

## SHARE THE JOY IN HAIYANG

### Stage set for 3rd Asian Beach Games

OCA President's ANOC honour  
OCA Fun Run + Learn takes off  
OCA Games update



# Contents

Inside your 32-page Sporting Asia

## SPORTING ASIA

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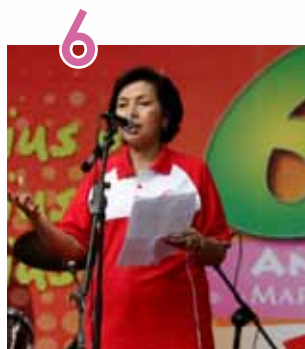
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3	OCA President's Message OCA President to chair Olympic Solidarity
4 - 5	18th ANOC General Assembly, Moscow 2012 Olympic Movement rallies behind Sheikh Ahmad
6 - 7	News Digest: Indonesia NOC celebrates 60th anniversary Asian Olympic Family in mourning Asian nominations for IOC membership
8 - 9	Women and Sport Special: India wins top IOC award OCA Women and Sport Committee welcomes IOC President
10 - 11	Inside the OCA: OCA President meets Thai Prime Minister OCA Media Committee OCA's new anti-doping director
12 - 13	Olympic Solidarity/OCA Forums: News and photos from Muscat and Kuala Lumpur
14 - 19	OCA Fun Run + Learn: Mongolia, Chinese Taipei, Oman, Malaysia and Iran Youth Reporter Project Fun Learn winners
20 - 22	Games Update: Haiyang 2012 Flame lighting ceremony New village, venues await athletes Draw for team sports
23	Games Update: Nanjing 2013 OCA Director General praises Youth Games plans Emblem, slogan unveiled
24	Games Update: Incheon 2013, 5th Children of Asia Games AIMAG deadlines for NOCs Free accommodation, meals at Yakutsk 2012
25	Games Update: Incheon 2014 IAGOC signs sponsorship deals OCA CC meeting for 17th Asian Games
26 - 31	News and sports from OCA's 45 NOCs
32	OCA Diary, Sponsors' Club

Front cover

An Jing, 21, from the Beijing Dance Academy, lights the flame for the 3rd Asian Beach Games in Haiyang, China, on April 17. (Wang Bo, Yantai Daily)

### ANOC ELECTION WAS A VICTORY FOR 'TEAM ASIA'



To achieve success in sport you cannot do it alone. You need a strong team behind you, working together with the same goal and the same determination. In the Olympic Council of Asia we have had this team spirit and solidarity for over 20 years, and I have no doubt this unity played a big part in my election as President of the Association of National Olympic Committees in Moscow in April.

It is the first time in the history of the Olympic Movement that Asia has held such a prominent position, and I am truly honoured and humbled by the appointment.

I regard it as a success for Asia, because what we have achieved in recent years has been achieved together, as a team, moving forward and striving to spread the Olympic ideals and values across the continent and beyond.

Without the support, cooperation and hard work of the NOCs, the OCA could never have reached the position in which it finds itself today: one of the most active organisations in the global sports movement, respected for its administration and admired for its adventure.

As I said in Moscow, I regard myself as a coordinator as much as the new President of ANOC. I need your support and advice to carry out my mission successfully, just as I have been able to rely on your unity and solidarity during my years as OCA President.

Together we have built the Olympic Movement in Asia, and together we will continue our work and our understanding. I have a strong team behind me, and every member of the team has played a part in this success. So thank you, Team Asia.

**Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah**  
President, OCA & President, ANOC

### SHEIKH AHMAD TO CHAIR OLYMPIC SOLIDARITY COMMISSION

The Olympic Council of Asia is proud to announce that the OCA President, H.E. Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, has been appointed Chairman of the Olympic Solidarity Commission by IOC President Jacques Rogge.



The appointment was announced at the IOC Executive Board meeting in Quebec, Canada, on May 23, and is the latest honour in the global Olympic Movement for Sheikh Ahmad, who was elected ANOC President on April 13.

In a letter to Sheikh Ahmad dated May 4, 2012, President Rogge writes: "The Olympic Solidarity represents the IOC's principal means of assistance towards its member National Olympic Committees, in particular those having the greatest need, and therefore is of paramount importance to the Olympic Movement.

"The Olympic Solidarity enjoys an important level of operational autonomy within the IOC. It is an integral part of the IOC and is subject to the IOC's rules and regulations, in particular in the areas of financial control and consolidation of accounts."

The IOC President wished Sheikh Ahmad all the best in carrying out this important function.



IOC President Jacques Rogge



## SHEIKH AHMAD BECOMES NEW ANOC PRESIDENT

**First Asia, now the world!**

As President of the OCA since 1991, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah presides over the affairs of 45 National Olympic Committees.

That figure has now grown to 204 NOCs after Sheikh Ahmad was elected President of the Association of National Olympic Committees at the 18th ANOC General Assembly in Moscow, Russia, on Friday, April 13.

In a landslide result, the OCA President received 174 votes. There was only one vote against and two abstentions, enabling Sheikh Ahmad to succeed the only previous ANOC President, Mario Vazquez Rana, who had resigned on March 15.

"This is a big responsibility for me, and we will need to do many things together after the success of our first President, Mr Mario Vazquez Rana. I will be the coordinator between the Executive Council and the NOCs," said Sheikh Ahmad in his election speech.

Sheikh Ahmad had been the ANOC Vice President for Asia but was appointed Interim President through to the 18th General Assembly by the Executive Council at a meeting in Bangkok on March 18. His election in Moscow installed him as President until 2014.

"We are proud of being a part of the sports movement and the Olympic Movement," he continued.

"Let's continue our success story. Let's continue what our ex-president and colleagues have done. Let's continue to work hard and move forward for our future generations."

IOC President Jacques Rogge and the President of the Russian Olympic Committee, Alexander Zhukov, also attended the General Assembly.

The General Assembly met from April 13-15, followed by the second World Olympic Sport Convention for government sports ministers and leaders from April 16-17.



Sheikh Ahmad is flanked by Vladimir Putin and Alexander Zhukov (right)

## RANDHIR SINGH IS NEW ANOC VP

With Sheikh Ahmad moving up to ANOC President, the role on the Executive Council of Vice President for Asia has been filled by Raja Randhir Singh, Secretary General of the OCA and of the Indian Olympic Association.

In another move, IOC Vice President Yu Zaiping of China has become a member of the ANOC Executive Council for Asia.



## REACTION FROM AROUND THE WORLD TO OCA PRESIDENT'S NEW ANOC ROLE



I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to the newly elected ANOC President, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah. You are a well-known figure, not only in our sports community but in many other political organisations. I believe you can further develop our sports and Olympic Movement to a higher level with such rich experience.

**Vladimir Putin**  
President, Russian Federation



I wish you the very best of success in promoting the ideals of Olympism and strengthening international sports cooperation.

**Dmitry Medvedev**,  
Immediate Past President,  
Russian Federation.



Sheikh Ahmad's election as ANOC President is a good thing for this organisation. He is a good leader and does a good job in the OCA. That makes me believe he can do the same for ANOC. Africa supports him to be our president so we are satisfied and happy. I hope he can set up a new level for our organisation, the same as he has done for Asia.

**Gen. Lassana Palenfo** (Cote d'Ivoire), ANOC Vice President for Africa



The election went very well. That is the result of information provided to the delegates during the continental meetings the day before the General Assembly.

Now everyone is happy for our new President, Sheikh Ahmad. After his election he totally changed the atmosphere of the meeting. The congress went calmly and smoothly. Everyone is free to talk. I believe the conduct of the meeting is very different. He is a very experienced man and runs a very successful continent. I wish him all the best in the coming two years presidency.

**Dr. Robin Mitchell** (Fiji), ANOC Vice President for Oceania



I think the election is fantastic. It shows universal acceptance of Sheikh Ahmad - except for one vote against, which was expected. It shows

that the whole world is united under his leadership, which is great for ANOC. Everybody is happy and excited about Sheikh Ahmad's motivation to work hard. He is in a working mood and being inclusive, which means he is willing to consult with his Vice Presidents and Executive Council members. This hasn't happened in the past. This is a great new change.

**Patrick J. Hickey** (Ireland), ANOC Vice President for Europe



I wholeheartedly support the election of H.E. Sheikh Ahmad as President of ANOC. I know from first-hand experience what he has done for the

Olympic Movement in Asia, and feel confident he can do the same on a global scale as head of ANOC. He is admired and respected for his hard work, his generosity and his concern for all NOCs, big or small, and he has been a great supporter of Japan during our recovery from the natural disasters of March 2011.

**Tsunekazu Takeda**, President, Japanese Olympic Committee, Chairman, OCA Coordination Committee



Sheikh Ahmad is a very hard-working person and an important president for Asia. He manages the Asian Olympic Movement excellently and I'm sure he will handle ANOC in the same way in the future, bringing big success to our Olympic community.

**Julio Cesar Maglione** (Uruguay), ANOC Vice President for America.



Sheikh Ahmad has been a great supporter of Chinese sport for the past 20 years as President of the OCA. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Sheikh Ahmad on becoming the new president of ANOC.

**Liu Peng**, President, Chinese Olympic Committee.

## INDONESIA NOC CELEBRATES 60TH ANNIVERSARY

The Indonesian Olympic Committee celebrated its 60th anniversary on Sunday, March 11 at a function held in Senayan, Jakarta, close to the new NOC offices and sports stadium.

The NOC President, Mrs Rita Subowo, opened the celebrations with a short speech outlining the history of the NOC, which was created in 1946 and officially recognised by the IOC in 1952.

Indonesia took part in the Olympic Games for the first time in Helsinki in 1952 with three athletes.

Since then 302 Indonesian athletes have participated in the Olympic Games, winning a total of six gold, nine silver and 10 bronze medals.

Mr Djoko Pekik Irianto, from the Ministry of Sport, and past NOC President Mr Agum Gumelar also addressed the audience on the special occasion of the 60th anniversary celebrations.

Mrs Subowo is also an IOC member and member of the OCA Executive Board.



Indonesians celebrate the 60th anniversary of the NOC.

## ASIAN SPORTS FAMILY MOURNS LOSS OF NOC STALWARTS

With deep sadness the Olympic Council of Malaysia reports the passing away of our colleague and friend, Madam Latifah Yacob, aged 62.



Madam Latifah was a great sports lover. She was captain of Sultan Ibrahim School, Johor Bahru, in almost all sports teams and represented the state of Johor in athletics, badminton, hockey and netball.

Madam Latifah was elected Honorary Secretary of the Malaysian Fencing Federation (1998-2003) and Honorary Assistant Secretary of the Olympic Council of Malaysia (2000-2007).

She served the Malaysian contingents to the following Games: 1, 2001 - 21st SEA Games in Kuala Lumpur, Deputy

Chef de Mission; 2, 2002 - 14th Asian Games in Busan, Korea, Deputy Chef de Mission; 3, 2004 - XXVIII Olympic Games in Athens, Greece, Secretariat; 4, 2006 - 15th Asian Games in Doha, Qatar, Deputy Chef de Mission.

"The death of Madam Latifah Yacob is a great loss to the country and leaves a big void in the Olympic Movement of Malaysia," the OCM said in a statement on March 16.



The two-time Olympic volleyball champion and Uzbekistan NOC Vice President, Vera Duyunova, died on March 2 in Tashkent.

Vera Duyunova won her first gold medal at the 1968 Games in Mexico City and a second four years later in Munich. She was also a world champion and runner-up and a World Cup winner.

After her sports career she was actively involved in promoting children's and women's sport in Uzbekistan. As well as her NOC role, Vera Duyunova was President of the Olympians Association of Uzbekistan.



## TAKEDA, LI NOMINATED FOR IOC MEMBERSHIP

The International Olympic Committee Executive Board has proposed five candidates for the election of a maximum of five members of the IOC at the 124th IOC Session in London in July.

The five nominations include two representatives from Asia: Tsunekazu Takeda, President of the Japanese Olympic Committee and Chairman of the OCA Coordination Committee, and former badminton player Li Lingwei of China.

The other three nominees are: Aisha Garad Ali (Djibouti), Pierre-Olivier Beckers (Belgium) and Frank Fredericks (Namibia).

The IOC EB members made the proposal at their first meeting of 2012, on March 13-14, in Lausanne.

In other business, the EB examined the reports by the IOC commissions and administration, as well as the progress of preparations for the next editions of the Olympic Games: London 2012, Sochi 2014, Rio 2016 and PyeongChang 2018.

The two-day meeting started with a moment of silence for IOC honorary member from Nigeria Henry Edmund Olufemi Adefope, who passed away on March 11 at the age of 84.

Finally, the EB selected Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, as the sole nominee to host the 127th IOC Session in 2015. The vote will take place at the next IOC Session, in London this July.



Tsunekazu Takeda, President, Japanese Olympic Committee



Kuala Lumpur - set to host the IOC Session in 2015

## KAZAKHSTAN TO HOST BOXING WORLDS IN 2013

The International Boxing Association (AIBA) has announced that the 2013 World Boxing Championships will take place in Kazakhstan. AIBA President and IOC member Wu Ching-Kuo has signed an agreement with the President of the Kazakhstan Boxing Federation, Timur Kulibayev, confirming Astana as the host city.

☀ The International Shooting Sports Federation has awarded the 2018 ISSF World Championships in all events to Changwon, Korea. The ISSF said that the Korean Government had agreed to invest more than USD 30 million to rebuild existing venues and to organise the event. The new compound will feature six shotgun layouts, 100 50m targets and 100 10m targets, 14 25m layouts as well as several running target layouts.

☀ The qualification process for Asian nations for the

International Rugby Board World Cup 2015 has begun in the Philippines. According to the IRB there has been an 18 percent increase in rugby participation in Asia since the 2007 World Cup. Japan will become the first Asian country to host the Rugby World Cup, in 2019.

☀ The Nanjing Youth Olympic Games Organising Committee has staged a series of auditions as part of the process for assessing proposals for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the 2nd Summer YOG in 2014.

☀ The IOC Coordination Commission for the PyeongChang 2018 Olympic Winter Games paid its first visit to the Korean host city from March 20-22. Led by Gunilla Lindberg, the Commission met members of the PyeongChang 2018 Organising Committee and representatives of the national government and local authorities.



IOC President Jacques Rogge with the award winners. ©IOC/Bob Long

## INDIA COLLECTS IOC WORLD TROPHY

The International Olympic Committee honoured five women and one organisation for their outstanding contributions to the development of women's participation in sport and sports administration during a ceremony for the 2012 IOC Women and Sport Awards in Los Angeles.

Presented on the opening night of the 5th World Conference on Women and Sport, the trophies were awarded to one global and five continental winners selected by the IOC Women and Sport Commission from a pool of 52 nominees. The entries were submitted by National Olympic Committees, Continental Associations and International Federations.

India's Manisha Malhotra was presented with the World Trophy for her commitment to helping disadvantaged girls progress through sport.

Following a professional tennis career that saw her compete in the 2000 Olympic Games, Malhotra started offering women support in a range of sports, including archery, wrestling, boxing, badminton, athletics, squash and shooting.

She travels all over India, visiting some of the country's most remote areas, to find talented individuals among the socio-economically deprived.

As Chair of the Sports Committee of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India, Malhotra has also worked tirelessly to promote female leaders in all aspects of sport in the economic sector.

"As a former Olympian, Ms Malhotra knows how important sport can be in the lives of young women," said IOC President Jacques Rogge, who was on hand to present the trophy on February 16.

"Ms Malhotra has been, and continues to be, an inspiration to everyone she meets. I applaud her and all of tonight's winners for everything they have done to help improve the lives of women around the world."

### Continental winners

- Africa:** Peninnah Aligawesa Kabenge (Uganda)
- Americas:** Bradesco Sports and Education Programme and Centre (Brazil)
- Asia:** Zaiton Othman (Malaysia)
- Europe:** Aikaterini Nafplioti-Panagopoulos (Greece)
- Oceania:** Roseline Blake (Cook Islands)



## IOC PRESIDENT ADVISES OCA WOMEN AND SPORT COMMITTEE

The OCA Women and Sport Committee, under the leadership of Mrs Natalya Sipovich, organised an Asian continental meeting in collaboration with the IOC on the sidelines of the 5th IOC World Conference on Women and Sport in Los Angeles.

The OCA-IOC meeting, which took place on February 16, attracted 32 delegates from 21 Asian NOCs, including Bangladesh, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Malaysia, Cambodia, Qatar, Nepal, Indonesia, Syria, Thailand, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Oman, Mongolia, China and Laos.

The continental meeting provided a golden opportunity for the Asian delegates to meet with the IOC President, Jacques Rogge, who delivered a short speech on the progress made in the field of participation of women in sport.

The delegates were able to ask the IOC President questions and receive his comments and advice. They also discussed matters relating to the advancement of women in and through sport and made proposals on the advancement of the Women and Sport movement to the IOC for consideration.

The meeting was graced by the presence of several IOC members, IOC Women and Sport Commission members and other prominent figures in the Olympic Movement, including HRH Prince Feisal Bin Al Hussein, Mr Wu Ching-Kuo, Mr Masato Mizuno, Mrs Rita Subowo, Mrs Nour Karfoul, Dr Chungwon Choue and Ms Low Beng Choo, who was the moderator.

Ms. Anita L. DeFrantz, Chairperson, IOC Women and Sport Commission, welcomed the Asian delegates and wished them all success in their work at the IOC Conference.



OCA Women and Sport Committee Chair Natalya Sipovich (right), IOC President Jacques Rogge and seminar moderator Low Beng Choo.

## CONFERENCE CALLS FOR MORE GENDER EQUALITY

Participants in the 5th IOC World Conference on Women and Sport called on sports leaders to take a more proactive role in advancing the cause of women in and through sport as the event came to a close in Los Angeles, California, on February 18.

The three-day conference, whose theme was "Together Stronger: the Future of Sport," ended with over 800 delegates from 135 countries unanimously approving The Los Angeles Declaration - a series of recommendations aimed at promoting gender equality in sport and using sport as a tool to improve the lives of women around the world.

The declaration focused on two main themes:

- ☀ The need to bring more women into management and leadership roles.
- ☀ The need to increase collaboration and partnerships, especially with UN organisations, to promote gender equality.

The conference declaration acknowledged that the Olympic Movement's steady progress towards gender equality on the field of play had not been matched in sports leadership positions.

# OCA PRESIDENT THANKS THAILAND FOR LOYAL SUPPORT

The President of the OCA, H.E. Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, met with the Prime Minister of Thailand, Yingluck Shinawatra, in Bangkok in March.

The Thai Prime Minister confirmed that preparations for Phuket 2014 were running smoothly, and also asked for Thailand to organise the 3rd Asian Youth Games in 2017.

On behalf of the Asian sports family and Olympic Movement, the OCA President expressed his sincere condolences to the Kingdom of Thailand for the tragedy and devastation wrought by the severe flooding last year.

Sheikh Ahmad also thanked Thailand for their loyal and generous support of the Olympic Movement in Asia over many years.

The OCA President congratulated Thailand on their impressive organisation of the 4th Asian Beach Games in Phuket in November 2014, and expressed his confidence in the successful hosting of the event.



The Thai Prime Minister greets the OCA President.

# OCA MEDIA COMMITTEE STARTS NEW CYCLE

The OCA Media Committee met for the first time under its new chairman, Charles Lo, at the Galaxy Hotel Macau on February 7.

"Macau is well-known as a great entertainment city, from humble beginnings to one of the most vibrant cities anywhere, and is now growing as a sports city, too."

Mr Lo, President of the Sports and Olympic Committee of Macau, China, welcomed the members and VIP guests to the meeting. Members came from Iran, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Malaysia, Mongolia and Chinese Taipei.

The two VIP guests were IOC member Timothy Fok, OCA Vice President for East Asia and President of the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China, and Mr Zhang Jilong, Chairman of the OCA Sports Committee.

Macau will also host the OCA General Assembly this November, and Mr Fok said this high-profile event, with over 400 participants, further underlined Macau's reputation as a sports city.

"Macau has already held the East Asian Games, the Portuguese-speaking countries' Games and the Asian Indoor Games, so the OCA General Assembly will be another big sports occasion for Macau," he said.



The OCA Media Committee gathers in Macau.

## OCA APPOINTS NEW ANTI-DOPING DIRECTOR

**T**he OCA has a new Anti-Doping Department Director, Reza Charim, who has filled the post at HQ in Kuwait following the tragic loss of Mahmoud Khalifah Ali last November.

In another move, OCA anti-doping department staff member Nadiah Alshamali has been appointed Director of the GCC and Yemen Regional Anti-Doping Organization (RADO).

When Kuwait hosted the 10th GCC and Yemen RADO Board meeting from May 1-3 at the Kuwait Regency Hotel, representatives of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and the Board Council heralded the new appointments.

"It is still painful for all of us that Mahmoud has left us," the GCC & Yemen RADO Chairman, Dr. Mohammed Saleh Konbaz, said in his opening speech.

"But the work has not stopped, and it is clear that everyone here is striving for clean sport."

The Director of WADA's Education and Programme Development, Robert Koehler, also expressed his satisfaction with the appointments.

"The mission has been taken on by Reza, and it will ensure the success of RADO in the future," he said.



Reza Charim and Nadiah Alshamali receive Certificates of Excellence at the RADO meeting in Kuwait.

## DR SANTI ATTENDS CISA 2012



Dr. Santiparb Tejavaniya, Advisor to the OCA President, represented the OCA at the 6th Africa International Sports Convention (CISA) 2012 held at Bamako, Mali, from March 1-3.

Dr. Santi joined the panel of speakers for this very important event, which is held to promote and develop African sport and which has become one of the most prestigious gatherings of sports leaders in Africa and from the global Olympic Movement.

The convention attracted 200 participants from 32 countries across four continents, and involved the input of 63 organisations and agencies. The OCA representative shared his technical knowhow in the theme: Is the increasing use of technology in sport an opportunity or a threat? CISA 2013 will take place at Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

## HONOUR FOR OTO



OCA Media Committee and Coordination Committee member Jugder Otgontsagaan has become the first Mongolian to be appointed to an IOC Commission, in this case the Sport and Environment Commission.

The Secretary-General of Mongolia NOC received warm congratulations from NOC President Dr. Demchigjav Zagdsuren, the Chairman of the Physical Education and Sports Authority, Mr. Ch. Naranbaatar, IOC honorary member Sh. Magvan, the Minister for Environment, Mr. D. Tsogtbaatar, and other representatives of the Mongolian Olympic Family.

"Oto" joined the Olympic Movement officially in 1990 as a sports journalist and has been elected NOC Secretary-General on two occasions since 2004.





Opening ceremony of the Media Seminar in Muscat



The majestic Shangri-La Barr Al Jissah Resort hosted the forum in Muscat



Iranian sports journalist Azadeh Pirakouh (right) visits Oman

## ASIA COUNTS DOWN

Everything you need to know about London 2012 – and a good deal more – was presented to the OCA's 45 National Olympic Committees during a two-stop, information-packed roadshow in the last week of April.

Calling first at Muscat in the Sultanate of Oman on April 24, then in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur on April 28, the Olympic Solidarity/OCA Regional Forums brought the energy and excitement of London to the NOCs before the NOCs head for London and the Olympic Games in July.

The focal point of the forums was the presentation by Andre Bourgeois, NOC Continental Manager for Asia from the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games.

Topics included the sports venues, Olympic Villages, ticketing, accreditation and protocol, and a London support team assisted the NOCs in their all-important Pre-Delegation Registration Meetings. Oman hosted the NOCs from

## TO LONDON 2012

West Asia and Central Asia, while Malaysia welcomed the NOCs from South Asia, East Asia and South East Asia.

The forums also included progress reports from the organisers of the 5th Children of Asia International Sports Games (Yakutsk 2012) this July, the 4th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games in Incheon, Korea, in June 2013 and the 2nd Asian Youth Games in Nanjing, China, in August 2013.

In addition to the forum in Muscat, the Oman Olympic Committee also staged an IOC/OCA Media Seminar for Women and Sport for Asia, on April 25-26, while the Olympic Council of Malaysia hosted the Asian Continental Seminar on the Olympic Values Education Programme (OVEP) on April 28-29.

Mr Thomas A. G. Sithole, Director of International Cooperation and Development for the IOC in Switzerland, was the VIP guest of the OVEP seminar, which attracted representatives from 33 Asian NOCs.



The cultural performance is in full swing in Kuala Lumpur.



Taichung's bid to bring the 2017 East Asian Games to Chinese Taipei



Working hard at OVEP.



## A NEW GENERATION OF 'ASIAD ADDICTS'

**A**fter the launch this year of the OCA's Fun Run + Learn campaign, there is no doubt that the profile and prestige of the OCA in general and the Asian Games in particular is reaching a whole new audience. And it's a young and eager audience, too.

Building on the solid platform of the Fun Run to promote the 17th Asian Games (Asiad) in Incheon, Korea, in 2014, the OCA added two new elements in 2012: the Youth Reporter Project and Fun Learn quiz.

Judging by the interest and enthusiasm of the students and the fun runners, the first five legs of the 2012 series have already produced a new generation of Asian sports lovers around the continent.

Mongolia set the ball rolling in late February, with the Youth Reporter Project, Fun Learn and Fun Run adding to the celebrations surrounding their own lunar new year festivities.

Chinese Taipei was next up in early March, impressing with the

sheer volume of runners, followed by Oman and Malaysia, who conducted all three elements alongside the Olympic Solidarity / OCA Regional Forums in late April.

In the last event before the break for the 3rd Asian Beach Games in June and London Olympics in July-August, Iran showed plenty of Olympic spirit with their activities at Kish Island.

In the Youth Reporter Project for students aged 16 and below, the participants have shown a remarkably high level of creativity and English-writing craft, while the Fun Learn quiz on the Asian Games has already produced a few young Asian masterminds on the subject.

Over the next five pages, share in the fun of the Fun Run + Learn.



Girls just wanna have fun - and run - in Iran.



## Mongolia

Dates: February 28-29  
 Venue: NOC, National Amusement Park  
 YRP students: 52  
 Winner: Erdene Baigal, 14 (Orchlon School)  
 Fun Learn students: 62  
 Winner: Anar Amarsaikhan, 14 (American School of Ulaanbaatar)  
 Fun Run entries: 400



Erdene Baigal, winner of the Youth Reporter Project.



Fun run with a line-up of wrestlers.

## Chinese Taipei

Date: March 4  
 Venue: New Taipei City  
 Fun Learn students: 14  
 Winner: Cheng Yi Chieh, 14 (New Taipei City Si Meng Primary School)  
 Fun Run entries: 3,400



Art and culture in Taipei



Dressing for the occasion in Taipei.

## ASIA'S YOUTH REVELS IN FUN



Fun Learn winner in Iran: **Rihaneh Asghar Mohammadi**



Fun Learn winner in Mongolia: **Anar Amarsaikhan**



Fun Learn winner in Malaysia: **Emanuelle Mah Thil Da**



Fun Learn winner in Oman: **Faisal Ali**



Fun Learn winner in Chinese Taipei: **Cheng Yi Chieh**



## RUN + LEARN ACTIVITIES



Entertainment – the Taipei way



Jumping for Joy in Iran



Keeping those ears warm in the Mongolian winter



A keen student at the Youth Reporter Project in Kuala Lumpur asks a question to the special guest, Rajes Paul of the Star newspaper



The Fun Run starts in Muscat



## Oman

Dates: April 23-24  
Venue: Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex  
Youth Reporter students: 142  
Winner: Hassan Al Balushi, 16 (Dorat Al Khaleej Private School)  
Fun Learn students: 80  
Winner: Faisal Ali, 12 (Capital Private School)  
Fun Run entries: 800+



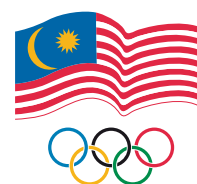
Youth Reporter Project winner Hassan Al Balushi.



Omani youth in training...to be the new Usain Bolt

## Malaysia

Dates: April 27-28  
Venue: NOC, Bukit Jalil Sports School  
YRP students: 50 (140 in first round)  
Winner: Jonathan Luke Raj, 16 (SMK St John)  
Fun Learn students: 50  
Winner: Emanuelle Mah Thil Da, 17 (Bukit Jalil Sports School)  
Fun Run entries: 280



Youth Reporter Project winner Jonathan Raj.



The 1-2-3-4 finish in the Kuala Lumpur Fun Run.

## Iran

Dates: May 3-4  
 Venue: Kish Island  
 Fun Learn students: 100+  
 Winner: Rihaneh Asghar Mohammadi, 12 (Farhang Girls School)  
 Fun Run entries: 800



A laugh and a joke on the start line



Quick out of the blocks at Kish Island

## ASIA'S YOUTH DEMONSTRATES OLYMPIC SPIRIT

The OCA's Fun Run + Learn campaign has produced many highlights during its stops in Mongolia, Chinese Taipei, Oman, Malaysia and Iran in the first half of 2012.

The Youth Reporter Project, for example, has given the students the platform to express their creativity and writing craft, as well as displaying pride in their country and athletes. Considering most of the students have been aged 16 and under, the quality of the essays has been outstanding and uplifting.

The Fun Run, too, has spread smiles and laughter across the continent, and instilled the Olympic spirit in a new generation of Asian youth. This was in evidence at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex in Muscat, where 13-year-old Ahmed Salim Al Rahbi completed the 1.5km course despite injuring his left ankle in a PE lesson the previous day.

"I knew there was going to be an Asian Games Fun Run and I just wanted to be a part of it with all my classmates," said Ahmed, who attends Al Nahda Private School. "We all enjoyed it and are excited about the Incheon Asian Games."

In Iran, students took part in a Fun Learn art competition, and the entry of nine-year-old Mohammad Mehdi Faghani contained a profound and moving message.

Mehdi, from Kish Jomhori Eslami School, depicted a child soldier in Africa throwing away his gun, much to the annoyance of a military officer standing nearby, and embracing the Olympic values instead.

"I often watch TV and see that many African children are suffering from conflict and war. That is why I drew this picture - to tell the world that African children need the Olympics, not guns," Mehdi said.



Ahmed Salim Al Rahbi, 13, with his helper.





The flame burns brightly against the blue skies of Haiyang. Photo: Liu Fuxuan

## OLYMPIC GODS SMILE ON HAIYANG

**T**he Olympic gods smiled brightly on Haiyang for the flame-lighting ceremony of the 3rd Asian Beach Games on Tuesday, April 17.

In the days leading up to the ceremony, spring had returned to winter on the Shandong coastline and the turbulent Yellow Sea was sending wave after angry wave crashing against the shore.

On the morning of the big day, however, the icy wind and heavy cloud was replaced by glorious spring sunshine, and the Yellow Sea was as calm as a mill pond.

Government officials from Shandong province, Yantai city and Haiyang municipality were in agreement that this was an excellent omen for the Asian Beach Games, which will thrust this rural coastal town into the international spotlight and, almost overnight, transform it into a new seaside holiday destination for China's burgeoning middle class.

The ceremony itself was simple and graceful, evoking the spirit of ancient Olympia in Greece as the Games flame was ignited from the sun's rays into a giant shell.

A troupe of 17 "flame-lighting angels" from the Beijing Dance Academy performed the ceremony, after which the flame was stored in a lantern ready for the start of the Torch Relay in Jinan, capital city of Shandong province, on June 12.

The flame will then travel to Yantai city and finally to Haiyang for the opening ceremony at Heqing Stadium on June 16.

The flame-lighting ceremony on April 17 marked the 60-day countdown to the Games, and the challenge facing Haiyang in hosting such a grand sports festival was summed up by Gao Bo, Deputy Director of organising committee HABGOC.



"The 3rd Asian Beach Games will be a great opportunity for Haiyang to promote its international image and further opening up as it will receive more than 10,000 guests from home and abroad," he said.



## NEW HAIYANG AWAITS ATHLETES, OFFICIALS

Since Haiyang was awarded the 3rd Asian Beach Games by the OCA in December 2006, the development of the seaside area has been remarkable, even by China's standards.

Athletes and officials will be able to witness this progress for themselves at every turn of their trip to Haiyang, not just in the Asian Beach Games Village and official hotels but also in the competition venues and other Games-related infrastructure.

To sum up, everything is new; and, in keeping with the sustainability goals of a modern-day Games, the permanent buildings left behind will serve the rapidly expanding seaside community and national beach sports base.

The ABG Village, which covers an area of 233,000 square metres, comprises 31 apartment blocks and took three years to construct, is made up of three zones:

☀ **Athletes' Village:** Residential zone, international zone, public zone and athletes' shuttle bus station.

☀ **Media Village:** Residential zone, dining area

☀ **Logistics Service Zone:** Logistics venue, storehouse

Nothing, however, characterises the dynamic new Haiyang more than the five-star Shenglongjianguo Hotel, which opened at the end of April and will accommodate the OCA family in an international standard of comfort never witnessed before in this rural part of Shandong province.

As for the venues, the newly-constructed 20,000-capacity Heqing Stadium will stage the opening and closing ceremonies and, post-Games, will host performances, beach sports and other activities.

With a new wetlands recreation park close to the Village, as well as the popular sea front area for tourists, Haiyang promises a compact and healthy Asian Beach Games.



Rooms with a view at the Shenglongjianguo Hotel, OCA HQ



The new Asian Beach Games Village prepares to welcome visitors.

## DEPUTY MAYOR GAO EXPECTS 'UNIQUE, EXCELLENT' ABG

The Deputy Mayor of Haiyang Municipal Government, Gao Jingtao, has promised a "unique and excellent" Asian Beach Games 2012 when the third edition of the OCA's popular seaside sports festival arrives on the Shandong coast in June. Addressing a meeting of the Technical Delegates on May 8, Vice Mayor Gao said preparations had been running smoothly since the OCA awarded the event to Haiyang in December 2006.

"Thanks to the support of the OCA, National Olympic Committees, the General Administration of Sport of China and the sports authorities of Shandong province, Haiyang is looking forward to staging a unique and excellent sports event," he said.

"We are confident that this will result in the promotion of sport in Asia and the enhancement of friendship among the people of Asia."

Haiyang will host 13 sports and 49 events, with roller skating having the honour of producing the first gold medal on the morning of June 17.

Beach volleyball, however, will take centre stage in the countdown to the June 16 opening ceremony, as competition will begin on June 12 to avoid a clash of dates with the Asian Olympic qualifying round starting one week later.

Beach basketball (3 x 3) will make its ABG debut as a full medal sport after being a demonstration sport only at Bali 2008 and missing out altogether in Muscat 2010, while sport climbing, wakeboard (part of the waterski event) and roller skating will all be keen to impress as they target a place in the 2020 Olympic Games.

### Sports Programme 2012

The 13 sports (with number of events) are: Beach volleyball (2), beach soccer (1), beach handball (2), beach kabaddi (2), beach basketball (2), beach sepaktakraw (4), sport climbing (8), beach woodball (4), powered paragliding (4), roller skating (8), dragon boat (6), windsurfing (2), waterski/wakeboard (4).

The draws for four team sports on May 8 were as follows:

#### Beach Basketball (3 x 3)

**Men** – **Group A:** Bhutan, Mongolia, Thailand, Qatar. **Group B:** Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Nepal, Palestine. **Group C:** India, Vietnam, Bangladesh, China. **Women** – **Group A:** India, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand. **Group B:** Mongolia, Maldives, Turkmenistan, China.

#### Beach Kabaddi

**Men** – **Group A:** India, Iran, Korea. **Group B:** Pakistan, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan. **Women** – Bangladesh, Thailand, India, Sri Lanka

#### Beach Handball

**Men** – **Group A:** Thailand, Oman, Japan, China. **Group B:** Pakistan, Qatar, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Sri Lanka. **Group C:** Kuwait, Bahrain, Afghanistan, Mongolia, India. **Women** – **Group A:** Vietnam, Japan, India, Chinese-Taipei, Turkmenistan. **Group B:** Thailand, Jordan, Hong Kong, Philippines, China.

#### Beach Sepaktakraw

**Men's team:** China, Myanmar, Indonesia, Thailand. **Women's team:** Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, China. **Men's regu:** **Group A:** Indonesia, Myanmar, Brunei. **Group B:** China, Thailand, Vietnam. **Women's regu:** China, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos.

**Note:** Draw for beach soccer on June 6 (provisional). Draw for beach volleyball on June 11.



Deputy Mayor Gao (centre) leads a site visit to Heqing Stadium.



## HIGH-TECH VILLAGE FOR AYG ATHLETES

Organisers of the 2nd Asian Youth Games in Nanjing, China, in August 2013 have moved the Athletes' Village from Nanjing Audit College to Nanjing University of Technology in order to provide new apartments for athletes and officials.

On a site visit to the Jiangpu Campus of Nanjing University of Technology on March 21, the OCA Coordination Committee heard that a new building for young teachers was being constructed.

With 900 apartments and accommodation for 3,500 athletes and officials, the building will be completed by April 2013 – fully three months before the start of the AYG.

The OCA's Director General and Technical Director, Husain Al-Musallam, was very impressed with the location and lay-out

of the Village, 16 km from Nanjing Olympic Sports Centre.

"Nanjing University of Technology is a very prestigious university in China with a history of over 100 years," he said.

"Not only will the athletes and officials have brand new accommodation for the Asian Youth Games, they will also have all the other services close by, such as accreditation, arrival and departure and medical, as well as top-class training areas and equipment. Everything they need is right here."

Training venues on campus include an 850-sq metre gymnasium, table tennis hall with 36 tables, 25 basketball courts, 16 badminton courts, 10 tennis courts, five volleyball courts, two baseball fields, two aerobics halls, one wushu hall, a 50m swimming pool and 400-metre running track.



The OCA Coordination Committee visits Nanjing University of Technology

## NANJING UNVEILS EMBLEM, SLOGAN

The rich history and character of Nanjing is captured in the emblem for the 2nd Asian Youth Games.

Under the OCA sun shines the Chinese character Ning, which stands for Nanjing. It is comprised of a distant mountain, running river, city walls and tree leaves, symbolising the landscape and culture of Nanjing.

The slogan is **"Celebrating Youth, Passionate Asia"**, as the



AYG will instill the Olympic spirit and values into a new generation of Asian youth in a festival of sport, culture and education.

The emblem and slogan were unveiled at a special function during the OCA visit on March 21.

Organisers are still finalising the mascot and anthem.

## KEY NOC DATES FOR AIMAG 2013

Organisers of the 4th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games in Incheon, Korea, in 2013 used the platform of the two Olympic Solidarity/OCA Regional Forums in April to announce some important deadlines for National Olympic Committees.

They are:

- ☀ Entry by Sport: September 30, 2012
- ☀ Entry by Number: March 15, 2013
- ☀ Entry by Name: May 15, 2013

The Games, which will combine the Asian Indoor Games and Asian Martial Arts Games for the first time, will be held from June 29 to July 6, 2013, and serve as a test event for the 17th Asian Games at Incheon in 2014.

With nine sports on the programme, organisers are expecting 2,400 athletes and officials from the 45 NOCs and up to 1,000 media. In total there will be 10,000 accredited participants, including 3,000 volunteers.

Organisers also announced that 300 samples would be taken by anti-doping authorities during the eight days of

competition, and around 30 athletes would be tested pre-competition.

They are hoping to organise the Chefs de Mission Seminar this November and expect around 160 delegates to attend.



## FREE ACCOMMODATION, MEALS FOR YAKUTSK 2012



Savina Danilova, from the Sakha Republic government, promotes Yakutsk 2012 to Asian NOCs.

With the official support of the OCA, the 5th Children of Asia International Sports Games (Yakutsk 2012) will take place in the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) of the Russian Federation from July 5-15.

The city of Yakutsk will host 18 of the 20 sports, and Mirny (girls' volleyball) and Neryungri (table tennis) will serve as satellite cities.

In a presentation to the Olympic Solidarity/OCA Regional Forums in April, Dmitry Glushko, Vice President of Sakha Republic (Yakutia), said 16 countries had confirmed their participation and several others were in the process of applying to join the Games.

He informed the NOC delegates that accommodation and meals would be free of charge for athletes, team coaches and other NOC personnel, while the official airline, Yakutia, provided an extensive service to Yakutsk from several hubs, including Moscow, Seoul, Beijing and Harbin.

"We welcome everyone to Yakutsk 2012, and hopefully the 5th Children of Asia International Sports Games will provide a launch pad for young athletes to compete in the Asian Youth Games in Nanjing and beyond," said Vice President Glushko.



## INCHEON 2014 LANDS KOREAN AIR AS PRESTIGE PARTNER

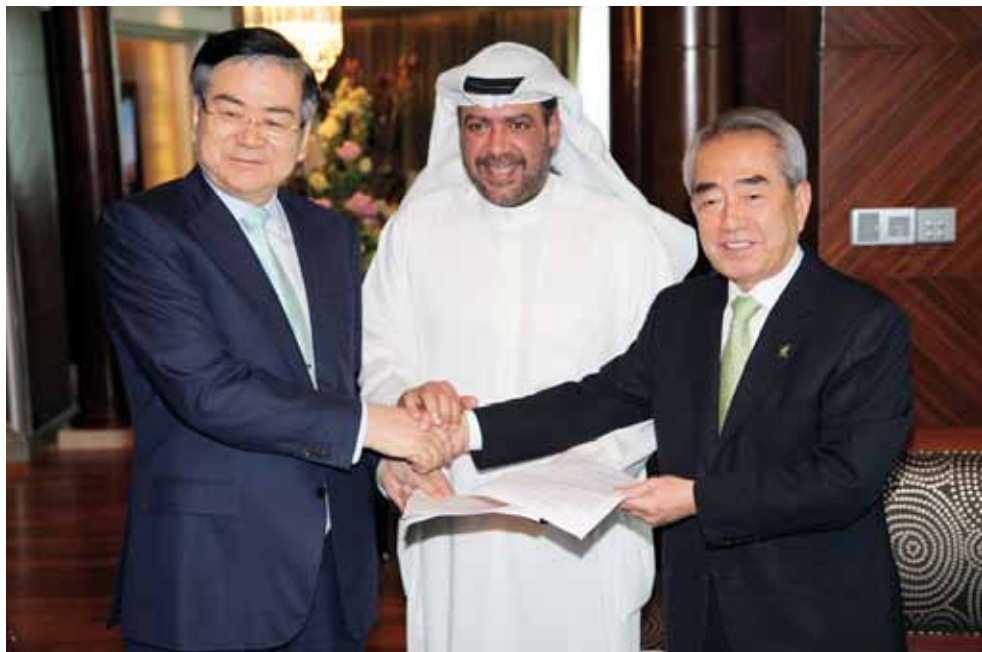
**T**he OCA, together with the Incheon Asian Games Organising Committee (IAGOC) and Korean Air, met in Bangkok, Thailand, on Sunday, March 18 to sign a Memorandum of Understanding for the 17th Asian Games.

Korean Air and its parent company, Hanjin Group, will sponsor the 2014 Asian Games as a Prestige Partner in the category of Airline Service. The MoU was signed by the OCA President, H.E. Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, IAGOC President Kim Young Soo and the Chairman of Korean Air, Yang Ho Cho.

Korean Air, the country's national carrier, decided to sponsor the 17th Asian Games because the host city is Incheon - gateway of Korea - and to contribute to sports development in Korea and further afield in Asia.

Hanjin Group is actively supporting the 2014 Incheon Asian Games by building a marina, a venue for yacht races and a hotel to accommodate athletes in the Yeongjong region.

By signing an MoU with IAGOC, Korean Air has become the third official Prestige Partner following China's 361 Degrees sportswear company and Korea's SK group for energy and telecommunications.



The three-party MoU is signed in Bangkok

## CC MEMBERS ATTEND GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY

**T**he 4th OCA Coordination Committee meeting for the 17th Asian Games and 4th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games took place in the host city, Incheon, on March 22-23, under the chairmanship of Tsunekazu Takeda.

The CC members visited the site of the Asian Games Village and attended the ground-breaking ceremony of the Athletes Village. The Guwol Athletes Village will be ready by April 2014 and will accommodate almost 13,500 athletes and officials. The Asian Games Village also consists of a separate Media Village which will host 2,500 media personnel.



The ground-breaking ceremony in Incheon.

Mr Takeda, in a briefing with media at the ground-breaking ceremony, expressed his full satisfaction at the progress of the preparations and assured the leaders and people of Incheon that the OCA would lend its full support to ensure the success of the two events. Furthermore, he said the two Games would set a

benchmark for others to follow.

Mr Husain Al-Musallam, Director General, OCA, congratulated the leaders and people of Incheon for creating an environment-friendly Games and state-of-the-art venues for the athletes.

# 45 NOCs

## News and sports round-up



### Afghanistan

Amir Hussaini, President of Afghanistan's National Federation of Muaythai, announced that Afghanistan sent seven athletes to the 2012 Muaythai President's Cup from May 3-8 in Tehran, Iran, according to a report on Afghanistan Online.

Athletes from over 50 countries attended. The Afghan fighters were Nasir Ahmad Hazara (51 kg), Sayeed Hussain Mosawe (54 kg), Bahman Ikhlakee (57 kg), Mohammad Hadi Kahndol (60 kg), Ahmad Jawaid Hussain (63.5 kg), Ali Akbar Razaei (67 kg) and Zulfiqar Ali (71 kg). ([www.afghan-web.com](http://www.afghan-web.com))



### Bahrain

The Hafsah Girls Primary School hosted the second round of the Micro-Olympic Tournament organised by the Bahrain Olympic Committee in collaboration with the British Embassy as part of the countdown to the London Olympic Games, reports Bahrain News Agency.

The Bahrain Olympic Committee awarded a number of souvenir gifts to the participants in addition to prizes for the winners of the competitions who qualified for the grand finals at Shaikh Khalifa City Stadium on Monday, May 14. ([www.bna.bh](http://www.bna.bh))



### Bangladesh

The Bangladesh Olympic Association supported the Bangladesh Brail Chess Society in organising the Dhaka Divisional Brail Chess Competition on April 9-10 at the Media Centre of the BOA. A prize-giving ceremony was held on April 10. The Secretary of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Mr. Ranjit Kumar Biswas, was chief guest. Col (Retd) M. Wali Ullah, BOA Director General, was a special guest.

The President of the Bangladesh Brail Chess Society, Mr. Jahangir Hossain, presided over the ceremony. The Secretary General, Mr Zakir Hossain, and Senior Vice President Mr. Nazmul Hossain also attended. ([www.nocban.com](http://www.nocban.com))



### Bhutan

The first synthetic running track in Bhutan's sports history was inaugurated at the Track and Field Centre in Thimphu on Wednesday, February 22. The official opening coincided with the 32nd birthday celebrations of His Majesty King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and the Kingdom's New Year.



The US\$660,000 track was made by MONDO of Italy and funded by the International Amateur Athletics Federation, the OCA through its Olympasia Projects and by the IOC. Brig. Gen. Dahlan Jaman Al Hamad, Vice President of IAAF, Mr. Nayaf Sraj, Senior Executive Staff of OCA, and Mr. Olivier Niamkey, Continental Manager of Olympic Solidarity, represented the funding organisations in the ceremony.

The opening was graced by the President of the Bhutan Olympic Committee and His Majesty's Representative, HRH Prince Jigyel Ugyen Wangchuck. ([www.bhutanolympiccommittee.org](http://www.bhutanolympiccommittee.org))



### Brunei Darussalam

On the 100-day countdown to the London Olympics, a flag-raising ceremony was held at the British High Commission at the Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Complex in the capital on April 18. The guest of honour was Datin Paduka Hjh Adina Othman, Acting Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

British High Commissioner Rob Fenn and other members of the High Commission were also in attendance. ([www.bruneiolympic.org](http://www.bruneiolympic.org))



### Cambodia

On April 24, the NOC of Cambodia opened an administration and IT course for officials of 14 national federations affiliated to the NOC. Mr. Vath Chamroeun, Secretary General of NOCC, said it was important for national federations to improve their communications and build up a list of contacts in digital format to enhance their administrative and research work. ([www.nocccambodia.org](http://www.nocccambodia.org))



### China

Chinese Olympic Committee President Liu Peng met with Raphaël Martinetti, President of the International Wrestling Federation (FILA), on his visit to Taiyuan, Shanxi Province, for the FILA Olympic Qualifying Tournament (third phase) for the London Olympics, the Chinese Olympic Committee reported on May 2.

Mr Liu, China's Sports Minister, extended a warm welcome to the FILA delegation and thanked Mr Martinetti and FILA for their support of wrestling in China. ([www.olympic.cn](http://www.olympic.cn))



### DPR Korea

A seminar on the late Kim Jong Il's ideas on sport took place at the People's Palace of Culture in Pyongyang on Thursday, May 3, reports the Korean Central News Agency. Kim Jong Il advanced the idea of displaying speed, high technique and strong fighting spirit with ideological awareness in sports education, training and games.

Kim Pyong Sik, Vice Minister of Physical Culture and Sport, Mun Jae Dok, President of the Academy of Sports Science, and other speakers said the idea set forth by Kim Jong Il most correctly reflected the actual conditions to become a sports power.

Present at the seminar were the Minister of Physical Culture and Sport, Pak Myong Chol, sports officials, coaches and researchers. ([www.kcna.kp](http://www.kcna.kp))





## Hong Kong, China

The opening programme of the Bank of China (Hong Kong) 55th Festival of Sport - an annual Sport for All event organised by the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China and supported by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department - took place at Hong Kong Coliseum on March 18

To further promote Sport for All, the NOC and its 65 National Sports Associations will organise more than 80 sports competitions, demonstrations and fun days from March to June in various districts of Hong Kong. ([www.hkolympic.org](http://www.hkolympic.org))



## India

Ace sports administrator and six-time Olympian Randhir Singh has earned another distinction of being first the Indian to be appointed Vice President (Asia) of the prestigious Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC).



Indian Olympic Association Acting President Vijay Kumar Malhotra said the appointment of Randhir Singh was further recognition of India's growing sporting prowess. Raja Randhir is Secretary General of the IOA and OCA. ([www.olympic.ind.in](http://www.olympic.ind.in))



## Indonesia

The Indonesian Olympic Committee President, Mrs Rita Subowo, distributed the funding received from the Olympic Solidarity Special Assistance Grant to those athletes most likely to be successful in winning a medal at the London Olympics. A sum of US\$10,000 was given to each of the three main weightlifting centres in Indonesia, in Lampung, Kalimantan and Bekasi.



An additional US\$20,000 was given to badminton players training at the national training centre at Cipayung. The ceremony was held in March at the NOC offices in Senayan, Jakarta. ([www.olympic.or.id](http://www.olympic.or.id))



## Iran

Iranian male and female rowers have bagged Olympic berths and will compete at London 2012. Mohsen Shadi Naghadeh (men's heavyweight single sculls), the 2010 Guangzhou Asian Games champion, won the silver medal in the 2012 Asian Rowing Championships in Korea.

Mohsen, 24, became the first Iranian rower to compete in the Olympic Games when he took part at Beijing 2008.

Iran's other rower, Solmaz Abbasi, also shined in the Asian Championships and earned Iran another Olympic berth as she won a bronze medal in the women's heavyweight single sculls. ([www.olympic.ir](http://www.olympic.ir))



## Iraq

The President of Iraq NOC, Mr. Raad Hamoodi, has applauded the noticeable efforts of the Prime Minister of Kurdistan, Mr. Negervan Al-Barazani, to support Iraqi sport.

Hamoodi made the comments in a ceremony granting training certificates to the participants of an Olympic Solidarity-funded triathlon course held in Erbil, saying how impressed he was with the number of qualified coaches. Fourteen women and 11 men took part in the course, which was supported by the International Triathlon Union. ([www.iraqiolympic.org](http://www.iraqiolympic.org))



## Japan

The Japanese NOC received students from Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences' Leisure Management Division at the Ajinomoto National Training Centre. This one-week visit to Tokyo was part of the Dutch students' project on the impact of the Olympic and Paralympic Games on a city.

The Director of the NOC President's Office, Yasuhiro Nakamori, and the Rotterdam students exchanged opinions and comments on how the Games can be a catalyst for positive change in host cities. ([www.joc.or.jp](http://www.joc.or.jp))



## Jordan

Jordan secured a ninth member of its Olympic Games delegation when boxer Ihab Darweesh qualified for London 2012. "Ihab's qualification is wonderful news for Jordan and we are looking forward to our largest delegation for an Olympics," said JOC Secretary General Lana Al Jaghbeer.

"We still have an opportunity for two more wrestlers to qualify and the basketball team, but already this landmark highlights the progress being made in Jordanian sport and equals the number of athletes we took to Sydney in 2000."

Jordan took eight athletes to Athens in 2004 and seven to Beijing in 2008. This summer, three taekwondo fighters, one equestrian and two each for swimming and athletics will join Darweesh in the delegation as Jordan searches for its first ever Olympic medal. Of the nine qualifiers, four are female, with taekwondo star Nadine Dwani taking part in her third Olympics. ([www.joc.jo](http://www.joc.jo))

# 45 NOCs

## News and sports round-up



### Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan was ranked third in the 4th Central Asia Sambo Championship held at the Galkynysh Sports and Health Improving Complex in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, in March. There were three types of wrestling on the programme – sports sambo among men and women and combat sambo among men – and Turkmen sportsmen won 27 medals, comprised of eight gold, 18 silver and one bronze medal to rank first in the team competitions. Uzbekistan ranked second and sambo wrestlers from Kazakhstan won the third place. ([www.olympic.kz](http://www.olympic.kz))



### Korea

At a fashion show held at Taeneung National Training Centre, Korean Olympic Committee sponsors Fila and Bean Pole launched their Korea 2012 London Olympic Games outfits, the KOC reported on April 23. The national team uniforms will include both formal and sportswear to be used exclusively during the London Games. Several prominent members of the KOC were in attendance, including KOC President Park Yong Sung. ([www.sports.or.kr](http://www.sports.or.kr))



### Kuwait

Kuwait inaugurated the three-day Arab men's artistic gymnastics championship on Sunday, May 6, to honour the Martyr, Sheikh Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, whom the competition is named after, reports the Kuwait News Agency ([www.kuna.net.kw](http://www.kuna.net.kw))

The 15-nation tournament was held this year under the patronage of the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) and President of the Kuwait Olympic Committee, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah. Attending on behalf of the Kuwaiti sports chief, Sheikh Mishal Talal Al-Fahad Al-Sabah addressed the opening ceremony. "These competitions allow Arab gymnasts to prepare for larger international events, improving their technical abilities," he said.

The Secretary of the Kuwait Gymnastics Federation, Saif Abu Adel, said the competition would continue to honour the late Sheikh Fahad Al-Ahmad, who was known for his great contributions to the sports movement in Kuwait and Asia. ([www.kuwaitolympic.com](http://www.kuwaitolympic.com))



### Kyrgyzstan

Kyrgyz sportsmen won four gold medals, three silver medals and one bronze medal at the Kazakhstan Open Boys' Swimming Championships, which took place on April 26-28 in Astana. Karnaukhov Stanislav, Sultan Boukeev, Lyubov Shevchenko and Artem Kamarda represented Kyrgyzstan, reports the Kabar news agency in Bishkek.

Their participation in Astana was aimed at preparing the young swimmers for the championship in Kyrgyzstan and improving their performance level. ([www.kabar.kg](http://www.kabar.kg))



### Laos

Laos was among 21 Asian NOCs that took part in the OCA continental meeting on women and sport in cooperation with the International Olympic Committee on the sidelines of the IOC's 5th Conference on Women and Sport in Los Angeles, California, on February 16.

In other news, Laos will compete in women's regu of the 3rd Asian Beach Games beach sepaktakraw event in June, along with China, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam.



### Lebanon

The Lebanese Olympic Committee is hoping to have 10 athletes in their delegation for the London Olympics after qualifications for athletes in taekwondo, table tennis and fencing, along with a wild card in shooting. Of the nine London-bound athletes so far, six of them are female.

LOC Secretary General Ezzat Kraytem reports that a special national trust fund has been established to support the athletes in their Olympic preparations through their national sports federations.



### Macau, China

Table tennis fans in Macau witnessed the full force of China as Chinese players Zhang Jike, Ma Lin and Ma Long swept aside Japan 3-0 in the men's team final of the 20th Asian Championships on Sunday, February 26. Japan was represented by Koki Niwa, Jun Mizutani and Kenta Matsudaira, according to a report on Macau News. ([www.macauolympic.org](http://www.macauolympic.org))



### Malaysia

Twenty nine participants attended the three-day 6th Sport Administration Course held at Wisma OCM, which finished on April 21. Among them were coaches, managers, lecturers, district technical chairman, secretaries, instructors and an executive producer/event organiser. The participants were grateful to be given the opportunity to attend and learn from the course and most of all to relate to the different facilitators.

The next SAC will be conducted in Sabah for the officials of the Youth and Sport Department in June. ([www.olympic.org.my](http://www.olympic.org.my))



### Maldives

Maldives Olympic Committee's budget for this year - MRF 39.2 million - was approved at the annual general meeting at the Traders Hotel in Male' on March 24. Speaking to media after the meeting, MOC President Ibrahim Ismail said that 84% of the budget was allocated for Olympic House.

Of the 20 member associations, 18 participated in the meeting, during which they shared a documentary about the success of badminton player Mohamed Ajfan thanks to his MOC scholarship. ([www.nocmaldives.org](http://www.nocmaldives.org))



### Mongolia

Mongolian athletes had a unique chance to meet and chat with H.E. Ts. Elbegdorj, President of Mongolia, at the Central Sports Gymnasium on the occasion of the 100-day countdown to the London Olympics.

At the time, Mongolia had 14 Olympic quota places in marathon, shooting, wrestling, boxing, archery and swimming, but 10 more were expected in judo and weightlifting. The Head of State wished the



athletes the best of luck and expressed his sincere hope that they could perform to an excellent level like in Beijing four years previously, when Mongolia NOC – with 28 athletes in seven sports - captured its first ever two gold medals and two silver medals to place 31st of 204 teams.



H.E. Ts. Elbegdorj was accompanied by Mr. N. Khurelbaatar, Health Minister, Ch. Naranbaatar, Chairman, State Authority for Physical Education and Sport, and Dr. Demchigjav Zagdsuren, NOC President. Mongolia hopes to send between 35-40 athletes to London. ([www.olympic.mn](http://www.olympic.mn))



Myanmar

Myanmar will be looking to beach sepaktakraw for medals in team sports at the 3rd Asian Beach Games in Haiyang, China, this June, with entries in the men's team and men's regu events.



Nepal

Nepal Olympic Committee's London 2012 Olympic Games Plantation Programme took place on April 10 at the Olympic Complex Satdobato, Lalitpur.



To mark this special occasion, John Tucknott, MBE, British Ambassador in Nepal, and Nepal NOC President Dhruva Bahadur Pradhan led the VIP guests in the ceremony. Olympians, affiliated sports associations, athletes and sports media also participated to celebrate this major landmark in the countdown to London 2012. ([www.nocnepal.org.np](http://www.nocnepal.org.np))



Oman



IOC member Habib Macki has become Acting Chairman of the Oman

Olympic Committee after the previous chairman, H.E. Ali Masoud Al Sunaidy, changed ministries in the government. Mr Macki, who is also a member of the OCA Executive Board, will serve as Acting Chairman until the OOC elections in October.



Pakistan

The Pakistan Olympic Association has launched its new website to provide updated information regarding the NOC and its affiliated national sports federations.

"We have developed a major source of information regarding Pakistan sports for our own people and sports lovers around the globe," POA President Lt Gen (r) Syed Arif Hasan told media after the POA executive committee meeting in Lahore on April 27. Also present were POA Secretary General Muhammad Khalid Mahmood and Pakistan Federation Baseball President Shoukat Javed.



The POA chief briefly gave a rundown of the website ([www.nocpakistan.org](http://www.nocpakistan.org)) and said it would cater for the needs of information seekers about what was happening in sports in Pakistan. He praised the work of Dr Rizwan Basharat of Absorb Technologies for developing the modern website.

"It is just a good beginning and we will be taking measures to make our website one of the best in Asia with the passage of time," he maintained. Arif said the site would also become a source of revenue by getting the attention of sponsors, and the POA had chalked out a plan to market it in a professional way. ([www.nocpakistan.org](http://www.nocpakistan.org))



Palestine

His Excellency Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Secretary General of the Qatar Olympic Committee, met with Major-General Jibril Rajoub, President of the Palestine Olympic Committee, at the QOC headquarters on Thursday, April 5. Sheikh Saoud greeted the Palestinian sports official and appreciated the special relationship between Qatar and Palestine in all domains, especially in the sports sector, said a report on the QOC website.

Likewise, Major-Gen. Rajoub applauded Qatar's comprehensive development in sports infrastructure and its ambitious strategy for development in all fields, especially sport. Talks during the meeting centered on ways of expanding sports cooperation and exchanges.

The meeting was also attended by Dr. Khalid Al-Yaziji, Secretary General of Palestine Olympic Committee, Mr. Khaleel Ibraheem Al-Jaber, director of QOC sports affairs department, Mr. Saif Al-Nuaimi, Office Director of the Secretary General, and by Mr. Faisal Saleh Al-Mansouri, Director of Public Relations and Marketing.

# 45 NOCs

## News and sports round-up



### Philippines

A three-strong delegation from the Philippine Olympic Committee arrived in the host city of the 3rd Asian Beach Games, Haiyang, China, on April 21 for a short visit, including a venue tour and working meetings with NOC services.



The team's Chef de Mission, Dr. Benjamin Nicholas I. Espiritu, described organising committee HABGOC as "extremely efficient" in their preparation and organisational work, and the visiting delegation agreed that the June 16-22 Asian Beach Games was on course to be a big success. ([www.olympic.ph](http://www.olympic.ph))



### Qatar

The Qatar Olympic Committee made a comprehensive evaluation of its annual plan 2012-2013 in compliance with the Qatar Vision 2030 project at a productive annual meeting held at the Four Seasons Hotel, Doha, on Wednesday, May 2.

H.E. Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, QOC Secretary General, Assistants Secretary General, heads of departments, sections and units besides the QOC experts attended the meeting.

The attendees evaluated the projects from the 2010-2011 sports season and looked at the projects to be undertaken next year. ([www.olympic.qa](http://www.olympic.qa))



### Saudi Arabia

Prince Nawaf bin Faisal bin Fahd bin Abdulaziz, General President of Youth Welfare and Chairman of the Saudi Arabian Olympic Committee, chaired the Gulf Cooperation Council National Olympic Committees' 26th conference in Jeddah on March 30, reports the Saudi Press Agency ([www.spa.gov.sa](http://www.spa.gov.sa))

Prince Nawaf bin Faisal bin Fahd bin Abdulaziz conveyed the greetings of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, to the attendees and reminded them of the monarch's call for moving with the GCC from cooperation to union.

He said that the GCC Olympic athletes had lagged behind others, necessitating the exertion of strenuous efforts in the field of Olympic Games and training. ([www.saudiolympic.org.sa](http://www.saudiolympic.org.sa))



### Singapore

DHL Express, the world's leading express service provider, teamed up with the Singapore National Olympic Council for the second successive Olympic Games to deliver sports apparel donated by Singapore's national athletes to 60,000 refugees from Bhutan in Nepal.



The Giving is Winning programme is a joint effort by the International Olympic Committee and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to encourage athletes and officials to donate their clothing to refugee camps worldwide. As the Logistics Partner of the programme in Singapore, DHL Express Singapore is responsible for delivering these donations, totalling 770 kg, to Nepal. ([www.snoc.org.sg](http://www.snoc.org.sg))



### Sri Lanka

The quarterly activity report (January-March 2012) of the NOC of Sri Lanka includes an expression of interest to host the 3rd Asian Youth Games in Hambantota in 2017.

In other news, under the OCA-Incheon Vision 2014 programme, Korean handball coach Chai Gun Soo has been dispatched to Sri Lanka for one year from April 1. ([www.srilankaolympic.org](http://www.srilankaolympic.org))



### Syria

Mohammed Nagdat Omar (Syria), along with Saad Abd Yassin (Iraq) and Dr. Ali Al-Shawaheen (Jordan), were elected to represent the Middle East in the new Advisory Council of the Special Olympics – Middle East and North Africa (SOMENA) in Doha, Qatar, on Saturday, May 5. Nineteen nations took part in the elections at the SOMENA General Assembly, according to a report on the official website of the Qatar Olympic Committee.



### Chinese Taipei

To celebrate humanity through sport, the Chinese Taipei NOC took part in the "Giving is Winning" campaign - initiated by the IOC and UNHCR to improve the lives of refugees around the world - by collecting second-hand sports clothes from runners before the start of the Incheon Asian Games Fun Run in New Taipei City on March 4.

The ceremony was attended by many sports dignitaries, including: OCA Director General Husain Al-Musallam; 2014 Incheon Asian Games Organizing Committee's Kim Joong Jae; Dr. Tai Shia-Ling, Minister of Sports Affairs Council; Mayor Chu Liluan of New Taipei City; Fred Maetoloa, President of Solomon Islands Olympic Committee; and Thomas Tsai, President of Chinese Taipei NOC. ([www.tpenoc.net](http://www.tpenoc.net))





## Tajikistan

Three Tajik freestyle wrestlers - Beijing 2008 silver medalist Yusuf Abdusalomov, Zalimkhan Yusupov and Nikolay Noev - qualified for London 2012 through the Olympic qualifying tournament in Vantaa, Finland. The trio join Iskandari Rustam in the Tajik team for London, reports Asia-Plus media group of Tajikistan.

Three Tajik boxers have also qualified: Jahon Kurbonov (81kg), Sobirjon Nazarov (75kg) and Anvar Yunusov (56kg). ([www.news.tj/en](http://www.news.tj/en))



## Thailand

Thai sailor Keerati Bualong, 19, has qualified for the London Olympics after earning himself a spot in the Gold Fleet at the Audi World Laser Standard Seniors Championship in Germany, the final qualifying round for the men's one-person dinghy class, reports the Bangkok Post ([www.bangkokpost.com](http://www.bangkokpost.com)).

Keerati, originally from Nakhon Pathom, was ranked an impressive 25th out of 168 sailors in the regatta at the end of the fourth day, when competitors are divided into gold, silver and bronze fleets based on the results of eight races.

With a spot in the Gold Fleet, Keerati is assured of Olympic qualification, becoming the first Thai to qualify in the men's one person dinghy.

Keerati thanked the Sports Authority of Thailand, the Yacht Racing Association of Thailand and the Laser Association of Thailand for supporting him during his preparations for the regatta. ([www.olympicthai.or.th](http://www.olympicthai.or.th))



## Timor Leste

Timor Leste will join the Asian Football Confederation U-14 Festival of Football for the ASEAN region, taking place in Malaysia from May 21 to June 3. The Philippines, Myanmar, Brunei, Cambodia, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Laos, Australia and Vietnam will also compete in the AFC's annual youth educational and playing event. ([www.the-afc.com](http://www.the-afc.com))



## Turkmenistan

Turkmen boxers Serdar Hudayberdiev (under 64kg) and Nursahat Pazyev (under 75kg) won two quota places in the 2012 Olympic

Games in London at the 2012 Asian Boxing Olympic Qualification Tournament held in Astana, Kazakhstan.

To date, nine Turkmen athletes have qualified for London in boxing, weightlifting, women's judo, athletics and men's swimming, reports the State News Agency of Turkmenistan. ([www.turkmenistan.gov.tm](http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm))



## United Arab Emirates

The NOC held a joint coordination meeting with British Embassy officials - pursuant to the directives of His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, President of the UAE National Olympic Committee - regarding the participation of national teams and athletes in the London Olympics. The slogan is "Participation for the sake of competition."

The meeting discussed travel arrangements, administrative, technical, medical and media delegates, entry permits for individuals and their equipment and cooperation.

The meeting was attended by the advisor, Mohammed Al Kamali, Secretary-General of the NOC; Rabi Al Awadi, Chef De Mission; Aisha Al Suwaidi, NOC Manager; Al Nasser Gharib, Technical Manager; and Yasser Labib, from the Studies and Research section. ([www.uaenoc.ae](http://www.uaenoc.ae))



## Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan's two-time world champion in freestyle wrestling, Dilshod Mansurov, booked a ticket to the XXX Olympic Games in London by winning the silver medal (55kg) at the world Olympic qualifying tournament in China.

He became the sixth Uzbek wrestler to qualify for London 2012 after two-time Olympic champion Artur Taymazov, world championship silver and bronze medalist Zaurbek Sokhiyev, Asian champions Qurbon Qurbonov and Rashid Qurbonov and youngster Ihtiyor Navruzov, reports the Uzbekistan National News Agency ([www.uza.uz](http://www.uza.uz)) ([www.olympic.uz](http://www.olympic.uz))



## Vietnam

The Vietnam Olympic Committee, in association with the Vietnam Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, has published a lavish promotional brochure for their bid to host the 18th Asian Games in Hanoi in 2019.

The brochure contains copies of official documents giving official backing to the bid by the national government and Hanoi city, plus a list of proposed sports, venues and other infrastructure. The Games Village is planned for Gia Lam District and will accommodate 11,000 athletes and officials.



## Yemen

Yemen was among 13 teams to compete in the fourth Arab Artistic Gymnastics Championship in Kuwait from May 6-10. The other teams were Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, Algeria and Morocco as well as host Kuwait.



The Galaxy Hotel in Macau - venue for the OCA General Assembly in November

## 2012



Dubai, United Arab Emirates: June 7  
**OCA Culture Committee**



Dubai, United Arab Emirates: June 7  
**OCA Information and Statistics Committee**



Dubai, United Arab Emirates: June 7  
**OCA Sports for All Committee**



Dubai, United Arab Emirates: June 7  
**OCA Education Committee**



Haiyang, China: June 15  
**OCA Environment Committee**



Haiyang, China: June 15  
**OCA Rules Committee**



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



Haiyang, China: June 15  
**OCA Sports Committee**



Haiyang, China: June 15  
**OCA Athletes 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 7  
**OCA Standing Committees**



Macau, China: November 7  
**15th Fun Run + Learn - Incheon 2014**



Macau, China: November 7  
**62nd OCA Executive Board Meeting**



Macau, China: November 8  
**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 14 - 21  
**4th Asian Beach Games**

## 2016



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

## 2017



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



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

## OCA Sponsors Club

## Diary of Events

