

RUNNING INTO HISTORY

Asia at the London Olympics

Olympic Day 2012

Inside the OCA

OCA Games update



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SPORTING ASIA

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Front cover:

Saudi Arabia's Sarah Attar earns a standing ovation at the Olympic Stadium as the Kingdom's first female athlete in track and field. (Getty Images)

LONDON PASSES THE BEIJING TEST



After the success of the Beijing Olympics in 2008, London was always going to face a tough challenge as the next host four years later.

But there is no doubt that London passed this difficult test with flying colours and staged a truly memorable Olympic Games. London proved to be a worthy successor to Beijing, and for this we must congratulate the Chair of the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG), Seb Coe, and his team.

The venues sparkled in the bright sunshine of a London summer, and the transportation and security ran smoothly for all participants, from athletes to spectators.

The most impressive aspect of the Games, though, was the atmosphere at the competition venues. The British public have always loved sport; it is part of their daily lives and plays a major role in society in general.

Athletes and officials from all visiting NOCs were able to feel this Olympic spirit in London, and could feed off the passion and the enthusiasm of the spectators.

On a personal note, it was very gratifying to see the flag of Kuwait welcomed back into the Olympic family, not just at the team welcome ceremony and opening ceremony but also when Fehaid Al Deehani won a bronze medal in the men's trap.

Major milestone

Another positive aspect was the fact that, for the first time at the Olympic Games, all participating NOCs included female athletes in their delegations. There is still a long way to go regarding gender equality in all areas of sport, from athletes to administrators to decision-makers, but London 2012 marked a major milestone. We must build on this platform by creating opportunities and moving forward.

For now, though, let's congratulate London on a job well done.

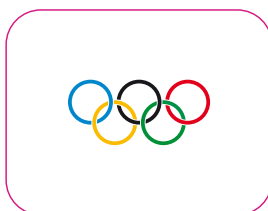
The London Olympics did, indeed, "Inspire a Generation".

IOC PRESIDENT: LONDON WAS 'HAPPY AND GLORIOUS'

The President of the International Olympic Committee, Jacques Rogge, took a line from the British national anthem in describing London 2012 as "happy and glorious Games" at the closing ceremony on Sunday, August 12.

"Thank you, London," he said, to great cheers around the stadium.

President Rogge paid tribute to the organising committee chairman, Sebastian Coe, and his team for their "superb job" in organising the Games and said that nobody would ever forget the smiles of the



volunteers and the theatre and drama created by the athletes.

He added that the spectators and the public had provided the soundtrack of the Games by creating a festive spirit at every Olympic venue.

"You have shown to the world the best of British hospitality," said the IOC President.

Earlier, Lord Coe described the event as a "wonderful Games in a wonderful city."

"We lit the flame and we lit up the world," he said. "When our time came, Britain we did it right."

SHEIKH AHMAD PRESENTS OLYMPIC SOLIDARITY REPORT

OCA President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah presented his first report as Chairman of the Olympic Solidarity Commission (OSC) to the 124th IOC Session in London on Tuesday, July 24.

Sheikh Ahmad was appointed OSC Chairman by IOC President Jacques Rogge on May 4, and began his report by thanking his predecessor, Mario Vazquez Rana, for all his hard work.

"I think the last quadrennial, 2009-2012, was one of the best - if not the best - ever for Olympic Solidarity because always we achieved our target and goals," Sheikh Ahmad told the IOC members.

Sheikh Ahmad reported that the Commission had distributed a total of US\$311 million through various programmes and

projects, including US\$122 million in continental programmes.

Without going into details, Sheikh Ahmad said the total budget available for the next quadrennial, 2013-2016, would be increased, so that "we will have a more comfortable four years." The figure for the next term will be finalised during a meeting of Olympic Solidarity on the sidelines of the OCA General Assembly in Macau in November.

"You will find very good numbers," he added.

Sheikh Ahmad said there would be a review of the scholarship awards programme and an assessment of results in relation to investment; the data would be presented to the IOC Session in Buenos Aires in September 2013.



Sheikh Ahmad's presentation is projected on to the big screen at the media centre in Grosvenor House.

SINGAPORE TO HOST IOC ATHLETES' FORUM IN 2013

The Olympic movement will return to Singapore in June 2013 for the IOC Athletes' Forum. The outgoing Chairman of the IOC Athletes' Commission, Frank Fredericks, made the announcement to IOC members at the 124th IOC Session in London on July 24.

"We are really happy to be going back again because we can see the positive changes Singapore made by hosting the first Youth Olympic Games in 2010," he said.

Ng Ser Miang, IOC Vice President and OCA Executive Board member from Singapore, thanked the IOC for their support when hosting the inaugural YOG in August 2010 and said the event had "really inspired and helped a lot" in the promotion of sport among young people around the world.

"We will do our best to support and to make sure this is a wonderful and successful Athletes' Forum," he said.

TAKEDA, LI BECOME IOC MEMBERS

The 124th IOC Session in London elected five new members on July 26. With several Executive Board (EB) terms of office expiring, the Session also voted on the positions of two IOC Vice Presidents and seven EB members.

The Session elected the following new members:

- ✿ Aisha Garad Ali (Djibouti, linked to function within an NOC)
- ✿ Pierre-Olivier Beckers (Belgium, linked to function within an NOC)
- ✿ Tsunekazu Takeda (Japan, individual)
- ✿ Frank Fredericks (Namibia, individual)
- ✿ Li Lingwei (China, individual)

Vice Presidents: Nawal El Moutawakel and Craig Reedie, who have been Executive Board members since 2008 and 2009 respectively, were elected as IOC Vice Presidents.

Executive Board: New members elected to the EB were Juan Antonio Samaranch Jr, Sergey Bubka and Willi Kaltschmitt.

As is traditional, four positions on the EB are closely linked to the representation of the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF), the Association of International

Winter Sports Federations (AIOWF), the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) and the IOC Athletes' Commission. The following four IOC members were elected or re-elected to the Executive Board:

- ✿ Wu Ching Kuo (ASOIF)
- ✿ René Fasel (re-elected, AIOWF)
- ✿ Patrick Hickey (ANOC)
- ✿ Claudia Bokel (Chair, IOC Athletes' Commission)

Outgoing Executive Board members are former Vice Presidents Yu Zaiqing and Mario Pescante as well as Denis Oswald, Mario Vázquez-Raña, Frank Fredericks and Richard Carrión.

Honorary Members: Francisco Elizalde, Alpha Ibrahim Diallo and Carlos Nuzman, whose IOC membership will terminate at the end of 2012 due to the age limit, were appointed as Honorary Members as of January 1, 2013. They have all served as IOC members for over 10 years.

Honour for Kuala Lumpur: In another decision, the 124th IOC Session agreed to hold the 127th IOC Session in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in 2015. Top item on the agenda for KL will be the host city decision for the 2022 Winter Olympics.

CHINESE TAIPEI NOC RECEIVES AWARD

The Chinese Taipei Olympic Committee received a trophy from IOC President Jacques Rogge for being a major donor of the "Giving Is Winning" campaign.

In a ceremony held on July 23 in the Olympic Village, President Rogge unveiled the Olympic Truce Wall and launched the second phase of the Olympic Games "Giving is Winning" campaign.

President Rogge presented trophies to Chinese Taipei, Great Britain and Qatar in appreciation of their generosity in the first phase of the campaign.

In cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the CTOC launched the "Giving is Winning" campaign on January 1, 2012. Through to the end of May, more than 7,900 items were collected and shipped to Pakistan by CTOC for IOC's distribution.



President Rogge presents the trophy to CTOC.



The 61st OCA EB meeting in Haiyang, China.

CELEBRATION IN THE AIR AT 61ST EB MEETING

Following the election of Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah as President of the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) on April 13, the OCA Executive Board met for the first time on Saturday, June 16, in Haiyang, China.

Not surprisingly there was a celebratory mood in the air at the Shenglong Jianguo Hotel - OCA HQ for the 3rd Asian Beach Games – and the OCA President received a warm round of applause from members at this 61st meeting of the EB.

IOC Vice President Ng Ser Miang (Singapore) paid tribute to Sheikh Ahmad and spoke of the energy and vitality now running through ANOC, and the new President thanked the EB members for their support.

Sheikh Ahmad pointed out that Raja Randhir Singh (India) had filled his previous role as ANOC Vice President for Asia, and Yu Zaiqing (China) had joined the ANOC Executive Council as a member representing Asia.

Sheikh Ahmad has also been appointed Chairman of the Olympic Solidarity Commission by IOC President Jacques Rogge, marking another major milestone in the career of the Kuwaiti sports leader.

“On behalf of Asia I would like to show our gratitude and thanks to our friends in the Olympic Movement,” said Sheikh Ahmad. The OCA President also congratulated Tokyo on being selected by the IOC as one of the three candidate cities for the 2020 Olympic Games, along with Madrid and Istanbul, and described recent events as “an historical victory” for Asian sport.

“Let us continue to work hard and continue with our success,” he added. “This cannot be done without solidarity, unity, hard work and understanding between all of us. We are a good example of a sports organisation, with a lot of events and activities coming up in the next few years.”

In other news, the EB:

- ✳ Agreed with the OCA Sports Committee proposal to recognise the Asia Parachute Federation,
- ✳ Offered temporary recognition to the Asian Go Federation and the Asian and International e-Sports (electronic gaming) Federation to allow more time for development,
- ✳ Confirmed the date of the next EB meeting, in Macau on November 7.

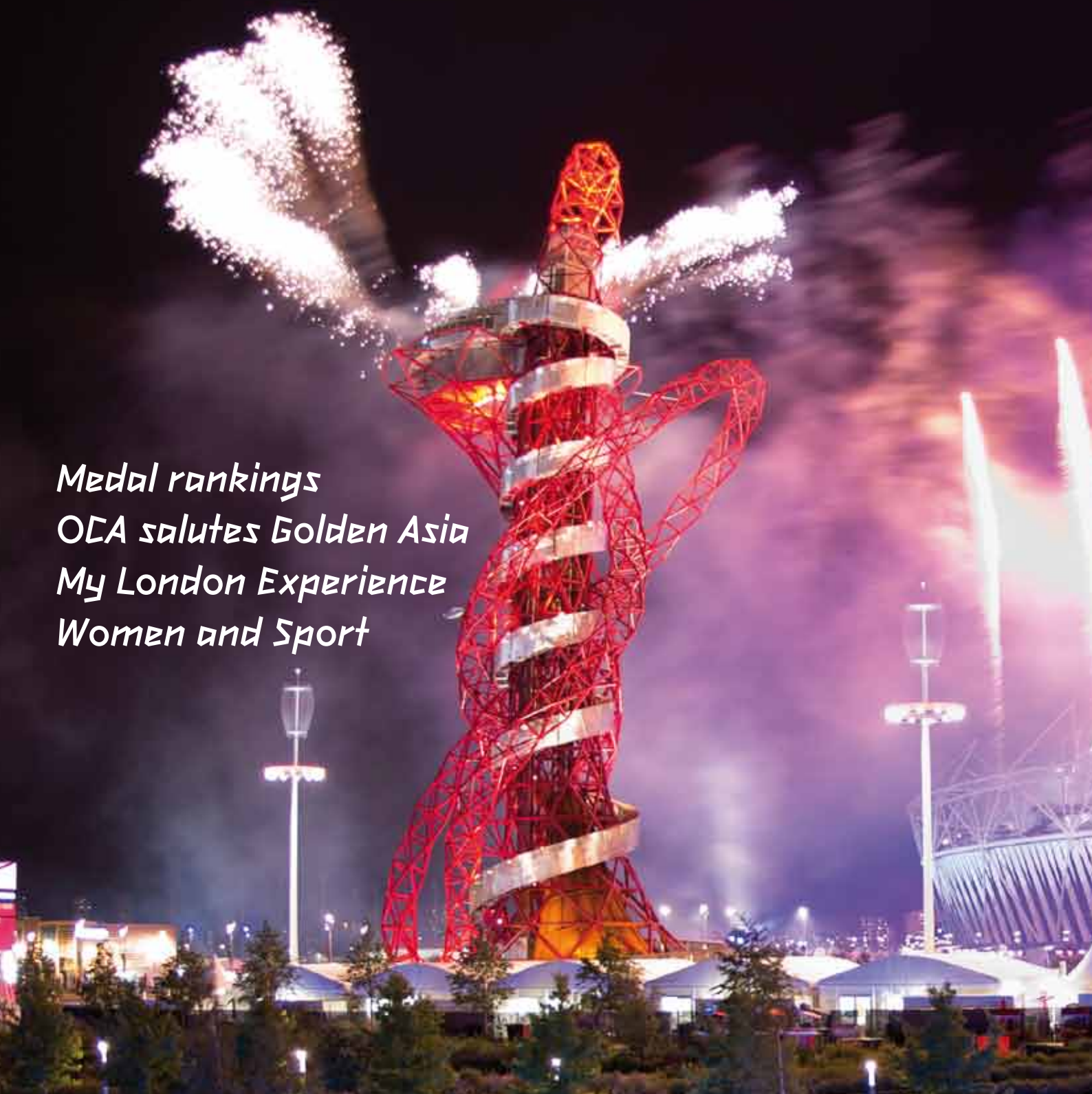


London 2012

Sporting Asia's 20-page special on the XXX Olympic Games starts here!

Asia at the London Olympics

*Medal rankings
OCA salutes Golden Asia
My London Experience
Women and Sport*



LONDON PLAYS HOST TO THE PEOPLE



a carnival atmosphere.

The spectators responded with a remarkable show of enthusiasm and Olympic spirit, cheering athletes of all countries, no matter the level of their performance.

They made everyone feel at home, with words such as “unbelievable” or “amazing” the most frequently used by athletes to describe the incredible atmosphere generated

The spectacular success of the London Olympic Games could be measured on many levels – both inside and outside the competition venues.

Inside, the venues and stadiums were rocking, as the upbeat presentation of the sports competitions created

inside the typically small, compact venues away from the Olympic Stadium.

Outside the venues there was a party atmosphere, with a feel-good factor enveloping the Games and all who were involved.

A walk through Olympic Park on a sunny afternoon captured the spirit and the essence of the London Games; a heady mixture of excitement, unity and celebration that brought people together from all walks of life, and from all corners of the world.

They cheered as loudly at the taekwondo, wrestling and handball as they did at the football, swimming and athletics, propelling the athletes to produce their best on the biggest stage of all.

It helped, of course, that Great Britain performed so well in so many sports, creating household names overnight and



Packed stands at Lord's Cricket Ground for the women's archery final



Eccentric Brits in the Olympic Park provided a tourist attraction

'S GAMES

national heroes on a daily basis. This relentless sequence of success generated a pride and a level of patriotism usually reserved for royal occasions and which spread throughout the Olympics to embrace all-comers.

In the build-up to the Games, organising committee chairman Sebastian Coe had constantly stressed that the athletes had been first and foremost in the thoughts and plans of the organisers.

The London Olympics, said Lord Coe, were going to be the Games of the Athletes, and he was right in that they created a new generation of sporting heroes for Great Britain in particular and the world at large, in a diversity of sports never before appreciated or celebrated by the hosts.

In the end, though, London 2012 will be remembered as the People's Games – and, fittingly perhaps, only the Brazilians are capable of replicating this "Olympic Summer of Love" in 2016.

FACTS BOX



LONDON 2012

Opening Ceremony:	July 27
Closing Ceremony:	August 12
Competition Days:	16
Sports:	26
NOCs:	204
Athletes:	10,863
Male:	6,040
Female:	4,823
Team Officials:	8,161



London landmarks: A red double-decker passes Big Ben



Security with a smile at the Olympic Stadium

SIX ASIAN NOCS FINISH IN TOP 20

The curtain fell on the London Olympic Games on Sunday, August 12, with six NOCs from Asia among the top 20 in the final medals rankings.

China finished second in the table with 38 gold, 27 silver and 22 bronze for a total of 87 medals, eight gold medals behind USA (46-29-29-104) but still their best tally at an Olympic Games outside of China.

Diving (six), badminton (five), swimming (five), weightlifting (five), artistic gymnastics (four) and table tennis (four) provided 29 of those 38 gold medals, leaving plenty of room for improvement in other areas, notably track and field and team ball sports.

Korea (13-8-7-28) finished fifth thanks to three gold medals in both archery and shooting, while judo and fencing contributed two each in a sustained team effort.

After a slow start, **Japan** (7-14-17-38) finished in 11th place, kick-started by the women's wrestling team with three gold medals, while **Kazakhstan** (7-1-5) finished just one place behind in 12th with the same number of gold (seven, four from weightlifting) as Japan.

Iran joined the medals party quite late but their four gold medals - three in Greco-Roman wrestling - swept them to 17th with a 4-5-3 (12) return.

DPR Korea started strongly with three gold medals in weightlifting and one in judo inside the first five days and hung on for 20th place (4-0-2).

Uzbekistan (1-0-3) was the seventh Asian NOC to claim gold, in wrestling, while India, Mongolia, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Chinese Taipei, Qatar, Singapore, Afghanistan, Bahrain, Hong Kong, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Tajikistan all found their way on to the table.



The first gold medal winner of London 2012, China's Yi Siling.



Korea's Ki Bo Bae won two gold medals in archery



FINAL MEDALS TABLE

R	Country	G	S	B	T
1	United States of America	46	29	29	104
2	People's Republic of China	38	27	23	88
3	Great Britain	29	17	19	65
4	Russian Federation	24	26	32	82
5	Republic of Korea	13	8	7	28
6	Germany	11	19	14	44
7	France	11	11	12	34
8	Italy	8	9	11	28
9	Hungary	8	4	5	17
10	Australia	7	16	12	35
11	Japan	7	14	17	38
12	Kazakhstan	7	1	5	13
13	Netherlands	6	6	8	20
14	Ukraine	6	5	9	20
15	New Zealand	6	2	5	13
16	Cuba	5	3	6	14
17	Islamic Republic of Iran	4	5	3	12
18	Jamaica	4	4	4	12
19	Czech Republic	4	3	3	10
20	DPR Korea	4	0	2	6
21	Spain	3	10	4	17
22	Brazil	3	5	9	17
23	South Africa	3	2	1	6
24	Ethiopia	3	1	3	7
25	Croatia	3	1	2	6
26	Belarus	2	5	5	12
27	Romania	2	5	2	9
28	Kenya	2	4	5	11
29	Denmark	2	4	3	9
30	Azerbaijan	2	2	6	10
30	Poland	2	2	6	10
32	Turkey	2	2	1	5
33	Switzerland	2	2	0	4
34	Lithuania	2	1	2	5
35	Norway	2	1	1	4
36	Canada	1	5	12	18
37	Sweden	1	4	3	8
38	Colombia	1	3	4	8
39	Georgia	1	3	3	7
39	Mexico	1	3	3	7
41	Ireland	1	1	3	5
42	Argentina	1	1	2	4

R	Country	G	S	B	T
42	Slovenia	1	1	2	4
42	Serbia	1	1	2	4
45	Tunisia	1	1	1	3
46	Dominican Republic	1	1	0	2
47	Trinidad and Tobago	1	0	3	4
47	Uzbekistan	1	0	3	4
49	Latvia	1	0	1	2
50	Algeria	1	0	0	1
50	Bahamas	1	0	0	1
50	Grenada	1	0	0	1
50	Uganda	1	0	0	1
50	Venezuela	1	0	0	1
55	India	0	2	4	6
56	Mongolia	0	2	3	5
57	Thailand	0	2	1	3
58	Egypt	0	2	0	2
59	Slovakia	0	1	3	4
60	Armenia	0	1	2	3
60	Belgium	0	1	2	3
60	Finland	0	1	2	3
63	Bulgaria	0	1	1	2
63	Estonia	0	1	1	2
63	Indonesia	0	1	1	2
63	Malaysia	0	1	1	2
63	Puerto Rico	0	1	1	2
63	Chinese Taipei	0	1	1	2
69	Botswana	0	1	0	1
69	Cyprus	0	1	0	1
69	Gabon	0	1	0	1
69	Guatemala	0	1	0	1
69	Montenegro	0	1	0	1
69	Portugal	0	1	0	1
75	Greece	0	0	2	2
75	Republic of Moldova	0	0	2	2
75	Qatar	0	0	2	2
75	Singapore	0	0	2	2
79	Afghanistan	0	0	1	1
79	Bahrain	0	0	1	1
79	Hong Kong, China	0	0	1	1
79	Saudi Arabia	0	0	1	1
79	Kuwait	0	0	1	1
79	Morocco	0	0	1	1
79	Tajikistan	0	0	1	1
		302	304	356	962

GOLDEN GLORY F



Ye Shiwen: two gold medals in the pool. (Getty Images)



An Kum Ae: judo gold. (Getty Images)



Jin Jongoh: two golds with the pistol. (Getty Images)



Alexandr Vinokurov: gold in the road race. (Getty Images)

OR ASIAN ATHLETES



Behdad Salimikordasibi: gold in the +105kg wrestling. (Getty Images)



Kohei Uchimura: all-around individual gold. (Getty Images)



Uzbekistan's Artur Taymazov (right) wrestles his way to gold in the 120kg category. (Getty Images)

OCA SALUTES GOLDEN



China

► Athletics

Men's 20km race walk: **Chen Ding**

► Boxing

Zou Shiming: men's light flyweight (49kg)

► Gymnastics

Artistic men's team: **Chen Yibing, Feng Zhe, Guo Weiyang,**

Zhang Chenglong, Zou Kai

Men's trampoline: **Dong Dong**

Men's floor exercise: **Zou Kai**

Men's parallel bars: **Feng Zhe**

Women's beam: **Deng Linlin**

► Sailing

Xu Lijia: women's Laser Radial

► Shooting

Yi Siling: women's 10m air rifle

Guo Wenjun: women's 10m air pistol

► Weightlifting

Wang Mingjuan: women's 48kg

Li Xueying: women's 58kg

Lin Qingfeng: men's 69kg

Lu Xiaojun: men's 77kg

Zhou Lulu: women's +75kg

► Swimming

Sun Yang: men's 400m freestyle

Sun Yang: men's 1500m freestyle

Ye Shiwen: women's 400m individual medley

Ye Shiwen: women's 200m individual medley

Jiao Liuyang: women's 200m butterfly

► Diving

Women's synchronised 3m springboard: **Wu Minxia, He Zi**

Men's synchronised 10m platform: **Cao Yuan, Zhang Yanquan**

Women's synchronised 10m platform: **Chen Ruolin, Wang Hao**

Men's synchronised 3m springboard: **Qin Kai, Luo Yutong**

Women's 3m springboard: **Wu Minxia**

Women's 10m platform: **Chen Ruolin**

► Fencing

Lei Sheng: men's foil individual

Women's team epee: **Sun Yujie, Li Na, Luo Xiaojuan**

► Table Tennis

Li Xiaoxia: women's singles

Zhang Jike: men's singles

Women's team: **Li Xiaoxia, Ding Ning, Guo Yue**

Men's team: **Ma Long, Zhang Jike, Wang Hao**

► Badminton

Mixed doubles: **Zhang Nan, Zhao Yunlei**

Women's singles: **Li Xuerui**

Women's doubles: **Tian Qing, Zhao Yunlei**

Men's singles: **Lin Dan**

Men's doubles: **Fu Haifeng, Cai Yun**

► Taekwondo

Wu Jingyu: women's -49kg



Korea

► Shooting

Jin Jongoh: men's 10m air pistol

Jin Jongoh: men's 50m pistol

Kim Jangmi: women's 25m pistol

► Archery

Women's team: **Lee Sung Jin, Ki Bo Bae, Choi Hyeonju**

Women's individual: **Ki Bo Bae**

Men's individual: **Oh Jin Hyek**

► Judo

Kim Jae Bum: men's -81kg

Song Dae Nam: men's -90kg

► Fencing

Kim Jiyeon: women's sabre individual

Men's sabre team: **Gu Bongil, Won Woo Young, Kim Junghwan, Oh Eunseok**

ASIA AT LONDON 2012

▶ Gymnastics

Yang Hak Seon: men's vault

▶ Wrestling

Kim Hyeon Woo: men's 66kg Greco-Roman

▶ Taekwondo

Hwang Kyung Seon: women's -67kg



Japan

▶ Boxing

Ryota Murata: men's boxing 75kg

▶ Judo

Kaori Matsumoto: women's -57kg

▶ Gymnastics

Kohei Uchimura: men's individual all-around

▶ Wrestling

Hitomi Obara: women's 48kg

Kaori Icho: women's 63kg

Saori Yoshida: women's 55kg

Tatsuhiko Yonemitsu: men's freestyle 66kg



Kazakhstan

▶ Cycling

Alexandr Vinokurov: men's road race

▶ Weightlifting

Zulfiya Chinshanlo: women's 53kg

Maiya Maneza: women's 63kg

Svetlana Podobedova: women's 75kg

Ilya Ilyin: men's 94kg

▶ Athletics

Olga Rypakova: women's triple jump

▶ Boxing

Serik Sapiyev: men's 69kg



Iran

▶ Wrestling

Hamid Mohammad Soryan Reihanpour: men's 55kg
Greco-Roman

Omid Haji Noroozi: men's 60kg Greco-Roman

Ghasem Gholamreza Rezaei: men's 96kg Greco-Roman

▶ Weightlifting

Behdad Salimikordasiabi: men's +105kg



DPR Korea

▶ Judo

An Kum Ae: women's -52kg

▶ Weightlifting

Om Yun Chol: men's 56kg

Kim Un Guk: men's 62kg

Rim Jong Sim: women's 69kg



Uzbekistan

▶ Wrestling

Artur Taymazov: men's freestyle 120kg

ISLES OF WONDER SH



Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II opens the Games of the XXX Olympiad



Dancing round the Maypole in the green and pleasant land



A mass of colour and culture. (Getty Images)



Smoking chimneys during the Industrial Revolution sequence



A highlight of the opening ceremony. (Getty Images)

OWS BEST OF BRITISH



The Olympic rings burn brightly. (Getty Images)



A classical scene from the opening ceremony.



We have lift-off! (Getty Images)

Team Welcome Ceremony



Tajikistan was the first Asian NOC to be welcomed into the Village



Manny Lopez signs the Truce Wall



A souvenir photo for Vietnam

Art meets sport in w

When Manny Lopez, Chef de Mission of the Philippines delegation, was asked to comment on the radical, whimsical team welcome ceremony, he spoke for all NOCs in London when he replied: “There is only one word to describe it – fantastic!”

Performed by the National Youth Theatre of Great Britain, the ceremony was far removed from the traditional sombre and serious affair, as street theatre combined with acrobatics in a Cirque du Soleil-style riot of colour and energy.

“It gives us a taste of the West End – without having to pay!” added Lopez. “We are very fortunate to be here to witness something so special.

“It was very artistic and well choreographed. It is unusual for a team welcome ceremony, and

welcome ceremony

perhaps the first time like this at an Olympic Games. It makes us very proud and very honoured to think how much work they have put in to this ceremony to welcome us to the Olympic Games."

Dressed in Elizabethan ruffs and urban street-wear, NYT members created a 30-minute pageant involving bicycles, power-riser stilts and puppetry, all to the soundtrack of hits from the legendary rock band Queen such as "Bicycle Race", "We are the champions" and "Don't Stop me Now".

Lopez concluded: "I think it loosened up all the pressure and the tension on the athletes which has been building up during their preparations.

"It loosened up their minds and their muscles. Before they were serious and tense and this has put them in a very jovial mood. They were so happy, you could see."



China and DPR Korea enter Flag Plaza



A satisfied customer from DPR Korea



Colour and energy at the team welcome ceremony



Kuwaitis show their pride after the welcome ceremony

KUWAIT FLAG FLIES HIGH AGAIN

The flag of Kuwait returned to the Olympic family on Thursday, July 26, when the delegation from the Kuwait Olympic Committee was welcomed into the Olympic Village. After the IOC lifted its suspension of the Kuwait NOC a few days earlier, the athletes were able to watch their flag rise high into the bright blue skies of London and hear their national anthem on the Olympic stage once again.

"We are very happy and, at the same time, we would like to thank His Highness the Emir about raising the flag and for finishing our problem," said Obaid Z. Al-Anzi, Secretary General of Kuwait Olympic Committee.

"The morale of the players would have been very bad if they had been participating as Independent Olympic Athletes because it would mean they did not belong to anybody, not to Kuwait."

After the carnival-style atmosphere of the team welcome ceremony, the Kuwaiti delegation was the centre of international media attention as athletes and officials proudly displayed their flag and KUW sign.

"I am too much happy to see my flag up there," said Maryam Arzouqi, 25, who competed in the air rifle competition.

The IOC announced on July 16 that the Executive Board had conditionally lifted the suspension following a written guarantee by HH The Emir to issue a decree in August 2012 which will put in place a new sports legislation, as previously agreed upon with the IOC. Once in force, this new law will put an end to long-standing government interference which affected the NOC's autonomy and led to its suspension in January 2010.



The flag of Kuwait is raised in the Olympic Village

ASIAN VOLUNTEERS ADD TO OLYMPIC SPIRIT

There were 70,000 volunteers on duty at the London Olympics – the “Games-makers” as they were labelled by a grateful organising committee.

A fair proportion of those volunteers came from Asian countries, as the cultural diversity of London presented the recruiting team with quantity and quality human resources right on the doorstep.

Working hard at the bustling Main Press Centre in Olympic Park was Liu Xinyao, 24, from Harbin, China, whose English name is Joy.

“This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for me, and a great opportunity to be part of the London Olympics,” said Joy, a member of the language services team.

Joy has lived in London for two years and is studying for her Masters degree in translation and interpretation at the University of Westminster.

“I applied to be a volunteer at the end of 2010, and it has been of great benefit for my studies, dealing with people from all over the world,” she added.

“I went to Buckingham Palace last year to watch the Royal Wedding and now I am at the Olympic Games, so for many years when I see these two events on TV I can say I was there.”

Over at the Olympic Village, James Lapien, 51, from Indonesia, was an NOC assistant for the United Arab Emirates.

“We have had two members of the Al Maktoum family in the delegation and they have been so kind and friendly,” said James, who was born and raised in Jakarta and moved to London 15 years ago to work for BBC World Services radio.

“It’s my first time to work as a volunteer and my first time to attend an Olympic Games, so everything has been new and special for me,” added James, a radio producer and journalism trainer who lives at Wimbledon.



Liu Xinyao of China outside the Main Press Centre.



James Lapien of Indonesia gets down to work at the Olympic Village.



Maziah Mahusin with Usain Bolt in the Athletes' Village

PROFILE

Name: Maziah Mahusin
NOC: Brunei Darussalam
Age: 19
Sport: Athletics
Event: Women's 400 metres



Ziah stands by the Truce Wall

'ZIAH' BREAKS NEW GROUND FOR BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

As the first female athlete to represent Brunei at the Olympic Games, Maziah Mahusin will never forget London 2012.

Not only did she run into history and attract worldwide attention with her pioneering role, she also had her photograph taken with sprint legend Usain Bolt - and tasted the British "delicacy" of fish and chips for the first time.

"I am really honoured to be able to compete in the Olympics as the first female athlete from Brunei Darussalam," Ziah told Sporting Asia.

"It is a dream come true. I have had a lot of support back home and some people still cannot believe it – so here I am!

"Hopefully there will be more female athletes to follow. They really have to commit themselves to train hard if they want to be somebody. They have to be motivated."

It was this pride and motivation that helped Ziah compete in the women's 400 metres on Friday, August 3, setting a national record of 59.28 seconds in the process.

Unable to train for almost four days because of a bout of flu,

fever and a cough, she turned up at the Olympic Stadium to be greeted by 80,000 spectators and an atmosphere she had never encountered before.

"When I first entered the stadium I felt like giving up," she admitted. "I was very nervous because there were 80,000 people and I thought 'I cannot do this!'

"But then I said to myself, 'This is it. You cannot turn back time'.

"I thought of everyone who has supported me, my parents, my family, my coach and the Brunei people. I have been training for four years and I turned all my thoughts positive. That is why I did not give up and pushed myself to the finish. I had the biggest goose-bumps ever."

Souvenir photos with Usain Bolt, Tyson Gay and her track heroine, 400m gold medallist Sanya Richards-Ross, at the Athletes' Village contributed to an unforgettable Olympic experience for Ziah, and for Brunei.

As for those fish and chips?

"Delicious! The fish is very crispy...but so expensive!"

SOCIAL MEDIA MAKES HOWARD FEEL AT HOME

With the rapid evolvement of social media, there is no need for an athlete to feel alone anymore in his, or her, quest for glory overseas.

Such is the case of Chinese Taipei sailor Howard Hao Chang, who was competing in the sailing event at Weymouth and Portland on the south coast of England.

Although he had the support of his coach and team, Howard says he was also lifted by his social media network of friends back home.

"It was nice to come back after training or competition and find all the messages of support on Facebook," he said.

"It really helped me during the competition and gave me a lot of encouragement in between the races."

Despite a finishing place of 35th – five places lower than at the Beijing Olympics in 2008 – the 21-year-old university student

from Penghu Island returned home with plenty of good memories.

"The Olympic Village for the sailing competition was very good because it was like holiday bungalows, and everyone was friendly and kind," he added.

"It was the same atmosphere among the athletes once the races were over, but on the water it was very serious and competitive."

As for the unpredictable summer weather on the British Isles, Howard found it very different to the tropical climate of the Far East.

"It was very cold for us because we are from Asia, but for Europe they said it was not too cold at all," he noted.

"But at least there was no rain and it was sunny every day."

When the sailing finished, Howard moved up to the main Olympic Village in east London for a spot of city shopping and sight-seeing before returning home – already a two-time Olympian at 21.



Chinese Taipei's Hao Chang competes in the windsurfing. (GettyImages)

PROFILE

Name: Hao Chang
NOC: Chinese Taipei
Age: 21
Sport: Sailing
Event: Men's RS-X (windsurfing)



Hao Chang in the Olympic Village

PRIDE AND HISTORY FOR FEMALE ATHLETES

One of the biggest talking points at the London Olympics has been the participation of female athletes from all 204 National Olympic Committees.

Brunei Darussalam, Qatar and Saudi Arabia sent female athletes for the first time in history; a milestone that IOC President Jacques Rogge described as “a major boost for gender equality” during his opening ceremony speech on July 27.

The seven female athletes in question – four from Qatar, two from Saudi Arabia and one from Brunei – have been the centre of attention for the world’s media before, during and after their events, and have been cheered enthusiastically by the large crowds.

Although there is still a long way to go in the campaign for gender equality in all areas of the Olympic movement, let’s celebrate with the London pioneers:

Wojdan Shaherkani (Saudi Arabia, judo): “I am proud to be the first Saudi woman to compete at the Olympics and I’m very thankful for all the audience who supported me and stood behind me. Unfortunately I lost, but hopefully I will do better next time. It was the opportunity of a lifetime. Hopefully this will be the start of bigger participation for other sports also; the beginning of a new era.”

Bahya Mansour Al Hamad (Qatar, shooting): “It’s fun to be in the Olympics. It’s a dream come true for me to be here. I am very happy because I carried the flag for my country in the opening ceremony. I am very proud of it.”

Sarah Attar (Saudi Arabia, athletics): “It is the hugest honour to be here to represent the women of Saudi Arabia. It is an historic moment. I hope it will make a difference. It is a huge step forward, a really incredible experience.”



Saudi Arabia's Wojdan Shaherkani (left). (Getty Images)



Qatar's Bahya Mansour Al Hamad. (Getty Images)



Sarah Attar waves to the crowd. (Getty Images)



Silver Lady: China's Ren Cancan (right) won a silver medal in women's boxing. (Getty Images)

WOMEN'S BOXING – A KNOCKOUT SUCCESS

Anyone doubting that women's boxing had a place in the Olympic Games should have been at the ExCeL Arena in London Docklands on Thursday, August 9 – the day of the finals in the three weight categories.

To describe the atmosphere as electric would be an understatement. A BBC TV report earlier in the day had said that the decibel level generated in the compact, 10,000-seat arena was the equivalent of three jumbo jet engines, and the house was rocking as the countdown continued to the 4.30pm starting bell.

Enter C K Wu, IOC member from Chinese Taipei and President of the International Boxing Association (AIBA).

"The most important thing about the London Olympics is that we have not only men's boxing but a women's boxing competition for the first time in history," he told the TV presenter.

"The boxers here today, they are all heroes; they are all part of history. They are playing an important role in the history of

Olympic boxing. They are heroes in the boxing world."

Women's boxing, which proved to be a big success at the Asian Indoor Games in Vietnam in 2009, made its Olympic debut in three weight categories: fly (48-51kg), light (57-60kg) and middle (69-75kg).

The AIBA President is looking to double that participation level in Rio de Janeiro in 2016, expanding the competition to six weight divisions at least, and who can blame him after the incredible success of the London Games.

"The noise was so loud. To be honest I was a little bit shocked," admitted China's Ren Cancan, who was beaten in the flyweight final by Great Britain's Nicola Adams in the history-making bout.

"I hope that when I fight in China or anywhere in the world the people will come and support us like they have done in London. The fans here have been so friendly."

THE LAST WORD FROM LONDON 2012

"I cannot describe my feelings I am so happy. What, with the weather, the London bus and Tower Bridge, I felt like I was sight-seeing today." – **HRH Prince Abdullah Al Saud** (Saudi Arabia), after a clear round on Davos in the jumping at Greenwich Park.

"I am not here to talk about politics. I am very sad about what is going on at home." – **Ahmad Saber Hamcho** (Syria), trying to stay focused on his equestrian participation.

"I like the way the competition is organised. I like the atmosphere; it is very warm. Everyone is shouting 'yeah, yeah' when you lift." – **Sherzodjon Yusupov** (Uzbekistan), on the atmosphere at the weightlifting venue.

"The gold medal weighs more than the weights." – **Zhou Lulu** (China), after setting a world record total lift of 333kg and then receiving the heavy gold medal.

"I am happy that my father is with me. He is President of the Iraqi Archery Association but he can't help me because he's not good at shooting." – **Rand Al-Mashhadani** (Iraq), joking about the archery ability of her father, Saad Mahmoud Al-Mashhadani.

"That is a stupid question. The Olympics are all about the games. Foreign journalists here always ask questions about identity. Our loyalties are with Hong Kong, otherwise we would be playing for China." – **Tang Peng** (Hong Kong, China), of the men's table tennis team.

"I want to celebrate the gold medal by drinking a glass of beer. Actually, I am only able to drink half a glass." – **Zulfiya Chinshanlo** (Kazakhstan), after winning the women's 53kg weightlifting competition.

"I won't be greedy or proud. That way I will win more gold medals in the future." – **Rim Jong Sim** (DPR Korea), after winning weightlifting gold in the women's 69kg competition.

"Mongolians are traditional fighters. It's in our blood. We are warriors. My people are warriors, and we are warriors in judo at the Olympics." – **Nyam-Ochir Sainjargal** (Mongolia), after winning a bronze medal in the men's -73kg judo competition.

"Girls are only allowed to train inside the stadium. We are not allowed to train outside the stadium. If anyone sees you training outside they will push you and will shout at you saying 'stay at home' and some other rude stuff." – **Fatima Sulaiman Dahman** (Yemen), on the conditions back home for a female athlete after a training session at the Olympic Stadium warm-up track.



The one-year countdown ceremony to the 4th AIMAG

INCHEON 2013 MARKS ONE-YEAR COUNTDOWN

Organisers of the 4th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games (AIMAG) in Incheon, Korea, in 2013 marked the one-year countdown to the opening ceremony on June 29 at Yonsei University's Songdo Campus.

More than 600 guests attended the ceremony, including Incheon Asian Games Organising Committee President Kim Young-soo, Incheon Mayor Song Young-gil and representatives from OCA, NOCs and government.

The event was held to promote the 2013 AIMAG, which will take place from June 29 to July 6 and serve as a test event for the 17th Asian Games in Incheon from September 19 to October 4.

The Honorary Secretary of the Olympic Council of Malaysia, Dato Sieh Kok Chi, accepted the invitations to the AIMAG on behalf of all 45 Asian NOCs.

"The ceremony was really impressive, but the most important thing is the public and media who came to watch," he said. "Their presence will not only help promote the Games to the general public but also build up publicity and awareness among local citizens.

"For me, the most important thing for any Games is the citizens of the country. They are the main supporters of the Games, even though there will be many foreign tourists visiting Korea and Incheon every year."

IM APPOINTED EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

The 2014 Incheon Asian Games Organising Committee has announced the appointment of Im Kwon-taek as Executive Producer for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Im is critically acclaimed as one of the representative Korean film directors and has won many domestic and international film festival awards, including the Cannes Best Director Award.

"Rather than topping previous lavish Games, the ceremonies of the Incheon Asian Games will touch the hearts of four billion Asians and gain their sympathy," he said.

The Organising Committee appointed the executive producer out of 30 candidates after a series of meetings and consultations with the Ceremonies Advisory Committee.

Im will be responsible for the production of both the 2013 Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games and 2014 Incheon Asian Games.



Im (left) is appointed Executive Producer



Starting them young in Bahrain



Golden smiles in Bahrain



Fun in Bhutan

ASIAN NOCS PROMOTE OLYMPIC VALUES

Bahrain: Olympic Day was celebrated on June 23 indoors at Bahrain City Centre, the Kingdom's largest shopping mall. The day started at 9am with the Olympic Day Run over 4-5 km. The Bahraini football, basketball, taekwondo and table tennis associations each took at least 30 minutes to demonstrate the sport and encourage participation. A special mention must be made of the 10 volunteers that took part in the event from 6am until 7pm.

Bangladesh: On the occasion of the Olympic Day Rally on June 23, Coca-Cola handed out the prizes. There was also an Olympic Day Games for Special Olympics.

Bhutan: Olympic Day took place in Ugyen Dorji Higher Secondary School, Haa, on June 2 to coincide with the coronation of the 4th Druk Gyalpo, His Majesty King Jigme Singye Wangchuck. The Coronation Marathon was held on the same day with the flagging off of the marathon by the Dzongdag.

Over 2,000 sports enthusiasts took part in archery, basketball, football, athletics, taekwondo, boxing and bodybuilding.

Brunei Darussalam: Tutong Sports Complex hosted Olympic Day 2012. His Royal Highness Prince Hj Sufri Bolkiah, the President of the Brunei Darussalam NOC, was accompanied by his son, YAM Pg Muda 'Abdul ' Aleem, and took part in aerobics and the six-team futsal competition. Other activities included athletics, netball, handball, para sports, karatedo, taekwondo, wushu, table tennis, aquatic sports and a colouring contest.

Cambodia: On the morning of June 15, the NOC cooperated with the Kids Smiling Organisation to celebrate the annual Sport for All. Vath Chamroeun, NOCC Secretary General, opened the event. Seven schools and organisations participated in seven sports: football, volleyball, basketball, hockey, table tennis, badminton and athletics.



OCA Vice President Timothy Fok leads the runners in Hong Kong

Hong Kong, China: To celebrate the Olympic Day-Olympic Day Run and cheer for all the Hong Kong athletes heading to London 2012, the Hong Kong NOC held the 5.6km run on June 24 at Hong Kong Disneyland Resort. A record 5,000 people took part, including 23 corporate teams. To add to the carnival atmosphere, a lucky draw, game booths, marching band, dance performances, cheering team and a rope skipping demonstration were also held.

Iraq: The Iraqi Athletics Federation organised a public run at the college of physical education in cooperation with the Iraq NOC. There were various age categories for men and women.

Japan: In the framework of the Olympic Day “festas” organised by the Japanese NOC, the city of Iwaki, Fukushima Prefecture, celebrated Olympic Day on June 23. It was the 16th event out of the 60 that will be held by the end of 2013 with the slogan “Smiles Come from Sports”, sponsored by the IOC/Olympic

Council of Asia “Tsubasa” support project. To date, 5,000 children have taken part in these “festas” across the whole of Japan.

Kazakhstan: The NOC held an Olympic Day celebration on May 19.

Korea: The KOC held Olympic Day 2012 at the Olympic Park on June 7, with 2,500 people taking part in the four categories.

Malaysia: The Olympic Day Fun Run 2012 was organised on Sunday, July 8, from 6.30am to 11.00am, at Dataran Merdeka, with a record of 11,801 runners, of all ages from both genders. The run had 13 categories, from primary school level (3km), team (5km) and family (3km). Both the team event and the family event were very popular, drawing 450 teams and 150 families.

Olympic Day 2012



Dressed for the occasion in Mongolia



Olympic spirit in Nepal



Olympic Day in Nepal

Mongolia: Mongolia NOC celebrated Olympic Day in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the NOC's affiliation to the IOC and Mongolian Athletes' Day on June 23 at Sukhbaatar Central Square in Ulaanbaatar. Several sports events were organised, as well as a farewell ceremony for the Mongolian athletes heading for London. The head of state, HE Ts. Elbegdorj, attended the event.

Nepal: H.E. Mr. John Tucknott, MBE, British Ambassador, inaugurated the event as the chief guest, and NOC President Dhruba Bahadur Pradhan chaired the celebrations at Patan, Lalitpur. Nearly 5,000 students, Olympians, athletes, organisations, all NOC-affiliated national associations, business institutions, Police, Army, Armed Force police, wheelchair athletes, hearing-impaired athletes and a large number of local people and media joined the Olympic Day Peace Walk.

Pakistan: Olympic Day was organised under the auspices of the

Pakistan Olympic Association by the Sindh Olympic Association in close cooperation with the Education and Culture Committee and OVER, with Mrs Veena Masud as Chief Coordinator. The events were held over one week and included an art competition, an Olympic Seminar, an Olympic Day Run, sports demonstrations and a TV talk show with the NOC President.

Philippines: The POC celebrated Olympic Day at the Marikina Sports Park, Marikina City, on June 22, with over 2,000 participants. IOC representative Francisco Elizalde spoke on the Olympic values of Excellence, Friendship and Respect, and POC President Jose "Peping" Cojuangco shared his observations from the 3rd Asian Beach Games in Haiyang, China, in June.

Singapore: In celebration of this year's Olympic Day and the London 2012 Olympic Games, McDonald's organised an Olympic Day Run on July 14 at Sengkang Sports & Recreation Centre Hockey Pitch 2.



Olympic Day in Uzbekistan



Olympic Day in Vietnam



Olympic Day in Uzbekistan



Olympic Day in Chinese Taipei

Sri Lanka: The NOC celebrated the one-month countdown to London on June 27 by hosting the 2012 Olympic Day Run in Colombo in the presence of past and current Olympians. The Run was sponsored by Sri Lanka Telecom PLC and was a resounding success, with 1,000 schoolchildren from 20 schools taking part and being treated to performances by marching bands and cultural dances.

Chinese Taipei: For the 25th consecutive year, the NOC of Chinese Taipei organised an Olympic Day Run, with more than 5,500 participants aged between two and 75. NOC President Thomas Tsai signalled the start of the race. The themes of this Olympic Day were the 90th anniversary of the NOC and the Olympic Games in London.

Uzbekistan: The 2012 Olympic Day took place at Alisher Navoi national park in Tashkent on June 3 and was devoted to the XXX Olympic Games. It was the NOC's 20th annual

celebration. Distances ranged from 0.3 miles to 1 mile in age categories from five to 93. About 1,200 participants successfully overcame preliminary stages held all over the country to start in the final competitions.

Vietnam: On the occasion of the 118th anniversary of the IOC, the VOC organised Children's Olympic Day 2012. Participating in the festival were leaders of VOC, Vietnam Sports Administration, the UK Ambassador to Vietnam, Dr. Antony Stokes, and hundreds of children from 5 to 18 years old. The festival began with the Torch and Olympic Flag Relay, before the children listened to the Olympic Message of IOC President Jacques Rogge read by a famous athlete - Mai Phuong (wushu).

NOTE to NOCs: If your Olympic Day celebrations are not included here, please send a short report and photos to info@ocasias.org for inclusion in the next Sporting Asia.

Closing Ceremony

Sunday, August 12, 2012



Thank you London! See you in Rio in 2016. (Getty Images)

2012



Beijing, China: September 20
14th 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



Macau, China: November 9
57th ANOC Executive Board Meeting



Macau, China: November 10
OS Commission Meeting

2013



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



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



Boracay, Philippines: November
Asian Games Centennial Festival

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

