



# SPORTING ASIA

Official Newsletter of the Olympic Council of Asia

Edition 56 - March 2022

## ASIA AT BEIJING 2022

OCA CELEBRATES OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES

MUMBAI TO HOST IOC SESSION  
NOC NEWS IN PICTURES  
HANGZHOU 2022 UPDATE  
WOMEN IN SPORT



OLYMPIC COUNCIL OF ASIA

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## SPORTING ASIA

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

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## Front Cover:

The snowflake was the symbol of the Winter Olympics opening ceremony on February 4.

## Acting President's Message



## OCA IS PROUD OF ASIA'S OLYMPIC HOSTING HAT-TRICK

**C**ongratulations Beijing on hosting a very successful Olympic Winter Games in extremely difficult circumstances.

Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, the organising committee was able to bring athletes and officials from 91 National Olympic Committees around the world to Beijing and hold an enjoyable, rewarding and safe Winter Olympics.

In doing so, Beijing became the first city to host the Olympic Games, in 2008, and the Olympic Winter Games in Olympic history – and the OCA is very proud of this achievement.

The Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics also brought to an end Asia's hosting "hat-trick", which began with the PyeongChang Winter Olympics in 2018 and continued with Tokyo 2020 last summer.

Asia has demonstrated its capability in hosting these mega sporting events, even when facing the challenges of the pandemic, and has consolidated its position as a tried and trusted partner of the IOC. Asia is ready and willing to be a reliable host of the Olympic Games at any time.

I would also like to highlight the fact that 18 Asian National Olympic Committees were among the 91 NOCs from around the world taking part in Beijing.

Alongside the powerful winter sports nations such as China, Japan and Korea, Asia was

represented by all five zones within the OCA, and had one debutant NOC in Saudi Arabia.

This, I am convinced, is a result of the OCA's efforts to promote winter sports around the continent through our Asian Winter Games, first held in 1986.

Our last Asian Winter Games, in the beautiful winter sports city of Sapporo in 2017, attracted a record 30 Asian NOCs plus two guest teams from Australia and New Zealand, and it is clear to see that our NOCs are actively developing this aspect of their sports operations.

There is much to celebrate about Asia's appearance at the Beijing Winter Olympics, and the new edition of Sporting Asia highlights our golden champions and all 18 NOCs who took part.

Asia's involvement in the IOC's winter sports movement is not quite finished yet, however, as we can look forward to the Winter Youth Olympic Games in Gangwon, Korea in 2024 – building on the legacy of PyeongChang 2018.

**Raja Randhir Singh**  
Acting President,  
Olympic Council of Asia

PALESTINE Olympic Committee's executive office held a reception for the men's beach volleyball team which won the bronze medal in the West Asian Beach Volleyball Championships in Doha from January 1-3.

(Photo: @PalOlympic)



UZBEKISTAN'S Tokyo 2020 weightlifting champion Akbar Juraev (men's 109kg) was named Athlete of the Year at the Uzbekistan Sports Awards 2021 organised by the Ministry of Tourism and Sport at the Hilton Hotel in Tashkent on December 30. Olympic super heavyweight (91+kg) boxing champion Bahodir Jalolov won the fans' vote. (<https://olympic.uz>)



CAMBODIA NOC conducted the fifth edition of the Olympic Values Education Programme (OVEP) on the road to hosting the 32nd Southeast Asian (SEA) Games and 12th ASEAN Para Games in Phnom Penh in 2023. The NOCC instructor was Bouy Sophorn, who said the students were very keen to learn about the Olympic movement and the SEA Games.



LAOS NOC celebrated the 43rd anniversary of its founding last December and also held the Annual Assembly in Vientiane on December 24, 2021.

(Photo: @OLYMPICLAO)





CHINESE Taipei Olympic Committee President Hong-Dow Lin awards certificates to participants of the 11th International Sports Affairs Training Course 2021 – a long-running sports education programme held in cooperation with the Sports Administration, Ministry of Education. Held online, 44 people from 16 NOCs took part including Singapore, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, India and Indonesia. (<https://www.tpenoc.net>)



MALDIVES Olympic Committee held the Athlete Commission election on December 23 and Neela Ahmed Najeed (pictured) won a vote for a place from badminton, joining Mubal Azzam Ibrahim (swimming - Olympian, male), Nashfa Amira (handball - member) and Ahmed Zabeer (basketball - member). The place for a female Olympian from athletics will be appointed by the MOC President. (Photo: @olympicmv/images.mv)



QATAR Olympic Committee used its social media platforms to introduce members of the Aladaam Youth Council, which has been established to serve as a link between youth representatives and the QOC in the ever-developing sports scene in Qatar. The profiles of the members included studies, profession, hobbies and hopes for the council. (@TeamQatar)



BAHRAIN Olympic Committee President His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al-Khalifa chairs the first meeting of the new board for the term 2021-2024. The new board members include Vice President HH Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al-Khalifa and Secretary General Mr. Faris Mustafa Al-Kooheji. (Photo: @bahrainolympic)



SAUDI Arabia has a new name for its National Olympic Committee. The Saudi Arabian Olympic Committee (SAOC) has merged with the Saudi Arabian Paralympic Committee (SAPC) and will now be known as the Saudi Olympic & Paralympic Committee (SOPC). This was announced at the General Assembly in Riyadh last December.



OMAN Olympic Committee's Athletes Committee elected seven members for the term 2020+1 to 2024 at the general assembly on December 9. The OOC Secretary General, Taha Sulaiman Al-Kishry, said athletes were playing an increasingly important role in the Olympic movement at all levels and welcomed their contribution.

(<https://ooc.om>)



INDONESIA NOC reports that the Indonesian Cycling Federation is targeting at least three gold medals in 12 cycling events at the 31st Southeast Asian Games in Hanoi in May. Indonesia won one gold, four silver and two bronze medals in cycling at the 30th SEA Games in the Philippines in 2019.

(Photo: <https://www.nocindonesia.id>)

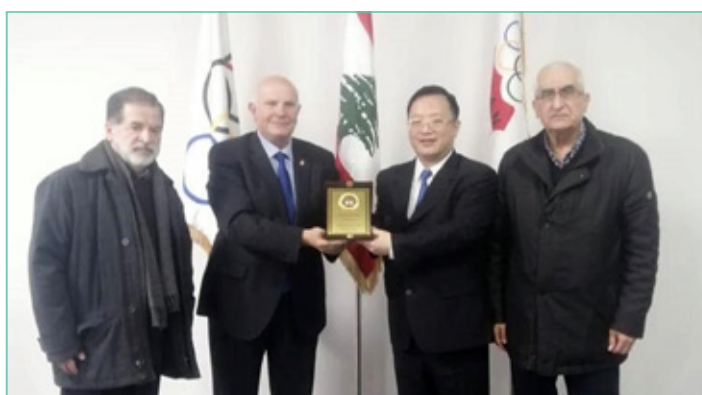


NEPAL Olympic Committee held a felicitation programme on January 7 to mark the OCA Merit Award for the NOC President, the Hon. Jeevan Ram Shrestha, at the 40th OCA General Assembly in Dubai last November.

Photo:  
Rajendra Chitrakar/@nationalolympiccommittee



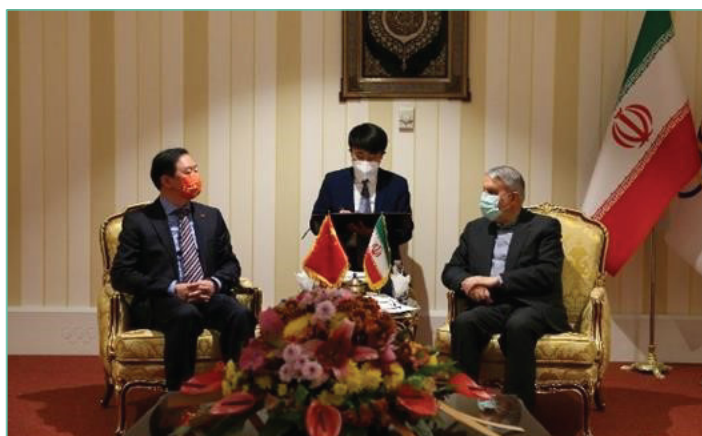
HER Excellency Eng. Azza bint Sulaiman, Assistant Secretary General for Administrative and Financial Affairs of the United Arab Emirates NOC, held a follow-up meeting on the formation of sports association boards and on ways to enhance cooperation between sports organisations in the Olympic movement. (Photo: @uaenoc)



LEBANESE Olympic Committee President Boutros Edmond Jalkh welcomed China's Ambassador to Lebanon, Qian Minjian, to the NOC HQ to discuss administrative and technical preparations for the Beijing Winter Olympics. General Hassan Rustom, NOC Secretary General, also attended the meeting on January 19. (Photo: @lebolymptic)



OLYMPIC Council of Malaysia President Tan Sri Dato' Sri (Dr.) Mohamad Norza Zakaria (right) receives the Lifetime Achievement Award from World Chinese Economic Forum Chairman Cheah Chyuan Yong on December 27 for his great contribution towards the Olympic movement and for the development of sport in Malaysia.



IRAN NOC President Dr. Seyed Reza Salehi Amiri welcomed China's Ambassador to Tehran, Dr. Chang Hua, and his accompanying delegation on a visit to the National Sport Olympic and Paralympic Museum. The two parties discussed preparations for the Beijing Winter Olympics and also the Hangzhou Asian Games in September 2022.



MONGOLIA NOC reports that Munkhbat Urantsetseg, judo bronze medallist in the women's 48kg category at Tokyo 2020, was named Athlete of the Year from 28 candidates at the Burte Chano 2021 sports gala on December 13.

(Photo: @Olympic.mn)



KARATE hero Kuok Kin Hang, 28, received the Medal of Merit in the 2021 Honours List of the Macau Special Administrative Region Government for winning Macau's first ever medal, a bronze in men's kata (forms), at the China National Games at Xi'an in September 2021. (Photo: © CFP)



SRI LANKA: Suresh Subramaniam was re-elected NOC President on December 28. President Subramaniam will serve a four-year term from 2022 to 2026 having overcome the President of Sri Lanka Athletics, Major General (retd) Palitha Fernando, by 21 votes to 12.

Secretary General Maxwell de Silva was also re-elected. Four new Vice Presidents were elected: Ms. Niloo Jayatilake, Suranjith Premadasa, Joseph Kenny and Kanchana Jayarathna.



IRAQ NOC President Raad Hammoudi chaired the first executive office meeting of the new year on January 4 and reviewed Iraq's participation in the OCA General Assembly in Dubai last November as well as the proposed MOU partnerships with other sports bodies, notably Iran NOC. Sports marketing, financial assistance to national federations and preparations for the Hangzhou Asian Games in September 2022 were also on the agenda.

(Photo: @nociraq)

IN a bid to connect sport and art, the Hong Kong Olympic Fans Club of the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China held the "Olympic Dreams" Charity Auction alongside Sotheby's and HomeArt on December 22, 2021. The charity auction was inspired by the success of the Hong Kong, China delegation to the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

(Photo: <https://www.hkolympic.org>)



KAZAKHSTAN NOC held the Alтын Samgay-2021 National Sports Awards in a hybrid format on December 12 and coincided with the 30th anniversary of the independence of the republic of Kazakhstan. The four main winners, chosen by fans on the [www.olympic.kz](http://www.olympic.kz) website, were: Best Male Athlete in Summer Sport, Saken Bibossinov (boxing); Best Female Athlete in Summer Sport, Sofya Berultseva (karate); Best Male Athlete in Winter Sport, Denis Nikisha (short track speed skating); Best Female Athlete in Winter Sport, Yulia Galysheva (freestyle skiing moguls). (<https://olympic.kz>)



JORDAN Olympic Committee reports that the Jordan Handball Federation General Assembly elected a new board of directors to serve for the next Olympic cycle through to Paris 2024. Dr. Taysir Al-Mansi (Yarmouk Al-Shouna Club) was elected President.

(<https://www.joc.jo>)



TAJIKISTAN: At the General Assembly on December 28, 2021, the President of Tajikistan, Emomali Rahmon, was elected President of the NOC for the fourth time after being nominated by 15 member organisations. Abdullo Rahmonzoda and Dilshod Nazarov were elected Vice Presidents and Muhammadsho Abdullozoda was elected Secretary General. ([Olympic.tj](http://Olympic.tj))

## FULL STEAM AHEAD FOR HANGZHOU 2022 IN NEW AG YEAR

**W**elcome to the new year – and welcome to a new Asian Games year!

After turning the corner from 2021 into 2022, this brings the OCA and the Olympic sports movement in Asia into another Asian Games year, with the 19th Asiad set for September 10-25, 2022 in the city of Hangzhou.

Located in southeast China, Hangzhou is the capital city of Zhejiang province and will be the third Asian Games host in China following Beijing 1990 and Guangzhou 2010.

Despite the coronavirus pandemic affecting the world for the past two years, organising committee HAGOC has made meticulous progress in the planning and preparation of the 19th Asian Games, which will feature athletes from Oceania for the first time.

With 40 sports, 61 disciplines and 482 events on the sports programme, the Asian Games has become the second biggest international multi-sport event in the world after the Olympic Games.

Organising an event on such a huge scale takes a Herculean effort from many partners and stakeholders, and Sporting Asia's countdown to Hangzhou 2022 continues in this first edition of the new year – and 56th since the publication was launched by the OCA in 2009.

Over the next five pages, Sporting Asia will report on several key aspects of

the 19th Asian Games, including marketing, competition venues, promotional and cultural events and the Asian Games Village.

See you in Hangzhou!



The Big Lotus (main stadium) and Little Lotus (tennis centre) showcase Hangzhou Olympic Park.

19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022 Prestige Partner



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杭州2022年第19届亚运会官方保险服务合作伙伴  
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# 杭州2022年第19届亚运会 官方保险服务合作伙伴

## MARKETING PROGRAMME POINTS TO PROSPEROUS ASIAD

Hangzhou is truly at the centre of life in China.

On the one hand it is rich in tradition and culture with three UNESCO World Heritage sites; on the other hand, it is at the centre of a new and vibrant digital world – a “smart” city in more ways than one.

This “best of both worlds” scenario is reflected in the success of the robust and diverse marketing programme of organising committee HAGOC which has, to date, attracted no fewer than 10 Prestige Partners and 94 sponsors and suppliers.

In his end-of-year marketing review, HAGOC Deputy Secretary General and Hangzhou Vice Mayor Chen Weiqiang said that almost RMB 4 billion (USD 628 million) had been raised to lay a solid financial foundation for Asian Games preparations.

“With less than 300 days to go before the start of Hangzhou 2022, we will continue to diversify our marketing activities, optimise our services and make full use of our achievements so as to set a high bar for quality and quantity in the history of Asian Games marketing,” he said.



(Photo/cnr.cn)

Chen Weiqiang (fourth from left) helps to launch the Asian Games Channel.

HAGOC launched its Asian Games marketing activities in 2018 with the aim of putting a spotlight on brands and presenting “Zhejiang Glamour” and “Hangzhou Flavour” in the host city and around the province of Zhejiang.

The results of this dynamic programme have attracted 10 Prestige Partners - Geely Auto, China Mobile, China Telecom, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC), LoongAir, Alibaba, Alipay, 361 Degrees, China Pacific Insurance and DAS-Security – and, with a few months still to go to the September sports fest, a prosperous new year awaits the Hangzhou Asian Games.

19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022 Prestige Partner



A FUTURE WITH  
INFINITE POSSIBILITIES

## CULTURAL ACTIVITIES SET THE SCENE FOR A HAPPY HANGZHOU

Despite the restrictions brought about by the global pandemic, there has been no shortage of fun and a strong sense of pride in Hangzhou in the build up to the 19th Asian Games.

Cultural events have been held in the traditional way around the city's spectacular backdrops and also online and have involved millions of citizens during the countdown process.

As well as artistic extravaganzas to mark major milestones on the road to Hangzhou, such as the three-year, two-year and one-year countdown ceremonies, HAGOC also organised the Asian Games 10 Cities Tour around the country.

These events have taken in cultural performances and Asian Games-themed panel discussions as well as the traditional fun run and have promoted the Asiad at various levels of the community in the cities of Beijing, Shanghai, Nanjing, Xiamen, Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Wuhan, Chengdu, Xi'an and Tianjin.

Boasting three UNESCO World Heritage sites in the Liangzhu Archeological Ruins, West Lake and Grand Canal, plus the iconic Qiantang River running through the heart of Hangzhou, the organisers have used these stunning settings to accompany many of the countdown events.

Indeed, these historic landmarks will play a big part in the opening and closing ceremonies of the 19th Asian Games as organisers showcase the beauty of the city to Asia and the world.



Asian Games cultural activities point to a happy Hangzhou.

19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022 Prestige Partner

2022

19TH ASIAN GAMES HANGZHOU 2022



19th Asian Games  
Hangzhou 2022

361°

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热爱造未来

## ASIAN GAMES VILLAGE HOSTS MEDIA OPEN DAY

December 29, 2021 was a special day in the diary of Hangzhou 2022 as it marked the completion of the Asian Games Village.

Organisers celebrated the occasion with a completion ceremony and media open day to allow the local media to walk around the vast complex and view the buildings, village infrastructure and related projects.

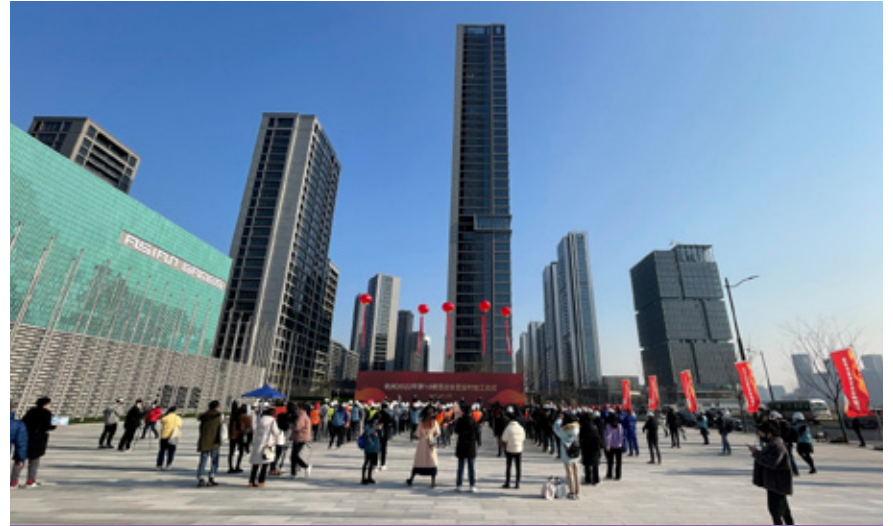
The Asian Games Village comprises three main components: the Athletes Village, Technical Officials Village and Media Village.

With a total land area of 113 hectares and a construction area of 2.41 million sq metres, the Asian Games Village can accommodate around 20,000 people - 11,000 athletes and team officials from the National Olympic Committees, 4,000 technical officials and 5,000 media.

It is located on the south bank of the Qiantang River, 3km from the Hangzhou Olympic and International Expo Centre – the main hub of the 19th Asian Games.

With the construction complete, HAGOC is planning to start test operations in March so that the services and operations will be perfected in time for the arrival of the delegations six months later.

The main AGV in the centre of Hangzhou will be supported by five satellite villages throughout Zhejiang province to serve the sports programme.



The completion ceremony and media open day at the AG Village on December 29.

19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022 Prestige Partner

## Enjoy E-mobility @ the Asian Games with Geely



Zhejiang Geely Holding Group was founded in 1986 and entered the automotive industry in 1997. Since then, it has grown with a dedication towards technological innovation, talent cultivation, tempering of core strengths, sustainability. Geely has developed into a global enterprise engaged in the design, R&D, production, sales, and service of vehicles, powertrains, and key components. The Group is in the midst of transforming into a global mobility technology enterprise engaged in the fields of mobility services, digital technology, financial services, education, sports, and other business. In 2019, Geely Holding Group was listed on the Fortune Global 500 for eight consecutive years with annual sales of over 2.17 million vehicles, assets totaling over 330 billion RMB, and employing more than 120,000 people.

Headquartered in Hangzhou, the group owns several brands including Geely Auto, Lynk & Co, Geometry, Volvo Cars, Polestar, PROTON, Lotus, London Electric Vehicle Company, Farizon Auto, Terrafugia, CAOCOA, Qianjiang Motorcycle, Joma, Saxo Bank, Mitime Group, etc. The group and its subsidiaries have set up a global development network with R&D and design centres located around the world. The Group operates world-class manufacturing facilities in China, US, UK, Sweden, Belgium, Belarus, and Malaysia. Geely is also the largest shareholder in Volvo AB and Daimler AG.

In April 2019, Geely Holding Group became the official prestige partner of the 2022 Asian Games in Hangzhou. Under the slogan "Enjoy E-mobility @ the Asian Games with Geely," the Group will empower the games with green, intelligent, and humanistic technologies. Geely will develop a series of full autonomous mobility solutions by 2022 to service the 19th Asian Games.



**GEELY**  
吉利控股集团

杭州2022年亚运会官方合作伙伴  
Official Prestige Partner of the 19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022

## OCA: AG BROADCASTING WILL PRODUCE 'MASTER SHOWCASE'

The Director General of the Olympic Council of Asia, Husain Al Musallam, believes the broadcasting of the 19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022 will present a "master showcase" to the world.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the first World Broadcasters Meeting on Monday, January 24, the OCA Director General said he was "very happy" to see so many TV rights-holding broadcasters joining the host broadcaster, China Media Group, and organising committee HAGOC.

"The World Broadcasters Meeting is one of the most important events to gather information and knowledge for successful TV and online broadcasting of our

Hangzhou Asian Games 2022," said Mr Al Musallam.

"Asian Games TV broadcasting consists of not only the best technology but also the best production team around the world to present a master showcase of the Asian Games to the world."

The OCA Director General pointed out that TV broadcasters from many countries and regions were represented in the two-day, hybrid-format meeting, including China, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, Qatar, Philippines, Taipei, Uzbekistan, India and Hong Kong.

"I am confident that HAGOC will present detailed presentations and information to all of you for a better preparation of TV broadcasting in your countries and region," he added.

"I wish you all have a fruitful meeting in the coming two days - and the Olympic Council of Asia will always be here to support you and all for the success of the Hangzhou Asian Games."



HAGOC officials attend the first World Broadcasters Meeting.

19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022 Prestige Partner

## ICBC | Integrity Leads to Prosperity

Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (hereinafter referred to as ICBC) was established on 1 January 1984, through its continuous endeavor and stable development, the Bank has developed into the leading bank in the world, possessing an excellent customer base, a diversified business structure, strong innovation capabilities and market competitiveness. The Bank regards service as the very foundation to seek further development and adheres to creating value through services while providing a comprehensive range of financial products and services to 7,033 thousand corporate customers and 607 million personal customers.

The Bank has been consciously integrating the social responsibilities with its development strategy and operation and management activities, and gaining wide recognition in the aspects of promoting inclusive finance, supporting targeted poverty relief, protecting environment and resources and participating in public welfare undertakings. The Bank was ranked the 1st place among the Top 1000 World Banks by The Banker, ranked 1st place in the Global 2000 listed by Forbes and topped the sub-list of commercial banks of the Global 500 in Fortune for the sixth consecutive year, and took the 1st place among the Top 500 Banking Brands of Brand Finance for the third consecutive year. 12th September 2019, ICBC has become official prestige banking service partner of the 19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022.



## ASIAN GAMES READY TO 'ENTER THE DRAGON'

Organising committee HAGOC had some excellent news during a presentation at the first World Broadcasters Meeting on January 24.

In a report on competition venues, HAGOC revealed that 47 of the 55 venues in Hangzhou and the five co-hosting cities had been completed – and that the remaining eight would be finished by the end of March.

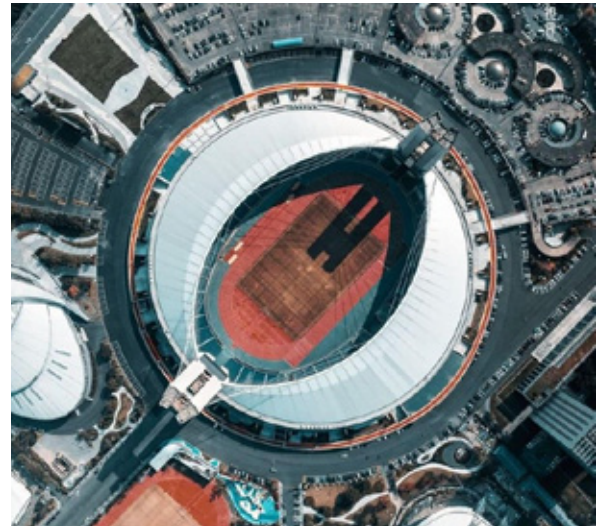
This will give the organisers and venue management teams plenty of time to hold test events from May to June, adding to the eight that were undertaken last year. The test events will all involve local teams and athletes.

One important venue that has emerged from two years of renovation and refurbishment is the Yellow Dragon Stadium – or “New Yellow Dragon” as it is being referred to now following the work.

The official Facebook page of the Hangzhou Municipal Bureau of Culture, Radio, TV and Tourism - @Hangzhou.China – says: “Teamwork makes the dream work — the Hangzhou Asian Games is getting ready to race out of the blocks!

“As a branch venue for the Asian Games, the Yellow Dragon Sports Center Stadium has recently been refurbished. The upgraded ‘New Yellow Dragon’ has finally unveiled its mysteries. Hangzhou citizens can now enjoy the exciting competitions at the convenience of their doorsteps.”

The Yellow Dragon (or Huanglong) sports complex comprises the main stadium (capacity 52,000), which will be one of eight football venues, a gymnasium for gymnastics (6,000) and an aquatics centre (2,000) for water polo. It is located 18km from the Asian Games Village. (Photo: @xixiaoyuanperfect)



The New Yellow Dragon main stadium.

19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022 Prestige Partner



杭州2022年亚运会官方合作伙伴  
Official Prestige Partner of the 19th Asian Game Hangzhou 2022



赋能未来



(Photo: IOC/Greg Martin)

IOC President Thomas Bach and the Chair of the IOC Women in Sport Commission, Lydia Nsekera, presented Hashimoto with her award.

## HASHIMOTO RECEIVES IOC WOMEN AND SPORT WORLD TROPHY

**T**he President of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games Organising Committee, Seiko Hashimoto, has received the IOC Women and Sport World Trophy.

Hashimoto, an experienced and prominent sports leader and politician and seven-time winter and summer Olympian, was presented with the trophy during the 139th IOC Session in Beijing on February 3.

Hashimoto, who became Tokyo 2020 President in February 2021, just five months before the Olympic Games, said: "I have been committed to promoting gender equality throughout my career and it is an honour for me to see that these efforts are being recognised today with this Trophy.

"I will do my best to continue to contribute to the positive change in our society through the power of sport, and welcome your continuous guidance."

Addressing Hashimoto, IOC President Thomas Bach said: "With the unprecedented postponement of the Tokyo Games, it needed someone like you to lead these Olympic Games to success. Someone with a proven track record of challenging the status quo. Fighting for gender equality. Pushing the boundaries for more inclusion. Shattering glass ceilings for more diversity.

"In other words, a true champion with an unwavering commitment to promote the Olympic spirit in everything you do.

"This is why I hope this award will put a spotlight on your important work to empower women and girls in and through sport. More importantly, I hope that this will only motivate you to continue to be a driver for change."

The IOC has honoured six gender equality advocates on an annual basis since 2000, with five continental winners and one World Trophy recipient.

### CONTINENTAL WINNERS

**Asia:** Zhang Xia (China). The IOC described Zhang as a technical official and leader in sport who is helping develop the pipeline of female technical staff and coaches, especially in wrestling.

**Africa:** Natsiraishe Maritsa (Zimbabwe)  
**Americas:** Figure Skating in Harlem (USA)  
**Europe:** Kari Fasting (Norway)  
**Oceania:** Tracey Holmes (Australia)

China's Gao Tingyu had an eventful Winter Olympics. Not only was he the host nation's flagbearer in the opening and closing ceremony, he also won gold in the men's 500m speed skating in an Olympic record time of 34.32 seconds.  
(Photo: Athlete365)

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## BEIJING 2022'S 'V FACTOR' IS KEY TO SUCCESSFUL WINT

**C**all it the V Factor: V for Venues and V for Volunteers.

Of all the elements that contributed to a successful Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022, there is no doubt that the venues and volunteers played a massive part.

The competition venues were magnificent in the three host areas of Beijing, Yanqing and Zhangjiakou.

Take, for example, the National Speed Skating Oval – the only new venue built for the Winter Olympics in Beijing.

Impressive from the outside and the inside, the Ice Ribbon was regarded to have produced the fastest ice on the global speed skating circuit and will be much in demand for future international competitions. Imagine the roar of a 12,000-capacity full house when the sports world returns to normal!

Then there was the Big Air Shougang on the outskirts of the capital. Converted from an old steel mill, the venue provided a truly spectacular back drop to the action unfolding down the steep and snowy slope. On a sunny and crisp winter morning in Beijing, there was no better place to be than the Big Air Shougang.



As for the competition venues in the co-host zones of Yanqing and Zhangjiakou, not only will they provide stability and momentum for the growth of winter sports in China, they will also attract the interest of International Federations in the short-term and long-term for their respective sports.

And so to the volunteers.

They were truly exceptional. Their striking blue and white outfits were like a beacon of warmth and hope for lost, shivering and bedraggled winter sports souls. Always ready with a warm and reassuring smile, and armed with excellent English, they not only showed you where you wanted to go, they often accompanied you, too.

This was magnificent service. Well trained, smart and thoroughly aware of their role, responsibility and task, the volunteers represented the bright, international face of the youth of a modern and dynamic China. They were a credit to their country and to the Olympic movement.

The “closed loop” system, which kept all accredited Games



Inside the Ice Ribbon - super cool and super fast.



Big Air Shougang was a spectacular

## ER OLYMPICS

personnel inside a huge Olympic bubble and prevented any contact with the outside world just a few feet on the other side of the wall or through a bus window, also served its purpose.

The one down side of this was that visitors were not allowed to walk the snowy streets of Beijing in mid-winter, or see the wonderful tourist attractions throughout the historic capital city.

But it was, at this dangerous and fragile time in the world, a small price to pay for the undoubted success of the Winter Olympics and the V Factor: V for Venues, V for Volunteers...and, finally, V for Victory.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

|                                     |                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Dates:</b>                       | February 4-20, 2022                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Opening Ceremony:</b>            | Friday, February 4                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Venue:</b>                       | Bird's Nest National Stadium                                                                                                         |
| <b>Opened by:</b>                   | Chinese President Xi Jinping                                                                                                         |
| <b>Closing Ceremony:</b>            | Sunday, February 20                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Venue:</b>                       | Bird's Nest National Stadium                                                                                                         |
| <b>Closed by:</b>                   | IOC President Thomas Bach                                                                                                            |
| <b>Motto:</b>                       | Together for a Shared Future                                                                                                         |
| <b>NOCs:</b>                        | 91                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Athletes:</b>                    | 2,877                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Asian NOCs:</b>                  | 18                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Sports:</b>                      | 7                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Disciplines:</b>                 | 15                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Events:</b>                      | 109                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Competition Venues:</b>          | 12                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Host Areas:</b>                  | 3                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Beijing Zone:</b>                | Opening and Closing Ceremonies, Curling, Ice Hockey, Speed Skating, Short Track Speed Skating, Figure Skating, Snowboard and Big Air |
| <b>Yanqing Zone:</b>                | Alpine Skiing, Bobsleigh, Skeleton and Luge.                                                                                         |
| <b>Zhangjiakou Zone:</b>            | Snowboard, Freestyle Skiing, Cross-Country Skiing, Ski Jumping, Biathlon and Nordic Combined.                                        |
| <b>Media:</b>                       | 9,388 (comprised of)                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Press:</b>                       | 1,952                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Host Broadcaster:</b>            | 3,829                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Rights-Holding Broadcasters:</b> | 3,607                                                                                                                                |



venue, transformed from an old steel plant.



The volunteers even accompanied guests in the gondola down the mountain.



Freestyle skier Xu Mengtao, 31, celebrates her first gold medal in her fourth Olympics - in women's aerials.

(Photo: CGTN)



Japan's Chairman of the Board: That's Ayumu Hirano, who won men's snowboard halfpipe gold in Beijing after representing his country in skateboarding at Tokyo 2020 last summer.

(Photo: Team Japan/JOC)

## HOST NATION CHINA AND JAPAN SET NEW MEDAL MARKS

**A**fter winning just one gold medal in the previous Winter Olympics at PyeongChang 2018, China knew they had to improve big-time at Beijing.

They didn't just improve; they smashed their previous records in terms of gold medals and total medals won at an Olympic Winter Games.

On home ice and snow, China finished third in the medal rankings with nine gold, four silver and two bronze medals for a total of 15. Their previous best was five gold medals at Vancouver 2010, and their previous highest medals total was 11 – at Torino 2006 and Vancouver 2010. Mission - and more - accomplished!

China's nine gold medals came in five sports: freestyle skiing (4), short track speed skating (2), figure skating (1), snowboard (1) and speed skating (1).

 Japan finished in 12th place with a record of 3-6-9 for 18 total medals, five more medals than the 13 they won at PyeongChang 2018 (4-5-4) in their previous highest medals tally.

Japan's speed skaters took home five of those 18 medals, their figure skaters won four and the snowboarders added three medals. Their three gold medals came in ski jumping, snowboard and speed skating.

 Korea placed 14th in the final medal rankings with a 2-5-2 record for nine total medals, and proved they remain a world power in short track speed skating (five medals) and speed skating (four). Both of their gold medals came on the short track and in the same event for women and men - the 1,500m.

 29 of the 91 NOCs won at least one medal of some colour, with 23 of them taking home gold.



Chinese veteran Qi Guangpu won men's aerials gold in his fourth Olympic Games (Photo: AFP)



Photo: Athlete365

Ryoyu Kobayashi jumps to normal hill gold for Japan.



Korea's Hwang Dae-heon wins the men's 1,500m short track gold. (Photo: Yonhap)

| Rank | Country/NOC                |    |    |    | Total |
|------|----------------------------|----|----|----|-------|
| 1    | Norway                     | 16 | 8  | 13 | 37    |
| 2    | Germany                    | 12 | 10 | 5  | 27    |
| 3    | People's Republic of China | 9  | 4  | 2  | 15    |
| 4    | United States of America   | 8  | 10 | 7  | 25    |
| 5    | Sweden                     | 8  | 5  | 5  | 18    |
| 6    | Netherlands                | 8  | 5  | 4  | 17    |
| 7    | Austria                    | 7  | 7  | 4  | 18    |
| 8    | Switzerland                | 7  | 2  | 5  | 14    |
| 9    | ROC                        | 6  | 12 | 14 | 32    |
| 10   | France                     | 5  | 7  | 2  | 14    |
| 11   | Canada                     | 4  | 8  | 14 | 26    |
| 12   | Japan                      | 3  | 6  | 9  | 18    |
| 13   | Italy                      | 2  | 7  | 8  | 17    |
| 14   | Republic of Korea          | 2  | 5  | 2  | 9     |
| 15   | Slovenia                   | 2  | 3  | 2  | 7     |
| 16   | Finland                    | 2  | 2  | 4  | 8     |
| 17   | New Zealand                | 2  | 1  | 0  | 3     |
| 18   | Australia                  | 1  | 2  | 1  | 4     |
| 19   | Great Britain              | 1  | 1  | 0  | 2     |
| 20   | Hungary                    | 1  | 0  | 2  | 3     |
| 21   | Belgium                    | 1  | 0  | 1  | 2     |
| 21   | Czech Republic             | 1  | 0  | 1  | 2     |
| 21   | Slovakia                   | 1  | 0  | 1  | 2     |
| 24   | Belarus                    | 0  | 2  | 0  | 2     |
| 25   | Spain                      | 0  | 1  | 0  | 1     |
| 25   | Ukraine                    | 0  | 1  | 0  | 1     |
| 27   | Estonia                    | 0  | 0  | 1  | 1     |
| 27   | Latvia                     | 0  | 0  | 1  | 1     |
| 27   | Poland                     | 0  | 0  | 1  | 1     |

Legend: Gold Medal Silver Medal Bronze Medal

**OCA highlights trio of fast and fearless female Olympic champions:** An Olympic gold medal is the highlight of any athlete's career – when a dream becomes reality on the biggest stage of all. At Beijing, the list of 98 multi-medalists who won more than one medal includes 16 from Asia. However, of these 16, only three won more than two medals – and they were all female. Here, Sporting Asia highlights the trio of Asian golden girls who became more familiar than most with the path to the podium.

## EILEEN GU AILING



**NOC:**  
China

**Age:**  
18

**Sport:**  
Freestyle Skiing

**Medals:**  
3

**Gold (2):**  
Women's Freeski Big Air  
Women's Freeski Halfpipe

**Silver (1):**  
Women's Freeski Slopestyle



Eileen Gu checks the scoreboard as she wins her first gold medal - in big air. (Photo: Athlete365)



Eileen Gu won two gold medals and one silver for China. (Photo: Athlete365)

## MIHO TAKAGI



**NOC:**

Japan

**Age:**

27

**Sport:**

Speed Skating

**Medals:**

4

**Gold (1):**

Women's 1,000 metres

**Silver (3):**

Women's 1,500 metres

Women's 500 metres

Women's Team Pursuit



Miho Takagi speeds to gold in the women's 1,000m. (Photo: ISU Speed Skating)



Miho Takagi displays her new Olympic record time of 1 minute, 13.19 seconds.

## CHOI MIN-JEONG



**NOC:**

Republic of Korea

**Age:**

23

**Sport:**

Short Track Speed Skating

**Medals:**

3

**Gold (1):**

Women's 1,500 metres

**Silver (2):**

Women's 1,000 metres

Women's 3,000 metres Relay



Choi Min-jeong crosses the line to win 1,500m short track gold. (Photo: KSOC)



Choi Min-jeong skates a lap of honour with the Korean flag. (Photo: KSOC)

## ASIA'S ROLL OF HONOUR



### Gold (9)

#### Figure Skating

Pair Skating (Sui Wenjing/Han Cong), February 19

#### Freestyle Skiing

Men's Aerials – Qi Guangpu, February 16

#### Freestyle Skiing

Women's Aerials – Xu Mengtao, February 14

#### Freestyle Skiing

Women's Freeski Big Air – Eileen Gu Ailing, February 8

#### Freestyle Skiing

Women's Freeski Halfpipe – Eileen Gu Ailing, February 18

#### Short Track Speed Skating

Mixed Team Relay (Qu Chunyu, Fan Kexin, Wu Dajing, Ren Ziwei, Zhang Yuting), February 5.

#### Short Track Speed Skating

Men's 1,000m – Ren Ziwei, February 7

#### Snowboard

Men's Snowboard Big Air – Su Yiming, February 15

#### Speed Skating

Men's 500 metres – Gao Tingyu, February 12



### Gold (3)

#### Ski Jumping

Men's Normal Hill Individual - Ryoyu Kobayashi, February 6

#### Snowboard

Men's Snowboard Halfpipe – Ayumu Hirano, February 11

#### Speed Skating

Women's 1,000 metres – Miho Takagi, February 17

### Silver (6)

#### Curling

Women's Team (Satsuki Fujisawa, Chinami Yoshida, Yumi Suzuki, Yurika Yoshida, Kotomi Ishizaki), February 20

#### Figure Skating

Men's Single Skating – Yuma Kagitani, February 10

#### Ski Jumping

Men's Large Hill Individual – Ryoyu Kobayashi, February 12

#### Speed Skating

Women's 1,500 metres - Miho Takagi, February 7

#### Speed Skating

Women's 500 metres – Miho Takagi, February 13

#### Speed Skating

Women's Team Pursuit (Misaki Oshigiri, Ayano Sato, Miho Takagi, Nana Takagi), February 15.



### Gold (2)

#### Short Track Speed Skating

Men's 1,500m – Hwang Dae-heon, February 9

#### Short Track Speed Skating

Women's 1,500m – Choi Min-jeong, February 16

### Silver (5)

#### Short Track Speed Skating

Women's 1,000 metres – Choi Min-jeong, February 11

#### Short Track Speed Skating

Women's 3,000 metres Relay (Choi Min-jeong, Lee Yu-bin, Kim A-lang, Seo Whi-min, Park Ji-yun), February 13

#### Short Track Speed Skating

Men's 5,000 metres Relay (Lee June-seo, Kim Dong-wook, Hwang Dae-heon, Kwak Yoon-gy, Park Jang-hyuk)

# OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES BEIJING 2022

## CHINA

### Silver (4)

#### Freestyle Skiing

Aerials Mixed Team (Qi Guangpu, Jia Zongyang, Xu Mengtao),  
February 10

#### Freestyle Skiing

Women's Freeski Slopestyle – Eileen Gu Ailing, February 15

#### Short Track Speed Skating

Men's 1,000m – Li Wenlong, February 7

#### Snowboard

Men's Snowboard Slopestyle - Su Yiming, February 7

### Bronze (2)

#### Skeleton

Men's Skeleton – Yan Wengang, February 11

#### Short Track Speed Skating

Women's 3,000 metres Relay (Han Yutong, Qu Chunyu, Zhang  
Chutong, Fan Kexin, Zhang Yuting), February 13

## JAPAN

### Bronze (9)

#### Figure Skating

Team Event (Shoma Uno, Yuma Kagiyama, Wakaba Higuchi,  
Kaori Sakamoto, Riku Miura/Ryuchi Kihara, Misato  
Komatsubara/Tim Koleto) February 7

#### Figure Skating

Men's Single Skating – Shoma Uno, February 10

#### Figure Skating

Women's Single Skating – Kaori Sakamoto, February 17

#### Freestyle Skiing

Men's Moguls - Ikuma Horishima, February 5

#### Nordic Combined

Individual Gundersen Large Hill/10km – Akito Watabe,  
February 15

#### Nordic Combined

Team Gundersen Large Hill 4x5km (Akito Watabe, Yoshito  
Watabe, Hideaki Nagai, Ryota Yamamoto), February 17

#### Snowboard

Women's Snowboard Halfpipe – Sena Tomita, February 10

#### Snowboard

Women's Snowboard Big Air – Kokomo Murase, February 15

#### Speed Skating

Men's 500 metres – Wataru Morishige, February 12

## KOREA

### Bronze (2)

#### Speed Skating

Men's 500 metres – Cha Min-kyu, February 12

#### Speed Skating

Men's Mass Start – Chung Jae-won, February 19

#### Speed Skating

Men's 1,500 metres – Kim Min-seok, February 8

#### Speed Skating

Men's Mass Start – Lee Seung-hoon, February 19



# Asia at Beijing 2022

| No.             | NOC              | Athletes |      |       | Flagbearers                                                                              |                                                             |
|-----------------|------------------|----------|------|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
|                 |                  | Female   | Male | Total | Opening Ceremony                                                                         | Closing Ceremony                                            |
| 1               | China            | 85       | 97   | 182   | Gao Tingyu (Speed Skating)<br>Zhao Dan (Skeleton)                                        | Gao Tingyu (Speed Skating)<br>Xu Mengtao (Freestyle Skiing) |
| 2               | Hong Kong, China | 1        | 2    | 3     | Sidney K Chu (Short Track)                                                               | Volunteer                                                   |
| 3               | India            | 0        | 1    | 1     | Arif Mohd Khan (Alpine Skiing)                                                           | Volunteer                                                   |
| 4               | Iran             | 1        | 2    | 3     | Hossein Saveh Shemshaki (Alpine Skiing)<br>Atefeh Ahmadi (Alpine Skiing)                 | Volunteer                                                   |
| 5               | Japan            | 72       | 49   | 121   | Akito Watabe (Nordic Combined)<br>Arisa Go (Speed Skating)                               | Arisa Go (Speed Skating)                                    |
| 6               | Kazakhstan       | 17       | 17   | 34    | Abzal Azhgaliyev (Short Track)<br>Yekaterina Aidova (Speed Skating)                      | Abzal Azhgaliyev (Short Track)                              |
| 7               | Korea            | 30       | 35   | 65    | Kwak Yoon-gy (Short Track)<br>Kim A-lang (Short Track)                                   | Cha Min-kyu (Speed Skating)                                 |
| 8               | Kyrgyzstan       | 0        | 1    | 1     | Maksim Gordeev (Alpine Skiing)                                                           | Volunteer                                                   |
| 9               | Lebanon          | 1        | 2    | 3     | Cesar Arnouk (Alpine Skiing)<br>Manon Ouass (Alpine Skiing)                              | Volunteer                                                   |
| 10              | Malaysia         | 1        | 1    | 2     | Jeffrey Webb (Alpine Skiing)<br>Aruwin Salehuddin (Alpine Skiing)                        | Jeffrey Webb (Alpine Skiing)                                |
| 11              | Mongolia         | 1        | 1    | 2     | Achbadrakh Batmunkh (Cross-Country Skiing)<br>Enkhtuul Ariunsanaa (Cross-Country Skiing) | Achbadrakh Batmunkh<br>(Cross-Country Skiing)               |
| 12              | Pakistan         | 0        | 1    | 1     | Muhammad Karim (Alpine Skiing)                                                           | Muhammad Karim (Alpine Skiing)                              |
| 13              | Philippines      | 0        | 1    | 1     | Asa Miller (Alpine Skiing)                                                               | Asa Miller (Alpine Skiing)                                  |
| 14              | Saudi Arabia     | 0        | 1    | 1     | Fayik Abdi (Alpine Skiing)                                                               | Volunteer                                                   |
| 15              | Chinese Taipei   | 3        | 1    | 4     | Ho Ping-Jui (Alpine Skiing)<br>Huang Yu Ting (Speed Skating)                             | Lee Wen-Yi (Alpine Skiing)                                  |
| 16              | Thailand         | 2        | 2    | 4     | Nicola Zanon (Alpine Skiing)<br>Karen Chanloun (Cross-Country Skiing)                    | Volunteer                                                   |
| 17              | Timor-Leste      | 0        | 1    | 1     | Yohan Goutt Goncalves (Alpine Skiing)                                                    | Yohan Goutt Goncalves (Alpine Skiing)                       |
| 18              | Uzbekistan       | 0        | 1    | 1     | Komiljon Tukhtaev (Alpine Skiing)                                                        | Volunteer                                                   |
| Total (18 NOCs) |                  | 214      | 216  | 430   | NOTE: The official list of flagbearers was provided by the IOC.                          |                                                             |



Pride of Pakistan at the opening ceremony. (Photo: ANOC)



India's flagbearer Arif Khan. (Photo: Sports Authority of India)



HH Prince Fahd with Fayik Abdi



HH Prince Fahd leads the Saudi cheering team.

## HISTORIC DAY FOR SAUDI ARABIA AT WINTER OLYMPICS



**B**eijing 2022 will always be special for Saudi Arabia – it was the Kingdom’s first ever appearance in the Olympic Winter Games.

Alpine skier Fayik Abdi, 24, was the hero of the day, completing both runs of the men’s giant slalom down the treacherous Ice River course at Yanqing on Sunday, February 13.

He clocked 1 minute, 21.44 seconds in his first run, putting him in 51st position, and 1:25.41 (45th) on his second run to end the competition in 44th place overall with a combined time of 2:46.85.

The heavy snow and poor visibility resulted in a DNF (did not finish) for 43 of the 89 skiers, but Abdi battled on and was greeted by a proud, flag-waving support team at the bottom of the mountain.

His Highness Prince Fahd bin Jalawi Al Saud, Vice President of the Saudi Olympic & Paralympic Committee, described it as a “great achievement” for the skier and for Saudi Arabia.

“I am very, very proud that the Saudi flag is raising in the Winter Olympics and the very good participation of our hero athlete Fayik Abdi. He did both runs and he finished in the top 45 athletes in the world which is a big achievement for Saudi being

the first time in the Olympics. We are very proud of him.”

When asked if there was a bright future for winter sports in Saudi Arabia, Prince Fahd replied: “100 per cent. This was the first test in winter sports and, Inshallah, we will do our best to be a much better delegation in the next Olympics.”

Fayik said: “It was definitely challenging, very difficult - a lot more turning and hard-packed than we had expected – but I am glad we finished.

“I am really proud and happy to be representing Saudi and I am looking forward to the future of winter sports in Saudi Arabia.

“I would like to see more people take part in the sport. We have ski centres being built right now in Saudi so hopefully that will encourage people to get into winter sports. I think it will be a success, I hope.”

When asked how he felt to be Saudi Arabia’s Alpine ski pioneer, he said: “It really means a lot. To be honest I have no words right now. I am still trying to process everything.”

Bassam Alshabhi, ski programme supervisor of the Saudi Winter Sports Federation, said Fayik’s performance was “phenomenal”.

A few months ago, skiing was a hobby for Fayik Abdi – now he is an Olympian: Saudi Arabia’s first in winter sports.



**THAILAND:** Mark Chanloun takes part in the men's 15km classic at Zhangjiakou National Cross-Country Skiing Centre on February 11. He finished 73rd in a field of 99 in 44 minutes, 27 seconds. (Photo: William Lucas @ANOC Olympic)



**PHILIPPINES:** After recording two DNF (did not finish) in the men's giant slalom and slalom, Asa Miller took to Instagram: "Well, my second Olympics are over and things didn't quite go my way. Thank you everyone for your kind words." (Photo: AFP)



**HONG KONG, CHINA:** Short track speed skater Sidney K Chu was unlucky to be drawn in the same men's 500m heat as the reigning Olympic champion Wu Dajing and he could not advance to the next round at the Capital Indoor Stadium. (Photo: Wander Roberto @ANOC Olympic)



**CHINESE TAIPEI:** Speed skater Huang Yu-ting checks her time in the women's 1,000m at the Ice Ribbon (Photo: Wander Roberto @ANOC Olympic)



**KAZAKHSTAN:** Sherzod Khashyrbayev is under the spotlight as he competes in the men's aerials. The Kazakh freestyle skier was ranked 19th of 24 athletes. (Photo: Olympic.kz)



**MONGOLIA:** Cross-country skier Achbadrakh Batmunkh races in the men's 15km classic. He finished 65th of 99 competitors in 43 minutes, 29.9 seconds. This was his second Winter Olympics appearance. (Photo: Montsame Mongolian News Agency)



**UZBEKISTAN:** In his second Winter Olympics, Komiljon Tukhtayev finished 29th in the men's giant slalom on February 13 – the highest position among Asian skiers. (Photo: Olympic.uz)



**MALAYSIA:** The country's first female Winter Olympian, Aruwin Salehuddin, 17, took part in the giant slalom and slalom. Malaysia's ski team manager was Aruwin's father, Salehuddin Ayob, who represented Malaysia in the Atlanta 1996 Olympics in canoe slalom – kayak singles, slalom. (Photo: Wander Roberto @ANOC Olympic).



**LEBANON:** Elie Tawk races in the men's 15km classic cross-country on February 11 and finished 92nd of 99 competitors in a time of 51 minutes, 46.5 seconds. (Photo: Lebanese Olympic Committee).



**KYRGYZSTAN:** Maksim Gordeev, 26, was his country's sole representative in the Winter Olympics. He recorded a did not finish (DNF) in the men's slalom on February 16. (Photo: Kyrgyzstan NOC)



**TIMOR-LESTE:** Attending his third Winter Olympics, Alpine skier Yohan Goutt Goncalves, 27, continues to fly the flag as athlete/ambassador for the southeast Asian country. His mother is Timorese and his father is French. (Photo: Yohan Goutt Goncalves Facebook).



**IRAN:** Atefeh Ahmadi, 21, competes in the women's slalom. She completed the first run in 1 minute, 11.88 seconds to place 57th but did not finish (DNF) her second run. 38 of the 88 competitors DNF. (Photo: Tehran Times)

## ICE PRINCE HANYU: STILL THE TALK OF THE TOWN

**W**hen it comes to uniting the sporting powers of east Asia - and, indeed, the world of figure skating - there can be no finer ambassador than Yuzuru Hanyu.

Although there was no medal this time, and no Winnie the Pooh teddy bears cascading from the stands to the ice, Japan's "Ice Prince" was still a major influence on the success of the Olympic Winter Games.

As the team event began on February 4, all the talk was "Where's Yuzu?". Hanyu finally arrived in Beijing on Sunday, February 6 - just two days before the men's short programme and the start of his bid for a golden hat-trick of Olympic titles after his sparkling success in Sochi 2014 and PyeongChang 2018.

When he took to the ice, he was greeted by rapturous applause from the Chinese fans, just as he had been in Korea four years earlier. His sumptuous skills and princely presentation transcend any form of sporting rivalry and figure skating fans collectively hold their breath. When Hanyu starts to skate, the world stops.

There were gasps of disbelief when Hanyu missed his very first jump of the short programme, saying later he had hit a tiny hole in the ice just before take-off. This mistake left him in eighth place

and needing perfection two days later in the free skate to stand any chance of making the podium, let alone winning gold again.

He would continue his quest with the super-human quadruple Axel - a giant of a jump that requires four and a half rotations in the air. Hanyu crashed to the ice, then did so again shortly after.

The rest of his free skate resembled a moving swansong - a farewell to the Winter Olympics and the end of a great champion. Although his performance elevated him to fourth place, behind his young pretenders Shoma Uno (bronze) and Yuma Kagitama (silver), he finished well behind the United States' "Rocket Man" and new Olympic champion, Nathan Chen.

At 27, can Hanyu come back for a fourth Olympics in Milan/Cortina in 2026? He hasn't ruled it out - but the journey will be long and painful, considering the injuries he has accumulated over the years. The Winter Olympics holds its breath - again.

 The figure skating provided gripping entertainment throughout, and a global doping controversy with the participation in the women's singles of Kamila Valieva (Russian Olympic Committee), but it ended gloriously for the host country with a gold medal in pairs for Sui Wenjing/Han Cong.



Yuzuru Hanyu competes in Beijing. (Photo: Getty Images)



Chinese fans wait for Hanyu to arrive for the Exhibition Gala on February 20. (Photo: Lynn Rutherford/Twitter)

### ASIAN MEDALS (FIGURE SKATING)

#### Gold

China:  
Sui Wenjing/Han Cong (pair)

#### Silver

Japan:  
Yuma Kagitama  
(men's single)

#### Bronze

Japan:  
Team

Japan:  
Shoma Uno  
(men's single)

Japan:  
Kaori Sakamoto  
(women's single)

*Snow Patrol*



Go Go Gondola!



Bing Dwen Dwen and Shuey Rhon Rhon



ROBOT ROOM SERVICE



*Bright Beijing*



**SCENIC BIG AIR SHOUGANG**



## OCA SIGNS STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP MOU WITH TENCENT

The Olympic Council of Asia has signed a strategic partnership agreement with the Chinese internet and technology giant Tencent to promote the development of electronic sports alongside the Asian Electronic Sports Federation (AESF).

The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between OCA and Tencent took place during the Asian Electronic Sports Development Conference on Thursday, January 20 held jointly by the OCA and AESF.

The conference and MOU signing ceremony, themed “Blooming in Asia”, was conducted online and attended by the OCA Director General, Husain Al-Musallam, AESF President Kenneth Fok, Tencent Senior Vice President Steven Ma and other officials from AESF and Tencent.

The OCA Director General said: “The Olympic Council of Asia is delighted to build up a strategic cooperation with Tencent. We are

sure that Tencent’s technology and innovation will help the OCA and the Asian Electronic Sports Federation create more exciting possibilities for the digital electronic sports industry in Asia.”

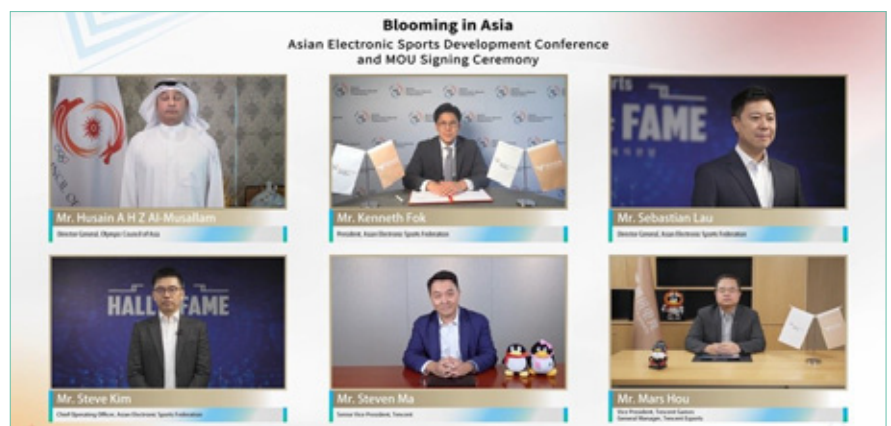
The parties discussed the development of esports and of traditional sports in Asia as well as the OCA-AESF “Road to Asian Games” continent-wide project already in place for Hangzhou 2022.

Tencent’s Steven Ma thanked the OCA for its trust and said Tencent would continue to support the OCA in promoting the long-term development of esports and in preparing for Hangzhou 2022.

AESF President Kenneth Fok added: “The significance and progress of the ‘Road to Asian Games’ will determine national team selections for Asian countries across various esports titles, marking an important step for the inclusion of esports in national level multisport competitions.”

### HANGZHOU 2022

Esports will make its debut as a full medal sport at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou from September 10-25, 2022 after being a demonstration sport at the 18th Asian Games in Jakarta-Palembang four years ago. The eight medal events are: League of Legends, DOTA 2, FIFA Online 4, Hearthstone, Arena of Valor Asian Games Version, Dream Three Kingdoms 2, PUBG Mobile Asian Games Version and Street Fighter V. The OCA, AESF and Tencent E-sports are anticipating an audience of 500 million.



The Asian Electronic Sports Development Conference was held on January 20.



OCA Vice President Otabek Umarov (right) was honoured for his “contribution to strengthening international cooperation in the field of sports” at the Uzbekistan Sports Awards 2021. (Photo: <https://www.olympic.uz>)



OCA support for its National Olympic Committees enabled Laos NOC to contribute USD 5,000 towards a refurbishment project at the Vientiane Provincial Stadium through the Department of Education and Sport, Vientiane Province. NOC President Mrs Sengdeuane Lachanthaboun is pictured with Mr Phouvong Bounsou, Vice Governor of Vientiane Province. (Photo: @OLYMPICLAO)

### SHANTOU 2021 AYG UNVEILS 21 SPORT PICTOGRAMS



Sport pictograms play a big part in the image and identity of a multi-sport games – and the Shantou 2021 Asian Youth Games unveiled a series of 21 colourful and attractive images on January 18, 2022.

climbing, surfing, table tennis, taekwondo, sailing (windsurfing), beach volleyball and wushu (sanda and taolu).

The sport pictograms will be used in various fields, including venues and street name signs, publications, cultural promotion, city landscape, TV broadcasting and souvenir design.

The pictograms add to the visual elements of the AYG already released such as emblem, mascot, core graphics and colour systems.

Under the guidance of Dr. Zhang Qiang, Visual Identity System consultant of Shantou 2021 AYG, the pictograms went through a process of modification by the design team before being submitted to the OCA for approval.

The pictograms depict the 21 sports/disciplines for the AYG: diving, swimming, water polo, athletics, badminton, basketball (3x3), dance sport (breaking), dragon boat, football, golf, gymnastics, handball, rugby sevens, sport climbing, surfing, table tennis, taekwondo, sailing (windsurfing), taolu and sanda.



### SHANTOU 2021 BEGINS SEARCH FOR AYG MUSIC

The organising committee of the OCA's 3rd Asian Youth Games Shantou 2021 launched the search for AYG music at the theatre of Shantou Convergence Media Group on January 14, 2022.

With the title of "Shining Youth in Shantou", the campaign will identify the music to accompany the AYG to be held at Shantou, in Guangdong province, from December 20-28, 2022.

The organisers will seek musical works through either invitation or public entry in four categories:

-  Games hymn
-  Volunteer song
-  City-wide promotional song
-  Occasion-specific music, including entrance music, exit music and victory ceremony music.

People can enter a complete song or just the lyrics or tune. The deadline for submissions is March 31 and a judging panel will assess the shortlisted works.

The ceremony was attended by Mr Zeng Fengbao, Mayor of Shantou and Director of the Shantou Executive Committee of the 3rd AYG; Mr Cai Qiaozhong, Principal of Xinghai Conservatory of Music; and Mr Lin Ruiwu, Vice Mayor of Shantou and Executive Deputy Director of the Shantou AYG organising committee.

Vice Mayor Lin said the music would help to promote the fighting spirit and sportsmanship of the athletes, exhibit the rich cultural heritage of the host city and showcase Chinese style, Guangdong glamour and Shantou flavour.



The ceremony to launch the search for AYG music was held on January 14, 2022.

## AICHI-NAGOYA 2026 SIGNS MOU WITH HANGZHOU 2022



The organising committees of the OCA's next two Asian Games – Hangzhou 2022 and Aichi-Nagoya 2026 – signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Thursday, December 23, 2021.

The MOU will further enhance the mutual cooperation regarding preparation and promotion in the run-up to the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou this September 10-25 and the 20th Asian Games in Aichi prefecture and Nagoya city from September 19-October 4, 2026.

The OCA believes the MOU between the two host cities strengthens relations between the two cities, regions and countries and displays the unity and cooperation of the Olympic sports movement in Asia.



"The Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games Organising Committee (AINAGOC) has been in collaboration with HAGOC on knowledge-sharing regarding the management of the Games, and together produced a joint PR video, with the aim of the success of both Games," AINAGOC said in a press statement.

"Under the support and guidance from the Olympic Council of Asia, we look forward to working even closer for both of our Games together."

The MOU was signed by Naruse Kazuhiro, Director General of AINAGOC, and by Chen Weiqiang, Deputy Secretary General of HAGOC.



Chen Weiqiang, HAGOC Deputy Secretary General, signs the agreement. (Photo: HAGOC)



Naruse Kazuhiro, Director General of AINAGOC, signs the MOU on December 23, 2021.



KOREAN figure skating legend Kim Yu-na has been appointed honorary ambassador of the Winter Youth Olympic Games Gangwon 2024, which will take place in Gangwon province in Korea from January 19 to February 1, 2024. Kim won gold at Vancouver 2010 and silver at Sochi 2014.

(Photo: Gangwon 2024)

## SINGAPORE APPOINTS OLYMPIAN LIM AS CWG CDM

London 2012 Olympic gymnast Lim Heem Wei has been appointed Chef de Mission of Team Singapore for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games this summer.

Lim, 32, represented Singapore in artistic gymnastics at London 2012 as well as the Commonwealth Games in 2010 and 2014, winning a silver medal in balance beam in 2010. She is now a national coach to the women's artistic gymnastics team.

"The 2010 and 2014 Commonwealth Games were defining moments in my career as an athlete," she said.

"Being able to return to the Commonwealth Games as Chef de Mission is a tremendous privilege."

Commonwealth Games Singapore (CGS) announced the appointment on January 17 and said former national team sprinter Amirudin Jamal, 34, would be Assistant CDM.



Jumping for joy....that's Lim Heem Wei. (Photo: @sgolympics)

**JORDAN JOY:** The first West Asian Football Federation U14 Girls Championship was played in Lebanon and attracted four national teams, the Jordan Olympic Committee reports. Jordan beat Lebanon 1-0 in the final with a 62nd-minute goal from striker and tournament MVP Hala Murar.

(<https://www.joc.jo>)



**GAZA EXERCISE:** Palestine Olympic Committee, in collaboration with the Palestinian Sports Culture Federation and United Nations Development Programme, held a 2km walk on Gaza beach to promote women in sport. About 200 women and girls took part from several sectors of society. Organisers hope the march will change the attitude of society towards women in sport and also encourage women to adopt a healthy lifestyle and regular exercise.

(Photo: @PalOlympic)

## INDIAN BOXING HERO RECEIVES POLICE HONOUR

India's medal-winning Olympic boxer Lovlina Borgohain has been appointed Deputy Superintendent of Police by the Chief Minister of Assam, Himanta Biswa Sarma.

A ceremony was held at the State Secretariat (Janata Bhawan) on Wednesday, January 12 in recognition of her bronze medal at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games in the women's welterweight (64-69kg) division.

"I am elated at being given this opportunity to serve my people in the role of Deputy Superintendent of Police," she said.

"But my main focus will be to work hard in sports and bring a gold medal for my country in the Paris Olympics."

The Chief Minister said her journey "from the backwaters of Assam to Olympic glory is inspiring" and added: "I congratulate her and hope that she will inspire the youth with her achievements in sports and official work."



A proud day for Lovlina Borgohain. (Photo: @boxerlovlina)

## JOC NAVIGATES BEACH VOLLEYBALL ATHLETE TO TOYOTA



Sayaka Yamada at the placement ceremony (Photo: JOC)

Beach volleyball player Sayaka Yamada is among the three new beneficiaries of the Japanese Olympic Committee's "Athnavi" project – designed to navigate athletes in their career transition from elite sport to the work place and provide employment support.

Thanks to the JOC, Yamada will join Toyota Motor Corporation from April 1, 2022 while continuing her efforts to qualify for the Olympic Games in Paris 2024 and to promote beach volleyball in Japan.

Yamada said: "I am happy that the environment for continuing my activities as a player has been set up. I will contribute in various ways with gratitude to reward the company."

The JOC has now placed 339 athletes in 210 companies or organisations under the "Athnavi" project.

## OLYMPIC HERO HAUGHEY EARNS TOP SWIMMING MEDIA AWARD

Hong Kong's Siobhan Haughey, who won two silver medals at Tokyo 2020, has been named Asia's Female Swimmer of the Year by the prestigious Texas-based SwimSwam.com.

Haughey, 24, became the first swimmer from Hong Kong, China to win a medal at the Olympics – and finished the Tokyo Games with two silvers in the 200m and 100m freestyle.

She followed up with two gold medals at the FINA World Swimming Championships (25m) in Abu Dhabi, winning both the 200m (world record) and 100m freestyle (championship record) and picking up a bronze in the 400m free. In a tough decision by the voting panel, Haughey held off strong claims for Asia's Female Swimmer of the Year from Japan's Yui Ohashi and China's Zhang Yufei.



Siobhan Haughey enjoyed a golden year. (Photo: EPA-EFE)

## TOKYO 2020 SKATEBOARDERS WIN FAIR PLAY PRIZE



Japan's Misugu Okamoto is lifted on to the shoulders of her fellow athletes after she crashed in the final of the women's park event at Tokyo 2020. (Photo: IOC/Jason Evans)

Skateboarding made a spectacular Olympic debut in Tokyo – and the young athletes in the women's park event have been honoured for their inspiring sporting spirit.

The IOC-recognised International Committee for Fair Play presented the Fair Play Award for Tokyo 2020 to the skateboarders who lifted Japan's Misugu Okamoto on to their shoulders after she had crashed in the final.

"The CIFP has been recognising extraordinary acts of sportsmanship at the Olympics since Beijing 2008. Dozens of nominations were received from National Olympic Committees, International Federations, athletes and fans from around the world via the CIFP's social media and digital channels," the committee announced.

The seven winners were: Sakura Yosozumi (JPN), Kokona Hiraki (JPN), Sky Brown (GBR), Poppy Olsen (AUS), Bryce Wettstein (USA), Dora Varella (BRA) and Yndiara Asp (BRA).

IOC President Thomas Bach said: "Congratulations to the skateboard athletes. The fair play prize is well deserved. Sport is about more than just competition. It is always about the values of sport and carrying these ideals into the world. This is what we have seen here at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020."

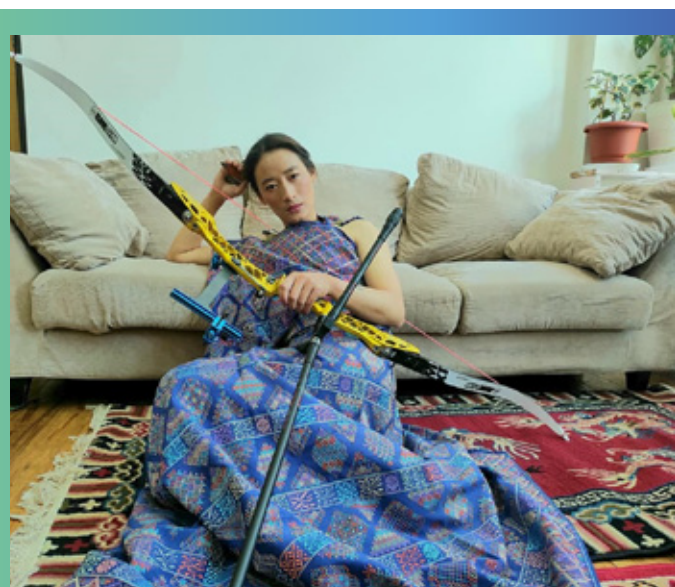


## IRAQI ARCHERS PREPARE FOR INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

Iraq NOC reports that the women's archery team is in training for a series of international competitions this year, culminating in the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China in September.

The female archers are training alongside their male counterparts in a joint national team camp in Baghdad which will prepare them for the challenges ahead.

The archery federation of Iraq praised the continued support of the NOC President, Raad Hammoudi, and the executive office for assisting in the technical development of the national archery team. (Photo: @nociraq)



ARCHERY ADDICTION: Bhutan Olympic Committee has a true legend and inspiration in archer Karma, who became the first athlete from her country to qualify for a quota place in the Olympic Games in any sport. In a glamorous Facebook post, "Karma karma Oly" relaxes by the sofa with her archery equipment and advises: "Be addicted to your Passions not your distractions." With two Olympic appearances in Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020 behind her, Karma, 31, has certainly proved her point.

## INDONESIA NOC HOSTS WOMEN IN SPORT TALK SHOW

**W**omen need to support each other to increase women's role in sport.

This was the message from Shelly Selowati, a member of Indonesia NOC's Women in Sport Commission and a prominent figure in world boxing, during a weekly talk show.

Shelly takes her experience in the continental and international boxing associations as an example.

"It's a man's world in the international boxing federation. That's the challenge - how we can survive as women in that world; how we can reach the top," she said.



(<https://www.nocindonesia.id>)

"We have to be sincere. We have to master the skills – and, the most important thing is, we must help each other. We want to see Indonesians go forward, in particular Indonesian women. To put Indonesia forward must be our primary goal so that the red-and-white flag can fly high. It all starts with ourselves."

Olympic swimmer Azzahra Permatahani was a guest on the talk show and said that the activities of the Women in Sport Commission would boost women's participation in sport, not only as athletes but also as trainers and administrators.

## PENANG APPOINTS SQUASH LEGEND NICOL AS TOURISM AMBASSADOR

**O**ne of Asia's most successful athletes, retired Malaysian squash ace Nicol David, has a new role – Tourism Ambassador for her hometown Penang.

Nicol, an eight-time world champion and multiple Asian Games champion in women's individual and team events, announced her appointment on her Facebook page, in cooperation with Penang Global Tourism.

"This is indeed a very meaningful day for me being a Penangite," she told her 900,000 followers.

"It's a great honour to receive this appointment from the State Government to be the Penang Tourism Ambassador for year 2022.



Tourism Ambassador Nicol David in her hometown Penang. (Photo: Nicol David Facebook)

"It has been my longtime dream to contribute back to my beloved state that has given me so much support and love throughout the years."

Referring to the timing of her appointment, she added: "It comes in a special time as I want to support Penang bounce back and stronger from the pandemic and showcase my beautiful hometown domestically and the world."



**ACE SUPPORT:** The Philippines' rising junior tennis player Alex Eala, 16, has been granted USD 25,000 under the International Tennis Federation's Grand Slam Player Development Programme. Alex is pictured at the Rafa Nadal Academy in Spain. (Photo: Alex Eala Facebook).

## MUMBAI TO HOST IOC SESSION IN MAY/JUNE 2023



Members of the Indian delegation make their presentation to the IOC Session (Photo: IOC/Greg Martin)

**T**he 139th IOC Session in Beijing on February 19 elected Mumbai, India to host the IOC Session in 2023 by 75 “yes” votes of the 76 valid votes cast. The venue will be the Jio World Centre in May/June 2023, but the exact dates have yet to be confirmed.

The IOC Session will go back to India 40 years after its 86th edition, which took place in New Delhi in 1983.

The IOC believes there is great potential in India, which is the world’s sixth largest economy and has a population of 1.3 billion people, 60 per cent of whom are under 35.

**IOC President Thomas Bach:** “We have chosen India because it is the second most populous nation in the world, with a very young population and a huge potential for Olympic sport. We want to encourage and support the NOC of India and all the National Federations to promote and strengthen Olympic sport in the country.”

**IOC Member Nita Ambani:** “Since we last had the honour of welcoming the Olympic family, we have made consistent strides and grown into a more prosperous, more self-confident India. I believe this is only the beginning. It is time to elevate our partnership with the Olympic Movement to greater heights.”

**Indian Olympic Association President Dr Narinder Batra:** “In recent years, India as a nation has embraced sports and fitness. There is a strong belief sports can provide fundamental shifts in our society. Amongst our first steps in showcasing new India’s sports capabilities to the world is our proposal to host the IOC Session in Mumbai 2023.”

**Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur:** “It is my firm belief that the Olympic Movement can help accelerate our vibrant nation in the right direction. Hosting the IOC Session in 2023 will demonstrate our ambition and elevate the potential of our partnership.”

 The year 2023 will be significant for India as it coincides with the 75th anniversary of its independence. Hosting the IOC Session in Mumbai will put the Olympic Movement at the heart of those celebrations.

## IOC AWARDS OLYMPIC CUP TO THE PEOPLE OF THE PRC

**T**he people of the People’s Republic of China have been awarded the Olympic Cup in recognition of their support for the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022.

Commenting on the award, IOC President Thomas Bach said: “Beijing 2022 could not have achieved this level of excellence without the support of the Chinese people. We all have experienced the support of the Chinese people, even from within our closed loop.”



He continued: “We could feel the warmth, the energy, the hospitality and the support. Chinese people from all walks of life, across all generations, from the cultural world, artists, scientists, engineers, school children and the thousands of volunteers, all welcomed the athletes and us very, very warmly. They were greatly committed to the success of these Games.”

## IOC SESSION CONFIRMS 28 SPORTS FOR LOS ANGELES 2028

The first part of the IOC Session in Beijing on February 3 confirmed 28 sports in the initial sports programme for the Los Angeles Olympic Games in 2028. Three other sports with governance issues must wait until 2023 to know their fate.

The 28 sports confirmed for LA 2028 include three youth-focused sports which were a big hit on their debut at Tokyo 2020, namely skateboarding, surfing and sport climbing. The International Federations governing the 28 sports are:



These youth-focused sports were a big hit at Tokyo 2020 and will remain in the programme for Los Angeles 2028.

Photo: Getty Images

- |                                                            |                                             |                                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| – World Athletics                                          | – International Golf Federation (IGF)       | – International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF)      |
| – World Rowing (FISA)                                      | – International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) | – International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF)    |
| – Badminton World Federation (BWF)                         | – International Handball Federation (IHF)   | – World Archery Federation (WA)                     |
| – International Basketball Federation (FIBA)               | – International Hockey Federation (FIH)     | – World Triathlon (TRI)                             |
| – International Canoe Federation (ICF)                     | – International Judo Federation (IJF)       | – World Sailing (WS)                                |
| – Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI)                      | – United World Wrestling (UWW)              | – International Volleyball Federation (FIVB)        |
| – International Equestrian Federation (FEI)                | – International Swimming Federation (FINA)  | – International Surfing Association (ISA)           |
| – International Fencing Federation (FIE)                   | – World Rugby                               | – World Skate (WSK)                                 |
| – Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) | – World Taekwondo (WT)                      | – International Federation of Sport Climbing (IFSC) |
|                                                            | – International Tennis Federation (ITF)     |                                                     |

**NOTE:** Boxing, weightlifting and modern pentathlon may potentially be included in the LA28 Initial Sports Programme by the IOC Session in 2023 if, by then, the respective IFs have demonstrated to the IOC's satisfaction that they have addressed the areas specified by the Executive Board on December 9, 2021.

## RYU RE-ELECTED VICE CHAIR OF IOC ATHLETES' COMMISSION

Athens 2004 Olympic table tennis champion and OCA Executive Board member Ryu Seung-min of Korea has been re-elected Vice Chair of the IOC Athletes' Commission. There are now 106 IOC Members, including 15 active athletes' representatives.

Meeting in Beijing on February 18, the IOC Athletes' Commission also re-elected Emma Terho (Finland, ice hockey) as Chair and elected Sarah Walker (New Zealand, cycling) as Second Vice Chair – a new position within the commission.

Ryu was elected to the IOC AC at Rio 2016 and then as Vice Chair at Tokyo 2020. He is Chair of the OCA Entourage Committee.

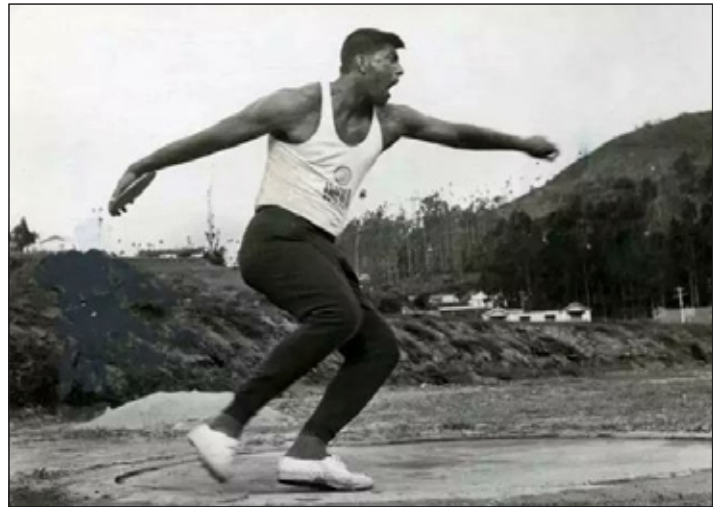
On the resumption of the IOC Session on February 19, the IOC elected five new members for an eight-year term: Yiech Pur Biel (Olympic refugee team athlete/manager), Independent Individual; Danko Barteková (Slovakia), Independent Individual; David Lappartient (France), President, Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI); Martin Fourcade (France), new IOC Athletes' Commission member; Frida Hansdotter (Sweden), new IOC Athletes' Commission (AC) member.



Emma Terho and Ryu Seung-min have been re-elected Chair and Vice Chair of the IOC Athletes' Commission. (Photo: IOC/Greg Martin)



**UMAR ZAHIR:** The Maldives Olympic Committee joined in mourning the loss of the state dignitary on December 20, 2021 aged 85. The MOC paid tribute to his dedication to sports development from his days as a school headmaster through to his role as Sports Minister. "The sporting community and the nation has lost a truly remarkable hero and human being," the MOC said.



**PRAVEEN KUMAR SOBTI:** The two-time Olympian (Mexico 1968 and Munich 1972) and four-time Asian Games medallist in discus and hammer throw died on Monday, February 7, aged 74. After his sports career he became a household name with his portrayal of Bheem in BR Chopra's television adaptation Mahabharat - one of India's ancient epics.



**SUBHAS BHOWMICK:** The Indian football legend and 1970 Asian Games bronze medallist died on January 22 at the age of 71. All India Football tweeted: "The dynamic man has played for Mohun Bagan and East Bengal and also represented the senior national team in 69 matches netting 50 times. A big loss for Indian football." The Sports Authority of India added: "His contribution towards the great legacy of Indian football as a player and coach will be forever remembered."

(Photo: SAI)



**POH LIP MENG:** The popular pistol shooter, who represented Singapore at multiple editions of the SEA Games, Commonwealth Games and Asian Games, died suddenly on December 22, 2021 aged 52. "He was an exemplary athlete. We've lost a fine role model," said the President of the Singapore National Olympic Council, Tan Chuan-Jin. The Singapore Shooting Association added: "The range will never be the same without him, but he leaves a legacy that will live on in our hearts."

(Photo: @singaporeshootingassociation)



**SHEIKH MOHAMMED BIN KHALID BIN HAMAD AL THANI:** Team Qatar and the Qatar Olympic Committee mourned the passing of the QOC's second President on January 10, 2022. He was one of the founding members of the QOC and served as President from 1991 to 1993. The current QOC President, HE Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani, said: "The Qatari Olympic and sports family lost one of its founding figures with the death of His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalid bin Hamad Al Thani, the former President of the Qatar Olympic Committee. May God have mercy." Sheikh Mohammed had also been president of the Qatar Football Association and Qatar Chess Federation. (Photo: @TeamQatar)



**FRANCOIS CARRARD:** The former Director General of the International Olympic Committee passed away on January 9, 2022 at the age of 83. A Doctor of Law from the University of Lausanne, he led the IOC administration from 1989 to 2003 and served IOC Presidents Juan Antonio Samaranch and Jacques Rogge during his 14-year term. Mr Carrard specialised in sports law before becoming the IOC's Director General and, with his legal background, played a crucial role supporting the IOC in driving its fundamental reforms in 1999 and 2000. "The IOC and Olympic Movement around the world benefited from his expertise and knowledge over many years," said the OCA Director General, Husain Al-Musallam. "His work and reforms will live on for decades." As FINA President, Captain Husain worked closely with Mr Carrard, who was Chair of the FINA Reform Committee. A series of far-reaching reforms to modernise the governance of aquatics sports were approved at the FINA Extraordinary Congress in Abu Dhabi on December 18, 2021. (Photo: IOC)



**CHARANJIT SINGH:** The captain of the Indian hockey team that won gold at the 1964 Tokyo Olympic Games died on January 27 at the age of 92. Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted: "Saddened by the passing away of noted hockey player Shri Charanjit Singh. He played a key role in the successes of the Indian Hockey Team, most notably in the Rome and Tokyo Olympics in the 1960s. Condolences to his family and friends. Om Shanti."

(Photo: Sports Authority of India)



**DATO' M. KUPPAN:** The Olympic Council of Malaysia announced the passing of the former football star and coach from Penang on December 30, 2021 at the age of 85. Known as "Harimau Bintang" (Black Panther), he played for the national team from 1958 to 1965 and was part of the team that won the gold medal at the 2nd South East Asia Peninsula Games in Burma in 1961.

(Photo: @Olympic.Council.Malaysia)

## News in Brief

### IOC rewards athletes' commissions

A total of 70 NOC Athletes' Commissions each received USD 10,000 financial support through the Olympic Solidarity NOC AC Activity Grants in 2021 for an available total amount of USD 700,000.

In Asia, the IOC highlighted Bhutan NOC for holding an Athletes' Forum to discuss athlete-related opportunities, issues and challenges. One issue identified as a priority was physiotherapy and the enhancement of athlete performance through injury prevention. ([www.ioc.org](http://www.ioc.org))

### FINA announces Budapest 2022 prize money

The FINA Bureau has approved the qualification procedure, prize money and awards for the 19th FINA World Championships in Budapest, Hungary from June 18 to July 3, 2022.

The qualification procedure will follow the pathway for the postponed world championships in Fukuoka, Japan with an extended deadline of May 15.

There will be an overall prize pool of USD 5.72 million and a bonus of USD 50,000 for any new world record set in individual swimming events - the highest award amount ever for a FINA World Championships. ([www.fina.org](http://www.fina.org))

### UIPM honour for Singapore

The International Union of Modern Pentathlon (UIPM) has revealed the composition of all commissions and committees for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games cycle. As part of its ongoing commitment to gender equality, the UIPM has launched a new Women's Commission, chaired by Cassandra Choh of Singapore. The other members include Kseniya Gulyamova of Uzbekistan.

### Chengdu TT dates finalised

The International Table Tennis Group, the Chinese Table Tennis Association and the city of Chengdu confirmed the dates of the 2022 World Team Table Tennis Championships Finals on January 17. The event will take place from Sunday, April 17 to Tuesday, April 26, 2022. This will be the first time that Chengdu hosts a World Table Tennis Championships event, and marks the first time since 2008 that China is playing host to a team championships event. ([www.ioc.org](http://www.ioc.org))

### Oman joins Asia Rugby

The Oman Rugby Committee has become an associate member of Asia Rugby. Rugby history in Oman goes back more than 49 years, and Muscat Rugby Club is an integral part of rugby competitions in the Gulf region. There are now 35 national rugby unions in the continental governing body. ([www.asiarugby.com](http://www.asiarugby.com))

19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022 Prestige Partner



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## Badminton's a smash on social media

The Badminton World Federation celebrated a one-place rise in the International Federation social media rankings for 2021 published by Burson Cohn & Wolfe Sports.

Overall, BWF is in sixth place among Olympic sports at 5.1 million, behind FIFA (41 million), FIBA (13.9 million), Volleyball World (9.2 million), World Athletics (8.1 million) and World Rugby (6.5 million).

BWF moves up one place from 2020 and has the third highest growth rate among the top 10 Olympic IFs at 65 per cent.

(<https://bwfbadminton.com>)

## Tokyo to host golden athletics meet

World Athletics has announced the Gold level meetings in the 2022 World Athletics Continental Tour.

The nine-stop tour will begin in Kenya on May 7 and conclude in Croatia on September 11. The lone Asian leg is Tokyo for the Seiko Golden Grand Prix on May 8.

The 2022 calendar includes nine Gold level meetings – as the top tier of the world's best one-day competitions outside the Wanda Diamond League – plus 25 Silver, 50 Bronze and 50 Challenger meetings.

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

## Paris 2024 plans opening ceremony for 600,000 spectators

The Board of Directors of the Organising Committee for the Olympic Games Paris 2024 has approved the unprecedented location and concept for the Opening Ceremony.

For the first time, the ceremony will take place not in a stadium but right in the heart of Paris, with a 6km procession along the River Seine for an audience of 600,000 spectators – 10 times more than the capacity of a stadium. ([www.ioc.org](http://www.ioc.org))

## ANOC meets with KSOC

ANOC Secretary General Gunilla Lindberg met with Korean Sports & Olympic Committee (KSOC) President Lee Kee Heung on the sidelines of the Beijing Winter Olympics to discuss preparations for the ANOC General Assembly in Seoul in October.

During the meeting, various matters related to the General Assembly and ANOC Awards were discussed and the KSOC reiterated their strong commitment to hosting an excellent event. ([www.anocolympic.org](http://www.anocolympic.org))

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# 长龙行 亚运情

## FLY LOONGAIR FOR AMAZING ASIAN GAMES





March 10 – 20, 2022  
**Saudi Games 2022**,  
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia



April 17 – 26, 2022  
**ITTF World Team Table Tennis Championships**,  
Chengdu, China



May 8, 2022  
**World Athletics Seiko Golden Grand Prix**,  
Tokyo, Japan



May 11 – 21, 2022  
**3rd GCC Gulf Sports Games**,  
Kuwait



May 12 – 23, 2022  
**31st Southeast Asian (SEA) Games**,  
Hanoi, Vietnam



May 23 – May 27, 2022  
**IOC 2nd Coordination Commission meeting for  
2024 Winter Youth Olympic Games**,  
Gangwon, Korea



June 18 – July 3, 2022  
**19th FINA World Championships**  
Budapest, Hungary



July 15 – 24, 2022  
**World Athletics Championships**,  
Oregon, United States



July 28 – August 8, 2022  
**Commonwealth Games**,  
Birmingham, England



September 10 – 25, 2022  
**19th Asian Games**,  
Hangzhou, China



October 18, 2022  
**ANOC Executive Council**,  
Seoul, Korea



October 19 – 20, 2022  
**ANOC XXVI General Assembly/Awards**,  
Seoul, Korea



November 21 – December 18, 2022  
**FIFA World Cup**,  
Qatar 2022



December 20 – 28, 2022  
**3rd Asian Youth Games**,  
Shantou, China

19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022 Prestige Partner



杭州2022年第19届亚运会官方合作伙伴  
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Security @ Future  
Cyber Golden Shield escorts Smart Asian Games





May 5 – 16, 2023  
**32nd Southeast Asian (SEA) Games,**  
Phnom Penh, Cambodia



July 14 – 30, 2023  
**20th FINA World Championships,**  
Fukuoka, Japan



August 2 – 11, 2023  
**FINA World Masters Championships,**  
Kyushu, Japan



November 17 – 23, 2023  
**6th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games,**  
Bangkok/Chonburi, Thailand



January 19 – February 1, 2024  
**Winter Youth Olympic Games,**  
Gangwon, Korea



July 26 – August 12, 2024  
**Olympic Games,**  
Paris, France



Dates to be finalised: 2025  
**4th Asian Youth Games,**  
Tashkent, Uzbekistan



Dates to be finalised: 2025  
**7th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games,**  
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia



February 6 – 22, 2026  
**Olympic Winter Games,**  
Milano Cortina, Italy



September 19 – October 4, 2026  
**20th Asian Games,**  
Aichi-Nagoya, Japan



Dates to be finalised: 2030  
**21st Asian Games,**  
Doha, Qatar



Dates to be finalised: 2034  
**22nd Asian Games,**  
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

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Huang Yungeng

Data source: China Patent Protection Association, "exposure of global authorized patents in blockchain field in 2020", the intellectual property industry media IPRedaily and the intellectual innovation index research center jointly released the "global blockchain trademark patents ranking list (top 100) in 2019".  
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