SEE YOU ALL AT....
ASHGABAT 2017

Chefs de Mission Seminar
AIMAG 5 Sports Programme
Key dates and deadlines
Opening Ceremony protocol
Contents
Inside Your 36-page Sporting Asia, June 2017

3
OCA President’s Message

4 – 9
Six pages of News in Pictures

10 – 11
Olympic Solidarity/OCA Regional Forums in Korea and Oman

12 – 14
Inside the OCA

12
Sapporo Clean Games, OCA EB and GA dates set for Ashgabat

13
361 joins 18th Asian Games 2018, OCA President visits China

14
OCA President attends Kazakhstan NOC 25th anniversary celebrations

15 – 22
Chefs de Mission Seminar for Ashgabat 2017

15
Busy schedule in Turkmenistan

16
Seminar Summary, Ticket Details

17
Opening Ceremony, Sports Programme

18 – 19
Photo Gallery

20 – 21
Notice Board: Key dates and deadlines

22
NOC comments on venues, city

23 – 25
Women and Sport

23
5th GCC Women’s Games Introduction, SEA Games Federation Newsletter

24 – 25
Picture Special from 5th GCC Women’s Games

26 – 27
Games Update: 18th Asian Games 2018

26
6th OCA Coordination Committee visits Palembang

27
Sports and Events

28 – 29
NOC Elections: Vietnam, Thailand, Mongolia, Bangladesh

30 – 31
Awards

32 – 33
Asia’s Olympic Era 2018 – 2020 – 2022

34
29th SEA Games Kuala Lumpur 2017 Preview

35
Obituary

36
OCA Sports Diary, Sponsors’ Club
SEARCHING FOR A MORE COST-EFFECTIVE ASIAN GAMES

The Olympic Council of Asia is in a strong and comfortable position regarding host cities for our Asian Games.

The next three hosts are already in place, starting with Jakarta-Palembang, Indonesia in 2018, Hangzhou, China in 2022 and Nagoya in Aichi Prefecture, Japan in 2026.

This means that the next available slot for our showpiece event is 2030 – 13 years away.

The popularity of the Asian Games is clear to see, and the OCA tries to be as accommodating as possible to all sports – new and old – who want to join the festival every four years.

We try to strike a balance between the Olympic sports, as their inclusion is an excellent opportunity for our athletes to test themselves two years before the next Olympic Games, and non-Olympic sports to reflect the diversity of our rich sports culture throughout the five zones.

Regarding next year’s Asian Games, however, the OCA, in conjunction with the organising committee INASGOC, have been forced to reduce the number of sports and events to make the Games more cost-effective and manageable for all stakeholders.

With the number of events approaching 500 at one time, we simply had no choice but to reduce the sports programme while trying to retain the balance between Olympic and non-Olympic sports.

With just over one year to go, the OCA and INASGOC are united in their efforts to hold a successful Asian Games in 2018, and we call on the support and cooperation of the Asian Federations and International Federations to ensure a smooth build-up, alongside our NOCs.

Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad Al Sabah
President, Olympic Council of Asia
President, Association of National Olympic Committees
Chairman, IOC Olympic Solidarity Commission

AIMAG 5 WILL PROMOTE PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT THROUGH SPORT

The OCA President, HE Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad Al Sabah, shared the stage with the President of Turkmenistan, HE Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, at the opening ceremony of an international sports congress in Awaza, Turkmenistan on April 7.

The congress theme was “International Sports Cooperation for Peace and Development”, and Sheikh Ahmad said the 5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games in Ashgabat this September would play a major role in the development of the city and country as a whole.

Sheikh Ahmad pointed out that, with over 60 NOCs from Asia and Oceania competing in AIMAG 5, almost one-third of the global Olympic Movement would be present in Ashgabat, resulting in a rich cultural exchange that would benefit all parties for years to come.

Sheikh Ahmad at Awaza.
AFGHANISTAN ski team members chat with IOC President Thomas Bach at St Moritz, Switzerland, during the Alpine Ski World Championships in February. The Afghans are trying to qualify for the 2018 Winter Olympics in PyeongChang, Korea. (Photo: IOC)

CHINESE Taipei Olympic Committee President Hong-Dow Lin (right) and Philippine Olympic Committee President Jose Cojuangco Jr. signed a bilateral cooperation agreement in Taipei to promote exchange among athletes, coaches and staff, joint training camps and cooperation in anti-doping and medical science. (www.tpenoc.net).

SRI Lanka NOC’s first Sport Administrators Course of the year attracted 39 participants from National Sport Federations/Associations, the Ministry of Sport, the Sri Lankan Army, Navy and Air Force, government and international schools and universities. (www.srilankaolympic.org)
BAHRAIN Olympic Committee organised the 4th School Mini Olympics in association with the Ministry of Education. More than 2,000 students from 42 government and private schools took part in 14 sports: football, basketball 3x3, volleyball, handball, table tennis, athletics, cricket, hockey, swimming, water sports, gymnastics, taekwondo, jujitsu and karting.

IRAN sent a five-strong delegation from their women’s wrestling programme to observe and learn from the best in Japan, where they visited Shigakkan University near Nagoya and the Ajinomoto National Training Centre in Nishigaoka, Tokyo.

OLYMPIC Day in Hong Kong this year will be held for the first time at Ocean Park, one of the city’s main tourist attractions, on Sunday, June 18, the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China, announced at a press conference on April 20.
PALESTINE NOC, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, organised the 3rd School Olympic Week for youngsters to display their skills in sports such as table tennis, judo, gymnastics and basketball. The aim of the event is to integrate sport into the routine education programme of schools throughout Palestine.

JAPANESE Olympic Committee President Tsunekazu Takeda and Finland NOC President Timo Ritakallio signed a partnership agreement in Tokyo covering a wide range of Olympic-related topics such as athlete and coach exchange programmes and marketing. The JOC now has agreements with 41 NOCs. (www.joc.or.jp)
WORLD Sailing has announced that Sanya, China will host the 2017 Youth Sailing World Championships from December 9-16. More than 400 sailors from over 60 nations are expected to compete on the waters off tropical Hainan Island.

(www.sailing.org)

THE International Sambo Federation (FIAS) gave 50 sets of sports outfit to the Vietnamese Sambo Association: jackets, shorts, shoes and five uniforms for referees. The Russian Embassy in Vietnam organised the delivery of the equipment.

(www.sambo-fias.org)

BADMINTON World Federation President Poul-Erik Hoyer has welcomed China’s Chen Long (left) and Indonesia’s Hendra Setiawan as its newest Integrity Ambassadors to promote clean, fair and honourable sport.

(www.bwfbadminton.com)
IOC President Thomas Bach welcomed the President of Kazakhstan NOC, Timur Kulibayev, to Lausanne. They discussed a wide range of issues, including the successful organisation of the recent Winter Universiade in Almaty and the fight against doping. (Photo: IOC /Christophe Moratal)

JORDAN Olympic Committee reports that Mahmoudia Motors – the sole and official dealer of Jaguar and Land Rover cars in Jordan – has announced its partnership with Jordan Rugby for the third consecutive year. A signing ceremony was held under the patronage of HRH Prince Mired Bin Ra’ad, President of Jordan Rugby, on April 11.

MALDIVES Olympic Committee Secretary General Ahmed Marzooq addresses the participants of an Athletes Mentoring Programme at Maldives National University Auditorium on March 11. The event was for national level athletes, elite youth athletes, coaches and managers.
BANGLADESH Olympic Association held a rally, flag-raising ceremony and seminar in Dhaka on April 6 to celebrate the International Day of Sport for Peace and Development.

IRAQ NOC President Raad Hammoudi Salman Al-Dulaimi and other Iraqi officials were welcomed at the Spanish NOC by President Alejandro Blanco on March 7 and discussed matters such as cooperation between the two NOCs and the development of sport in both countries. (www.coe.es).

CAMBODIA NOC introduced basketball to students of Taing Samrong Secondary School as part of the Women and Sport Commission’s Outreach Programme.
The OCA returned to two host cities of recent multi-sport games for the Olympic Solidarity/OCA Regional Forums for 2017 – the start of a new Olympic cycle through to 2020.

National Olympic Committees from three OCA zones - Central, South East and East Asia - gathered in Incheon, Korea, for the first forum - in the home city of the 2014 Incheon Asian Games - from March 28-29.

The OS/OCA team then moved on to Muscat, Oman – host of the 2010 Asian Beach Games – for the second forum, for West and South Asia NOCs, on April 1-2.

Armed with a record budget of USD509 million for the 2017-2020 quadrennial, Olympic Solidarity HQ outlined the major changes and new initiatives of the Lausanne-run World Programme.

Of this USD509 million, 44 per cent, or USD222 million, has been distributed to the five continental associations as well as to the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC).

The OCA used the second day of the forum to inform the NOCs of the courses and activities available under their own Continental Programme, which has a four-year budget of US$34 million, or US$8.5 million per year.
TO ACT QUICKLY ON GENEROUS NEW PLAN

The OCA’s Continental Programme includes the Asian Youth Development Project, continental and regional games subsidies, Olympasia construction work, 18th Asian Games promotions and Social Development Through Olympism programmes.

The OCA’s Honorary Life Vice President, Mr Wei Jizhong, described the forums as “very fruitful” due to the exchange of views and the amount of information provided by the Olympic Solidarity presenters.

“This is the start of a new Olympic cycle for Olympic Solidarity and for the NOCs all the way through to the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games,” said Mr Wei.

“We have heard about all the funds available for the NOCs to help them prepare for the future of the athletes, coaches, administration and technical staff, so now it is time for action.

“The OCA urges all NOCs to respond quickly and make the most of the projects and programmes available to them over the next four years. This will benefit the NOCs, the OCA and the sports movement as a whole in Asia and the world.”

For more details, see: www.olympic.org, or email solidarity@olympic.org.
The OCA’s Medical Committee and Anti-Doping Commission was proud to announce that the 8th Asian Winter Games in Sapporo, Japan, in February were doping-free.

The OCA, in conjunction with the Sapporo 2017 organising committee, collected samples from 200 athletes before and during the February 19-26 Winter Asiad – around one in six of the 1,152 athletes who competed. One quarter of these tests were conducted pre-event.

The samples were sent to the WADA-accredited laboratory in Tokyo for examination and none of them came back positive for a banned substance.

“The Medical Committee and Anti-Doping Commission of the OCA is delighted to announce the absence of any adverse analytical findings from the doping programme of the 8th Asian Winter Games,” said the Committee Chairman, Dr Mani Jegathesan of Malaysia.

This allows Sapporo 2017 to earn the accolade ‘clean games’. These games also witnessed the participation of guest athletes from two Oceania countries for the first time, and a number of their athletes were tested as part of the programme.”

At the OCA’s closing press conference in Sapporo on February 26, Dr Jega praised Sapporo 2017 for the “excellent” delivery of the medical and anti-doping services, highlighting the speed and efficiency of the “exemplary” programme.

The OCA reminds all athletes that they have the responsibility to keep sport clean by abiding with anti-doping rules and avoiding any violations.

Dr Jega concluded: “The OCA’s ultimate goal is to protect clean athletes and the integrity of sport by providing a safe and fair competition environment at all its games.”

Note: There were two positive doping cases at the OCA’s 7th Asian Winter Games at Astana and Almaty, Kazakhstan, in 2011.

The dates have been finalised for the OCA Executive Board meeting and General Assembly on the sidelines of the 5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, this September.

The two OCA meetings will be held during AIMAG 5 due to the overlap of dates with the 130th IOC Session in Lima, Peru, which runs from September 13-17.

The opening ceremony of AIMAG 5 will take place on Sunday, September 17. The OCA Executive Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 19, and the General Assembly the following day.

Dr Jega, second from left, at the OCA press conference on February 26 – the closing day of Sapporo 2017.

SAPPORO 2017 EARNS ‘CLEAN GAMES’ ACCOLADE

DATES SET FOR OCA EB, GA MEETINGS IN ASHGABAT
The OCA and the organising committee of the 18th Asian Games Jakarta-Palembang 2018 (INASGOC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Chinese sports suppliers 361 in Jakarta on March 6. The OCA was represented by the Director General, Mr Husain Al Musallam, INASGOC by the organising committee Chairman, Mr Erick Thohir, and 361 by brand manager Mr Jun Ling.

The OCA President, HE Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad Al Sabah, opened the new headquarters of the organising committee of the 19th Asian Games 2022 in Hangzhou, China on Monday, April 17.

Sheikh Ahmad was accompanied by the Deputy Governor of Zhejiang Province, Mr Cheng Yue Chong, and by the Mayor of Hangzhou, Mr Xu Liyi.

Mayor Xu gave a detailed progress report on the past 15 months of preparation work since Hangzhou was awarded the right to host the 2022 Asian Games at the 34th OCA General Assembly in Turkmenistan in September 2015.

On the occasion of the opening ceremony of the HQ, all levels of government pledged their full cooperation and support to the success of the 19th Asian Games.

During his two-day visit to China, Sheikh Ahmad also met with Hangzhou Municipal Party Secretary Mr Zhao Yide, Zhejiang Provincial Party Secretary Mr Che Jun, the minister in charge of the General Administration of Sport in China (GASC) and the new Chinese Olympic Committee President, Mr Gou Zhongwen, and GASC deputy minister Mr Yang Shu’an.

NOTE:
Electronic gaming, or e-sports, will join the official sports programme of the Asian Games for the first time at Hangzhou 2022, following an agreement between the OCA and Alisports.

Alisports, which was established in 2015 as the Alibaba Sports Group by the Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba Group, will work closely with the OCA to develop e-sports in the build-up to the 19th Asian Games.

E-sports is set to be a demonstration sport at Ashgabat 2017 and at the 18th Asian Games in 2018, but will become a full medal sport at the Asian Games in 2022.
The National Olympic Committee of the Republic of Kazakhstan celebrated its 25th anniversary on March 17 with a ceremony at the Palace of Peace and Reconciliation in the capital Astana.

The ceremony was attended by the President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, and the chief guest was the OCA and ANOC President, HE Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad Al Sabah. President Nazarbayev presented Sheikh Ahmad with a jubilee medal to mark the special occasion.

Other dignitaries included presidents and representatives from 15 National Olympic Committees, International Federation leaders and current and former elite athletes.

**President Nazarbayev:** “Entry into the Olympic Movement became an important part of the process of building the independency of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

“For Kazakhstan, sport has always been a powerful and unifying force, raising the national spirit, strengthening the will to succeed and creating a sense of patriotism and love for the homeland.”

**Sheikh Ahmad:** “On behalf of the international Olympic community I express my gratitude to the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan for his tireless attention to sports issues and for his contribution to the development of the Olympic Movement.

“I am also grateful to the members of the Kazakhstan Olympic family for creating such a solid platform for success in sport. Together you have made great efforts to strengthen Kazakhstan’s position as one of the valuable members of the world Olympic Movement.”

**Kazakhstan NOC President Timur Kulibayev:** “During the past 25 years our Republic has become one of the most active members of the international Olympic Movement.

“Thanks to the attention and care of the nation’s leader, Nursultan Nazarbayev, who constantly keeps the focus on physical education and sport in the country, the number of victories of our athletes began to grow from year to year. Therefore, we are confident of conquering new sports peaks in the future.”
The 5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games (AIMAG 5) will open a new chapter in OCA history – and a whole new world for the thousands of athletes and officials who will descend on Ashgabat this September.

Not only will AIMAG 5 be the biggest international event hosted by Turkmenistan, announcing the country’s arrival on the grand Olympic stage, it will also showcase the beauty, culture and traditions of this evolving and fascinating Central Asian nation.

The quality of the sports venues in the sparkling new Ashgabat Olympic Complex will leave the athletes in awe, while the history and heritage of the surroundings and the hospitality of the locals will paint a vibrant picture of this new frontier for the OCA.

To prepare the teams for AIMAG 5, Ashgabat 2017 and the OCA conducted the all-important Chefs de Mission Seminar from April 4-8.

The busy schedule for the 67 delegates from 54 NOCs in Asia and Oceania included:

- Two days of presentations from key departments within the organising committee.
- A comprehensive tour of Olympic Complex competition venues and the Athletes’ Village.
- A series of one-on-one meetings between individual NOCs and local experts to clarify any procedural and protocol matters.
- A one-hour flight from Ashgabat to the Caspian Sea to attend an international sports congress, visit the new Awaza Sports Complex and enjoy a gala concert of international song and dance attended by the President of Turkmenistan, His Excellency Mr Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov.

NOTE: Sporting Asia’s in-depth coverage of the CDM Seminar can be found on Pages 15-22.

See you in September!
COO WRIGHT ‘AMAZED’ BY AIMAG 5 VENUES

The Chief Operating Officer of AIMAG 5, Mick Wright, set the scene for Ashgabat 2017 on the first morning of the Chefs de Mission Seminar.

In his introductory address on Wednesday, April 5, Mr Wright pointed out that there were 165 days to go to the opening ceremony on September 17 and that the vast new Ashgabat Olympic Complex was virtually finished.

“You are going to be amazed at the quality of the venues,” he told the 67 delegates from 54 NOCs from Asia and Oceania.

He said the constructors, Polimeks, had done a “fantastic job” and added: “I believe these are some of the best venues you will see around the world.”

Mr Wright was formerly Head of Logistics at London 2012 and of Games Services at Rugby World Cup 2015. He was appointed COO of AIMAG 5 by Trivandi Chanzo, the London-based major project consultants.

Following two days of presentations, the COO presented a list of eight key findings.

Two of them involved major government input and assistance: first in making it easier for teams to travel to Ashgabat due to the low number of direct flights from around Asia and lengthy transits, mainly through Dubai; and second in making social media more accessible, especially Facebook and WhatsApp, for the young athletes coming to Ashgabat.

Summing up the CDM Seminar, the OCA’s Honorary Life Vice President, Wei Jizhong, said the two days of discussion had been “constructive and fruitful”. He added: “We have to work together to solve our problems with our many experiences. Let us work together to deliver a very successful Games.”

OVER 600,000 TICKETS FOR 160 SESSIONS

It will require 160 sessions of non-stop action at Ashgabat 2017 to produce the 337 gold medal-winners of AIMAG 5.

From the delights of dance sport to the rough, tough martial arts, there will be something for everyone on the 21-sport programme.

With this in mind, organisers will be selling a total of 614,000 tickets, starting in June and the average price for a ticket to watch a sports event is 7 Turkmenistan manat, or US$2.

Ticket prices for the opening ceremony range from 50 manat (US$14) to 500 manat (US$142).

Tickets will be free for children, encouraging the youth to be inspired by sport and to follow a healthy lifestyle.
OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE A WALK IN THE PARK

With the Athletes’ Village so close to the 45,000-capacity Ashgabat Olympic Stadium, the athletes will be able to walk to - and from - the opening ceremony venue without the hassle of waiting for buses and snail-like progress along the busy roads.

Instead, the earliest any athlete will have to leave the village is 7pm, depending on the order of marching in the parade. The latest departure from the village will be 7.30pm.

The parade will begin at 8.40pm and conclude at 9.25pm – but the athletes will be free to leave the stadium at any time once they have completed one lap of the track.

If athletes want to stay for the whole ceremony, their walk home will begin at 10.30pm – and the latest any athlete will arrive back in the village is 11pm.

All in all, then, a maximum of four hours from start to finish – but this could be much less depending on the amount of time an athlete wants to stay once they have completed their march-in.

COMPETITION SCHEDULE

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Chefs de Mission Seminar for Ashgabat 2017
Chefs de Mission Seminar for Ashgabat 2017

All aboard the Ashgabat Express - the new monorail running around the Olympic Complex.

Scenic Ashgabat.

The new Olympic Stadium beckons spectators.
The sparkling new Ashgabat Olympic Complex.

The mini-marathon venue tour.

The opinions of the NOC delegates was big news for local TV.
Chefs de Mission Seminar for Ashgabat 2017

AIMAG 5
Opening Ceremony: September 17
Closing Ceremony: September 27
Venue: Ashgabat Olympic Stadium (capacity 45,000)

Sports Programme
Sports: 21
Events: 337
Sessions: 160
Competition Days: 12 (September 16-27)

Online Accreditation for NOCs
Opened: April 1
Closes: June 30

Team Welcome Ceremony
From: September 13
To: September 16
Times: 10am, 11am, 6pm, 7pm

Competition Venues
Total: 15
Inside Olympic Complex: 13
Outside: 2 (Futsal – Ice Palace; Show Jumping – Equestrian Centre)

NOC Visits
Deadline: The deadline for individual NOC visits to Ashgabat is May 31.

Athletes’ Village
Pre-opening: September 7 (8am), for up to 10 delegates per NOC
Official opening: September 12 (8am)
Official closing: September 30 (6pm)
Zones (3): Village Plaza (International Zone), Residential Zone, Operational Zone (workforce/logistics)

Delegation Registration Meetings
Pre-DRMs: July 1-16
DRMs: September 7-16 in Ashgabat

Media Accreditation
Application: NOCs will send their local media the details of how to apply for accreditation. The application must be sent direct to the organising committee, not to the NOC. The organising committee will check the eligibility of the applications with each NOC for the NOC to approve.
Accreditation begins: June 1
Ends: July 16
Media Accommodation: Satellite Village (next to Athletes’ Village) or hotel
Contact: media@ashgabat2017.com

Ashgabat 2017
5th Asian Indoor & Martial Arts Games
Main Media Centre (MMC)

Includes: International Broadcast Centre (IBC) and Main Press Centre (MPC)
Location: Next to Athletes’ Village, across the road from Olympic Complex
Opens: September 7

Chefs de Mission Manual
Published: July 17

Accreditation Card
AIMAGIAC: The AIMAG Identity and Accreditation Card will serve as a multiple entry visa-waiver for entry into Turkmenistan from August 18 to October 12, 2017. Pre-valid cards will be sent to NOCs in July and August.

Catering – Meals to be served
Total: 1.3 million
Spectators: 600,000
Athletes and Officials: 200,000
Press and Broadcast: 100,000
Workforce: 300,000
Games family: 100,000

Sports Entries
Entry by Number: Deadline June 17
Entry by Name: From July 17 to August 3 (deadline)

NOTICE BOARD

Main Dining Hall
Capacity: 1,600
Pre-opens: September 7-11
Full service: From September 12
Opening hours (20 per day): 6am to 2am
Closed: From 2am to 6 am

Medical Matters
Registration: The deadline for NOCs to register doctors and physios is June 1
TUE: The deadline for NOCs to inform the OCA of Therapeutic Use Exemption cases is August 5

Polyclinic
Limited services: September 7-11
Full services: September 12-30

Main Press Centre
Pre-opening: September 13-15 (reduced services, 9am to 9pm)
Full operation: September 16-27 (7am to midnight)
Chefs de Mission Seminar for Ashgabat 2017

OUT AND ABOUT WITH THE NOC TEAM LEADERS

‘Everything is very clean and the buildings are brand new. It will be good for our delegation; the athletes and coaches will be content with these facilities. The design of the competition venues is very impressive with the colourful spectator seats and the comfortable mats for martial arts and the podium set-up. I am sure the atmosphere and surroundings will inspire our athletes to do their best. From what I have seen, I will tell them they are coming to a mega-event.’

Hwang Isak
Manager, International Games Department
Korean Sport and Olympic Committee

‘The Chefs de Mission Seminar has supplied us with updates across a variety of areas including venues, Athletes’ Village services, transport and many more. The facilities are state-of-the-art and the city in general is very interesting.’

Kesang Phuntsho Tshering
Programme Officer
Bhutan Olympic Committee

‘All the things we have seen regarding the accommodation in the Athletes’ Village and the venues is of the highest quality…really amazing. We hope that the Games are a big success – the people deserve it. Even the city itself…when you see the roads and things it gives a good impression of the country. This will be a special Games.’

Kazem Al-Baluchi
Chef de Mission
Oman Olympic Committee

‘You can see that Ashgabat is ready to host athletes from 62 countries. The Athletes’ Village is clean, and the cozy apartment blocks give it a homely feeling. The Olympic Complex is enormous and packed with state-of-the-art facilities.’

Ivan Liu Cheng-hou
International Affairs
Chinese Taipei Olympic Committee

‘Before I came here I thought the sports facilities would be simple, but when I saw them it was more like the Aspire Zone back home in Qatar – amazing! It will be very easy to contact the athletes and go to the venues because everything is near. It will be easy to move around – we don’t need transport inside the Olympic Village, just a golf cart. The rooms in the Athletes’ Village are excellent quality.’

Ibrahim Esmail Ali Ahmed Shams
Sports Affairs Department
Qatar Olympic Committee

Welcome to Ashgabat!
The colourful venues impressed the NOC delegates.
The Archabil Hotel - home from home for the CDM Seminar.
KP Tshering of Bhutan Olympic Committee highlighted the “state-of-the-art” sports venues.
THE QATAR OLYMPIC COMMITTEE PAID TRIBUTE TO THE FEMALE ATHLETES WHO EARNED TOP SPOT IN THE 5TH GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL (GCC) WOMEN’S GAMES HELD IN DOHA FROM MARCH 7-17.

Qatar finished on top of the rankings with 21 gold medals and 60 in total, ahead of 2013 and 2015 champions Bahrain, United Arab Emirates and Oman.

QOC Secretary General Dr Thani Abdulrahman Al Kuwari noted: “We are very pleased to witness the number of talented athletes that continue to emerge across a wide variety of sports and represent Qatar at the highest possible level, particularly in women’s sport and para-sport.

“This demonstrates the progress that we continue to make in the sports field and suggests a bright future for sporting excellence in Qatar.

“We hope that their success will capture the attention of young people around the country and inspire them to take up sport at any level.”

QATAR was represented by 88 athletes at the 5th GCC Women’s Games, which attracted over 350 athletes from the four NOCs in 10 sports.

- The 6th GCC Women’s Games will be held in Kuwait in 2019.

- Turn to Pages 24-25 to see a Photo Gallery from Doha.

The South East Asian Games Federation’s Women and Sport Committee has published the first edition of a quarterly newsletter dedicated to promoting women and sport activities in the SEA region.

The first edition, covering the first quarter of 2017, includes the members of the SEAGF Women and Sport Committee for the term 2015-2017, as well as news from around South East Asia.

The 12-strong committee was formed on February 23, 2016, and is led by Dato’ Paduka Mumtaz Jaffar, the Chairperson from Malaysia.

“The main objectives of this publication are to promote women and sport activities, to share information on women and sport initiatives and to encourage partnership on women and sport programmes among NOCs,” said Dato’ Paduka.

“Turn to Pages 24-25 to see a Photo Gallery from Doha.

“We hope that their success will capture the attention of young people around the country and inspire them to take up sport at any level.”

The newsletter will be a great legacy for the women and sport initiative for the SEAGF.”

The newsletter is managed and published by Prof. Dr. Supitr Sama-hito, Vice President of NOC Thailand, and her team from the Faculty of Sports Science at Kasetsart University in Bangkok.

“The newsletter will be a great legacy for the women and sport initiative for the SEAGF.”

The newsletter is managed and published by Prof. Dr. Supitr Sama-hito, Vice President of NOC Thailand, and her team from the Faculty of Sports Science at Kasetsart University in Bangkok.
Women and Sport

ACTION FROM THE 5TH GCC WOMEN’S

UAE and Bahrain battle in basketball.

Fast and furious in handball.

Oman on top of the podium in bowling.
The art of fencing at the 5th GCC Women’s Games.

Fully focused in table tennis.

Bahrain’s Edidiong Odiong wins the 200 metres.
The OCA conducted the sixth Coordination Committee meeting for the 18th Asian Games in Jakarta-Palembang, Indonesia, in 2018 by visiting both co-host cities on March 5-6.

The first port of call was Palembang, capital of South Sumatra, and the Jakabaring Sports City, where 10 of the 39 sports will be staged.

After visiting several of the venues, including the shooting range and the main stadium, the CC members were reassured that Palembang was highly motivated to co-host the 18th Asiad from August 18 to September 2, 2018.

The Governor of South Sumatra, Mr Alex Noerdin, told the meeting: “We are not the biggest province and we are not the richest province, but we have the strongest motivation to make the 18th Asian Games a success.

“We will convince all of you that all things and all infrastructure will be finished 100 per cent at the end of this year.”

The Chairman of the OCA Coordination Committee, Mr Tsunekazu Takeda of Japan, described Jakabaring as “a great sports complex” and told the meeting: “I saw the enthusiasm of the people to bring the Asian Games to a success. They are making wonderful preparations and the OCA is very happy and satisfied with what we have seen at Jakabaring.”

GOVERNOR ASSURES OCA OF STRONG MOTIVATION TO HOST ASIAN GAMES
The Director General of the OCA, Mr Husain Al Musallam, sent an Asian Games update on Jakarta-Palembang 2018 to the President and Secretary General of each member NOC on April 20.

The circular concerned the sports programme for the 18th Asian Games, which has been set at 39 sports, 53 disciplines and 426 events following meetings between the OCA President, the Vice President of Indonesia, HE Jusuf Kalla, and organising committee chairman Erick Thohir in Jakarta on April 18-19.

The new and reduced list includes six events for equestrian, although a final decision on the inclusion of equestrian will be taken once the Asian Equestrian Federation holds its election on or before August 18, 2017 – exactly one year before the opening ceremony of the 18th Asian Games.

Here are the 39 sports and 426 events:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Discipline</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aquatics</td>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>47</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Diving</td>
<td>32</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Synchronised Swimming</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Water Polo</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Archery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Athletics</td>
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<td>46</td>
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<tr>
<td>Badminton</td>
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<td>Baseball/Softball</td>
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<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>Basketball 5x5</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Basketball 3x3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bowling</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boxing</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bridge</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canoe/Kayak</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cycling</td>
<td>Track</td>
<td>16</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Road Race</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mountain Bike</td>
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<td></td>
<td>BMX</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equestrian</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fencing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Football</td>
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<td>Golf</td>
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<td>Gymnastics</td>
<td>Artistic</td>
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<td>Rhythmic</td>
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<td>Trampoline</td>
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<tr>
<td>Handball</td>
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<td>Hockey</td>
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<td>Jet Ski</td>
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<td>Judo</td>
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<td>Kabaddi</td>
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<td>Karate</td>
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<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Martial Arts</td>
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<td>36</td>
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<tr>
<td>Modern Pentathlon</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paragliding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rowing</td>
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<td>15</td>
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<td>Rugby Sevens</td>
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<td>Sailing</td>
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<td>Sepak Takraw</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shooting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sport Climbing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Squash</td>
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<tr>
<td>Table Tennis</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taekwondo</td>
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<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Triathlon</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volleyball</td>
<td>Indoor Volleyball</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Beach Volleyball</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weightlifting</td>
<td></td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wrestling</td>
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<td>18</td>
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</table>
The 5th National Congress of the Vietnam Olympic Committee took place on April 15-16 in Hanoi and elected a new president for the term 2016-2020: the Minister of Culture, Sport and Tourism, Mr Nguyen Ngoc Thien.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the two-day congress, the previous president, Mr Hoang Tuan Anh, reviewed the activities and accomplishments for the term 2011-2016.

These included the successful hosting of the OCA’s 5th Asian Beach Games in Danang in September 2016 and devising the plan to organise the South East Asian (SEA) Games in 2021.

Vietnam NOC also played an active role in promoting the campaign “All people take exercise following the great Uncle Ho’s example”.

Thanks to the support of the government, sports associations and other stakeholders, Vietnam NOC helped athletes compete in 23 international sports tournaments.

The medal haul was:

Gold: 1,682
Silver: 1,447
Bronze: 1,490

Gold medal highlights:

- Hoang Xuan Vinh - men’s 10m air pistol, 2016 Olympic Games, Rio de Janeiro

The new NOC President, Minister Nguyen Ngoc Thien, pledged to spread the sports movement nationwide, especially among students and armed forces, and extend relations with NOCs around the world and international sports organisations.

The Congress elected an 81-strong executive board led by:

President, Minister of Culture, Sport and Tourism, Nguyen Ngoc Thien; Vice Presidents (7), Mr Nguyen Duc Hanh, Mr Nguyen Dong Tien, Mr Vuong Bich Thang, Mr Pham Ngoc Minh, Mr Hoang Vinh Giang, Mr Le Van Kiem and Mr Huynh Uy Dung; Secretary General, Mr Tran Van Manh (re-elected).

Vietnam has set the target of 33% of the population regularly engaging in sport and physical activities by 2020.

Olympic champion shooter Hoang Xuan Vinh was elected Chairman of the Vietnam NOC Athletes’ Committee for the term 2016-2020.

(Article supplied by: Tuyet Hoa, Vietnam Olympic Committee Media Officer)
DEPUTY PM IS NEW THAI NOC PRESIDENT

The Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, Gen. Prawit Wongsuwon, has succeeded Gen. Yuthasak Sasiprapha as President of the National Olympic Committee of Thailand.

Gen. Prawit, who is also Minister of Defence, filled the position left vacant by Gen. Yuthasak, who retired from the post.

The NOC Vice President and Secretary General, Maj. Gen. Charouck Arrachakaran, informed the OCA President on April 18 that Thailand NOC’s General Assembly was held on Friday, March 31, when 66 of the 67 eligible members attended.

This was followed by an Extraordinary Meeting on Wednesday, April 5 to confirm Gen. Prawit as President, Maj. Gen. Charouck as Vice President/Secretary General and Mr Thana Chaiprasit as Treasurer.

Gen. Yuthasak chaired the General Assembly and informed the members that he had served as chairman for 16 years. He thanked the members for their strong support over the years and vowed to support wholeheartedly the new NOC President, should he be elected to the Executive Board.

Gen. Yuthasak was duly appointed Honorary Life President of the NOC.

OLYMPIC BOXING CHAMPION BECOMES MONGOLIA NOC SEC-GEN

Mongolia NOC held the VII Elective Congress on March 24 in Ulaanbaatar city with the participation of 146 delegates out of the 167 eligible to attend.

The following office-bearers were elected for the term 2017-2021:

**President**, Demchigjav Zagdsuren (re-elected, weightlifting);
**First Vice President**, Batbold Battushig (new, badminton);
**Vice President**, Tsend Damdin (re-elected, Olympians).

**Executive Committee**: Tamir Amarjargal (new, archery – female member), Chimeddorj Amarsanaa (new, table tennis), Badmaanyambuu Bat-Erdene (re-elected, sports management), Amgalanbaatar Ganbaatar (new, football), Shagdarjav Magyan (IOC Honorary Member), Davaanyambuu Olgondalai (new, Athletes’ Commission, Rio 2016 bronze medal-winner), Tsenduren Sandui (new, triathlon), Jamiyansuren Tumen-Ayush (new, soft tennis).


BANGLADESH NOC RE-ELECTS PRESIDENT

The Bangladesh Olympic Association held the Executive Committee Elections on April 8, when the President, Gen. Abu Belal Muhammad Shafiul Huq, was re-elected.

The other key office-bearers (re-elected if otherwise stated) are: **Vice President** (5), Anjan Chowdhury, Shaikh Bashir Ahmed, Badal Roy (newly elected), Nazim Uddin Chowdhury (newly elected) and Mst Mahabub Ara Begum Gini (newly elected).

**Secretary-General**, Syed Shahed Reza; **Deputy Secretary-General** (3), Ashiqur Rahaman, Asaduzzaman Kohinoor (newly elected) and Nazib Ahmed (newly elected).

**Treasurer**, Kazi Rajib Uddin Ahmed Chapal.
CYCLING STAR SARAH LEE WINS HK’S TOP SPORTS HONOUR

London 2012 Olympic Games bronze medal-winner Sarah Lee Wai Sze has been named Hong Kong’s Sports Star of the Year for a fourth time.

The 29-year-old track cyclist was selected Best of the Best from eight finalists at the Samsung 2016 Hong Kong Sports Stars Awards at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre on March 21.

Having won the award in 2012, 2013 and 2014, Lee picked up the fourth “athlete of the year” award in her career thanks to a productive 2016 at world and Asian levels.

She ended the year ranked first in the world in women’s sprint and 500m time trial and second in the women’s keirin – the event in which she won Olympic bronze at London 2012.

Sarah added to her trophy collection on the night by winning the Sportsmanship award.

Special guests at the awards night included the Hong Kong SAR Chief Executive, C Y Leung, Hong Kong NOC President Timothy Fok and IOC Vice President Yu Zaiqing.

Note: The Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China, received a total of 122 nominations from 45 National Sports Associations in six categories for this year’s Awards. Winners were selected through voting by the judging panel, sports media and the public.

For more details see: www.hkolympic.org

RIO OLYMPIAN EARN CAMBODIA’S SPORTS EXCELLENCE AWARD

Cambodia’s first ever qualifier for an Olympic Games - Sorn Seavmey - was named Female Athlete of the Year at the second Nagaworld/NOC Cambodia Sports Excellence Awards on March 21.

The 2014 Incheon Asian Games champion, who qualified for the taekwondo tournament at Rio 2016, received a cash prize of US$2,500.

Petanque specialist Sok Chan Mean, who won a gold medal at the 47th World Championships in Antananarivo, Madagascar, in December, won the Male Athlete of the Year award and a cash incentive of US$2,500.

Other awards were:

Coach of the Year: Prak Sovanara (football)
Team of the Year: Cambodian All Stars (football)
Legends Award: Hok Chheang Kim (coach)
Special Talent: Try Sothavy (Labokator)
Best Photographer: Kong Horn of BTV Television
Paralympic Award – Male: Chem Phan
Paralympic Award – Female: Sao Thida

Attendees included NOCC President Dr Thong Khon, Secretary General Vath Chamroeun, the Director of Sport from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, Ouk Sotheycheat, the President of the Football Federation of Cambodia, General Sao Sokha, and the Executive Director of Nagaworld, Pern Chen.
FEI HONOURS PRINCE FAISSAL WITH LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The International Equestrian Federation has presented HH Prince Faissal bin Abdullah Al-Saud with the FEI Lifetime Achievement Award for his outstanding contribution to equestrian sports.

It is only the second time the FEI has made this award. The first time was to Queen Elizabeth II in 2014.

Prince Faissal said: “Although this is a personal award, I feel it recognises the work of everyone in the equestrian community. We work together, we sacrifice our time and efforts in the name of this sport that we all love so much – and, because of this, our sport is flourishing.

“This is a humbling gesture from the FEI, which represents one of the most passionate and exciting sports in the world.”

Prince Faissal has had horses in his life since he started riding as a child. His passion for equestrian sport was ignited when he owned his first horse at 14.

He then went on to create the Saudi Equestrian Federation in 1990, and it took just six years for Saudi Arabia’s jumping athletes to make it to their first Olympic Games in Atlanta.


In 2010, Dalma Rushdi Malhas became the first Saudi female athlete to compete at Olympic level when she claimed individual bronze at the inaugural Youth Olympic Games in Singapore with Flash Top Hat. For more information, please see: www.fei.org.

PARA ATHLETE WINS SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR IN MALAYSIA

There were big surprises in Malaysia’s National Sports Awards 2016 as para athlete Abdul Latif Romly and silat exponent Siti Rahmah Mohd Nasir were crowned Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year, reports The Star.

Abdul Latif, 20, created history as the first para athlete to be named Sportsman of the Year, thanks largely to his record-breaking feats in the T20 (learning disability) men’s long jump at the Rio Paralympics last August.

“I was very honoured to be nominated in the first place and I didn’t dare to dream of winning,” he said. “The field was so strong and I really didn’t expect this.”

Abdul Latif beat an illustrious field to win the award, including Rio Olympic silver medallist Lee Chong Wei (badminton) and Rio Olympic bronze medallist Azizulhasni Awang (cycling).

Siti Rahmah, 30, also beat a top final field including 2015 winner Pandeela Rinong (diving).

“To be on the same stage with these athletes is already a huge achievement,” she said.
TORCH RELAY TO START IN KOREA ON NOV. 1

The PyeongChang Organising Committee for the 2018 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (POCOG) announced its plans for the Olympic Torch Relay on April 17. The slogan of the relay is “Let Everyone Shine”.

The first step is the ceremonial lighting of the torch at Olympia, Greece, on October 24. The torch will be handed over to POCOG on October 31 and the domestic relay will begin on November 1 – coinciding with the “100 days to go” to the opening ceremony on February 9.

The torch will travel to 17 metropolitan cities and provinces nationwide for 101 days, highlighting Korea’s leading IT technologies, traditional culture and most spectacular sites to the world as the local communities come out to join in the festivities.

There will be a total of 7,500 torchbearers with 2,018 supporting torchbearers, including security and assistants.

POCOG President Lee Hee-beom said: “The PyeongChang 2018 Olympic Torch Relay will inspire a generation and bring people together from different cultures, races and religions. As the torchbearers carry the torch for 101 days, we are confident that the flame will truly ‘Let Everyone Shine’ and spark passion and excitement before the Games.”

Retired figure skating queen Kim Yuna, who is a PyeongChang 2018 Ambassador, added: “I hope that many people can be a part of the PyeongChang 2018 Olympic Torch Relay and create a lifelong memory.”

Key dates:

- **October 24:** The flame is lit at Olympia, Greece.
- **October 31:** The torch is handed to PyeongChang 2018
- **November 1:** The 101-day domestic torch relay begins
- **February 9:** The relay ends at the Opening Ceremony

‘TREE-MENDOUS’ SUPPORT FOR WINTER GAMES

More than 300 people gathered at the Alpensia Sliding Centre on April 7 to recognise Arbor Day by planting tree seedlings as part of their environment and sustainability efforts in support of PyeongChang 2018.

The event is held annually by the Gangwon Provincial Office and this year PyeongChang was chosen as the location to help support and promote the Games.

A total of 546 seedlings were planted which included a variety of flowering maple trees and fir trees. The number of seedlings is significant as it represents the total number of gold, silver and bronze medals which will be awarded across both the Olympic and Paralympic Games next year.
METAL TO MEDALS FOR TOKYO 2020

Tokyo 2020 began the nationwide collection of discarded and obsolete electronic devices on April 1 in order to use the metal they contain in the production of the medals for the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The devices on the “wanted list” include smartphones, digital cameras, handheld games and laptops.

The “Metal to Medal” project aims to engage the whole Japanese nation and will offer everyone the opportunity to play a role in the Games preparations, while drawing public attention to the importance of sustainability.

More than 2,400 NTT DOCOMO stores and 350 local government offices around Japan will act as collection centres for discarded electronic devices.

The collection will end in spring 2019, or as soon as the 8-ton target is reached.

IOC APPROVES FUKUSHIMA VENUE

The IOC Executive Board has approved the Fukushima Azuma Baseball Stadium in Fukushima Prefecture as an additional venue for Baseball and Softball at Tokyo 2020.

Tokyo 2020, together with the World Baseball Softball Confederation, believes that the hosting of events in Fukushima will support recovery efforts in the Tohoku region, which was hit in the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.

Games played in the Tohoku region will be further evidence of Tokyo 2020’s commitment to taking sporting events to the recovering areas and will demonstrate the power of sport.

China’s President Xi Jinping visited some of the key venues for the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022 during a two-day inspection tour of the capital and caught up with some young winter sports enthusiasts at the Wukesong Sports Centre.
มาเลเซียกำลังตั้งใจที่จะเป็นเจ้าภาพของกีฬาแห่งเอเชียตะวันออกเฉียงใต้ (SEA) ซึ่งเป็นการแข่งขันทางกายภาพที่ใหญ่ที่สุดในเอเชีย สำหรับวันที่หกครั้งต่อๆไปหลังจากที่การแข่งขันนี้เริ่มต้นในปี 1959.

ราว 6,000 นักกีฬาจาก 11 คณะกรรมการกีฬาแห่งชาติในเขตSEA คาดว่าจะเข้าร่วมใน 38 ชนิดกีฬา ซึ่งจะรวมถึงการเล่นสเก็ตและ khúcSignIn for Ice สำหรับครั้งแรก.

การแข่งขันครั้งที่ 29 ของ SEA Games จะจัดขึ้นระหว่างวันที่ 19-30 ต.ค. และจะถูกตามด้วยการแข่งขันการแข่งขันการแข่งขันการแข่งขันการแข่งขัน Paralympic of the SEA Games 9th ซึ่งจะจัดขึ้นตั้งแต่วันที่ 17-23 ต.ค.

สิ่งที่ทำให้ปีนี้มีความสำคัญพิเศษสำหรับมาเลเซียคือมันจะตรงกับวันเฉลิมฉลอง 60 ปีของอิสรภาพ.

หัวข้อของการแข่งขันในปี 2017 ของมาเลเซียคือ “Rising Together”.

Next hosts:
2019 Philippines
2021 Vietnam
2023 Cambodia

Malaysia as host (6):

Venues:
Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya, Selangor, Negeri Sembilan, Langkawi and Terengganu.

NOCs (11):
Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam.

The Rising Together Baton Run has toured the region to promote the 29th SEA Games Kuala Lumpur 2017.
BADMINTON MOURNS INDIAN VISIONARY DR GUPTA

The Badminton World Federation was shocked and saddened by the death of Dr Akhilesh Das Gupta in Lucknow, India, on April 12. He was 56.

A BWF Council member since 2013, Dr Gupta was also President of the Badminton Association of India (BAI) and Vice President of Badminton Asia at the time of his sudden passing.

Reacting to the news, BWF President Poul-Erik Høyer paid tribute to his colleague, noting Dr Gupta’s passion for badminton as well as his determination to develop the sport further in India.

“Having been an international badminton player himself, Dr Gupta’s influence on badminton when he became President of the BAI has seen positive results in the sport in India,” he said.

“One of the highlights during his tenure as President has to be the unprecedented boom in the level of interest in badminton and the enhanced pathway for the development of India’s most talented players.”

The BWF President picked out the performance of PV Sindhu at Rio 2016, winning the silver medal in women’s singles and leading to badminton attracting the highest TV rating in India of all sports at the Olympics.

FORMER OLYMPIAN PASSES AWAY IN SRI LANKA

Capt. Ravindra Vimal Jayewardene, a former Olympian and son of the late President J R Jayewardene, passed away on April 3. He was 80.

The National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka has suffered a series of tragic losses in the local sports world in recent weeks.

- Capt. Jayewardene was a reputed rifle shooter who introduced Olympic rifle shooting to the National Rifle Association (NRA), which was known as the Ceylon Rifle Association at that time.

He represented Sri Lanka at the 1964 Olympics and also captained the contingent at Tokyo.

- Mr U H Neville Pathmasiri: A member of the NOC, Mr Pathmasiri was elected President of the Sri Lanka Wrestling Federation in 2016 after serving as Vice President from 2012 to 2014.

He was also an international referee master and chairman of the referee judging association for 14 years.

- Mr Herbert Embuldeniya: A former boxer turned administrator and Executive Committee member of the International Boxing Association AIBA.

He received the Order of Merit Award from AIBA, having played a major role in the development of boxing and boxing officials in Sri Lanka.
### 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IOC Executive Board meeting</td>
<td>July 9 – 10</td>
<td>Lausanne, Switzerland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17th FINA World Aquatics Championships</td>
<td>July 14 – 30</td>
<td>Budapest, Hungary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16th IAAF World Championships in Athletics</td>
<td>August 4 – 13</td>
<td>London, UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29th Summer Universiade</td>
<td>August 19 – 30</td>
<td>Taipei City, Taiwan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29th South East Asian (SEA) Games</td>
<td>August 19 – 30</td>
<td>Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th IOC Coordination Commission</td>
<td>August 29 – 31</td>
<td>PyeongChang, Korea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IOC Executive Board meeting</td>
<td>September 11 – 12</td>
<td>Lima, Peru</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>130th IOC Session</td>
<td>September 13 – 17</td>
<td>Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th ASEAN Para Games</td>
<td>September 17 – 23</td>
<td>Ashgabat, Turkmenistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games</td>
<td>September 17 – 27</td>
<td>Ashgabat, Turkmenistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCA Executive Board</td>
<td>September 19</td>
<td>Ashgabat, Turkmenistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCA General Assembly</td>
<td>September 20</td>
<td>Jakarta, Indonesia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Championship Test Event Series, 10 sports</td>
<td>October 24</td>
<td>Greece</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Torch-lighting ceremony for PyeongChang 2018 Olympic Winter Games, Olympia</td>
<td>October 24</td>
<td>Prague, Czech Republic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANOC Commissions and Working Groups</td>
<td>October 31 – Nov 1</td>
<td>Prague, Czech Republic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANOC Executive Council</td>
<td>November 1</td>
<td>Prague, Czech Republic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22nd ANOC General Assembly</td>
<td>November 2 – 3</td>
<td>Prague, Czech Republic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th IOC International Athletes’ Forum</td>
<td>November 11 – 13</td>
<td>Lausanne, Switzerland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IOC Executive Board</td>
<td>November 5 – 7</td>
<td>Lausanne, Switzerland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Sailing World Championships 2017</td>
<td>November 9 – 16</td>
<td>Sanya, Hainan Island, China</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Olympic Winter Games</td>
<td>February 9 – 25</td>
<td>PyeongChang, Korea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paralympic Winter Games</td>
<td>March 9 – 18</td>
<td>PyeongChang, Korea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18th OCA Asian Games</td>
<td>August 18 – Sep 2</td>
<td>Jakarta-Palembang, Indonesia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Olympic Games</td>
<td>October 1 – 12</td>
<td>Buenos Aires, Argentina</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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