

EVER ONWARD!

OCA PRESIDENT IS RE-ELECTED UNOPPOSED

OCA General Assembly
OCA Fencing Youth Camp
OCA celebrates Olympic Day



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SPORTING ASIA

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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:

OCA President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah in Tokyo, where he was returned unopposed to lead the OCA for four more years.

NEW CYCLE BRINGS NEW CHALLENGES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The 30th OCA General Assembly in Tokyo brought the curtain down on a busy, productive and successful four-year cycle for the Olympic movement in Asia.



With the support of the Executive Board, the Standing Committees, the NOCs, the Organising Committees and all the other stakeholders, we were able to stage outstanding Games in beautiful host cities and spread the Olympic values and joy of sport throughout the continent and beyond.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in the OCA, including the head office staff in Kuwait, for bringing all these plans to fruition and making everything run smoothly despite such a tough schedule.

With a new Executive Board and Standing Committees in place for the next four years, we now face new challenges and responsibilities. We must build on our success and keep the OCA moving forward as a partner with the IOC and alongside our friends and colleagues in other continents.

I would also like to congratulate the Korean city of PyeongChang for winning the bid to host the Olympic Winter Games in 2018. You have been rewarded for your vision, your determination and your perseverance over many years in the bidding process, and we are confident the Games in 2018 will bring added value to the Olympic movement and more glory for Asia.

Our week in Tokyo ended on a high note, too, when JOC President Tsunekazu Takeda announced that Tokyo intended to bid for the Olympic Games in 2020. The announcement met with cheers of pride and support, not only from the Japanese guests but from sports friends around Asia and the world. Exciting times lie ahead, and we wish Tokyo all the best in their efforts.

Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah

President, Olympic Council of Asia

ROGGE THANKS ASIA FOR OLYMPIC CONTRIBUTIONS

OC President Jacques Rogge reflected on the rise and rise of Asia in his address to the OCA General Assembly in Tokyo on July 14.

Describing the “great dynamism” that exists throughout the continent, President Rogge said Asian sport had developed rapidly since the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing.

“I thank Singapore for hosting a magnificent first Youth Olympic Games last year and the IOC looks forward to the second YOG in Nanjing, China, in 2014,” he told the audience.

“With the OCA I attended the Asian Games in Guangzhou last November, the Asian Beach Games in Muscat in December and the Asian Winter Games in Astana-Almaty, Kazakhstan, at the beginning of this year. I have to say they were wonderfully well organised.

“The latest success story for Asia is the award of the 2018 Olympic Winter Games to PyeongChang, Korea, and here I congratulate PyeongChang.

“The relations between the IOC and OCA have never been better, and I thank you for all that you have given to the Olympic Movement.”





IOC President Jacques Rogge announces Pyeongchang as the winning city bid for the 2018 Winter Olympic Games

PYEONGCHANG PROMISES 'AMAZING' WINTER GAMES

The International Olympic Committee elected PyeongChang (Korea) as the host city of the 23rd Olympic Winter Games in 2018 during its 123rd Session in Durban, South Africa, on July 6.

PyeongChang, bidding for the third consecutive time after missing out in 2010 and 2014, won in the first round of voting with 63 votes, against Munich (25) and Annecy (7).

IOC President Jacques Rogge congratulated the PyeongChang team and praised the high quality of their file and final presentation.

"PyeongChang presented a strong and inspiring project that enjoys massive support from the government and the public," said Rogge.

"I have every confidence that PyeongChang will deliver on its commitment and host excellent Games in 2018."

The Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the PyeongChang 2018 bid committee, Cho Yang Ho, promised to deliver "an amazing Winter Games experience" in seven years' time.

"Over the course of 10 years of bidding we have been listening and learning from the Olympic family, improving our offer to the Olympic movement each time," he said.

"Today our effort and commitment to hosting the Winter Games has been rewarded. We will now ensure that this hard work will

continue all the way through to 2018 to create an amazing Winter Games experience."

IN OTHER NEWS FROM DURBAN:

☀ The IOC confirmed the inclusion of ski slopestyle (men and women), snowboard slopestyle (men and women) and snowboard parallel special slalom (men and women) on the sports programme of the 2014 Olympic Winter Games in Sochi. The new events follow the inclusion in April of ski halfpipe (men and women), women's ski jumping, biathlon mixed relay, figure skating team event and luge team relay.

☀ The Executive Board agreed on a shortlist of eight sports that will be considered for inclusion in the 2020 Olympiad: baseball, karate, roller sports, softball, sports climbing, squash, wakeboard and wushu. One of the eight sports could be added to the 2020 programme to be voted on by the 125th IOC Session in Buenos Aires in 2013. The programme can include a maximum of 28 sports.

☀ A proposal for a number of changes to the sports programme of the Nanjing 2014 Youth Olympic Games was approved, bringing the number of sports to 28 from 26 in Singapore 2010; the number of events to 216 from 201; and the number of athletes to 3,809 from 3,595.

☀ Japan's Chiharu Igaya and Shun-ichiro Okano have been granted IOC Honorary Member status from January 1, 2012, when their terms of office end at the end of 2011.

JOC'S 2020 VISION

The battery of photographers and army of reporters got what they were waiting for in Tokyo on Saturday, July 16: the official announcement that Japan would be bidding to host the 2020 Olympic Games in its capital city.

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Japanese Olympic Committee, JOC President Tsunekazu Takeda ended weeks of speculation by informing the gathering of Japan's decision, confirmed earlier in the day by the Executive Board.

To cheers of pride and support from the crowd, President Takeda said: "Tokyo hosted the Olympic Games in 1964 after recovering from the war, and this helped us achieve great economic growth. Today, Japan is recovering from the tsunami and earthquake of March 11, and we would like to have the 2020 Olympics as a symbol of the recovery."

The announcement was made in the presence of IOC President Jacques Rogge and OCA President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, as well as many other distinguished sports leaders from around the world.

President Rogge described it as "excellent news" and said the IOC was "extremely happy" to receive the bid candidature from Japan. "I wish Tokyo good luck," he said.

Sheikh Ahmad congratulated the JOC and referred to a comment from President Rogge during his centenary celebration address.



JOC President Tsunekazu Takeda announces the 2020 bid

"Earlier today, President Jacques said Japan was one of the few countries to host three Olympic Games, and I hope soon you will say that Japan is one of the few countries to host four Olympic Games."

The OCA President rounded off his message by wishing Japan all the best in the FIFA Women's World Cup final against the United States – and Japan's incredible penalty shootout victory the following evening in Germany (around 6am Monday in Japan) sent another buzz around the country.



Japanese Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko greet Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, OCA President, and Jacques Rogge, IOC President

JORDAN IS THE PRIDE OF ASIA AT IOC AWARDS

Jordan's Narin Hajtass received the International Olympic Committee's Women and Sport Trophy for Asia at a glittering Olympic Day celebration at the IOC headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland, on June 23.

The ceremony was attended by a host of VIPs and dignitaries, including IOC President Jacques Rogge, IOC Women and Sport Commission Chair Anita DeFrantz, IOC member and Jordan Olympic Committee President HRH Prince Faisal Al Hussein and HRH Princess Sarah Al Faisal.

"I am so proud of this award and have accepted it on behalf of everyone playing their part in empowering women across Jordan and the Arab world," said Narin, Manager of the JOC's Teaching and Education Department.

"I thank the JOC for supporting me and nominating me to receive this award," she added.

An inspirational and enthusiastic motivator, Narin has instilled self-confidence in women across Jordan, and is credited with contributing to the Jordanian Olympic team's success – in particular, that of its female members.

Narin also played a huge role in improving the Al Ahli handball team, of which she has been in charge since 2008. As a member of the National Coaching Certification Programme she has worked tirelessly to involve more female coaches across all sports.

A firm believer in the power of the media, she has been smart in using it to further the cause of women in sport.

IOC TROPHY WINNERS

World:

Tegla Loroupe (Kenya)

Africa:

Nadouvi Lawson Body (Togo)

Americas:

The Women and Sport Commission of NOC Ecuador

Asia:

Narin Hajtass (Jordan)

Europe:

Sema Kasapoglu (Turkey)

Oceania:

Daphne Pirie (Australia)

"Narin winning this award is a proud moment for all of us and honours all those working in the sports field," said Lana Al Jaghbeer, JOC Secretary General.

"It shows the improvement of the role of women in Jordan, which comes as a result of HRH Prince Faisal Al Hussein's interest and directions in this field."



IOC President Jacques Rogge with the winners of the IOC Women and Sport Awards 2011 in Lausanne on Olympic Day, June 23.

ASIA CELEBRATES OLYMPIC DAY

More than 170 National Olympic Committees around the world celebrated Olympic Day on or around June 23 – the day in 1894 that heralded the birth of the modern Olympic Games. With the assistance of the IOC's global Olympic Day map (www.olympic.org) and the cooperation of the OCA's NOCs, Sporting Asia reports on the continent-wide activities to celebrate this special occasion.



Olympic Day in Bangladesh

Bangladesh: The Bangladesh Olympic Association celebrated Olympic Day with a bang! A children's art competition on June 22 attracted 150 entries; handball and kabaddi competitions were held for under-privileged children; a fun run with 5,000 participants was held on June 24 in the capital Dhaka, as well as 64 districts and seven divisional headquarters, followed by a blood donation programme at Olympic Bhaban.

There was also an exhibition of 500 sports photos, a sport and the environment seminar on June 22, tree-planting at stadiums and schools and a cultural show and reception on June 25.

Bhutan: Indigenous sports activities are planned for Kanglung on September 1.

Brunei Darussalam: The Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council collaborated with the Department of Youth and Sports to organise a fun run at Taman Persiaran in Jalan Sungai, Kuala Belait, for the first time.

A mass warm-up exercise was conducted prior to the 7am start, and the race featured six categories from 2.5km to 10km.

Cambodia: The National Olympic Committee of Cambodia celebrated on Saturday, June 18, with a half-marathon of 21km and other races at 8km and 5km in the capital Phnom Penh.

His Excellency Thong Khon, NOC President and Minister of Tourism, addressed the audience at the end of the run.



Olympic Day in Hong Kong

China: The 25th edition of the Olympic Day Run in China was started concurrently in nine Chinese cities - Beijing, Shenzhen, Haiyang, Tianjin, Chengde, Xiamen, Dalian, Shenyang and Huainan - at 9am on Saturday, June 18. Among the more than 2,000 runners in Beijing were Liu Peng, Minister in charge of the General Administration of Sport of China and President of the Chinese Olympic Committee, Feng Jianzhong, deputy sports minister and COC Vice President, and Yang Yang, China's first Winter Olympic champion in short-track speed skating.

Hong Kong: Organised by the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China, the 2011 Olympic Day-Olympic Day Run took place on Sunday, June 26, at Hong Kong Disneyland Resort. It was one of the major celebrations for the 60th anniversary of the federation. The 5.6km run attracted 4,600 participants, including 26 corporate teams.

After the fun run, a sports carnival was held with game booths, marching band performances, dance performances and sports demonstrations.

India: Over 12,000 people joined the Indian Olympic Association's wide range of activities in Andhra Pradesh, Nagaland, Tripura, Manipur, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Meghalaya and West Bengal.

Indonesia: The Indonesia Olympic Committee celebrated Olympic Day with the new IOC TOP partner P&G on Sunday, July 3.

Olympic Day 2011



Olympic Day in Malaysia



Olympic Day in Kuwait

Iran: The NOC of the Islamic Republic of Iran cooperated with the Sport For All Federation to celebrate in Tehran and other provinces for eight days, with a different theme each day. These included a media day, mountain-walking, sport for all exercises, a women's fun run, children's art competition, youth activities, family and the environment and finally a men's run.

Japan: Japan, which was hit by a devastating earthquake and tsunami on March 11, organised a charity concert for more than 2,000 people on June 1. The proceeds will benefit projects that use sport as a vehicle to bring relief and hope to the Japanese population. Sports workshops, a physical fitness test challenge with Olympians and a walking rally were also held.

Jordan: HRH Prince Feisal Al Hussein, President of the Jordan Olympic Committee, celebrated Olympic Day on June 26 along with the entire sports family from national federations and youth organisations across the kingdom. HRH Prince Feisal was joined by participants of all ages as he started the march from the gates of the JOC within Al Hussein Youth City in Amman. One of the highlights was the unveiling of a sports graffiti wall created by University of Jordan students.

Kazakhstan: Kazakhstan Parade on June 23.

Korea: The Korean Olympic Committee observed Olympic Day on June 26. David Moon Dae Sung, IOC member, inaugurated the celebration by lighting the PyeongChang Bid torch out of the 1988 Seoul Olympic flame which is located at the Olym-



Olympic Day in Iran

pic Park in Seoul. Korean Olympic champions relayed the torch to another cauldron symbolising the 2018 PyeongChang Olympic Bid. A total of 2,018 runners participated in the run that was also held in the park.

Kuwait: Over 600 people took part in the Olympic Day Run organised by the Kuwait Olympic Committee in collaboration with the Kuwaiti Athletics Federation on Thursday, July 28. The distance was 5 kilometers for men and 3 kilometers for women. There were 390 male contestants and 284 female contestants, including a large number of schoolboys, schoolgirls and children.

The event was conducted under the patronage of H.E. Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, President of Kuwait Olympic Committee, who delegated Mr. A.H. Yousef Hussein, Kuwait NOC Treasurer, to represent him in this great sporting festival. Ambassadors of countries based in Kuwait also attended.

Kyrgyzstan: NOC Kyrgyz Republic will celebrate its 20th anniversary this year with several sports and cultural activities in September and October. Olympic Day will be held also during these dates.

Laos: Olympic Day Run and team sports took place in Vang Vieng on June 18.

Lebanon: An Olympic Day mini-marathon for all age groups was held in Beirut on June 26.



Olympic Day in Mongolia

Malaysia: The 2011 Olympic Day Fun Run was successfully organised on Sunday, July 17 at Dataran Merdeka from 7am. A record number of around 11,000 runners took part in 14 categories. Family and Group categories were held for the first time, as well as the main events for men's and women's open over 7km.

Maldives: Over 1,500 people aged from five to 60 on 32 islands took part in the celebrations from June 16 to July 2. A mini-Olympics was held at one resort on June 17 as well as a run and a cricket match between boys and girls.

Mongolia: Mongolia NOC celebrated Olympic Month as opposed to Olympic Day with a series of cultural, sports and social events during a month-long period in kind collaboration with National Sports Federations.

The activities included "10,000 steps every day for health", a "Sport for All" hiking event, a motorcycle rally, baseball and rugby festivals with basic training for newcomers, a children's eco-volleyball competition outdoors and children's painting competitions.

Myanmar: Educational talks on Olympism, demonstrations and traditional sports activities were held at the new capital of Nay Pyi Taw on June 23.

Nepal: The Nepal Olympic Committee conducted a highly successful week-long Olympic Day Peace Rally from June 17-23



Olympic Day in Nepal



Olympic Day in Philippines

in Bhairahawa, Butawal, Lumbini (birthplace of Lord Buddha) and Kathmandu.

Between 6,000 and 7,000 participants – including monks from around the country, school students, athletes, representatives of various organisations, media and a large number of locals - participated in the Olympic Day peace walk and other activities including an inter-school quiz and art competition on the Olympic movement.

Oman: Olympic Day Run, activities with Olympians and participation event took place at Sultan Qaboos Complex on June 25.

Pakistan: Olympic Day Run, with individual and team sports, was held at Lahore on June 11.

Philippines: The Philippine Olympic Committee held an Olympic Day Run over 3km, 5km and 10km as part of the National Games 2011 at Bacolod City Hall on May 22.

The first out-of-town ODR attracted some 2,000 runners from the local Philippine National Police unit, national athletes, officials from POC and the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), Paralympic athletes and local residents from Silay City, Talisay City, Bago City and Bacolod City in Negros Occidental.

Singapore: An Olympic Day on-the-sport art competition and jigsaw puzzle competition were held at West Coast Park on July 16.

Olympic Day 2011



Olympic Day in Uzbekistan



Olympic Day in Chinese Taipei



Olympic Day in Thailand

Sri Lanka: The National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka staged a wide variety of events in Vavuniya over two days, including a tree-planting ceremony on June 23 and art competition for 50 schools and a 4km Olympic Day Run on June 24 for over 1,000 schoolchildren. The run was followed by a cultural show, a physical training display by the Sri Lankan army, a donation of books to 50 participating schools by Sri Lanka Telecom, the awarding of prize money for the art competition and the distribution of IOC certificates to all participants of the run.

Syria: The Sport for All Union held a sports festival on Saturday, July 23. The festival attracted 300 participants and included various aerobic shows and walking races around Tishreen Sports City. Zouhair Mhanna, head of the Sport for All Union, told the Syrian Arab News Agency that the union had been organising this event for more than 15 years to spread the Olympic values throughout Syria and to highlight the important role sport plays in everyday life.

Chinese Taipei: The Olympic Day Run in Changhua County on Sunday, June 19 attracted over 2,500 participants. The theme this year was: 100% Vitality and Health. The race included seven age groups for men and six for women in a 20-km race and one fun run group without age restriction in a 5-km race. The top three in both male and female divisions were awarded 2012 London Olympic Games Commemorative Coins for their excellent performance.

Thailand: More than 50,000 people took part in Olympic Day

2011 in Bangkok on Sunday, July 24, joining the Celebrations on the Auspicious Occasion of His Majesty the King's 7th Cycle Birthday Anniversary December 5, 2011. The crowds were cheerful as they had an opportunity to pay respect and loyalty to His Majesty the King, who will be 84 on December 5. Present were H. E. Mr. Suwat Liptapanlop, Chairman of the Organising Committee; Gen. Yuthasak Sasirapha, President of NOCT; Maj. Gen. Charouck Arirachakaran, Vice President & Secretary General of NOCT; members of NOCT Executive Board; and several other dignitaries from the public and private sectors.

Turkmenistan: An Olympic Day Run was held in Ashgabat on June 23.

Uzbekistan: Olympic Day 2011, organised by the National Olympic Committee of Uzbekistan, took place on Sunday, May 29, in Tashkent. Over 12,000 runners entered the preliminary stages from all regions, with 1,000 qualifying for the Tashkent finale. There were 21 routes for distances of 0.3 mile, 0.5 mile and 1 mile in age categories from 6 to 92. The youngest runners (4-5 years) were from Tashkent city kindergarten and participated in the route for a distance of 50 meters. Paralympics also took part in the final runs in a distance of 0.3 miles. Representatives of the diplomatic missions accredited in Uzbekistan - Great Britain, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, Republic of Korea and Tajikistan - took active part in the event.

Vietnam: 5,000 participants joined the Olympic Day Run in Hanoi City on June 26.

BUILDING UP FENCERS, PULLING DOWN FENCES

The power of sport to bring together young people from different countries and different cultures was never more in evidence than at the OCA's Fencing Youth Camp in Bangkok in July.

The camp attracted over 70 fencers and coaches from 23 National Olympic Committees and not only improved their fencing skills and knowledge but also provided a crash course in international relations and team-building.

At the opening ceremony, on Saturday, July 2, the students were reserved and very much keeping themselves to themselves in their own private corners of the gymnasium at the Sports Authority of Thailand complex.

As the first week progressed they began to drop their guard and started mingling and sparring with players from other countries. Even the coaches gave tips and advice to fencers from other NOCs, fencers their own team members might well be facing in the future in a more competitive environment with medals at stake.

By the time the camp broke at lunchtime on Saturday, July 9, for a weekend of rest, relaxation, shopping and sight-seeing, the atmosphere had changed completely and all inhibitions had been left behind. The change in mood was startling, and a Saturday night banquet of tasty Thai delicacies in a local restaurant became one big party.

"When you arrived in Bangkok one week ago you were strangers. Now you are here as friends – and friends for the rest of your life," Haider Farman, Manager of the OCA's Asian Games department, told the gathering.

"You are training together and learning together, and are showing the spirit of fair play and understanding that the Olympic movement is all about.

"We wish you all the best in your fencing career, and hope that this OCA Youth Camp is the start of your journey to the top.

"In the future, when you meet at the Asian Games or the Asian Championships, the Olympic Games or the World Championships, you will meet as friends and not as rivals."

Although language barriers existed among the participants from 23 NOCs, their willingness to break down fences and to communicate took the aims of the camp to a different level.

There was no language barrier, however, when it came time to wish Iran's Sakineh Nouri a happy 17th birthday at the Saturday night party. Everyone could sing "Happy birthday to you" and take photos of her blowing out the candles, before – like all good fencers – slicing up the cake.

Fencers – and now friends – for life.



On the road to the Olympics: That's Japan's Aoi Tsue (left) and Honami Sano

OCA Fencing Youth Camp

Bangkok, Thailand: July 1 – 14, 2011



Chief instructor Alek Movshovich gives advice to Lebanon's Antoine Haykal

RUSSIAN EXPERT POINTS WAY FORWARD

If at first you don't succeed, try, try and try again, goes the popular phrase.

That is still not enough, though, for fencing professor Alek Movshovich, who is demanding a lot more in the future from the youngsters who attended the OCA Fencing Youth Camp.

"Each fencer must repeat 1,000 times the exercises they have been shown here, in different situations," says the 69-year-old Russian.

"It is a very short time to see the results of the teaching, but I think they can be getting better in half a year or in one year after playing this sport."

This is not to say the chief instructor from Moscow was not impressed or encouraged by what he saw, particularly from the results of a girls and boys epee competition on consecutive days midway through the camp.

The Koreans came out on top on both occasions, with 15-year-old Kim Bo Ram winning the girls' event and Jung Byeung Chan,

16, the boys' title, under coach Lee Jeoung Bok.

"They showed the fencing of seniors," said Movshovich. "They have good technique, good physical quality, good speed and not-bad fighting experience."

The competitions played a big part of the camp, which focused only on the epee discipline, by giving the fencers the chance to put into practice what they had been learning in drills, demonstrated by Movshovich and his assistant Mikhail Olimpiev to the coaches and passed on to the athletes.

"This is good experience because they are participating from so many different countries," he added. "Sometimes, if you have a camp for Arab countries there might be five or seven countries, but here we have 23."

"Overall this camp is a very positive step towards developing fencing in the Asian continent. What I would like to see next is a camp for coaches, for 10 days to two weeks, to give them more knowledge about technique, tactics and the technology of training. These are three important points."



League of nations at OCA Youth Camp



A packed gymnasium for the Fencing Youth Camp



The Nepali delegation in Bangkok (from left): Omkar Singh (athlete, 14 years), NFA Executive Committee member Rabindra Maharjan, NFA President Sunil Kumar Shrestha, coach Amir Rayamajhi and Rachana Chettri (athlete, 14).

NEPAL'S 'FIGHTING BLOOD' FLOWS INTO FENCING

Asia beware, the Gurkhas are coming! Well, not exactly the fearsome British army regiment from Nepal, but the new battalion of Nepali fighting fencers.

Established in 2009, the Nepal Fencing Association is starting its programme from scratch. One big step forward was their participation in the OCA Youth Camp, with a five-strong delegation led by NFA President Sunil Kumar Shrestha.

Shrestha believes his new team has a fighting chance of making the grade. "The people have fighting blood in Nepal through our history with the Gurkhas," he says.

"In martial arts we are very aggressive and really work hard. In Nepal we are good at taekwondo, boxing and martial arts. Fencing is regarded as a royal game and nobody knew anything about it, but now they have started playing they enjoy it.

"We are flexible. You do not need to be massive; anybody can

play fencing. You have to be swift and have quick reflexes."

Encouraged by the General Secretary of the Fencing Association of India, Arun Vij Kumar, to form a national association, Nepal jumped at the chance and received equipment from the FIE world governing body, India, Italy and China to help them on their way.

"We had nothing, not even one sword – and there wasn't anywhere in Nepal where we could buy the equipment, unlike football or boxing," says Shrestha.

As the equipment came in, the association introduced the sport to a couple of schools, and it is the President's aim to expand the fencing programme into more schools, colleges, the military and police by the end of his first term of office in 2013.

With such a short history, the fact that Nepal took part in the OCA Fencing Youth Camp at all could be regarded as a victory in itself.



Korea's coach Lee Jeoung Bok talks things over with Jung Byeung Chan



Indonesia coach Nurul Musfira Amahoru "Ira" with Alek Movshovich

ASIAN SOLIDARITY SHINES THROUGH AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Thanks to the solidarity and unity of the Asian sports family, there was no need for any elections at the 30th OCA General Assembly in Tokyo on July 14.

Even though several seats on the Executive Board looked set to be contested, behind-the-scenes meetings managed to smooth things over and avoid the possibility of any acrimony between potential rival candidates.

This was helped by the OCA Rules Committee proposing that


the President, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, be allowed to appoint six members directly to the Executive Board, including three vice presidents. In addition to this, several candidates withdrew from the elections late in the day, paving the way for an uncontested transition and an expanded EB for the next four years.


"It was a very easy election, thanks to the support and the satisfaction of the General Assembly," Sheikh Ahmad told the media.





Awards time at the 30th OCA General Assembly in Tokyo.


The General Assembly had started with the presentation of five OCA Merit Awards:

 **Yukimitsu Kano** (Japan), Honorary President of the All Japan Judo Federation, on behalf of the late Dr. Jigoro Kano, Asia's first IOC member in 1909 and the founder of judo.

 **Dr. Feng-Shu Chang** (Chinese Taipei), who retired after 20 years as Chairman of the OCA Finance Committee. He was appointed Honorary Life Vice President of OCA.


 **Engineer Habib Macki** (Oman), IOC member, OCA Vice President, for his work in organising the 2nd Asian Beach Games Muscat 2010.

 **Temirkhan Dosmukhambetov** (Kazakhstan), OCA Vice President, NOC President, Kazakhstan Sports Minister, for his work in organising the 7th Asian Winter Games Astana-Almaty 2011.

 **Tsunekazu Takeda** (Japan), JOC President, Chairman, OCA Coordination Committee, for his services to Asian sport.

Two OCA Gold Pins were awarded to:

 **Xu Ruisheng** (China), Vice Mayor of Guangzhou, Executive Deputy Secretary, GAGOC, for his work in organising the 16th Asian Games Guangzhou 2010.

 **Gu Shiyang** (China), Deputy Secretary General, GAGOC, for his work in organising the 16th Asian Games Guangzhou 2010.

Note: The next EB meeting will take place in Turkmenistan in October, part of the celebrations to mark the country's 20th anniversary of independence from the former Soviet Union, and the 2012 General Assembly will be held in Macau.



The new Executive Board assembled for an official photo shoot the morning after the General Assembly. Note: Some members were absent.

OCA EXECUTIVE BOARD 2011-2015

President

Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah (Kuwait)

Secretary General

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Vice Presidents

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Mr Husain Al Musallam (Kuwait)

IN THE PICTURE: SOUVENIR



GAGOC's Xu Ruisheng reflects on Guangzhou 2010



Athletes Committee Chair Yuko Arakida is at home in Japan.



Read all about it! Women's Committee Chair Natalya Sipovich presents her report



Sports Committee Chairman Zhang Jilong is in the spotlight



Honorary Life Vice President Wei Jizhong raises an issue

PHOTOS FROM TOKYO



A colourful display of flags at the General Assembly



Yu Zaiqing offers his advice



Jordan Olympic Committee President HRH Prince Faisal Al Hussein addresses the audience.



A question from NOC Qatar



Medical Committee Chairman Dr Mani Jegathesan answers a question

ATHLETES' SURVEY POINTS THE WAY FORWARD

The results of an exhaustive survey into the trends, lifestyle and conditions of the modern-day athlete were revealed at the Asian Athletes Forum 2011 in Tokyo on Tuesday, July 12.

The survey was conducted by the OCA Athletes Committee over a three-year period and involved around 4,000 athletes from the 2008 Beach Games in Bali, 2009 Indoor Games in Hanoi, 2010 Asian Games in Guangzhou and 2011 Winter Games in Astana-Almaty.

Committee member Dr. Mansour Al Tauqi of Oman explained that the survey was conducted in six languages – Arabic, English, Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Russian – and the data had been collated to produce recommendations to NOCs. Here are some of the main findings:

☀ Male athletes accounted for 66 per cent of the competitors, as opposed to 34 per cent female. More effort should be made by NOCs to increase the participation of women.

☀ 62 per cent of athletes lived in the city, with 22 per cent from villages. Sport is contributing to the migration of youth from the countryside to cities, and NOCs should seek to promote sports development in rural areas and provide opportunities for all.

☀ 21 per cent of the athletes were married, increasing the responsibilities and the pressure to balance work, sport and family.

☀ 53 per cent were educated to university level.

☀ Athletes in general were not satisfied with the nutrition, medical, rehabilitation and psychology services available.

☀ 63 per cent received financial support, 47 per cent of those from the government and only 12 per cent from the private sector.

☀ Athletes needed more clarity and information on doping issues.

☀ 43 per cent were unaware of the Athletes Career Transition programme. NOCs, coaches and managers should talk to athletes about their long-term future while they are still active, and sports organisations are encouraged to create jobs for former athletes.

☀ A career in sport was the most popular choice for athletes post-competition, ahead of further education, private business and a government job. 44 per cent have acquired skills in marketing.

"I would like to thank all NOCs who participated in the survey, the OCA staff, the OCA Athletes Committee Chair, Yuko Arakida, and members, and all the volunteers who supported the project," said Dr. Mansour.



IOC Executive Board member Frank Fredericks



OCA Athletes Committee member Dr. Mansour Al Tauqi

FREDERICKS PUSHES NOCS FOR ATHLETES COMMITTEES

IOC Executive Board member and Namibian sprint legend Frank Fredericks was the special guest at the OCA Athletes Committee in Tokyo on Tuesday, July 12, and the Asian Athletes Forum 2011 that followed.

As Chairman of the IOC Athletes Commission, Fredericks is pushing hard for all NOCs to establish an athletes committee so that athletes can be represented at executive level.

OCA Athletes Committee Chair Yuko Arakida explained that, despite strenuous efforts, only 17 of the OCA's 45 NOCs had

an athletes committee.

Fredericks also spoke of the importance of the Athletes Career Transition programme to help athletes adjust to normal life when their career ends.

"When an athlete stops their career they have a big problem," he said. "From one day to the next you go from being a total hero to not being anybody anymore. You have to bridge the gap and go into society at large and integrate into life after sports."

DR. CHANG RETIRES; OCA AID FOR PALESTINE, JAPAN

The OCA Finance Committee met at the Sheraton Taipei Hotel on Sunday, July 10, under the chairmanship of Dr. Feng-Shu Chang for the last time. After 20 years of outstanding service, Dr. Chang decided to retire from his position.

In recognition of his long service and his role in building up a secure financial base for the OCA, Dr. Chang was appointed Honorary Life Vice President at the OCA Executive Board meeting three days later.

The main decisions and recommendations of the Finance Committee included:

☀ With effect from the 18th Asian Games in 2019, the guarantee for the Summer Asian Games is to be increased to

USD5 million in the form of: USD2 million as a refundable guarantee by bank transfer to OCA's account within 60 days of the signing of the Host City Contract, and USD3 million by bank guarantee (refundable) to be established in favour of OCA within 60 days of the signing of the Host City Contract.

☀ With effect from the 31st OCA General Assembly in 2012, OCA to cover two economy class air tickets, direct routing, for each NOC attending the General Assembly.

☀ A sum of USD125,000 to be given as special assistance to NOC Palestine for the rebuilding of war-affected sports facilities, and to NOC Japan as a gesture of cooperation for the JOC's efforts in rebuilding sports infrastructure damaged by the earthquake and tsunami of March 11.



Dr. Feng-Shu Chang, OCA Honorary Life Vice President



The OCA Rules Committee met under the chairmanship of Sheikh Talal Fahad Al-Sabah on Wednesday, July 13, and put forward a by-law that the OCA President be allowed to appoint six people directly to the Executive Board instead of four. It was approved by the EB later that afternoon, with the six comprised of three vice presidents and three members.

BRIGHT FUTURE FOR OCA-NVC

NVC Lighting Technology Corporation became the OCA's lighting and service cooperation partner at a signing ceremony in the city of Huizhou, China, on Monday, July 18.



It's a deal: OCA-NVC conclude their agreement

NVC, based in Huizhou, is the largest lighting company in China and is registered on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. It was the official lighting partner for the Beijing Olympics in 2008, the Guangzhou Asian Games last November and the 2010 Shanghai Expo.

NVC, now an official OCA sponsor, expressed its strong desire to remain part of the OCA's multi-sports events, including the Incheon Asian Games in 2014, Phuket Beach Games in 2014, Nha Trang Beach Games in 2016 and Nanjing Asian Youth Games in 2013.

The ceremony was attended by Mr. Wu Changjiang, Chairman of NVC, Vice Governor of Guangdong province and Mayor of Huizhou city. The OCA was represented by Director General Husain Al-Musallam and Vinod Kumar Tiwari, Director, International and NOC relations.

The OCA welcomes NVC on board and looks forward to a longstanding partnership.



It's time to party at the countdown ceremony

HAIYANG CELEBRATES ONE-YEAR COUNTDOWN

When it comes to opening and closing ceremonies, no one does it better than the Chinese.

The same can be said of the one-year countdown ceremony for the 3rd Asian Beach Games Haiyang 2012, which was held on June 16 and offered a taste of what's to come.

There was the typically charming and diverse cultural performance, celebrating Arabic and South East Asian music and dance as well as Chinese, and the more formal notes with VIP speeches, the countdown itself and the official handover of the invitations to the 45 National Olympic Committees. The invitations were received by a representative from each of the OCA's five zones.

The 90-minute ceremony was a significant milestone on the road to the 3rd Asian Beach Games, which will take place from June 16-22, 2012, and stirred the interest of the local population as the one-year countdown began.

The OCA was represented by Vice President Lt Gen Syed Arif Hasan, President of the Pakistan Olympic Association, who congratulated the organising committee, the Chinese Olympic Committee and the Haiyang Government for their "arduous work and enormous efforts" in preparing for the 3rd ABG.

"With the successful experience from the Beijing Olympic Games and the Guangzhou Asian Games, we have reason to believe that the Chinese Olympic Committee and Haiyang Government will surely turn the Haiyang Asian Beach Games into a distinctive and high-level beach sports event, and set a new example for the development of other Asian sports events," he told the audience.

Lt Gen Syed was joined on stage by China's Sports Minister Liu Peng, President of the Chinese Olympic Committee, and by Jiang Daming, Governor of Shandong Province. Their presence proved the commitment of Chinese sport and of the provincial government to the success of the 3rd ABG.

'FANTASTIC, BEAUTIFUL' VENUE FOR 3RD ABG

When OCA Vice President Lt Gen Syed Arif Hasan was asked by a local journalist to describe in one word his impression of Haiyang, he thought for a moment before replying: "I need two words – fantastic and beautiful."

The Pakistan Olympic Association President was being interviewed on June 16 following a morning visit to Jiulong Lake in Zhaohushan National Forest Park – venue for the dragon boat competition – and the Beach Games-themed sand sculpture park on the sea front.

"This is my first visit to Haiyang and I am most impressed by all that I have seen," he said.

"It is wonderful, and with the work I have seen it is going to be an absolutely superb 3rd Asian Beach Games.

"What I have liked in particular is the stress placed on the environment, with the forestation, building up the trees and making the whole area green. Haiyang is beautiful with the sun, the sand and the ocean, and this has been a wonderful experience for me."

The first port of call was the dragon boat venue.

"It was great," added Lt Gen Hasan. "The air, the atmosphere, the cool breeze...it was so refreshing and clean.

"What's more, it is less than 30 minutes from the Athletes' Village, so very convenient for everyone. Next year, when the trees and the flowers are in full bloom, it will be quite spectacular for a competition venue."



Haiyang City Vice Mayor Chen Xin Zi gives OCA Vice President Maj Gen Charouck Arirachakaran a guided tour.



OCA Vice President Lt Gen Syed Arif Hasan bangs the drum for the 3rd Asian Beach Games at Jiulong Lake.

NOCS ENTER OVER 2,000 ATHLETES

Organisers of the 3rd Asian Beach Games provided a progress report on preparations to the OCA Executive Board and General Assembly in Tokyo on July 13-14.

Chen Xin Zi, Vice Mayor of Haiyang city, reported that 42 of the 45 NOCs had submitted their entry by number forms, giving a total of 2,100 athletes to date.

Regarding volunteers, 6,700 will be on duty at Games-related venues, and a further 20,000 in the city to assist visitors with sight-seeing and other information.

The Chefs de Mission Seminar has been set for September 6, with a venue tour in the morning and the more formal procedures and presentations in the afternoon.

The sports programme looks set to expand from 45 events in 12 sports with the possible addition of waterskiing. OCA Vice President Yu Zaiqing reported that several NOCs had requested waterskiing be added to the list, and that the sport was on an IOC shortlist of eight for consideration for the 2020 Summer Olympics.

SOFTBALL, SOFT TENNIS APPROVED FOR INCHEON 2014

The sports programme for the 17th Asian Games in Incheon, Korea, in 2014 has been finalised.

After months of doubt, debate and discussions over the future of softball and soft tennis in the OCA's showpiece event, the issue has been resolved to the satisfaction of all parties.

Even though the official list of sports remains at 36 - 28 from the Olympic Games programme in 2016 and eight non-Olympic sports - soft tennis has been included as a discipline of tennis, and softball as a discipline of baseball.

The sports programme was approved at the 30th OCA General Assembly in Tokyo, after a plea from OCA Sports Committee Chairman Zhang Jilong for delegates to pass the proposal and ensure smooth preparations.

The future of the two sports in the Asian Games was up in the air after the OCA decided that the Games had grown too big in Guangzhou, China, last year, with 42 sports and 476 events.

At first, softball was omitted from the streamlined Asian Games programme for 2014, but by teaming up with baseball they persuaded the organisers to retain their sport based on gender equality and venue-sharing.

The 36 sports for Incheon 2014 are:

Olympic sports (28): aquatics, archery, athletics, badminton, basketball, boxing, canoe and kayak, cycling, equestrian, fencing, football,

golf, gymnastics, handball, hockey, judo, modern pentathlon, rowing, rugby sevens, sailing, shooting, table tennis, taekwondo, tennis (including soft tennis), triathlon, volleyball, weightlifting, wrestling.

Non-Olympic sports (8): baseball (including softball), bowling, cricket, kabaddi, karate, sepaktakraw, squash, wushu.

In other news from Incheon:



The number of competition venues has been reduced from 53 to 49, including 23 new stadiums.



The ground-breaking ceremony for the 60,000-capacity main stadium was held on June 28.



The Athletes' Village and Media Village will comprise a total of 4,051 units and will be located 16km from the main stadium. Work will begin in January 2012.



Organising committee IAGOC signed a host broadcasting Memorandum of Understanding on June 10 with Korea Pool (KBS, MBC and SBS).



The recruitment of 20,000 volunteers will begin in October 2012.



The third OCA Coordination Committee meeting will be held in October 2011.



20 NOCs will benefit this year from the Vision 2014 programme offering training camps, coaching and equipment to the smaller NOCs.



The signing ceremony takes place with Dr. Lee Yun Taek, Sheikh Ahmad and Lydia Zhu, Vice President of Brand Management for 361.

IAGOC SIGNS FIRST SPONSORSHIP DEAL

No sooner had the ink dried on the minutes of the 30th OCA General Assembly in Tokyo on July 14 than the pens were out again, this time to mark the occasion of the first sponsorship deal for the Incheon Asian Games Organising Committee.

In the presence of OCA President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad

Al-Sabah, IAGOC President Dr. Lee Yun Taek signed up with Chinese sportswear giant 361 Degrees.

361 also sponsored the 2010 Asian Games in Guangzhou, China, and Sheikh Ahmad was delighted that they wanted to continue their partnership with the OCA and the Asian Games.

RUNNING FOR FUN AROUND ASIA

From Turkmenistan to Palestine to Laos, the Asian Games Fun Run continues to spread the message of the 17th Asian Games in Incheon, Korea, to all corners of the continent.

Ashgabat, capital of Turkmenistan, became the fourth NOC to host an Asian Games Fun Run this year after Korea, Bhutan and Timor-Leste. More than 1,200 students from different schools in Ashgabat took part in a 1.2km run at the National Olympic Stadium on Saturday, May 21.

Turkmenistan's Minister of Sport and Tourism, Yalkap Atalyev, Deputy Minister Ferhat Arjanov, Ashgabat Sports Committee Chairman Muhammet Keshikov and NOC Secretary General Azat Muradov joined in the fun run and presented medals and certificates.

The fun run road show moved on to Palestine for the fifth edition on Sunday, June 12, when 500 boys and girls aged from 9 to 12 went to the Majid Assad Sports Field at Ramallah in the West Bank.

Palestine Olympic Committee member and Palestine Fencing Federation President Daoud Almitwally thanked everyone for taking part and said sport was very important for the young generation.

"Although there are difficult circumstances in our homeland, today is the day for all of you to celebrate freedom through sport," he told the runners before the start.

The sixth fun run was held at Chaoanouvong Stadium in Vientiane, Laos, on Thursday, July 7, and proved to be a very colourful affair with more than 1,000 runners aged from 10 to over 60 in three age groups.

The medals, certificates and prize money were presented by H.E. Dr. Phouthong Seng-Akhom, President, Laos National Olympic Committee; OCA Technical Officer Vahid Kardany; Choi Jang Hyuk, Director General, IAGOC Business Headquarters; and Lee Tae Gun, Korean Ambassador to Laos.



Fun Run in Laos



Fun Run in Palestine



Fun Run in Turkmenistan

NINE SPORTS PLANNED FOR 4TH AIMAG

Organisers of the 4th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games in Incheon, Korea, in 2013 outlined their plans to the OCA Executive Board and General Assembly in Tokyo on July 13-14.

The 4th AIMAG, combining the Indoor Games and the Martial Arts Games for the first time, will be a test event for the 17th Asian Games the following year.

It is planned to hold the 4th AIMAG from June 29 to July 6, 2013, and host nine sports: cue sports, bowling, chess and baduk and electronic sports, dance sport, futsal, kabaddi, kickboxing, kurash and short-course (25m) swimming.

The master plan will be submitted to the OCA by October 2011.



Guangzhou put on a magnificent spectacle when hosting the 16th Asian Games in November 2010.

OCA DG TO PRESENT KEYNOTE SPEECH AT ASIA-PACIFIC SPORTS CONFERENCE

Set to take place on September 27-28 at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel in Singapore, the Asia-Pacific Sports Conference will provide insights into the critical business challenges in hosting sports events in Asia.

The event will bring together 200 sports industry professionals from local organising committees, sports federations, governments, host cities and suppliers to sports events to learn from and network with some of the most influential leaders in the sports events industry.

Over the last decade the sports industry and major events have played an ever-increasing role in the Asia-Pacific region.

Governments in the region recognise the power of events to create a number of economic, political, social and cultural benefits and thus Asian countries have become major bidders for hosting and staging major sports events. In recent years, for example, some of the biggest sponsorship deals have come out of Asia.

The two-day Conference will provide delegates the chance to find out how major sports events affect a host city's growth and the opportunities that they bring to a region.

The programme will address topics including:

- ✿ Bidding for Sports Events
- ✿ Stadiums and Venue Management
- ✿ How to Attract Sponsors
- ✿ What Makes a Bid Successful

There will also be case studies on major sporting events in Asia-Pacific, and attendees will be given the chance to take part in focused workshops and listen to practiced workshop leaders on how to become a leading sports city.

High-profile leaders in the sector will take to the stage to discuss their experiences of managing and hosting major sports events. They include Mr Chan Chun Sing, Acting Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports; Captain Husain Al-Musallam, Director General and Technical Director of the Olympic Council of Asia; Teo Ping Low, Vice President of Singapore National Olympic Council and President of Singapore Rugby Union; Pang Chung, Honorary Secretary General of the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong; Cornel Marculescu, Executive Director of FINA; and Toh Sen Nee, Assistant Secretary General, Asean Football Federation.

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News and sports round-up from the 45 NOCs



Afghanistan

Afghanistan Online reports that Afghanistan's national water polo team will travel to the United States in November for their first international training trip. Donna Lusitana, Media Director of Afghanistan Water Polo, said the team would travel throughout Southern California and train with college teams and USA Water Polo youth and masters club teams. The team will also attend speaking engagements.

(www.afghan-web.com)



Bahrain

Bahrain Royal Endurance Team leader Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa triumphed in a 160-kilometre international endurance ride held in Dillingen, Germany, on July 9, reports the Bahrain News Agency. Shaikh Nasser completed the gruelling six-stage event in eight hours, 28 minutes and 27 seconds. The Supreme Council for Youth and Sports Chairman and Bahrain Olympic Committee President overcame high temperatures and a quality field of top-level riders from Hungary, France, Switzerland, Germany and Bahrain to claim victory.

(www.bna.bh)



Bangladesh

The Bangladesh Olympic Association organised a photo exhibition and competition as part of the week-long Olympic Day 2011 celebrations at the BOA Bhaban. Named "Pictorial Presentation of Bangladesh Sports," the exhibition was inaugurated by the BOA President, General Md Abdul Mubeen, ndc, psc, on June 25. Around 500 rare and special sports photographs were on display. The closing ceremony and prize presentation was held on June 30, with Mr. Kutubuddin Ahmed, Secretary General of BOA, as chief guest.

(www.noc-ban.com)



Bhutan

The biggest sporting event in the country, the Yangphel Open archery tournament, is going nationwide this year, reports the Bhutan Observer. The most watched and celebrated tournament will feature simultaneous league rounds across the country in order to increase participation and promote archery. There will be three venues in the capital Thimphu and eight others in the heart of different regional districts. The tournament started on July 26 and was expected to last for six weeks, with the knockout rounds held in the capital.

(www.bhutanobserver.bt)



Brunei Darussalam

Brunei's team of 12 athletes took home three gold, three silver and five bronze medals from the Special Olympics World Summer Games 2011

in Athens. The gold medals came from Siti Nur Afifah Aziemah Abd Sahak and Nurhamraa Chaine in athletics and the duo of Mardiana Mohd Yussap and Dk Nuramaliyana Pg Hj Ibrahim in the women's bocce doubles. The multi-sports meet is the world's largest sporting event for athletes with intellectual disabilities. Around 7,000 athletes from more than 180 countries took part.

(www.bruneiolympic.org)



Cambodia

The newly re-elected President of the Olympic Council of Asia, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, has approved in principle a request from the National Olympic Committee of Cambodia for financial assistance under Olympasia Project 3 to build a state-of-the-art Sports Medicine and Science Centre in the heart of Phnom Penh. The OCA chief reassured NOCC President Thong Khon and Secretary General Vath Chamroeun that they had the OCA's full backing for the US\$100,000 proposal during a meeting on the sidelines of the OCA General Assembly in Tokyo.

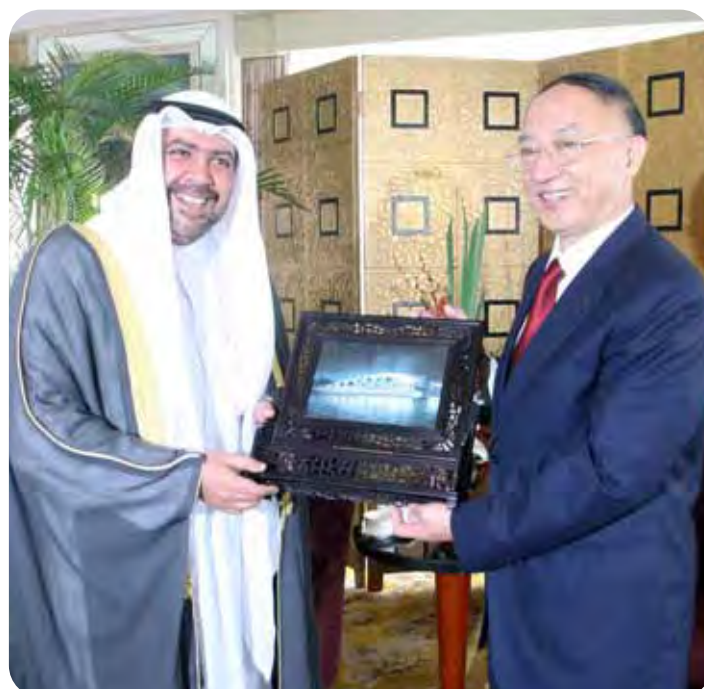
(www.camnoc.org)



China

Sports Minister Liu Peng, who is also President of the Chinese Olympic Committee, met with OCA President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah on the sidelines of the FINA world championships in Shanghai and congratulated him on his reappointment as President. Liu Peng also expressed his confidence that, under the leadership of H.E. Sheikh Ahmad, the Asian Olympic Movement would make further and greater progress.

(www.olympic.cn)



News and sports round-up from the 45 NOCs



DPR Korea

IOC President Jacques Rogge has ruled out any possibility of DPR Korea co-hosting the 2018 Winter Olympics, which were awarded to PyeongChang of Korea by the IOC on July 6. President Rogge said the IOC would be sympathetic, however, to the possibility of athletes from the two NOCs marching together in the opening ceremony parade, as has happened at earlier Olympics.



Hong Kong

The Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China, welcomed IOC President Jacques Rogge for a two-day visit on July 19-20 as part of its 60th anniversary celebrations. President Rogge, accompanied by IOC member, OCA Vice President and Olympic Committee President Timothy Fok, presented the IOC Trophy for Sport and Social Responsibility to Brian Stevenson, Chairman of Hong Kong Jockey Club and President of Hong Kong Rugby Football Union, in recognition of his distinguished accomplishment and contribution to sport and social responsibility.

(www.hkolympic.org)



India

In his report to the OCA General Assembly in Tokyo, Indian Olympic Association Secretary General Raja Randhir Singh thanked the OCA President, friends and colleagues in the NOCs and the Executive Board for their continued support and cooperation towards the success of the OCA activities. The IOC member was returned unopposed in absentia as OCA Secretary General.



Indonesia

The countdown to the SEA Games 2011 in November is well and truly underway. The Technical Delegates meeting started on Monday, July 25, and included site visits to Palembang and Jakarta. NOC Indonesia has also been busy sending athletes to various qualification competitions for the London Olympics 2012 and is happy to report that three

male swimmers have made the Olympic qualification times in the 100m backstroke, 100m butterfly and 200m butterfly events. One of the staff members, Mr. Idris Musa, recently returned from a two-month NOC internship to the United States Olympic Committee through a programme funded by Olympic Solidarity and this was a very useful experience.



Iran

The General Secretary of NOC Iran, Bahram Afsharzadeh, welcomed the Sports Minister of Sudan, Majed Mohammad, along with the ambassador and other members of a delegation to Tehran. Bahram congratulated Sudan on their success in international running events and track and field, and noted that Sudan was active in football, basketball, swimming and martial arts. He added that Iran could assist Sudan with an exchange of qualified coaches, trainers and referees, and help them develop the role of women in sport.

(www.olympic.ir)



Iraq

The Iraqi Union for chess organised two age-group championships in July and a training camp for the national chess team in Georgia in order to promote the sport among the youth of Iraq, the secretariat of the chess union, Abdul Mehdi Maftoul, told Alsumaria News.

(www.alsumaria.tv)



Japan

IOC President Jacques Rogge provided the keynote speech on Olympic Values at the Japanese Olympic Committee's 100th Anniversary Symposium in Tokyo on July 15. The symposium produced the Declaration on Sport in Japan – Sports Mission in the 21st Century, which was formally adopted the following day at the Commemorative Celebration attended by His Majesty the Emperor and Empress.



News and sports round-up from the 45 NOCs



Jordan

Asian NOCs have been told to follow Jordan's lead by encouraging and promoting more women into positions of sporting administrative power. At the OCA General Assembly in Tokyo, OCA Women and Sport Committee Chair Natalya Sipovich revealed that, out of the 45 NOCs on the continent, Jordan's Lana Al Jaghbeer is the only female Secretary General, while Rita Subowo of Indonesia is the continent's only NOC President.

(www.joc.jo)



Kazakhstan

The role of Kazakhstan in the development of the Olympic Movement in Central Asia was highlighted by OCA Vice President Gofur Rakhimov in his report to the OCA General Assembly on behalf of Central Asia. He referred in particular to the 7th Asian Winter Games 2011 in Astana-Almaty in January and February and the Extraordinary General Assembly of the Asian Boxing Confederation in Almaty in April.



Korea

The Athletes' Commission of the Korean Olympic Committee was held up as an example to follow by Asian NOCs at a meeting of the OCA Athletes' Committee in Tokyo. The KOC Athletes' Commission has 14 members and promotes the rights of Korean athletes, develops a better sporting environment for athletes and spreads Olympic values through fair play. World and Olympic champion archer Lee Eun Kyoung made a short presentation to the OCA Athletes' Committee and was widely praised for the role of the commission within Korean sport.



Kuwait

Kuwait hosted the 9th GCC & Yemen RADO (Regional Anti-Doping Organisation) board meeting under the chairmanship of Dr. Saleh Mohammed Al Konbaz of Saudi Arabia on May 10. OCA Director General Husain Al-Musallam; Rob Koehler, Director of WADA's Education and Programme Development; and Kazuhiro Hayashi, Director of WADA's Asia/Oceania Regional Office, also attended the meeting.



Kyrgyzstan

Seven athletes from Kyrgyzstan took part in the World Greco-Roman Wrestling Championships in Romania from July 26-31, the Kyrgyz National News Agency (Kabar) reports from Bishkek. They were Batyrbek Kurmangaziev (50kg), Eldiyar Begaliev (55kg), Kubanychbek Altymyshbaev (60kg), Esengeldiev Kozhobek uulu (66kg), Aman Melis uulu (74kg), Aman Toktogonov (84kg), Tynchtyk Toktorbai (96kg).

(www.eng.kabar.kg)



Laos

NOC Laos hosted a two-day OCA-Daimler Street Football project, culminating on Friday, July 8. More than 200 players from 10 under-12 teams took part. Sikhot District won the title, beating Dongpalab Village 3-0 on penalties after a 0-0 draw. The champions took home prize money of 1,000,000 kip (125 USD) and the runners-up received 800,000 kip (100 USD).



Lebanon

Youth and Sports Minister Faysal Karame met with the UK Ambassador to Lebanon, Frances Guy, over the 2012 Olympic Games in London on Monday, July 11, according to the official website of the National News Agency. During the meeting the Ambassador stressed the importance of the participation of Lebanese athletes, and called upon the Minister to raise the number of participants.

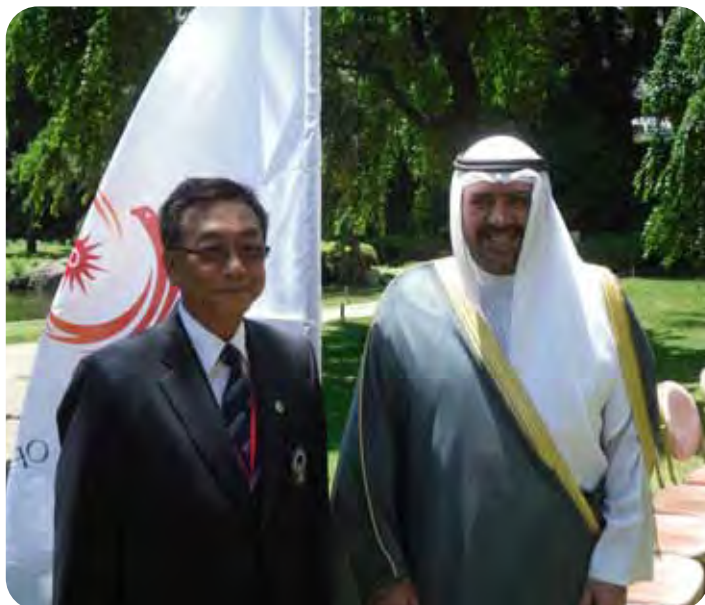
(www.nna-leb.gov.lb)



Macau

Macau had plenty to celebrate at the OCA General Assembly when Charles Lo Keng Chio, President of the Sports and Olympic Committee of Macau, China, took over as Chairman of the OCA Media Committee. He succeeded Manuel Silverio, who remains on the OCA Executive Board after being appointed an EB member directly by the OCA President for his services to the Asian sports movement. The former Portuguese enclave of Macau will host the 31st OCA General Assembly in 2012.

News and sports round-up from the 45 NOCs



Malaysia

The Olympic Council of Malaysia and Coca-Cola Malaysia, in support of the government's efforts to build a healthier Malaysia, organised a half-day workshop for an Active, Healthy Nation on July 19. Around 60 participants attended the workshop. Dr. Adam Drewnowski, Dr. Josephine Wills and Dr. Adrian Hutber were the three international experts who shared their expertise on active, healthy living through topics such as eating right, making informed choices and the role of exercise in preventive medicine.

(www.olympic.org.my)



Maldives

Maldives Olympic Committee has signed a sponsorship agreement with Mauritius Commercial Bank as the official partner of the Maldives contingent in the upcoming Indian Ocean Island Games in the Seychelles. In a ceremony held at Monsoon restaurant, the agreement was signed by Maldives Olympic Committee President Ibrahim Ismail and by Moosa Mohamed, Managing Director of Mauritius Commercial Bank.

(www.nocmaldives.org)



Mongolia

The Olympic Solidarity London-2012 scholarship holders were welcomed at Olympic House by Dr. D. Zagdsuren, NOC President, and received their first scholarship payments. Their coaches, sparring partners and support staff also attended. Mongolia NOC received 10 scholarships for London 2012 in boxing, judo, shooting, wrestling and, for the first time, in archery and weightlifting.

(www.olympic.mn)



Myanmar

The Thai NOC and government will assist Myanmar to prepare to stage the SEA Games in 2013 in Naypyidaw. Myanmar lacks experienced international sports administrators and organisers, having not held the event since 1969 when it was known as the SEAP (South East Asian Peninsular) Games in the former capital Rangoon.



Nepal

The President of Nepal Olympic Committee, Mr. Dhruva Bahadur Pradhan, held an official reception for Mr. Chhim Urkyen Gurung, NOC treasurer and president of Nepal Cycling Association, on his successful Mount Everest cleaning expedition. Secretary General Mr. Jeevan Ram Shrestha and executive members of NOC Nepal also attended. The programme was organised by Nepal Olympic Committee at Satdobato, Lalitpur. Mr. Gurung reached the highest peak in the world, Mt. Everest (8,848m), on May 21 at 5:50am local time after beginning his expedition on April 19. Seven members of his expedition also reached the summit. He is the first executive member of Nepal Olympic Committee to scale the world's highest peak. During the expedition his team collected 150kg of scattered garbage from Mt. Everest.

(www.nocnepal.org.np)



Oman

Oman Olympic Committee board member Dawood Al-Raisi attended the one-year countdown ceremony in Haiyang, China, on June 16 for the 3rd Asian Beach Games in June 2012. He received the official invitation to the Games on behalf of the NOCs in the West Asia region.



Pakistan

Pakistan Olympic Association President Lt Gen Syed Arif Hasan represented the OCA at the one-year countdown ceremony in Haiyang, China, on June 16 for the 3rd Asian Beach Games in June 2012. Lt Gen Hasan, OCA Vice President for South Asia, addressed the audience on behalf of the OCA, and said he was proud and honoured to represent the OCA President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah on such a special occasion.

News and sports round-up from the 45 NOCs



Palestine

Palestine NOC hosted a two-day leg of the OCA-Daimler Street Football project at Hebron, attracting 12 teams and 150 players. Daheria defeated Samoo 5-2 in the final on Monday, June 13. Palestine Football Federation President Major General Jibril Rajoub and OCA Asian Games Director Haider Farman, together with local Hebron officials, presented the medals and trophy to the players and referees.



Philippines

The Philippine Olympic Committee will host the Asian Unity Games 2013 to mark the centenary of the first recognised multi-sports games in Asia: the Oriental, or Far Eastern, Games in Manila in 1913. These games would lead eventually to the first Asian Games in 1951. POC's Mikee Cojuangco Jaworski explained the concept of the Asian Unity Games to the OCA General Assembly, combining culture, history and sport in a pan-Asia festival.

(www.olympic.ph)



Qatar

The Qatar Olympic Committee has chosen "Sport and Family" as the theme for its fifth Schools Olympic Programme for the academic year 2011-2012, out-voting "Sport and Peace" and "Sport and Energy." The programme is a pioneering idea in response to the initiative of HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, Heir Apparent and President of QOC, in an attempt to link sport with other activities, as well as encouraging school students to practise sport as an integral part of their daily life.

(www.qatarolympics.org)



Saudi Arabia

The Adviser to the General President of Youth Welfare Presidency and member of the Youth Committee of the Council of Arab Ministers of Youth and Sport, Mansour bin Abdulaziz Al-Khudairi, has been unanimously elected Deputy Chairman of the Arab Youth Committee in recognition of his long experiences in the field of youth sports. The committee elected Al-Khudairi at its recent meeting in Jordan, reports the Saudi Press Agency. Al-Khudairi expressed his thanks to Prince Nawaf Ibn Faisal Ibn Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz, General President of Youth Welfare Presidency and member of the Executive Office of the Council of Arab Ministers of Youth and Sport, and other Arab sports officials for the trust in electing him to this post.

(www.spa.gov.sa)



Singapore

Under the IOC Olympic Solidarity scholarship for coaches programme, Ms. Asmah Hanim Binte Mohamad (track and field) attended the International Coaching Course at Semmelweis University in Budapest, Hungary, from March 29 to June 15, reports the Singapore National Olympic Council. A total of 48 participants joined the course.

(www.snoc.org.sg)



Sri Lanka

NOC Sri Lanka is "proud and happy" to announce that its President, Hemasiri Fernando, was elected OCA Vice President at the General Assembly in Tokyo on July 14. Mr. Fernando, formerly Chairman of the OCA Culture and Education Committee, was appointed VP directly by the OCA President for his services to Asian sport.

(www.srilankaolympic.org)



Syria

Brig. Gen. Mowaffak Joumaa, President of the Syrian Olympic Committee and General Sports Federation, was appointed Chairman of the OCA Sport For All Committee at the OCA General Assembly in Tokyo on July 14.



News and sports round-up from the 45 NOCs



Chinese Taipei

CT Olympic Committee Secretary General Kevin K. Chen has succeeded Dr. Feng-Shu Chang as Chairman of the OCA Finance Committee. Dr. Chang has been appointed Life Vice President of the OCA for his long and distinguished service. Chinese Taipei Olympic Committee hosted the OCA Finance Committee meeting on July 10.



Tajikistan

The OCA's Women and Sport Committee reports that Olympic Solidarity funding has been applied for to organise a series of programmes in Tajikistan in 2011, including seminars and events for young girls and women.



Thailand

The dates of the 4th Asian Beach Games, Phuket 2014, have been set for November 14-21. It is planned to hold 17 disciplines: beach kabaddi, 3-on-3 basketball, beach football, windsurfing, beach woodball, triathlon, paragliding, water ski, water sports, beach sepaktakraw, beach wrestling, sailing, beach volleyball, beach handball, jet ski, beach petanque, Muay Thai.



Timor-Leste

Timor-Leste will be one of around 20 NOCs to benefit in 2011 from the Vision 2014 programme connected to the Incheon Asian Games. Timor-Leste is included for coach dispatch and joint training exercises.



Turkmenistan

Sixteen teams took part in the Turkmenistan leg of the OCA-Daimler Street Football project on Thursday, May 19, in the capital Ashgabat. The Chairman of Ashgabat City Sports Committee, Muhammed Keshikov, Turkmenistan NOC Secretary General Azat Muradov and

OCA Technical Officer Vahid Kardany attended the opening ceremony. The final rounds took place three days later.



United Arab Emirates

UAE NOC's Mohammad Al-Kamali is the first Chairman of the OCA's newly independent Culture Committee following the OCA General Assembly in Tokyo. Formerly known as the Culture and Education Committee, the committee has been split into two separate groups.



Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan is celebrating the inclusion of Uzbek wrestling kurash in the sports programme for the 4th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games in Incheon, Korea, in 2013, according to the Uzbekistan National News Agency. At a recent press conference in Tashkent entitled "Uzbek sport: kurash on the way to the Olympiad," the President of the International Kurash Association, K. Yusupov, and the Minister for Culture and Sport, T. Kuziyev, said kurash was receiving widespread development under the leadership of Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov, honorary president of the International Kurash Association.

(www.uza.uz)



Vietnam

Vietnam is preparing to send 800 athletes, coaches and team officials to the 26th SEA Games in Indonesia in November. Officials estimate the size of the delegation for the London Olympics at 30. Vietnam, meanwhile, is preparing to host the 5th Asian Beach Games at Nha Trang in 2016 and putting together its bid to stage the 18th Asian Games in 2019.



Yemen

The Vision 2014 programme to assist smaller NOCs prepare for the 17th Asian Games in Incheon, Korea, in 2014 will include Yemen in 2011. They will receive support in long-term training and the supply of sports equipment.

OS/OCA Regional Forums 2011



Olympic Solidarity's Olivier Niamkey addresses the OCA General Assembly.

Dubai, Bangkok to host OS/OCA Forums

The Olympic Solidarity/OCA Regional Forums on Preparation for the 2012 Olympic Games in London will take place in October.

The forum for the NOCs from West Asia, Central Asia and South Asia will be held at Dubai, UAE, on October 18-19.

The forum for the NOCs from East Asia and South East Asia will take place at Bangkok, Thailand, on October 21-22.

Each NOC can send two delegates to their respective forum, both of whom should be involved in their NOC's preparations for the London Olympics. Ideally, one of them should be the Chef de Mission.

The forums will include IOC updates on the sports qualification systems, sports entries and Athletes' Commission elections; commercial rights, accreditation, anti-doping, media operations, ticketing and betting in sport.

Organising committee LOGOC will update the NOCs on a wide range of topics, such as the sports master plan for competition and training venues, NOC services and relations team and the pre-Games Chef de Mission Seminar which will cover accreditation, sports entries, arrivals and departures.

OCA asks NOCs to send the names of their two delegates to the OCA secretariat (info@ocasias.org) by August 30, with a copy to Olympic Solidarity's Asia region manager Olivier Niamkey (Olivier.niamkey@olympic.org).

2011

Haiyang, China: September 5-6
Chefs de Mission Seminar for 3rd Asian Beach Games 2012

Singapore: September 27-28
Asia-Pacific Sports Conference

Dubai, United Arab Emirates: October 18-19
OS/OCA Forum for Central and West Asia

Bangkok, Thailand: October 21-22
OS/OCA Forum for East, South and South East Asia

Jakarta-Palembang, Indonesia: November 11-22
26th South East Asian Games

2012

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

2013

Incheon, Korea: June 29- July 6
4th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games

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

2014

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

Phuket, Thailand: November 2014
4th Asian Beach Games

2016

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

2017

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

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

OCA Sponsors Club



Diary of Events