



OLYMPIC COUNCIL OF ASIA

# SPORTING ASIA

Official Newsletter of the Olympic Council of Asia

Edition I March 2009



## *Sporting Asia – the new face of sport in Asia*

From Winter Games to Beach Games, Indoor Games to Martial Arts, Asian Games to Youth Games, Sporting Asia will unite the continent through competition and cooperation. Inside this edition -- **Page 2:** Welcome messages from OCA and IOC. **Page 3:** 'Asia Together' at 1st OCA Sport Congress. **Pages 4-5:** Modern Olympia -- the new home of Asian sport. **Page 6:** Reflections on 2008. **Page 7:** What's in store in 2009. **Page 8:** Diary of Events, Contact Us!, OCA sponsors.



**Dr. Jacques Rogge**  
President  
International Olympic Committee

Welcome to Sporting Asia, the new publication of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA).

Through this Newsletter, the OCA pursues the main aim of the Olympic Movement: to promote, cultivate and disseminate the universal sporting values – values of excellence, respect and friendship among the great majority, particularly the young generation. Because our task is to encourage young people to practise sport, and to educate them through sport, the OCA's efforts in this respect greatly deserve our recognition.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate my two colleagues and friends, the OCA President, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, and its Secretary General, Raja Randhir Singh, and all the 45 National Olympic Committees in Asia for this commendable initiative. Playing a role in the promotion of these values, Sporting Asia will certainly create a link between all the people involved in this area: athletes of all different levels, officials, sports institutions and the relevant

authorities. It therefore contributes to encouraging high-performance sport as well as sport for all.

Whether it be through the great performances of its athletes on the international sporting stage, or through the organisation of numerous competitions, or even through the presence of its leaders in international sports administration, Asia is most definitely a continent the Olympic Movement can rely on to continue its mission for the benefit of young people within its borders and elsewhere in the world. What better illustration of this increasing role and position of Asia than the truly exceptional Beijing Games, which we will remember for the rest of our lives. The performances of the athletes from Asia were impressive, with 212 medals won by 19 NOCs. These results are the proof of the excellent work being done in Asia by the OCA.

This is why, just like 2008, 2009 should also be an exceptional year for the Olympic Movement in Asia, which will also witness the inauguration of the new OCA headquarters and the first OCA Sport Congress, both in Kuwait. These two events perfectly symbolise the dynamism and energy of the OCA, its member associations and its commitment to sport and its benefits for the athletes and the young people of the region.

I wish the new Sporting Asia by the Olympic Council of Asia a long and prosperous life. And I invite the OCA to continue to work together with us for the good of sport, with commitment and passion!

## Ever Onward in 2009



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

As President of the Olympic Council of Asia, it is my great pleasure to welcome you all to Kuwait at the start of a busy and exciting year for Asian sport. First of all we will celebrate the official opening of the OCA's magnificent new headquarters on March 11.

We feel that this is a fitting home for Asian sport, and marks the start of a new era in all aspects of administration, business and professional management. Our friends in Asia and around the world are welcome to visit the modern-day Olympia in Kuwait any time and make use of our wonderful new headquarters.

From March 12-14, the OCA will be hosting the first OCA Sport Congress.

I am sure this will prove to be an excellent opportunity for all the sports leaders of the world, and especially

from Asia, to gather and exchange views on all aspects of sport and the Olympic Movement, including sports science, marketing, anti-doping and the environment. In addition to the first OCA Sport Congress, 2009 will also see two more "firsts" for the OCA. From April 25-May 3, we will stage the inaugural Asian Martial Arts Games in Bangkok, Thailand, and from June 29-July 7 the first Asian Youth Games in Singapore.

The year will close with our third major sports event of 2009, the third Asian Indoor Games to be held in Vietnam from October 30-November 8. As you can see, it will be a hectic but rewarding year for the OCA, both in and out of the competition arena, and we look forward to the support and cooperation of the Olympic family to keep Asian sport moving forward – or "Ever Onward" as our motto says.

Finally, I would like to offer a warm welcome to everyone attending the opening ceremony of the new OCA headquarters and also the Sport Congress, and would like to thank the IOC for their invaluable support and guidance in furthering the Olympic ideals in Asia.

On behalf of the Asian sports fraternity I would also like to thank the Kuwait Government and especially H.H. Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, The Amir of the State of Kuwait, for his total support of the OCA.



Standing on top of the podium to receive a gold medal is the dream of all young athletes in all sports. This is the pinnacle of their career, but it cannot be reached without detailed planning, preparation and training over a number of years. The first step towards this golden goal for a new generation of Asian athletes is about to take place with the staging of the first OCA Sport Congress.

To be held in Kuwait City from March 12-14, the Congress will bring together around 700 people from all corners of the sports world to share their knowledge and expertise.

Dr. Reza Gharakhanlou, Director of the OCA Congress Commission, believes the ambitious three-day symposium will help to identify the best solutions for the promotion of sport in Asia.

"The Congress will focus on many sports-related matters, discussions and on sharing experiences," he says.

"The objectives are to increase the awareness of sports science among Asian National Olympic Committees (NOCs); to exchange experiences in all sports fields with all sports partners, such as the IOC, NOCs, Asian Federations, International Federations, media, universities, sports acad-



*Women in sports will be a Congress talking point*

Congress, as well as delegates from the 28 sports featured in the Olympic Games and from 62 Asian sports federations.

The Congress Commission Manager, Ali Al-Marri, thinks the Congress will provide a base of information from which all NOCs in Asia can build a brighter future. "China has perfected this link between sports science and athletic performance, but one day a very small Asian country like Bhutan, Maldives or East Timor could get a medal. It is a high aim, but anything can be achieved. Finance is

only one part of it, but with willingness and professional planning it can be done"

This first OCA Sport Congress, with the motto "Asia Together", has taken 14 months to organise and will be held in the Arraya Ballroom at the Courtyard by Marriott.



## *Workshops. experts focus on six main themes*

✱ **Sports Science in Asia.** Sub-themes: coaching methods and training programmes, the level of knowledge of coaches, sports physiology, medicine and psychology, anti-doping education, academies and training centres, the role of universities in sports development, top athletes as role models for young athletes, talent identification and development, cultural education and athletic performance, the health of athletes.

✱ **Governance of Sports in Asia.** Sub-themes: strategic plan for the development of sport in Asia, specific plans by individual NOCs for the development of sport in their own country or region, sports media, the eligibility and commit-

ment of sports managers and administrators, plans for the comprehensive support of athletes, the role of Asia in world sport, human resources education, analysis of the gap in the status of sports within Asia, peace through sport.

✱ **Women's Sports in Asia.** Sub-themes: how to encourage the participation of female athletes in OCA events, the role of women in the management of NOCs, an evaluation of the status of women's sports in Asia.

✱ **Sports Marketing in Asia.** Sub-themes: the financial resources of sports, sponsorship and host broadcasting, how to increase the number of spectators, subsidy from governments, how to

appoint marketing agencies, marketing of OCA events.

✱ **Asian Games.** Sub-themes: sports programmes of the OCA's six events, the future of the events and the need for improvements in the sports programmes, youth games in Asia.

✱ **Sports and the Environment.** Sub-themes: sports and the environment in cities hosting OCA events, future plans to promote sports and the environment.

**Note:** Sports leaders and academics submitted 250 contributions on the six themes, from which 120 have been selected to be presented in the Congress workshops. The OCA will award prizes to the best two presentations in each category.



# *Modern Olympia . .*



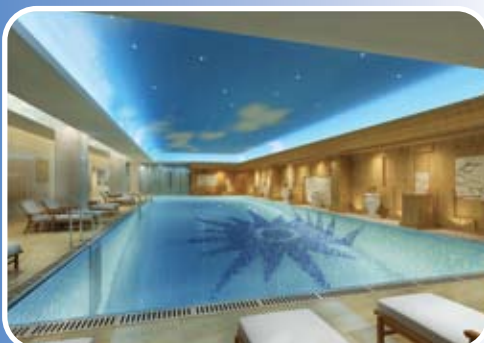
*The Director General's Office*



*OCA Museum*



*Lobby and reception area*



*Swimming pool*



Step aside Ancient Olympia -- and step inside Modern Olympia, the spectacular new home of the Olympic Council of Asia!

Enjoying a prime location on the Salmiya sea front, Olympia Project is a four-phase development owned by the OCA. The new headquarters (left) covers seven floors, alongside the striking twin towers of offices, a luxury shopping mall (front) and five-star Hilton Olympia Kuwait (rear).



# *new home of Asian sport*



## ***OCA HQ Floor by Floor***

4F: Main offices

3F: Academy, including library, classrooms and lecture theatre

2F: Conference room, offices

1F: Museum, offices

GF: Museum, reception, offices

B1: Recreation area, including pool, gym, squash court, sauna, spa

B2: Accommodation for OCA staff





*The perfect sands of Bali provided ideal conditions for the first Asian Beach Games*

The motto for the 2008 Olympic Games was "One World One Dream"—but Beijing went one better when two dreams came true during a memorable August.

Not only did the Chinese capital put on a spectacular show for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad, the host country also finished on top of the medals table.

With 51 gold, 21 silver and 28 bronze, China won exactly 100 medals, and their golden haul was 15 more than the next best team, the United States.

Even before the Games kicked off, China had impressed the world with some of the most dazzling venues in Olympic history, highlighted by the 91,000-capacity National Stadium — better known as the "Bird's Nest" — and the National Aquatics Centre, or "Water Cube".

Of the 87 National Olympic Committees to win a medal from a total entry of 204, 19 were from Asia.

**Marathon swimmer Saleh Mohammad was named Samsung MVP of the first Asian Beach Games after the 22-year-old Syrian won two gold medals in the 5-km and 10-km events.**

And besides the big three of China, Korea and Japan, who finished first, seventh and eighth, respectively, in the final medals table, there were plenty of other success stories involving Asian NOCs.

None more so than 21-year-old Rohullah Nikpai, who won Afghanistan's historic first Olympic medal with a bronze in the men's -58kg taekwondo.

"I hope this will send a message of peace to my country after 30 years of war," Nikpai said.

From the electrifying atmosphere of the Olympics, the tempo dropped somewhat as the OCA moved on to the more tranquil surroundings of Bali, Indonesia, and the first Asian Beach Games from October 18-26.

It was all about sun, sea, sand and sports as the tropical paradise hosted a wide range of events from 17 sports. Indonesia topped the medals table with 23 gold, followed by Thailand (10) and China (6).

The Games were opened by H.E. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia, and after an action-packed few days, the Asian Beach Games flag was passed from Bali to Oman for the second edition of the event, in Muscat in 2010.

## *Bali 2008: Final medals table*

Rank	NOC	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	INA	23	8	20	51
2	THA	10	17	10	37
3	CHN	6	10	7	23
4	KOR	4	7	10	21
5	JPN	3	3	3	9
6	HKG	3	3	2	8
7	IND	3	0	2	5
8	VIE	2	5	3	10
9	MYA	2	3	0	5
10	MAS	2	2	6	10
11	PAK	2	2	3	7
11	TPE	2	2	3	7
13	SYR	2	0	0	2
14	KUW	1	2	0	3
15	KAZ	1	1	2	4
16	UAE	1	1	1	3
17	SIN	1	0	2	3
18	AFG	1	0	1	2
19	MGL	1	0	0	1
19	OMA	1	0	0	1
21	PHI	0	2	8	10
22	BRU	0	2	3	5
23	JOR	0	1	0	1
24	BAN	0	0	1	1
24	BRN	0	0	1	1
24	MAC	0	0	1	1
24	MDV	0	0	1	1

## *Beijing 2008: Final medals table for Asian NOCs*

Rank	NOC	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	CHN	51	21	28	100
7	KOR	13	10	8	31
8	JPN	9	6	10	25
29	KAZ	2	4	7	13
31	MGL	2	2	0	4
31	THA	2	2	0	4
33	PRK	2	1	3	6
40	UZB	1	2	3	6
42	INA	1	1	3	5
50	IND	1	0	2	3
51	IRI	1	0	1	2
52	BRN	1	0	0	1
65	KGZ	0	1	1	2
65	TJK	0	1	1	2
71	MAS	0	1	0	1
71	SIN	0	1	0	1
71	VIE	0	1	0	1
80	TPE	0	0	4	4
81	AFG	0	0	1	1



When it comes to martial arts, Asians rule the world. Now it is time to see who rules Asia.

From April 25 to May 3, the Olympic Council of Asia will break new ground by staging the first Asian Martial Arts Games in Bangkok, Thailand.

The Games will feature nine sports and disciplines, and organisers are expecting between 1,000 and 1,500 athletes and officials from 45 National Olympic Committees to take part.

"The response from the NOCs has been very positive, giving us the impression that the first Asian Martial Arts Games will be a successful event," says Haider A. Farman, manager of the OCA's Asian Games department.

"It will be a unique event where, for the first time ever, martial arts sports will gather at one sports event under the control of one organising committee under the umbrella of the OCA."

Taekwondo, karate, kurash, jujitsu, judo, muay and kickboxing will take place at one of three venues in Bangkok, while pencak silat and wushu/kungfu will be held at two sports schools in Suphanburi Province, just north of the capital.



Staying in the South East Asia region, Singapore will be the next port of call for the OCA when the first Asian Youth Games are held from June 29 to July 7.

For athletes aged from 14 to 17, the nine-sport youth festival will be the ideal dress rehearsal for the International Olympic Committee's first Summer Youth Olympic Games in Singapore from August 14-26, 2010.

"The proposal for the Asian Youth Games came from Singapore as they prepare to hold the first Youth Olympic Games, and the OCA took it very positively," says Farman.

"We are expecting between 1,300 and 1,500 athletes and officials, plus another 300 members of the OCA Family, from the IOC, Asian NOCs, Asian and International Federations. It looks like it has high potential, not only to encourage all the youth of the NOCs to take part but also to provide the tools to develop these sports in our continent." The nine sports are aquatics (diving and swimming), athletics, basketball (three on three), beach volleyball, bowling, football, sailing, shooting and table tennis. Of the 90 gold medals, 32 will be awarded in swimming and 28 in athletics.



While the Martial Arts Games and Youth Games will be new for the OCA, the same cannot be said for the year's third and last major event, the Asian Indoor Games. Organisers in Vietnam will have the benefit of learning from

the first two editions, in Bangkok 2005 and in Macau 2007, when they host the third Asian Indoor Games from October 30 to November 8.

There will be 20 official sports and one demonstration sport, for a total of 219 events, and about 3,000 athletes will compete in the capital Hanoi and in Ho Chi Minh City.

In order to accommodate more spectators and promote the Olympic ideals and Asian culture, the opening ceremony on Friday, October 30, will be held at the 40,000-capacity My Dinh National Stadium in Hanoi.

The official mascot, "Ho Chicken", has already been introduced, and the Games slogan is "For a Rising Asia".

"The Vietnamese government, like the governments of Thailand and Singapore, are highly supportive of the Games, as everyone is fully aware that multi-sports events, especially the Asian Games, will bring high publicity to the host country and cities," adds Farman.

"No Olympic sports are included in the Asian Indoor Games, so it is an opportunity for the Asian youth and athletes in these sports to compete in a multi-sports event like athletes in other Games. It is also an opportunity to develop sports that are specific to the Asian continent."



*Taekwondo will be a highlight of the first Asian Martial Arts Games in Thailand*

# *Sporting Asia belongs to Asia*

We hope you have enjoyed the first edition of Sporting Asia, the official publication of the Olympic Council of Asia. Sporting Asia will begin life as a quarterly publication, due for release in March, June, September and December of 2009, and will serve several purposes within the Asian Olympic Family. First we want to provide a platform for all Asian National Olympic Committees to publicise your events and news. Be it fun runs, other promotional events, new appointments within the NOC, awards and presentations to athletes, coaches and officials...Sporting Asia belongs to you, the NOCs, to inform the rest of the continent and the world of your activities through a comprehensive round-up in each edition. We will also be providing detailed coverage of the OCA's six major sports events, and highlighting the leading athletes from all corners of the continent in a variety of sports. Events outside the competition arena and inside the committee room will also feature in Sporting Asia, keeping member NOCs informed of all the developments in the technical and administrative aspects of Asian sport. Another key function of the official publication will be to update all NOCs with the plans and preparations for the OCA's six major sports events, so athletes and officials will have a taste of what to expect when they arrive at the host city for the start of each competition. We also intend to turn the spotlight on individual NOCs and promote their history, sports culture, achievements and plans for the future, and publish interviews with Asian sports personalities and leaders. Through Sporting Asia, the platform is there for all 45 NOCs to play their part in expanding the profile of Asian sport and informing the world of your news and events.

All articles, which should be accompanied by a photograph attachment wherever possible, can be sent to Sporting Asia at the following email address: [jeremy@ocasia.org](mailto:jeremy@ocasia.org)

Thank you for your support!  
Jeremy Walker,  
Editor,  
Sporting Asia.

## *Diary of Events*



### *2009*

- March 2-3:** Olympic Solidarity/OCA Forum West Asia, Oman.
- March 6-7:** Olympic Solidarity/OCA Forum Central Asia, Dushanbe, Tajikistan.
- March 11:** Opening Ceremony of new OCA Headquarters, Kuwait.
- March 12-14:** 1st OCA Sport Congress, Kuwait.
- March 19:** Chef de Mission meeting for 1st Asian Youth Games, Singapore
- March 21:** Chef de Mission meeting for 1st Asian Martial Arts Games, Bangkok, Thailand.
- March 24:** OCA Finance Committee meeting, Bangkok, Thailand.
- April 6-7:** Control Committee meeting for 16th Asian Games 2010, Guangzhou, China.
- April 25:** 54th OCA Executive Board Meeting, Bangkok, Thailand.
- April 25-May 3:** 1st Asian Martial Arts Games, Bangkok, Thailand.
- April 26:** 28th OCA General Assembly, Bangkok, Thailand.
- June 29-July 7:** 1st Asian Youth Games, Singapore.
- Oct. 30-Nov. 8:** 3rd Asian Indoor Games, Hanoi, Vietnam.

### *2010*

- 2nd Asian Beach Games, Muscat, Oman (dates to be confirmed)
- Nov. 12-27:** 16th Asian Games, Guangzhou, China
- .

### *2011*

- Jan. 30-Feb. 6:** 7th Asian Winter Games, Astana-Almaty, Kazakhstan.

