

THE FUN STARTS HERE

INCHEON ASIAN GAMES CELEBRATIONS ARE UP AND RUNNING

NOC Spotlight: Maldives

Asia's Sports Leaders: HRH Tunku Imran

News Digest Special on Japan



Contents

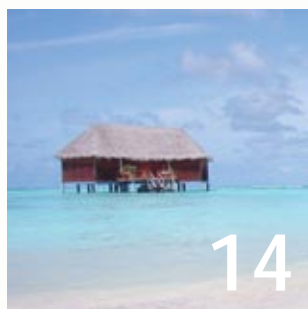
Inside your 32-page Sporting Asia



4



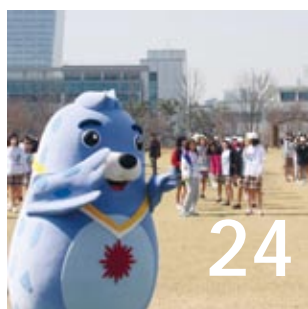
8



14



22



24

3

OCA President's Message
OCA President retains post as Deputy PM

4 - 5

News Digest Special:
Tragedy in Japan

6 - 7

News Digest:
- Six new events for Winter Olympics
- IOC honour for Jordan NOC

8 - 11

Asia's Sports Leaders:
- HRH Tunku Imran

12 - 13

Inside the OCA:
- 16th Asian Games sponsors' ceremony
- OCA attends African convention

14 - 18

NOC Spotlight:
- Maldives

19

Sport and the Environment

20 - 21

Haiyang Asian Beach Games 2012
Update

22 - 23

OCA pays first visit to Nanjing

24 - 25

Fun Runs mark 2014 Asian Games
countdown

26 - 31

News and sports round-up from 45 NOCs

32

Plans underway for Phuket 2014
Diary of Events
OCA Sponsors' Club

SPORTING ASIA

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

Executive Editor / Director General
Husain Al-Musallam
husain@ocasia.org

Art Director / IT Manager
Amer El Alami
amer@ocasia.org

Director, Int'l & NOC Relations
Vinod Tiwari
vinod@ocasia.org

Director, Asian Games Department
Haider A. Farman
haider@ocasia.org

Editor
Jeremy Walker
jeremy@ocasia.org

Executive Secretary
Nayaf Sraji
nayaf@ocasia.org

Media Manager
Jian Zhou
jeans@ocasia.org

Graphic Designer
Abdul Muneem Khan
khansaab_29@yahoo.com

Printed by:
Raonaq International Press
Kuwait

Olympic Council of Asia
PO Box 6706, Hawalli
Zip Code 32042
Kuwait

Telephone: +965 25734972
Fax: +965 25734973
Email: info@ocasia.org
Website: www.ocasia.org

FRONT COVER:

Putting the fun in the fun run for the Incheon Asian Games 2014 in Dili, East Timor.

SO SADDENED BY TRAGEDY IN JAPAN

I was so saddened to learn of the triple tragedy that struck Japan on March 11.

The 9.0 magnitude earthquake, followed by the devastating tsunami and ensuing nuclear crisis, hit the nation hard. It will take years to rebuild the affected areas in the north-east of the country and for life to return to normal, if that can be possible under such traumatic circumstances.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere condolences over the loss of life, and I urge all international sports organisations to offer the necessary humanitarian aid to help Japan recover as quickly as possible from this disaster.

The Japan Olympic Committee has played such an important role in sports development and in the Olympic Movement in Asia for many years. As President of the Olympic Council of Asia I assure you that the Asian Olympic Family will stand together with the JOC to overcome this difficult period.

Since the disaster struck it has been very moving to see the global display of unity for Japan, including messages of sympathy and support from National Olympic Committees, sports federations and from individual sports fans.

Japan is one of the top sports nations in Asia and the world, and with the OCA we have been able to experience their excellent organisation, hospitality and advanced sports facilities on many occasions.

After the tragedy it was important to act quickly, which is why the OCA formed a three-member emergency committee to assist and coordinate with the JOC.

HRH Prince Feisal Bin Al-Hussein, Chairman of the Peace Through Sport Committee, has been appointed to chair this



sub-committee. The other two members are OCA Finance Committee Chairman Dr Feng-Shu Chang (Chinese Taipei) and International Relations Committee Chair Mrs Rita Subowo from Indonesia.

The OCA has been actively assisting its National Olympic Committee members to recover from natural disasters in the past years, for example offering funds to those countries badly affected by the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami to rebuild sports facilities.

We will do everything in our power to assist Japan.

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

OCA PRESIDENT RETAINS DPM POST

Olympic Council of Asia President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah has retained his position as Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs in the new Kuwaiti Cabinet announced by Prime Minister HH Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

The announcement of the new 16-member Cabinet was witnessed by HH the Emir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah at the swearing-in ceremony on Sunday, May 8.

Sheikh Ahmad is also reappointed as State Minister for Housing and Development.

Kuwait, which sits on 10 per cent of the global oil reserves, pumps about 2.3 million barrels a day. Its income from oil in the 2010/2011 fiscal year which ended March 31 was \$70 billion.

Kuwait is the fifth largest oil producer in OPEC and has an estimated \$300 billion of surplus.

Sheikh Ahmad has been a veteran political figure in the Kuwaiti royal family, playing a significant role in Kuwait's economic and social development, especially in easing social tension in the recent unrest in the Arab world.

Sheikh Ahmad has served as OCA President since 1991 and has been an IOC member since 1992.

He has received many distinguished global awards for his outstanding service in sport, such as the Sports Merit Award by the President of Turkey, the Highest Civilian Award by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Saudi Sports Order by HRH Prince Sultan, General Director of Saudi Youth and Sports.



Fans show their support for Japan at the Hong Kong Rugby Sevens. Photo: HKRFU

SPORTS WORLD READY TO HELP JAPAN

On the afternoon of Friday, March 11, a 9.0 magnitude earthquake struck off the north-east coast of Japan, producing a tsunami that devastated coastal areas and claimed thousands of lives.

The world was shocked by the ferocity of the natural disaster, which was compounded when a nuclear power plant on the coast of Fukushima Prefecture suffered extensive damage and leaked radioactive materials into the air and sea.

By the end of April, over 27,000 people were confirmed dead or missing, making the March 11 quake-tsunami the biggest catastrophe in Japan since the end of World War II when atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945.

The world was quick to express its sympathy and support for Japan, with the global sports community very much at the forefront of the response.

IOC President Jacques Rogge met with Japanese Olympic Committee President Tsunekazu Takeda at IOC Headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland, six days after the disaster and commented: "We are appalled at the destruction the earthquake and tsunami wrought. The entire Olympic Movement is with Japan at this tragic time and we will do whatever we can to help the country recover."

Sports stadiums suffered extensive damage along with other infrastructure, and the domestic sports schedule was thrown into turmoil as events were postponed, cancelled or, in the case of the ISU Figure Skating World Championships, moved to another country.

The JOC was overwhelmed with the response, prompting President Takeda to write a personal letter of appreciation.

"Thank you very much for your heartfelt words and encouragement you have shown to the Japanese Olympic Committee," he wrote.

"This 9.0 magnitude earthquake and tsunami have left so much damage, especially to the north-eastern part of Japan. It is really a devastating moment for our country.

"Fortunately enough the City of Tokyo, including the JOC headquarter-building and the venues of the 1964 Tokyo Olympic Games, remains without any damage. With this Olympic Legacy still strongly alive, we are determined to bring out the importance of the Olympic value.

"Now, we are slowly getting over this disaster and rebuilding our community, with solidarity and tolerance, respecting each other. "I would like to once again thank you and the Olympic Family for your compassion towards Japan and to the JOC."

News Digest Special: Japan Tragedy



Japanese players pay their own tribute at a charity football match. Photo: Kyodo News



A "Pray for Japan" banner at the Hong Kong Rugby Sevens. Photo: HKRFU



Rugby players join forces. Photo: HKRFU



Former national coach Takeshi Okada offers a helping hand. Photo: Kyodo News



Hurdler Dai Tamesue shows his support. Photo: Kyodo News



Young football fans offer encouragement. Photo: Kyodo News



Action from the men's ski jumping competition at the 7th Asian Winter Games in Kazakhstan.

IOC ADDS SIX NEW EVENTS TO SOCHI PROGRAMME

The International Olympic Committee has confirmed the inclusion of six new events on the programme of the Olympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russia, in 2014. They are ski half-pipe (men and women), women's ski jumping, biathlon mixed relay, figure skating team event and luge team relay. The decision was taken at the IOC Executive Board meeting in London on April 5-6.

The key positive factors included whether the changes would increase universality, gender equity and youth appeal, and, in general, add value to the Games. Other considerations included the cost of infrastructure, and the impact on the overall quota and the number of events.

"The inclusion of these events on the Olympic Winter Games programme is sure to be appreciated by athletes and sports fans alike," said IOC President Jacques Rogge.

"These are exciting, entertaining events that perfectly complement the existing events on the sports programme, bring added appeal and increase the number of women participating at the Games. I look forward to watching the athletes compete in these events in Sochi 2014."

Five other events - ski slopestyle (men and women), snowboard slopestyle (men and women) and Alpine team parallel competition - are subject to a further feasibility study.

Other news from the meeting included:

☀ The IOC EB decided to recognise the International Floorball Federation.

☀ The IOC announced that American Alpine skier and Olympic champion Lindsey Vonn had agreed to become the first

ever Winter Youth Olympic Games Ambassador for the inaugural Winter YOG in Innsbruck, Austria, in 2012.

☀ The EB decided to nominate three people for IOC membership: José Perurena Lopez (Spain), Gerardo Werthen (Argentina) and Barbara Kendall (New Zealand). The IOC Session will vote on the prospective new members in Durban, South Africa, in July.

IOC STILL TROUBLED BY INDIA SITUATION

The IOC Executive Board noted that, further to a meeting in Lausanne last June between the IOC, the NOC of India and representatives of the Indian Government, the NOC of India has adopted new statutes in line with the Olympic Charter and the basic universal principles of good governance endorsed by the Olympic Congress in 2009. As a result, these new statutes were approved by the IOC.

It appears, however, that the government of India is still failing to respect the jurisdiction and autonomy of the NOC and the Olympic Movement and is drafting new sports legislation which may not be compatible with the Olympic Charter and the basic principles which govern the Olympic Movement.

Consequently, the Executive Board clearly indicated that it would reserve its right to consider appropriate measures at its next meeting in early July 2011 in Durban.

This may, unfortunately, impact the representation and participation of India on the international sports scene and at the Olympic Games, in particular, if the government of India does not observe its commitment to respect the jurisdiction and autonomy of the NOC and the Olympic Movement. (www.olympic.org)

CONSTRUCTION COMPLETE ON LONDON 2012 STADIUM

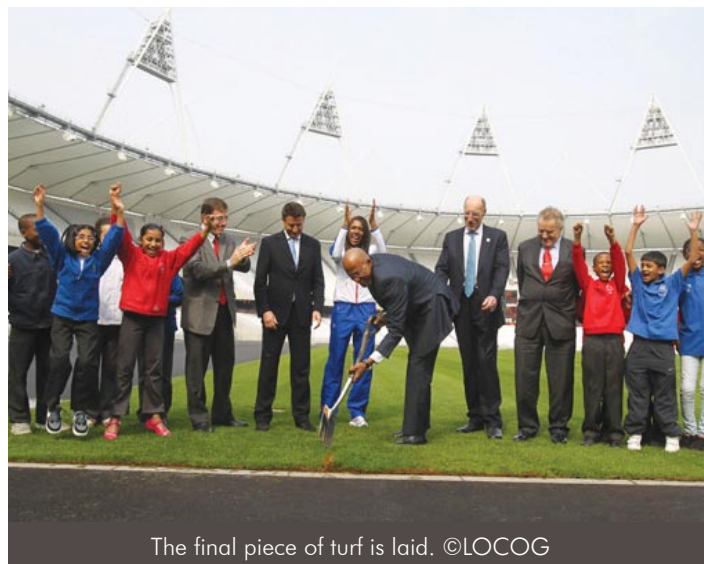
Construction on London 2012's Olympic Stadium is now complete. Started in May 2008, the 80,000-seat stadium has grown over the past three years from its foundations into one of the most remarkable buildings on London's eastern skyline.

The final piece of turf was laid at an event attended by IOC Coordination Commission Chairman Denis Oswald, IOC Athletes' Commission Chairman Frankie Fredericks, London 2012 Chair Sebastian Coe, Olympic Delivery Authority Chairman John Armitt, IOC Olympic Games Executive Director Gilbert Felli and 400m hurdles Olympic medallist Tasha Danvers.

Commenting on the occasion, Denis Oswald said: "What a fantastic stadium! As host of the Opening and Closing Ceremonies this arena will provide the first and last memories that many people will have of London. I have no doubt that it will provide the perfect stage."

Fredericks added: "Athletes that have spent a lifetime training for their Olympic dream deserve to be able to achieve it in the best possible conditions. I believe that those competing here in 2012 will not be disappointed."

The final track surface will be laid later this year in order to avoid it being damaged during the large amount of temporary overlay construction that will be needed in preparation for the ceremonies and the Games.



The final piece of turf is laid. ©LOCOG

JORDANIAN WINS IOC AWARD



Nareen Al Hajj Tass, Coaching and Education Department Manager at the Jordan Olympic Committee, has won the IOC's Women and Sport Award for Asia.

Nareen was chosen by a special committee formed by the IOC, and she will now attend a ceremony on June 23 in Lausanne, Switzerland, to receive her award from Dr. Jacques

Rogge, IOC President, and Anita DeFrantz, President of the IOC's Women and Sport Committee.

HRH Prince Feisal Al Hussein, President of the JOC, IOC Member and IOC Women and Sport Committee member, will also be in attendance.

"This is a huge honour, not only for Nareen but for the whole of the Jordanian sporting community," said Lana Al Jaghbeer, JOC Secretary General.

"This shows the development in Jordanian Sport, which has come through the vision and directives of HRH Prince Feisal." Source: www.joc.jo

NEWS IN BRIEF

With an unprecedented 133 entries from 36 countries, the IOC/International Association for Sports and Leisure Facilities (IAKS) Award 2011 has set a new participation record. As well as numerous projects from Germany and Spain, attractive sports facilities from Canada, Africa and the Far East have also been entered. The prizes will be presented at the 22nd IAKS Congress from October 26-28. (www.olympic.org)

The International Swimming Federation (FINA) has announced that the cities/national federations of Guadalajara (Mexico), Guangzhou (China), Hong Kong, Kazan (Russian Federation) and Montreal (Canada) have presented formal bids to host the 16th FINA World Championships in 2015 and the 17th edition in 2017.

With the deadline for applications to host the 2017 World Championships in Athletics now passed, the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) has received five candidatures: Germany (Berlin), Great Britain (London), Hungary (Budapest), Qatar (Doha) and Spain (city to be announced). More details on www.iaaf.org.

The IOC has announced an agreement with ELTA Technology Co. Ltd. for the broadcast and exhibition rights within Chinese Taipei to the Games of the XXX Olympiad (2012) in London. ELTA has acquired the broadcast and exhibition rights across all broadcast platforms, including free-to-air television, subscription television, radio, the internet and mobile phone.

PROFILE

Name: HRH Tunku Imran

Date of birth: March 21, 1948

Age: 63

Sports career: Squash, national champion (1973) and member of the national team (1973-1976); cricket, international tour to Hong Kong (1971); rugby, hockey and tennis at university.

Profile: President of the Olympic Council of Malaysia since 1998, HRH Tunku Imran holds senior positions in both the Commonwealth Games Federation and South East Asian Games Federation. He was President of the World Squash Federation from 1989 to 1996 and an Executive Board Member of the International Cricket Council in 1997-1999 and 2001-2008. He became an IOC Member in 2006.



Awards and meetings are all in a day's work for Olympic Council of Malaysia President HRH Tunku Imran

In the first of a new series, Sporting Asia visits Kuala Lumpur to interview the President of the Olympic Council of Malaysia, His Royal Highness Tunku Imran.

OCA 'IS ENVY OF SPORTS WORLD'

Sporting Asia: The Olympic Council of Malaysia was quick to support OCA President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah in his re-election bid. What are his major achievements?

HRH Tunku Imran: I think he has created wealth. OCA is on a much better financial footing than it ever was. I think he has distributed a lot of the wealth so the NOCs of Asia are doing pretty well in comparison with some of their counterparts in other continents.

He has created a lot of activity. There are more games of any sort - whether it is youth or winter, beach, indoor, martial arts - in Asia than in any other continent.

And he has been very inclusive. I think OCA started off being very exclusive in terms of its management and governance but now it is very inclusive and he has managed to get nearly every leader in every NOC some sort of role in OCA.

Even with the IOC members of Asia he has formed an Advisory Council under the chairmanship of Ng Ser Miang and that seems to be working very well. Therefore, through that Advisory Council, the OCA is creating a very good relationship with the other IOC members in other regions and also with the IOC itself.

So I think he has tried to create harmony and balance amongst the sub regions of Asia, and I can see how he is trying to ensure that Games are spread to the different sub regions of Asia. I think he has done an admirable job.



Rugby sevens can make a big impact at Rio 2016, according to HRH Tunku Imran

As an IOC member, what is the image of the OCA amongst IOC members from other continents?

There is no doubt that they see Asia as the growth area in world sport. I think in many ways they envy what we can do here in Asia. There is no doubt that many aspects of the recent Asian Games in Guangzhou were as good if not better than what IOC can achieve in the Olympic Games. So that's something that we in Asia have to be proud of.

I think the other IOC members will certainly be very wary of Asian bidders in future Games and obviously will be aware of the ability of the Asian cities and countries and what they can achieve.

There is, of course, an Asian bidder for the 2018 Winter Olympics: Pyeongchang from Korea. Pyeongchang is there for the third time against Munich and Annecy, and the IOC will choose the host city at the IOC Session in Durban, South Africa, in July.

Pyeongchang have had two really good bids and failed and really deserve to be there. I think it is important that Asia does have another country other than Japan that has hosted a Winter Games.

What are your hopes for rugby sevens at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio?

I think it can be hugely popular in Rio. I think you will find that new teams will emerge, and that the traditional teams should

not rest on their laurels.

If you take a country like the United States, as I understand it they are already promoting rugby sevens at colleges and schools. Imagine the amount of skilful, fast people they can get into rugby sevens - and this goes for so many other countries as well. I think you will find it a most exciting game.

And also, of course, the women's game is really starting from a very low base. Whereas today you have teams like England and Australia and New Zealand where the girls are very strong, that is because of the tradition they have had in the countries.

But you take, again, a United States or a Russia or a China that decides to get into rugby sevens, you are going to get some really quite interesting new teams coming through.

If you remember the Asian Games, the Chinese ladies' team lost in the final because they dropped the ball on the line when they would have won that match against Kazakhstan. So they are going to be there in Rio as a strong force, I reckon.

Actually I should take some credit for getting rugby sevens into the Olympic Games! In 1998 Malaysia put rugby sevens in the Commonwealth Games. Before then, the International Rugby Board had not even thought of putting sevens into the Olympics.

But when they saw the Commonwealth Games Sevens in Kuala Lumpur was so successful and became a core sport in the Commonwealth Games, from then they decided as a strategy they would try and get rugby into the Olympic Games.



Cricket was a big hit on its Asian Games debut in Guangzhou.

What are the chances of 20-20 cricket joining the Olympic Games?

I think 20-20 would be the only form of cricket that has a chance of getting into the Olympics. Cricket needs to show greater globalisation and universality before it is acceptable as a sport by members of the IOC.

It is still regarded very much as a British Commonwealth-type of sport and you really need the winners coming out of non-British, non-Commonwealth countries to show the world it is actually, finally a global game.

But I think it would do quite a lot for television revenue and even for the crowds at the Olympic Games because it is an exciting form of the game.

Will squash make another bid to join the Olympics?

I think all sports that are not on the Olympic programme will continue to try to get on to the Olympic programme because it gives the sport such an incredible boost by being in the Olympics.

I think squash and badminton, probably in the 1980s, were similar types of sport in terms of their public support, popularity and even the universality – in fact squash then was probably more universal than badminton.

But badminton got into the Olympics and since then has really grown into a very good, well-run, exciting racquet sport. At the recent All-England Championships you saw the crowds in England. They were packed every day of the tournament. It has become very popular.

In the Eighties there was the likes of Jonah Barrington, Geoff Hunt, Jahangir Khan...those guys were brilliant. They were well-known figures at the time and when you read a newspaper they were in the headlines. You mentioned Jonah Barrington and people would know who you were talking about.

Today the sport of squash really cannot get into the major mainstream news, which is one of its challenges. You have, for instance, a superb ladies world champion here, Nicol David.

She has won five out of the last six world championships and is not really recognised in any sort of international awards. You would have thought that she should at least be there as a nomination and mention in the Laureus or the Commonwealth Sports Awards, but no; she is sort of overlooked.

So I think this is something the World Squash Federation really needs to do: it needs to get its tournaments and its players known to the world. It has got to have a better public image and a higher profile.

As a sports fan, who is your favourite sportsman and sportswoman?

My all-time favourite sportsman is the West Indies cricketer Sir Garfield Sobers. To me he was just the epitome of such high skill in every department. He was both a fast bowler and a spin bowler, a batsman, a fielder, a captain.

He was so graceful in everything he did, whether it was bowling or batting, and a wonderful sportsman. He wouldn't hesitate to walk if he believed he had hit the ball and was caught. As a bowler he was always generous: if the batsman hit him he would applaud. He was just a wonderful person as a human being. I would put him as one of the outstanding sportsmen of all time.

Unfortunately it is not an Olympic sport – it is an Olympic-recognised sport, by the way - but it may be in the future because in the Asian Games, of course, we started cricket on a 20-20 basis, so that should grow.

As for my favourite sportswoman, Nicol David from Malaysia is really someone that should have the recognition and does not have the recognition. She is a truly remarkable player. It's her mental toughness, her dedication and commitment to the game, her training schedule is very tough, and she is a wonderful sports-woman on court.

She is a generous loser - whenever she does lose - and a real credit to the game of squash.

If you could change any rules in modern-day sport, what would they be?

I would make it two points for any kick in rugby, instead of three for a penalty and for a drop-goal. I think that modern rugby is

relying on kicks, kicks winning games.

A lot of the argument against reducing the penalty kick from three points to two is that it would increase the number of professional fouls. But now in rugby you have a sin bin. If a player commits a professional foul, give the other team the chance to kick two points and send the player to the sin bin for 10 minutes. This makes a big difference.

You would have to kick four penalty goals to negate a converted try, so surely the captains will want to go for the converted try rather than just get another penalty.

I also think there is a need for technology in another major sport in the world, football. In football you do not win by many goals - one goal is enough - and if you do not use technology then you are going to get results that are going the wrong way.

The line technology is so obvious they should use it – but only in cases of a goal. There is no point using the line technology on the sideline to see whether the ball went out or not, just over the goal line.

Also they should use technology where a penalty is involved, but still give the opportunity for the referee - just like in cricket - to make the final decision.

The referee should be able to ask an official sitting "upstairs" a specific question: Was there contact? Did so and so handle the ball? The other argument I heard from the top guys in FIFA is that it would cause too much time lost – but have you noticed if they give a penalty the amount of time they argue anyway!

The referee might as well ask the technology official upstairs and say he will decide in a minute.



Squash star Nicol David talks to the media in Kuala Lumpur

OCA THANKS 52 SPONSORS OF 16TH ASIAN GAMES

The Olympic Council of Asia and 2010 Asian Games organising committee GAGOC held a Sponsors Felicitation Ceremony at the Shangri-La Hotel in Guangzhou, China, on Thursday, March 31. The occasion was to officially thank the 52 sponsors of the 16th Asian Games, which took place in Guangzhou last November, and to invite them to continue their partnership with the OCA through to the 17th Asian Games in Incheon, Korea, in 2014, and beyond.

The 52 sponsors were in five categories: prestige partners (7), partners (6), sponsors (5), exclusive suppliers (7) and suppliers (27).

Speaking on behalf of the OCA, Vice President Timothy Fok said the sponsors had played a major part in the overall success of the 16th Asian Games.

"The marketing department of GAGOC secured 52 sponsors – an incredible achievement considering the unstable global economy," he told the audience.

"On behalf of the OCA I would like to thank all categories of sponsor, from the prestige partners to the partners, sponsors, exclusive suppliers and suppliers.

"Thank you for supporting the Asian Games. Thank you for supporting the Olympic Council of Asia. Thank you for putting your trust and your faith in the OCA brand. We could not have done it without you."

The Director General and Technical Director of the OCA, Husain Al-Musallam, told the corporate community that the 16th Asian Games had built a positive image of Chinese brands around the continent and the world, and had raised the Games to a higher level.

"Through the 16th Asian Games, the OCA really promoted and projected the Chinese companies and products to Asia and the rest of the world. Your support attracted the attention of many different international and world sports organisations. From the feedback we have received, the impact of your support was positive."

Captain Husain invited the sponsors to continue their relationship with the OCA, whose forthcoming multi-sports events include the 2012 Asian Beach Games in Haiyang, China, 2013 Asian Youth Games in Nanjing, China, and 2014 Asian Games in Incheon, Korea. Representatives from all three organisations made presentations to the audience in the hope of attracting sponsors.

GAGOC TO OPEN ASIAN GAMES MUSEUM

The 16th Asian Games in Guangzhou, China, in November 2010 will never be forgotten – and that's official!

On hosting a welcome dinner for a visiting delegation from the Olympic Council of Asia and the Chinese Olympic Committee on Wednesday, March 30, Guangzhou Vice Mayor Xu Ruisheng said an Asian Games Museum would be established in the headquarters building of organising committee GAGOC at downtown Tianhe.

Vice Mayor Xu, who is also Executive Deputy Secretary General of GAGOC, asked the OCA for assistance in gathering material and memorabilia not only for the 16th Asian Games but also for the previous 15 editions dating back to the inaugural event at New Delhi in 1951.

The Guangzhou Asian Games Museum will ensure that the people of Guangzhou city and Guangdong province in southern China will never forget the events of November 2010, when athletes from 45 National Olympic Committees competed for 476 gold medals in 42 sports.



Guangzhou Vice Mayor Xu Ruisheng

OCA JOINS AFRICAN SPORTS CONVENTION IN MOROCCO

The Olympic Council of Asia played a major part in the success of CISA 2011 – the 5th Africa International Sports Convention held in Marrakech, Morocco, from March 17-19.

The OCA was represented by Dr Santiparb Tejavanija, who drew on his decades of work in the International Olympic Movement to explain the winning formula for a bid city.



Dr Santi, adviser to OCA President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, also made a presentation of the various OCA multi-sports events and highlighted the benefits and the legacies for the hosting cities. CISA was delighted with the contribution of the OCA representative.

"Dr Santiparb Tejavanija gratified us with a brilliant presentation and we want to take this opportunity to thank you for your support," Diamil Faye, president of the organising

committee, said in a letter to OCA Director General Husain Al-Musallam.

"We would sincerely like to extend our invitation to OCA to join our speakers' panel every year during CISA as we believe the two continents have a lot to share. OCA's experience in terms of Games and sports management can highly benefit Africa.

"CISA registered the best panels ever with renowned speakers and high-profile guests like Dr Santi."

Sporting Asia lands in Africa

The OCA's official newsletter Sporting Asia landed for the first time on African soil and became one of the most popular magazines at the 5th Africa International Sports Convention.

IOC Executive Board member Sam Ramsamy was just one of the readers welcoming Sporting Asia's appearance in Africa. He also praised OCA's efforts to promote and help Asian sport gain worldwide recognition.

"Sporting Asia is very important for everyone around the world who needs and wants to know about what is happening in Asian sport. I have learned a lot about Asian sport and now have a lot of information. That shows the effort made by OCA to promote its sport to the world," Sam said.

UNIVERSITY HONOUR FOR MALAYSIA'S 'FLYING DOCTOR'

Three OCA dignitaries have received a variety of honours in recent weeks in recognition of their contribution to the world of sport.

OCA Medical Committee Chairman Dr **Mani Jegathesan** - Asia's fastest man in the 1960s – was proclaimed pro-chancellor of Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) at the university's 43rd convocation on Saturday, March 19. Dr Jega is Deputy President of the Olympic Council of Malaysia.

Fellow OCA Executive Board member **Rita Subowo**, President of NOC Indonesia, has received a trophy in recognition of her career in sport from the two main newspapers in Indonesia - Kompas and Bola. Mrs Subowo is Chairwoman of the OCA's International Relations Committee and an IOC member.

OCA Athletes Committee member **Yang Yang** of China has been chosen by IOC President Jacques Rogge to head the IOC Evaluation Commission to assess the candidature of Lillehammer, Norway, for the second Winter Youth Olympic Games in 2016. Yang Yang, an IOC member, won two gold medals, two silver and one bronze in short track speed skating during the course of her Winter Olympics career from 1998 to 2006.



Dr Jega is pictured at the recent Malaysian Sports Stars Awards with OCM colleague Sieh Kok Chi.



Dream land...that's the Maldives.

In the first of a new series with the OCA's 45 affiliated National Olympic Committees, Sporting Asia turns the spotlight on the Maldives. A world-famous tourist destination for its pristine white beaches and turquoise sea, the Maldives is now trying to make its mark in the international sports arena.

MALDIVES ON THE MOVE



MOC President Ibrahim Ismail Ali and Secretary General Ahmed Marzooq at the AGM in March

Think of the Maldives and what comes to mind? Lazy days on the beach...a leisurely swim in the sparkling hotel pool...maybe a spot of water sports in this tropical paradise of the Indian Ocean...

In downtown Male, however, the offices of the Maldives Olympic Committee are a hive of activity. There are courses to be organised, athletes to train and a wide variety of multi-sports events to enter as the Maldives looks to take all aspects of sport and the Olympic movement to a higher level.

With a youthful, five-strong team of permanent staff to support the Executive Board decision-makers and policy-planners, the MOC is making the most out of the various grants and subsidies available from Olympic Solidarity, OCA and its own government and building for a brighter future.

Since gaining independent status from the government on July 11, 2009, the new committee of the MOC has focused on three key areas: developing human resources in terms of

PROFILE

NOC: Maldives Olympic Committee

Year formed: 1980

IOC recognition: 1988

President: Ibrahim Ismail Ali

Vice President: Dr Hussain Haleem

Secretary General: Ahmed Marzooq

Treasurer: Hussain Rasheed

Associations: 20 Members

Address: 2nd Floor, Youth and Sports Development Centre, Male, Republic of Maldives

Telephone: (960) 3346640

Fax: (960) 3346641

Email: info@nocmaldives.org

Website: www.nocmaldives.org



The Maldives team enters the 16th Asian Games opening ceremony in Guangzhou

management and coaching; identifying elite athletes and supporting them with scholarships to train overseas; and promoting the Olympic spirit and movement at grassroots level.

"2010 was a very hectic year as we participated in four major games – the Youth Olympic Games in Singapore, the Commonwealth Games in New Delhi, the Asian Games in Guangzhou and the Asian Beach Games in Muscat," says the MOC President, Ibrahim Ismail Ali.

"In addition to this we organised several courses and sent people to join International Olympic Academy courses in Sri Lanka and Malaysia. We realised there was an acute shortage of human resources in management and coaching and that we needed to develop the standard of the athletes so that we can qualify athletes for the Olympic Games."

The busy sports schedule last year enabled the MOC to select five athletes in three sports – table tennis, athletics and badminton – and provide them with scholarships to cover their training expenses overseas some 18 months before the 2012 London Olympics.

This is all part of a MRF 3.87 million budget approved at the Annual General Meeting in March, and one-third of this amount has been set aside to continue to develop human resources. Courses for 2011 include a women and sport

seminar, sports management and a regional sports medicine course.

With all the courses and events to oversee, the Maldives will continue to move forward at the mid-point of the first four-year cycle for the elected committee.

The President, however, is planning to stand down in 2013 after being involved with the Olympic movement in the Maldives since 1979, first as Secretary General.

His dream is to see the MOC move into a new home, and officials have already met the President of the Republic, Mohamed Nasheed, to discuss the matter.

"The President has promised he will allocate some land for a new headquarters, but it has not been identified yet," said Mr Ibrahim, a teacher by profession and now Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Education.

"We would like to have the land in the very near future so we can start construction on our MOC house. We are planning a six or seven storey-building, but if it is 10 storeys the cost will be US\$1.5 million, or MRF 22.5 million, including all the furnishings."

Clearly, the sports officials in the Maldives want their country to be known for more than its white beaches and turquoise seas.

A female table tennis player, likely from the Indonesian national team, is captured in a moment of intense emotion during a match. She is wearing a red short-sleeved polo shirt with white stripes on the sleeves and a black collar. Her mouth is wide open in a shout, and her eyes are focused. She holds a red table tennis paddle in her right hand. The background is a blurred stadium setting with spectators.

Page 16

Y SIDE OF SPORT



Aagila Haamid goes up for a spike



Ibrahim Fazeel (5) fights for possession on the football field



Moosa Kaleem drives the ball through extra-cover



Fadhuwa Zahir shows her tenacity on the basketball court



Mukthar Naseer celebrates a Maldives goal

MEDIA SEMINAR ATTRACTS 25 PARTICIPANTS

The Maldives Olympic Committee, in association with the Olympic Council of Asia, held a Sports Journalism Seminar from April 11-14 at the Maldives Centre for Social Education in the capital Male.

A total of 25 media representatives from newspapers, television, radio, magazines and sports associations attended the seminar over the course of four days, in what was a ground-breaking move by the MOC.

This was the first such seminar held in the Maldives, and began with an opening ceremony on Sunday, April 10, attended by MOC President Ibrahim Ismail Ali and Secretary General Ahmed Marzooq among other sports dignitaries.

The course was timed to coincide with an Asian Football Confederation AFC Cup Group F match between local team VB Sports and TSW Pegasus from Hong Kong at the National Stadium in Male on Wednesday, April 13.

This enabled the seminar participants to discuss everyday journalism functions such as interviewing technique, research and preparation, match previews, match reporting and pre-match and post-match press conferences in a classroom environ-

ment, and then put the skills into practice in a working situation.

Other subjects included story-gathering methods, the importance of contact-building, news, feature and column-writing, promotion and marketing of a major sports event and the challenges facing traditional media such as newspapers and magazines in the internet era.

There was also a session on the Olympic Council of Asia, its role and objectives, and an introduction to the various multi-sports games in the OCA portfolio. With MOC representatives in attendance, participants were able to forge strong links with their local Olympic officials in order to work together closely and develop sports coverage in the Maldives.

The sports journalism seminar was entitled "Ninety Minutes", as the morning and afternoon sessions were split into two halves of 45 minutes, with a 15-minute break for half-time and 15 minutes of extra time at the end of the 90 minutes for questions and discussion.

It was conducted by the Editor of the OCA newsletter Sporting Asia, Jeremy Walker, whose 30-year career in sports journalism includes over 20 years in Asia.

MALDIVES TO HOST INVITATIONAL BEACH GAMES

Beach Games fever has spread to the Maldives! From September 18-25, the Maldives Beach Games 2011 will take place on nine different beaches of the exotic islands.

It is an international invitational event and is expected to attract more than 500 participants in 10 sports: beach volleyball, beach football, beach bodybuilding, surfing, triathlon, beach kabaddi, beach cricket, open water swimming, windsurfing and rowing.

The icons for the 10 sports are based mostly on the sea shells to be found on the magnificent beaches of the Maldives, and the slogan for the event is "Beat the Beach".

The venues for the Maldives Beach Games 2011 will be Male', Kuda Bandos, Gd. Thinadhoo, Himmafushi and Hdh. Hanimaadhoo.

For further information, contact the Beach Games secretariat at:
admin@mbg2011.org.mv



The beauty of the Maldives awaits beach games athletes.

DOHA DECLARATION POINTS WAY FORWARD

The 9th World Conference on Sport and the Environment concluded on Monday, May 2, in Doha, Qatar, with the sports world renewing its commitment to the environment by framing a clear agenda for action.

The so-called Doha Declaration defined three focus areas in which to direct activities related to the economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable development in sport:

- ☀ Showcasing the contribution of the sports movement to sustainable development at next year's United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (2012 Rio +20 Earth Summit).
- ☀ Engaging young people.
- ☀ Building and strengthening partnerships between the sports world and the UN, governments, local entities, NGOs and others.

The conference, taking place a year ahead of the 20th anniversary of the landmark 1992 Earth Summit in Rio, was attended by leading experts in the world of sustainable development in sport and by over 650 delegates from National Olympic Committees, International Federations, organising committees and other stakeholders.

The three days of meetings from April 30-May 2 were hosted by the IOC and the NOC of Qatar in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme.

The Japan Swimming Federation received the IOC Sport and Environment Award for Asia on

the opening day of the conference, while a special award was given to the NOC of Qatar.

IOC President Jacques Rogge said: "While we can be proud of our achievements, we have also learnt that there is no time for complacency. We owe it to future generations to continue to promote our green agenda and ensure environmental sustainability in sport. I think we have taken a big step towards that with the Doha Declaration."

Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, Secretary General of the Qatar Olympic Committee, added: "I have been delighted with the quality of this conference and the outstanding contributions that have been made by the speakers and so many of the delegates." (www.olympic.org)



The awards ceremony in Doha

OCA Environment Committee plans for a green future

OCA Environment Committee Chairman Yu Kyung Sun visited OCA headquarters in Kuwait on Monday, May 2, to discuss a series of projects with OCA Director General Husain Al-Musallam.

Mr. Yu, who is also President of the Asian Triathlon Federation, praised OCA President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah for promoting the awareness of environment protection in sports-related matters.

"The OCA Environment Committee was founded in 2007 by OCA President Sheikh Ahmad, and we have been directly under his leadership since then," said Mr. Yu.

"Sheikh Ahmad is always interested in environment protection.

He promotes environmental issues and sustainable development even beyond sport. We always appreciate his contribution and support on our Environment Committee."

Mr. Yu said the committee had made big progress in the past four years, producing environment protection criteria and guidelines for the sustainable development of sport.

The next step, he feels, will be the hosting of a regional forum at which environmental projects from each of Asia's five zones will be recognised and rewarded.

"It will also create a perfect platform for different countries in the same region to share their experience in sports events environment protection," he said.

SPORTS PROGRAMME CONFIRMED FOR 3RD ABG

The sports programme and events for the 3rd Asian Beach Games at Haiyang, China, in June 2012 were finalised at a coordination meeting between the Olympic Council of Asia and the organising committee HABGOC on Tuesday, March 29. The 12 sports and 45 events are:

Beach volleyball (2): men's team, women's team.

Beach soccer (1): men's team.

Beach handball (2): men's team, women's team.

Beach sepaktakraw (4): men's regu and team, women's regu and team.

Beach basketball 3-on-3 (2): men's team, women's team.

Beach kabaddi (2): men's team, women's team.

Dragon boat (6): men's 200m straight speed race, men's 500m straight speed race, men's 3,000m round race, women's 300m straight speed race, women's 500m straight speed race, women's 3,000m round race.

Sport climbing (8): men's and women's lead, speed, boulder and speed relay.

Roller skating (8): men's and women's 200m time trial race, 500m spring race, 10,000m points race and 20,000m elimination race.

Woodball (4): men's and women's singles and team.

Powered paragliding (4): precision, economy, overall, team.

Windsurfing (2): men's and women's T293.

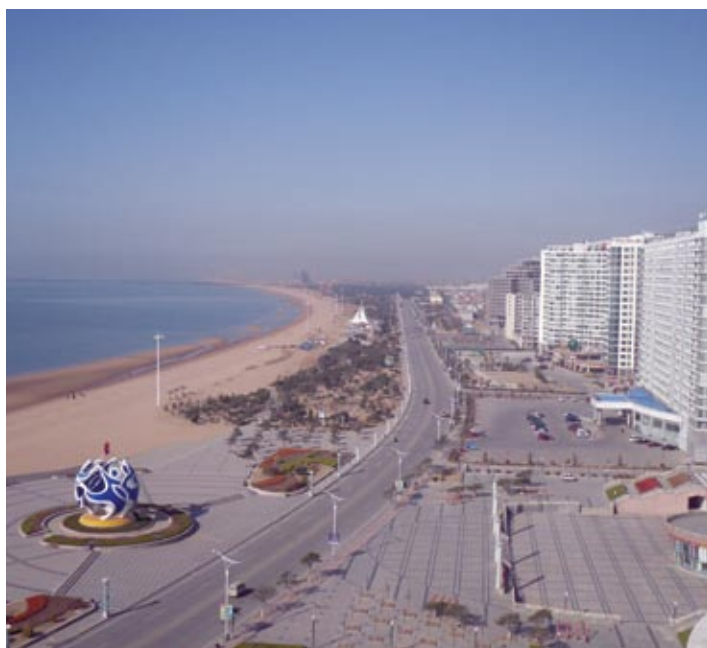
The 3rd ABG will be one of the most compact multi-sports events in OCA history. HABGOC revealed that the furthest venue from the Athletes' Village was Jiulong Lake in the Zhaohushan National Park, site of the dragon boat competition, 20 kilometres away - a journey of some 40 minutes. The other venues, however, are much closer, ranging from 1.3km (3 minutes) for sport climbing to 6km (15 minutes) for roller skating. Two of the most popular sports, beach volleyball and beach soccer, are in the same cluster, just 2.9km (6 minutes) from the Athletes' Village.

The medical services for the Haiyang Games may be expanded to include a helicopter – just in case an emergency sea rescue operation is required for the powered paragliding competition.

In other medical issues, HABGOC has designated two official hospitals to serve the Games, and has established a 10,000-sq metre medical emergency centre staffed by experts from the Qingdao University Medical School. Other services include a clinic in the Games Village and medical stations in competition areas for athletes and spectators and in non-competition venues such as the OCA Headquarters Hotel.

The medical team will number around 500, comprised of 300 doctors, nurses and other trained staff from major hospitals and 200 student volunteers from medical colleges.

At the request of the OCA, HABGOC agreed to increase the number of doping control stations from five to six.



A panoramic view of the sea front at Haiyang City



A warm welcome to Haiyang from Jiang Shili, Managing Director, Executive Office, HABGOC, Mayor of Haiyang Municipal Government.

KEY DATES ON THE ROAD TO HAIYANG 2012

Organisers of the 3rd Asian Beach Games will hold a one-year countdown ceremony at Haiyang on Thursday, June 16, 2011.

At the OCA-HABGOC coordination meeting on March 29, it was also decided to hold the Chefs de Mission Seminar in September on a date to be fixed. It is hoped that Technical Delegates of the 12 sports will be able to attend, in addition to the NOC team leaders and officials from the OCA and organising committee.

Other key dates regarding the 3rd Asian Beach Games are:

Sports Entries: Entry by sports, deadline August 30, 2011. Entry by number, deadline February 29, 2012. Entry by name, deadline April 30, 2012. Delegation Registration Meeting (DRM) from June 3-13, 2012.

Games Village (including Athletes' Village and Media Village): Pre-opening, June 5-8, 2012. Official opening, June 9-25. Games time, June 16-22. Closing, June 26.

Accreditation: September 1, 2011, distribution of accreditation application forms. January 31, 2012, responsible organisations should submit application materials such as accreditation application forms to organising committee HABGOC. March 2012, Pre-Delegation Registration Meetings. April 1, 2012, distribution of pre-valid identity and accreditation cards. June 5-15, Delegation Registration Meetings. June 5, validation, issue-solving, instant production and issuance of identity and accreditation cards.



The emblem for the 3rd Asian Beach Games catches the eye

'SHARE THE JOY' ON ENGLISH WEBSITE

Organisers of the 3rd Asian Beach Games in Haiyang, China, in 2012 are ready to "Share the Joy" – in English!

The official website of the 3rd Asian Beach Games recently opened an English link to enable the international sports community to follow the build-up to the Games.

As well as news on the Games, the English website also introduces the city of Haiyang and the province of Shandong, building up the atmosphere and the environment surrounding the event well over one year in advance.

There is also information on the emblem, slogan, vision and mascots, plus a photo and video section and valuable information for potential sponsors and franchised dealers.

There are four categories of sponsor - senior partners, partners, sponsors and suppliers – and the website will include regular updates.

Organisers plan to recruit over 26,000 volunteers and the training and preparation will be followed closely so that the expected 10,000 Games participants will receive the best service possible.

"Share the Joy" is the official slogan of the 3rd Asian Beach Games.

The English website of the 3rd Asian Beach Games can be accessed at: www.haiyang2012.com/en/



Chen Xin Zi, Vice Mayor of Haiyang City, updates OCA Director General Husain Al-Musallam during a venue tour.

2nd Asian Youth Games

Nanjing, China: August 16 – 24, 2013



Leaders exchange greetings



Relaxing by the lake



Nanjing prepares for a green games



Kites for sale

DATES SET FOR 2013

Led by Director General Husain Al-Musallam, the Olympic Council of Asia paid a first official visit to Nanjing on March 27-28 to discuss preparations for the 2nd Asian Youth Games in 2013.

The 2nd AYG will be held as a full-scale dress rehearsal for the IOC's 2nd Youth Olympic Games in 2014, in the same way the 1st AYG in 2009 prepared Singapore for the IOC's inaugural YOG in August 2010.

A busy schedule on Monday, March 28, began with a visit to the Nanjing Municipal Government offices, where the OCA delegation was greeted by Yang Weize, Secretary of the CPC (Communist Party of China) Nanjing Municipal Committee.

Mr. Yang said it was a particularly special occasion as Captain Husain was the first foreign guest he had received in his first week of work in Nanjing.

"The Asian Youth Games in 2013 means a lot to Nanjing and to the welfare of the Nanjing people," he said. "Nanjing is an ancient, historic and cultural city of the world and has a very prosperous future.

"Since Nanjing signed the host city contract with the OCA last November we have done a lot in the past four

2nd Asian Youth Games

Nanjing, China: August 16 – 24, 2013

ASIAN YOUTH GAMES

months to prepare for the Games. The visit of the OCA will bring an advanced international concept, inventive ideas and experience to the Asian Youth Games."

The OCA delegation, which also included Sports Committee Chairman Zhang Jilong, returned to the Intercontinental Hotel for the working meeting with the preparatory committee, which was followed by a press conference.

The opening ceremony of the 2nd AYG 2013 will take place on Friday, August 16, and the closing ceremony on Saturday, August 24, when the average temperature is around 28C.

Organisers initially proposed nine sports - athletics, swimming (including diving), 3-on-3 basketball, tennis, judo, fencing, weightlifting, football and table tennis - but the OCA is keen to expand the programme to around 20 sports, adding more Olympic disciplines such as handball, taekwondo and shooting and some Asia-friendly events including squash, sepaktakraw and bowling.

The sports programme will be one of the main items on the agenda for the first Coordination Committee meeting, set for October.



Kite-flying on a Sunday afternoon



A warm welcome from the Nanjing Municipal Government



Historical Nanjing



A leafy lane offers shade from the sunshine



Dignitaries show their solidarity at the Incheon Fun Run.

INCHEON ASIAN GAMES ARE UP AND RUNNING

The Incheon Asian Games Organising Committee organised the first official Fun Run of the 17th Asian Games 2014 on Tuesday, April 12, in Incheon Sunrise Park. More than 380 boys and girls from Incheon Haesong high school completed the 2km race.

Incheon City Mayor Song Young Gil and IAGOC President Lee Yun Taek, together with an OCA delegation led by Director General and Technical Director Husain Al-Musallam, attended the fun run and presented commemorative medals and certificates to participants. Incheon will be the third Korean city to host the OCA's showpiece event, after Seoul (1986) and Busan (2002).

Speaking at a press conference, OCA Honorary Life Vice President Wei Jizhong said the Incheon Asian Games 2014 offered another

golden development opportunity for Korea in the new century.

"I remember Korea experienced a very important period last century that was the 1986 Asian Games in Seoul and the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul," he said. "Those two games enabled Korea to enter a new step of national development.

"Now the opportunity again comes to Korea. Incheon will host the Asian Games in 2014 and, hopefully, in 2018, with the full support of the whole of Asia, PyeongChang will have the chance to host the Winter Olympic Games.

"The experience shows us the Asian Games is always first and the priority, so the Asian Games will bring Incheon and Korea to the world. I'm sure Korea will not lose this golden opportunity."

2nd OCA CC meeting

The 2nd OCA Coordination Committee meeting for the 17th Asian Games took place at Incheon Songdo Conventionia on Tuesday, April 12. All attendees observed a one-minute's silence in memory of the victims of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan on March 11.

Incheon Asian Games Organising Committee President Lee Yun Taek welcomed all OCA delegates to Incheon and expressed his condolences and sympathy to the victims of the tragedy. "I also thank Mr. Tsunekazu Takeda and Mrs. Yuko Arakida for their presence at this difficult time," he said.

Mr. Takeda, Chairman of the OCA Coordination Committee and President of the Japanese Olympic Committee, appreciated the support from the Asian Olympic Family and said the OCA had full confidence in IAGOC to host a successful 17th Asian Games.

"Korea has rich experience in staging large international events and OCA is also in a position to offer as much support as possible to IAGOC for a successful Asian Games," he said.

Posters - Incheon 2014



BHUTAN CELEBRATES 2ND INCHEON ASIAN GAMES FUN RUN

The second official Fun Run of the 17th Asian Games 2014 was held in Thimphu – capital city of the “Kingdom of the Thunder Dragon” – on Saturday, April 23. More than 2,000 people participated in the 5km run.

The Bhutan Olympic Committee also organised a rich guest entertainment programme with a mass physical education drill by the Lungtenzampa students, bicycle tricks, taekwondo and junior boxers’ demonstration and free style dances.

Bhutan archery, shooting, football, boxing, table tennis and basketball federations also participated and celebrated the fun run by building stalls at Changlingmithang Stadium to offer fun games and activities for the general public.

The Secretary General of Bhutan Olympic Committee, Mr Sonam Karma Tshering, expressed his happiness that Thimphu had been given this opportunity to promote the 17th Asiad in Incheon.

He said: “With more internationally mandated events like this coming to Bhutan, we hope to steadily increase our exposure on the Asian sports map and pave the way for future champions who will bring to the country sporting glory in the near future.”

OCA Asian Games Director Haider Farman said he was impressed with the enthusiasm and passion for sport from the Bhutanese citizens, and the event proved the popularity of the Incheon Asian Games in Bhutan.



Asian Games fun run in Bhutan

THE DILI DASH FOR INCHEON

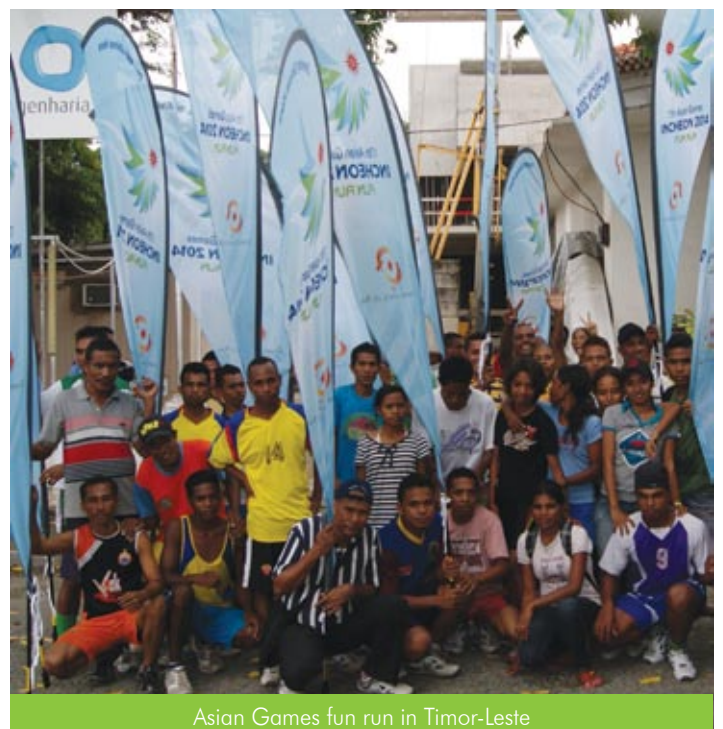
The third official fun run of the Incheon Asian Games 2014 took place on Wednesday, April 27, at East Timor University campus in Dili.

The fun run brought Incheon Asian Games fever into the capital city and increased the general public’s awareness of and interest in the 17th Incheon Asian Games 2014 to be held in Korea.

Athletes from Timor-Leste Athletics Association and students from the local football academy joined in the fun run.

Timor-Leste Olympic Committee Vice President Jorge Amaral de Fatima and Secretary General Fransisco Kalbuadi Lay raised the start flag for the fun run.

The fun run also drew great attention from local media. The only TV station, Televisão Timor-Leste, and all five newspapers - the Daily of Jornal Nacional Diário, Daily of Suara Timor Lorosa’e, Daily of Timor Pos, Daily of Independente and Weekly of Jornal Nacional Semanario - covered the event.



Asian Games fun run in Timor-Leste

News and sports round-up from the 45 NOCs



Afghanistan

Two female Afghan boxers competed in the inaugural AIBA (International Boxing Association) World Youth and Junior Championships in Antalya, Turkey. Afghanistan's Boxing Federation sent Sadaf Rahimi and Shogofa Haidarzada to participate in the event. Some 264 female boxers from 45 different countries took part. Afghanistan is a newcomer to the world of women's boxing, but Afghan fans have high hopes that their fighters will do well.

(www.afghan-web.com)



Bahrain

The chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sport and Bahrain Olympic Committee President Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa on April 24 visited Al Buainain, Al Kaabi and Al Rumaihi families' majlises and conveyed greetings from His Majesty King Hamad. He was accompanied by SCYS first deputy chairman and Bahrain Royal Equestrian and Endurance Federation Chairman Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

(www.gulf-daily-news.com)



Bangladesh

The Bangladesh Olympic Association launched a "Sports for All" pilot project in Noakhali District on March 24, supported by International Inspiration and in collaboration with the British Council Bangladesh, UNICEF and UK Sport. "Sports for All" is a BOA project to revive once-popular local games now facing extinction and to ensure sports participation for all categories of society, irrespective of age and physical capability. The games included Golla Chut, Bou Chi, Saat Chara, Dariabandha, Ha-du-du, Ekka-Dokka, Kho-kho, Lathi khela, ricksaw race and cow-boy race. (www.noc-ban.com)



Bhutan

More than 500 youngsters in 60 teams took part in the first Daimler Street Football Project in the capital Thimphu over two weeks, culminat-

ing in the finals on Sunday, April 24. Forty two teams registered in the open category of the OCA-sanctioned tournament while the schools category had 12 boys' and six girls' teams.



Brunei

The national pencak silat team returned home from the 1st Asian Pencak Silat Championships in Singapore from April 14-17 with three bronze medals. With a total of nine men and three women flying the flag for the Sultanate at the Bedok Sports Hall, the bronze medals came from Md Imanuddin Hj Ahmad (men's tunggal), Siti Noradiyatul Amal Roslan (women's tunggal) and Freddy Ashrul Choo (tanding, class 1, 85-90kg).

(www.bruneiolympic.org)



Cambodia

The National Olympic Committee of Cambodia organised a one-day seminar on sports marketing at the convention hall of NagaWorld. "The idea is to help our federations deal with the finer aspects of sports marketing in a way that will lead to a structured approach," NOCC Secretary General Vath Chamroeun told The Phnom Penh Post. "It has become a branch of expertise in itself, and we would like our members to keep abreast of these new ideas and trends," he said.

(www.phnompenhpost.com)



China

On the evening of April 11, Minister Liu Peng - in charge of the General Administration of Sport in China and President of the Chinese Olympic Committee - gave a dinner reception in Beijing in honour of the visiting Congolese delegation headed by Jacques Yvon Ndolou, Minister of Sport & Sports Education of the Republic of Congo. The two sides also signed an agreement on sports cooperation.

(www.olympic.cn)

News and sports round-up from the 45 NOCs



DPR Korea

A senior German official at FIFA, Theo Zwanziger, along with German journalists and politicians, plan to visit Pyongyang as part of their tour of participating teams at the 2011 FIFA Women's World Cup in Germany.

(Yonhap News Agency)



Hong Kong

The annual sports extravaganza to promote Sport for All - the Bank of China (Hong Kong) 54th Festival of Sport - is being organised by the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China from March to June, supported by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department. The Federation and its 74 National Sports Associations are organising more than 80 sports competitions, demonstrations and carnivals spanning across 18 districts in Hong Kong.

(www.hkolympic.org)



India

The Indian Olympic Association is taking big steps to promote Olympic Day, which is held annually on or around June 23. In a circular to the State Olympic Association, IOA Secretary General Randhir Singh encourages all the States/UT Olympic Associations to organise Olympic Day. "Olympic Day is the annual worldwide event of the Olympic Movement," he says. "It is a day for everyone – regardless of ability – to take the chance to play sport, to run or to exercise."

(www.olympic.ind.in)



Indonesia

NOC Indonesia conducted three IOC Sports Administration Courses from February to April, two in Jakarta and one for East Kalimantan in the city of Samarinda. The NOC now plans to run an IOC Sports Management Course in Jakarta in May 2011.

(www.koni.or.id)



Iran

On April 3, 4 and 5, then 10, 11 and 12, the Iranian Foreign Affairs Ministry, in close cooperation with the Iranian NOC, staged the first Residing Diplomats Futsal Tournament. Held at the National Olympic and Paralympic Academy, this tournament was aimed at strengthening cooperation and friendship among the diplomats based in Tehran. A total of 21 teams took part, three of them from Iran. This initiative was warmly welcomed by the embassies.

(www.olympic.org)



Iraq

Al Kashafa Stadium hosted Iraq's first women's football league competition with the participation of eight clubs from Baghdad and the provinces in order to choose the players of the national women's football team which is about to participate in many competitions.

(www.alsumaria.tv)



Japan

A Japanese Olympic Committee executive wants his country to host major sporting events to show the world it is recovering from the multiple disasters on March 11. The Associated Press reports from London. "We need to be hosting major international events to inspire the whole nation, to encourage the youth of Japan to move forward and aspire to be champions and to significantly boost the morale of the whole nation," said JOC Vice President Masato Mizuno. "International sporting events will also help the international community realise that most of Japan is functioning."

(www.japantoday.com)



Jordan



Lana Al Jaghbeer, Jordan Olympic Committee Secretary General, opened the Olympic Values teaching workshop organised by the JOC in cooperation with the International Olympic Committee. "We at the Jordan Olympic Committee care about the education side of sport and

News and sports round-up from the 45 NOCs

improving the abilities of employees in addition to teaching and promoting the Olympic Values," said Al Jaghbeer. "This kind of project will implement the Olympic Values in our athletes as well as students of all ages across Jordan."

(www.joc.jo)



Kazakhstan has more than 31,000 sports facilities, the Minister of Tourism and Sport, Temirkhan Dosmukhambetov, told the public during Governmental Hour in the Majilis. "In 2010 the number of sports facilities increased by 536, and today the country counts more than 31,000 facilities. As a result, 380,000 more people became systematically engaged in physical culture and sports. The total number is 2.9 million people." The Minister, who is also NOC President, said 17,000 sport events were carried out last year.

(Kazinform)



The Korean Olympic Committee signed a Memorandum of Understanding on April 6 with Brunel University in England for the pre-Games training of the team participating in the 2012 London Olympics. KOC President Park Yong-Sung said: "The excellent facilities at Brunel will be ideal for the training of Team Korea and will help our athletes to acclimatise to the conditions in England in the lead-up to the Games."

(www.koc.org)



The Chairperson of the Gulf Cooperation Council's Women's Sports Organising Committee, Sheikha Na'eima Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, described the GCC's first women's basketball tournament as a "splendid GCC gala" in Doha, Qatar. On the sidelines of the official opening on Friday, April 22, Sheikha Na'eima said: "Our Gulf is one, and we are a single people. These games are a reflection of the sportsmanship that combines us all."

(www.kuna.net.kw)



Kyrgyzstan is set to send a sailor to compete at an ISAF Sailing World Championships for the first time. Ignatev Iliia, 18, will sail in the Laser class at Perth 2011, becoming Kyrgyzstan's first athlete to represent the nation in a major international regatta. Alex Abramov, spokesman for Kyrgyzstan Sailing, said: "We would like Kyrgyzstan to be perceived in the world as a nation that is able to compete with other sailing federations and associations."

(Kabar – Kyrgyz National News Agency)



The Lao National Archery Federation hosted the Asian Archery Championship at Chao Anouvong Stadium, Vientiane Capital, on April 22-26, reports the Lao News Agency. Athletes from Hong Kong, Iraq, Mongolia, Singapore, the Philippines and Thailand took part. After the competition, the Lao National Archery Federation will focus on improving the level of their archers at domestic and international level. Most of the Lao archers are students of the Physical Education Teachers College and they are trained by local coaches.

(www.kpl.net.la)



Lebanon was among 32 national teams with 300 players at the 2011 Asian Senior Judo Championships in Abu Dhabi. The three-day event in early April took place in the UAE Wrestling, Judo and Jujitsu Federation Main Hall. This was a record entry for the senior championships, with 32 of the 39 member associations affiliated to the Asian Judo Federation taking part.



Macau will host the final round of the FIVB World Grand Prix – the annual women's international tournament – for the first time since 2001, and it has been increased from six to eight teams. The top seven teams from the 16-team, three-round qualifying competition will join China in the final round from August 24-28.

(www.fivb.org)



The National Sports Awards Gala for 2010 was held on March 15 in the Grand Ballroom of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. Sportsman of the Year went to track cyclist Mohd Azizulhasni Awang and Sportswoman of the Year to squash champion Nicol David. OCM President HRH Tunku Imran and several other leading Olympic officials were in attendance.

(www.olympic.org.my)

News and sports round-up from the 45 NOCs



Maldives

Former badminton number one Moosa Nashid has been appointed Chef de Mission for the 8th Indian Ocean Island Games in the Seychelles this August. The two Deputy Chef de Missions are Director of Ministry of Human Resources, Youth and Sports, Mohamed Hanim, and Aishath Shifana Wajeeth.

(www.nocmaldives.org)



Mongolia

The Mongolian National Olympic Committee's Women & Sport Commission, in cooperation with the Mongolian Basketball Federation, organised a women's basketball tournament for two age groups and 20 teams and 250 players.

The main goal of the tournament was to support women's basketball, involve more girls in the sport, upgrade their performance and finally to send a women's basketball team to the 2013 East Asian Games in Tianjin, China.

(www.olympic.mn)



Myanmar

Official media hailed the country's archers for winning one gold medal, two silver and two bronze at the 2nd Asian Archery Grand Prix in Vientiane, Laos. The archers brought tremendous dignity to the country during the event, said the New Light of Myanmar.

Ye Min Swe won one gold medal and Aung Hnein one silver in the 72-arrow men and women (Compound) 50m event. In the 72-arrow men and women (Recurve) 70m event, Thin Thin Khaing secured one silver while the men's team (Compound) clinched one bronze medal with 1,885 points and the women's team one bronze medal with 1,900 points in each compound events.

(www.myanmarnews.net)



Nepal

In accordance with the NOC constitution 2011, the Elective General Assembly of NOC Nepal was held on April 2 in the presence of Mr. Olivier Niamkey from Olympic Solidarity and Mr. Haider Farman from OCA.



The officers elected for 2011-2015 were: President, Mr. Dhruva Bahadur Pradhan; Vice President, Mr. Umesh Lal Shrestha, Mr. Ganga Bahadur Magar, Mr. Sitaram Maskey, Mr. Dharendra Pradhan; Secretary General, Mr. Jeevan Ram Shrestha; Treasurer, Mr. Chhimi Urkyen Gurung; Deputy Secretary General, Mr. Lama Tendi Sherpa; Executive Members, Mr. Rabi Rajkarnikar, Mr. Purendra Bikram Lakhe, Mr. Sunil Rajkarnikar, Mr. Chaturananda Vaidya, Mrs. Jyoti Rana, Mrs. Geeta Chhetri Rana, Mr. Laxman Shrestha, Mr. Rajiv Shrestha, Mr. Ramji Bahadur Shrestha

(www.nocnepal.org.np)



Oman

Within the framework of the Royal care accorded by His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said to the Omani youth, His Majesty the Sultan has issued Royal directives to support and enhance the financial allocations for different sports authorities, such as the Oman Olympic Committee, associations, clubs and committees to expand their activities and enhance their capabilities to involve the youth to their communities in order to respond to their aspirations in the coming period.

(www.timesofoman.com)



Pakistan

The Associated Press of Pakistan reports from London that the hockey competition at next year's London Olympic Games will be played on blue plastic pitches. The decision to change from the traditional green to blue was made by the organisers to make the contrast between the pitch and ball greater, meaning the ball is easier to see.

The pitch run off areas will be pink. Hockey will have more than 380 competitors representing 24 teams including Pakistan at the London Games in men's and women's competitions.

News and sports round-up from the 45 NOCs



Palestine

The International Olympic Committee decided to hold a second round of talks between the NOCs of Palestine and Israel at the IOC HQ in Lausanne, Switzerland, on May 12. The IOC hosted the first meeting of the two NOCs on January 20, following a visit to the region last October led by IOC President Jacques Rogge.



Philippines

The Philippine football team is strengthening its coaching staff with the hiring of Swiss World Cup veteran Pascal Zuberbuhler as goalkeeper coach for the 2014 FIFA World Cup Qualifiers. The Azkals will play Sri Lanka on June 28 in Colombo while the second leg is set at the Rizal Memorial Stadium in Manila on July 3.

The winner of the showdown will meet Kuwait on the third week of July. Zuberbuhler is expected to link up with the PH squad in Duren, Germany, where the Azkals will undergo a two-week camp starting June 12.



Qatar

In a festive scene at Qatar Olympic Committee headquarters on Monday, April 25, the Qatar Olympic Academy hosted a graduation ceremony and distribution of appreciation certificates to the participants of the second edition of the Advanced Sport Management Course 2010. Following the ceremony, the third edition of the course organised by Qatar Olympic Academy got underway.

(www.qatarolympics.org)



Saudi Arabia

HRH Prince Nawaf Ibn Faisal Ibn Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz, IOC Member and President of the Saudi Arabian Equestrian Federation, met with HRH Princess Haya bint Al Hussein, IOC Member and President of the International Equestrian Federation (FEI), in Dubai on April 3.

They discussed cooperation between the Saudi and International federations, especially Saudi Arabia's participation in equestrian championships supervised by the FEI.

(Saudi Press Agency)



Singapore

The legacy of the first Youth Olympic Games 2010 in Singapore lives on, as the one-year anniversary approaches in August. The Youth Olympic Mural, Youth Olympic Park and Olympic Walk at Marina Bay Waterfront Parade have all joined the list of must-see tourist hot-spots in the popular holiday destination.

(www.snoc.org.sg)



Sri Lanka

The following sports have been confirmed for the first South Asian Beach Games in Hambantota from September 8-14: beach volleyball (men & women), beach basketball (men & women), beach football (men), beach kabaddi (men & women), beach netball (women), swimming (men & women), triathlon (men), equestrian (open) and sailing (open). Deadlines: entry by number, June 13; entry by name, August 8; online entries, August 15.

(www.srilankaolympic.org)



Syria

The Syrian triathlon team won three gold medals and a bronze medal at the Multi-Sports International Triathlon Union Asia Cup Championship in Thailand. The head of the national team, Adel Faraj, told the Syrian Arab News Agency that the Syrian team proved its competence and capability on the Arab and Asian levels. He added that the result was the normal outcome of the continuous physical and tactical training.

(www.sana.sy)



Chinese Taipei

The Chinese Taipei Olympic Committee celebrated the 30th anniversary of its signing agreement with the IOC by holding a commemorative function in Taipei on Wednesday, March 23. The event was chaired by CTOC President Thomas W. Tsai and attended by representatives of sports authorities, national federations and other sports organisations. Owing to the tireless efforts of both the late IOC member Henry Hsu and the late NOC President Sheng Chia-ming, the agreement to establish a new entry framework was reached and signed between the NOC of Chinese Taipei and the IOC on March 23, 1981, in Lausanne, Switzerland.

(www.tpenoc.net)



News and sports round-up from the 45 NOCs



Tajikistan

The head of the agency for construction and architecture, Abduvali Komilov, has revealed plans for a modern sports complex to be constructed on Karamov Street in the centre of Dushanbe. The complex will include a general sports gym with 4,000 seats, tennis court and swimming pool. He added that 1,347 new facilities worth 4 billion somoni (US\$900 million) would be built throughout the country this year on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of Tajikistan's Independence. (www.news.tj)



Thailand

Skeet shooter Sutiya Jiewchaloemmit became the first Thai athlete to qualify for the 2012 Olympics in London after finishing fourth in the ISSF World Cup in Beijing. Sutiya lost to Germany's Christine Wenzel in a shoot-off for bronze after they both finished the final round with 94 points. China's Wei Ning was first with 99 points and American Kimberly Rhode was second with 96 points. (www.bangkokpost.com)



Timor-Leste

The OCA's second Daimler Street Football Project tournament was held in Dili on April 27-28 and featured four boys' teams aged from 10-16 and two girls' teams all under 16. Natalino, 12, was named best male player and was selected to join the Football Federation of Timor-Leste talent camp. Vanessa Filomena Pimentel Fernandes, also 12, was named best female player.



Turkmenistan

The 3rd Central Asian Sambo (wrestling) Championship was held in Ashgabat for the first time and brought together athletes from five states: Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. Turkmenistan, where the promotion of sport and physical recreation is regarded as a state policy priority under President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, is emerging rapidly in the international sports world. Evidence of this is the Olympic Council of Asia's decision to award the 5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games to Ashgabat in 2017.



United Arab Emirates

Adil Khalid and Butti Al Muhairi, the Emirati stars of Abu Dhabi Ocean Racing, clinched their first competitive offshore racing victory in the Hong Kong-San Fernando Race in the northern Philippines on Saturday, April 23. "To win was such an amazing feeling," said 22-year-old Khalid, who represented the UAE in both the Olympic and Asian Games. With just six months to go until the start of the 39,000-nautical mile, nine-month round-the-world Volvo Ocean Race, the San Fernando test was a timely boost for Khalid and Al Muhairi as they prepare to make history as the first Emiratis to compete in an event dubbed the Everest of sailing. (www.gulfnews.com)



Uzbekistan

The Central Asia Regional Anti-Doping Organisation board meeting took place in Tashkent on April 5. Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan were represented, as well as representatives of the World Anti-Doping Agency and Olympic Council of Asia. Speaking at the opening ceremony, NOC Uzbekistan President M. Babaev said Uzbekistan fully supported WADA's fight against doping in sport, as evidenced by the ratification in late 2010 of the UNESCO Convention against Doping in Sport.



Vietnam

Sprint queen Vu Thi Huong and middle distance runner (800m, 1,500m) Truong Thanh Hang are training hard to qualify for the 2012 Olympics in London. Local experts say the athletes should concentrate on the Olympics rather than the Southeast Asian Games in Indonesia in November where they should defend their titles easily due to the lack of strong competition on the track. (www.vnnnews.net)



Yemen

Athletes from Yemen took part in the inaugural Arab Shooting Championships in Jordan from April 20-26 alongside participants from UAE, Libya, Syria, Oman, Jordan, Bahrain, Iraq, Sudan, Kuwait, Tunisia, Algeria and Egypt. (www.qatarolympics.org)

4th Asian Beach Games

Phuket, Thailand: November 2014



Beach boys...the OCA visits Phuket

OCA visits Phuket for 4th Asian Beach Games talks

The Asian Beach Games is proving to be a runaway success for the Olympic Council of Asia, and plans are already well underway for the fourth edition in Phuket, Thailand, in 2014.

A preliminary meeting between the OCA, NOC of Thailand and Sports Authority of Thailand was held in Phuket on April 14-15 in order to finalise various arrangements for hosting the 4th Asian Beach Games in November 2014.

The 4th ABG will be held on the beaches of Patong and Karon in Phuket city, which is a major tourist destination. The local authorities have shown great interest in the Games and it is expected that around 16 to 17 sports will be included on the competition programme.

Sombot Kuruphan, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Tourism and Sports, said the 4th ABG would be a great boost not only to the sporting culture in Phuket but also for tourism in this part of the world.

Husain Al-Musallam, OCA Director General, stated that the Asian Beach Games had grown in stature and received great appreciation and support all around the world. The other continents are following in the footsteps of OCA and organising their own Beach Games, he added.

The inaugural Asian Beach Games was held in Bali, Indonesia, in 2008, followed by the second edition in Muscat, Oman, in December 2010. The third ABG will take place in Haiyang, China, in June 2012, and the fifth edition has been awarded to Nha Trang, Vietnam, in 2016.

2011

June 4: **5th Asian Games Fun Run**, West Bank, Palestine

June 5: **Daimler Street Football Project**, West Bank, Palestine

July 1-14: **OCA Youth Camp (fencing)**, Bangkok, Thailand

July 7: **5th Asian Games Fun Run**, Vientiane, Laos

July 8: **Daimler Street Football Project**, Vientiane, Laos

July 13: **58th OCA Executive Board**, Tokyo, Japan

July 14: **30th OCA General Assembly**, Tokyo, Japan

November 11: **26th South East Asian Games**, Indonesia

2012

June 16-22: **3rd Asian Beach Games**, Haiyang, China

2013

4th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games, Incheon, Korea (August - provisional)

August 16-24: **2nd Asian Youth Games**, Nanjing, China

2014

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

4th Asian Beach Games, Phuket, Thailand (dates to be confirmed)

2016

5th Asian Beach Games, Nha Trang, Vietnam (dates to be confirmed)

2017

8th Asian Winter Games, Sapporo, Japan (dates to be confirmed)

5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan (dates to be confirmed)

OCA Sponsors Club

Diary of Events

