CARRY ON SHEIKH
OCA GENERAL ASSEMBLY RE-ELECTS PRESIDENT

• OCA's NOCs at Children of Asia Winter Games
• OCA Coordination Committee in China
• OCA Executive Board 2019-2023
• OCA Director General honoured in Korea
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Front cover:
Sheikh Ahmad was re-elected OCA President at the 38th OCA General Assembly in Bangkok on March 3.
(Photoc: Kim Min Jae)
Thank you to everyone who attended our 38th OCA General Assembly in Bangkok, Thailand, on March 2-3, 2019.

The meeting was a big success, not only because it reaffirmed the unity and solidarity within Asia but also because it highlighted the standing and status of the OCA as a major partner in the global sports movement.

This could not have been achieved without the coordination and cooperation of all the stakeholders, starting with our 45 National Olympic Committees, and we can now look forward to another four years of growth and development with the new Executive Board in place for the 2019-2023 cycle.

These are exciting times ahead for Asia, with our next two Asian Games already in place for 2022 and 2026 and, at the moment, no fewer than four cities interested in bidding for the Asian Games in 2030. This demonstrates the confidence and trust the hosting and bidding cities have in the OCA and the high value they place on the Asian Games to enhance and promote their city and country.

Furthermore, during the General Assembly we signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Shantou city in Guangdong province to host our third Asian Youth Games in 2021. This completes a Chinese hat trick for the OCA, with the Asian Beach Games at Sanya in November 2020, the AYG the following year and, of course, the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou in September 2022.

With the next two Olympic and Winter Olympic Games – Tokyo 2020 and Beijing 2022, respectively – in Asia, the continent remains at the forefront of international sport for the foreseeable future. I am confident that we will rise to every challenge.

Finally, I would like to thank the OCA Executive Board members from the previous cycle 2015-2019 for their support and teamwork, and wish the new members a successful and fruitful time ahead, working together for our great sports movement and organisation.

Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad Al Sabah
President, Olympic Council of Asia
PAKISTAN joined the World Baseball Softball Confederation’s Baseball5 boom when the country’s baseball federation held the first game of the new urban format at Bahria Town, Lahore on February 5.

Pakistan Green defeated Pakistan Red 8-6 after a five-innings match between teams of eight players.

[http://www.wbsc.org]

SAUDI Arabia NOC held an election for its first Athletes’ Commission at the NOC headquarters in Riyadh on February 3 with 40 athletes from 29 national federations taking part. Four male and three female athletes were elected and in addition the NOC President will appoint one male and one female athlete.

BAHRAIN Olympic Committee celebrated the third National Sports Day on Tuesday, February 12 with more than 200 sports events and other activities across the four governorates. Sports included American football, basketball, table tennis, martial arts, badminton, taekwondo, cycling, race walking and mind sports.

BOC staff joined in the festivities.
KAZAKH hockey great Boris Alexandrov will be inducted into the International Ice Hockey Federation’s Hall of Fame on May 26 as a member of the Class of 2019, reports Kazakhstan NOC. The late Alexandrov, a former Soviet national team player and national coach in his native Kazakhstan, died in a car crash in Russia in 2002 aged 46.

IOC Member and Chinese Olympic Committee Vice President Li Lingwei presented the bronze medal from the London 2012 Olympic Games to hammer thrower Zhang Wenxiu during the COC’s 2018 Plenary Session on December 28 following the disqualification of the gold medallist for a doping offence.

MALDIVES Olympic Committee Secretary General Ahmed Marzoqq presents 11-year-old table tennis prodigy Dheema Ali with a bouquet of flowers for winning the gold medal in the South Asian Hopes Challenge in Sonepat, India. It was the biggest achievement in the history of table tennis in the Maldives.

FALAH the falcon has been selected as the official mascot of the IAAF World Athletics Championships in Doha, Qatar, from September 27 to October 6, 2019. A nationwide competition attracted 21 sketches and the winning design was created by Filipino expat Theodore Paul Manuel.

(Photo: Doha 2019 LOC)
AFGHANISTAN  NOC President Dr. Hafizullah Wali Rahimi congratulates Zabihullah Shahzaad (right) and Firouz Mashouf (left) for finishing in the Top 10 (Asia/Oceania) in the first AIPS Sports Media Awards at a ceremony in Kabul on February 23. The third Afghan sports journalist to secure a Top 10 finish was Saber Perzad.

NEPALI  youngsters flocked to the Get Into Rugby Festival in Tundikhel Park, Kathmandu, as part of the Rugby World Cup Japan 2019 Trophy Tour.

Over 2,500 people attended, many of them touching a rugby ball for the first time in their lives.

(https://www.world.rugby)

HRH Crown Prince Al-Hussein Bin Abdullah II paid a visit to the Olympic Preparations Centre in Amman to meet many of Jordan’s leading athletes. The Crown Prince expressed his pride and support for the sports movement in Jordan and, following a briefing from Jordan Olympic Committee President HRH Prince Feisal Al Hussein, praised the work being done at the centre, which provides top-level support and facilities for Jordanian athletes preparing for major international competitions.

(www.joc.jo)
**JAPAN** NOC closed the eighth year of its International Sports Leader Academy with a graduation ceremony on December 13 for 46 people representing 31 National Federations and other sports organisations at the NOC’s National Training Centre during the annual NOC/NF International Relations Forum. Photo: JOC/Aflo Sport.

**PENANG** will host an Olympic Carnival to celebrate Olympic Day in Malaysia this June in cooperation with the Olympic Council of Malaysia. YB Soon Lip Chee, Penang State Executive Council for Youth and Sports, chaired the first meeting of the organising committee and four sports are planned: volleyball, badminton, sepaktakraw and tenpin bowling.

**FENCING** Singapore President Juliana Seow has been appointed Chef de Mission of the Singapore delegation for the SEA Games in the Philippines at the end of this year.

The former national team fencer will be assisted by Valerie Teo (bowling) and Chung Pei Ming (sailing).
IRAQ NOC re-elected Raad Hammoudi as President at the Electoral General Assembly on February 15-16 in Baghdad attended by representatives of 21 National Federations. Other officers elected were: 1st Vice President, Mr. Falah Hasan; 2nd Vice President, Mr. Wahab Abdulrazaq; Secretary General, Mr. Haider Husain; Treasurer, Mr. Sarmad Abdullah. Members: Salam Awad, Jameel Aziz, Zahid Nouri, Bashar Majeed Mohammad Aziz and Zeyad Jasem.

SAUDI Arabia’s Sports Minister, Prince Abdulaziz bin Turki Al Saud (centre), is the new President of the Saudi Arabian Olympic Committee. Prince Abdulaziz, a well-known motor racing driver and previously a Vice President of the NOC, was elected President at an Extraordinary General Meeting on February 4 following the resignation of HE Mr. Turki bin AbdulMohsen Al-Sheikh, who stood down after being elected to a governmental role in December 2018.

OCA Vice President and IOC Honorary Member Timothy Fok was re-elected President of the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China at the annual meeting on December 18 with a full house of 68 votes. For full results see:

http://www.hkolympic.org
DING NING WINS ITTF AWARD FOR FOURTH TIME

Amidst the glitz and glamour of the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Incheon, Korea, the scene was set for the 2018 International Table Tennis Federation Star Awards.

For an incredible fourth time in the last five years, Ding Ning was named Female Table Tennis Star after helping China to gold medal finishes at the Team World Cup and World Team Championships.

The 28-year-old ace also excelled individually with title-winning campaigns at the World Tour Bulgaria Open and Women’s World Cup.

“It has been a challenge to win this award. I’ve had to make changes to become stronger - and winning this award again gives me more strength. Thanks to all the people who support me,” she said.

- China’s Fan Zhendong, 21, was Male Star for the first time after capturing three men’s singles titles on the 2018 ITTF World Tour, the Liebherr 2018 Men’s World Cup and for occupying the World No.1 spot since April 2018.

- Manika Batra, 23, won the Breakthrough Star award thanks to a sensational 2018 Commonwealth Games, earning India its first-ever gold medal in women’s singles. She left the Gold Coast with three further medals to her name from the women’s team, women’s doubles and mixed doubles events and became the first Indian athlete to be honoured at the ITTF Star Awards.

From left: Massimo Castantini, Ding Ning, Fan Zhendong, Manika Batra, Kelly van Zon (Female Para Star), Jordi Morales (Male Para Star) and Xu Xin (Star Point) show off their trophies at the 2018 ITTF Star Awards in Incheon, Korea.

MALAYSIA NOC REWARDS OLYMPIANS OF THE YEAR

The 25th Olympic Council of Malaysia Annual Dinner and Awards Night took place at the Shangri-La Hotel, Kuala Lumpur on December 12 and was presided over by Y.A.B. Dato’ Seri Dr. Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia.

The Olympian of the Year 2018 (male) award went to track cyclist Mohd Azizulhasni Awang, who won one gold, one silver and one bronze medal at the 18th Asian Games, while rhythmic gymnast Amy Kwan Dict Weng was named female Olympian of the Year after collecting one gold, one silver and two bronze medals at the XXI Commonwealth Games Gold Coast 2018.

Mohd Azizulhasni Awang was unable to attend the awards night due to competition commitments so he received his award from Dato’ Mohd Nazifuddin, Secretary General of OCM, at a special presentation on January 3 at the National Velodrome in Nilai.

Amy Kwan Dict Weng shows off her medal as Olympian of the Year.

Mohd Azizulhasni Awang receives his award from Dato’ Mohd Nazifuddin, Secretary General of OCM, on January 3.
ASIAN GAMES HERO OM LEADS DPRK TOP 10

The Korean Central News Agency in Pyongyang, DPR Korea, announced the 10 top athletes in 2018. They are listed below with the name of their sports club:

1. Om Yun Chol (weightlifting, Amnokgang); 2. Ri Se Gwang (artistic gymnastics, April 25); 3. Pang Chol Mi (boxing, Kumgangsan); 4. Rim Jong Sim (weightlifting, Kigwancha); 5. Pak Myong Won (shooting, Korean People’s Army); 6. Rim Un Sim (weightlifting, Kigwancha); 7. Kim Su Jong (artistic gymnastics, Pyongyang); 8. Jong Myong Suk (wrestling, April 25); 9. Pak Yong Mi (wrestling, Pyongyang); 10. Kim Un Ju (weightlifting, Kigwancha).

KAZAKHSTAN NOC SPORTS AWARDS ATTRACT 500,000 VOTES

Kazakhstan NOC’s National Sports Awards 2018 took place at the Hilton Astana Hotel and featured nine categories.

A shortlist was announced two weeks before the presentation night and 500,000 votes were cast on the NOC website Olympic.kz. The winners were:

- Athlete of the Year (winter sports): Yuliya Galysheva
- Athlete of the Year (summer sports): Dmitriy Aleksanin
- Coach (winter sports): Elena Kruglykhina
- Coach (summer sports): Aliya Yussupova
- Best Young Athlete: Bekarys Saduakas
- Team of the Year: National Water Polo Team
- Breakthrough of the Year: Gleb Brussenskiy and Yevgeniy Fedorov
- Best National Federation in Olympic sports: Fencing Federation
- Best Region: Department of Physical Culture and Sports of Shymkent

DOUBLES PLAYERS SCOOP BADMINTON AWARDS

Indonesia’s all-conquering men’s doubles team of Marcus Fernaldi Gideon and Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo have been voted Badminton World Federation Male Player of the Year.

They claimed top honours for a second consecutive year at the BWF Player of the Year Awards held in Guangzhou. The duo entered 11 HSBC BWF World Tour tournaments in 2018 and won eight of the nine finals they contested for a World Tour win-loss record of 49-3.

“It’s a great honour to win this award for the second straight time. It’s an inspiration for us to keep working hard. We did well all through the season but I would say our highlight was winning the Asian Games gold,” Sukamuljo said.

China’s Huang Yaqiong picked up Female Player of the Year ahead of Chinese Taipei’s Tai Tzu Ying and Japan’s doubles pairing of Yuki Fukushima and Sayaka Hirota.

Huang and mixed doubles partner Zheng Siwei had a stellar season winning all five Super 750 titles on the HSBC BWF World Tour.
UZBEKISTAN NOC HOLDS FIRST AWARDS NIGHT

The Uzbekistan National Olympic Committee held the first of what will be an annual awards ceremony to recognise outstanding achievements of the year.

Seventeen athletes, including 18th Asian Games high jump champion Svetlana Radzivil, were honoured at the event.

Radzivil, who won gold in Jakarta to claim her third Asian Games title in a row, was named Female Athlete of the Year for 2018.

The male award went to freestyle wrestler Bekzod Abdurakhmonov, who won Asian Games gold at 74kg in 2018 to add to his 70kg title from Incheon 2014.

Legendary gymnast Oksana Chusovitina - who has competed in seven Olympic Games - was awarded for "the promotion of domestic sport in international arenas".

The country's under-23 men's football side won Team of the Year for winning the 2018 Under-23 Asian Football Championship.

Other awards included Discovery of the Year, which was claimed by Akbar Juraev for winning 102kg world weightlifting gold in the snatch division, and Coach of the Year to Marat Kurbonov (boxing).

The ceremony, which was the first of its kind in Uzbekistan, was held at the Palace of International Forums in Tashkent.
Inside the OCA
Coordination Committee visits China

OCA BEGINS NEW ASIAN GAMES CYCLE WITH

Under the leadership of the OCA’s Honorary Life Vice President, Raja Randhir Singh, the OCA Coordination Committee paid a first visit to the hosting cities of the next two multi-sport games in China.

The five-day tour from February 18-22 began in Hangzhou, which will host the 19th Asian Games in 2022, and continued in the tropical southern island province of Hainan where the 6th Asian Beach Games will take place at Sanya in 2020.

As well as the first official CC meetings in both cities, the OCA delegates were given a comprehensive venue tour and also met with civic leaders from the local governments.

The Chinese Olympic Committee and General Administration of Sport in China were also well represented by officials from Beijing, showing the support from the very top of Chinese sport for the next two OCA events.

Raja Randhir summed up the two-city sojourn by highlighting the team work of all parties and the strong desire to make the events a big success.

“Regarding Hangzhou, this will be the third time for China to host our premier event, the Asian Games, after Beijing 1990 and Guangzhou 2010,” he said.

“China has also conducted the Olympic Games at Beijing 2008 and two Asian Winter Games and will be hosting the next Winter Olympics in 2022. With this vast experience and expertise we are very confident our next Asian Games Hangzhou 2022 will be a big success and add to the Olympic legacy in China and for the OCA.”

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OCA BEGINS NEW ASIAN GAMES CYCLE WITH FIRST CC MEETINGS IN HANGZHOU, SANYA

While the weather was cold and rainy in Hangzhou, producing a swirling mist around the picturesque West Lake UNESCO world heritage site, the scenery changed completely after the three-hour flight to Sanya.

‘HAWAII OF CHINA’

The delegates were greeted by glorious sunshine, swaying palm trees in lush green gardens and a shimmering sea, fully justifying the “Hawaii of China” tag afforded to Sanya.

“We were very impressed with all aspects of the visit to Sanya,” added Raja Randhir. “The beaches are beautiful, the gardens are beautiful and the hotels are top-class.

“All the elements and natural resources are here for Sanya to organise a memorable Asian Beach Games. It is like a hidden treasure. Everyone in China knows about Sanya but it is not so well known from an international point of view.

“I am sure the Asian Beach Games will change this and introduce Sanya to a huge new international market from all around Asia and beyond. The Asian Beach Games are a perfect fit for Sanya and vice-versa.”

In Hangzhou, the venue tour included the site for the Athletes’ Village, Technical Officials’ Village and Media Village, the main stadium, Hangzhou International Expo Centre, the Guali Culture and Sports Centre, Linpu Gymnasium and Zhejiang University of Technology.

In Sanya, delegates visited two of the three beaches to be used for the 6th ABG, including the 27km Sanya Bay.
OCA DIRECTOR GENERAL RECEIVES HONORARY DEGREE IN KOREA FOR SERVICES TO SPORT

The Director General of the OCA, Husain Al Musallam, has received an honorary degree as Doctor of Philosophy in Sports Science from the prestigious Kookmin University in Seoul, Korea.

Mr Al Musallam, who is also First Vice President of world aquatics governing body FINA, was presented with the honorary doctorate for his dedication to sports development and for promoting the Olympic values at local, regional, continental and world levels.

“I would like to thank Kookmin University for giving me this honour and such a precious degree and title,” he said at the awarding ceremony on February 18.

“I consider this degree as an honour not only for me but for all the sports people who dedicate their lives to work for sport.

“I’d also like to thank all my friends from the Korean Olympic and sports movement with whom I have worked for almost four decades.”

During his acceptance speech, Mr Al Musallam said sport had taught him many valuable lessons in life such as discipline, hard work, team work, courage, perseverance and an appreciation of the different cultures around the world.

Kookmin University is the first private university after Korea’s independence and has 24,000 students enrolled.

OCA YOUTH CAMP TO FOCUS ON SKATEBOARDING

Skateboarding proved to be a big hit with athletes and spectators alike at the 18th Asian Games co-host city of Palembang last August.

With this in mind, and ahead of the sport’s Olympic Games debut at Tokyo 2020, the OCA is organising a skateboarding youth camp in cooperation with Olympic Solidarity at Nanjing, China, at the end of July.

The two disciplines will be Street and Bowl and all 45 member NOCs can send three delegates: one female athlete, one male athlete and one coach.

Here are the key points:

- **Arrival:** July 28
- **Opening Ceremony:** July 29
- **Closing Ceremony:** August 9
- **Departure:** August 9 - 10
- **Instructor:** Gen Ogawa, Skateboarding Technical Operation Manager for Tokyo 2020.
- **Venues:**
  - National Skateboard Training Base (indoor) of Nanjing Longjiang Sports School, which has hosted the China Skateboarding League and International Skateboard Invitational.
  - National Skateboard Training Base (outdoor) of Nanjing Yuzui Wetland Park, venue for the Nanjing Youth Olympic Games 2014.
- **Age Limit for athletes:** No older than 18 years by August 10, 2019.
The OCA President, HE Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, was re-elected for a new four-year term, 2019-2023, at the 38th OCA General Assembly in Bangkok on Sunday, March 3.

The assembly hall in the InterContinental Hotel was transformed into a sea of green approval cards as the nomination of Sheikh Ahmad was put to the house, confirming his re-election unanimously.

Sheikh Ahmad, who became OCA President in 1991, said: “Thank you for showing solidarity for me and all of the Vice Presidents. This will give us more responsibility to continue to do our job and develop sport and make sure Asia will be one of the leaders in the sports movement.

“I will do my best to continue working with this organisation, for this house and for the athletes.”

Under Sheikh Ahmad’s leadership, the OCA’s portfolio of multi-sports events has grown from two to five, with the Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games, Asian Beach Games and Asian Youth Games joining the two long-established showpiece events, the Asian Games (1951) and Asian Winter Games (1986).

Sheikh Ahmad’s vision is to provide an Olympic stage for athletes and sports which do not appear in the Asian Games or Asian Winter Games, thereby allowing more athletes from more countries and regions to represent their flag and to display the dynamism, unity and solidarity of the vast and diverse Asian continent.

Looking ahead to the new OCA cycle of games, Sheikh Ahmad added: “Our events are very stable; almost for the next decade is decided and this points to a successful future.

“We will follow up as a partner and we will cooperate and coordinate so that everyone is united – and we will keep our Asian identity.”

Sheikh Ahmad was re-elected OCA President at the 38th OCA General Assembly in Bangkok (Photo: Kim Min Jae)
SHANTOU SET TO HOST OCA’S 3RD AYG IN 2021

Shantou in Guangdong province is ready to join the list of Chinese hosting cities of OCA events after signing a Memorandum of Understanding for the 3rd Asian Youth Games in 2021.

City officials said the OCA event would bring a dash of youth to this old port city and point the way to a bright and energetic future.

The General Assembly delegates heard that Shantou has a population of 5.6 million and is a special economic zone of China.

Eighteen gymnasiums and stadiums already exist in the city, including an Olympic-size swimming pool, and minimal construction will be required to host the AYG.

The Chinese Olympic Committee gave their full backing to the bid and preparations through OCA Vice President Yu Zaiqing.

- The dates for the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, were confirmed as September 10-25, 2022. The OCA President said the next Asiad would expand the OCA-Oceania collaboration by including Oceania NOC athletes in sports which will serve as joint Asia-Oceania qualifying events for the Paris 2024 Olympics.

- The dates for the OCA’s 6th Asian Beach Games in Sanya, Hainan Island, China, were also confirmed: November 28 to December 6, 2020. The sports programme has still to be finalised but is likely to include teqball, which was officially recognised by the OCA in Jakarta last August.

- The 20th Asian Games in 2026 will be held in Nagoya and Aichi prefecture in Japan, with proposed dates of Saturday, September 19 to Sunday, October 4. Organisers plan to submit the Master Plan to the OCA by November 2019. The acronym for the organising committee will be ANAGOC.

Sheikh Ahmad received the President’s Award from International Hockey Federation President Narinder Batra, who is also President of the Indian Olympic Association.

Sheikh Ahmad signs the MoU with Shantou city, Guangdong province, for the 3rd Asian Youth Games in 2021.
The 38th OCA General Assembly was inaugurated on the evening of Saturday, March 2 at the Arnoma Grand Hotel in Bangkok.

In a festive atmosphere, Sheikh Ahmad was joined on the top table by Thailand’s Minister of Tourism and Sport, Mr Weerasak Kowsurat; the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Thai NOC President, Gen. Prawit Wongsuwang; and Thai IOC Member Khunying Patama Leesawadtrakul.

The inauguration included the presentation of the OCA Award of Merit to:

- Bahram Afsharzadeh, a long-serving former Chairman of the OCA Information and Statistics Committee and a former Secretary General of Iran NOC
- Jean Hammam, President of Lebanon NOC
- Erick Thohir, Chairman of the Indonesian Asian Games 2018 Organising Committee (INASGOC) and President of Indonesia NOC.

In other news:

- To mark the 25th year since the 12th Asian Games took place in Hiroshima, Japan, in 1994, Sheikh Ahmad presented the Sheikh Fahad Hiroshima Asia Sports Fund award to Mr Takashi Hiraoka, who was Mayor of Hiroshima at the time of the Games.
- The former Secretary General of INASGOC, Air Marshal (ret) Eris Herryanto, presented the final report of the 18th Asian Games in Jakarta and Palembang, Indonesia, last August 18-September 2. He reported that 17,000 athletes and officials from 45 NOCs took part along with 11,000 media and 13,000 volunteers. The Games attracted 1.7 million domestic visitors and 79,000 international tourists.

The OCA signed an agreement with the President of the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA), Mustapha Berraf, for joint exchange and cooperation between the two continents.
PRESIDENT

Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al-Sabah  
Kuwait

VICE PRESIDENTS

East Asia  
Mr. Timothy Fok  
Hong Kong, China

Central Asia  
Mr. Timur Kulibayev  
Kazakhstan

South Asia  
Lt. Genl. Seyed Arif Hasan  
Pakistan

South East Asia  
Maj. Gen. Charouck Arirachakaran  
Thailand

West Asia  
Dr. Thani Al-Kuwari  
Qatar

2020 Asian Beach Games & 2022 Asian Games  
Mr. Song Luzeng  
China

2026 Asian Games  
Mr. Tsunekazu Takeda  
Japan

ANOC  
Mr. Yu Zaiqing  
China

Children of Asia Games  
Mr. Umid Akhmatdjanov  
Uzbekistan

HONORARY LIFE VICE PRESIDENT

Mr. Wei Jizhong  
China

Raja Randhir Singh  
India

HONORARY VICE PRESIDENT

Mr. Hemasiri Fernando  
Sri Lanka

Mrs. Rita Subowo  
Indonesia
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<td>Mrs. Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul</td>
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<td>Women and Sports Committee</td>
<td>Sheikha Hayat Abdulaziz Al Khalifa</td>
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<td>Mr. Rustom Emmoli</td>
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<td>Mr. Ajmal Ghani</td>
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<td>Dr. Seyed Reza Salehi Amiri</td>
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<td>Mr. Dae Sung Moon</td>
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<td>Mrs. Natalya Sipovich</td>
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DIRECTOR GENERAL & TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Mr. Husain Al Musallam</td>
<td>Kuwait</td>
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Sheikh Ahmad with his right-hand man in the OCA (or, on this occasion, his left-hand man) Timothy Fok, OCA Vice President for East Asia and President of the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China.

A warm welcome to Thailand for Sheikh Ahmad from Gen. Prawit Wongsuwang, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Thai NOC President.
IOC Members Samira Aqghari (Afghanistan) and Zhang Hong (China)

IOC and OCA Executive Board Members HRH Prince Jigyel Ugyen Wangchuck of Bhutan and HRH Prince Faisal bin Al-Hussein of Jordan talk business.

OCA Vice President Yu Zaiqing of China speaks on behalf of Shantou’s bid for the 2021 AYG.

The packed conference hall of the InterContinental Hotel in Bangkok, with Bhutan NOC delegates in the foreground.
OLYMPIC DAY TO EMBRACE ASEAN VALUES

Thailand National Olympic Committee used the platform of the 38th OCA General Assembly to promote their Olympic Day celebrations, which will take place on June 16 in Bangkok in cooperation with the Royal Thai Government.

This year there will be a distinctive ASEAN flavour to Olympic Day as Thailand holds the chairmanship of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and will drive its 2019 agenda “Advancing Partnership for Sustainability”.

Under the royal patronage of His Majesty the King, the Thai NOC will work together with the ASEAN community in Bangkok to organise Olympic Day runs over 5km and 10km and a pop-up exhibition entitled “Road to 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games”.

OCA PLANS MARKETING SEMINAR IN BALI

The OCA President, HE Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, wants to bring together the sports and marketing worlds at a special Asian forum that will benefit all parties in the busy Olympic years ahead.

Sheikh Ahmad’s proposal to the OCA Executive Board in Bangkok that the OCA drives this marketing/finance initiative was met with unanimous approval at the General Assembly, especially with Asia hosting a series of major multi-sport games and the continent being the home of global corporate giants.

The plan is for a three- or four-day forum, including sports activities, to take place in Bali, Indonesia, as a relaxed environment would be conducive to good business and partnerships, said Sheikh Ahmad.

SOLIDARITY BUILDS FOR TOKYO 2020

Olympic Solidarity reported that 277 athletes from 32 National Olympic Committees in Asia are training for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games under OS scholarships.

Applications for Beijing 2022 athlete scholarships will open this June and the training programme will run from November 2019 through to the next Winter Olympics.

- On the subject of Tokyo 2020, organisers informed the delegates that the Chefs de Mission Seminar will be from August 20-22, 2019. Individual NOC visits will be entertained until March 2020.
- Regarding Beijing 2022, the first NOC Open Day will be from November 19-22, 2019.

OCA FINANCE COMMITTEE SETS UP SPECIAL FUND

The OCA Finance Committee has set up a special fund to support the activities and athletes of NOCs facing political challenges, conflicts and difficulties caused by war or civil war.

The income for the fund will be allocated from the OCA budget, Olympic Solidarity and other contributions.

The OCA management will establish guidelines and procedures to manage this special fund, which was proposed by the Finance Committee member from Yemen, Mohammed Al Ahgeri.

SAKHALIN SOUVENIR: Sheikh Ahmad received a set of commemorative medals from the President of the Children of Asia Games International Committee, Dmitry Glushko, and Azat Muradov, Secretary General of Turkmenistan NOC, following the first Children of Asia Winter Games in February.
The first Winter Children of Asia International Sports Games took place at Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, Russian Federation, from February 9-16, 2019. Of the 20 countries taking part, 18 were from Asia. Here are some facts and figures:

**Opening Ceremony**  
February 9, Spartak Stadium

**Closing Ceremony**  
February 16, Spartak Stadium

**Athletes**  
750

**Countries**  
20

**Teams**  
28

**Sports**  
8 (figure skating, hockey, short track, skiing, snowboard, biathlon, ski race, ski jumping)

**Venues**  
6

**Referees**  
500

**Visitors**  
30,000

**Volunteers**  
1,000

**Asian NOCs (18)**  
Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Mongolia, Jordan, Nepal, South Korea, Kuwait, Japan, Thailand, Hong Kong-China, Tajikistan, United Arab Emirates, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Philippines, India, Kyrgyzstan, Syria.

**Other countries:**  
Russian Federation (9 teams), Armenia.

**Slogan**  
Winter of Our Wins

**Survey for most popular sport**  
Hockey

**Age of athletes**  
17 years and below (born on or after January 1, 2002)
ASIAN NATIONS TAKE FIRST STEPS ON SNOW AND ICE AT SAKHALIN 2019

Three times bigger and three times better.

This is the promise for the second edition of the Children of Asia Winter Games earmarked for 2021 and to be held in the fair city of Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, the hosts of the inaugural Games in February.

Bigger and better will be sweet words to those Asian countries trying to create a culture for winter sports in their countries, like Nepal, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Thailand or the Philippines.

While Nepal can boast of the snow-capped peaks of the Himalayas, for athletes from the UAE, Thailand or the Philippines these Games were a novel experience – never mind that most of them were experiencing snow for the first time.

It was with this in mind that the Olympic Council of Asia, together with a vibrant team of Russian officials, set about creating the Children of Asia Winter Games so as to nurture young talent in winter sports and create a level playing field for the future where they would be competitive at Asian Winter Games and Olympic Winter Games.

“We want Sakhalin to become a hub for winter sports, not only for Russia but for all Asia,” says Dmitry Glushko, President of the Children of Asia Games International Committee.

“Sakhalin can become the base of training and preparations of those countries where there is no snow cover at all,” Glushko added as he looks forward to his city hosting the second Children of Asia Winter Games in 2021.

Glushko is grateful to the Olympic Council of Asia and its President, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, for all the support and help in getting the Winter Games up and running.

“The OCA has been one of our biggest supporters and its President, Sheikh Ahmad, has been one of the key people involved in initiating this idea of a first Winter Games,” Glushko said.

For athletes like Kuwaiti figure skater Lulwa Al-Tharman or Nepalese cross-country skier BK Abhishek, Sakhalin was an eye-opening experience and one which they say will benefit them in the future.

Abhishek and three other teammates came to Sakhalin a full month before the Games so as to train and come to grips with a sport they were participating in for the first time.

“Hopefully we can blaze a trail for others to follow back home in Nepal,” said the 15-year-old Kathmandu resident.

While it was a huge learning curve for most, there were others who proved they could compete against the best from Russia. Take, for instance, South Korea’s short track speed skaters who won seven of the eight gold medals on offer or fellow Korean You Young, who glided elegantly to the figure skating gold medal.

Yet, the Winter Games will be a new canvas to paint on for most Asian countries. Bigger and better next time around will be sweet words indeed for them.
This event undertakes a significant and responsible mission – it contributes to the promotion of Olympic values, to the development of youth sports and to the strengthening of friendship and understanding among people.

I sincerely wish that the Winter Children of Asia International Sports Games have established a tradition. I hope their noble goals will be further uniting talented and enthusiastic young people from Russia and other countries.

Vladimir Putin, President, Russian Federation

The Children of Asia Games have opened a new page in their history. Today, winter disciplines are becoming more and more popular in Asian countries. I am sure that Sakhalin 2019 will become a starting point for many young athletes and help to develop winter sports in countries where these disciplines are not cultivated yet.

The main goal is to arrange not just a competition but to present a real celebration of sport and friendship.

The Olympic Council of Asia will provide any support to the organisers in the development of these Games.

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

This is the first time that this winter edition, placed under the IOC’s patronage, is being held, so you are opening a new horizon for sport.

Let me thank and congratulate the Children of Asia Games International Committee which, for more than 20 years, has been providing the young people of Asia with a unique sporting experience.

Thomas Bach, President, International Olympic Committee
EAST ASIA: KIM GILLI (KOREA)

Described as technically gifted, the 15-year-old short track speed skater is regarded as “special” by head coach Jang Gwon-ouk. Much is expected of her in the future. Kim was part of the Korean gold rush in short track as a member of the girls’ 3,000m relay team. However, she did not take part in the individual events as she was coming back from an injury, having sprained her tendon in her right foot a month before the Games. “I’m thrilled that I was part of the team in the relay event. It was disappointing not to be able to take part in the other events but I’m happy we still won gold medals for Korea.”

SOUTHEAST ASIA: NICHAKAN CHINUPUN (THAILAND)

Already a name in the world of inline roller-skating, the tiny Nichakan, 15, was drafted into Thailand’s experimental venture into winter sports - cross-country skiing. She has proved she is versatile and adaptable, even though she saw snow for the first time in her life only a few weeks before competition in Sakhalin at a training camp in Italy. She finished low down the order but relishes the challenge of continuing - but in alpine skiing. “I feel I could do really well in alpine skiing after I watched the competition. But, whatever I do in the future, one thing is certain - I will continue skiing and hopefully one day become a professional skier,” she said.

WEST ASIA: HUMAID YAQOUB AL-ANSARI (UNITED ARAB EMIRATES)

Having trained on the slopes inside a shopping mall in Dubai, it felt like a whole new world for 14-year-old Humaid as he came face to face with the slopes at the tourist resort of Gorniy Vazdukh, the picturesque venue for snowboarding. “It was my first time outside and it felt a bit strange but it wasn’t harder than the slopes at Ski Dubai,” he said. Humaid was the only athlete from the Emirates taking part at the Games and he is proud to be the pathfinder for winter sports. “I hope I can inspire a lot of other children to take up winter sports on a competitive basis. This is just the start.”
CENTRAL ASIA: VADIM KURALES (KAZAKHSTAN)

Winning the gold medal in the boys’ biathlon 6km sprint has given 16-year-old Vadim a boost. “I know now that I can compete internationally and win. This medal will motivate me as I look ahead to the future,” he said. Vadim took up biathlon when he was only eight, being encouraged by his parents and also dreaming of following in the footsteps of an Olympic champion – Russian cross-country skier Alexander Legkov. “I hope that one day I can win a gold medal for Kazakhstan,” he said.

SOUTH ASIA: PRIYAM TATED (INDIA)

Coming from cricket-mad India, 15-year-old Priyam is pushing boundaries in figure skating. “Yes, it is not a sport most Indian boys would take up but I have always wanted to roll and spin and jump,” he said. Priyam, from Vishakapatnam, began as a roller skater before moving on to figure skating five years ago as he thought it would be “fun” to ice skate too. It soon became a serious passion and one which has turned him into India’s national champion for the past three years. He will represent India at the 2020 Winter Youth Olympic Games in Lausanne.
The Games were a learning experience for the young athletes.

The natural beauty of winter sports.

Competition is fierce as the athletes battle for position.

Two cross-country skiers in striking silhouette.

Proud on the podium - Go Kazakhstan!
1st Winter Children of Asia International Sports Games

Korea - No. 1 in short track with seven of eight gold medals available.

Welcome Tajikistan - one of 18 Asian NOCs.

Kazakhstan take on the Ural Federal District.

Short track speed skaters wait for the call.
IRANIAN SURFER FARIMA GRANTED ISA SCHOLARSHIP

Iran’s Farima Nouri has been named ISA Scholarship Ambassador by the International Surfing Association. Farima, 15, is one of 40 surfers from 20 countries on four continents to be granted a training/education scholarship by the ISA worth a total of USD20,000.

Other first-time awardees are from Sri Lanka, Samoa, Ivory Coast and the Philippines, demonstrating the ISA’s commitment to the global growth of surfing.

The ISA has now awarded USD$308,500 to more than 300 surfers aged under 18 around the globe since the programme’s inception in 2007.

The aim of the ISA Scholarship is to accelerate the development of surfers around the globe, offering financial aid for both education and surfing purposes. The scholarships are awarded to surfers based on their financial need, dedication to surfing and academic excellence.

“Farima is already making an impact in Iran’s surf scene,” said the ISA when announcing the awards.

“She hopes to inspire many other young women to try the sport that has changed her life in such a positive way.

“Surfing boosted her happiness and confidence, and that is something she wants to share with other members of her community. She hopes to attend university directly after high school so that she can become a doctor. Her ISA Scholarship will aid her with her continuing education and her surfing career.”

BAHRAIN NOC CELEBRATES WOMEN’S DAY

The Bahrain Olympic Committee joined other public and private sector parties in celebrating Women’s Day in the kingdom.

A special gathering was held at the NOC’s headquarters in Seef and was attended by the NOC’s female staff members.

The Chair of the NOC’s Women’s Sport Committee, Sheikha Hayat bint Abdulaziz Al Khalifa, was the patron of the event, which paid tribute to the achievements of Bahraini women in legislative and municipal work.
The NOC of Kazakhstan and the UNESCO Almaty Cluster Office organised a seminar for female athletes from Kazakhstan on December 13-14, 2018.

With the theme of career transition for female athletes, the seminar brought together over 30 women who were either active athletes, had already completed their sports career or who were preparing to change social spheres.

The participants were given advice on developing communications skills, self-presentation and career guidance. The NOC representatives also underlined the existence of Olympic Solidarity international programmes.

The Qatar Olympic Committee’s Schools Olympic Programme (SOP) included a sports competition day for girls with special needs.

The activities took place at the Suheim bin Hamad Stadium at Qatar Sports Club on Thursday, February 7 and featured more than 300 female students in nine sports, including running and jumping.

The Qatar Foundation for Rehabilitation of Special Needs paid great attention to the programme as it can identify talented athletes to join the national team in various Paralympic competitions, in which Qatar has achieved great results.

In a press statement, the Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Affairs at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Fawzia Al Khater, praised the SOP for organising events for children with special needs as sport played an important part in the development of a student’s personality and communication skills.

The President of the Qatar Women’s Sport Committee, Lulwa Al Marri, stressed the importance of holding this event annually within the framework of the SOP to give people with disabilities an opportunity to compete and highlight their sporting potential.

THE Vice President of the Malaysia Ice Hockey Federation, Susan Loh Su Fang, receives the OCM Women and Sport Award 2018 from YB Steven Sim Chee Keong, Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports, at the 25th Olympic Council of Malaysia Awards Night at the Shangri-La Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, on December 12.
UNIFIED KOREA KEEN TO FIELD FOUR JOINT TEAMS AT TOKYO 2020

The IOC organised a working meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland, on February 15 to discuss further sports cooperation between the two Koreas. During this tripartite meeting, the IOC and the two Korean delegations - composed of representatives of their respective National Olympic Committees and governments - discussed the format and pathway for the participation of unified Korean teams at Tokyo 2020.

The parties agreed on the principles guiding such unified Korean teams by sport and discipline. It was decided that participation in Tokyo 2020 would be based on successful qualification in those sports and disciplines for which both NOCs wish to compete as a unified Korean team.

The IOC agreed to continue studying, in particular with the respective International Federations, the request of the NOCs of KOR and PRK for unified Korean teams to take part in qualification for the following events:

- Women’s basketball
- Women’s hockey
- Judo - mixed team event
- Rowing - women’s & men’s in the fours (4-), quadruple sculls (4x) and eights (8+) events.

These discussions will be based on the agreement that any unified Korean team will follow the established qualification system established for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020. The IOC Executive Board will discuss the next steps at its meeting in Lausanne from March 26-28.

The delegations of KOR and PRK made a presentation declaring their historic initiative to put forward a joint Korean candidature to host the Olympic Games 2032.

TOKYO READY TO STAGE 56 TEST EVENTS FOR OLYMPICS

Tokyo 2020 has unveiled the official brand name and logo for the test events they will be organising in the build-up to the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The brand name – “READY STEADY TOKYO” – aims to express the excitement that continues to mount as Tokyo 2020 edges closer.

It derives from the “ready, steady, go!” used to start a race, with “STEADY” additionally signifying that Tokyo 2020 is keeping to its charted course as it heads towards its goal of hosting an incredible Games.

The overall message of the brand name is “We are ready for Tokyo 2020. Let’s stay focused as we move forward to a successful Games.”

Overall, 56 test events will be held until May 2020, including 22 organised specifically for Tokyo 2020.
IOC President Thomas Bach met with China’s President, Xi Jinping, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on January 31 following a week looking at the progress made for the Winter Olympics in 2022.

President Bach had spent the morning touring the National Winter Sports Training Centre in the Shougang district of the capital, accompanied by the President of the Chinese Olympic Committee, Gou Zhongwen.

President Xi discussed the progress of the preparations for Beijing 2022 with President Bach and the development of sport in the country.

President Xi said: “The Olympic Winter Games are part of our vision of encouraging 300 million Chinese to experience winter sports. Through sport we will improve the health and well-being of all Chinese people.”

President Bach thanked President Xi for his continuing support. He told him: “This week we have seen children, parents and athletes all very enthusiastic about getting involved in winter sports. It demonstrates your vision becoming reality – that sport can contribute to the social development of China and in particular education.”

Throughout the trip, which included stops at Zhangjiakou, Yanqing and Harbin, President Bach was accompanied by IOC Vice President Yu Zaiqing, IOC members in China Li Lingwei and athletes’ representative Zhang Hong and Timothy Fok, IOC honorary member from Hong Kong, China.

China’s goal to introduce 300 million people to winter sports before the 2022 Winter Olympics is taking shape at schools around the country. Here, students at Beijing Yanqing Taipingzhuang Central Primary School practise skating on the ice rink.

(Photo: Xinhua)
THREE ASIAN CANDIDATES VIE FOR BADMINTON DEPUTY PRESIDENT

The Badminton World Federation has announced the candidates for two vacant positions within the BWF Council from 2019-2021.

The federation received three nominations for Deputy President and eight nominations for the one vacant Council member position ahead of the February 22 deadline.

Elections for both positions will be held at the BWF Annual General Meeting on Thursday, May 23, 2019 in Nanning, China, during the TOTAL BWF Sudirman Cup.

Deputy President: Anton Aditya Subowo (INA), Zhang Jun (CHN), Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul (THA).

BWF Council Member: Evans Kojo Yeboah (GHA), Himanta Biswa Sarma (IND), Jose Gabriel del Busto Fernandez (GUA), Kay Kamatuwa Chirwa (ZAM), Kinji Zeniya (JPN), Moneoaang Leshota (LES), Omar Bellali (MOR), Richard Vaughan (IRL).

FINA’S NEW SERIES TO START IN GUANGZHOU

FINA’s new Champions Swim Series will start in the 2010 Asian Games host city of Guangzhou on April 27-28, 2019. The next two legs will be in Budapest, Hungary from May 11-12 and Indianapolis, USA on May 31-June 1.

The FINA Champions Swim Series will have an innovative competition format and create a world-class platform for elite-level swimmers.

All three FINA Champions Swim Series 2019 meets are classed as qualifying events for the FINA World Championships Gwangju 2019 and the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

SAUDI ARABIA TO DEBUT IN CURLING MIXED DOUBLES

The World Curling Federation has announced that the World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship 2019, being held in Stavanger, Norway, from April 20-27, will be the biggest edition of this event to date with 48 teams.

Not only that, five Member Associations will compete in their first ever World Curling Federation event: Kosovo, Mexico, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Ukraine.

IOC RECOGNISES RESEARCH CENTRES IN KOREA, QATAR

The International Olympic Committee has recognised 11 research centres worldwide for the prevention of injury and protection of the health of athletes. They include:

- Yonsei Institute of Sports Science and Exercise Medicine (Yonsei University, Wonju Severance Christian Hospital, Korean Sports and Olympic, Sol Hospital, Korea National Sport University, Republic of Korea)
- Aspetar Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine Hospital (Qatar)

Over the next four years, these centres will be tasked with researching, developing and implementing effective preventive and treatment methods for sports-related injuries and illnesses, receiving support from the IOC.

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL LAUNCHES WEB WORLD RANKINGS


The new WBSC World Rankings website features robust functions such as tracking, trends, top climbers, charts, country-by-country comparisons, ranking by continent, points earned by each National Team/Federation per competition, methodology and a world rankings news section in six languages — English, French, Japan, Korean, Spanish and Traditional Chinese.
The Olympic Council of Malaysia announced the passing of a remarkable sporting icon, Daphne Boudville, on Monday, January 28. She was 76.

Daphne Boudville was a triple international sportswoman, having represented Malaysia in hockey, athletics and football between 1965 and 1982.

As a teenager she was already participating in many sports, namely athletics, netball, badminton, football and hockey.

In hockey she was a member of the Malaysian women’s team that toured Australia for six weeks in 1965 and New Zealand in 1971.

Her long list of hockey honours included winning the 1974 and 1977 Women’s Asia Cup and finishing third in 1981, and winning a bronze medal at the 9th Asian Games in New Delhi in 1982.

She also competed in the 1975 Women’s World Championship in Edinburgh and was national team captain from 1977 to 1981.

In athletics she won a bronze medal in the women’s 800m at the 3rd South East Asian Peninsular (SEAP) Games at Kuala Lumpur in 1965.

In football she was a member of the Malaysian women’s team on the 1965 tour of Hong Kong.

Based on her great contribution to the development of sports in Malaysia, particularly in hockey, athletics and football, Daphne was inducted into the OCM Hall of Fame in 2013.

“The demise of Daphne Boudville is a great loss to the sporting fraternity in Malaysia,” said the Olympic Council of Malaysia.

The launching of the book “Daphne Boudville - The Icon” was held on Friday, March 1 at the OCM Sports Museum in Kuala Lumpur.

The book launch was organised by her former hockey teammates and was officiated by Tok Puan Zainon Hussain, former President of the Malaysian Women’s Hockey Association and first President of the Federation of Asian Ladies Hockey Association.

Her teammates then presented two scrapbooks of newspaper cuttings and photographs of Daphne Boudville to the OCM Sports Museum and Hall of Fame.
2019

Tokyo, Japan: March 18 – 20
Tokyo 2020’s Fifth Open Day for NOCs

San Diego, California: April 7 – 10
Chefs de Mission Seminar for ANOC World Beach Games

Lausanne, Switzerland: April 13 – 15
IOC Athletes’ Forum

Gold Coast, Australia: May 5 – 10
17th SportAccord 2019

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

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

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

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

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

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

San Diego, California: October 6-8
ANOC Commissions and Working Groups

San Diego, California: October 9-10
24th ANOC General Assembly and ANOC Awards 2019

San Diego, USA: October 10 – 14
1st ANOC World Beach Games

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

Beijing, China: November 20 – 21
World Baseball Softball Confederation Congress

Clark New City, Philippines: Nov 30 – Dec 10
30th Southeast Asian (SEA) Games

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

2020

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

Tokyo, Japan: July 24 – August 9
Olympic Games

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

Tokyo, Japan: August 25 – September 6
Paralympic Games

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

2021

Shantou, Guangdong Province, China
3rd Asian Youth Games (Dates to be decided)

2022

Beijing, China: February 4 – 20
Olympic Winter Games

Beijing, China: March 4 – 13
Winter Paralympic Games

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

Qatar: November 21 – December 18
FIFA World Cup