



ON TOP OF THE WORLD

ASIAN BASEBALL UMPIRE LIU
WINS IOC WORLD TROPHY

Women and Sport Special Edition
Asian Games Update
OlympAsia Project
NOC Focus

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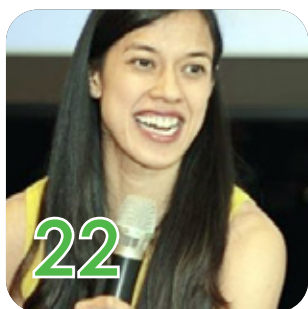
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SPORTING ASIA

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Front cover:

IOC Women and Sport Awards 2019 – World Trophy winner Sophiyah Liu Po-Chun of Chinese Taipei.

Photo: IOC

OCA PROUD OF OUR WOMEN AND SPORT MOVEMENT



Welcome to the latest edition of Sporting Asia – the OCA newsletter that we launched in 2009 to publicise and promote all the events and activities of the OCA and its 45 National Olympic Committees.

In this new edition we pay special attention to the robust women and sport movement that is rising and thriving throughout the five zones of the OCA.

We devote eight pages to the women and sport movement in Asia, reporting on athletes and officials who have battled their way to the top of their chosen field and are setting a shining example for young athletes and administrators around the continent.

The IOC Women and Sport Awards 2019 take centre stage – with an Asian winner of the IOC World Trophy – and we salute the outstanding performances of two female athletes who have announced their retirement recently and left a golden legacy at Asian and world level.

With gender equality firmly at the forefront of the global Olympic Movement, there is no better time to strengthen

and expand the women and sport manifesto in all aspects of the day-to-day running of sport in our NOCs – on the field of play and behind the scenes.

This new edition of Sporting Asia also highlights the work of the OCA in implementing the Continental Programmes of Olympic Solidarity. This includes three new OlympAsia projects as well as the dates of the Olympic Solidarity/OCA Regional Forums in 2019 and an update on the Asian skateboarding youth camp, which has received an excellent response from the NOCs.

We also highlight some particularly interesting initiatives undertaken by our NOCs and which other NOCs may want to replicate in the future, as the sharing of knowledge, experience and expertise is a big part of the Olympic Movement, promoting unity and solidarity among the stakeholders.

A stylized, handwritten signature in white ink, belonging to Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad Al Sabah.

Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad Al Sabah
President, Olympic Council of Asia



BAHRAIN NOC organised a technical course for badminton coaches in cooperation with the Bahrain Badminton and Squash Federation.

The course, supported by Olympic Solidarity, brought together 20 participants from Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman and Syria and featured both theory and practical sessions.



IOC President Thomas Bach welcomed students from Fukushima, Japan to the IOC headquarters in Lausanne.

The President invited them to join him at a baseball game to be held in Fukushima during the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020. The youngsters are part of the "Support Our Kids" programme in which the Swiss Embassy in Japan is involved and which supports children affected by the 2011 tsunami.

Photo: IOC

INTERNATIONAL Hockey Federation President Dr. Narinder Dhruv Batra presented IOC President Dr. Thomas Bach with the FIH President's Award on the sidelines of the FIH Executive Board meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland on March 15. The IOC President described the FIH's gender equality policy as a role model for many International Federations.

www.fih.ch





ORGANISED by the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China in association with the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, the 62nd Festival of Sport Opening Ceremony was held on April 5 at Kowloon Park. The festival continued until May and, under a “Sport for All” theme, featured over 60 events hosted by more than 60 sports associations. The NOC also presented a total of HKD2,536,020 (USD325,000) to 42 member sports associations for incentive and junior incentive awards. (FOS)



HE Sheikh Saud bin Ali Al-Thani, Qatar Olympic Committee First Vice President, was re-elected President of FIBA Asia for a third term 2019-2023 by the General Assembly of the member basketball federations in Bengaluru, India on Sunday, June 9.

Photo: QOC

THE International Surfing Association has welcomed the Oman Surfing Association and the Mongolian Surfing Federation as new member nations, bringing the International Federation’s total membership to 106 nations across all five continents. In the photos, two Omani youngsters are ready to hit the waves, while Mongolian surfer Bayarbat Sangjav is pictured coming out of the water.

Photos: OSA, MSF



IN the build-up to the Rugby World Cup 2019 in Japan, World Rugby and ChildFund, the principal charity partner for Rugby World Cup, have confirmed that a record £1.5 million has been pledged to ChildFund Pass It Back. In partnership with Asia Rugby, the funds will enable more than 25,000 children and young people from disadvantaged communities across Asia to take part in the fun and friendly development programme.

<https://www.world.rugby>



KAZAKHSTAN NOC and UNESCO have teamed up by signing a Memorandum of Cooperation on March 12 in Almaty. The document was signed by Mr. Saken Mussaibekov, Kazakhstan NOC Secretary General, and Ms. Krista Pikkat, Director of the UNESCO Almaty Cluster Office for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

<https://olympic.kz>



TOYOTA will be the golden sponsor of the Jordan Olympic Committee for the next two years after the JOC signed a partnership agreement with Al Markazia Toyota to support Jordanian sport and its athletes. The signing ceremony was attended by the JOC Secretary General, Nasser Majali (right), and George Haddad, General Manager of Toyota.

NEPAL Olympic Committee Vice President Mr. Purendra Bikram Lakhe was the chief guest at the opening ceremony of the five-day Olympic Solidarity Technical Course for volleyball coaches from May 27-31. An expert from the Netherlands, Lesley de Jonge, trained 41 local coaches.

www.nocnepal.org.np



LED by the newly appointed chairman, Dr. Tan Kah Hock, a five-strong delegation from the Sabah Sports Board made a courtesy visit to the Olympic Council of Malaysia on Monday, April 29. They were welcomed by Dato' Sri Mohamad Norza Zakaria, President, OCM and Mr. Mahinda Vallipuram, Vice President, OCM.

The Sabah Sports Board looks after 16 sports complexes throughout the state.



TEAM Singapore gymnast Tamara Ong has received a sports scholarship worth \$6,153.85 from NTUC FairPrice Foundation for winning a gold medal in the mixed nation event at the Buenos Aires 2018 YOG. Ong, who is studying and training in Melbourne, was represented at the prize presentation on March 29 by Ms Karen Norden, General Manager of Singapore Gymnastics. Pictured from left: Chef de Mission Tao Li, Mr Seah Kian Peng, Chief Executive of NTUC FairPrice and Director of the Singapore Olympic Foundation, Karen Norden and Mr Tan Chuan-Jin, Speaker of Parliament and President of Singapore NOC.

<http://www.singaporeolympics.com>

IN a joint effort by Sport Singapore, Temasek Foundation International and Singapore Olympic Foundation, the inaugural STEP Southeast Asia Youth Sports Leaders Camp brought together 127 young athletes from across the region to participate in an activity-filled programme from March 8-16 aimed at forging stronger bonds and nurturing a future generation of leaders through sport.

www.singaporeolympics.com



IRAN and Croatia have signed a memorandum of understanding forging closer sporting links. Iran NOC President Reza Salehi Amiri warmly welcomed his Croatian counterpart Zlatko Matesa to Tehran. Iran's Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Masoud Soltanifar, also took part in the talks.

Photo: Tehran Times



FILIPINO dragon boat racers warmed up for the 30th SEA Games in their home country this November by winning two gold medals and one silver at the DBS Marina Regatta in Singapore.

"We did well in this tournament and we are eager to translate our performance here into victories during the SEA Games," head coach Len Escollante told the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

THE Sports and Olympic Committee of Macau, China held their General Assembly at Macau Tower on Friday, March 15.

NOC President Mr Charles Lo reflected on a successful 2018 as Macau won one gold, two silver and two bronze medals at the 18th Asian Games and thanked the Macau SAR government's Sports Bureau and national sports federations for all their support and cooperation.

Photo: Sports and Olympic Committee of Macau, China



SHAIKH Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa is the new President of the Bahrain Olympic Committee until the end of the 2017/2020 electoral cycle.

Shaikh Khalid, who is President of the Bahrain Athletics Association and First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, succeeded outgoing President Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa.



HIS Excellency Lyonpo Dr. Kinzang Dorji, President of the Bhutan Indigenous Games and Sports Association, chaired the 20th Executive Committee meeting and 4th General Assembly of the Bhutan Olympic Committee on March 25-26 at Terma Linca Resort, Thimphu.

Forty-eight members from 15 Dzongkhag Sports Associations, 15 National Sports Federations and five Sports Associations attended the General Assembly.

SCHOOLING, VELOSO WIN TOP HONOURS IN SINGAPORE

Swimmer Joseph Schooling and shooter Martina Veloso were named Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year, respectively, in the Singapore Sports Awards 2019.

Schooling, the Rio 2016 Olympic Games champion in the men's 100m butterfly, won two gold medals at the 18th Asian Games in Jakarta last August – in the 50m and 100m butterfly. He earned the award for an unprecedented sixth time in his career.

"Thank you Singapore National Olympic Council for this great honour and big congrats to all the other winners tonight," Schooling said on his Facebook account in a post which quickly collected 11,000 likes and 130 messages of congratulations.

"I couldn't have done it alone. Thank you to each and every one of you who've supported me through this journey."



From left: Constance Lien, Martina Veloso, Joseph Schooling and Muhammad Hazim (Photo: Singapore National Olympic Council)

Veloso, who won the award for the first time, bagged a golden double at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games in the 10m air rifle and 50m prone rifle events. She also set a junior world record in the 50m three-position rifle women's event in May 2018.

Constance Lien (Jiu-Jitsu) was voted Sportsgirl of the Year and Muhammad Hazim Bin Mohd Yusli (Silat) was named Sportsboy of the Year.

Mr Tan Chuan-Jin, Speaker of Parliament and Singapore NOC

President, was guest of honour and presented the awards to the winners.

The event was held at the Orchard Hotel on May 14. It was organised by the Singapore NOC and Sport Singapore (SportSG) and supported by the Tote Board group comprising Tote Board, Singapore Pools and the Singapore Turf Club.

Note: For a full list of winners see: <http://www.singaporeolympics.com/winners-of-singapore-sports-awards-2019/>

SHOOTER BAKI NAMED BANGLADESH'S BEST ATHLETE



Abdullah Hel Baki is named Sportsman of the Year 2018 in Bangladesh.

The Bangladesh Sports Press Association (BSPA) selected shooter Abdullah Hel Baki as Sportsman of the Year for 2018.

The announcement came at the Kool-BSPA Sports Awards 2018 at a city centre hotel in Dhaka on April 6 in the presence of many dignitaries and sports personnel.

Baki earned the accolade thanks to his silver medal-winning performance at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games. He had also won the award in 2014 for his silver medal at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games.

The Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Mohammad Abdur Razzak MP, was the chief guest while the State Minister of Youth and Sports, Jahid Ahsan Russell, and the Bangladesh Olympic Association's Vice President, Anjan Chowdhury, were special guests. (Dhaka Tribune)

SUPER SARAH CROWNED BEST OF THE BEST IN HONG KONG

Track cyclist Sarah Lee Wai Sze was crowned 2018 Cathay Pacific Best of the Best at the Hong Kong Sports Stars Awards presentation ceremony at the Grand Hall of the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre on March 26.

From a shortlist of eight sports stars, the London 2012 Olympic keirin bronze medallist was selected overall athlete of the year for the fifth time after winning two gold medals in keirin and sprint at the 18th Asian Games in Jakarta.

Special guests at the glittering occasion included Hong Kong SAR Chief Executive Carrie Lam and Hong Kong NOC President Timothy Fok.



The eight Sports Stars of the Year show off their trophies (Photo: Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China)



Sarah Lee is the Best of the Best (Photo: Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China)

The Federation received a total of 140 nominations from 50 Sports Associations and organisations for this year's awards. Winners were selected by the accumulated scores given by a Judging Panel, the Sports Media and the public.

President Fok said: "All the nominees showed the spirit to strive for excellence during competitions and aimed for breaking through their previous achievements. We are very proud of them."

Note: In honour of the late swimmer Kenneth To, Mr. Fok presented the 2019 SF & OC President's Commendation for Distinguished Achievements award to Kenneth through the Hong Kong Amateur Swimming Association.

KING OF MALAYSIA HONOURS DATO' KOK CHI

Dato' Siah Kok Chi, Honorary Member of the Olympic Council



His Majesty The Yang di-Pertuan Agong XVI presents the Sports Leadership Award 2018 to Dato' Siah Kok Chi.

of Malaysia, was presented with the Sports Leadership Award 2018 by His Majesty The Yang di-Pertuan Agong XVI Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah Ibn Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Al-Musta'in Billah during the 2018 National Sports Awards Night on April 23 at the Shangri-La Hotel Kuala Lumpur.

Dato' Kok Chi was Honorary Secretary of the OCM from 1992-2013, Secretary General from 2013-2015 and Assistant Secretary General from 2015-2018 before being appointed Honorary Member in 2018.

Muhammad Rafiq Ismail (Tenpin Bowling) and Amy Kwan Dict Weng (Rhythmic Gymnastics) were named Male Athlete and Female Athlete of the Year, respectively, for 2018.

The OCM congratulates the Ministry of Youth and Sports and, in particular, the National Sports Council for having organised the 2018 National Sports Awards Night.

OCA TEAM VISITS 3RD ASIAN YOUTH GAMES HOST CITY

A five-member OCA delegation headed by IOC and OCA Executive Board member Ng Ser Miang of Singapore visited the host city of the 3rd Asian Youth Games in April – Shantou, on the eastern coast of Guangdong province.

Shantou, with a population of 5.4 million, played a big part in 19th century Chinese history as one of the treaty ports established for Western trade and contact.

It was also one of the five original Special Economic Zones of China established in the 1980s, and has a rich history of culture and sport.

The 3rd Asian Youth Games are proposed to be held from November 20-28, 2021, with 13 sports.

The OCA delegation visited various existing sports venues which will be used for the AYG.

The athletes will be accommodated in the dorms of the east wing of Shantou University which is under construction as part of

the extension of the university. After the Games the dorms will be used by the students.

During the visit the delegation met with the party secretary of Shantou Municipal Party Committee, Mr Fang Lixu, as well as the Mayor of Shantou City, Mr Lin Yumin, who conveyed their total commitment to the Asian Youth Games.

Delegates from the General Administration of Sport in China as well as the Chinese Olympic Committee and Guangdong Sports Bureau were also present during the two-day visit and expressed the full support of the central and municipal governments.

The OCA delegation comprised of Mr Ng, Honorary Life Vice President Mr Wei Jizhong, Vice President and Sports Committee Chairman Mr Song Luzeng, Asian Games Director Mr Haider Farman and the Director of International and NOC Relations, Mr Vinod Kumar Tiwari.

The OCA's first AYG was held in Singapore in 2009 and the second edition in Nanjing in 2013.



The OCA visit to Shantou.



Shantou University, founded in 1981, will provide accommodation for the athletes in a new dorm.

OCA ETHICS COMMISSION

The chairman and members of the OCA Ethics Commission and Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer were elected by the OCA General Assembly in Bangkok on March 3.

Chairman: Wei Jizhong (China).

Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer: Prof. Rashid Al-Enzi (Kuwait).

Members: Prof Charoen Wattanasin (Thailand), Debendra-nath Sarangi (India), Adam Yernar (Kazakhstan), Mohammad Al-Dhabhan (Saudi Arabia).



For a full list of OCA Standing Committee members, please see Pages 34-35.

IT'S KRYSTEL CLEAR – SANEH HAS BRIGHT FUTURE IN IOC

Five years ago, as the International Olympic Committee assembled a team of young reporters for the 2014 Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing, China, the OCA was flooded with applications from around Asia.

Along with the four other continental associations, the OCA was allowed to nominate four candidates – two females and two males.

After a thorough review of some 30 applications from NOCs in all five zones of the OCA, four bright young candidates were chosen, among them Krystel Saneh of Lebanon.

Thanks to her experience of reporting athletics in Lebanon and then the Nanjing YOG with the IOC team of young reporters, Krystel has gone from strength to strength.

She has made such an impact, in fact, that IOC President Thomas Bach appointed Krystel a member of the IOC Communications Commission on May 13.

Perseverance, hard work and belief

Krystel, who is also known as Christel, commented: “I have no words to describe how happy and motivated I am to join the IOC Communications Commission and serve the Olympic Movement. Especially being the first Lebanese to be part of an IOC Commission.

“We can make it possible, we only need to persevere, work hard and believe that we can.”

Krystel, who turned 25 on June 11, said it all began in 2009 when she founded the Track & Field Society when she was 16 years old and motivated to cover athletics in Lebanon.

“It started with a strong will to change and was followed by many other great experiences, covering the Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing 2014 as part of the IOC Young Reporters Programme,



then covering the Rio 2016 Olympic Games before going to the Youth Olympic Games Buenos Aires 2018 as an IOC Young Change-Maker.

“I must say that being part of the Lebanese Olympic Academy also played a huge role in this.”

Anthony Edgar, who manages the IOC Young Reporters Programme, posted on his Facebook account: “A huge congratulations to IOC Young Reporter Krystel Saneh, Class of 2014, for her appointment to the IOC Communications Commission by IOC President Bach.

“Christel has done amazing work in promoting gender equality in sport as well as promoting greater participation of Arabic women in sport. Christel, we are all proud of you. Young Reporters strike again.”



Krystel in relaxed mood.



Krystel in more formal attire.



Photographer Krystel lines up a shot.



The terrace at Olympic Bhawan in New Delhi.



An artist's impression of the new sports ground in Rasht district, Tajikistan.

OCA – BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE FOR NOCS

As part of the Continental Programme of Olympic Solidarity, the OCA offers NOCs the chance to build or upgrade sports and administrative facilities through the OlympAsia project.

The OCA offers a maximum of USD100,000 to four NOCs in each year of the four-year Olympic Solidarity cycle and the latest NOCs to benefit are Tajikistan, India and Hong Kong, China.

- **Tajikistan:** Received USD100,000 towards the construction of a multi-purpose sports ground in the administrative centre of Rasht district. Tajikistan NOC Vice President A.R. Abdullozoda said he hoped the new facility would be open by the end of June 2019.

- **India:** Received USD100,000 for the renovation of the NOC HQ Olympic Bhawan in New Delhi. Inaugurated 11 years ago, the building was the HQ of the 2010 Commonwealth Games and is undergoing a three-phase upgrade.

The OCA contribution will cover phase two, including the reception and lobby, office space, office room and storage, a fifth floor conference room and terrace. Indian Olympic Association Secretary General Rajeev Metha said the OCA-funded renovation would have a “lasting impact” on the working of the NOC.

- **Hong Kong, China:** Received USD62,700 for the upgrade of the NOC’s internet system at Olympic House in Causeway Bay.

OCA funds peace project in Sri Lanka

As part of its Continental Programme, the OCA is funding a Generations For Peace (GFP) project in Sri Lanka through the Olympism in Society initiative.

The programme began in May 2019 and will run through April 2020 with a budget of 100,000 USD from Olympic Solidarity via the OCA.

GFP began as a pilot project by the Jordan Olympic Committee and is also the secretariat of the OCA’s Peace Through Sport Committee. GFP has 11 years of experience working in conflict zones in 50 countries on three continents with sport and team-building at the forefront of peace initiatives.

The new OCA-backed programme will strengthen the longer-term sustainability of existing sport for peace activities for 350 under-privileged Sinhala, Tamil and Muslim youth aged from 14–19 in the northern (Mullaitivu) and southern (Galle) regions.

OCA/OS REGIONAL FORUMS

One of the OCA’s most loyal hosts, Bangkok, will stage the two Olympic Solidarity/OCA Regional Forums in November 2019.

The NOCs of South East Asia and East Asia will gather on November 3-4 and the NOCs of the other three OCA zones – West Asia, Central Asia and South Asia – will follow on November 5-6.

OCA YOUTH CAMP

The OCA’s skateboarding youth camp in Nanjing, China from July 28 (arrival) to August 10 (departure) is proving very popular with the confirmed participation of 21 NOCs.

Focusing on the Street and Bowl disciplines, the camp is set to involve 19 coaches, 15 female boarders and 20 male athletes ahead of the sport’s Olympic Games debut at Tokyo 2020.



The IOC Women and Sport Awards 2019 presentation at the UN HQ in New York. (Photo: IOC)

BASEBALL UMPIRE LIU WINS IOC WORLD TROPHY

International baseball umpire Sophiyah Liu Po Chun of Chinese Taipei was awarded the World Trophy at the International Olympic Committee's Women and Sport Awards for 2019.

Sophiyah was named one of six role models and change-makers in advancing women and girls in and through sport. The other winners came from the five continents, including Saada Al-Ismaili (Oman) for Asia.

In partnership with United Nations Women, a dedicated awards ceremony was held on the sidelines of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at the United Nations headquarters in New York, USA on March 19.

In a statement, the IOC said Sophiyah was awarded the World Trophy for her staunch advocacy for female empowerment through sport.

IOC President Thomas Bach congratulated the winners and said: "The awardees bring about change not only on the field of

play but also in the workplace, at home, in schools and in other areas of society. Supporting such champions for women's empowerment is essential in our overall commitment to gender equality.

"In today's world, no organisation or country can afford to let half of the population be left behind – either in sport or in society. Advancing women in and through sport is truly a team effort. By joining hands and working together, sport can inspire the necessary change and lead the way."

UN Women Executive Director and UN Under-Secretary-General Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka added: "I congratulate the IOC for its commitment to gender equality and its shared belief in knocking down the barriers that still prevent women and girls from enjoying the full benefits of sport."

The IOC Women and Sport Awards were introduced in 2000. Hosting the Awards in partnership with UN Women on the sidelines of the CSW was a first for the IOC.



IOC WOMEN AND SPORT AWARDS 2019

World Trophy:	Sophiyah Liu Po Chun (World Baseball Softball Confederation)
Africa:	Djatougbe "Nathalie" Noameshie (Togo)
Americas:	Costa Rica NOC Women and Sport Commission
Asia:	Saada Al-Ismaili (Oman)
Europe:	Morana Palikovic Gruden (Croatia)
Oceania:	Vanuatu Volleyball Federation (Vanuatu)

NOTE: See Pages 16 and 17 for more news from the IOC Women and Sport Awards.

SOPHIYAH LIU – THE BASEBALL UMPIRE DETERMINED TO STRIKE

It is not only athletes who strive hard to achieve their dream.

Many other people in sport do the same, although their achievements are not quite as heralded.



This is why the IOC's Women and Sport Awards, on an annual basis, draws global attention to the battles being fought – and won – far away from the playing field.

So take a bow, Sophiyah Liu Po-Chun, whose journey to become a baseball umpire-in-chief recognised by the World Baseball Softball Confederation has been a long - and at times frustrating - one.

As a child, Sophiyah was forced to abandon her hopes of playing baseball after being told that it was not acceptable for girls to participate in the sport in Chinese Taipei. Coaches told her the same – but she refused to allow such discrimination to stand in the way of her dreams.

Prior to becoming an umpire she volunteered with Little League Baseball, helped with summer camps and

interpreted for the Chinese Taipei Baseball Association during international competitions.

Despite then successfully completing her umpire training, the authorities back home still attempted to block her path – stating that the equipment she needed to officiate games was not available.

The challenges she was trying to overcome were discovered by the New York Yankees, who in 2009 sponsored the kit she needed for the job.

Today, she's an international baseball umpire, and a great role model and staunch advocate for female empowerment through sport.

She also made Forbes' 2018 list of the Most Powerful Women in International Sport.

Winner for Asia: Saada Al-Ismaili (Oman)

Saada Salim Al-Ismaili is a board member at the Oman Olympic Committee and Director of the Women's Sports Department at the Ministry of Sports Affairs.



Sophiyah Liu was a guest speaker at the International Sports Affairs Training Course in Taipei on April 28.



Sophiyah receives her certificate of participation at the International Sports Affairs Training Course in Taipei from Chinese Taipei Olympic Committee Advisor Sun Lih-Chyun.

GET OUT DISCRIMINATION



She has shown outstanding dedication to the promotion of women's involvement and participation in sport in designing and implementing plans and programmes aimed at promoting women's sport throughout the regions and governorates of the Sultanate of Oman.

At the Ministry of Sports Affairs, Mrs Al-Ismaili has helped to introduce sports programmes in schools and has staged female sports tournaments for all age groups. She has increased female participation in physical exercise, formed women's teams to represent the Sultanate in regional and international competitions and organised tournaments in all 11 governorates of the Sultanate.

Her contribution to the development of women's sport in Oman is ongoing and will continue to be felt for years to come.



Oman's Saada Al-Ismaili receives her Asia Trophy at the IOC Women and Sport Awards 2019 in New York.



Saada Al-Ismaili (Oman) is pictured (far right) at a meeting of the OCA Women and Sport Committee in Tokyo last November.

Women in Sport: Headline-makers



OCA Culture Committee Chair Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul was elected Deputy President of the Badminton World Federation at the BWF Annual Meeting in Nanning, China on May 23.

The IOC Member from Thailand secured a majority victory over Chinese Badminton Association President Zhang Jun and will serve a two-year term from 2019-2021.

She is pictured here (centre) at the Thailand NOC Olympic Day in Bangkok on June 16.



HRH Princess Reema bint Bandar Al Saud, Deputy of Planning and Development at Saudi Arabia NOC, met with World Taekwondo President Choue Chungwon in Riyadh recently to discuss plans for the first Islamic Women's Open Taekwondo Championships to be held in Jeddah in November.

www.worldtaekwondo.org

A new association called "Women in Sport Qatar" was launched on International Women's Day and met for the first time at the Shangri-La Hotel in Doha.

The group brought together women who work in a professional capacity in sport and representing many organisations such as the Qatar Olympic Committee, Aspire, Qatar Women's Sport Committee, Al Jazeera, Aspetar sports hospital and local sports event management companies.

Sheikha Asma al-Thani, Director of Marketing and Communications at Qatar Olympic Committee, was also in attendance.

Photo: Gulf Times





MALAYSIA'S first female Olympian, Annie Choong, received a Certificate of Recognition from the Olympic Council of Malaysia on behalf of the World Olympians Association on April 12 to acknowledge her appearance in the Melbourne Olympics in 1956. Annie, now 84, was the only female athlete in the delegation when Malaysia – then known as Malaya – made its Olympic Games debut. She also took part in two Asian Games: Manila 1954 and Tokyo 1958.



IOC Member from the Philippines Mikee Cojuangco Jaworski has been appointed Chair of the IOC Olympic Education Commission. Mikee, Asian Games equestrian champion at Busan 2002, is one of three additional female Chairs of the IOC Commissions in 2019. (Photo: Human Nature)



NEPAL Olympic Committee President and Member of Parliament Jeevan Ram Shrestha presented a plaque and a cheque for Rs. 25,000 to two female sports personalities to mark International Women's Day.

They were Lalita Paneru, the longest-serving employee at the Nepal National Sports Council, and former badminton champion Rajdevi Manandhar. The President of Nepal NOC Women and Sports Commission, Jyoti Rana (left), organised the event.



AFGHANISTAN'S IOC Member Samira Asghari has been named Sports Personality of the Year by the Afghanistan Sports Journalists Federation in recognition of her great achievements.

The presentation took place on May 30 in Kabul in the presence of representatives from the Afghan NOC, national federations, athletes and sports journalists.

WU JINGYU – A GOLDEN EX

Double Olympic champion, full-time mother and a long-term future well mapped out.....Wu Jingyu is a shining example of successful multi-tasking in sport and in life.

The 32-year-old taekwondo ace has already written her name in Olympic history by winning two gold medals at Beijing 2008 and London 2012.

Although her bid for a golden hat trick at Rio 2016 did not work out, Wu is back on the road to Tokyo 2020 aiming for a third gold medal – but her first as a mother!

In July 2017, Wu gave birth to her daughter, who was given the English name Gloria by the IOC President Thomas Bach. There were times when she thought her taekwondo career was over, and she would concentrate on her family and working behind the scenes for the Chinese Taekwondo Association, of which she is Vice President.

But the Olympic flame inside her was still burning brightly, and in February this year she made her competitive come-back – the first step on the long road to Tokyo 2020.

At the 2019 World Taekwondo Championships in Manchester, England, in May, the two-time Olympic champion had to be satisfied with silver in the women's under-49kg category after being defeated by Thailand's 21-year-old world No. 1 Panipak Wongpattanakit. But Wu was far from disappointed with her achievement.

**‘WOMEN CAN HAVE CHILDREN,
AND STILL DO WHAT THEY LOVE’**

“Returning was difficult for me, as my body is not the same and I have to leave my baby at home. But I want to break traditions and challenge my dream,” she said.

“I was determined to prove society wrong and come back strong. Women can have children and still do what they love and I want not only athletes but women in society to know that, too.”

More than satisfied with her silver medal in Manchester after missing a year of training, Wu took to the victory podium and accepted her medal from IOC President Bach.

“It was an honour to be awarded my medal by President Thomas Bach. Before I competed at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games he told me he would give me my medal there.

“Unfortunately, I didn’t win a medal at Rio and I was so disappointed. But it was a complete surprise to be awarded the medal by him here. I feel so honoured.”

Wu now wants to keep entering tournaments to gain more points so she can qualify for Tokyo 2020.



Wu Jingyu (second from right) attends the OCA Asian Athletes' Forum in Tokyo last November.

EXAMPLE IN WOMEN'S SPORT

"My family have supported me the whole way. I can't wait to get back to the Olympics and show women around the world that we are strong and can have a successful career and be a mother at the same time."

Wu is an inspiration as an athlete and a mother – and the next stage of her career began at the Manchester world championships when she was one of four athletes elected to serve on the

World Taekwondo Athletes' Committee for a four-year term from 2019-2023.

The four new members were elected by their fellow athletes and this process proved the respect and admiration the taekwondo world has for Wu Jingyu.

(<http://www.worldtaekwondo.org/>)



Wu - a world-class athlete, full-time mother and new member of the taekwondo athletes' commission.

ATHLETE PROFILE

Name:	Wu Jingyu
Country:	China
Sport:	Taekwondo
Date of Birth:	February 1, 1987
Age:	32
Place of birth:	Jingdezhen, Jiangxi province
Height:	1.68m
Weight:	49kg
Olympic Games:	Gold medals (2) at Beijing 2008, London 2012



Wu competes in this year's World Championships in Manchester, England.



Wu is happy to be back at the World Championships.

TWO OF ASIA'S SPORTING LEGENDS ANNOUNCE RETIREMENT

The Olympic Movement is all about the athletes – and Asia has had to say a fond farewell to two living legends in recent months.



Two-time Olympic champion Lee Sang-hwa wipes away tears as she announces her retirement from speedskating on May 16. (Photo: Yonhap News)

They were Lee Sang-hwa, a two-time Olympic speed skating champion from Korea, and Malaysian icon Nicol David, widely regarded as the greatest female squash player of all time.

Both these athletes found success early in their sporting careers and managed to stay at the top of their game for years – testimony to their dedication, ambition and professionalism in all aspects of life.

Lee held a press conference in Seoul on May 16 to announce her retirement, bringing the curtain down on a glittering career that earned her Olympic gold medals in the 500m at Vancouver 2010 and Sochi 2014.

"I have a vivid memory of the day when I was chosen to represent Korea," she said.

"I was 15. At that time I set my own goals to be a winner of the world championship, become an Olympic gold medalist and set a world record. I've worked hard to achieve those three goals. I was able to fulfill my goals thanks to the huge support from the Korean public."

Lee is a trailblazer in Korea's speed skating history and still holds the 500m world record of 36.36 seconds.

Her silver medal at PyeongChang 2018 will also be remembered for her emotional embrace with the new Olympic champion - her friend and rival from Japan, Nao Kodaira - in scenes that moved the world of sport.

NICOL DAVID – BEST OF ALL TIME

When Nicol David won the Asian Games gold medal for Malaysia in 1998, who could have predicted what lay ahead for the Penang-born squash prodigy? Well, take a look at this:

- 5 Asian Games individual gold medals in 1998, 2006, 2010, 2014 and 2018
- 81 titles in 102 finals on the professional tour
- 8 World Championship crowns from 2005 to 2014
- Unbroken run of 109 months as World No. 1 over nine years
- 2 World Junior U-19 titles in 1999 and 2001, the first at the age of 15
- 2 Commonwealth Games gold medals in 2010 and 2014

This incredible record speaks for itself and means that Nicol, who retired in May at the age of 35, will always be remembered as a squash legend.

As part of the World Squash Federation Ambassador Programme and popular magazine cover girl, Nicol will remain in the sporting spotlight for years to come and continue to add to her rich legacy on the court.



NEW LOOK FOR SPORT IN PHILIPPINES



The New Clark City Sports Village.

Athletes and officials taking part in the 30th South East Asian (SEA) Games at the end of this year will be able to enjoy the new sporting hub of the Philippines – New Clark City.

Located some 80km north of the capital Manila in rural Pampanga province, the sports complex within the new city will include the athletics stadium, aquatics centre, athletes' village

and government residences.

The developers, MTD Philippines, are confident of completing the first phase of construction by August 31 – well ahead of the government deadline of October 15 – and in plenty of time to prepare for the opening ceremony on November 30.

The 30th SEA Games will run from November 30 to December 11, 2019 and feature

56 sports at various venues, such as Subic Bay, but the heartbeat of the event will be the New Clark City Sports Village.

There will be an estimated 8,750 athletes and team officials from 11 NOCs in the SEA region, 2,050 technical officials to administer the 56 sports, 1,500 press and media and 12,000 volunteers.

NEPALI ORGANISERS UNVEIL MASCOT, LOGO FOR SAG

Organisers of the 13th South Asian Games in Nepal at the end of this year reached another major milestone with the announcement of the official mascot and logo in Kathmandu on May 13.

The mascot is a blackbuck, also known as the Indian antelope, carrying the Olympic flame and the logo is a dove of peace.

The Minister of Youth and Sport, Jagat Bahadur Sunar, released the logo and mascot during a programme hosted by the Ministry of Youth and Sport.

The 13th South Asian Games will run from December 1-10 in Kathmandu and Pokhara and will feature eight South

Asian National Olympic Committees: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Nepal.

The host nation will field 625 athletes in all 29 sports disciplines.



The logo and mascot of the 13th South Asian Games.

ORGANISERS CALL FOR MASCOT DESIGN

Mascots are a key component of any multi-sport games – and Hangzhou 2022 launched the call for mascot designs for the 19th Asian Games and 4th Asian Para Games on April 16, 2019. The design window is open for three months, closing on July 15.

Organising committee HAGOC welcomes entries from individuals, companies and organisations alike in a bid to select a mascot that will bring a strong identity and fun factor to the 19th Asian Games – just like Pan Pan the cute panda did at the 11th Asian Games in Beijing in 1990.

The design for the mascots shall comply with the ideals of the Olympic Movement and also reflect the history, culture and innovative vitality of Hangzhou. It must be instantly recognisable, have a short and snappy name that is easy to remember and convey a lively and attractive image to the youth.

HAGOC will conduct initial screening of the submissions before a review panel selects a maximum of 10 designs for the shortlist.

The launch of the mascots for the Asian Games and Asian Para Games is scheduled for the end of 2019.

Note: The shortlisted designs will each receive a prize of

RMB10,000 (USD1,450) while the top four will each receive RMB30,000 (USD4,350). The winning design will receive RMB120,000 (USD17,400).

For more information and updates on the call for designs, please visit HAGOC's official website: www.hangzhou2022.cn



The mascots from the previous Asian Games in China - Beijing 1990 and Guangzhou 2010 - made a surprise appearance at the "Taste of Hangzhou" Asian Cuisine Festival.

FOOD MEETS SPORT IN HANGZHOU

The history and sports of the Asian Games played a prominent role in the "Taste of Hangzhou" Asian Cuisine Festival that opened on May 15 and ran until May 22.

Organising committee HAGOC took an active role in the preparations for the "Taste of Hangzhou" Asian Cuisine Festival in order to promote the 19th Asian Games and the ingenious and distinctive exhibits attracted visitors from home and abroad.

There were creative food designs from Hangzhou and its co-hosting cities such as Ningbo, Wenzhou, Jinhua, Shaoxing

and Deqing, including sculpted ham depicting equestrian events, macaroons printed with the Asian Games emblem "Tides Surging", Osmanthus flower cakes in a Go board pattern and fondant cakes painted with various Asian Games sports.

The mascots of the Beijing Asian Games in 1990 and Guangzhou Asian Games in 2010 made surprise appearances at the exhibition, while the OCA flag and torch of the first Asian Games in 1951 were also on display.

In other promotional activities:

- The Asian Games Youth Art Works Exhibition, part of the "Meet in Hangzhou for the Asian Games+" programme, was held from May 15-22 at Qiantang River Museum.



Cake displays draw the crowds.

HANGZHOU 2022



The 19th Asian Games will take place in Hangzhou, China from September 10-25, 2022.

Official website: www.hangzhou2022.cn

HANGZHOU MARKETING PROGRAMME CALLS AT HONG KONG

A promotional meeting for the Hangzhou 2022 marketing programme was held in Hong Kong on April 15 and attracted over 50 world renowned companies and organisations.

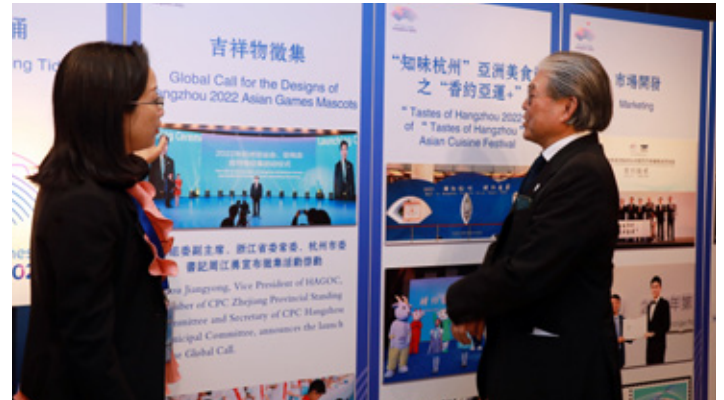
It was the first such event since organising committee HAGOC launched its marketing programme on December 26, 2018.

During the meeting, HAGOC officials briefed attendees on the marketing programme which is comprised of four major parts – sponsorship, licensing, marketing operation and ticketing.

By March 2019, HAGOC had secured partners in six areas including information technology and cloud services, financial technology services, communication services, banking services and air and auto services.

To further increase the international profile and marketing potential of the Hangzhou Asian Games, a Hong Kong liaison office was established to strengthen cooperation in the relevant fields.

The HAGOC marketing event will also be held in Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Hangzhou and Ningbo.



OCA Vice President Timothy Fok discusses the Hangzhou 2022 marketing programme with HAGOC's Director of Press and Public Relations, Zhou Shu, in Hong Kong.

CHINESE AUTOMAKER GEELY GEARS UP FOR ASIAN GAMES

Chinese automaker Geely Holding Group from East China's Zhejiang province signed up as the official automobile services partner for the 19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022 at a ceremony on April 13.

Geely, which owns Volvo and a stake in Daimler, has been at the forefront of the Chinese auto industry's digitalization efforts and connectivity drives.

With "smart" being one of the keywords of the 2022 Asian Games, HAGOC hopes to present a high-tech event to the world, according to Chen Weiqiang, Vice Mayor of Hangzhou.

An Conghui, President and CEO of Geely, said the 19th Asian Games marked a great opportunity to showcase China's strength and dynamism to the world and this partnership opened a new chapter in cooperation between Geely and HAGOC.

Over 300 media outlets from home and abroad attended the signing ceremony.



The Bo Rui GE, Geely's first smart hybrid flagship sedan, is exhibited in Hangzhou on April 13. (Photo/zjol.com.cn)



AINAGOC ESTABLISHED: The Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games Organising Committee (AINAGOC) was established on May 30, 2019 to prepare for the 20th Asian Games Aichi-Nagoya 2026. The first Executive Board meeting was held on the same day and decided that the major planning period would run through March 2020. The President of AINAGOC is Hideaki Ohmura, Governor of Aichi Prefecture.

TIMOR-LESTE ATHLETES BECOME SPORTS AMBASSADORS FOR UN



Timor-Leste athletes will be known as Sports Ambassadors for Sustainable Development.

The leading athletes in Timor-Leste are to become the face of the Sustainable Development Goals at the heart of the country's development agenda.



The United Nations in Timor-Leste and the National Olympic Committee of Timor-Leste signed an agreement on May 10 which will result in more young people understanding the need for sustainable development and taking leadership roles in the community.

The athletes will be known as "Sports Ambassadors for Sustainable Development."

The NOC of Timor-Leste has a philosophy to inspire and unite Timorese through Sporting Excellence and Success.



The First Vice President of the NOC, Mr. Mateus du Cruz de Carvalho, said: "Our organisation has sought ways to promote Timor-Leste athletes not only to best perform in their respective sports field but also to be role models in the society by leading community activities.

"The NOC aims to encourage participation in sports as a means of building character, keeping healthy, preserving the environment and furthering social harmony and interaction."

The United Nations Resident Coordinator in Timor-Leste, Roy Trivedy, added: "We are delighted to partner with the NOC in Timor-Leste. We recognise the growing contribution of sport to the realisation of development and peace all over the world."

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals adopted by global leaders encourage countries to take action to end all forms of poverty, fight inequality and tackle climate change while ensuring that no one is left behind.



Timor-Leste NOC and the UN in Timor-Leste join forces.

ELITE ATHLETES BECOME CALENDAR MODELS IN KAZAKHSTAN

Kazakhstan National Olympic Committee has issued a limited edition calendar featuring the country's elite athletes as super models.

In an inspiring and creative initiative, the NOC teamed up with some well-known fashion houses to produce a stunning set of images to shed their best athletes in a completely different light – so much so that some athletes were unrecognisable even by their teammates.



The calendar has captured the imagination of the people at home as well as the Olympic Movement after the IOC President, Thomas Bach, was presented with his own copy during the International Athletes' Forum in Lausanne in April.

One of the priorities of the NOC was not to disrupt the training or competition schedules of the 30 athletes, so glamorous photo shoots had to be slotted in to brief windows of opportunity.

The calendar starts from April 2019 and runs until to March 2020. The athletes include Olympic Games and Asian Games champions and come from a wide range of sports to illustrate the power of Kazakhstan in Asia and the world.

"Despite the fact that we all have a common goal - to win prestigious competitions - everyone has a completely different side," commented Dmitry Balandin, Rio 2016 Olympic swimming champion.

"The calendar shows what we are all about away from competitions and training. During the project I just managed to show my individuality, my own characteristics. Maybe for someone it will be a revelation or a surprise.

"Sports fans will see what is hidden behind the sneakers and training kit. This is why I gladly agreed to participate in this project. I hope everyone will like the outcome."

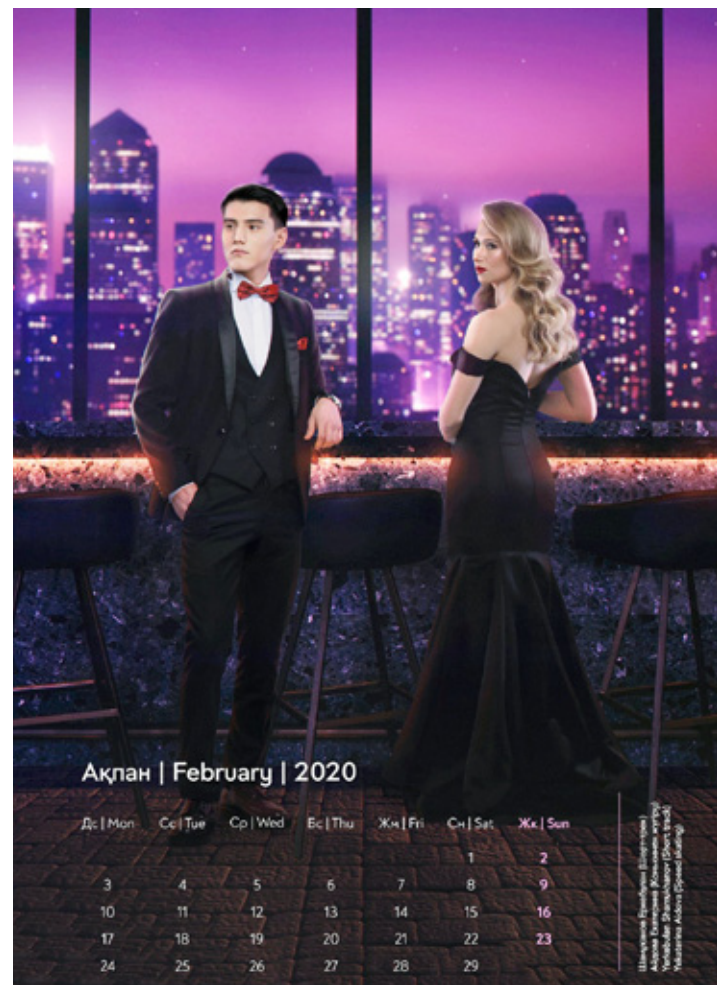
(www.olympic.kz)



Қараша | November

Дс Mon	Сс Tue	Ср Wed	Бс Thu	Жк Fri	Ср Sat	Жк Sun
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

November models are Sana Anarkulova, captain of the Kazakhstan volleyball team, and speed skater Stanislav Palkin.



Ақпан | February | 2020

Дс Mon	Сс Tue	Ср Wed	Бс Thu	Жк Fri	Ср Sat	Жк Sun
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	

February is graced by World Winter Universiade short track champion Yerkebulan Shamukhanov and one of the strongest female speed skaters in the country, Yekaterina Aydova.



YEAH BABY – BRING ON THE GAMES!

The second edition of the Bahrain Olympic Committee's Baby Olympics attracted over 1,000 toddlers from almost 70 nurseries and kindergartens.

The official entry was 1,029, comprised of 563 children from 35 nurseries and 466 from 34 kindergartens, and the fun activities were based on four sports - basketball, athletics, football and gymnastics.

The games were organised by the BOC in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Labour and Social Development in an attempt to promote a culture of sport within children and to develop their mental and physical abilities.

The event was held over four days in April at Isa Sports City in Riffa and the ages of the children in the four main sports ranged from three to five years.



All stand for the victory ceremony - athletes excluded!



"Has anyone seen the finish line?"



"Like my medal?"

KUWAIT NOC ELECTS NEW PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS



The Kuwait Olympic Committee began a new chapter in its history as HE Sheikh Fahad Nasser Sabah Ahmad Al Sabah was elected President at the KOC General Assembly on Sunday, June 30.

The new president will lead a young and dynamic board of directors comprising representatives from sport, business and government and with an average age of 32.

President: Sheikh Fahad Nasser Sabah Ahmad Al Sabah is head of the Kuwait Motocross Committee and has served in the Kuwait military as an Apache pilot. Fluent in Arabic, English and French, he studied in Switzerland before attaining a degree in Business Administration and Marketing Management from the American University of Kuwait.

Vice President: Mohammed Jaffar will bring business experience and entrepreneurial spirit to the KOC. Jaffar was the founder and CEO of the online food delivery service Talabat.com for five years which he turned into a market-leader and sold to a Germany-based e-commerce giant in 2015.

Secretary General: Husain Al-Musallam brings more than 35 years' experience in national and international sport. Al-Musallam has been Director General of the OCA since 2005 and is First Vice President of FINA.

Sheikh Fahad said: "I am honoured to have been elected to serve as President of the Kuwait Olympic Committee.

"Alongside my highly experienced colleagues on the Board of Directors we are ready to usher in a new era and lead the Olympic Movement in Kuwait to a brighter and more prosperous future. Our main motto is teamwork, unity and solidarity."



HE Sheikh Fahad Nasser Sabah Ahmad Al Sabah is the new KOC President.

The other newly elected members of the Board are: Dr. Saoud Al Harbi (Member), Under Secretary of Education Ministry – Kuwait Handball Federation; Ali Jaber Al Marri (Member), Vice President of Badminton Asia; HE Sheikh Mubarak Al Sabah (Member), Kuwait Fencing Federation; HE Sheikh Jaber Al Sabah (Member), Kuwait Tennis Federation; Mr. Nael Al Awadi (Member), Founder of Qualitynet - Kuwait's #leading Internet and ICT Services Provider – Kuwait Karatedo Federation; Mr. Mousad Al Ajeel (Member), Lawyer – Kuwait Table Tennis Federation; Ms. Fatima Hayatt, Chair of Women's Committee - Kuwait Football Association; Ms. Faye Sultan (Chair of the Athletes Committee), two-time Olympian (Rio 2016, London 2012) and first ever Kuwaiti female Olympic swimmer.



The new President, Vice President and Secretary General of Kuwait Olympic Committee.

TORCH RELAY TO FEATURE 10,000 RUNNERS

Tokyo 2020 unveiled the Olympic Torch Relay route on June 1 – and began the search for 10,000 torchbearers from all walks of life and all regions of Japan.

areas that are continuing to recover from natural disasters, such as the Tohoku region, which was struck by the 2011 earthquake and tsunami.

The relay will tour Japan for 121 days leading up to the opening ceremony on July 24, 2020.

Commencing its journey on March 26, 2020 from the J-Village National Training Centre in Fukushima Prefecture, the Olympic flame will visit 857 local municipalities in all 47 prefectures and pass by many of the nation's most famous and cherished sights, notably the treasured Mount Fuji.

The Relay will also take in



Members of the public can apply to be torchbearers for Tokyo 2020. (Photo: Tokyo 2020)

SEA FOREST WATERWAY 'AN ASSET FOR YEARS TO COME'

The latest venue to be completed for the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 is the scenic Sea Forest Waterway.

World Rowing President Jean-Christophe Rolland commented: "This is truly an Olympic-standard regatta venue. It is also designed with sustainability in mind with the Sea Forest Waterway being an asset to local, national and international rowing for years to come."

The new permanent venue will host the Rowing and Canoe Sprint competitions at the Olympic Games and the Rowing and Canoe competitions during the Paralympic Games.

Closely located to Tokyo, the venue will offer stunning views of the Tokyo Bay and of the Tokyo Gate Bridge to the athletes, spectators and broadcasters alike.



Constructed by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government on a waterfront site, the field of play is protected from the effect of waves, currents and tides by wave absorbers and two dams.

The venue also includes: start facilities, finish tower, timing hut, boathouse, pontoons and 2,000-seat grandstand, although additional temporary seating and standing areas will take the capacity to 16,000 spectators during the Olympics.



Sea Forest Waterway (Photo: Tokyo Metropolitan Government/Jan. 2019).

BEIJING 2022 LINES UP TEST EVENTS FROM NEXT FEBRUARY

Preparations are underway for test events ahead of the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics, with organisers keen to deliver on their promise of a "fantastic, extraordinary and excellent" Winter Games.

Entitled "Experience Beijing", the 2022 organising committee has arranged 15 test events for the Olympic Winter Games and five for the Paralympic Winter Games.



A computer-generated image of the National Sliding Center, which is being built in Beijing's Yanqing district.

The first test event is the FIS Alpine Skiing World Cup on February 15-16, 2020. Comprising Downhill and Super-G disciplines, the event will be held in Yanqing District, around 90km northwest of Beijing, where the new National Alpine Skiing Center is set to be completed by October this year.

Zhang Jiandong, Executive Vice President of Beijing 2022, urged organisers to make full use of the test events to improve the management and operation of venues and competitions.

"As the first test event, the FIS Alpine Skiing World Cup should set a benchmark for the following Olympic Winter Games test events," Zhang said.

A weather forecasting system will also be constructed to provide minute-by-minute weather updates from several monitoring devices installed 100 meters apart at the venue.

OLYMPIC HERO WU ATTENDS 1,000-DAY COUNTDOWN CEREMONY

China's Winter Olympic champion from PyeongChang 2018, short track speed skater Wu Dajing, was among the celebrities at the 1,000-day countdown ceremony for the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics on May 10.

Chinese Winter Olympic gold medallists Yang Yang, Zhang Hong and Han Xiaopeng, sprinter-turned-skeleton slider Zhang Peimeng and actors Wu Jing and Tong Liya took to the stage to invite people from around the world to sign up for Beijing 2022's Volunteer Programme.



Around 1,500 people attended the ceremony at Olympic Park in Beijing and Wu was joined by Para snowboarder Pang Qiaorong, actor Jackie Chan and IOC Vice Presidents Juan Antonio Samaranch and Yu Zaiqing.

Cai Qi, Secretary of the CPC Beijing Municipal Committee and President of Beijing 2022, together with other executives of the organising committee, launched a countdown device on the 132-metre Linglong Tower overlooking the Bird's Nest, the Water Cube and other Beijing 2008 venues.

Beijing 2022 organisers chose the occasion to release an action plan on volunteer services and announced that recruitment would begin in December 2019.



The 1,000-day countdown ceremony was held on May 10.

HABIB MACKI – A GENTLEMAN OF SPORT

The Olympic Movement was profoundly saddened by the loss of Habib Macki on April 4 at the age of 76.

Mr Macki, whose grace and charm truly represented the friendly spirit of the Omani people, played a leading role in local, regional, continental and global sport.

He was the IOC Member in Oman from 2009 to 2013, serving on the IOC Women and Sport and Marketing Commissions, and a former Vice President of the OCA.

He made a great contribution to the development of sport in Oman and was Director General of the

OCA's very successful 2nd Asian Beach Games 2010 in Muscat.



Habib Macki of Oman was a former OCA Vice President.

KENNETH TO – HONG KONG SWIMMER, 26

Kenneth To, a record-breaking swimmer who had his sights set on the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, died suddenly after a training session in Florida on March 18. He was 26.

He was participating in a three-month training programme at the University of Florida.

Kenneth was born in Hong Kong and raised in Australia and has represented both in international competition.

In 2016 he transferred his nationality to swim for Hong Kong and represented Hong Kong in the 18th Asian Games in Jakarta last August.

The Hong Kong Sports Institute, where Kenneth was an Elite Scholarship Athlete since 2016, said in a statement: "He felt unwell at a training session and was taken to hospital where, sadly, he passed away.

"He was extremely popular and loved by his teammates and competitors. Kenneth was known as a truly exceptional person, warm, funny and kind. His sudden passing is a huge loss to local sport."



Kenneth To's death was mourned by the global swimming community. Photo: Handout

TRAGEDY IN IRAN AS YOUNG KARATE STAR PASSES AWAY

Youth Olympic Games karate champion Navid Mohammadi, 18, passed away after being involved in a fatal car accident in Kouhsar Tunnel, Tehran, on June 6.

The World Karate family mourned the death of Mohammadi, who won YOG gold at Buenos Aires 2018 in the Male Kumite +68kg category.

The World Karate Federation extended its deepest condolences to Mohammadi's family and loved ones, as well as to all members of the Iranian karate community.



Navid Mohammadi (Photo: Tehran Times)

— ARIE IRAWAN – PROFESSIONAL GOLFER —



Malaysian professional golfer Arie Irawan died on April 7 at his tournament hotel in Sanya, China, PGATOUR.com reported.

Irawan, 28, was in Sanya competing in the PGA TOUR Series-China's Sanya Championship, where he missed the 36-hole cut but had remained on site.

"This is just a terrible tragedy that affects all of us who are part of a very tight-knit family here in China," said Greg Carlson, PGA TOUR Series-China Executive Director.

Irawan, a native of Kuala Lumpur, made his PGA TOUR Series-China debut in 2016 at the Clearwater Bay Open in Hong Kong.

PHILIPPINES' SEA GAMES PREPS SHAKEN BY DEATH OF MARATHON MAN

Philippines sport was in mourning by the death of marathon runner Rafael Poliquit Jr. at the age of 30.

The government's sports agency, the Philippine Sports Commission, reported on its Facebook account on April 11 that Rafael had passed away due to illness.

In a statement headed "You ran a good race – thank you for all you did for Philippine sports", the PSC said: "Defending Milo Marathon men's champion and national track and field team member Airman 2nd Class Rafael Poliquit Jr. passed away today (Thursday, April 11) at 2:21 pm at V Luna Medical Center due to complications from subdural emphysema."

The three-time Milo Marathon champion from Tagum City (2014, 2015, 2018), Poliquit was due to represent the Philippines in the 2019 Southeast Asian Games marathon at the end of this year.



Tribute to Rafael Poliquit Jr.

OCA Standing Committee members for 2019-2023

Advisory Committee

Chair:
Mr. Ng Ser Miang (SGP)

Athletes Committee

Chair:
Mr. Koji Murofushi (JPN)

Vice Chair:

Mr Mohammad tayyab IKRAM (MAC)

Members:

Dr Mansoor Sultan AL TOUQI (OMA)
Ms Luai Faisal Al-Sabri (YEM)
Ms Nadin Dawani (JOR)
Mr Sardar Singh (IND)
Mr Chay Jung Jun Mark (SGP)
Mr Hadi Saei Bonehkohai (IRI)
Mr Enkhbat BADAR-UUGAN (MGL)
Mr Mu-Yen Chu (TPE)
Mr Nasser Saleh Al-Attiya (QAT)
Mr Jae Bum Kim (KOR)

Co-opted Members:

Mrs Mikaela Antonia Jaworski (PHI)
Mr Seung Min Ryu (KOR)
Ms Zhang Hong (CHN)

Coordination Committee

Chair:
Raja Randhir SINGH (IND)

Members:

Mr ZHANG Jilong (CHN)
Dr M. Jegathesan (MAS)
Mr Jizhong WEI (CHN)
Mrs Yuko ARAKIDA (JPN)
Hon. Dr. Husain AL-MUSALLAM (KUW)
Mr Abdulla Yousuf AL-MULLA (QAT)
Mr Mohammad tayyab IKRAM (MAC)
Mr Vinod Kumar TIWARI (IND)
Mr Taha Al Kishry (OMA)
Mr Haider FARMAN (KUW)
Mr Dae Sung MOON (KOR)
Mr Dahlan Juman Ahmad (QAT)
Mr Nasrollah Sadjadi (IRI)

Culture Committee

Chair:
Mrs Khunying Leeswadtrakul (THA)

Members:

Mr Eric Fok (HKG)
Mr Kamran Lashari (PAK)

Mr Rajeev Mehta (IND)
Mr Ahmad Latif (MDV)
Dr Abdolhamid Ahmadi (IRI)
Mr Jung Kyu Han (KOR)
Mr Rasul Charyyev (TKM)
Mr Latypov Erkinzhon (TJK)
Mr Nilendra Raj Shrestha (NEP)
Ms Naela Nasr (YEM)
Ms Le Jingjing (CHN)

Education Committee

Chair:
Prince Abdulaziz Bin Turki Al Saud (KSA)

Vice Chair:

Mr Maxwell DE SILVA (SRI)

Members:

Mr Ko Chol HO (PRK)
Mr Mazen Fawzi RAMADAN (LBN)
Ms Ada Jaffery (PAK)
Mr Feng GAO (CHN)
Mr Young Hwa Son (KOR)
Mr K. Rajindran (IND)
Dr Khaled ATIYAT (JOR)
Mr Saif Mohammed Al Naemi (QAT)
Ms Nibal Khalil (PLE)
Mr Fazollah Bagherzadeh (IRI)

Entourage Committee

Chair:
Mr Seung Min Ryu (KOR)

Members:

Dr Sari Ghanimma (JOR)
Mr Alimzan Akayev (KAZ)
Mr Adel Idan Ghailan (IRQ)
Mr Abydykerimov Sharshanbek (KGZ)
Dato Seri Azim Zabidi (MAS)
Mr Prem Chand Verma (IND)
Mr Ali Dadgar (IRI)
Mr Sohrat Merllyev (TKM)
Mr Jasur Matchanov (UZB)
Mr Yuan Lei (CHN)

Ethics Committee

Chair:
Mr Jizhong WEI (CHN)

Members:

Prof Charoen WATTANASIN (THA)
Mr Debendranath Sarangi (IND)
Mr Adam Yernar (KAZ)
Mr Mohammad Al-Dhabhan (KSA)
Prof Rashid Al-Enzi (KUW)

Finance Committee

Chair:
Dr Kevin Kuo-I CHEN (TPE)

Members:

Mr Southanom INTHAVONG (LAO)
Mr Ali YOUSEF (KUW)
Mr Sadyr MAMYTOV (KGZ)
Mr Thana Chaiprasit (THA)
Mr Muhammad MAHMOOD (PAK)
Mr Abdulla Al-Ahjri (YEM)
Mr Byongdeok Min (KOR)
Mr Maksat Gokov (TKM)
Mr Sakhibov Shamsullo (TJK)
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2019



France : June 7 – July 7
FIFA Women's World Cup 2019



Gwangju, Korea: July 12 – 28
18th FINA World Championships



Nanjing, China: July 28 – August 10
OCA Asian Youth Development Camp – Skateboarding



Putrajaya, Malaysia: August 12 – 18
2019 IWWF World Waterski Championships



Tokyo, Japan: August 20 – 22
Tokyo 2020, Chefs De Mission Seminar for NOCs



Lausanne, Switzerland: September 3 – 4
Lausanne 2020 Winter YOG, Chefs de Mission Seminar



Doha, Qatar: September 27 – October 6
IAAF World Athletics Championships



Doha, Qatar: October 12 – 16
1st ANOC World Beach Games



Tokyo, Japan: October 15 – 18
Tokyo 2020 World Press Briefing



Doha, Qatar: October 17 – 18
ANOC General Assembly and Awards



Bangkok, Thailand: November 3 – 4
Olympic Solidarity/OCA Regional Forum for East and South East Asian NOCs



Bangkok, Thailand: November 5 – 6
Olympic Solidarity/OCA Regional Forum for West, Central and South Asian NOCs



Beijing, China: November 19 – 22
Beijing Winter Olympics 2022 NOC Open Day



Sakai City, Japan: November 20 – 21
World Baseball Softball Confederation Congress



Clark New City, Philippines: Nov 30 – Dec 11
30th Southeast Asian (SEA) Games



Kathmandu, Nepal: December 1 – 10
13th South Asian Games

2020



Lausanne, Switzerland: January 9 – 22
IOC Winter Youth Olympic Games



Beijing, China: April 19 – 24
18th SportAccord 2020



Tokyo, Japan: July 24 – August 9
Olympic Games



Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia: August 15 – 25
6th Children of Asia Games



Tokyo, Japan: August 25 – September 6
Paralympic Games



Sanya, Hainan Island, China: Nov 28 – Dec 6
6th OCA Asian Beach Games

2021



Shantou, Guangdong Province, China: Nov 20 – 28
3rd Asian Youth Games

2022



Beijing, China: February 4 – 20
Olympic Winter Games



Beijing, China: March 4 – 13
Winter Paralympic Games



Hangzhou, China: September 10 – 25
19th Asian Games



Qatar: November 21 – December 18
FIFA World Cup

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