauldron, and fireworks, music and dance involving 500 performers thrilled the crowd as the ceremony showcased Oman's history and heritage.

Oman's Minister of Sports Affairs, His Excellency Ali bin Masoud al Sunaidy, said the Games were "an ambitious step, setting a benchmark for organising and hosting future continental and international sports activities." He added: "We are grateful for every single effort made to realise the objectives of these Games."

Looking back on the Opening Ceremony the following afternoon, Sheikh Ahmad described it as "excellent" in the context of the Beach Games.

"The education, tradition, art and history...all those four aspects were in the Opening Ceremony celebrations," he said. "This is what makes Asia rich – and Oman is part of Asia. I was very happy and satisfied."



The Hormuz ferry awaits the OCA



Good evening, Vietnam



Memorable moments

THAILAND RULES ON SAND AND SEA

Thailand finished on top of the medals table for the 2nd Asian Beach Games by winning 15 of the 52 gold medals on offer in the 14 sports.

The South East Asian powerhouse held off the mighty China, who came in second with 12 gold medals, and the host country Oman, who finished a respectable third with five gold.

Just to underline their dominance, the Thais also won the most medals in total with 36 (15-10-11), followed by China with 23 (12-6-5) and Oman in third place again with 15 (5-3-7).

A total of 13 National Olympic Committees won a gold medal, while 26 NOCs found a place on the podium with at least one bronze.

The triumphant Thais could look back on a memorable Monday – December 13 to be precise – as the turning point of the Games in the race for top spot. Thanks to a clean sweep of the four gold medals in woodball, plus half the six gold medals on the last day of sailing, Thailand locked up seven of their 15 gold medals on one day alone.

The remainder of their golden haul came in beach sepaktakraw (4), bodybuilding (2), jetski sport (1) and water ski (1).

Amnat Sinsuphachok, coach of the woodball team, said there was no special recipe for the team's success: just practice and a coordinated build-up.

"Two years ago in Bali we did not win a gold medal in woodball,

so right after the first Asian Beach Games we started to prepare for the second Asian Beach Games," he said.

The preparations included Thailand hosting the 4th World Cup woodball championship, together with the Thailand Open, from March 31 to April 3, 2010, at the National Stadium in Bangkok.

"We also have the Student National Games, and most of our woodball team here are students with an average age of 16 or 17. Through these competitions we were able to select our team for Muscat three months ago from between 30 and 40 players.

"Hopefully our success here will help promote woodball in Thailand, especially as we look forward to hosting the Asian Beach Games in Phuket in 2014."

The Chinese had arrived in Oman still buzzing from their incredible success at the 16th Asian Games in Guangzhou the previous month. On that occasion they won a colossal 199 gold medals, obliterating the opposition, but this time they settled for a more modest 12 and second place.

Not that Chef de Mission Yang Shu'an was overly concerned. "It is not only about competition here; it is a life experience for the young athletes of China's new generation," said the Chinese Olympic Committee Vice President.

"We have a very clear mission, to show friendship and sportsmanship, but of course the athletes will try their best out of respect for the spectators and the other competitors."






Thailand celebrates one of its 15 gold medals, this time in beach sepaktakraw



We've done it! A victory hug for India after winning the beach kabaddi final

MEDAL TABLE

| Rank | Country |  |  |  | Total |
|--------------|----------------------|---|---|---|------------|
| 1 | Thailand | 15 | 10 | 11 | 36 |
| 2 | China | 12 | 6 | 5 | 23 |
| 3 | Oman | 5 | 3 | 7 | 15 |
| 4 | Iraq | 3 | 3 | 1 | 7 |
| 5 | Indonesia | 3 | 2 | 6 | 11 |
| 6 | India | 3 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| 7 | Athletes from Kuwait | 2 | 3 | 1 | 6 |
| 8 | Korea | 2 | 3 | 0 | 5 |
| 9 | United Arab Emirates | 2 | 2 | 0 | 4 |
| 10 | Japan | 2 | 1 | 3 | 6 |
| 11 | Kazakhstan | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| 12 | Malaysia | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| 12 | Syria | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| 14 | Vietnam | 0 | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| 15 | Pakistan | 0 | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| 16 | Jordan | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 17 | Myanmar | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| 18 | Chinese Taipei | 0 | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| 19 | Hong Kong | 0 | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| 20 | Yemen | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 21 | Iran | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 22 | Saudi Arabia | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 22 | Lebanon | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 22 | Tajikistan | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 22 | Bangladesh | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 22 | Brunei Darussalam | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Total | | 52 | 52 | 58 | 162 |



China's 10km swimming champion Fang Yanqiao



Syria's Saleh Mohammad won gold and silver

ACTION ASIA! THRILLS AND



Beach Sepaktakraw: Raw power



Beach Woodball: Patience and precision



Tent Pegging: High-speed drama



Beach Handball: All-out aggression



Sailing: Calm and collected



Beach Volleyball: Energy-sapping



Marathon Swimming: Incredible stamina

SKILLS IN THE 14 SPORTS



Beach Kabaddi: No place for the faint-hearted



Bodybuilding: Together we shine!



Beach Waterpolo: Lining up a shot



Jetski Sport: Carving up the sea



Waterskiing: Courage and concentration



Triathlon: All-round talent



Beach Soccer: Total commitment

THE ADVENTURE AND ENTERTAINMENT OF TENT PEGGING

When tent pegging was added to the sports programme for the 2nd Asian Beach Games, a few eyebrows were raised. Swords and lances, lemons and pegs...it all seemed to belong to a bygone era of chivalry and cavalry.

But this late addition to the 2nd Asian Beach Games turned out to be one of the highlights of the whole competition; a masterful display of horsemanship played out to a backdrop of pageantry and precision.

The thundering hooves, the flash of the sword, the battle cry of the approaching rider and the applause of the spectators...it all made for gripping viewing for the spectators at the Barkah Equestrian Grounds.

The only time tent pegging had appeared previously at an OCA event was at the 1982 Asian Games in Delhi, and the winner of the silver medal on that occasion, Prince Malik Atta Muhammad Khan of Pakistan, cut a dashing figure on the sidelines of Muscat 2010.

No one was in a better position to describe the appeal of tent pegging than Prince Malik Atta.

"When the horse is running 65 to 70 miles an hour and then you have to pick a small, one-inch peg from the ground it is very spectacular, either with the sword or with the lance," he said.

"And also when you are pegging with a sword and then you are cutting lemons on full gallop. It is a very good sport and it has a lot of entertainment and a lot of adventure."



Prince Malik Atta of Pakistan

Commenting on the Barkah Equestrian Grounds, Prince Malik Atta observed: "The venue is very nice. The Omani Equestrian Federation has done wonders to develop this sport because at one time their riders - in 1989 in the Nehru Cup - were very weak. Then trainers came from India and now they are second to none; now they are a very, very strong team which can compete anywhere in the world."

Oman celebrated the return of tent pegging to the OCA sports family by winning four of the eight gold medals, followed by Iraq with three and India with one.



The thrill and skill of tent pegging



Aaliyah Yoong Hanifah (7) is pictured (left) with Phillipa Yoong and Hanis Azemi (12)

MALAYSIA'S 'WATER BABY' MAKES WAVES IN MUSCAT

On first sight, Aaliyah Yoong Hanifah looks like a typical tiny tot enjoying a day at the seaside. But far from being a Beach Games extra, the Malaysian water baby is in the thick of the action as the youngest competitor ever in an OCA multi-sports event.

Aged seven, Aaliyah has just finished fifth of 11 competitors in the women's individual trick water skiing final, which China dominated with a 1-2-3 podium sweep.

"I am not happy," says Aaliyah, almost in a whisper. "I want to be a world-class skier so I have to practise more."

The good thing is that time is most definitely on her side. And it helps that her father runs a water skiing business at Putrajaya.

"My whole family does it, and I like it because it is challenging and exciting," she adds. "I train for one hour a day, sometimes two, and I also like watching videos of water skiing tricks in the evenings."

Aaliyah is small, even for her age, and it took some courage and strength to tackle the choppy seas at Barr Al-Jissah in pursuit of Beach Games glory. Aaliyah's half-sister, Phillipa Yoong, was fourth, and 12-year-old Malaysian team mate Hanis Azemi came in sixth.

Aged 32, Phillipa is the honorary secretary and national coach of the Malaysian Water Ski and Wakeboard Federation (MWWF), so is in a good position to comment on Aaliyah, Hanis and, in the men's event, 10-year-old Hadi Irfan Mohammad Rahaizah.

"I am really scared that people will start to belittle the sport, but just because they are young does not mean they are any less talented," says Phillipa.

"What all the young athletes have accomplished in one year may take four or five years for some other skiers. For Aaliyah it is about the sheer frequency of training because her father owns a water skiing business so she is there every day. The other kids also show dedication and come down three times a week."

With no age restrictions in the sport, the MWWF received clearance from the Olympic Council of Malaysia to enter the youngsters, and the OCA respected the selection of the OCM.

The Muscat experience was invaluable for the Malaysian team, and Phillipa Yoong thanked the OCA for accepting the sport. "We are really very grateful to be in this OCA event for the first time; to be part of this is a big deal," she says.



The playful mascots greet the flame at Muscat International Airport on December 6

MUSCAT MASCOTS CAPTIVATE CROWDS

Muscat's "Three Mascoteers" proved to be a big hit before, during and after the 2nd Asian Beach Games.

Not only did they provide the Games with the customary cuddly characters to promote and market the event, they also carried a more serious message regarding the environment and conservation.

Al-Reeh, Al-Jebel and Al-Med were the faces of the Games, representing the Houbara desert bird, the Arabian Tahr mountain goat and the Green Turtle, respectively.

They also represented the sky, the land and the sea of Oman, and reminded everyone that they are, in fact, endangered species. So what better way to highlight their plight and promote the cause of conservation than the platform of the Asian Beach Games!

Thanks to an energetic marketing programme, the mascots appeared at events, venues and even in a children's activity book to fire the imagination of Oman's youngest generation.

Entitled "Meet the Friends of Muscat 2010", the book included a cartoon-style story board telling the tale of how they met though their love of sport, a board game with cut-out characters and dice, three postcards and a colouring exercise.

"We are very proud of our mascots, who received a Special Commendation for Green Campaign of the Year at the 2010 Oman Green Awards," said organising committee MABGOC.

"We not only wish to hold a most successful Asian Beach Games, but also encourage the athletes and youth to protect our environment today for future generations."

MABGOC could not have selected a more noble cause for their mascots than Al-Reeh, Al-Jebel and Al-Med, and the OCA applauds this initiative in raising awareness of the environment in general and of these three native creatures in particular.

HQ HOTEL – A HIVE OF ACTIVITY



Chinese Taipei's tropical promotional booth

With such a large gathering of National Olympic Committees and members of the global Olympic family, an OCA event is always a good place to promote a Games, a bid or some other cause.

The 2nd Asian Beach Games Muscat 2010 was no exception, and the grounds of the headquarters hotel were busy with brightly coloured campaign kiosks, smiling staff and plenty of publicity material.

Haiyang, China, which will host the 3rd Asian Beach Games in June 2012, and 2014 host Phuket, Thailand, set the scene with lots of general information on the resorts and the regions, while the Chinese Taipei Olympic Committee displayed "20-20 vision" and a tropical theme befitting the exotic gardens of the Shangri-La's Barr Al Jissah Resort and Spa.

The Chinese Taipei NOC promoted bids for two major events in the coming years: the 2020 Asian Beach Games and the 2023 Asian Games. There was also a tourist/travel guide to Taipei County, plus a glossy brochure entitled "Over the Top – Taipei Nonstop!" featuring their leading athletes and sports facilities.

In a leaflet focusing on the bid for the 2023 Asian Games, the Chinese Taipei NOC guarantees to provide, free of charge for all athletes and officials, air ticket, board and lodging, public

transportation ticket and high-class city tours.

All the kiosks offered photo opportunities for the visiting delegates, as well as the chance to pick up some useful background information -- and a souvenir gift or two!



The land of smiles – and of the 2014 Asian Beach Games



ROYAL SEAL OF APPROVAL

Dreams come true for athletes when they stand on top of the podium with a gold medal round their neck after years of hard work and dedication. Dreams also come true for organising committees when an ambitious project turns from plan to reality, such as the 1 million square-metre Al Musannah Sports City.

The heart and soul of the 2nd Asian Beach Games, the Sports City accommodated 1,000 athletes and officials in the marina hotel, apartments and residential buildings and created a relaxed, holiday-style environment for all participants: Exactly what organisers had been dreaming about.

VIP visitors included IOC member Prince Albert II of Monaco, who praised the “wonderful” Omani hospitality. Regarding the Sports City, Prince Albert commented: “It is a very well thought-out plan.”

Another royal seal of approval came from His Royal Highness Prince Sufri Bolkiah, President of the Brunei Darussalam NOC. “The Sports City is very beautiful,” he said. “I am impressed.”

As well as hosting seven of the 14 sports, the Sports City also featured a

COVAL FOR SPORTS CITY

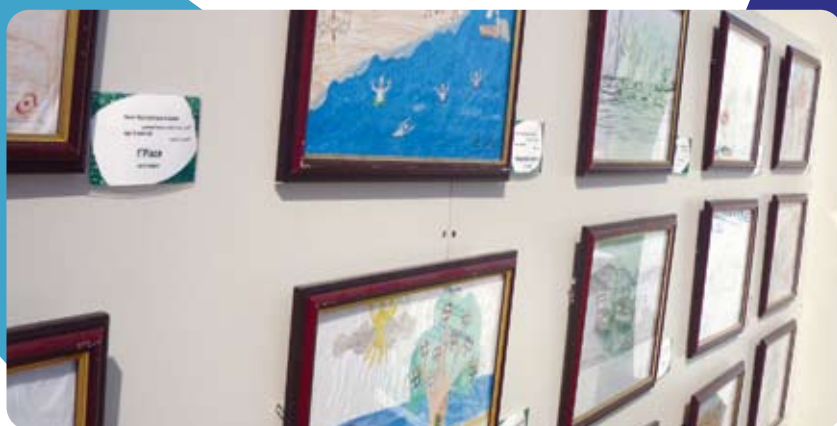
sea-front Culture Zone in which a number of Omani tents enticed visitors to sample local treats such as henna, traditional Omani coffee and dates and an Omani craft market.

The Village Mayor, Abdullah Nasser Al Khusaibi, felt everything had run smoothly in the Sports City for athletes, officials and visitors alike.

"I believe everyone has been happy with the Omani hospitality, the accommodation, the catering and the village itself," he said. "The visitors have been impressed with the village and I did not receive any complaints from the guests."

The village certainly made a big impression on Pakistani athlete Muhammad Sohaib. The 29-year-old handball player was making his third visit to compete in Muscat and described the environment as "excellent".

"I really like the set-up in the Sports City since all the other sports venues are right next door and it provides a good atmosphere for the athletes. The medical facilities are also very good. My wrist got injured on the last day and I received professional treatment," he said.





Chinese Olympic Committee Vice President Yang Shu'an receives the OCA flag

FLAG PASSES FROM MUSCAT TO HAIYANG

A serene parade of white horses, a sparkling performance by Russian fire dancers and a marathon fireworks display were all on the menu as the 2nd Asian Beach Games came to a dazzling conclusion on Thursday, December 16.

"You have shined with us and caused Muscat 2010 to shine," Habib bin Abdulnabi Macki, the Director General of the Muscat Asian Beach Games Organising Committee, told a packed stadium at Al Musannah Sports City.

"We are very happy that Muscat 2010 has achieved its targets and fulfilled the promise of its slogan, 'Together we Shine'."

The closing ceremony was held under the auspices of His Highness Sayyid Haitham Bin Tarik Al Said, Minister of Heritage and Culture and Chairman of MABGOC.

Responding on behalf of the Olympic Council of Asia, the President, H.E. Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, thanked Oman, Asia and everyone connected with the event for a "beautiful Asian Beach Games."

After the OCA flag was lowered and the flag of the People's Republic of China raised to the national anthem, the OCA flag handover ceremony from Muscat 2010 to Haiyang 2012 took place.

Oman's Minister of Sports Affairs, His Excellency Ali Bin Masoud Al Sunaidy, passed the flag to OCA President Sheikh Ahmad, who in turn handed it to Yang Shu'an, Vice President of the Chinese Olympic Committee and Deputy Minister of the General Administration of Sport of China. Mr. Yang was accompanied by the Mayor of Haiyang city, Jiang Shili.

When the flame, burning in a cauldron on the perimeter of the marina of Sports City, was extinguished, all eyes turned to China for the 3rd Asian Beach Games.

And Haiyang did not disappoint, with a 10-minute cultural extravaganza that wowed the crowd and set the scene for the next edition in 18 months' time.

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT FOR CHINA



Dazzling...Haiyang's 10-minute show at the closing ceremony of Muscat 2010

Even though they have already hosted one Olympic Games and two Asian Games, the Chinese will be leaving nothing to chance when they stage the 3rd Asian Beach Games in Haiyang, Shandong province, in June 2012.

Which is why over 30 delegates from China visited Oman to witness at first-hand the work that lies ahead in the following 18 months.

Needless to say, the Chinese were impressed, not only with the preparations and management of the Games but also with the international status of Muscat and its associated infrastructure and services.

"The most impressive thing is that they have very good hotels," commented Gao Jingtao, Deputy Mayor of Haiyang Municipal Government. "As well as the Marina Hotel in Al Musannah Sports City they have also provided 25 hotels with first-class service."

Deputy Mayor Gao also praised the effective operation of the Games, the sports venues, the excellent services for the guests and the strong media support and publicity.

"We have visited the temporary structures and I think the standard of construction is very high," he added.

Haiyang organisers are expecting 10,000 participants, including athletes and officials from the 45 National Olympic Committees, technical delegates and media.

The Chinese delegation in Muscat was led by Huang Sheng, Vice Governor of Shandong province and Vice President of the organising committee.



Liu Xiaoling and Gao Xiaoli from Haiyang 2012

News and sports round-up from the 45 NOCs



Afghanistan

The Afghanistan Rugby Federation was officially registered with Afghanistan's National Olympic Committee on November 29. The federation will be responsible for the development of the sport in Afghanistan. Rugby was first played on Afghan soil back in the late 1800s by the invading British troops.

Rugby Federation Vice President Abdul Khalil Bik told Afghanistan Online via email that a national team had not been formed yet, but trials would be held soon.

They will not only establish a national team, but a junior level team as well. The president of the Afghanistan Rugby Federation is Mohammad Mansoor Majid.

(www.afghan-web.com)



Bahrain

Senior sports officials have lauded the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports president and chief of the Bahrain Olympic Committee, Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, for winning the prestigious Supreme Council medal by the International Military Sports Council.

Shaikh Nasser was congratulated by His Majesty King Hamad's youth and sports advisor Saleh Bin Hindi, Bahrain Royal Equestrian and Endurance Federation's president Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa and Bahrain Swimming Association's president Shaikh Hashim bin Mohammed Al Khalifa.

(Gulf Daily News)



Bangladesh

The Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) is proud to congratulate the Bangladesh cricket team for their extraordinary 3-1 victory over Zimbabwe. The President and all members of the BOA congratulate all cricketers and management of BCB for their grand success.

(www.noc-ban.com)



Bhutan

Ugyen Academy won the highest number of medals in the 7th National School Games at Khuruthang Middle Secondary School and Ugyen Academy in Punakha. Ugyen Academy won a total of 16 medals, followed by Yangchenphug HSS with eight medals and Kelki HSS with seven.

The event was organised by the Department of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Education, with the objective of promoting games and sports by encouraging mass participation and healthy competitions at school, dzongkhag and regional levels.

It is also aimed to help students grow into healthy, responsible and

productive citizens. A total of 690 students from 92 schools participated, along with 65 escort teachers and coaches, and 48 managers and technical officials.

(Bhutan Observer)



Brunei

Brunei's quest for gold received a major boost when the Chinese Ambassador to the country, Min Yongnian, announced that national athletes would be sent to China for training in 2011. Min said in a press statement that Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Paduka Hj Hazair Hj Abdullah, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, visited China in November and met with the Shanghai sports authority.

"Our two countries will further promote sports exchange and cooperation. Next year (2011) Brunei will send athletes for professional training in China before the SEA Games and other events," said Min.

(www.bruneiolympic.org)



Cambodia

The National Olympic Committee of Cambodia has laid out the ground rules for the recently revived Cambodian Baseball Federation to follow if a national team is to be sent to the 2011 SEA Games in Indonesia in November.

Vath Chamroeun, Secretary General of the NOCC, told a delegation of CBAF officials that the baseball federation had to meet several procedural requirements before pitching in for an international event. He said that, like any other federation, the CBAF had to produce a convincing performance from its team, keep a clean administrative sheet and establish financial soundness to support a foreign trip. Most importantly, he said the CBAF would have to hold a national championship and prove the team's mettle.

(Phnom Penh Post)



China

On the evening of December 20, 2010, a visiting sports delegation from the Egyptian National Council of Sports led by President Hassan Sakr attended a banquet in Beijing given by Liu Peng, Minister in charge of the General Administration of Sport and President of the Chinese Olympic Committee.

Liu extended a warm welcome to the Egyptian guests, saying both China and Egypt were countries with an ancient civilization, and the two countries had maintained a long-lasting friendship over the past decades.

Egypt was the first Arab country to recognise the founding of the People's Republic of China, Liu noted, and the profound friendship and cooperation in such fields as politics and economy had helped lay a solid foundation for further exchanges and cooperation in sport.

(COC)

News and sports round-up from the 45 NOCs



DPR Korea

China's Vice Minister in charge of the General Administration of Sport, Yu Zaiqing, has met with a visiting delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The two sides signed the Memorandum on the China-DPRK Sports Exchanges 2011.

(COC)



Hong Kong

The 60th anniversary celebration press conference of the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China was successfully held in Hong Kong Stadium on December 23, 2010.

During the press conference, a kick-off ceremony launching the Diamond Jubilee Logo cum lighting of the Olympic House in celebration of the SF&OC's 60th anniversary was officiated by President Timothy Fok and various committee chairmen of the 60th anniversary celebrations. In addition, Pang Chung, Vice Chairman of the Steering Committee of the 60th anniversary, introduced a series of celebration events to be held in 2011.

The National Sports Associations will participate in this grand occasion with 33 mega events to be organised with the use of the Diamond Jubilee Logo of the SF&OC to enhance promotion.

(SF&OC Hong Kong, China)



India

The 34th National Games 2011 will take place in Jharkhand from February 12-26. The opening and closing ceremonies, as well as 24 of the 34 sports, will be held at Ranchi. Jamshedpur and Dhanbad will host four and six sports respectively.



Indonesia

Indonesia says it will use an upcoming planning meeting in Bali to select sports for inclusion in the 26th Southeast Asian (SEA) Games 2011 to boost the nation's chances for gold.

Indonesia is banking its gold medal hopes on badminton, weightlifting, indoor volleyball, beach volleyball, mountain biking and bodybuilding.

Six thousand athletes from all 11 Southeast Asian countries are expected to compete in 44 sports at the 2011 SEA Games, which will be held in Palembang, capital city of South Sumatra, and in Jakarta, from November 11-25.

(Jakarta Post)



Iran

Iranian women represented 25% of Iran's 373-member national team for the 16th Asian Games in Guangzhou, China, last November, and these 88 female athletes won close to 25% of Iran's medal count.

Iranian women received medals in wushu, shooting, taekwondo, kabaddi, karate and rowing. The number one spot for the Asian Games went to the Chinese women, who represented 47.5% of China's 960-member team and won close to 56% (or 221) of China's medals.

(Payvand.com)



Iraq

The National Olympic Committee of Iraq celebrated a stunning fourth-place finish in the 2nd Asian Beach Games in Muscat thanks to its prowess in tent pegging. Iraq won three gold medals, three silver and one bronze, all seven medals coming at the Barkah equestrian grounds.

Haider H. Al Jumaili, the Assistant Secretary General and President of Iraqi Central Equestrian, said: "It is a big result for the Iraqi Olympic Committee and a big achievement for our Equestrian Association. Back in Iraq we don't have good horses or a good training field."



"It's very difficult for us to be here, but we decided to come to Muscat to show Olympic solidarity. It would be great if other countries could help us build a new track and new training facilities in Iraq. That would really help our development."

Team official Chasib Al Huraishawi is pictured with team member Osamah Liwa.



Japan

Double Asian Games champion Chisato Fukushima has been named Athlete of the Year by the Japan Association of Athletics Federations. Fukushima, 22, became the first Japanese woman to sweep the 100 and 200 metres titles at the 16th Asian Games in Guangzhou, China, in November. She set national records at both distances during the season.

News and sports round-up from the 45 NOCs



Jordan

HRH Prince Feisal Al-Hussein, President of the Jordan Olympic Committee and IOC member, attended the first meeting of the newly-formed IOC Entourage Commission at Lausanne in December. Following recommendations at the Olympic Congress in Copenhagen in 2009, the Entourage Commission was established with the mission to address matters relating to coaches, trainers and the athlete entourage in general.



Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan successfully defended the men's water polo title from the 1st Asian Beach Games in Bali in 2008 by securing the gold medal again, at Al Musannah Sports City. It was Kazakhstan's only gold of the Games, and along with two silvers helped them to finish 11th in the final medals table of Muscat 2010.



Korea

PyeongChang has completed its candidature file for its bid to host the 2018 Winter Olympics. Cho Yang-ho, CEO of PyeongChang's 2018 bid committee, joined by Korean Olympic Committee President Park Yong-sung and Lee Kwang-jae, Governor of Gangwon Province, signed the finalised proposal in a special ceremony held in central Seoul on January 6.

The candidate file, which responds to 261 questions posed by the IOC, was prepared by a team of experts over a span of six months. The content includes detailed proposals for an athlete-focused Winter Games and PyeongChang's efficient multi-transport network, including the new high-speed railway that will connect Seoul and PyeongChang in 50 minutes, according to the bid committee.

(Korea Herald)



Kuwait

Athletes from Kuwait competing under the IOC flag won a total of six medals at the 2nd Asian Beach Games in Oman, clinching seventh place in the final medals table based on both the number of gold medals (2) and number of total medals. As well as the two gold medals, Kuwait added three silver and one bronze.



Kyrgyzstan

Guangzhou Asian Games medal winners will receive apartments and cash bonuses ranging from US\$15,000 for wrestling champion Daniyar Kobonov to US\$10,000 for two silver medalists and US\$5,000 for two bronze medal-winners. Almazbek Kacenov, director of the state agency of physical culture and sport of the Kyrgyz Republic, announced the awards at a press conference.

Coaches will receive half the amount. Kyrgyzstan finished 25th in the

final medals table in Guangzhou with one gold, two silver and two bronze medals.

(<http://eng.24.kg>)



Lao

The executive board of the Lao National Sport Committee and nine outstanding athletes were honoured at an awards night for achievements in 2010. Committee Chairman Dr. Phouthong Seng-akhom presented the awards to athletes who raised the reputation of the nation in international events.

The recipients were: Mr. Lamnao Singto (football), Mr. Phoudthavong Outhasack (taekwondo), Mr. Phosay Aphailath and Mrs. Paloi Barkkham (both wushu) and Mrs. Noytavanh Paseuth, Mrs. Manivan Souliya, Mrs. Chansamone Vongsavath, Mrs. Manivan Boudsaba and Mr. Savath Vilaypimsamone (all petanque).

(Lao News Agency)



Lebanon

Youth and Sports Minister Ali Abdullah has unveiled a 10-year strategy seeking to "generalise the culture of youth" and make sports facilities accessible to youth from all ages. The 2010-2020 strategy also seeks to strengthen the participation of different Lebanese groups in sports activities and to professionalise certain sports to achieve good results in Arab, Asian and international games.

(www.beirut.com)



Macau

Ethiopia's Tekeste Nekatibeb Nurelign and Wang Xueqin from China won the men's and women's segments, respectively, of the 29th Macau Galaxy Entertainment International Marathon on December 5.

Sanctioned by the Association of International Marathons and Distance Races, the event was first held in 1981 and has been co-organised annually by the Sport Development Board and the Macau Athletic Association. Some 4,600 participants from 54 countries and regions took part in the various categories.

(Macau News)



Malaysia

The 14th National Olympic Academy Session for Young Sports Leaders, organised by the National Olympic Academy of Malaysia, will be held from January 25-30, 2011, at Wisma OCM, Jalan Hang Jebat, Kuala Lumpur. The best Malaysian male and female participant will be selected to represent Majlis Olimpik Malaysia at the International Olympic Academy Session at Olympia, Greece, in June/July 2011.

News and sports round-up from the 45 NOCs

The OCM's 4th Advanced Sport Management Course 2011 will be held as follows: Session 1, February 24-27; Session 2, May 19-22; Session 3, August 4-7; Session 4, October 6-9. The closing date for applications is January 31.



Maldives

Vice President Dr Mohamed Waheed inaugurated a programme, jointly organised by the Ministry of Human Resources, Youth and Sports and the Swimming Association of the Maldives, to clean Malé swimming area. The Maldives National Defence Force, Divers' Association of the Maldives and swimmers of the Swimming Association of the Maldives participated in the programme.

(www.nocmaldives.org)



Mongolia

Mongolia NOC celebrated its annual Olympic gala "Burtu Chono" to honour its sporting heroes in kind collaboration with Mongolian National Broadcasting on December 23, 2010. HE Mr Ts Elbegdorj, President of Mongolia, presented the Burtu Chono (mythical wolf) Trophy to Ms S Battsetseg, Mongolia's first ever female wrestling world champion in Moscow, in the presence of NOC President Dr D Zagdsuren.



The other best athletes were: M Bundmaa, Kh Tsagaanbaatar (both judo), G Mandakhnaran, G Naranchimeg (both wrestling), Ts Khongorzul (shooting), M. Davaajaragal (sumo), B Ganbat (national wrestling), B Munguntuul (chess), B. Ser-Od (marathon).



Myanmar

Myanmar collected two silver medals – both in beach sepaktakraw – at the 2nd Asian Beach Games to finish 17th in the overall medals table. They lost both men's finals to Thailand in the team and regu events.



Nepal

Nepal competed in two sports at the 2nd Asian Beach Games – bodybuilding and beach kabaddi – but failed to take home a medal.

(www.nocnepal.org.np)



Oman

The Oman Olympic Committee used the platform of the 2nd Asian Beach Games to promote the work of the Oman Sports and Environment Committee, which was formed in 2009.

The kiosk was located at the Cultural Village in Al Musannah Sports City, and staff handed out leaflets to increase the awareness of environmental values and sustainable development.



Pakistan

Pakistan Chess Federation Secretary Abdus Salim believes that neither chess nor its players have any proper identity in Pakistan as the mind game is not encouraged. "We have a pool of talent in our country and I believe that if our players are polished well they too can be on top of the world rankings," Salim said.

Salim wants Pakistani chess players to participate in as many international tournaments as possible to improve their skills, but due to limited resources they are unable to do so.

(Associated Press of Pakistan)



Palestine

The Palestinian national football team is set to tour Pakistan in February 2011, according to Pakistan Football Federation President Faisal Salah Hayat.

Hayat said the Palestinian team would play in the eastern city of Lahore on February 27 and Karachi on March 2. "After the two-match series, Pakistan will tour Palestine in March and another two-match series will be played," he added.

(AFP)

News and sports round-up from the 45 NOCs



Philippines

The Philippine Handball Federation has received the recognition of the Philippine Olympic Committee as its newest voting member, according to a report in the Philippine Daily Inquirer. PHF President and POC Secretary-General Steve Hontiveros says OCA President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, who is also President of the Asian Handball Federation, has already declared his full support for the PHF.



Qatar

The sports affairs department of the Qatar Olympic Committee will organise a physical fitness programme for women from February 2-28 at the indoor hall of Al-Ahnaf bin Qais preparatory independent school. The programme aims to improve women's physical fitness and increase prevention against modern-day diseases such as obesity, while making sport an integral part of their daily life.



Saudi Arabia

The Gulf Union for Sports Information has awarded Prince Sultan bin Fahd bin Abdulaziz, President of Youth Welfare of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Al-Wafa'a (Loyalty) Medal of Merit in recognition of his support for sports media and their personnel in the GCC countries. The award took place during a reception held by Prince Sultan bin Fahd for the Gulf Union Sports Information delegation at his residence in Doha, Qatar, on January 11, on the sidelines of the AFC Asian Cup 2011. During the event, the two sides exchanged cordial talks. The reception was attended by a number of officials and media representatives.

(Saudi Press Agency)



Singapore

History was made on December 5 as a record-breaking 60,000 runners took to the streets at the inaugural Standard Chartered Marathon Singapore 2010. Flagged off from three different start points, runners found themselves pounding through some of Singapore's key iconic landmarks, which included Orchard Road, Chinatown, Sentosa, Universal Studios Singapore, Marina Bay Sands and the Singapore Flyer. (Singapore Sports Council)



Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka will host the inaugural South Asian Beach Games in Hambantota this year, the President of the National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka, Mr. Hemasiri Fernando, has announced.

"The South Asian nations have been discussing to have this type of Beach Games for nearly five years. In fact, Maldives and Bangladesh put forward their bids to host the first ever Games. However, we wanted to prove a point before we present our host bid for the 2018 Commonwealth Games, and all South Asian NOCs gave their consent to our last-minute bid," Mr. Fernando said.



Syria

Syrian swimming hero Saleh Mohammad, 24, defended his 5km open water title at the 2nd Asian Beach Games in Muscat but had to settle for silver in the 10km marathon after a tight finish. Saleh was named Samsung MVP of the inaugural Asian Beach Games in Bali in 2008 for winning both races, and now has three gold medals and one silver from his two appearances in the Beach Games.



Chinese Taipei

Witnessed by President Thomas Tsai of the Chinese Taipei Olympic Committee, the Association of Mexican Olympians and the Association of Olympic Medallists of Mexico signed a Collaborative Agreement with the Athletes Commission of the CTOC on December 20.

The very first agreement - signed by Daniel Aceves Villagran, President of AOM/MOM and Chih-Hsiung Huang, Chairman of CTOC Athletes Commission - highlights a new page of exchange programmes for athletes of Mexico and Chinese Taipei.



The Agreement provides the opportunity for athletes from both countries to exchange and share experiences under the framework of the Olympic Movement through a series of cultural, sports and education programmes on a regular basis, thereby further enhancing relationships of both National Olympic Committees.



Tajikistan

Tajikistan's National Olympic Committee expects at least 10 Tajik athletes to qualify for the London 2012 Olympic Games. NOC Vice President Shirin Mamadsafojev noted that 15 athletes of Tajikistan were now NOC grant-holders and said they hoped that 10 or 12 of them would qualify for the London 2012 Olympic Games.

A two-week training course for reporters covering sports concluded in Dushanbe on December 28.

(Asia-Plus)



Thailand

Thai youngsters dominated from start to finish in winning the three-day

News and sports round-up from the 45 NOCs

Optimist team event at the IODA World Sailing Championships off Malaysia's Langkawi islands on January 3. Spearheaded by 15-year-old female prodigy Noppakao Poonpat, Thai sailors monopolised the top of the leaderboard from New Year's Day onwards.

Noppakao, who won the 16th Asian Games Women's Dinghy Optimist gold medal at Shanwei in November, grabbed two first-place finishes along with one second and one third. The other team members were Jirawat Jakklay, Totsapon Mahawichean and Sarawuth Phetsiri.

(The Nation)



Timor-Leste

Despite finishing empty-handed at the 16th Asian Games and 2nd Asian Beach Games, 2010 was a valuable learning experience for Timor-Leste. Vice Prime Minister for Social Affairs Jose Luis Guterres, who is also President of the Timor-Leste National Olympic Committee, said: "We just want to participate in the Games and share our friendship among Asian people. We just need our athletes to gain more competition experience and know more friends."

(Asian Volleyball Confederation)



Turkmenistan

The Host City Contract Signing Ceremony for the 5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games Ashgabat 2017 was held at the Regency Hotel in Kuwait City on December 19. OCA President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah and Turkmenistan Deputy Prime Minister Deryageldi Orazov, together with Ashgabat Mayor Shamuhamet Durdiliyev, signed the contract.



"It's our great honour to receive His Excellency in Kuwait City and we are happy to sign the host city contract with Turkmenistan and Ashgabat city," the OCA President said.

"The OCA recognises the efforts made by Turkmenistan and the city of Ashgabat, and we are looking forward to hosting our 5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games for the first time in the central Asia region," Sheikh Ahmad added.

Turkmenistan, independent from the former Soviet Union since 1991, is investing US\$5 billion in an Olympic city.



United Arab Emirates

UAE won arguably the most prestigious title of the 2nd Asian Beach Games by beating hosts Oman in a penalty shootout in the beach soccer final, avenging their 3-1 defeat to the same side in the 2008 final in Bali. UAE won a total of four medals (two gold and two silver) to finish ninth in the final standings.



Uzbekistan

Boxers from Uzbekistan won two gold and one bronze medal at the traditional international youth boxing tournament in Azerbaijan's capital Baku. Shahobiddin Zairov (49kg) and Akmal Kasimov (64kg) won gold and Ulugbek Mubinov (91kg) took bronze.

(Uzbekistan National News Agency)



Vietnam

Athletes from Hanoi and Tay Ninh Province finished on top in the women's and men's events respectively at the 14th National Taekwondo Championships in December. Hanoi won three gold medals in the women's events while Tay Ninh took three gold medals in the men's competitions.

The event – entitled the South Korean Ambassador Cup because it was organised by the Vietnam Taekwondo Federation in cooperation with the South Korean Cultural Center in Vietnam and the Hanoi Department of Culture, Sports and Tourism – attracted more than 300 athletes from 40 clubs.

(www.vnnnews.net)



Yemen

Two medals in tent pegging – a silver in Indian File and a bronze for Hamza Al-Yami in the individual sword - and three medals in total enabled Yemen to finish in 20th position at the 2nd Asian Beach Games. Their collection of three (one silver, two bronze) moved them up to 15th in rank by total.



Cricket bats on in 2014

Cricket, which made such a successful Asian Games debut in Guangzhou last November, will remain in the sports programme for the 17th Asian Games in Incheon, Korea, in 2014.

So, too, will karatedo, but softball misses out as the number of sports is cut from 42 in Guangzhou to 36 in keeping with the OCA directive of 2009 to reduce the size of the Asian Games.

The OCA issued a press release on December 8, 2010, after finalising the sports programme with the 2014 Incheon Asian Games Organising Committee.

IAGOC had proposed a total of 35 sports - the 28 at the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, plus baseball, bowling, kabaddi, sepaktakraw, softball, squash and wushu – but the OCA wanted to retain cricket due to its popularity with spectators, sponsors and broadcasters, and karatedo because of its strong Asian roots and global participation.

“As per the OCA Constitution, the OCA has the sole authority to approve the sports programme,” the OCA statement said.

The programme for 2014, therefore, will comprise the 28 Olympic sports plus baseball, bowling (using existing venues as recommended by the OCA), kabaddi, sepaktakraw, squash, wushu, cricket (temporary venues) and karatedo.

As for the marketing release, the OCA and IAGOC will follow the “Guangzhou method” for the 2014 Asian Games.



Cricket makes its debut at the 16th Asian Games in Guangzhou

The revenue generated will be shared as per the OCA Constitution, with the OCA taking one third of the total and IAGOC retaining two thirds.

The OCA has allotted the 4th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games 2013 to Incheon. The Games will feature a maximum of nine sports appropriate to be tested for the 2014 Asian Games.

Diary of Events



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



January 31, 2011
57th OCA Executive Board Meeting
Astana-Almaty, Kazakhstan



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



June 16 - 23, 2012
3rd Asian Beach Games, Haiyang 2012
Haiyang, China



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



2013
4th Asian Indoor & Martial Arts Games, Incheon 2013
Incheon, Korea



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



2017
5th Asian Indoor & Martial Arts Games, Ashgabat 2017
Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

OCA Sponsors Club

