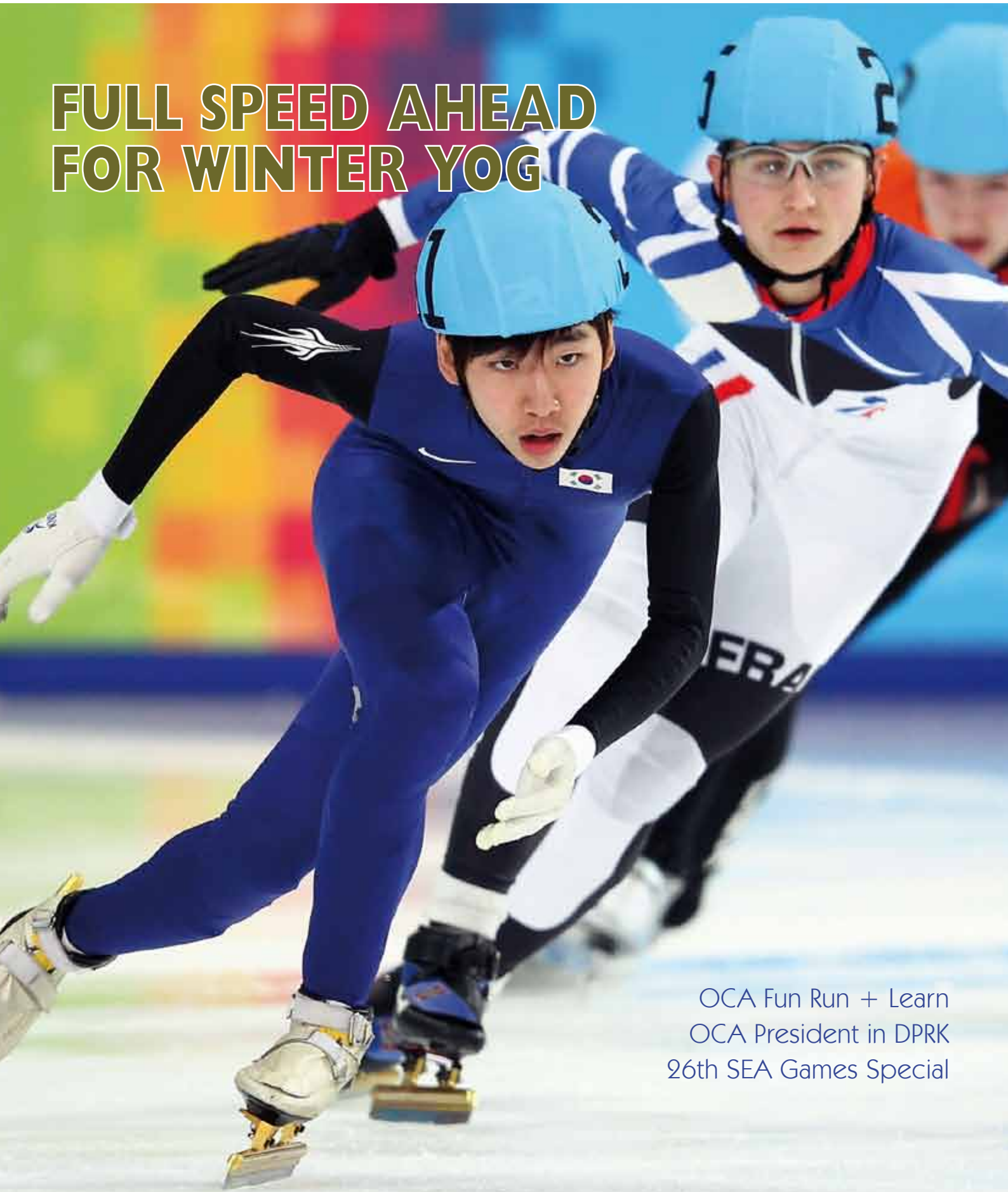


## FULL SPEED AHEAD FOR WINTER YOG



OCA Fun Run + Learn  
OCA President in DPRK  
26th SEA Games Special

# Contents

Inside your 32-page Sporting Asia



- 3 OCA President's Message  
OCA pays tribute to Asian Volleyball legend

- 4 - 6 News Digest:  
Olympic Countdown  
2nd RADO Conference in Kuwait  
Asian candidates for IOC Athletes' Commission  
SEA Games International Conference  
Awards



- 7 - 9 Inside the OCA:  
Fun Run + Learn 2012  
Asian Games Youth Reporter Project  
On the move with OCA President  
OCA EB members in the news

- 10 12th Arab Games, Doha 2011

- 11 - 13 1st Winter YOG:  
IOC President is delighted with Innsbruck 2012  
Facts and Figures  
Photos



- 14 - 19 26th SEA Games 2011:  
Gold rush in Indonesia  
Malaysia's water baby makes history at 8  
Postcards from Palembang  
A young reporter's tale

- 20 - 21 Games Update:  
3rd Asian Beach Games, Haiyang 2012

- 22 - 23 Games Update:  
2nd Asian Youth Games, Nanjing 2013

- 24 - 25 Games Update:  
4th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games,  
Incheon 2013  
17th Asian Games, Incheon 2014

- 26 - 31 News and Sport from 45 NOCs

- 32 OCA Diary  
OCA Sponsors' Club



Front cover

Korea's Lim Hyo Jun leaves the opposition trailing during the short track speed skating competition at the Winter YOG. Lim, 15, won gold in the men's 1,000m and silver in the 500m at Innsbruck. (Getty Images)

## SPORTING ASIA

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

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

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

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

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

Editor  
**Jeremy Walker**  
jeremy@ocasia.org

Executive Secretary  
**Nayaf Sraji**  
nayaf@ocasia.org

Media Manager  
**Jian Zhou**  
jeans@ocasia.org

Graphic Designer  
**Abdul Muneem Khan**  
khansaab\_29@yahoo.com

Printed by:  
**Raonaq International Press**  
Kuwait

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

Telephone: +965 25717196  
Fax: +965 25734973  
Email: info@ocasia.org  
Website: www.ocasia.org



### OLYMPIC YEAR BRINGS NEW MOMENTUM FOR OCA

The year 2012 promises to be another exciting and innovative year in the Olympic Movement in Asia and the world. Not just because it is another Olympic year, with the next Summer Olympics due to take place in London, but also because of the new projects undertaken by the Olympic Council of Asia to promote our flagship event, the Asian Games.

In the past, the Fun Run has provided a perfect vehicle for youngsters to get together around the continent and join in a special day of celebration and activity. As well as making them feel part of the event and receiving T-shirts, caps, certificates and other souvenirs, the Fun Run also showcased community spirit, teamwork, tolerance and understanding – fundamental Olympic values.

This year, however, we are expanding the popular Fun Run concept to include a Fun Learn aspect and a Youth Reporter Project. These new elements will open up the rich history of the Asian Games – and of Asia itself – to a new generation of students and lead to new dreams of achievement and accomplishment in sport and beyond.

I would like to thank the organising committee of the 17th Asian Games in Incheon, Korea, in 2014 for their contribution to these new projects in partnership with the OCA, and also the National Olympic Committees for embracing the concepts and laying the foundations for a successful series of events in 2012 and beyond.

We are sure the Fun Run + Learn days, together with the Youth Reporter Project, will put a smile on the face of our Asian youth and build up the excitement on the road to Incheon for the 17th Asian Games in 2014.

Finally, I would like to wish all our Asian NOCs the most successful Olympic Games ever in London 2012.

**Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah**

*President, Olympic Council of Asia*



### OCA PRESIDENT PAYS TRIBUTE TO 'GREAT SPORTS LEADER'



Mr Matsudaira is pictured with FIVB President Wei Jizhong, Honorary Life Vice President of OCA.

The President of the Olympic Council of Asia, H.E. Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, has paid tribute to Asian Volleyball legend Yasutaka Matsudaira, who passed away on December 31, 2011. He was 81.

"The Olympic Council of Asia, together with our friends and colleagues in the Japanese Olympic Committee and International Volleyball Federation, are very sad to learn about the passing of Mr. Matsudaira," Sheikh Ahmad said in a press release.

"He was a great sports leader and helped develop the sport of Volleyball into one of the most exciting and popular in Asia and in the Olympic Games."

Mr Matsudaira was born on January 22, 1930, and was FIVB Honorary Vice President, Asian Volleyball Confederation Life Honorary President, Japanese Olympic Committee Honorary Member and Japan Volleyball Association Honorary Adviser.

As head coach he guided Japan's men's team to the gold medal at the 1972 Munich Olympics.

## ASIA'S 'BIG THREE' TUNE UP FOR LONDON 2012



Asia had plenty to celebrate at the 29th Olympic Games in Beijing, China, in August 2008. Not only did the host country win the most gold medals (51) to finish on top of the table, Korea (13 gold) and Japan (9) also earned a place in the top 10.

With the London Games set to open on July 27, another four-year Olympic cycle is almost complete and athletes, coaches and officials around the world are beginning to dream of gold and glory once again.

As for Asia's "Big Three", their preparations are as meticulous as ever as they try to match or beat their efforts in Beijing four summers ago.

### China's medal machine in top gear



China came into 2012 in ominous form. Statistics from the General Administration of Sport showed that Chinese athletes captured 138 world titles in 24 sports in 2011.

Of those, 51 were won in 15 Olympic sports, including aquatics (12), weightlifting (6), gymnastics (6), table tennis (6), badminton (5) and shooting (4).

Sports Minister **Liu Peng**, who is President of the Chinese Olympic Committee, is hoping China can finish on top of the London 2012 medals table in both counts: number of gold and number of total medals.

### Korea sets minimum target of 10 gold



The Korean Olympic Committee celebrated the inaugural training session of the year on Monday, January 9, with a ceremony at the National Training Center in Seoul, attended by about 400 athletes and coaches from 15 sports, along with top sports officials.

In his address to the athletes, KOC President **Park Yong Sung** reiterated the stated goal of finishing in the top 10 in London, with at least

10 gold medals, and implored athletes "to once again place South Korean sport at the centre of the world."

Korea has ranked in the top 10 in six of the past seven Olympics, and at Beijing 2008 set its own Olympic record by winning 13 gold medals to finish in seventh place, one above Japan.

Park said the immediate goal was to send 250 athletes to London.

"To this day, 106 athletes have qualified for the Games," he said. "It's imperative we qualify in as many events as we can."

### Japan aims high at 15 gold



Japan, meanwhile, will target 15 gold medals in London, according to Japanese Olympic Committee President **Tsunekazu Takeda**.

In his first address of the year to the JOC and the Japan Sports Association, Takeda said it was important for Japan to haul in the gold to increase domestic support for Tokyo's bid to host the 2020 Summer Games.

"We will aim for a minimum of 15 gold medals," Takeda said. "It's crucial for us to do well in London so we can drive up public support for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic bid."

(Sources: Chinese Olympic Committee/Yonhap News/Kyodo News)



### Flashback:

Top 10 in Beijing 2008

Rank	Country				Total
1	China	51	21	28	100
2	United States	36	38	36	110
3	Russia	23	21	28	72
4	Britain	19	13	15	47
5	Germany	16	10	15	41
6	Australia	14	15	17	46
7	Korea	13	10	8	31
8	Japan	9	6	10	25
9	Italy	8	10	10	28
10	France	7	16	17	40
Total		196	160	184	540

## WADA SETS UP SCHOLARSHIP IN MEMORY OF MAHMOUD

The World Anti-Doping Agency has set up a scholarship award as a permanent tribute to the late Mahmoud Khalifah Ali, the OCA's Anti-Doping Department Director who passed away on November 19, 2011.

WADA announced the scholarship, worth US\$5,000, at the closing ceremony of the 2nd Regional Anti-Doping Organisation (RADO) Conference in Kuwait from January 24-26. WADA officials hope the award will encourage more young students to specialise in anti-doping procedures.

The three-day conference had begun with a minute's silence to honour Mahmoud, whose family members were invited to attend the opening ceremony along with 50 guests from 15 RADO offices representing 117 countries.

A special video made by Mahmoud's OCA colleagues and friends was presented to his family and conference guests.

WADA Director General David Howman expressed his gratitude to Mahmoud, saying: "It is a bit strange to visit Kuwait again without Mahmoud. For us, his passing is a painful loss. He was a friendly, open and guiding person. I thank him for his great work in developing the anti-doping programme."

On behalf of the Olympic Movement in Asia, OCA Director General and Technical Director Husain Al-Musallam presented a memorial statue to Mahmoud's family.



WADA Director General David Howman addresses the conference in Kuwait

## Four Asian athletes bid for IOC Commission

Four Asian athletes are among the 21 candidates for the IOC Athletes' Commission elections, which will be held during the Olympic Games in London.

Four places for eight-year terms on the Commission are up for grabs, with current members Hicham El Guerrouj, Rania Elwani, Frank Fredericks, the Chairman, and Jan Zelezny all finishing their terms of office this summer.

### The four Asian hopefuls are:

- ✱ Nasser Saleh Al-Attiya, Qatar, shooting
- ✱ Chu Mu-Yen, Chinese Taipei, taekwondo
- ✱ Koji Murofushi, Japan, athletics (hammer throw)
- ✱ Hadi Saei, IR Iran, taekwondo

Only National Olympic Committees with an athletes' commission were eligible to put forward a candidate. The candidates themselves must have taken part in the Beijing 2008 Games or be taking part in the London 2012 Games.

All athletes participating at London 2012 will be eligible to vote. They will be asked to elect four candidates from four different sports to ensure a varied representation from the Olympic sports programme.

Created in 1981, the IOC Athletes' Commission is the link between Olympic athletes and the IOC and serves as the athletes' voice within the Olympic Movement.



## INDONESIAN SPORTS MINISTER: SEA MUST RISE UP

Following in the footsteps of the OCA's inaugural Sports Scientific Congress in Kuwait in 2009, Indonesian sports leaders organised their own International Conference "Solidarity For Unity Through Sports" in Jakarta on the sidelines of the 26th SEA Games in November.

Dr. Rita Subowo, IOC member, OCA Executive Board member and Indonesia NOC President, was joined as a keynote speaker by the Minister of Youth and Sport, Dr. Andi A. Mallarangeng.

The government's sports minister told delegates that the SEA Games had played a leading role in bringing together the people of South East Asia, but it was time for the region as a whole to advance in the Olympic movement.

"We have to get together and use the SEA Games to excel, improve and uplift our achievement in sport so we can catch up with other parts of Asia and beyond," said Dr. Mallarangeng. "South East Asia has to rise up!"

Dr. Mallarangeng said raw talent had to be trained in a scientific, systematic way, and added that the region should not be satisfied just because football matches between Indonesia and Malaysia produced packed stadiums in both countries.

"It is a game between a country ranked 130-something in the world against a country ranked 140-something. It is a competition among minnows – and that should not be acceptable in this region," he concluded.



Dr Rita Subowo is pictured with Indonesian Sports Minister Dr. Andi A. Mallarangeng and guest speaker Wayde Clews, Director of Sports at the Aspire Academy for Sports Excellence in Doha and formerly of the Singapore Sports Council.

### Malaysia NOC celebrates IOC award

The Olympic Council of Malaysia is proud to announce that Puan Zaiton Othman has been selected by the IOC Women and Sport Commission to receive the 2012 IOC Women and Sport Trophy for Asia. The Trophy will be presented on February 16 in Los Angeles, USA, during the 5th IOC World Conference on Women and Sport.

OCM also wishes to congratulate Low Beng Choo for being conferred the Darjah Indera Mahkota Pahang (DIMP) on the occasion of the 81st Birthday of DYMM Sultan Pahang, Sultan Ahmad Shah. The award carries the title Dato'.

### In other news:

At the Judo Grand Slam in Tokyo, the President of the International Judo Federation, Marius L. Vizer, and the President of the French Judo Federation, Jean-Luc Rouge, presented cheques to the three Japanese provinces most affected by the earthquake and tsunami on March 11, 2011: Fukushima, Iwate and Miyagi.

World swimming body FINA's best athletes of 2011 included the Chinese duo of Qiu Bo and Wu Minxia in diving.

The International Boxing Association (AIBA) presented its 2011 trophies at a ceremony in London hosted by IOC member and AIBA President Wu Ching-Kuo. Tajikistan's Asror Vohidov was named Best Junior Boxer.

## OCA LAUNCHES FUN RUN AND LEARN

The Olympic Council of Asia, in a joint initiative with the Incheon Asian Games Organising Committee, is extending the popular and traditional Fun Run concept to include a Fun Learn element and Youth Reporter project.

Having already held eight Fun Runs in 2011 to promote the 17th Asian Games in Incheon, Korea, in 2014, the OCA and IAGOC have put together a fun-packed 10-leg tour for 2012 as the build-up to the next Asiad intensifies.

The host NOCs, along with their government's ministry of education, will also have a big part to play, as the activities tap into the heart of the youth community in order to spread the Olympic spirit, values and ideals.

The new Fun Run and Learn campaign will involve three major elements:

**Asian Games Youth Reporter Project:** The NOC will hold an essay-writing contest with an Asian Games theme for students under 16 years old. The best entries will be invited to attend the OCA's Asian Games English Writing Workshop, which will last three hours and take place the day before the Fun Run.

The winner from each NOC will become part of the OCA-IAGOC reporting team for the 4th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games in Incheon in 2013 and the 17th Asian Games the following year.



**Fun Learn:** With an Asian Games theme and a multiple-choice format, the quiz will test schoolchildren's knowledge of the Asian Games and of the sports within the programme. It will take place on the same day as the Fun Run, and the winners will receive special Asian Games prizes.

**Fun Run:** The highlight of the activities remains the Fun Run, which brings together Asian youth in a celebration of peace, friendship and team spirit. Participants will receive a certificate and other souvenirs from the organisers.

### Fun Run and Learn Schedule for 2012

No.	Date	Host NOC	Venue
9th	February 29	<b>Mongolia</b>	Ulaanbaatar
10th	March 4	<b>Chinese Taipei</b>	Taipei
11th	April 24	<b>Oman</b>	Muscat
12th	April 28	<b>Malaysia</b>	Kuala Lumpur
13th	May 11	<b>Uzbekistan</b>	Tashkent
14th	May 14	<b>Iran</b>	Kish Islands
15th	May 19	<b>Sri Lanka</b>	Colombo
16th	September 20	<b>China</b>	Beijing
17th	November 2	<b>Macau</b>	Macau

\*Note: The Youth Reporter Project will be held the day before the Fun Learn and Fun Run.

### ON THE MOVE WITH OCA PRESIDENT

**W**ith a visit to the Blue House in Seoul and the Purple Palace convention centre in Nanjing, it has been a colourful few weeks for the OCA President, H.E. Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah.

On the sidelines of the 3rd OCA Coordination Committee meeting for the 17th Asian Games in Incheon, Korea, in 2014, the OCA President was received at the Blue House in Seoul by the President of the Republic of Korea, Lee Myung Bak, on November 16.

Sheikh Ahmad also met with the Speaker of the National Assembly, Park Hee Tae, and said later he was satisfied that the central government was totally behind the Incheon Asian Games.

A few days later, Sheikh Ahmad travelled to Pyongyang, where he was awarded the Friendship Order, First Class of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in recognition of his efforts,

relations and cooperation initiatives in Asia.

The award was presented by Kim Yong Nam, Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly, on behalf of the Supreme Leader of DPR Korea, Kim Jong Il.

Sheikh Ahmad also held talks with DPR Korea's Minister of Physical Culture and Sport, Pak Myong Chol, on boosting cooperation.

Less than one month after the OCA visit to Pyongyang, Kim Jong Il died of a heart attack during a train journey on December 17.

On January 10, the OCA President led a meeting of the National Olympic Committees of Central Asia in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, and pledged full OCA support in their efforts to develop sport in the region for the overall benefit of sport in Asia and the world.



OCA President in Pyongyang



OCA President in Tashkent




OCA President in Seoul




## GOOD FOR YU: OCA EB MEMBER EARNS TOP AWARD

**O**CA Executive Board member Yu Kyung Sun received the Order of Sport Merit at a presentation ceremony in PyeongChang, Korea, host city of the 2018 Winter Olympics, on January 17.


The Order of Sport Merit is one of the highest awards presented by the Korean Government and is given to individuals who have made distinguished contributions towards sports development in Korea. Mr Yu is Chairman of the OCA Sport and Environment Committee.

 The President of Jordan Olympic Committee, HRH Prince Faisal Al Hussein, received a Power of Sport award from the International Sports Press Association (AIPS) at the 75th anniversary congress of AIPS in Innsbruck, Austria.

Prince Faisal, OCA EB member and Chairman of the OCA Peace Through Sport Committee, said: "I am grateful to AIPS for the recognition of the work with Generations For Peace, which basically aims to empower youth through sport."

 OCA EB member Ng Ser Miang of Singapore is one of the key speakers at the International Herald Tribune Sports Business Summit in Istanbul, Turkey, on April 25-26.

Mr Ng, an IOC Vice President and Chairman of the OCA Advisory Committee, will be joined on the programme by Kim Jin Sun, President and CEO of the organising committee for the 2018 Winter Olympics in PyeongChang, Korea.

 OCA EB member Mohammad Al-Kamali, Chairman of the OCA Culture Committee, has been elected Secretary General of the United Arab Emirates NOC.



Mr Yu receives his award



The OCA Advisory Committee meets in Dubai

## CONTINENTAL LEADERS ATTEND ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

**T**he OCA Advisory Committee, under the chairmanship of Ng Ser Miang, was held in Dubai on November 26, 2011.

The meeting was also attended by H.E. Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, OCA President, and by HRH Princess Haya, President of the International Equestrian Federation and IOC member.

The meeting was also very significant as, for the first time, the

Continental Association Presidents from Europe, Mr. Patrick Hickey, from Africa, Gen. Lasanna Palenfo, and from Oceania, Dr. Robin Mitchell, attended the meeting and expressed their views on how to take the Olympic Movement forward.

The meeting discussed various challenges facing the Olympic Movement and also the further involvement of the Asian Continent in the Olympic Movement.

## DOHA SETS NEW STANDARDS FOR ARAB GAMES

Asian Games 2006 host Doha successfully staged the 12th Arab Games from December 9-23, featuring some 6,000 athletes from 21 Arab countries in 28 sports.

The Games began on a high note in the presence of His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of Qatar, who triggered an inspirational opening and gave the green light to Arab athletes to excel and show their real worth in Doha.

The 15-day competition also signed off in style with HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, Heir Apparent and President of the Qatar Olympic Committee, attending the closing ceremony.

The higher organising committee of the Arab Games 2011, chaired by HE Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, Secretary General of QOC, left no stone unturned and applied Olympic standards in serving the delegations and ensuring the smooth running of the competitions.

The Arab Games – Qatar 2011 also set fresh standards for the progress of joint Arab action in the year of the Arab spring. The tournament could be regarded as an all-round success in terms of organisation, competition, attendance and media and TV coverage, as well as for the record numbers of athletes in individual and team events.

It was also the first time in the history of the Arab Games that an Athletes' Village was in use, replicating an Olympic Village and lifestyle for the participants.



North African powers Egypt (90 gold), Tunisia (54) and Morocco (35) finished 1-2-3, with host Qatar fourth on 32 gold medals. Algeria (16) rounded out the top five.

☀ Syria withdrew from the 12th Arab Games in November in protest at the Arab League suspension.

☀ Lebanon will host the 13th Arab Games in 2015.

☀ Article by Mohammed Al-Malki, Executive Committee Member, International Sports Press Association (AIPS)

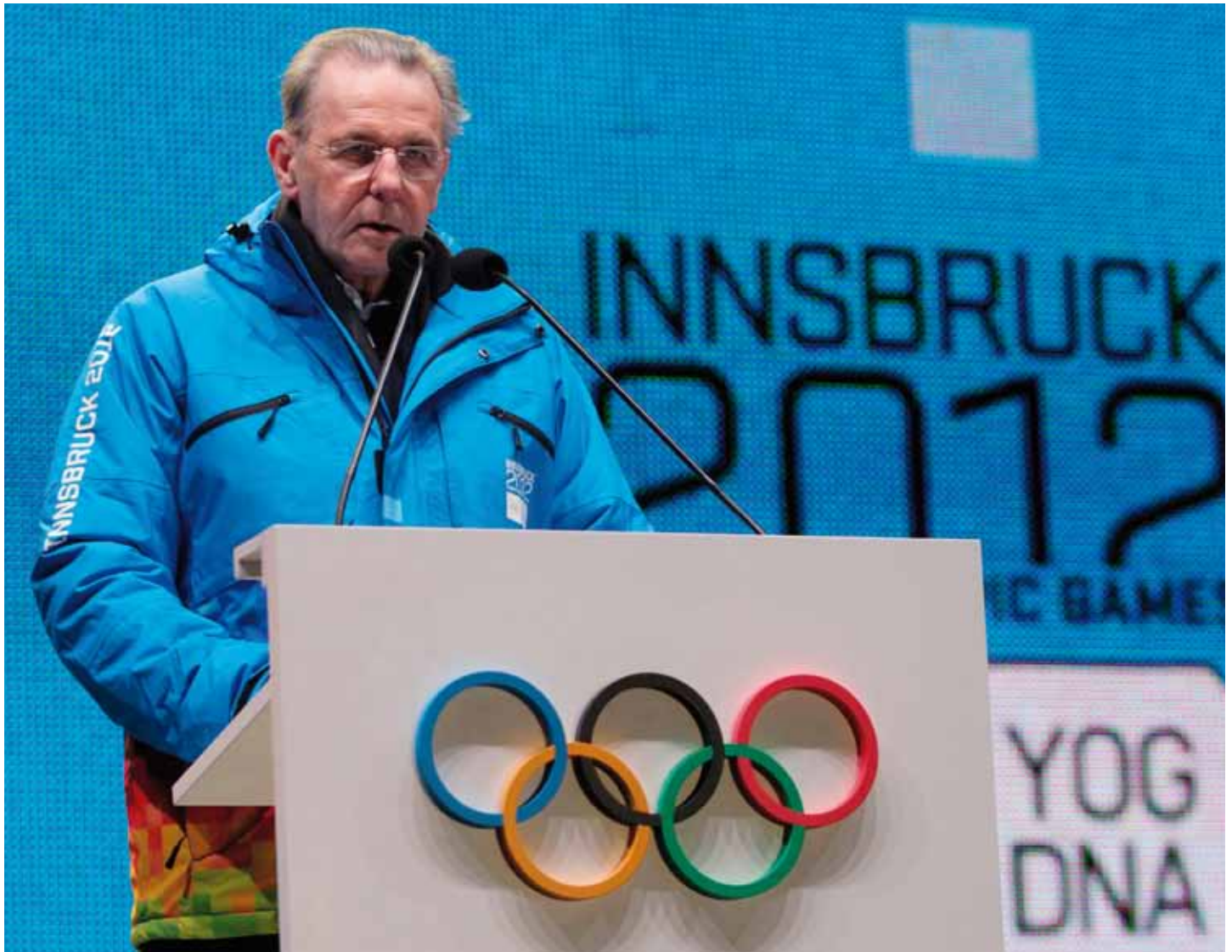


Bahrain players celebrate a goal. (Getty Images)



Saudi Arabia won the equestrian team gold medal. (Getty Images)





IOC President Jacques Rogge addresses the athletes in Innsbruck. (Getty Images)

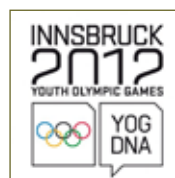
## IOC PRESIDENT CELEBRATES ‘REFRESHING’ WINTER YOG

**T**he International Olympic Committee’s inaugural Winter Youth Olympic Games took place in Innsbruck, Austria, from January 13-22, 2012, and added to the YOG legacy created by the first Summer YOG in Singapore in 2010.

The closing ceremony, held at the Medals Plaza on the city’s famous Maria-Theresien Street, brought to an end 10 days of world-class sporting competition and cultural and educational activities specifically designed for the 1,000-plus athletes aged 15 to 18 who participated in the Games.

“By all measures, the first Winter Youth Olympic Games exceeded expectations and established a solid foundation for future Youth Games,” IOC President Jacques Rogge said during his closing remarks. “They were superbly refreshing Games.”

Addressing the athletes directly, he added: “You are role models



for your generation. You have started something special in Innsbruck. And no matter what happens in your sports career from this point, all of you are equipped to become future leaders.”

Seventy countries participated in the Winter Youth Olympic Games, including 13 from Asia.

“There were so many firsts at these Games, so many incredible moments for the athletes and everyone involved in staging this event,” added President Rogge, who had special praise for the 1,400 volunteers.

“Innsbruck was a terrific continuation of the excellent work done at the first Summer Youth Olympic Games in Singapore in 2010, and it bodes very well for the future of the Youth Olympic Games.”



# 1st Winter Youth Olympic Games

Innsbruck, Austria: January 13 - 22, 2012



Korean Air: Kim Kwang Jin soars high. (Getty Images)



Kayo Denda of Japan skis in the Ladies Super Combined event. (Getty Images)





China Mobile: Xu Hongzhi speeds round a corner. (Getty Images)


## ASIA AT THE


The first Winter Youth Olympic Games in the historic Winter Olympic city of Innsbruck, Austria, celebrated a new milestone for the global Olympic Movement.


Featuring over 1,000 young athletes from 70 National Olympic Committees, the Winter YOG will be remembered for many things other than the competition across 63 medal events. Here are a few of the highlights:

 The athletes helped to make Olympic history by participating in a number of events that appeared for the first time on an Olympic programme ahead of their inclusion in the Sochi 2014 Olympic Winter Games. These included women's ski jumping, ski halfpipe and snowboard slopestyle.

 The Games featured innovative new formats such as the mixed NOC doubles competition in curling, the mixed sport event cross-country/biathlon, mixed gender luge and ice hockey skills challenge.


 More than 110,000 spectators supported the athletes over the course of the Games, as they competed at the world-class indoor and outdoor venues.


 The 2nd Winter YOG will be held in Lillehammer, Norway, in 2016, while the 2nd Summer YOG will take place in Nanjing, China in 2014.


 The Athlete Role Model programme involved over 30 Olympians passing on their advice to the athletes.

 Media interest was strong, with highlights broadcast in more than 60 territories, and over 15,000 articles worldwide.


## WINTER YOG

 Innsbruck 2012 incorporated an exciting Culture and Education Programme (CEP) designed to help educate the young athletes on how to live by the Olympic values both on and off the field of play through engaging workshops held at Congress Innsbruck.


 The CEP included the Young Ambassador programme, which saw 33 exceptional young people on hand to guide the athletes through their YOG experience.

 Winter YOG Ambassadors included Korea's golden girl from the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics, figure skating queen Kim Yu Na. The Olympic champions supported the young athletes in their events and visited the CEP at Congress Innsbruck where they held Q&A sessions with the competitors.

 The IOC brought the action to 8.5 million fans on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Sina Weibo, as well as via its website, [www.olympic.org](http://www.olympic.org).

 Almost 35,000 fans packed out the Medals Plaza where the victory ceremonies and evening concerts took place.

 The 13 Asian NOCs that took part were: China, India, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Korea, Lebanon, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Chinese Taipei and Uzbekistan.

 Although there was no official medal table, Germany won most gold with eight, plus seven silver and two bronze for 17 in total. China (7-4-4-15) finished second, followed by Austria (6-4-3-13) in third and Korea (6-3-2-11) fourth. Japan (2-5-9-16) came in eighth and Kazakhstan (0-1-2-3) finished 23rd.



Perfect pair: China's Yu Xiaoyu and Jin Yang skate to gold. (Getty Images)



Figure skater Li Zijun is happy with her score. (Getty Images)



Japan's Sara Takanashi won gold in the girls' ski jump. (Getty Images)



## INDONESIA, 'EXTRAORDINARY' INDONESIA

It was raining gold for the host country of the 26th SEA Games, as Indonesia left their regional rivals way behind in the biennial sports festival for South East Asia.

Indonesia piled up a formidable 182 gold medals during the November 11-22 event, well ahead of second-placed Thailand (109) and Vietnam (96) in third place.




Finishing as the overall SEA Games champion for the first time since 1997, Indonesia amassed a total of 476 medals, with 151 silver and 143 bronze to add to the golden haul. Thailand (329) and Vietnam (288) again completed the top three in total medals won.

More than 6,000 athletes and officials from 11 National Olympic Committees took part in 43 sports hosted by two main cities: Palembang, the capital of South Sumatra, and by Jakarta.

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, who had opened the Games at Jakabaring Sports Complex in Palembang on November 11, summed up the achievements of the host country's athletes in one word: Extraordinary!

"Our athletes' ability to collect more than one hundred gold medals did not just fall from the sky," he said. "They have worked hard for it. Their performance was extraordinary."

The 27th SEA Games will be held in Myanmar in 2013, and the 28th edition in Singapore in 2015.

Rank	Country				Total
1	Indonesia	182	151	143	476
2	Thailand	109	100	120	329
3	Vietnam	96	92	100	288
4	Malaysia	59	50	82	191
5	Singapore	42	45	73	160
6	Philippines	36	56	77	169
7	Myanmar	16	27	37	80
8	Laos	9	12	36	57
9	Cambodia	4	11	24	39
10	Timor-Leste	1	1	6	8
11	Brunei	0	4	7	11
<b>Total</b>		<b>554</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>705</b>	<b>1808</b>



Go Indonesia!





Sport climbing - a gripping experience

## NEVER TOO YOONG TO WIN GOLD

**T**he newspaper headlines said it all: Making a Splash! Wat-er Show! Tricks a Treat for Aaliyah! Fairytale Ending!

Yes, waterskiing was back in a multi-sports event, and the Yoong Family of Malaysia was back in town. Having already made history by being the youngest athlete to compete in an OCA event, aged just seven at the 2nd Asian Beach Games in Muscat 2010, Aaliyah Yoong Hanifah rewrote the record books again by becoming the youngest ever gold medal-winner at the SEA Games – now a waterski veteran at eight!

Her moment of glory came in the women's tricks event at Jakabaring Lake in Palembang, and earned her rave reviews at home and abroad, including an article and photo in The Times of London. Quite an achievement for an eight-year-old athlete.

"I was nervous but not scared," the tiny tot was quoted as saying. "I'm not competing with the other waterskiers, I'm competing with myself."

Aaliyah, whose father Hanifah runs a waterski school at Putrajaya in Malaysia, had plenty more to celebrate as her half-brother Alex Yoong, the former Formula One driver, and half-sister Phillipa Yoong also won gold medals during a memorable meet for the family.

The Jakabaring Sports City had something for everyone, and fans flocked to the complex to take in a wide variety of sports, from the Olympic staples such as swimming and athletics to the more emerging sports.

Sport climbing proved to be particular popular, the sheer height of the walls and agility of the athletes impressing onlookers, while the speed and stamina of the roller sports athletes in the searing afternoon heat also had spectators shaking their heads in disbelief at the never-say-die SEA Games spirit.



Golden girl Aaliyah Yoong Hanifah, at eight years old

## SEA GAMES 2011 PUTS PALEM



The cauldron is lit and the 26th SEA Games are under way.



The elegant mosque - Masjid Agung Palembang.



Spectators follow the tension of sport climbing.



# BANG ON ASIA'S SPORTS MAP



The busy port at Palembang



The Vietnam float is ready for the opening ceremony.



Security is tight at the Griya Agung residence in Palembang.



The Timor Leste team is welcomed into the Athletes' Village.



The Ampera Bridge crosses the Musi River.





The pedicabs, free of charge, were the ideal way to explore the Jakabaring Sports City in Palembang.

## WARM HEARTS PROVIDE GOL



Apart from bagging the most gold medals at the 26th SEA Games, host nation Indonesia also won the heart of a young sports reporter from Singapore on her first overseas assignment. Its trump card for the latter success was its people. **KELLY NG** reports from Palembang for Sporting Asia.

It was day one of my reporting assignment at the 26th SEA Games. Exiting the airport, I headed straight for the Jakabaring Swimming Complex, all psyched up to cover the very first event for my very first overseas assignment... and then it started pouring.

It didn't help that traffic was crawling and I was struggling to communicate with the local guide. I did arrive at my destination eventually; only by then it was more than an hour past the start of the night's swimming repertoire and I was drenched in rainwater and embarrassment.

Certainly, the rain did pull a wet blanket on this amateur reporter's first day on the job – "helpless" was so evidently written all over my face that I soon found myself surrounded by a crowd of local Palembangese eager to offer assistance. Although much was lost in translation, I was nonetheless touched by their hospitality.

"We are really very sorry for all the inconvenience!" said one of the local spectators, with a sheepish smile.

Another remained positive. "Miss, do be patient, maybe it will stop in ten minutes."

Such was the enduring optimism that united people from all corners of this capital city of South Sumatra. The relentless rain that night (and on subsequent nights – it was the monsoon season, after all) did little to dampen the spirits of the ardent home crowd that had showed up; the spectators' stands were packed with a sea of people clad in patriotic red and cheering at the top of their lungs.

Indeed, not all was smooth sailing and for sure, there was room for improvement, but Palembang was happy to dance in the rain. To quote one of the local reporters, the people knew that "the show must go on."



Indonesia: The Land of Smiles?



Hospitality girls light up the SEA Games.



A friendly greeting at the airport in Palembang



Volunteers and mascots alike welcome guests to the opening ceremony.

## DEN MEMORIES OF INDONESIA

While news reports prior to the Games had prepared me for some logistical and administrative hiccups, what I had not expected was the collective zeal that exuded from the people of Palembang.

Speaking to some of the locals, I could really feel the fire in their hearts. For the volunteers, being able to offer their time and services to the Games was a one-in-a-billion privilege, akin to winning the jackpot.

For many other locals, going to the Games was a massive family outing – many had rallied their extended families and traveled hours to Jakabaring to be part of a milestone in Palembang's history. For all of Palembang, bearing host-city honour for an event of regional scale, a thought that was previously unconceivable, is now reality.

Palembang may have been a little-known city, but its people were big-hearted. I myself was a fortunate recipient of the people's overwhelming hospitality. One time, at the sports climbing arena, I enjoyed a long chat with three "liaison officers" (volunteers assigned to liaise with athletes from a specific country and sport), where we talked about everything under the sun – from asking them about their volunteering

experience (in true blue reporting fashion) to sharing local delicacies in each of our countries (as a true blue "Singaporean foodie").

On another occasion, I even ran into student volunteers who asked for a photograph – well, it was nice to be in the limelight for a change! Then there was the ironic but fateful encounter, where a pair of cousins who had traveled two hours to Jakabaring had actually approached me, a foreigner, for directions. The day before I left, they even brought me on a farewell outing to the mall.

Although I was physically alone in this foreign land, its warm and friendly people made me feel very much at home. I feel truly blessed with these unlikely friendships and really hope that, with some help from Facebook, they will stand the test of distance!



Kelly Ng Siqi is a fourth-year undergraduate reading Business Administration and Communications & New Media at the National University of Singapore. She was writing for Team Singapore during the SEA Games, and her published articles can be read at [www.teamsingapore.com.sg](http://www.teamsingapore.com.sg)



## AFGHANISTAN ENTRY COMPLETES FULL HOUSE

**H**ABGOC, the organising committee of the 3rd Asian Beach Games in Haiyang, China, is looking forward to welcoming the entire Asian Olympic family to the Yellow Sea coast of Shandong province in June.

In mid-January, HABGOC received official confirmation of entry from Afghanistan, thereby completing a full house of 45 National Olympic Committees affiliated to the OCA.

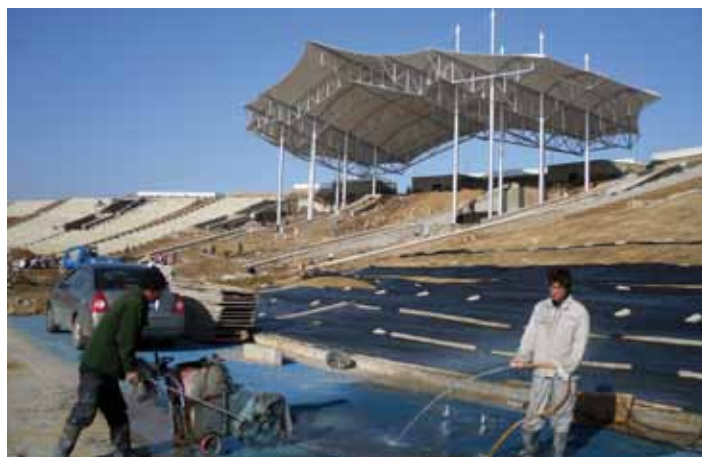
Afghanistan NOC's Foreign Relations Department said the delegation planned to compete in six of the 13 sports: beach basketball, beach handball, beach kabaddi, beach soccer, beach volleyball and powered paragliding.

"This is wonderful news for Haiyang and for the 3rd Asian Beach Games," said HABGOC department manager Liu Xiaodong.

"When we held the Chefs de Mission Seminar in Haiyang last September, Afghanistan was the only NOC that had not sent in their Entry by Sports forms.

"Since then we have been communicating by telephone and now we have received their official entry in digital form. We are delighted that all 45 NOCs of the OCA will be coming to Haiyang to celebrate this big international sports festival in June."

HABGOC received over 3,000 online applications for accreditation from 35 NOCs before the deadline of December 31,



Work is progressing rapidly on Heqing Stadium.

2011, and organisers extended the process until February 10 as several NOCs were involved in the 26th SEA Games or 12th Arab Games towards the end of last year. That figure has now passed 4,000.

### Key dates for NOCs:

- ☀ February 10: Online accreditation closes
- ☀ February 29: Entry by Number deadline
- ☀ April 30: Entry by Name deadline



Lining up for the 200 days countdown ceremony in Haiyang.





Roller skating Technical Delegate Liu Xiongbi offers his advice to local organisers during his visit to Haiyang.

## TECHNICAL DELEGATES VISIT VENUES

**T**he Technical Delegates of beach woodball and roller skating visited Haiyang before the Spring Festival to check on the competition venues and take part in meetings with sports leaders and other officials from organising committee HABGOC.

Led by Sean Weng Chi-Hsiang, Executive Secretary and Vice Secretary General of the International Woodball Federation and Chinese Taipei Woodball Association, a three-man delegation visited Zone B of Fengxiang Beach before heading for HABGOC headquarters for the technical meeting on January 11.

The agenda included general organisation of the beach woodball competition, requirements for the two six-gate courses, the work of the volunteers and the role of technical officials.

Weng is the son of International Woodball Federation President Weng Ming-Hui, who founded the sport in 1990 as a garden recreation. A combination of miniature golf and croquet, using a mallet and a sideways stance to strike a ball through a gate, woodball is earning more attention thanks to its presence in the Asian Beach Games.

"We really have to thank the Olympic Council of Asia for making it a part of the Asian Beach Games," Sean said. "Having our sport in an OCA event is a big stepping stone for the development of woodball and also attracts a lot of media attention."

### High hopes for high-rollers

Two days later, Liu Xiongbi, Technical Delegate for roller skating, got down to business at Chun Cheng Square in the Economic Development Zone, personally measuring the 500m oval track being laid for the competition.

The 3rd Asian Beach Games, he says, will provide his sport with an opportunity to impress spectators, media and officials alike as roller sport has been included on an IOC shortlist of eight sports for possible inclusion in the 2020 Olympic Games.

"Eight teams have entered and, of these, Korea and Chinese Taipei are ranked in the top five in the world. This guarantees a high level of competition, so I am sure roller skating will have a big appeal," Said Liu, who is from Shenzhen.

"This is our first time in the Asian Beach Games and everyone in the general sports bureau and local sports bureau is working very hard to make it a success," he added.

Roller skating can accommodate a maximum of 16 athletes – eight male and eight female – from each NOC, and offers eight gold medals over two days of competition.

The four events each for men and women are: 200-metre time trial, 500m sprint, 10,000m points race and 20,000m elimination race. Teams can enter four athletes in each event.



The woodball delegation visits HABGOC HQ.



Sheikh Ahmad signs the marketing release contract during the CC meeting in Nanjing.

## A GOOD START FOR NANJING AYG

The first meeting of the OCA Coordination Committee for the 2nd Asian Youth Games in Nanjing, China, took place on November 18, 2011, in the presence of the OCA President, H.E. Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah.

The 2nd AYG will run from August 16-24, 2013, and serve as a full-scale, high-profile dress rehearsal for the IOC's 2nd Youth Olympic Games the following year – just as the inaugural AYG in Singapore in 2009 prepared the organisers for the first Summer YOG in 2010.

One of the first duties of Sheikh Ahmad was to sign the marketing release agreement on behalf of OCA, providing the organising committee NAYGOC with the flexibility to pursue their own initiatives in relation to sponsorship, licensing and merchandising, media, ticket sales and other revenue streams.

Following suggestions from OCA, the organisers informed the meeting that they had expanded the sports programme to 15 by adding squash, shooting and handball to the 12 sports already agreed: aquatics (including diving), athletics, badminton, basketball (3-on-3), fencing, football, golf, judo, rugby sevens, table tennis, tennis and weightlifting.

Organisers plan to use 15 competition venues located in three clusters, and 14 of the venues will be in operation for the YOG in 2014. The main complex is the Nanjing Olympic Sports Centre.

Summing up the meeting, Chinese Olympic Committee Vice President Yang Shu'an said: "I am very happy to see we have had a very constructive and fruitful meeting. It is a very good start for both OCA and the organising committee to make sure all the preparatory work is going in the right direction."

## BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

Nanjing's wide-ranging Culture and Education Programme (CEP) will include the coaches and parents of athletes in various projects before, during and after the 2nd Asian Youth Games 2013.

Pre-AYG plans include Olympic education in schools and a one-year countdown of CEP activities. During the AYG there will be a Gala of Youngsters variety show, an Asian Cultural Village decorated and staffed by local school children and a Touching Nanjing city tour, and after the Games a sustain-

able education programme.

Other activities planned include Chat with the Champions, a treasure hunt, cross-country orienteering and an outward bound course at Laoshan National Forest Park.

Teachers, sports coaches, local children and youth organisations will also be invited to take part in an effort to build an AYG CEP platform for young people and to celebrate the Olympic values.



## NANJING VENUES LOOK READY FOR 2013

OCA Executive Board member Bahram Afsharzadeh led an OCA delegation on a venue tour and visit to the Asian Youth Games Athletes' Village on the morning of Saturday, November 19.

Starting at the Nanjing Olympic Sports Centre, the delegation called in at the aquatics centre, the indoor stadium, which was hosting the Pan Pacific Curling Championship, and the gymnasium before entering the impressive, 61,500-capacity Main Stadium.

The Olympic complex was built for the 10th National Games in October 2005 and still looks as good as new.

"All the facilities are very beautiful," said Bahram, Secretary General of the NOC of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Chairman of the OCA Information and Statistics Committee.

"Everything looks ready to host the Asian Youth Games, so I must congratulate Nanjing for all your work and preparations."

From there the delegation hit the road for the 17-km journey to the AYG Athletes' Village, located at the Nanjing Audit College in Pukou district.

The Village can accommodate 3,500 people, with 2,400 beds for athletes, three to a room, and 1,100 beds for team officials, with two to a room.

There is also two restaurants, extensive sports grounds, NOC services offices and an arts wing that will hold CEP activities.

"It is a very nice environment, fresh and clean with a lake and gardens," added Bahram. "I have visited many universities all over the world and this is among the best. It is very modern, and I am sure the young athletes will be happy staying here."



A message of appreciation on behalf of the OCA President.



Bahram Afsharzadeh looks out over the Main Stadium at Nanjing Olympic Sports Centre.

## ASIAN GAMES BUDGET SET AT US\$1.62 BILLION

**T**he 17th Asian Games in Incheon, Korea, from September 19 to October 4, 2014, will have a total budget of US\$1.62 billion, organising committee IAGOC revealed at the 3rd OCA Coordination Committee meeting on November 16, 2011.

The bulk of the cost, almost US\$1.4 billion, or 86 per cent, will be for venue construction. The second biggest expenditure, US\$103 million (6 per cent), will be for road projects. Incheon City Government will provide 78.9 per cent of the total budget, while the Korean Government will contribute 19 per cent.

With the sports programme set at 437 events across 36 sports, organisers have reduced the number of competition venues from 53 to 49, of which 23 will be new – two fewer than originally planned.

IAGOC's Secretary General, Dr Kwon Kyung Sang, said it was Incheon's goal to stage the most economical and practical Asian Games in history, as well as promoting peace and solidarity and providing a grand celebration for 4 billion Asians.

### Other points included:

☀ Doping control is targeting 1,600 tests, 100 more than in Guangzhou 2010.

☀ IAGOC has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with three major Korean broadcasters, KBS, MBC and SBS, and hopes to sign the Host Broadcast contract in April 2012.

☀ 2.4 million tickets will be on sale from September 2013. Sales target is 1.8 million, 75 per cent.

☀ Athletes' Village to accommodate 13,000 athletes and officials in 2,185 apartments.

☀ The target number for Asian Games Supporters is 50,000 – including 880 young citizens for each of the 44 visiting NOCs. Over 24,000 already recruited.

☀ 3,000 volunteers to serve in six categories.

## AIMAG to share slogan, mascots

**T**he 4th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games from June 29 to July 6, 2013, will give Incheon the ideal opportunity to test their operational and organisational skills for the 17th Asian Games the following year.

The OCA CC meeting heard that 4,500 athletes, officials and media are expected for the 2013 AIMAG, which will feature 100 events in nine sports at nine venues, two of which will be new.

The slogan, Diversity Shines Here, and mascots will be shared with the 17th Asian Games, but a new emblem featuring the OCA motto Ever Onward will be produced for the AIMAG by May 2012. A total of 2,700 volunteers will be recruited, beginning September 2012.



IAGOC's Kim Joong Jae addresses the 3rd OCA CC meeting at Incheon.





Sheikh Ahmad's hat trick! The OCA President takes no chances and wears a safety helmet on his site visit to the Main Stadium.

## FULL STEAM AHEAD FOR MAIN STADIUM

**A**s a two-time Olympian and President of the Japanese Olympic Committee, Tsunekazu Takeda has seen some impressive stadiums during his sporting life.

But even the OCA Coordination Committee Chairman was taken aback by the sheer size and scale of the Main Stadium being built for the 17th Asian Games in Incheon, Korea, in 2014.

"It is a huge project," he told reporters at the official OCA/IAGOC press conference following his site visit.

"I am convinced the Main Stadium will be one of the top sports stadiums in the world in the future," he added.

"Korea has great experience in hosting major multi-sports events,

with the Seoul Olympics in 1988, two Asian Games and one Asian Winter Games, and many kinds of world championship. I am convinced the Incheon Asian Games 2014 will be a great success."

The five-storey stadium is being built at a cost of US\$435 million and will take almost three years to complete. The ground-breaking ceremony took place on June 28, 2011, and work is expected to be finished by April 2014 – three months earlier than the original schedule. The 17th Asian Games will run from September 19 to October 4.

The Main Stadium will be supplemented by a 5,000-capacity Sub Stadium and a Cricket Stadium, as well as an Event Square and other landscape features.



### Main Stadium

Height:	5 storeys
Total Surface Area:	113,620 sq m
Site Area:	631,975 sq m
Seating Capacity:	61,074 (30,770 removable seats)
Games Time:	Opening and Closing Ceremonies, Athletics, Cricket
Budget:	US\$435 million
Time Frame:	June 2011-April 2014
Design Concepts:	Light, Wind and Dance
Eco-Friendly:	Sunlight, Solar Heat and Geothermal Heating System

# 45 NOCs

## News and sports round-up



### Afghanistan

Bakhtar News Agency reports that Afghanistan's Foreign Minister, Zalmay Rasul, held a special event to celebrate the achievements of martial arts practitioners such as Nesar Ahmad Bahawi, Rohullah Nikpai and Mahmud Haidari. He referred to them as ambassadors of peace, and said they had brought honour to Afghanistan.

Bakhtar also reported that plots of land were presented to two taekwondo athletes, Nesar Ahmad Bahawi and Rohullah Nikpai, by Khalilullah Hotak, head of the Sultan Mahmud Ghaznawi residential townships in Ghazni province. (Afghanistan Online: [www.afghan-web.com](http://www.afghan-web.com))



### Bahrain

The Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, Sheikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa, says the construction of a new sports stadium reflects the strong commitment of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to supporting the sports movement in the Kingdom. It also shows His Majesty's keenness to build sports infrastructure for the Bahraini youth to provide them with aspirations through sport. (Bahrain News Agency: [www.bna.bh](http://www.bna.bh))



### Bangladesh

A national seminar organised by the National Association of Sports for People with Disability was held on December 19 at the Bangladesh Olympic Association Auditorium. The Deputy Speaker of the Parliament, Col (Retd) Showkat Ali, MP, was Chief Guest. The Director General of BOA, Col (Retd) M. Wali Ullah, was Special Guest. The topic was how to ensure the participation of athletes with a disability in mainstream sport on a more regular basis. ([www.nocban.com](http://www.nocban.com))



### Bhutan

The Bhutan Olympic Committee has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Korean Olympic Committee on cooperation, exchanges and sports development. The agreement was signed in Thimphu by KOC President Park Yong Sung and His Majesty's Representative and the President of Bhutan Olympic Committee, HRH Prince Jigyel Ugyen Wangchuck.



### Brunei Darussalam

A banner reading "Tahniah" (congratulations) greeted the Brunei contingent at Brunei International Airport when they arrived home from the 26th SEA Games in Indonesia. Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Hj Hazair Hj Abdullah, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, presented each athlete with a congratulatory sash. "Despite not winning any gold, I think they've done very well. They won four silver medals," he said. Brunei also won seven bronze medals. ([www.bruneiolympic.org](http://www.bruneiolympic.org))



### Cambodia

The NOC of Cambodia organised a sports event in Sihanoukville as part of a Sea Festival celebration. Vath Chamroeun, Secretary General

of NOCC, said seven sports would be involved, including jet ski, Khmer traditional boxing, beach wrestling and beach volleyball. ([www.camnoc.org](http://www.camnoc.org))



### China

The 2012 Plenary Session of the Chinese Olympic Committee was held in Beijing on December 28, 2011, with COC President Liu Peng making the 2011 COC Work Report. China's Sports Minister said the COC would step up its efforts in 2012 in preparing for the London Olympics and organising the 3rd Asian Beach Games in Haiyang in June, continue to work closely with the IOC, OCA and different international sports federations in promoting the Olympic Movement in China and strive for more Olympic success at London 2012.



The COC President presented the 2011 IOC Trophy - Sport and Social Responsibility to Beijing Sport University. ([www.olympic.cn](http://www.olympic.cn))



### DPR Korea

The DPRK is now qualified to participate in seven events of the 30th Olympic Games, reports the Korean Central News Agency from Pyongyang. As well as women's football, 16 athletes (six men and 10 women) will compete in weightlifting, marathon, wrestling, table tennis, archery and shooting.

Kang Sung Hui, a vice department director of the Ministry of Physical Culture and Sports, told KCNA that the selection of players would continue until May, adding that more athletes were likely to qualify in boxing, judo and diving. The DPRK bagged two gold, one silver and three bronze medals in the 29th Olympic Games in 2008. ([www.kcna.kp](http://www.kcna.kp))



### Hong Kong, China

The "Oscars" of Hong Kong sport - The Bank of China Hong Kong Sports Stars Award 2011 - held a press conference at Times Square, Causeway Bay, to launch the Online Public Voting. Pang Chung, Hon. Secretary General of the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China, invited the general public to cast their votes for their favourite athletes and teams.

The SF&OC received a total of 165 nominations from 39 National Sports Associations competing for the six awards categories, of which four categories are open for online public voting: Hong Kong Sports Stars Awards, Hong Kong Junior Sports Stars Awards, Hong Kong Sports Stars Awards for Team Only Sport and Hong Kong Sports Stars Awards for Team Event. ([www.hkolympic.org](http://www.hkolympic.org))





### India

The International Hockey Federation has confirmed that RV Raghu Prasad has been appointed as an umpire and Claudius De Sales will officiate as a judge in the London Olympics 2012, Indian Sports News reports from New Delhi.

Indian Sports News also reports that the second edition of the Kids Olympics organised by The Rotary Club Himalayan Ranges at the Sports Complex, Sector 7 attracted around 273 children between the ages of 5 to 18. The athletes participating were from Bal Sadan, Shishu Greh Panchkula, Kartar Asra, Snehalaya Chandigarh, Guruasra, Mohali and Sahayata Red Cross Ludhiana. ([www.indiansportsnews.com](http://www.indiansportsnews.com))



### Indonesia



The Indonesian NOC conducted a Technical Coaching Course in Badminton from December 4-11, 2011, in Surabaya. The course was funded by Olympic Solidarity and 40 coaches from all over Indonesia participated. The German expert, Professor Hanno Felder, served as the expert for the Level 2 Badminton World Federation course. (Article courtesy Dr Greg J Wilson, PhD, Indonesian Olympic Committee)



### Iran

The NOC of the Islamic Republic of Iran held its 38th Ordinary General Assembly in Tehran on December 19. NOC President Mohammad Ali Abadi welcomed the new presidents of the sports federations and urged them to promote the Olympic spirit and ideals among the youth of the country.



Referring to the activities of the NOC, he remarked: "The Ministry of Sport and Youth, as well as the NOC, have had the highest level of cooperation ever in terms of observing moral and managerial issues. We have tried to attach great importance to the Olympic Movement

values, pursue the ideals envisaged by Baron Pierre de Coubertin, the founder of the Olympic Movement, and achieve remarkable results through our sound humanistic relations.

"I hope that we can accomplish further victories, particularly in the Olympic Games, hand in hand with the Minister of Sport and Youth, Dr. Mohammad Abbasi.

"I officially announce that the present atmosphere of the country's sport is an extraordinary one with more advances than drawbacks." (Article courtesy of Bahram Afsharzadeh, NOC Secretary General. [www.olympic.ir](http://www.olympic.ir))



### Iraq

Iraq finished 10th in the final medals table of the 12th Arab Games in Doha, Qatar, from December 9-23, winning 11 gold medals, 13 silver and 34 bronze for a total of 58 medals. Wrestling provided four of the 11 gold medals.



### Japan

The 2020 Tokyo Olympic bid committee said a recent poll found that 65.7 per cent of people nationwide and 65.2 per cent of people in Tokyo supported the capital's bid to host the Summer Olympics, Kyodo News reports. The committee polled men and women aged between 15 and 69 by phone and the Internet for three days from January 7.



The latest results were better than the 62 per cent national support rate and 60 per cent rate in Tokyo recorded at almost the same point ahead of the failed 2016 bid.

"I think we've made a good start," said Japanese Olympic Committee President and bid committee chief Tsunekazu Takeda. "Those are strong numbers." ([www.english.kyodonews.jp](http://www.english.kyodonews.jp))



### Jordan

The Jordan Olympic Committee held the 3rd level of the National Coaching Certification Programme at the Paralympics Hall in January. Organised by the JOC and the Coaching Association of Canada, the programme improved the level of training for national coaches in all sports, which ultimately will improve the results of the athletes. Thirty two coaches from 16 federations participated in the sessions, which included tips on preventing injuries, training modules and performance improvement. ([www.joc.jo](http://www.joc.jo))

# 45 NOCs

## News and sports round-up



Kazakhstan

Galina Vishnevskaya won two medals in the Winter YOG biathlon – silver in the girls' sprint and bronze in the girls' pursuit. Kazakhstan's third medal of the YOG was a bronze for Sergey Malyshev in cross-country skiing, boys' 10km classical.



Korea

President Lee Myung Bak believes the alpine city of PyeongChang should aim higher than simply hosting the 2018 Winter Olympics successfully and try to become a winter sports hub, drawing millions of tourists from warmer parts of Asia every year, Yonhap News Agency reports.



Lee made the remark during an event demonstrating Korea's commitment to hosting the 2018 Games successfully. Thousands of residents and high-level government and sports officials attended the occasion in PyeongChang, some 180 kilometers east of Seoul. (english.yonhapnews.co.kr)



Kuwait

Kuwaiti shooters who have qualified for the London 2012 Olympics are to be rewarded on a monthly basis until the start of the Games in July, the Kuwait Shooting Club has announced. The monthly allowance will be in addition to the semi-pro sum they already receive, the club's Board Secretary, Obaid Al-Osaimi, said in a statement.

Shooters Fehaid Al-Daihani (men's double trap), Abdallah Al-Rasheedi (men's skeet), Talal Al-Rasheedi (men's trap) and Maryam Erzougi (women's 10m air rifle) all qualified for London after winning a gold, five silver and one bronze medal in the Asian Shooting Championships in Doha.

The Kuwaitis will look forward to the London Games with optimism, having already bagged one bronze medal in the 2000 Sydney Olympics, which went to Fehaid Al-Daihani. (Kuwait News Agency. www.kuna.net.kw)



Kyrgyzstan

Shooting star Ruslan Ismailov qualified for the London Olympic Games through the Asian Shooting Championships in Doha, Kabar National News Agency reports from Bishkek.

According to the information of the press service of the State Agency for Physical Culture and Sports of Kyrgyzstan, on January 13, the Kyrgyz sportsman finished sixth in the air rifle competition with 696.5 points.

So far, four Kyrgyz athletes have qualified for the London Olympics. (kabar.kg/eng)



Laos

Phankham Viphavanh, Minister of Education and Sports of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, met with the visiting Chinese Sports Minister and COC President Liu Peng in Vientiane on December 1, 2011. At the invitation of the Lao Ministry of Education and Sports, Liu Peng and other member of the Chinese sports delegation arrived in the Lao capital on December 1. (www.olympic.cn)



Lebanon

Lebanon won eight gold medals, five silver and 16 bronze for a total of 29 and a 12th-place finish at the 12th Arab Games in Doha, Qatar, from December 9-23. Freestyle specialist Katya Bachrouche won four of the gold medals in swimming. Lebanon will host the 13th Arab Games in 2015.



Macau

Kenya dominated the men's and women's 2011 Galaxy Entertainment International Marathon on Sunday, December 4, Macau News reports. Chemlany Stephen Kwelio, 29, won the men's race in 2:12.49, and Jepkemboi Chesire Rose, 27, won the women's event in 2:31.28. A total of 6,000 runners competed in the marathon, half-marathon or mini-marathon.

The 30th Macau International Marathon was co-organised by the Macau Sports Development Board and Macau Athletics Association in conjunction with the Macau Government Tourist Office and Sports and Olympic Committee of Macau, China. As in previous years, the event was title-sponsored by the Galaxy Entertainment Group casino company. (www.macaunews.com.mo)



Malaysia

The Olympic Council of Malaysia congratulates Nur Suryani Mohd Taibi for achieving a quota place in the Women's 10m air rifle event to qualify for the London 2012 Olympic Games at the Asian Shooting Championships in Doha on January 15, 2012. She scored 499.7 points to finish fifth and become the first Malaysian shooter to qualify for the London Games.

OCM also sends condolences to the family of the late Mohd Abdul Rahman, who passed away peacefully on January 16. Mohd Abdul Rahman represented Malaysia in Athletics at the 1961 and 1965 Southeast Asian Peninsular (SEAP) Games, the Perth 1962 Empire Games, the Jakarta 1962 Asian Games and the Tokyo 1964 Olympic Games, where he participated in the 400m and 800m and the 4 x 400m relay.

At the 2nd SEAP Games in 1961 he won a gold medal in the 4 x 400m relay and a bronze in the 800m. (www.olympic.org.my)





## Maldives

Maldives Olympic Committee President Ibrahim Ismail received the lifetime achievement award at the Haveeru Sports Awards for his contributions as a sportsman and for his years of dedicated service to developing sports in the country. In a ceremony held at Dharubaaruge, Haveeru Chairman Zahir Hussain presented the prestigious award to the MOC President.

Ibrahim Ismail started his sporting career as a soccer player and later became a referee. In his long career as a sportsman he achieved a lot of success as a player and sports administrator. He was the first elected president of Maldives Olympic Committee. ([www.nocmaldives.org](http://www.nocmaldives.org))



## Mongolia

Mongolia NOC, in collaboration with the Mongolian Ski Federation, donated 400 sets of skis worth US\$20,000 to 10 winter sports provinces and six sports committees in order to promote and develop the sport throughout the country.

Mr. Ts. Damdin, NOC Vice President, and Mr. D. Surenkhorloo, Secretary-General of the Mongolian Ski Federation, attended the ceremony at Olympic House and expressed their wishes to discover new talent in cross-country skiing for the Winter Olympics in Sochi 2014 and PyeongChang 2018. Mongolian cross-country skiers have taken part in 11 editions of the Winter Olympics since 1964. ([www.olympic.mn](http://www.olympic.mn))



## Myanmar

After Indonesia's 11-11-11 opening ceremony for the 26th SEA Games on November 11, 2011, the next host Myanmar is planning something similar – 11-12-13! Organisers of the 27th SEA Games are considering holding the opening ceremony on 11 December, 2013, although this has not been officially submitted for approval by the SEA Games Federation.

Myanmar sports officials turned on a charm offensive at the 26th SEA Games in Palembang and Jakarta to promote their hosting of the biennial Southeast Asian regional sports festival in the new capital Naypyidaw.



## Nepal

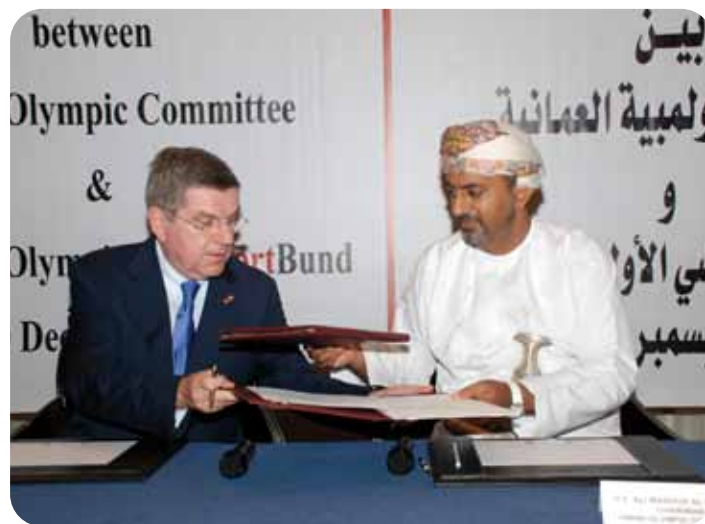
The President of Nepal Olympic Committee, Dhruva Bahadur Pradhan, bid an official farewell to alpine ski athlete Bibash Lama participating in the Winter Youth Olympic Games, coach Ram Prasad Gurung and Chef de Mission Chaturananda Raj Baidya. The IOC's inaugural Winter YOG took place in Innsbruck, Austria, from January 13 to 22, and Lama participated in the slalom and giant slalom. ([www.nocnepal.org.np](http://www.nocnepal.org.np))



## Oman

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on Saturday, December 10, 2011 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel between the Oman Olympic Committee and German Olympic Sports Confederation (Deutscher Olympischer Sportbund/DOSB).

The MoU aims to further develop cooperation in the field of physical activity and sports and strengthen the amicable relationship between sports organisations in the Sultanate of Oman and the Federal Republic of Germany with a view to promoting the understanding between sportsmen and sportswomen of both countries.



His Excellency Ali Masoud Al Sunaidy, Chairman, Oman Olympic Committee, and Germany NOC President and IOC Vice President Dr. Thomas Bach signed the MoU.



## Pakistan

Pakistan completed a clean sweep of China in their four-match hockey series, but sportingly handed the trophy to the visitors for their support in making the journey to Pakistan.

"China lost the hockey series but won the friendship series by coming to Pakistan, so we will give this trophy to them," Asif Bajwa, the secretary of Pakistan Hockey Federation, said at the awards ceremony.

"They have proved that there is no security threat to any foreign team in Pakistan and sport is fully protected over here," he added.

Pakistan, which last hosted an international major hockey event seven years ago, hopes the Chinese tour will help convince other foreign teams to visit. ([www.thenews.com.pk/AFP](http://www.thenews.com.pk/AFP))



## Palestine

For the first time in the history of the International Sports Press Association, AIPS initiated a meeting between an Israeli and a Palestinian to foster better working conditions between the sports journalists of the region.

The President of the Football Association and National Olympic Committee of Palestine, Jibril Rajoub, and the chief of the sports department of the Israel newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth, Jossi Aharoni, were the pioneers of this unique venture at an AIPS Executive Committee meeting in Seefeld, Austria.

"We can use sports to build peace, with the Israelis and with the whole world. It is a good opportunity for the middle east to solve conflict," said Jibril Rajoub. ([www.aipsmedia.com](http://www.aipsmedia.com))



### Philippines

The Philippine Olympic Committee is organising the POC Sport and Art Contest 2012, National Phase, with the theme "Sport and the Olympic Values of Excellence, Friendship and Respect". There are two categories: sculptures and graphic works (paintings, drawings and engravings etc).

The deadline for entries was February 10, 2012. The best three in each category of the National Phase will receive prizes, and the winner of each category will become the official POC entry in the International Phase run by the IOC.

The top three in each category of the International Phase will receive US\$30,000 for first place, US\$20,000 for runner-up and US\$10,000 for third place. ([www.olympic.ph](http://www.olympic.ph))



### Qatar

HH Sheikha Jawahir bint Hamad bin Suhaim Al Thani, the wife of HH the Heir Apparent, opened the first conference on The History of Women and Sport at the Lecture Hall of the Museum of Islamic Art in Doha on Sunday, January 22.

The conference was organised by the Qatar Museum of Olympic Sports in cooperation with the Qatar Women's Sport Committee and brought together a number of international experts to shed light on topics related to women's sports activities.

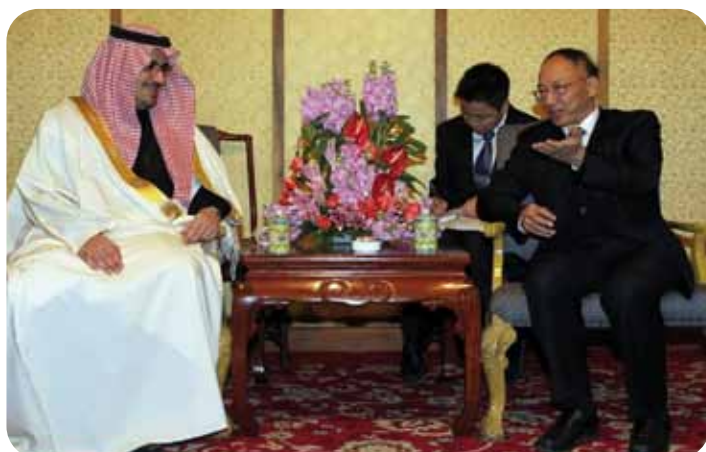
The inaugural session was attended by HE Sheikha Mayassa bint Hamad Al-Thani, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of Qatar Museums Authority, HE Sheikh Saoud Bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Secretary General of Qatar Olympic Committee, Abdullah Al Najjar, CEO of the Museum of Qatar Islamic Art, Sheikha Naeema Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah of Kuwait, and Ahlam Salem Al Manaa, Chairperson of the Qatar Women's Sport Committee.

([www.qatarolympics.org](http://www.qatarolympics.org))



### Saudi Arabia

The President General of Youth Welfare and President of the Saudi Arabian Olympic Committee, HRH Prince Nawaf Faisal Fahd Abdulaziz, met with Chinese Olympic Committee President and Sports Minister Liu Peng in Beijing on January 6.



Prince Nawaf spoke highly of the successful hosting of both the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games and the 2010 Guangzhou Asian Games, hoping that the sports cooperation and development of the friendly relations between China and Saudi Arabia would set an example to other countries and regions in Asia.

After the meeting the two sides signed the Agreement on Sports Cooperation between the Saudi Arabian and Chinese governments. ([www.olympic.cn](http://www.olympic.cn))



### Singapore

The SEA Games Federation has approved the Republic's bid to host the 2015 edition of the biennial Games following a personal appearance and pledge by Deputy Prime Minister and Singapore National Olympic Council President Teo Chee Hean at a council meeting in Palembang, Indonesia.

Singapore first expressed interest in February 2011 after Cambodia - the original host - said it did not have the resources to do so.

Singapore's new Sports Hub at Kallang, being built at a cost of Singapore \$1.33 billion (US\$1.03 billion), will be ready by 2014. ([www.snoc.org.sg](http://www.snoc.org.sg))



### Sri Lanka

The second Sport Administration Course for 2011 was conducted by the NOC of Sri Lanka from December 13-16 at the Olympic House, Colombo 7. Out of 110 applicants, 46 people who are involved in sports administration by profession and 14 undergraduates who are learning sports management at the University of Sabaragamuwa were selected for the course after an interview. At the end of the four-day course, 44 participants were eligible for Olympic Solidarity certificates.

The course was conducted by a panel of six resource personnel including four National Course Directors recognised by the IOC - Mr BLH Perera, Mr Maxwell de Silva, Gp Capt Nalin De Silva and Mrs Olivia Gamage - and two ASMC 2009/2010 qualified facilitators: Mr Nishanthe Piyasena and Brig TF Meedin.

In addition, two guest lecturers were also invited to cover areas on Financial Management and Budgeting and Sport Medicine and Anti-doping: Mr Kapila Jeewantha and Dr Abdul Muyeen. ([www.srilankaolympic.org](http://www.srilankaolympic.org))



### Syria

The Syrian national snooker team beat Qatar 3-0 in the final to win the gold medal in the West Asian Snooker Championships in the United Arab Emirates, reports the Syrian Arab News Agency. A total of 13 countries took part.

Earlier, Syria's Mohammad al-Soufi won the gold medal in billiards and Omar Qoujeh took bronze in snooker. The Syrian team ranked first with two gold medals and one bronze.

Syria's national team for billiards and snooker was ranked 11th in the world last year by the International Billiards and Snooker Federation, and first at the Arab level. ([www.sana.sy](http://www.sana.sy))





### Chinese Taipei

The 15th Sports Exchange Symposium between the two sides of the Taiwan Straits was held in Beijing on December 14, 2011. Before the symposium, Liu Peng and Yang Shu'an, President and Vice President of the Chinese Olympic Committee, met with the visiting delegation from the Chinese Taipei Olympic Committee headed by Thomas W. Tsai. ([www.olympic.cn](http://www.olympic.cn))



### Tajikistan

The Dushanbe mayor's office will donate two-room apartments to athletes from Dushanbe who win Olympic gold in London, Shavkat Saidov, a spokesman for the Dushanbe mayor's office, said. Silver medallists will receive 45,000 somoni each and bronze medallists will receive 35,000, the spokesman said. (Asia-Plus)



### Thailand

International Boxing Association (AIBA) President Wu Ching-Kuo said his visit to Thailand in January would strengthen the relationship between his organisation and the Thailand Boxing Association, the Bangkok Post reports.

"I am pleased to be back to Thailand. It is my first visit in three years," said Wu, who was greeted by TBA President Gen Boonlert Kaewprasit. "My time here is not only for the commissions meeting but also to strengthen the relationship between the two bodies."

AIBA had been in conflict with the now-defunct Amateur Boxing Association of Thailand before it recognised the TBA five months ago. Wu said he backed Thailand to host the AIBA Youth World Boxing Championships in October. ([www.bangkokpost.com](http://www.bangkokpost.com))



### Timor-Leste

Timor-Leste struck gold in the shorinji kempo competition at the 26th SEA Games in Indonesia through Julianto Perreira and Dorceyana Borges in the artistic kyu-kenshi category.

"It is like a dream to see our athletes winning a gold medal. But this is not a dream, it is real," said team coach Francisco Amaral Da Silva. "We hope the gold medal from kempo will encourage other Timor-Leste athletes and give them a strong spirit to win. We have proven it through kempo." Timor-Leste finished 10th of 11 teams in Indonesia, with one gold, one silver and six bronze medals. ([www.antaranews.com](http://www.antaranews.com))



### Turkmenistan

The State Committee for Tourism and Sports announced the best athletes of Turkmenistan in 2011. Seventeen boys and girls were named best athletes for their outstanding achievements in the world sports arena.

Weightlifters Umurbek Bazarbaev, Daniyar Ismailov and Tolkunbek Hudayberganov headed this prestigious list. The victory of the Turkmen weightlifters in the World Championships in Paris brought three quota places in the London 2012 Olympic Games for the first time in the history of Turkmen sport. ([www.turkmenistan.gov.tm](http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm))



### United Arab Emirates

In a landmark move, TNT Express, the leading global express company, signed the first Official Supplier's sponsorship agreement with the UAE National Olympic Committee. The three-year agreement will see TNT as the exclusive logistics supplier of the NOC's freight and delivery needs throughout the region.



TNT will fly the UAE Olympic flag across their delivery vehicles, as well as be positioned prominently on their employee uniforms. TNT will also have access to and exposure through additional UAE Olympic Committee activities conducted throughout the term. ([www.uaenoc.ae](http://www.uaenoc.ae))



### Uzbekistan

Special attention is being given to the development of children's sports, the support of talented children and the strengthening of sports schools, reports the Uzbekistan National News Agency. Large-scale work in this direction in Samarkand region is yielding good results.

All the necessary conditions for children have been created in the Sartepa sports complex of Samarkand region. More than 500 boys and girls are engaged in sports such as rhythmic gymnastics, gymnastics, football, taekwondo, muay thai, weightlifting and boxing. Much attention in the complex is paid to attracting girls into sports, and girls taught by qualified coaches are achieving success in international competitions. ([www.uza.uz](http://www.uza.uz))



### Vietnam

Vietnamese shooter Hoang Xuan Vinh, 37, has qualified for the London Olympic Games. Vinh scored 682.4 points in the men's 10-meter air pistol event at the Asian Shooting Championships in Doha, Qatar, to finish fourth.

Vinh is the eighth Vietnamese athlete to have won a London Olympics berth. The other seven are Van Ngoc Tu (judo), Nguyen Tien Minh (badminton), Chu Hoang Dieu Linh and Le Huynh Chau (taekwondo), Pham Phuoc Hung and Phan Ha Thanh (gymnastics) and Hoang Quy Phuoc (swimming). Vietnam has set itself a target of winning 25 Olympic berths including wild card entries. (By Lan Phuong, Thanh Nien News/[www.vnnnews.net](http://www.vnnnews.net))



### Yemen

Martial arts brought Yemen's two gold medals at the 12th Arab Games in Doha. Ali Khousrof won the men's -60kg judo, and Tameem Al-Kubati won the men's -54kg taekwondo title. Yemen finished in 14th place with two gold, two silver and three bronze medals.

### 2012



Macau, China: February 07  
**OCA Media Committee**



London, Great Britain: February 20 - 21  
**54th ANOC Executive Board Meeting**



Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia: February 29  
**9th Fun Run + Learn - Incheon 2014**



Chinese Taipei: March 4  
**10th Fun Run + Learn - Incheon 2014**



Bangkok, Thailand: March 18  
**OCA Advisory Committee**



Incheon, Korea: March 22  
**OCA Medical Committee**



Moscow, Russia: April 11  
**55th ANOC Executive Board Meeting**



Moscow, Russia: April 12  
**OCA Informal Gathering**



Moscow, Russia: April 13  
**18th ANOC General Assembly**



Moscow, Russia: April 16 - 17  
**2nd World Sports Convention**



Muscat, Oman: April 24  
**OS/OCA Forum for Central and West Asia**



Muscat, Oman: April 24  
**11th Fun Run + Learn - Incheon 2014**



Muscat, Oman: April 25  
**IOC Media Seminar for Women**



Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: April 28  
**OS/OCA Forum for East, South and South East Asia**



Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: April 28  
**12th Fun Run + Learn - Incheon 2014**



Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: April 30  
**Olympic Values Education Program**



Tashkent, Uzbekistan: May 11  
**13th Fun Run + Learn - Incheon 2014**



Kish Islands, Iran: May 14  
**14th Fun Run + Learn - Incheon 2014**



Colombo, Sri Lanka: May 19  
**15th Fun Run + Learn - Incheon 2014**



Haiyang, China: June 15  
**OCA International Relations Committee**



Haiyang, China: June 16 - 22  
**3rd Asian Beach Games, Haiyang 2012**



Haiyang, China: June 16  
**61st OCA Executive Board Meeting**



London, Great Britain: July 27 - August 12  
**XXX Olympiad**



Beijing, China: September 20  
**16th Fun Run + Learn - Incheon 2014**



Macau, China: November 1  
**OCA Standing Committees**



Macau, China: November 2  
**62nd OCA Executive Board Meeting**



Macau, China: November 2  
**17th Fun Run + Learn - Incheon 2014**



Macau, China: November 3  
**31st OCA General Assembly**

### 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  
**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

