



SPORTING ASIA

Official Newsletter of the Olympic Council of Asia

Edition 60 - March 2023

HANGZHOU – HERE WE GO!

ASIAN GAMES FUN RUN HEADS AROUND THE CONTINENT



OCA Development Programme in Uzbekistan
OCA Youth Reporter Project in Kuwait
OCA Regional Forum in Saudi Arabia
OCA Coordination Committee in Thailand



OLYMPIC COUNCIL OF ASIA

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Acting President's Message

SPORTING ASIA

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Front Cover:

The Asian Games Fun Run comes to Kuwait. (OCA)



ASIAN GAMES YEAR IS FINALLY HERE IN 2023

Welcome to the 60th edition of our OCA newsletter Sporting Asia – and the first publication of what promises to be a busy 2023 for our National Olympic Committees, games organising committees and athletes.

After the decision, last May, to postpone the 19th Asian Games, we are finally at the start of another Asian Games year, with all eyes firmly focused on Hangzhou, China and the new dates of September 23 to October 8, 2023.

By the time the 19th Asian Games open, it will have been five years since the previous Asian Games in Jakarta and Palembang, Indonesia – an unprecedented gap in our proud, unbroken sequence going back to 1951.

With full systems go for the organising committee, the OCA and our 45 NOCs, the coming weeks and months will fly by and the 19th Asian Games will be here quicker than we could imagine. I am sure it will be a cause for celebration and excellent athletic performances with the Paris 2024 Olympic Games less than a year after Hangzhou.

The OCA's second major event of 2023 will be the 6th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games in Bangkok and Chonburi province from November 17-26. Our Coordination Committee conducted their first meeting and venue tours for the AIMAG in Thailand

last November and the reports and pictures can be found in Sporting Asia.

The events and activities of our NOCs are also well documented in the following pages, while the OCA Development Programme for Coaches and Referees in Uzbekistan, the OCA Youth Reporter Project in Kuwait and the Olympic Solidarity/OCA Regional Forum in Saudi Arabia also feature prominently.

As the sporting world catches up with events after the pandemic, we appreciate that our NOCs will be extremely busy this year preparing not only for our two OCA games but for other regional events and, of course, Paris 2024 qualification.

The OCA, as ever, will offer all support to our NOCs and our games organising committees to keep everything running smoothly.

Wishing you all a happy and successful 2023!

Raja Randhir Singh
Acting President,
Olympic Council of Asia

OMAN Olympic Committee, represented by the Oman Sports and Active Society Committee, organised Olympic Day 2022 activities in Sur in cooperation with the Department of Culture, Sports and Youth on December 23. Activities included walking, beach soccer, beach volleyball, cycling and kayak. (www.ooc.om)



SAUDI Olympic and Paralympic Committee President HRH Prince Abdulaziz bin Turki Al-Faisal hosted a number of leading international football officials and Olympic dignitaries at Saudi House on Doha Corniche on December 17 during the FIFA World Cup in Qatar.

(Saudi Press Agency)



LEBANESE Olympic Committee President Pierre Jalkh felicitated members of the men's basketball team on January 16 for qualifying for the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2023 for the first time since 2010.

(Lebanese Olympic Committee)



YEMEN Olympic Committee Secretary General Mohamed Abdullah Al-Ahjri held a send-off ceremony on December 18 for the women's archery team heading for the Asia Cup tournament in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, where Paris 2024 Olympic quota places were on offer.

(@yemnoc)





JORDAN Olympic Committee Secretary General Nasser Majali has been appointed Secretary General of the Islamic Solidarity Sports Federation, which is headed by HRH Prince Abdulaziz bin Turki Al-Faisal, President of the Saudi Olympic and Paralympic Committee. (JOC)



UAE Women's Sports Federation organised a women's sports summit with the aim of overseeing a better future for women's sport in the Emirates, in cooperation with women's sports associations. Several topics were discussed, including the role of NOCs and the media. (@uaenoc)



SYRIA NOC President Feras Mouala (right) welcomed Lebanese Olympic Committee Deputy President Sami Kiblawi in Damascus for discussions over sports exchange and cooperation. (Lebanese Olympic Committee)



PALESTINE Olympic Committee reports that the Olympic Medical Centre at the Joseph Blatter Academy conducted nutritional tests for the national under 20 women's football team. Weight and BMI were monitored and nutritional advice was provided for each player. (POC)



BAHRAIN Olympic Committee President His Highness Sheikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa attended the closing ceremony of the second Khalid bin Hamad Chess Championship for Bahrain Schools (2022-23). The Ministry of Education organised the competition in cooperation with the General Sports Authority, Bahrain Mind Sports Association and Bahrain Chess Club. 5,000 students from public and private schools competed in the qualifying phase, with 400 advancing to the final stage. (BOC)

IRAQ NOC President Raad Hammoudi stressed that the National Olympic Committee was always keen to support its member sports associations as the Iraqi Tennis Federation signed a contract with Egyptian coach Mohamed Othman Zaki to train the national team.

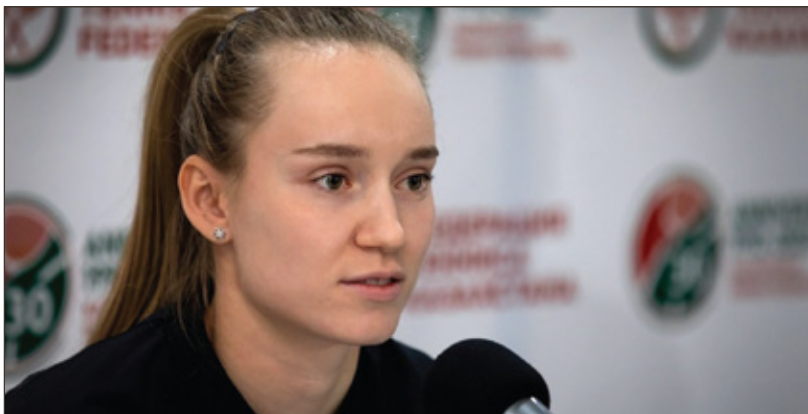
(@nociraq)



QATAR Olympic Academy is conducting the 13th Advanced Sport Management Course for 20 trainees at the QOA HQ under the supervision of the IOC. The course consists of seven chapters and will run from January to September.

(QOC)

TAJIKISTAN NOC conducted a seminar under the OCA's "Social Development Through Olympism and Education" Olympic Solidarity continental programme from November 28 to December 8. The seminar, which was run by the Athletes' Committee of Tajikistan NOC, was attended by 18 female taekwondo athletes. The Athletes' Committee is headed by London Olympic boxing bronze medalist Mavzuna Choriyeva. (olympic.tj)



KAZAKHSTAN NOC welcomed 2022 Wimbledon women's singles tennis champion Yelena Rybakina to Almaty at the end of a long and successful season. In a special interview with Olympic.kz, Yelena said: "I am glad to be here, to communicate with you and to have the opportunity to conduct a small master class for our young tennis players. Winning Wimbledon is a dream that came true. I have three Grand Slams left to win, which is in my plans. These are my goals. I will try." (Olympic.kz)



KYRGYZ Republic NOC was represented at the Olympic Solidarity/OCA Regional Forum in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in December by Project Manager Ainura Temiraliyeva, who said the forum enabled the NOCs to exchange information and experiences and enhanced networking, especially among her fellow Central Asia delegates. (OCA)



IRAN NOC President Mahmoud Khosravi Vafa says the team heading for the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China this September will focus on quality rather than quantity. "Iran will compete at the Asian Games with a smaller delegation than in 2018 but with athletes who have more chance of winning medals," Khosravi Vafa told the Tehran Times. Iran fielded 378 athletes at Jakarta-Palembang 2018 and finished sixth with 20 gold medals, 20 silver and 22 bronze. (Tehran Times)



JUDO world champion Muzaffarbek Turoboyev and taekwondo world champion Svetlana Osipova (pictured) were crowned Male and Female Athlete of the Year, respectively, at the Uzbekistan National Sports Awards 2022. The ceremony was opened by the Minister of Sports Development, Adham Ikramov. (olympic.uz)



SRI Lanka NOC President Suresh Subramaniam took part in the awards ceremony of the 8th Advanced Sport Management Course (2021-2022) at the Hemasiri Fernando Auditorium on December 16. Nineteen candidates from various sports associations and institutions received a Diploma in Management of Olympic Sport Organisations.

(@Olympic.LK)

Maldives Olympic Committee, in collaboration with respective Organizing Committees of the specific Games, announces the schedule of the Games for the year 2023.

- Commonwealth Youth Games**
(Age category: 14 – 18 Years)
at Trinidad & Tobago,
4 – 11 August 2023
- ANOC World Beach Games**
at Bali, Indonesia,
5 – 12 August 2023
- Indian Ocean Island Games**
at Madagascar,
25 August – 3 September
- Asian Games**
at Hangzhou, China,
23 September – 8 October 2023
- Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games**
at Bangkok and Chonburi,
Thailand, 17 – 26 November 2023



NEPAL Olympic Committee President Jeevan Ram Shrestha, Secretary General Nilendra Raj Shrestha and Vice President Chaturananda Rajvaidya held a send-off ceremony for 10m air rifle shooter Sushmita Nepal and her coach Pradeep Khati ahead of the ISSF World Cup in Jakarta, Indonesia.

(Nepal Olympic Committee)

MALDIVES Olympic Committee announced on December 23 that their athletes will compete in five major multi-sport events in 2023, including the OCA double of 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China and the 6th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games in Bangkok and Chonburi province, Thailand.

(MOC)



INDIAN Olympic Association's recently-elected President, track legend PT Usha, posted a personal message on social media to mark Republic Day. "Our unity in diversity strengthens us. Wishing all my fellow Indians a very Happy Republic Day. Jai Hind." (PT Usha Facebook)



BANGLADESH: The Sheikh Kamal 2nd Bangladesh Youth Games 2023 for boys and girls aged under 17 are underway and will take place in three phases, with more than 50,000 athletes joining 24 sports. (Bangladesh Observer)



BHUTAN Olympic Committee President HRH Prince Jigyel Ugyen Wangchuck graced the groundbreaking ceremony of the new Taekwondo Federation Iconic Building as part of the “Youth Development Project in Bhutan through Sports, Health and Value Education” initiative. The project, with a budget of USD 6.8 million, is funded by the Korean International Cooperation Agency.

(Bhutan Olympic Committee)



PAKISTAN Olympic Association President Lt. Gen (R) Syed Arif Hasan welcomed the Urdu version of the IOC Olympic Solidarity Sports Administration Manual at a ceremony in Lahore on January 11 and said the new manual would help to promote the Olympic movement and participation in sport at all levels, especially among the youth. (@NOCPak)



CAMBODIA NOC Secretary General Vath Chamroeun informed the local media that Cambodia was building a sports village to the standard of the Olympic Games, starting with the 32nd SEA Games in May. His comments came during a tour of the village, which will provide 6,100 beds for athletes and team officials. (Cambodia 2023)



INDONESIAN Olympic Committee President Raja Sapta Oktohari held a send-off ceremony for the seven boxers heading for the IBA World Boxing Tour (WBT) Golden Belt Series in Marrakech, Morocco. Team Indonesia comprised five male and two female boxers, plus a Cuban coach.

(nocindonesia.id)



LAOS NOC organised a Sport Administrators Course in Khammouan province over five days last October. The course attracted over 20 students and they all received a diploma on completion of the programme.

(NOCL)



THAILAND Olympic Academy, together with the Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT), organised the Advanced Sport Management Course from December 19-23 in Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya Province. The course was attended by executive members of provincial sports associations and was held under the guidance of TOA Director and NOCT Vice President Assoc. Prof. Dr. Supitr Samahito. (NOCT)

SINGAPORE National Olympic Council announced that Loh Kean Yew (badminton) and Yu Mengyu (table tennis) were named Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year, respectively, for 2022 at the Singapore Sports Awards at Marina Bay Sands. Other awards included: Sportsboy of the Year, Maximilian Maeder (sailing); Sportsgirl of the Year, Ser Lin Qian (table tennis).

(SNOC)



PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee President Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino has announced that his country's elite athletes will set up a training base in the city of Metz for two months prior to the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

(POC)



OLYMPIC Council of Malaysia Vice President Datuk Hamidin Mohd Amin won the Sports Icon Award (Leadership) from the Harian Metro daily newspaper. The Football Association of Malaysia President has been involved in football for almost 30 years. (@Olympic.Council.Malaysia)



VIETNAM will be pinning their table tennis hopes on reigning SEA Games champion Nguyen Duc Tuan in 2023. "I had an amazing 2022. I have been in intensive training in preparation for important tasks in 2023, among them the 32nd SEA Games in Cambodia in May and the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou," said Tuan. (VNS)



CHINESE Taipei Olympic Committee President Hong-Dow Lin and the Deputy Minister of Education, Teng-Jiao Lin, attended the opening ceremony of the 45th Session of the Chinese Taipei Olympic Academy. The conference ran for four days and students made presentations on the final day, November 6, in front of an audience which included Che-Hung Lin, Deputy Director General of Sports Administration at the Ministry of Education. (tpenoc.net)



TIMOTHY Fok was re-elected unopposed as President of the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China at the AGM on December 14. The other seven officers elected unopposed were: Vice Presidents (4): Dr. Karl Kwok, Dr. Brian Stevenson, Tong Wai Lun, Ronnie Wong; Hon. Secretary General, Edgar Yang; Hon. Deputy Secretary General, Wong Po Kee; Hon. Treasurer, Derrick Wong. The four-year terms will run to 2026.

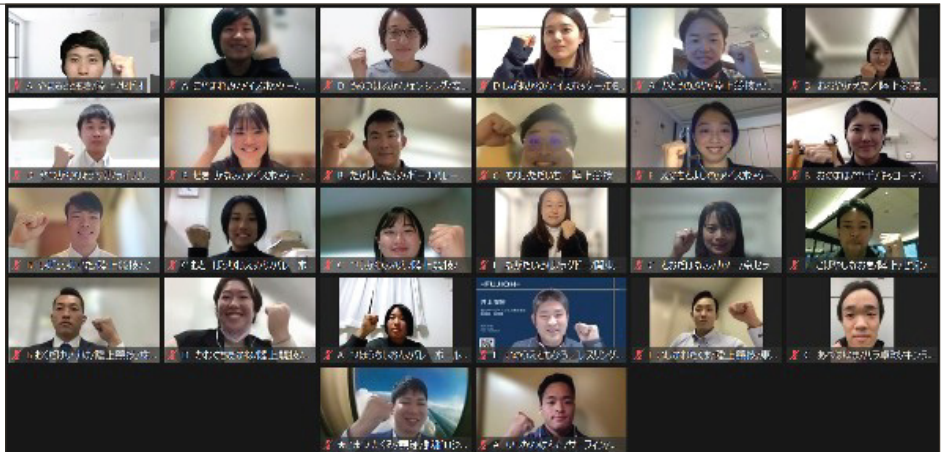


MONGOLIA NOC held the Burte Chono Awards 2022 at the newly opened Chinggis Khan Museum. More than 200 athletes and representatives of national federations and regional Olympic councils took part. IOC Member Battushig Batbold officially opened the awards ceremony. The top award went to judoka Tsend-Ochir Tsogtbaatar, world champion in Tashkent at -73kg.

(Mongolia NOC).

JAPAN NOC held the 10th Athnavi Athlete Workshop online – an initiative that navigates athletes into the workforce while still allowing them to train and compete, with the support of the corporate world. Since 2010, 216 companies/organisations have hired 359 athletes through the JOC’s free “Athnavi” programme.

(JOC)



MACAU will co-host the 15th National Games of China along with Guangdong province and Hong Kong in 2025. The Macau Organising Committee held the launch ceremony for the recruitment of 10,000 volunteers aged 16 and above on February 10 at the Macau Science Center Auditorium.



CHINESE Olympic Committee President Gao Zhidan was welcomed at Olympic House by IOC President Thomas Bach. They discussed a number of Olympic topics, including the success and legacy of the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022 and Chinese athletes’ preparations for the next Olympic Games, as well as the international situation. (IOC/Greg Martin)



KOREAN Sport and Olympic Committee celebrated a successful participation in the FISU Winter Universiade 2023 at Lake Placid from January 12-22. Korea finished second in the medal rankings with 12 gold, eight silver and nine bronze, behind only Japan (21-17-10). (@KoreaOlympic)

ALL SYSTEMS GO FOR 19TH ASIAN GAMES

After three years of pandemic problems from 2020 through to 2022, the Hangzhou Asian Games Organising Committee (HAGOC) is ready for lift-off.

As the new year began – an Asian Games year following the postponement in 2022 – all the signs were pointing to a back-to-business build-up for HAGOC, OCA, National Olympic Committees and the Asian and International Federations involved in the 19th Asian Games from September 23 to October 8.

HAGOC officials informed the NOCs at the Olympic Solidarity/OCA regional forums in Riyadh last December that they were confident of a “truly open” Asian Games now that restrictions had been lifted and life was returning to normal across China.

The first sign of this was that the OCA Coordination Committee will visit Hangzhou for the first time since 2019, with the schedule fixed for March 15-16. This will involve a venue tour on the first day, Wednesday, followed by the meeting on the Thursday.

In other news, HAGOC informed the OCA that NOCs can visit Hangzhou from February 15 to April 10, and that the Chef de



The Lantern Festival lights up the main stadium in Hangzhou. (HAGOC)

Mission Seminar would be held in the last week of April. HAGOC said the NOCs would receive the CDM Manual in good time for the seminar.

In a circular dated January 29, the OCA Acting President Raja Randhir Singh assured the NOCs: “Preparations are in full swing for the successful organisation of the Asian Games in Hangzhou.”

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 Games Hangzhou 2022



A FUTURE WITH INFINITE POSSIBILITIES

NOCS GIVEN TWO-MONTH WINDOW TO VISIT HANGZHOU

Asia's 45 National Olympic Committees will finally have the opportunity to visit Hangzhou city in Zhejiang province and check out the most important aspects of the 19th Asian Games.

Organising committee HAGOC will welcome NOC visits from February 15 through to April 10, enabling delegates to collect as much information as possible before the Chef de Mission Seminar at the end of April.

On the official booking form sent to NOCs, HAGOC informed the Olympic Committees that domestic transfers within China had been allowed since January 8 after China lifted pandemic-related travel restrictions.

They also suggested a typical itinerary for an NOC visit over three days, starting with an opening briefing followed by a venue tour including the Athletes Village, the "Big Lotus" Main Stadium for the opening and closing ceremony, the HQ hotel and the Main Media Centre incorporating the Main Press Centre and International Broadcast Centre.

The second day will focus on the stadiums, and HAGOC has provided a detailed list of competition

venues to host the 61 disciplines of 40 sports and the distance from the Athletes' Village.

On the morning of day three, NOCs will be able to meet one-on-one with the various functional areas of the organising committee to address specific issues, while the final afternoon will offer a city tour to take in tourist attractions such as the West Lake UNESCO World Heritage site. (Photo: HAGOC)



Yang Meng of HAGOC meets with Philippine Olympic Committee Deputy Secretary General Valeriano "Bones" Floro II during the regional forum in Riyadh.

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, CAOCAO, 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
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UIPM ANNOUNCES FIVE QUOTA PLACES FOR PARIS 2024

The International Modern Pentathlon Union (UIPM) has allocated five quota places per gender for Paris 2024 at Hangzhou. The 19th Asian Games will be part of the worldwide qualifying process for the next Olympic Games, where 72 modern pentathlon athletes (36 women and 36 men) will compete.

The top five athletes in the women's and men's events at Hangzhou will earn a quota place for Paris 2024, with no more than one place for each National Olympic Committee, followed by the next highest-placed competitors.



Korea competes at the UIPM 2022 Pentathlon World Cup in Ankara. (UIPM World Pentathlon/Nuno Gonçalves)

UIPM released the competition dates for 2023 last December as modern pentathlon begins another Olympic qualification journey.

While the sport is undergoing a long-term transition with the adoption of obstacle, most senior athletes remain focused on the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, which will be the last to include riding.

In 2023 there will be additional opportunities for athletes to earn points towards the UIPM Olympic Pentathlon World Ranking List, including the Open Cup of Central Asia/Open Championship of Kyrgyzstan in Bishkek from June 14-18.

The modern pentathlon competition at the 19th Asian Games will take place at the Fuyang Yinhu Sports Centre. There will be three days of preliminary rounds from September 20-22, and the four gold medals will be decided on September 24 – the day after the opening ceremony.

19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022 Prestige Partner

2022

19TH ASIAN GAMES HANGZHOU 2022



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热爱造未来

MEDIA AND BROADCAST PLANS TAKE SHAPE AT ICONIC EXPO CENTRE

The local and international media play a huge part in the success of the Asian Games, and there is no doubt they will be well looked after in Hangzhou.

The Main Media Centre is located in the Hangzhou International Expo Centre, close to the “Big Lotus” main stadium, the new aquatics centre and gymnasium and the “Little Lotus” tennis stadium.

The MMC covers an area of almost 50,000 sq metres, including four exhibition halls and their lobbies on the ground floor and a dining area and volunteer centre on basement level one.

Rights-holding broadcasters will be in Exhibition Hall B; the Main Press Centre will be in Hall C and the International Broadcast Centre in Hall D. The host broadcaster is China Media Group.

Yang Meng, Deputy Director of the HAGOC Public Relations Department, announced that the MMC would be open for equipment installation from August 15 to September 8, and that pre-Games trials operations would run from September 9-17. The MMC will be fully functional from September

18, five days before the opening ceremony.

The second World Press Briefing and second World Broadcasters Meeting are due to be held in June.

“During the meeting, the progress made in preparations for the Games, broadcast services and RHB (rights-holding broadcasters) policies will be presented,” said Yang.



The Hangzhou International Expo Centre covers a total floor area of 850,000 sq metres and hosted the G20 Summit in 2016. (hiechangzhou.com)

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Official Prestige Insurance Services Partner of 19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022

杭州2022年第19届亚运会
官方保险服务合作伙伴



OCA INVITES DIGITAL TORCHBEARERS TO JOIN ASIAD CELEBRATIONS

The Director General of the Olympic Council of Asia, Husain Al Musallam, invited sports fans around the world to become an Asian Games digital torchbearer.

In a video message on the 300-day countdown to Hangzhou 2022, Mr Al Musallam described the digital torchbearer initiative as a “pioneering” moment in the history of the Asian Games.

“On behalf of the Olympic Council of Asia I would like to express my sincere thanks and pay tribute to everyone who has contributed to our Games preparation,” he said in his message on November 27.

“This is the first ever online torchbearer in the history of the Asian Games – a remarkable achievement for Hangzhou in its efforts to host a ‘smart’ Asian Games.

“Now it gives me great pleasure to invite people around the world to take part in the Asian Games digital torchbearer activity and blaze across Asia all the way to the Games.”

The HAGOC graphic for the digital torchbearer activity.

(Photo: www.hangzhou2022.cn)

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.

HAGOC TAKES SMART APP OVERSEAS FOR FIRST TIME

The Hangzhou Asian Games Organising Committee introduced its smart application overseas for the first time, in Singapore last November.

The one-stop digital platform known as "Smart Hangzhou 2022" made its overseas debut at the Singapore FinTech Festival and attracted many international observers.

"During the Hangzhou Asian Games, the platform can provide the one-stop solution to meet the needs of multiple scenarios such as food, accommodation, travel, tourism, shopping and entertainment," HAGOC said.

One local Singaporean customer, who had visited Hangzhou as a tourist, described Smart Hangzhou 2022 as "comprehensive, intelligent and innovative", while others who had never been to Hangzhou appreciated the services and information available.

"Like Chinese users, they can enjoy convenient mobile payment and local digital

services to fully feel the beauty of Smart Hangzhou 2022 with a mobile phone," HAGOC added.

Another feature was the digital eternal flame as well as the mobile payment experience and countdown clock.



Hangzhou's smart app presentation in Singapore. (hangzhou2022.cn)

19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022 Prestige Partner



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安全@未来 网络金盾护航智能亚运
Security @ Future
Cyber Golden Shield escorts Smart Asian Games



OCA Development Programme



Canadian boxing instructor Gordon Apolloni pulls no punches.



Uzbekistan Sports Minister Adham Ikramov receives a souvenir gift from the OCA's Wissam Trkmani.



Iranian judo representatives Toktam Bidel (coach) and Fereshtek Ghanbarpour (referee).

OCA COMPLETES DEVELOPMENT COACHES,

The Olympic Council of Asia moved to Tashkent, Uzbekistan for the second stage of its ambitious and ground-breaking Development Programme for Coaches and Referees following the success of the first stage in Kuwait.

The second stage took place from November 3-7 and involved coaches and refs from 12 National Olympic Committees in Central Asia and South Asia in five sports: swimming, judo, boxing, weightlifting and wrestling.

There were 10 different programmes on offer and the second stage attracted 220 participants – figures that delighted Tony Tarraf, Head of the OCA Athletes Development Department and Special Projects.



"We are happy to say again that it was a great success, and this goes back to the organisation and definitely to the support of the National Olympic Committee of Uzbekistan. They did everything they can," Tony said.

"There was positive feedback from all the instructors, especially when they talk about the uniqueness of this programme.

"Why the uniqueness? Because this is the only development programme that combines both the coaches and the referees together.

"I had a lot of discussion with the judo instructor from IJF, with swimming from FINA, with boxing, with weightlifting and wrestling, and they said this is unique because it is important to combine coaches and

SECOND STAGE OF PROGRAMME FOR REFEREES

referees together because they need to understand together each, his or her, role, understand the rules or the updates.

“This is how we will be able to advance sports and performance, especially in Asia. The feedback was great.”

With three of the five zones in the OCA having benefited from the first two stages of the development programme, this leaves South East Asia and East Asia to join the third stage, which is expected to take place in the first quarter of 2023.

But the OCA is looking even beyond that to establish a sustainable development programme, and discussions have already taken place with targeted International Federations and internally in the OCA.

“The success should continue, a sustainability plan should be in place and this is how we develop sports,” Tony concluded.

The Secretary General of Uzbekistan NOC, Oybek Kasimov, said Tashkent was eager to host this course because they appreciated that the knowledge of the coaches and referees was very important for the future development of sport in each participating country.

“Of course, it was a very good opportunity for Uzbekistan to host this very prestigious programme,” he said.

“In the future we are very happy to host the biggest events, together with OCA. I would like to thank the professionalism of the OCA in helping us to host this event at a very high level.”



Boxing coach Akyikat Abaev of Kyrgyzstan.



Participants take a group photo.



Weightlifting delegates snatch a moment together.

Asian Games Fun Run



Uzbekistan

Date: November 5, 2022

Place: Olympic and Paralympic Reserves College, Tashkent

Participants: 500

Fun Run Facts: 500m, 1km and 5km runs.

Special guest: Deputy Minister, Ministry of Sport, Shakhriillo Makhmudov.



Thailand

Date: November 13, 2022

Place: Rajamangala National Stadium, Bangkok

Participants: 800

Fun Run Facts: The 5km fun run was followed by a press conference with the OCA Director General, Husain Al Musallam, OCA Vice President for the 6th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games Dato Seri Chaiyapak Siriwat and the Governor of the Sports Authority of Thailand, Dr. Gongsak Yodmani.



Asian Games Fun Run

Kuwait



Date: November 28, 2022

Place: Kuwait Olympic Committee HQ, Jaber Al Ahmad City.

Participants: 200

Fun Run Facts: Five schools - Future School, AMSB Indian School, Ajial Bilingual School, Kuwait School and the British School of Kuwait - sent 200 students for a morning of fun and festivities, which included a mass warm-up exercise and mini sports games.

Special guest: Chinese Ambassador to Kuwait, Zhang Jianwei.



Saudi Arabia

Date: December 5, 2022

Place: Prince Faisal bin Fahd Olympic Complex, Riyadh.

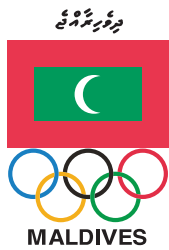
Participants: 100

Fun Run Facts: Executives and staff from the OCA, HAGOC and NOCs attending the regional forum were joined by representatives of Hangzhou Asian Games sponsors Hikvision and the Chinese Business Association in Saudi. The Saudi Olympic and Paralympic Committee was represented by Abdulaziz Al Baqous, Executive Director for Marketing and Communications.



Asian Games Fun Run

Maldives



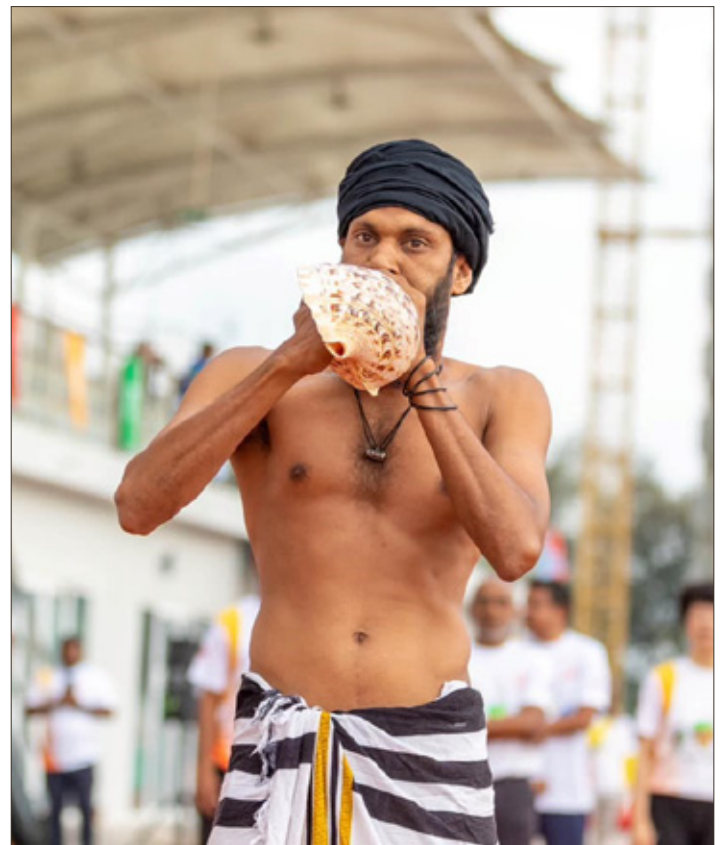
Date: February 4, 2023

Place: Hulhumale Synthetic Athletics Track, Male

Participants: 700

Fun Run Facts: The runners came from 22 schools, 8 national sports associations and local Chinese businesses.

Special guests: Mohamed Abdul Sattar, President, Maldives Olympic Committee, and Wang Lixin, China's Ambassador to the Maldives. The festivities began with the "Sangu" – the local name for the conch shell used by island chiefs to call the people for a special occasion.



Sri Lanka

Date: February 7

Place: Port City, Colombo

Participants: 700

Fun Run Facts: The ancient Sinhalese martial art of Angampora lit up the fun-filled, action-packed celebrations at the China-built Port City on the shores of Colombo. 300 students from five Colombo schools took part in a 2km fun run and this was followed by jet ski, taekwondo, shooting, volleyball, dragon boat racing and a sports quiz. The three branches of the Armed Forces all joined in the festivities.

Chief guest: Chen Xiangyuan, Counsellor of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China



OCA WELCOMES BACK POPULAR REGIONAL FORUM

The Olympic Solidarity/OCA Regional Forum made a welcome return to the calendar when 42 National Olympic Committees gathered in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia over four days from December 4-7.

NOCs from West, Central and South Asia joined the first two days of the forum on December 4-5 before the NOCs from South East Asia and East Asia moved in for the second phase to conclude the mission.

The Director of the OCA Asian Games Department, Haider Farman, summed up the general mood of the four-day forum.

"I think everyone has been happy to be back and involved in our regional forum," he said.

"Nothing compares to meeting face to face and exchanging ideas and information with all our NOC representatives. Everyone has benefited."

- The OS team was led by Edward Kensington, Head of the Olympic Games Universality Unit, Continental Manager for Asia, while the IOC conducted a detailed workshop on NOC management and operations in the build-up to Paris 2024, with best practice examples from several NOCs.

- The Saudi Olympic and Paralympic Committee was represented by Abdulaziz Al Baqous, Executive Director for Marketing and Communications.

- The OCA's Head of Athletes Development Department and Special Projects, Tony Tarraf, introduced the OS continental programme and challenged the NOCs to apply for more funding in 2023, while also promising more projects.



Haider Farman and Edward Kensington introduce the forum.



Delegates from Cambodia and Myanmar listen in.



Abdulaziz Al Baqous welcomes delegates to Riyadh.

NOCS FACE BUSY YEAR OF DEADLINES ON THREE FRONTS

One of the most important aspects of the OS/OCA Regional Forum is to provide the National Olympic Committees with updates and progress reports on the international multi-sport games coming up on the horizon.

The four-day forum in Riyadh was no exception, as NOC delegates were briefed on no fewer than three major games:

- * 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China from September 23 to October 8, 2023
- * 6th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games (AIMAG) in Bangkok and Chonburi province, Thailand from November 17-26, 2023
- * Paris Olympic Games from July 26 to August 11, 2024.

Hangzhou Asian Games organising committee HAGOC sent a big team to Riyadh and made a series of detailed presentations in all key functional areas. The regional forum was the perfect platform for HAGOC to engage with the NOCs after three years of pandemic restrictions and provide a timeline in order to ensure a smooth build-up to the 19th Asian Games.

Regarding covid-19, the message from Hangzhou - nine months out from the 19th Asiad - was that the Asian Games would be free and “truly open” for athletes and officials and without restrictions.

Thai organisers of the AIMAG presented online in both sessions and provided details of the 35 official sports plus two demonstration sports which will have a total of 334 events and 326 gold medals.

Paris 2024 also presented online, with the visa application process proving to be the key issue.



Joey Jin Wei of HAGOC makes his presentation.

Asian Games / AIMAG timeline

February 1 – March 15:	Entry by Number – Asian Games
April 4:	Distribution of Entry by Number forms to NOCs – AIMAG ; distribution of Accreditation Application forms and Accreditation Manual to NOCs – AIMAG
April 25 – 26:	OCA Chef de Mission Seminar for 19th Asian Games – Asian Games
May 20:	Deadline for Accreditation Application – Asian Games
May 20 – June 15:	Pre-Delegation Registration Meetings – Asian Games
June:	First Chef de Mission Meeting – AIMAG (date to be announced)
June 1 – July 15:	Entry by Name – Asian Games
June:	Second World Press Briefing/Second World Broadcasters Meeting – Asian Games (dates to be announced)
June 20:	Deadline for HAGOC and NOCs to confirm accreditation data – Asian Games
July 4:	Deadline for Entry by Number – AIMAG
July 18:	Deadline for accreditation; distribution of Entry by Name forms to NOCs – AIMAG
July 20:	HAGOC starts to distribute pre-valid accreditation cards – Asian Games
August:	Draw for team sports – Asian Games (date to be announced)
August 24 – October 23:	Validity period for Hangzhou Asian Games Identification and Accreditation Card (HAGIAC) – Asian Games
September 9:	Asian Games Village pre-opens – Asian Games
September 9 – 22:	Delegation Registration Meetings – Asian Games
September 16:	Asian Games Village official opening – Asian Games
September 18:	Deadline for Entry by Name – AIMAG
September 23:	Opening Ceremony – Asian Games
September 30:	Distribution of pre-valid accreditation cards to NOCs – AIMAG
October 8:	Closing Ceremony – Asian Games
October 11:	Asian Games Village closes – Asian Games
November 5 – 14:	Delegation Registration Meetings – AIMAG
November 16:	Team Welcome Ceremony – AIMAG
November 17:	Opening Ceremony – AIMAG
November 26:	Closing Ceremony – AIMAG

OCA DIRECTOR GENERAL HIGHLIGHTS VARIETY OF VENUES

The Olympic Council of Asia conducted the first Coordination Committee meeting for the 6th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games (AIMAG) in Bangkok on Monday, November 14.

The 6th AIMAG, which was originally scheduled for 2021, will take place in Bangkok and Chonburi province from November 17-26, 2023. There will be 35 medal sports, plus two demonstration sports.

The meeting heard that the sports would be staged in a variety of venues, including shopping malls, universities, hotels and in parks as well as designated sports stadiums and arenas – bringing the games to the society.

“This is the beauty about it – combining all these sports venues together,” said the OCA Director General, Husain Al Musallam.



OCA Director General Husain Al Musallam addresses the meeting.

“We have full confidence in the ability of Thailand and the Thai people, the Sports Authority of Thailand and also the National Olympic Committee to host the best Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games in Bangkok and Chonburi in November 2023. We are working as one team.”

Mr Al Musallam thanked the local organisers for their hard work and commitment during the challenging times of the pandemic and added: “But we are happy now. Sport always brings hope to bring life back to normal, and now we are here gathering together.”

The organising committee delivered presentations on nine major topics, including accreditation, transportation, IT solutions, TV host broadcasting, marketing, medical and

anti-doping and the sports programme.

The opening ceremony on November 17 and closing ceremony on November 26 will both be held at the Indoor Stadium Huamark in the grounds of the Sports Authority of Thailand.

The torch relay will run under the theme of “Flame of Hope” to match the Games motto of “Garland of Hope”.

The first day of the two-day Coordination Committee meeting continued with a venue visit in Bangkok on Monday afternoon followed by a two-hour journey on the expressway to Pattaya for the second stage on Tuesday.



The OCA Coordination Committee meeting is underway in Bangkok.

OCA DEEMS AMBASSADOR CITY 'VERY WISE CHOICE'

The OCA believes the AIMAG organisers have found a self-contained Asian Games Village with the choice of the sprawling Ambassador City hotel and beach resort in Pattaya – the pearl of Chonburi province.

Ambassador City boasts almost 2,000 rooms and will accommodate between 3,500 and 4,000 athletes and officials during the AIMAG. Furthermore, the complex will host several sports, such as billiard/cue sports, chess, kurash and indoor rowing.

Organisers are also planning to establish the Main Media Centre, comprised of the Main Press Centre and International Broadcasting Centre, within the Ambassador City complex.

"It is a very wise choice by the organising committee to have the AIMAG at Ambassador City," said the OCA's Asian Games Director, Haider Farman, on the second day of the Coordination Committee visit.

"It's a great opportunity to have such a facility in Pattaya. We were not expecting to have this number of capacity and facilities needed in the same place regarding venues and accommodation."

Mr Farman added that Ambassador City also fulfilled the OCA concept of sustainability by having several sports in the same venue and thereby reducing transportation costs and the number of official vehicles required.



OCA officials visit Ambassador City.



"It will eliminate a lot of services like transportation which will support the sustainability concept of the games and serve the concept of green games," he said.

"It is really encouraging for the OCA and the organising committee to have more sports in the same place."

Committee members visited other venues around Pattaya such as indoor athletics and volleyball before heading back to Bangkok.



Group photo on the Pattaya venue tour.

CAMBODIA TAKES BIG STEP FORWARD FOR SEA GAMES HOSTING

The organising committee of the 32nd South East Asian (SEA) Games in Cambodia, CAMSOC, held two days of meetings, 100-day countdown celebrations and venue visits on January 25-26 for delegates from the 11 south-east Asian nations.

The programme began with the first Chef de Mission meeting at the Garden City Hotel, Phnom Penh on Wednesday, January 25.

Vath Chamroeun, Secretary General of the National Olympic Committee of Cambodia, chaired the CDM meeting and introduced the various CAMSOC departments planning for Cambodia's historic first hosting of the SEA Games from May 5-17.

This included a detailed timeline for the NOCs regarding sport entries, delegation registration meetings, team draws and the team welcome ceremony at the Athletes Village on May 4.

The Torch Run will start at the famous Angkor Wat temple complex in Siem Reap province on March 21 and travel through all countries in the SEA region before heading back to Cambodia for the opening ceremony on May 5.

CAMSOC also provided an update on the number of events. With 304 men's events, 229 women's events and 48 mixed, there will be a total of 581 gold medals on offer, plus two demonstration sports.



NOC delegates visit the National Olympic Stadium in Phnom Penh on Thursday, January 26. (OCA)

Regarding the opening and closing ceremony at the Morodok Techo National Stadium, delegations will be restricted to one Chef de Mission plus a maximum of 50 athletes and officials for the parade of nations.

Summing up the meeting, Vath said: "The 32nd SEA Games is only 100 days away and I would like to thank all our brothers and sisters in the region for helping us in our preparations and organisation. With your continued support and guidance, I am sure we can make the first SEA Games in Cambodia a big success."

DEPUTY PM LAUNCHES 100-DAY COUNTDOWN CEREMONY

Cambodia provided a glimpse of what's to come at the 32nd SEA Games in May with a vibrant 100-day countdown ceremony on Wednesday, January 25.

The evening's entertainment in the grounds of the Morodok Techo National Stadium combined ancient war-dance and thundering drums with modern breakdancing, an explosive taekwondo demonstration and soothing songs depicting Cambodia as "forever home".

There was also a fashion show of the uniforms to be worn by SEA Games staff, volunteers and other personnel, and by the 11 National Olympic Committees during the Torch Run in their own country.

The evening ended with a souvenir presentation to each NOC by Deputy Prime Minister Tea Banh, Minister of National Defence and Chairman of CAMSOC.

"I would like to call on the Cambodian people to decorate your houses, community, city and our nation with beautiful scenery, green and clean, to create a strong impression of the 'Visit Cambodia in 2023' campaign," the Deputy PM said.



The 100-day countdown celebration on January 25.

CDM DELEGATES VISIT PRIDE OF CAMBODIAN SPORT

A visit to the new Morodok Techo National Stadium and surrounding sports complex was the highlight of a Phnom Penh venue tour on the second morning of the CDM gathering.

The spectacular stadium, which was completed in May 2021, has a capacity of 60,000 and has already hosted national team football matches. It will be the venue for the opening ceremony on May 5 and closing ceremony on May 17 and also for athletics.

The tour began with a call at the NOC HQ in Phnom Penh which accommodates the host broadcaster, Cambodia Sports TV, and was followed by a visit to the 50,000-capacity National Olympic Stadium and sports complex which will host 11 sports.

The Morodok Techo National Stadium tour included the three-pool aquatic centre, with a seating capacity of 3,000, Games Operation Centre/NOC Service Centre, the halls for table tennis and badminton and the indoor sports building for volleyball and basketball.

The morning tour ended with a view of the site for the under-construction International Broadcast Centre and finally the Sports Village which will provide 6,100 beds for athletes and officials. Although construction work has been delayed by the pandemic and a prolonged rainy season, builders expect to hand over all the rooms by the end of March thanks to a workforce of 3,000.

On the afternoon of the second day, a convoy of 15 vehicles took the delegates and CAMSOC staff on a four-hour journey to Sihanoukville to see the site for beach volleyball and for sailing/jet ski.

Summing up the two-day event, Philippine Olympic Committee Chef de Mission Joaquin Lozaga said: "Definitely I could say it was adventurous, exciting and I look forward to coming back. We want this to be a successful, memorable and historical event, not just for Cambodia but for the region, and we are really very optimistic."



Morodok Techo National Stadium

Capacity:	60,000	
2014, December:	Project approval	
2015, May 18:	Scheme finalization	
2017, April 4:	Ground-breaking ceremony	
2017, August 31:	Construction begins	
2021, May 31:	Work completed	
Chinese client:	Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China	
Cambodian client:	National Olympic Committee of Cambodia	
Designer:	China IPPR International Engineering Co Ltd	
Builder:	China State Construction Engineering Corporation Ltd	
Manager:	Consortium of Institute of Shanghai Architectural Design and Research Co. Ltd and Guangzhou Suike Construction Management Co. Ltd.	
Technical Committee:	Chaired by Dr Thong Khon, Minister of Tourism/President NOC Cambodia.	



Inside the Morodok Techo National Stadium. (OCA)



Delegates visit Sihanoukville – one of four co-host provinces.

KUWAIT'S YOUNG REPORTER HAS 'AMAZING OPPORTUNITY'

The Olympic Council of Asia conducted the first Asian Games Youth Reporter Project for Hangzhou 2022 at the Kuwait Olympic Committee HQ on November 24 – and the winner was Shaikhah Al Tamimi.

The project offered a workshop on the typical daily tasks of a sports journalist at a major event such as the Asian Games, followed by a press conference exercise with Kuwait's Olympic swimmer Abbas Qali.

Shaikhah's news article from the three-hour workshop was judged to be the top entry in terms of accuracy, story construction and creativity, and she will now join the OCA media team at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou.

"I love it," said Shaikhah, 28. "I am very excited to be invited to the Asian Games with the OCA. It is an amazing opportunity to broaden my horizon and immerse myself in different cultures. It will also be interesting to see athletes who have dedicated their lives to their sport."

Shaikhah is an English literature major, media and communications minor, and graduated from the American University of Kuwait in 2017. She has been working in the Ministry of Information since 2018, mainly as a translator in the English news and programs sector.



Shaikhah Al Tamimi is pictured with her prizes. (OCA)



The OCA's "Asian Games for All" promo campaign for the 19th Asian Games includes a children's art competition – and the Chinese Taipei Olympic Committee proudly displays some of the 143 entries from their students aged 13 and below. (CTOC)

RAJA RANDHIR INAUGURATES NEW SHOOTING RANGE IN INDIA

The Acting President of the OCA, Raja Randhir Singh, opened a new shooting range named in his honour as part of the 75th anniversary celebrations of the Yadavindra Public School (YPS), Patiala, Punjab.

Considered among the top rung of Indian public schools, YPS Patiala is an English medium boarding/day school founded in 1948 by the late His Highness Maharaja Adhiraj Yadavindra Singh.

The famous public school celebrated day two of YPS@75 on Wednesday, February 1 with the inauguration of a state-of-the-art underground shooting range and cricket pavilion on the campus.

The shooting range is named after Raja Randhir Singh, famous Olympian and Arjuna Awardee, a YPS alumnus, who represented India in the Olympic Games, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games.

It is a composite shooting range comprising 10m, 25m and 50m targets and is the first fully indoor shooting range in the country; it will provide training to students of the national and international level.



Raja Randhir Singh inaugurates the new shooting range. (patialapolitics.com)

OCA STATEMENT ON RUSSIA, BELARUS

The Olympic Council of Asia released the following statement on January 26: The OCA joins the Olympic Movement in its support of the IOC Executive Board's statement on solidarity with Ukraine, sanctions against Russia and Belarus, and the status of athletes from these countries.

The OCA believes in the unifying power of sport and that all athletes, regardless of their nationality or the passport they hold, should be able to compete in sports competitions. The OCA has offered to give eligible Russian and Belarusian athletes the opportunity to take part in competitions in Asia, including the Asian Games.

The OCA remains on standby as the IOC continues to explore with International Federations the pathway for the return of Russian and Belarusian athletes' participation in competition under strict conditions.



OCA CONFIRMS DATES FOR ATHLETES' FORUM IN BANGKOK

The dates have been set for the OCA Athletes Forum to be held in Bangkok – Saturday and Sunday, March 18-19.

The forum, which is being held in cooperation with the IOC Athletes Commission and IOC Athletes Department, will take place at the Centara Grand at CentralWorld Bangkok, the OCA announced on January 11.

"Part of the OCA's and OCA Athletes Committee's strategy for 2023 is to focus on supporting Athletes Committees in Asia and working together hand in hand to help and assist athletes on and off the field of play," said OCA Director General Husain Al Musallam.

"We believe in their important role in building better societies and we will focus on the role and responsibilities of Athletes Committees to reach our goals and objectives."

Each NOC can register two delegates from their own Athletes Committee or send two athlete representatives if the NOC has not established an Athletes Committee - mandatory one male and one female in both cases.

FINA RENAMED WORLD AQUATICS TO ENCOMPASS ALL SIX DISCIPLINES

FINA, the Fédération Internationale de Natation, changed its name to World Aquatics following a vote at an Extraordinary Congress in Melbourne, Australia on December 12, 2022.

The launch of the World Aquatics brand arrived after a series of major reforms that sees a modern organisation ready to lead and serve athletes united by water, with a broader scope and increased engagement with participants and audiences.

"Everyone in our community is proud of what FINA achieved in developing our sports," said the President of World Aquatics, Husain Al Musallam.

"As we look to the future, World Aquatics will see all aquatics athletes united for the first time under one brand. The identity of our organisation now focuses on our shared vision: a world united by water, for health, life and sport."

Mr Al Musallam pointed out that FINA was a French acronym,

with the word "Natation" representing swimming.

"These days, swimmers are only one, important, part of our FINA family. We need a name that reflects the whole FINA family - a name that can be used with pride by our divers, high divers, artistic swimmers, open water swimmers and our water polo athletes."

Mr Al Musallam said athletes had been consulted over the matter and had played a big part in the decision.

"Their response has been very clear. More than 70 per cent of the athletes we have spoken with have said they would like us to change FINA's name. Many of them could not even tell us what the letters in FINA stand for."

The official rebranding from FINA to World Aquatics on December 12 marked the culmination of 18 months of intensive organisational transformation, much of it guided by the FINA Reform Committee.



The launch ceremony of World Aquatics.

FINA →  **WORLD AQUATICS**

Founded: London, July 19, 1908
Member Federations: 209
Disciplines (6): Swimming, Diving, Water Polo, Artistic Swimming, Open Water Swimming, High Diving.

— Olympic Games history —
Swimming: 1896
Water Polo: 1900
Diving: 1904
Synchronized (Artistic) Swimming: 1984
Marathon Swimming: 2008

WORLD AQUATICS PLANS CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN BAHRAIN

World Aquatics and the Bahrain Olympic Committee have announced plans to create a new centre of excellence for aquatic sports at the University of Technology Bahrain, in

partnership with GFH Financial Group and the Bahrain Swimming Association.



The signing ceremony in Bahrain. (World Aquatics)

"I am extremely excited by this partnership with Bahrain. Our bold plans for a centre of excellence here will serve as an example to the world," said World Aquatics President Husain Al Musallam at the signing ceremony on January 31.

"Our high-performance athletes are at their best when they can benefit from the right mix of facilities, coaching and sports science. World Aquatics is determined to ensure that this mix is available to athletes from all our national federations.

"We are also delighted to include an educational component with the help of the University of Technology Bahrain."

OCA STALWART TAYYAB IKRAM ELECTED NEW FIH PRESIDENT



// Our Olympic status has to be one of our top priorities – always. Being an Olympic sport gives hockey a dimension – as well as financial resources – which are essential for the growth of our sport. It goes without saying that I will use all my knowledge and experience of the IOC and the Olympic movement at large to not only maintain but also reinforce our position with the Olympic family. Being an Olympic sport is a tremendous help to reach our growth potential. **//**

Tayyab Ikram, FIH President

Tayyab Ikram, a popular figure in the Asian Olympic movement, was elected 13th President of the International Hockey Federation at the 48th FIH Congress on November 5, 2022.

This is a tremendous honour and achievement, not only for Tayyab himself but for all Asian sport as the FIH is regarded as one of the global leaders at the international level, especially at the Olympic Games.

The Pakistan-born Tayyab (representing Macau, China) gained 79 of the 126 votes submitted by the member National Associations at the virtual Congress compared to 47 for Marc Coudron (Belgium).

The duration of the term of the new FIH President will be two years in order to complete the mandate of previous FIH President Dr Narinder Dhruv Batra, who resigned on July 18.

“Hockey is my passion. Hockey has changed my life and I’m thankful to hockey and the hockey family for this,” said Tayyab, who is Vice Chair of the OCA Athletes Committee and a member of the OCA Coordination Committee.

“I promise you that I will carry the message of solidarity and bring the FIH together.”

The election of Tayyab, 64, was celebrated throughout Asia and beyond, as his dedication and commitment to hockey at the continental level - and also to the rights and welfare of athletes in all sports - is well documented.



FIH President Tayyab Ikram meets India's Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs, Anurag Thakur, in Delhi. (FIH)

ASIAN GAMES HOCKEY CHAMPS WILL QUALIFY FOR PARIS 2024

The International Hockey Federation has confirmed that the winning team in the men’s and women’s hockey events at the Hangzhou Asian Games will qualify directly for Paris 2024.

There will be 12 teams in both events at the Paris Olympics - and one of them will be from the 19th Asian Games from September 23 to October 8.

The FIH announced the pathway to Paris on February 7. The 12 places will be filled by the host nation France (1), continental qualifiers (5) and two FIH Olympic qualifying tournaments (6 places - 3 from each tournament).

The two Olympic qualifying tournaments will each feature eight teams (16 teams in total) and will take place in early 2024. The continental quotas for these qualifying tournaments include

four for Asia in the women's event and five for Asia in the men's event. The top three teams in each of these Olympic qualification tournaments will go to Paris.



India won the bronze medal at the Tokyo 2020 men’s hockey competition. (Hockey India)

FORMER SPRINT QUEEN PT USHA BECOMES IOA PRESIDENT

Former Indian athlete PT Usha became the new President of the Indian Olympic Association on December 10 – as well as its first female leader.

The 58-year-old Usha is recognised as a phenom in Indian athletics and came on to the scene as a sprinter and hurdler during the 1980s.

Later, she became active as a coach and a member of sports administration and was nominated as a Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament in 2022 by the central government.

Nicknamed the “Queen of Indian Track and Field”, Usha was elected unopposed to become the first female President of the IOA as well as the first Olympian.

Accepting the magnitude of the task ahead, she posted on social media: “Humbled and touched by all the messages over the last few days over my election as the President of the IOA.

“Through the experiences of my journey I know very well the value of this post. I feel

the pain of an athlete, and that of a coach. Above all, about the role of a true admin.

“I look forward to upholding the Olympic values and working with national and international sporting federations to ensure India propels forward in our quest of being a global sporting powerhouse.”

Her election attracted hundreds of messages of congratulations from all walks of society, and dreams that her success on the track could lead to better results across the board for India’s elite athletes.

“Thank you for all the messages of support and good wishes. Looking forward to the times ahead,” she added.



PT Usha and her impressive medal collection. (Facebook)



PT Usha joins the IOA Roll of Honour. (Twitter)



The new IOA President meets Prime Minister Narendra Modi. (Twitter)

P.T. Usha

Full name:

Pilavullakandi Thekkeparampil Usha

Date of Birth:

June 27, 1964

Age:

58

Place of Birth:

Koothali village, Kozhikode district, Kerala.

Sport:

Athletics

Nickname:

Golden Girl, Payyoli Express

— Career highlights —

Olympic Games, Los Angeles 1984:

Aged 20, she finished fourth in the 400m hurdles, missing a medal by 1/100th of a second. Her time of 55.42 seconds remains a national record.

Asian Games, Seoul 1986:

Four gold medals in 200m, 400m, 400m hurdles and 4x400m relay.

Asian Athletics Championships, Jakarta

1985:

Five gold medals in 100m, 200m, 400m, 400m hurdles and 4x400m relay.

Retired from competition:

2000

Website:

<http://www.ptusha.org>

CHINA'S ZHENG NAMED WTA NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

China's rising tennis star Zheng Qinwen was named newcomer of the year for 2022 by the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) Tour.

Zheng, 20, rose over 100 places in the WTA rankings with a steady string of results and broke into the top 25 by the end of 2022.

"She reached her first WTA final at the WTA 500 Toray Pan Pacific Open (Tokyo), the semifinals of the WTA 250 Melbourne Summer Set 1, the last eight at the WTA 1000 level National Bank Open presented by Rogers (Toronto) and posting her best Grand Slam result by reaching the Round of 16 at Roland-Garros," the WTA said of Zheng, who hails from Shiyan in Hubei province.

"Zheng Qinwen is the second Chinese woman to win a WTA Player Award after Zheng Jie earned the Comeback Player of the Year honour in 2008," the WTA added.



Zheng Qinwen in action. (Mackenzie Sweetnam/Getty Images, WTA Tour)

RIO 2016 Olympic diving synchro silver medalist Cheong Jun Hoong, 32, signed the Wall of Fame at the Olympic Council of Malaysia HQ on Wednesday, January 11. The 2017 world champion on the 10m platform retired from competition in 2022.

(OCM)



MUEE FOLLOWS SPORTS SUCCESS WITH BUSINESS AWARD

Retired table tennis player Mueena Mohamed has earned a top award in the women's sport and business sector in the Maldives.

Mueena, 40, won the "Leadership Excellence in the Field of Sports" category at the Professional and Career Women Awards 2022.

Mueena is the CEO of M Fit, specialising in sports rehab and strength and conditioning, and inspiring girls and women to strive for the top.

As an athlete, Mueena - nicknamed Muee - was crowned national singles champion on 15 occasions, including 13 in a row, and has won gold, silver and bronze medals in the Indian Ocean Island Games in 2011, 2015 and 2019.

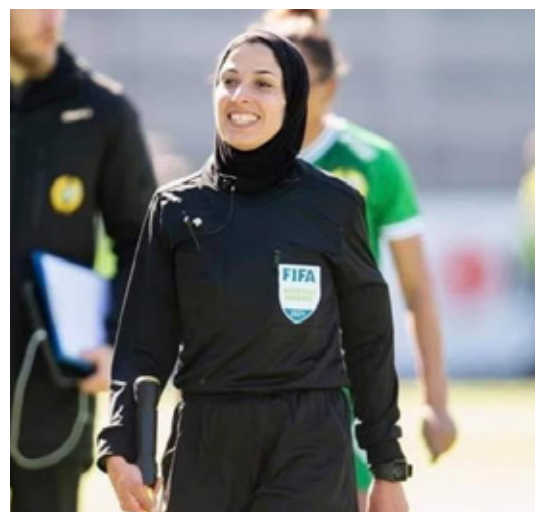


Mueena Mohamed receives her award. (Mueena Facebook)

PALESTINIAN REF MAKES HISTORY WITH WORLD CUP APPOINTMENT



Palestinian referee Heba Saadieh will officiate in the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023.



Heba Saadieh. (Facebook)

Heba Saadieh has made football history by becoming the first Palestinian referee – male or female – to be selected for a FIFA World Cup.

Heba, who is 34, was named on the list of assistant referees for the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 in Australia and New Zealand from July 20 to August 20.

Heba received the international refereeing badge in 2016 and has officiated in many Women's AFC Cup and Asian Cup games, World Cup qualifiers and Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games matches – but this World Cup honour is a new milestone.

Since her childhood, Heba was passionate about sports and dreamt of representing her country in football.

Born to Palestinian parents, she was a hard-working footballer who specialised in physical education at a university in Damascus, Syria. However, her hopes of playing for her country didn't materialise and the former footballer turned to refereeing as a profession by chance.

"I was watching a group of referees training and noticed they had no women

among them. When I asked them about it, they suggested I join them. So, I did," she told Palestine TV Sports and Youth channel.

Heba joined the football referees' committee in Syria and began her career as a fourth official in Syrian league matches, but that stint would be cut short because of the war.

In 2012 she travelled to Malaysia and joined the referees' programme at the Football Association of Malaysia before moving to Stockholm. It was here that she pursued a FIFA referee license and started officiating in the division 1 league matches in the Swedish Football Association.

"I love it," she said.

"I am used to being fair and harsh as a referee. But I have to be fair but kind as well. In the long run, I hope to become one of the top referees."



Susan Al Shalabi, Vice President of the Palestinian Football Federation, was elected AFC Female Executive Committee member for the West Zone for the term 2023-2027 at the 33rd Asian Football Confederation Congress in Bahrain on February 1. The other female members elected were: South Zone, Mahfuza Akhter (Bangladesh); ASEAN Zone, Kanya Keomany (Laos/FIFA Council member); East Zone, Han Un Gyong (DPR Korea).

(Palestine Olympic Committee)

OLYMPIC CHAMPION DIAZ EARNS STAR ON EASTWOOD WALK OF FAME



What a star! Hidilyn Diaz with her husband/coach, Julius Naranjo.

earned a star on the Eastwood City Walk of Fame.

Diaz, the Asian Games champion at Jakarta in 2018, won Olympic gold at Tokyo 2020 and followed that up recently with World Championship success at Bogota, Colombia. She has now set her sights on Paris 2024.

Eastwood City is a popular entertainment/dining/shopping destination for locals and tourists alike with a wide selection of restaurants and street cafes, an outdoor market, brand stores and a play area for children and families.

“Behind the success there’s a husband behind it,” Hidilyn commented, referring to her coach and husband, Julius Naranjo.

The Philippines’ first Olympic gold medalist, weightlifter Hidilyn Diaz, has



JORDAN Olympic Committee marked the rise to No. 1 of Julyana Al-Sadeq in the women’s -67kg senior division world kyorugi rankings issued by World Taekwondo in January. Julyana is also ranked second in the Olympic standings. (Jordan Olympic Committee)



The Cedars celebrate their success with sports officials. (Lebanese Olympic Committee)

LEBANESE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE HONOURS WOMEN’S VOLLEYBALL TEAM

Lebanon’s women’s volleyball team, the Cedars, won the 1st West Asian Women’s Volleyball Championship in Amman, Jordan in November.

Lebanon went unbeaten in the 10-team tournament, winning all four pool games, their quarter-final and semi-final before defeating hosts Jordan 3-0 (25-13, 25-18, 25-14) in the final.

At a reception to mark the occasion, Lebanese Olympic Committee President Pierre Jalkh said: “Our players presented a dignified image of Lebanese volleyball and brought joy and pride to the hearts of all Lebanese people.

“I would like to congratulate and bless all of you and the sports family with best wishes for peace and stability in our homeland Lebanon.”

SINGAPORE NOC MOURNS LONDON OLYMPIAN 'TWINKLETOES'

The President of the Singapore National Olympic Council, Tan Chuan-Jin, paid tribute to Olympian Chia Boon Leong, who died on December 20. He was 97.

Known affectionately as Twinkletoes, Chia Boon Leong played for the Republic of China in the football tournament of the London Olympic Games in 1948.

"Boon Leong was a prolific footballer in his heyday. He toured with the Lien Hwa (United Chinese) team in 1947 as a 22-year-old and was the only one to appear in all 23 games," the Singapore NOC President wrote in a Facebook post of December 21.

"A few months later, he was chosen to represent China in the 1948 Olympic Games in London. Back then, the rules allowed an ethnic Chinese to represent China even if they were not born in the country.

"He remained active in sports and often supported many events and occasions whenever possible. We last saw him in April this year (2022) when IOC President Thomas Bach visited Singapore.

"I was glad to chat with him then. He will be missed by many. Deepest condolences to his family. Rest well, Twinkletoes."

After the London Olympics, Chia Boon Leong played for Singapore and won the Malaya Cup in 1950, 1951 and 1952. He remains the only Singaporean to have played football at the Olympic Games.



Chia Boon Leong is pictured (second from left) when IOC President Thomas Bach visited Singapore in April 2022.

SABAPATHY SINNAYAH: OLYMPIC SPRINTER, MALAYSIA

The Olympic Council of Malaysia reported that Sabapathy Sinnayah passed away peacefully on Wednesday, December 14, 2022. He was 75.

Sabapathy Sinnayah was a national sprinter in the 1970s and represented Malaysia in the men's 4 x 400m relay at the 1974 Olympic Games in Munich.

He was first selected as a member of the men's 4 x 400m relay team to participate in the 6th Asian Games Bangkok 1970, and his best individual achievement was winning the silver medal in the men's 200m at the 7th South East Asia Peninsula (SEAP) Games Singapore 1973.

He was also a member of the relay teams that won one gold medal and four bronze medals in three consecutive SEAP Games from 1971 to 1975.

In 2008, at the age of 61, Sabapathy Sinnayah enrolled in the first edition of the Advanced Sport Management Course conducted by the OCM in collaboration with Olympic Solidarity and graduated with a Diploma in Management of Olympic Sport Organisation.

"The contribution of Mr. Sabapathy Sinnayah for the sport of athletics is phenomenal. We would like to record our

recognition for his dedication and sacrifices in the development of athletics since the 1970s," said Tan Sri Dato' Sri (Dr.) Mohamad Norza Zakaria, President of OCM.



Sabapathy Sinnayah holds the Olympic torch for Beijing 2008.

SAOUD AL MOHANNADI MADE HIS MARK WITH QFA, AFC, FIFA

Leading Qatari football official Saoud bin Abdulaziz Al-Mohannadi passed away on January 10 after a long struggle with illness, The Peninsula Online reported.

Al-Mohannadi was Vice President of the Qatar Football Association, Vice President of the Asian Football Confederation for West Asia and Vice President of the Union of Arab Football Associations Council. He was also elected as a member of the FIFA Council in April 2019.

Al-Mohannadi is named among the distinguished Qatari sports cadres at the various local, Asian and international levels.

The President of Qatar Olympic Committee, HE Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani, said: "May God have mercy on Saoud bin Abdulaziz Al-Mohannadi, Vice President of the Qatar and Asian Football Association, and may he rest in peace. He served his country with all sincerity and devotion. We belong to God and to Him we shall return."

AFC President Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa commented: "Asian football has lost a true servant of the game, and few esteemed leaders have touched our lives and contributed to the development of football than our dearest brother Saoud Al-Mohannadi.

"The AFC Asian Cup is undoubtedly one of the greatest success stories in global football in the last two decades and our dear brother Saoud was instrumental in elevating the standards of the tournament with each passing edition."

FIFA President Gianni Infantino added: "Saoud Al-Mohannadi truly loved football and dedicated a great deal of his life to the beautiful game that unites us all.

"We had the enormous privilege of being able to rely on his knowledge and skills at the service of football over the years, and we will forever fondly remember and cherish the many shared moments of work and friendship.



Saoud Al-Mohannadi. (FIFA)

"Saoud contributed significantly to the development and promotion of football and its values in his country, in the region and throughout the world. His legacy and work will be remembered, and he will be greatly missed."

SULTAN KOBLANDIN, KAZAKHSTAN HOCKEY

The Asian Hockey Federation announced that Sultan Koblandin, coach of the Kazakhstan national hockey team, passed away on December 26. He was 63.

Sultan was a former hockey player. He held key positions in the hockey circuit of Kazakhstan. He remained Executive Board member of the Kazakhstan Hockey Federation and was also Director of Development for the Kyzylorda Region of Kazakhstan.

AHF President Fumio Ogura said: "It is very saddening to learn of this loss. I will pray for the departed and also that his family find solace in this tough time. I extend my condolences to Kazakhstan Hockey and the family of Mr Sultan. May his soul rest in peace."

(asihockey.org)



News in Brief

Asian teams drawn for Paris 2024 women's football qualifiers

The first round of the Asian Football Confederation Women's Olympic Qualifying Tournament for Paris 2024 will be played from April 3 to 11 at centralized venues in a single round-robin format.

The 26 teams have been drawn into seven groups and only the winner of each group will join Asia's five highest-ranked teams – DPR Korea, Japan, Australia, China and Korea – in the 12-team second round in October. Two Asian teams will qualify for Paris. The draw is:

Group A: Uzbekistan, Jordan, Timor-Leste, Bhutan

Group B: Myanmar, IR Iran, Bangladesh, Maldives

Group C: Vietnam, Nepal, Palestine, Afghanistan

Group D: Thailand, Mongolia, Singapore, Sri Lanka

Group E: Philippines, Hong Kong-China, Tajikistan, Pakistan

Group F: Chinese Taipei, Indonesia, Lebanon

Group G: India, Kyrgyz Republic, Turkmenistan

(olympics.com)

IOC approves male athletes in Paris 2024 artistic swimming teams

The IOC has given its approval for World Aquatics to allow men to participate in the artistic swimming competitions at Paris 2024 for the first time since the discipline joined the Olympic Games in 1984.

Men will now be eligible to compete in the team event. There are eight athletes in each team. The new rules will permit a maximum of two men to compete in each team at the Olympic Games. Ten teams are expected to compete.

(fina.org)

IJF unveils brand, logo for Doha 2023



The organising committee of the 2023 IJF World Judo Championships in Doha from May 7-14, 2023 unveiled the brand and logo on January 5.

The brand concept has been inspired by the letter "D" in Doha and in judo. The red and purple colours highlight the spirit and excitement of the sport.

(QOC)

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Beijing's Olympic Museum joins global network



The Beijing Olympic Museum, which commemorates both the Olympic Games 2008 and the Olympic Winter Games 2022, has joined the global Olympic Museums Network as its 33rd member.

Located inside the "Bird's Nest" (National Stadium), the Beijing Olympic Museum boasts 34,500 square metres of multi-media exhibits and displays that transport visitors into the history, sporting culture and Olympic legacy of Beijing. It was established in 2009 and welcomes 200,000 students per year.

(ioc.org)

BWF and HSBC extend partnership

The Badminton World Federation and HSBC announced on December 20 a four-year renewal of their commercial relationship starting January 2023.



HSBC will remain principal global partner and global banking partner of the BWF and title sponsor of the BWF World Tour and World Tour Finals until the end of 2026. HSBC has invested heavily in badminton since 2018.

The 31-event new HSBC BWF World Tour calendar, which includes the year-end HSBC BWF World Tour Finals, will see more Super 1000, Super 750 and Super 500 tournaments, bringing greater prize money opportunities for players.

(BWF)

Meet Moongcho

The Gangwon 2024 Winter Youth Olympic Games introduced the mascot Moongcho at the one-year countdown ceremony on January 19.

The mascot's name derives from the Korean verb mungchida, which means to gather as one.



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长龙行 亚运情

FLY LOONGAIR FOR AMAZING ASIAN GAMES



OCA Sports Diary

2023

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
|  <p>March 18 – 19
OCA Athletes Forum
Bangkok, Thailand</p> |  <p>May 30 – 31
IOC Chef de Mission Meeting for Gangwon 2024 Winter YOG
Korea/Virtual</p> |  <p>August 2 – 11
World Aquatics Masters Championships
Kyushu, Japan</p> |
|  <p>March 18 – 21
ANOC Sports Director Seminar
Amman, Jordan</p> |  <p>May 31 – June 2
WADA Therapeutic Use Exemption Symposium
Incheon, Korea</p> |  <p>August 5 – 12
ANOC 2nd World Beach Games
Bali, Indonesia</p> |
|  <p>April 3 – 11
AFC Women's Football Qualifying for Paris 2024 First Round
Various Venues</p> |  <p>May/June (TBC)
OCA Chef de Mission Seminar for 6th AIMAG
Bangkok, Thailand</p> |  <p>August 13 – 15
ANOC XXVII General Assembly
Bali, Indonesia</p> |
|  <p>April 25 – 26
OCA Chef de Mission Seminar for 19th Asian Games
Hangzhou, China</p> |  <p>July 20 – August 20
FIFA Women's World Cup
Australia and New Zealand</p> |  <p>August 16 – 23
East Asian Youth Games
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia</p> |
|  <p>April 28 – May 2
ANOC Chef de Mission meeting for 2nd World Beach Games
Bali, Indonesia</p> |  <p>June 22 – 25
IOC Olympic Esports Week
Singapore</p> |  <p>August 19 – 27
World Athletics Championships
Budapest, Hungary</p> |
|  <p>May 5 – 17
32nd SEA Games
Phnom Penh, Cambodia</p> |  <p>July 14 – 30
20th World Aquatics Championships
Fukuoka, Japan</p> |  <p>September 23 – October 8
19th Asian Games
Hangzhou, China</p> |
|  <p>May 7 – 14
IJF Judo World Championships
Doha, Qatar</p> |  <p>July 28 – August 8
FISU World University Games
Chengdu, China</p> |  <p>October 12 – 13 (TBC)
IOC Executive Board meeting
Mumbai, India</p> |
| | |  <p>October 14 – 15 (TBC)
140th IOC Session
Mumbai, India</p> |




















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赋能未来

	October 21 – 28 World Combat Games Riyadh, Saudi Arabia		7th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games (Fourth quarter) Riyadh, Saudi Ara	2029		(Dates to be decided) 9th Asian Winter Games Trojena, Saudi Arabia
	November 17 – 26 6th Asian Indoor & Martial Arts Games Bangkok/Chonburi, Thailand		15th National Games of China Hong Kong, Macau and Guangdong Province	2026		(Dates to be decided) 4th Asian Youth Games Phnom Penh, Cambodia
	January 19 – February 1 4th Winter Youth Olympic Games Gangwon, Korea		February 6 – 22 Olympic Winter Games Milan-Cortina, Italy	2030		(Dates to be decided) 21st Asian Games Doha, Qatar
	February 2 – 18 21st FINA World Championships Doha, Qatar		March 6 – 15 Paralympic Winter Games Milan-Cortina, Italy	2032		July 23 – August 8 XXXV Olympic Games Brisbane, Australia
	July 26 – August 11 XXXII Olympic Games Paris, France		September 19 – October 4 20th Asian Games Aichi-Nagoya, Japan	2034		(Dates to be decided) 22nd Asian Games Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
	August 28 – September 8 Paralympic Games Paris, France		4th Youth Olympic Games Dakar 2026 Senegal	2028		July 21 – August 6 Olympic Games Los Angeles, United States
	(Dates to be decided) 3rd Asian Youth Games Tashkent, Uzbekistan					

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