GOLD RUSH
MEDAL MANIA IN MALAYSIA

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SEA GAMES IS THE PERFECT PLATFORM FOR CHALLENGES AHEAD

Congratulations to the organisers of the 29th South East Asian (SEA) Games, which took place in the beautiful city of Kuala Lumpur from August 19-30.

To manage over 7,000 athletes and officials from the 11 NOCs in 38 sports is not an easy task – and the organising committee MASOC, together with the government and the Olympic Council of Malaysia, deserve a huge amount of credit for delivering such a great event.

Over the years, the SEA Games has become an exotic sporting showcase for the region – a big step on the ladder leading up to the top of the podium in the Olympic Movement.

The first achievement is being selected to represent your country in the SEA Games; the next step is to win a medal or show potential at the SEA Games; after this, the target must be to challenge the continent’s super powers – led by China, Japan and Korea – at the Asian Games in Indonesia next year.

This is a colossal step forward for all athletes in Asia, but the fact that Olympic champions from Rio 2016 and reigning world champions in several sports competed at the 29th SEA Games proves that this bridge can be crossed.

So I congratulate all the athletes who won medals at Kuala Lumpur 2017 and look forward to seeing them raise their game even more next year in attempting to bring Asian Games glory to their country and region.

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

SHEIKH AHMAD MEETS CHINESE PRESIDENT XI

The OCA President met with the Chinese President, Xi Jinping, before the opening ceremony of the 13th China National Games in Tianjin.

Sheikh Ahmad was also a special guest at the opening ceremony, along with the IOC President, Thomas Bach.

The National Games are held every four years and help China identify the best talent from the provinces. The teams also include the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau.

This year’s National Games featured 12,000 athletes in 33 sports and ran from August 27 to September 8.
RIO 2016 women’s volleyball MVP Zhu Ting was named Galaxy Star Player at the Macau leg of the FIVB Grand Prix. Italy won the four-team qualifying competition, with China second, USA third and Turkey fourth.

QATAR NOC has made a donation to the IOC to support initiatives that aim to provide global assistance to the refugee crisis. QOC President Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani said: “The Qatar Olympic Committee believes sport has the power to transform the lives of displaced and disadvantaged young people around the world.”

SRI Lanka finished 23rd in the overall medal table at the 6th Commonwealth Youth Games in the Bahamas thanks to the two silver medals from swimmer Kyle Abeysinghe in the boys’ 100m freestyle and 50m freestyle. Sri Lanka sent 28 athletes in six sports.
News in Pictures

THE first World Rugby/Philippines Rugby Football Union coaching courses to be run outside Manila took place from June 10-12 in Davao, the largest city in Mindanao Province. Over 65 beginner and intermediate level coaches took part in World Rugby-accredited courses, supported by the NOC through Olympic Solidarity. (http://www.worldrugby.org)

SINGAPORE NOC has announced that 335 student-athletes have been awarded a Singapore Olympic Foundation Peter Lim Scholarship. Sport climbers and ice skaters are represented in the under-18 high-performance category for the first time since the scholarship was launched in 2010.

EIGHTY-SEVEN participants from over 30 countries attended the 8th IOC Athlete Career Programme Forum in Beijing from June 15-17. It was organised by China NOC and the Beijing Olympic City Development Association in cooperation with the Adecco Group.
THE Chinese Taipei Olympic Committee staged a flag presentation ceremony for the 67-strong delegation heading to the 10th World Games in Wroclaw, Poland. Prime Minister Lin Chuan presented the NOC flag to Lin Hong-Dow, NOC President and head of the delegation.

TWENTY participants from 19 countries joined a two-week course for female fencing coaches in Manila in the context of the IOC subsidy granted to Maria Leonor Estampador - winner of the 2016 IOC Women and Sport Trophy for Asia. FIE foil expert Petru Kuki of Romania led the course.

IOC and OCA Executive Board Member Ng Ser Miang of Singapore was presented with the “Olympia” honorary distinction by the International Olympic Academy President Michael Fysentzidis at the opening ceremony of the 57th International Session for Young Participants in Athens.
HONG Kong NOC held its annual presentation to member sports associations to recognise their outstanding achievements the previous year at Olympic House on June 8. Hong Kong athletes won a total of 277 medals in 2016.

(www.hkolympic.org)

JORDAN NOC held a six-day National Coaching Certificate Programme - Level One course to build the capabilities and capacities of Jordan’s coaches and improve their levels of performance.

(www.joc.jo)

BHUTAN hosted Bangladesh and Nepal in a three-country, one-day Friendship Judo Tournament on June 8 at Pelkhil School, Thimphu. Twenty-eight athletes participated.

(www.bhutanolypmiccommittee.org)
NEPAL received 12 pairs of skis, six pairs of ski boots and six sets of ski wear under the Japanese Government’s “Sport for Tomorrow” project connected to the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. The Japanese Ambassador to Nepal, Mr. Masashi Ogawa, presented the equipment to Mr. Jeevan Ram Shrestha, President of both the NOC and Nepal Ski Association.

CAMBODIA NOC Secretary General Vath Chamroeun presided over the 7th Phnom Penh International Half Marathon in front of the Royal Palace that attracted over 5,300 runners in the 21km main event, 10km run and 3km fun run on June 18. The record participation featured 523 overseas runners from 33 countries.

AFGHANISTAN’S girls’ wheelchair basketball team recorded four straight victories to win the wheelchair basketball international cup in Indonesia, Bakhtar News reports. The Afghan girls defeated the hosts Indonesia 38-8 before beating Thailand 65-25 in the final.
MONGOLIA NOC President Dr. Demchigjav Zagdsuren and the Mayor of Incheon, Yoo Jeong Bok, signed a Memorandum of Understanding in the framework of “Vision 2014” during a ceremony at Olympic House in Ulaanbaatar. The MoU aims to foster close cooperation between the two institutions in pursuing and implementing off-season training in Incheon by Mongolian wrestlers sent by the NOC.

FOUR-TIME Olympic wrestling champion Kaori Icho won the Most Valuable Athlete Award at the Japanese Olympic Committee’s Sports Awards Ceremony for 2016 and Olympic Concert 2017 during the Tokyo International Forum on June 9. Icho won her fourth straight title at Rio 2016.

IOC President Thomas Bach was in Muju, Korea, as a guest of World Taekwondo President Choue Chungwon and met with members of the highly-skilled and well-drilled demonstration teams.
Malaysia has a new world champion – and Asia has a new superstar!

Cheong Jun Hoong – a diving veteran at 27 years old – caused a major surprise at the 17th FINA World Championships by winning Malaysia’s first diving gold in the 10m platform.

Her dramatic success, beating the Chinese duo of Si Yajie (silver medal at Rio 2016) and reigning Olympic champion Ren Qian, turned Cheong into an overnight sensation and new sporting icon for her proud country.

“My god, I’m a world champion!” exclaimed Cheong, who had won a bronze medal earlier in the meet with her partner Pandelela Rinong in the 10m synchro.

“This is a dream come true,” she added. “It’s the first gold medal at a world championships in diving for Malaysia, and it is unexpected and unbelievable.

“I was hoping for a medal, but I didn’t think I could beat the Chinese divers.”

Cheong explained that the key to her success was to concentrate only on her own performance and not to think about the scores of her rivals, who also included the 2015 world champion Kim Kuk Hyang of DPR Korea.

“I focused on myself for the whole competition,” she said. “When I saw the scoreboard after the last dive of Si Yajie I realised I had won the gold medal only at that moment.”

Cheong, whose fourth dive earned her perfect 10s from four of the seven judges, won with a five-dive aggregate of 397.50 points.

Si, the world champion in 2013 and still only 18, was second on 396.0, while 16-year-old Rio Olympic champion Ren took the bronze with 391.95.

PROFILE

Name: Cheong Jun Hoong

Country: Malaysia

Date of Birth: April 16, 1990

Age: 27

Height: 1.53m

Weight: 46kg

Residence: Ipoh, Perak

Sports career:
Started swimming aged 4, switched to diving aged 9.

Major medals:
Rio Olympic Games 2016:
Silver with Pandelela Rinong in 10m synchro platform.

FINA World Championships 2017:
Gold in 10m platform;
Bronze with Pandelela Rinong in 10m synchro platform.
**SUN, DIVING TEAM BOOST CHINA AT BUDAPEST**

The great Sun Yang added two more gold medals to his impressive collection by notching a 200m-400m freestyle double at Budapest 2017.

The 25-year-old Sun, from Hangzhou in Zhejiang province, won the 400m for a third consecutive world championships and followed up with the 200m title.

He now has a staggering 17 gold medals in major international meets:

- 9 in the FINA World Championships, along with 2 silver and 3 bronze
- 5 in the Asian Games, plus 3 silver
- 3 in the Olympic Games, plus 2 silver and 1 bronze

Despite Sun’s double, China could win only three gold medals in swimming, the other coming from Xu Jiayu, Rio 2016 silver medallist, in the men’s 100m backstroke.

**SWIMMING SHORTS**

The 17th FINA World Championships ran from July 14-30.

There were six disciplines: swimming, diving, synchronised swimming, water polo, open water and high diving.

More than 2,300 athletes from 183 National Federations took part.

Dr Julio C. Maglione was re-elected FINA President for a third term (2017-2021) at the FINA General Congress on July 22.

OCA Director General Husain Al-Musallam was re-elected Vice President and re-appointed First Vice President.

The 18th FINA World Championships will be held in Gwangju, Korea, in 2019.

**FINAL MEDAL TABLE**

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China’s impressive showing in the diving, however, claiming eight of the 13 gold medals on offer, enabled them to finish second in the overall medal tally with 12 gold medals, behind the United States (21), who dominated the swimming action in the Duna Arena.

China’s other gold medal was a first in synchro swimming for the women’s team free combination.

Only two other Asian countries finished in the top 20: Malaysia in joint 14th place (see Page 10) and 17th-placed Japan, who failed to win a swimming gold and had to settle for four silver and five bronze across the six disciplines – a major point of concern in the build-up to Tokyo 2020.

DPR Korea finished 21st with a silver and a bronze in 10m synchro diving and Singapore came in joint 26th with a bronze medal in the men’s 100m butterfly from Rio Olympic champion Joseph Schooling.
The OCA Director General, Mr. Husain Al Musallam, stressed the importance of legacy for the Asian Games during his opening address at the 7th OCA Coordination Committee meeting on Friday, August 18, at the headquarters of organising committee INASGOC.

Mr Al Musallam noted that the airport used to serve the 4th Asian Games in Jakarta in 1962 was now the site of the Athletes’ Village for the 18th Asian Games in 2018. Also, the 4th Asian Games in Jakarta in 1962 were held under the leadership of the Republic’s first President, Soekarno – and the new airport to serve the 2018 Asian Games is named after Soekarno.

“This is a good thing - the legacy of the Asian Games. It continues the story,” he said.

Mr Al Musallam added that a new Terminal 3 and highway had already built a legacy for the 18th Asian Games.

The city infrastructure will be further enhanced with the Jakarta MRT (Mass Rapid Transit) and Jakarta LRT (Light Rail Transit), highlighting the positive aspects of hosting a major multi-sport international games.

The Chairman of the OCA Coordination Committee, Mr Tsunekazu Takeda, praised the organising committee for the work accomplished to date, and added: “Every detail is essential for the success of the Games. We have no more time to waste. We are past the planning stage and we are now into the operational and implementation stage.”

The President of the Republic of Indonesia, Joko Widodo, delighted the crowds at the National Monument in Merdeka Square during the one-year countdown ceremony to the 18th Asian Games on Friday, August 18.

President “Jokowi” emerged from the VIP stand with a bow in his hands and a pouch of three arrows on his back in order to make a sporty start to the countdown.

Jokowi carefully loaded his bow and aimed for a target at the back of the stage. On releasing the arrow, the target lit up and the countdown from 10 to 1 was reflected on the National Monument (Monas), enabling the cheering crowds to join in the celebration.

The one-year countdown event in Jakarta also featured a 300 drones light show, traditional music and dance from Indonesia as well as performances with an Asian flavour to set the scene for the 18th Asian Games from August 18 to September 2, 2018.

Co-host city Palembang, capital of South Sumatra, held a simultaneous celebration at Benteng Kuto Besak (Fort).
KEY DATES IN COUNTDOWN TO 18TH ASIAN GAMES 2018

**2017**

**August:**
Distribution of Estimated Team Size (ETS) forms to NOCs.

**September 20:**
Distribution of Official Invitation to NOCs, at OCA General Assembly in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

September:
Volunteer registration begins, 11,000 for Jakarta, 2,000 for Palembang.

**October 9:**
Start of Online Accreditation System.

**November:**
Start of Online Sport Entries System.

December 19:
8th OCA Coordination Committee meeting

**2018**

**January:**
3rd OCA-INASGOC Technical Delegates Meeting

February-June:
NOC visits.

**February 10-24**: Official Test Event.

**March:**
9th OCA Coordination Committee meeting

April:
Deadline for Sport “Entry by Number” forms submission.

April 9:
Closing of Online Accreditation System.

May:
Torch Relay begins, covering 6,000km.

May:
10th OCA Coordination Committee meeting

June 4:
Distribution of Pre-Valid Accreditation Cards.

June 30:
Sport “Entry by Name” deadline. Closing of Online Sport Entry system.

July 5:
4th OCA-INASGOC Technical Delegates Meeting and Draw for Team Sports

July 27:
Asian Games Village pre-opening. All venues operational.

July 28:
NOC Service Centre operational.

July 30 – August 15:
NOC Delegation Registration Meeting (DRM)

August 1:
Asian Games Villages official opening. NOC Offices operational.

August 15 – 16:
Team Welcome Ceremonies.

August 18:
OCA Executive Board meeting.

August 18:
18th Asian Games Opening Ceremony.

August 19:
OCA General Assembly.

September 2:
18th Asian Games Closing Ceremony.

*The Official Test Event will be held in Jakarta from February 10-24 and involve 10 sports: Archery, Athletics, Badminton, Basketball (5x5), Boxing, Football, Pencak Silat, Taekwondo, Volleyball and Weightlifting. Athletes: 1,991. Officials: 487. Organising Committee staff: 1,048.*
HRH PRINCE JIGYEL HOSTS OCA INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The second meeting of the OCA’s International Relations Committee in the current cycle took place in Thimphu, Bhutan on Thursday, August 24.

HRH Prince Jigyel Ugyen Wangchuck, President of the Bhutan Olympic Committee and Chairman of the International Relations Committee, welcomed the members and thanked them - and the OCA administration - for their wholehearted cooperation and support.

The committee discussed various initiatives and how to implement these plans and activities for the coming year and how best to execute its mandate. The meeting reconfirmed its mission in promoting the 18th Asian Games in Indonesia next year and the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

As per the OCA’s Charter, the International Relations Committee must facilitate, promote and strengthen the relationships within the Olympic family, particularly between the OCA, the National Olympic Committees, the International and Asian Sports Federations and various government and public authorities within the Asian continent.

OCA MEDICAL COMMITTEE AND ANTI-DOPING COMMISSION VISITS INDONESIA

The OCA Medical Committee and Anti-Doping Commission visited the co-host cities of the 18th Asian Games 2018 – Jakarta and Palembang – from August 4-8 to assess the plans and preparations of the organising committee.

The visit to Jakarta included a meeting with the President of the Indonesian Olympic Committee and Chairman of organising committee INASGOC, Erick Thohir, to stress the importance of the medical services and the systematic anti-doping procedures required.

The details included the services in the Polyclinic in the Athletes’ Village, the clinics and doping control stations in the venues and the designated hospitals for referrals.

Regarding anti-doping, this task has been delegated to the National Anti-Doping Organisation, LADI. A WADA-accredited laboratory to analyse the samples from the athletes has yet to be appointed.

In Palembang, the experience of the 2011 SEA Games, the 2013 Islamic Solidarity Games and the 2014 ASEAN University Games will be of great benefit for the 18th Asian Games, as the authorities are familiar with all aspects of the services required.
Facts and Figures

Opening Ceremony: Saturday, August 19
Closing Ceremony: Wednesday, August 30
Venue: National Stadium, Bukit Jalil
Opened by: His Majesty the King, Sultan Muhammad V
Closed by: His Excellency the Prime Minister, Dato’ Sri Mohd. Najib Tun Abdul Razak
NOCs: 11
Athletes: 4,709
Officials: 2,381
Sports: 38
Events: 404
Volunteers: 13,000
Slogan: Rising Together
Mascot: Rimau (Respect, Integrity, Move, Attitude, Unity)
Next SEA Games host: Philippines in 2019

Final Medal Tally

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SIX REASONS TO CELEBRATE MALAYSIA’S

The 29th South East Asian Games took place in Kuala Lumpur from August 19-30, 2017. This was the sixth time for Malaysia to organise the SEA Games, following previous hosting experiences in 1965, 1971, 1977, 1989 and 2001.

Here are six reasons why Kuala Lumpur 2017 was such a big success for Malaysia and for the SEA region – one of five zones under the umbrella of the OCA.

1 Medal Mania: First, of course, was the performance of the Malaysian athletes. The target, set by the government, of 111 gold medals was passed comfortably, and the host nation ended up with 145 gold medals, 92 silver and 86 bronze medals for a total of 323.

To put this into perspective, regional powerhouse Thailand finished second with 72 gold medals – 73 fewer than the hosts.

2 The Look of the Games: The modern city Kuala Lumpur was green and clean and sparkling, and the striking, colourful logo of the 29th SEA Games was everywhere to be seen.

The venues were excellent, too, well laid out and well managed by the technical officials, staff and volunteers.

3 Spectators: The Malaysian athletes received vociferous support from the locals, no matter the sport, no matter the venue and no matter the time of day.

This contributed to an electric atmosphere, and the visiting delegations responded with cheers and flags of their own to create a truly international sports environment.
6 Star Appeal: The 29th SEA Games welcomed Olympic champions from Rio 2016 as well as reigning world champions in a variety of sports, helping to produce big crowds and massive media attention at home and overseas.

The elite included Rio 2016 100m butterfly champion Joseph Schooling, who returned home to Singapore with another six SEA Games gold medals from the six events he entered.

5 Yes, Minister: Malaysia’s handsome, charismatic Minister of Youth and Sports, Brig. Gen. Khairy Jamaluddin, became the Face of the Games with his sheer enthusiasm and pride in hosting the event.

His appearances produced shrieks of delight from the masses and led to excited scrambles for a souvenir photo. Great job, KJ!

6 Winter Sports: No doubt about it, the addition of ice hockey, figure skating and short track speed skating to the sports programme proved to be a huge success, as the crowds packed out the balconies of the Empire City shopping mall.

It was almost impossible for curious shoppers to get a view of the action, as the keen spectators had arrived early to find the best positions on all three levels above the rink.
The beauty and elegance of rhythmic gymnastics.

Netball is always fiercely contested at the SEA Games.

Sepak Takraw - Fast and Furious.
The thrills and spills of short track speed skating came to the 29th SEA Games.

Showjumping is always a colourful, tension-packed spectacle.

Myanmar challenge for honours in the archery competition.

The rugby sevens brought out the strength, stamina and speed of all players.
GAME OF THRONES ATTRACTS CROWDS TO POLO

The cars came to a standstill as the stadium drew close. The traffic police and security officers were hot, stressed and overworked under a burning sun. The spectators hurried towards the roar of the crowd.

Welcome to the polo competition of the 29th SEA Games.

But this was no ordinary polo match. It was Malaysia, featuring the dashing young Sports Minister Khairy “KJ” Jamaluddin, against Brunei, whose squad was packed with polo royalty – direct from the royal family.

The royalty included the pin-up prince, HRH Abdul Mateen, who is sixth in line to the throne, and HRH Princess Azemah. Just for good measure, their father, His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, was watching from the grandstand.

Every swing of the play was met with gasps and cheers from a huge crowd – and the excitement increased after the final whistle as the royal family greeted their polo players in the VIP room in the main stand before making their way down to the team tent.

Among the well-wishers was Malaysia’s very own politician poster boy Khairy Jamaluddin, who greeted the visiting royalty with perfect protocol as the spectators swooned under the baking sun to get a glimpse of Prince Mateen.

Polo’s version of the wildly popular TV series “Game of Thrones” proved to be another big hit!

CRICKET – LOVELY CRICKET – FOR VEGY

Four years ago, Vegy Januarika didn’t know a thing about cricket.

Now she is the proud owner of a SEA Games silver medal, along with her Indonesian team-mates, from the women’s T-20 tournament at the Kinrara Oval.

Vegy, a 23-year-old student at UNJ (Jakarta State University), was asked to try out cricket by a friend four years ago – and soon became hooked.

“Before I started playing I knew nothing about cricket,” she says. “I used to ask why they stand like this or why they stand like that? When I started playing I got the answer.

“Cricket is a good sport. You have to face your enemy and you have to know your friends. I used to be a gymnast and play taekwondo, so cricket was different because the other sports were just about me. Now I played with my team and I had to know everybody’s character and personality, and their skills.”

Vegy, who bowls medium pace inswing, admits that family and friends are still puzzled by her new sporting love.

“What is cricket? They don’t even know cricket,” she adds. “I tell them it is like softball or baseball, but really it is more complicated than that.

“When I got to know the game I loved it. Now I am a cricket fanatic.”

And a SEA Games silver medallist!
VIETNAM DUO SOUND WARNING FOR 18TH ASIAN GAMES

Swimming and athletics are the two main pillars of any international multi-sport games – and Vietnam has found two serial champions on the road to next year’s Asian Games in Indonesia.

On the track, Le Tu Chinh sped to a golden treble, winning the 100m in 11.56 seconds, the 200m in 23.32 seconds and the 4x100m relay in a SEA Games record of 43.88 seconds.

Tu Chinh was appearing in her first SEA Games and stunned her rivals with a series of blistering performances.

“This is my first SEA Games and I never expected to win three gold medals and break a SEA Games record,” said the 20-year-old newly-crowned sprint queen.

“I am now the fastest woman in South East Asia and I will train harder to give my best at the Asian Games next year,” she said.

The other ace in Vietnam’s pack is more familiar – Olympic Games swimmer Nguyen Thi Anh Vien, nicknamed “The Little Mermaid”.

Competing in her fourth SEA Games at the age of 20, Anh Vien won eight gold medals in backstroke, freestyle and individual medley, taking her golden tally to 19.

Having become Vietnam’s first medal-winner in swimming at Incheon 2014, Anh Vien will be aiming to close the gap on China and Japan even further in Jakarta next summer.

THAIS MINE GOLD IN MEN’S AND WOMEN’S GOLF

Visitors to the Mines Resort and Country Club had every right to feel confused on seeing the name Kosuke Hamamoto at the top of the leaderboard.

After all, this was the 29th South East Asian Games – and, at the last look, the 11 competing National Olympic Committees did not include Japan.

It turned out that Hamamoto, 18, was representing Thailand. He has a Japanese father and Thai mother and lives at the tourist city of Chiang Mai, where he is a student at Payap University.

He took up golf – proper golf – at the age of eight after excelling at the game Hot Shots Golf on his Play Station Portable.

“I was really good at the game so I asked my mother if I could play the real sport,” he recalls. At the age of 15 his special talent became clear, and he quickly joined the national team.

His first SEA Games may well be his last, however, as he plans to turn professional next year after the Asian Games.

Shortly after Hamamoto’s success, Thailand’s “wonder girl” Atthaya Thitikul, 14, followed up with gold in the women’s individual event by a scintillating seven strokes.

In July, Atthaya became the youngest winner of a professional golf tour event at the Ladies’ European Tour Thailand Championship in Pattaya.
MALAYSIA SWEEPS ALL 13 DIVING GOLD MEDALS

Thanks to the efforts of Pandelela Rinong and Cheong Jun Hoong at the Olympic Games and FINA World Championships in recent years, Malaysian diving is riding the crest of a wave. The next generation proved this at the 29th SEA Games by winning all 13 gold medals on offer – quite a feat for the host nation.

The vastly experienced Pandelela and Jun Hoong were a big part of the team, not only by living up to expectations and winning gold medals but also by being an inspiration to their up-and-coming team-mates and a source of national pride to the spectators.

Malaysia’s diving coach, Yang Zhuliang, commented: “There is no other country in the South East Asian region that can challenge Malaysia in diving events.

“These Games did not really provide us with a real challenge, but it put a lot of pressure on our divers as they were competing in front of our home crowds,” said the China-born coach.

The two big names contributed three gold medals. Pandelela won gold in the team competition with Gabriel Gilbert Daim and in her pet event, the 10m individual platform, while recently-crowned world platform champion Jun Hoong won her only event - the 1m springboard.

ADAM, 9, BUILDS ON YOONG FAMILY LEGACY

Remember Aaliyah Yoong Hanifah competing in the OCA’s Asian Beach Games at Muscat, Oman, in 2010 when she was only seven years old? And winning gold at the 2011 SEA Games in Palembang, Indonesia, aged eight?

Well, her youngest brother Adam has already found his way to the top of the SEA Games podium by winning gold in the men’s tricks at the Water Sports Complex in Putrajaya – aged only nine!

It was the fourth waterskiing gold medal at the 29th SEA Games for Malaysia, and the fourth for the Yoong family, as Aaliyah, now 14, had already won gold in waterski overall, women’s tricks and jump.

“I’m so happy to win,” said Adam. “I gave the best that I could. Thank you for all the support and I will continue to do my best in the future,” said Adam.

- Singapore’s Sasha Christian, 24, won two gold medals – in women’s wakeboard and waterski slalom – to take her SEA Games gold medal collection to five dating back to 2011.
The sparkling capital of Turkmenistan is ready to welcome the Olympic Movement for the OCA’s 5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games.

Seven years after being awarded the AIMAG by the OCA in 2010, Ashgabat has witnessed incredible change – and the development of the largest sports complex in Central Asia.

Construction of the Ashgabat Olympic Complex began in November 2010 and the world-class venues illustrate the ambition and determination of the country to become a leading player in international sport and to promote a healthy lifestyle throughout society.

The venues are highlighted by the 45,000-capacity Main Stadium, which will host the opening ceremony on September 17 and the closing ceremony on September 27, and other key stadiums include the indoor athletics arena, aquatics centre and velodrome.

There is no doubt about it – the 4,000 athletes in all 21 sports will be competing in world-class venues.

Add in the new Athletes’ Village, luxurious hotels and a monorail running around the Olympic Complex and Ashgabat will offer one of the most compact multi-sport events and experiences in the history of the OCA.

But Ashgabat 2017 will not only be about the OCA and its 45 National Olympic Committees, as Oceania will send a further 19 teams in this historic cooperation agreement between two of the five confederations making up the Olympic Rings.

The final number of teams will be 65, as the organisers have added a Refugee Olympic Team following the success of this initiative at Rio 2016, championed by the IOC President Thomas Bach.

Throughout the seven years of preparations, the President of Turkmenistan, His Excellency Gurbanguly Berdymuhamedov, has followed the progress every step of the way.

The countdown is over – now it’s time for Ashgabat to welcome the world.

The President of Turkmenistan, His Excellency Gurbanguly Berdymuhamedov, visits the Ashgabat Olympic Complex.
AIMAG STAFF HIT THE RUNWAY TO DISPLAY ASHGABAT 2017 UNIFORMS

The Ashgabat 2017 organising committee released the official uniforms for the 5th AIMAG during a colourful ceremony at the Games headquarters on August 3.

The uniforms, which come in six colours, were unveiled during a fashion show involving staff members of Ashgabat 2017.

The uniform base colours were developed from the Ashgabat 2017 brand — Karakum Yellow, Turkmen Green and Caspian Blue, Injir Purple, Feroza Green and Keteni Red. The colours will differentiate between workforce, volunteers and technical officials.

Dayanch Gulgeldiyev, Chairman of the 5th AIMAG Executive Committee, said: “We have paid great attention to detail to ensure they reflect the Games spirit. I hope that when officials and volunteers proudly wear their uniforms they’ll get a sense of the glorious period our country is passing through.”

Two types of uniforms — formal and casual — have been designed, with all of them proudly displaying the Ashgabat 2017 name.

BICYCLE TOUR MARKS 50 DAYS TO GO

The 50-day countdown to the Ashgabat 2017 opening ceremony on September 17 was celebrated on July 29 in a series of bike-only events led by the President, H.E. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov.

Initiated by the President himself, the nationwide celebration highlighted the AIMAG themes of Health, Inspiration and Friendship by making the streets of Ashgabat open to cyclists only — and thousands of locals took advantage of the opportunity to ride.

The esteemed President led the carnival, cycling his way through the capital along with a distinguished group of Ministers, officials and government representatives, who all joined residents of the city on this festive day.

There were 18 stops along the route, and all along the way dance groups, orchestras and singers from various organisations around the city provided entertainment for the participants as they rode by.

In a ceremonial gesture, President Berdimuhamedov was given the first ticket and the first accreditation to Ashgabat 2017 at the final stop of the event.
OVER 700,000 TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR 21 SPORTS

Tickets for the 5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games went on sale at eight locations in Ashgabat and six more across all other regions on Saturday, July 29.

With more than 700,000 tickets available for more than 220 sessions, spectators will be able to watch athletes from Asia and Oceania compete over 12 days of competition and across 21 sports.

To encourage spectators to enjoy the experience of live sports taking place in Ashgabat, the Executive Committee confirmed that tickets for sport sessions would be priced at 7 TMT (2 USD) and 10 TMT (3 USD) for adults. Children under 14 will be free.

Tickets for the Opening Ceremony on September 17 and Closing Ceremony on September 27 - both to be held at the newly constructed Ashgabat Olympic Stadium - were available in four pricing categories ranging from 50 TMT (14 USD) to 500 TMT (143 USD).

ANASTASIYA, 11, RELISHES SWIMMING CHALLENGE

The future of women’s swimming in Turkmenistan appears to be bright after three swimmers aged 11, 15 and 16 were named in their 11-member squad for the 5th AIMAG.

Anastasiya Morgenstern, Rio 2016 Olympian Darya Semyonowa and Enes Begmyradowa are among the youngest participants in the entire tournament, but they are relishing the opportunity of competing in front of their home fans.

Anastasiya, who will only turn 12 in October, could well be Ashgabat 2017’s youngest competitor and she is understandably nervous.

“Honestly, my inclusion in the national team came as a huge surprise for me,” she said. “I’m nervous and I really don’t know how well I can perform.”

“But, in a way, it really helps that I’m making my debut at home. Seeing my parents and relatives in the crowd will have a calming effect on me. I’ll try my best to perform well.”

The freestyle specialist, who tried DanceSport before taking up swimming at her grandfather’s insistence, said she would try not to be overawed by the occasion.

“While I’m nervous I also understand what a great opportunity and responsibility this is for me. My aim is to set a new personal best and I’m confident about doing it,” added Anastasiya, who is expected to compete in the 50m and 100m freestyle.
Olympic Day in Asia

KOREA:
Worldwide Olympic Partner Atos launched an Olympic Day photo contest for all its employees and also organised a sports challenge consisting of running, walking and cycling. A special Olympic Day celebration was held in the Major Events offices in Madrid, Barcelona, PyeongChang (pictured) and Tokyo.

JORDAN:
More than 600 guests from across the sporting community attended an Olympic Day ceremony in Al Hussein Youth City that received considerable TV coverage. The 2017 IOC Trophy “Sport Beyond Borders” was awarded to Nuqul Group, which worked closely with the JOC as volunteers to develop the new sporting strategy - a first of its kind for Jordan.

PHILIPPINES:
The Philippine Track and Field Association provided technical support to the POC during Olympic Day festivities at Philsports Track and Field Oval in Pasig City on June 24 when national team athletes, coaches, officials and media competed in the 4×100m mixed relay, 3km team run, obstacle course, vortex javelin relay, three-pull tug-of-war and mixed medley relay. The wrestling team won the overall title.

BHUTAN:
Olympic Day was held on May 6 in Wangdiphodrang Dzongkhag (district) - one of 20 districts in the Kingdom - and engaged around 1,500 students from six schools, 150 volunteers, 150 guests and 300 spectators. The day kicked off with a 5km fun run involving more than 400 participants.
TOKYO 2020:

Around 1,000 students from 12 universities across Tokyo came together on Saturday, June 24 for Olympic Spirit competitions involving 16 teams presenting musical, dance and cheerleading performances. The audience then voted for winners they felt had achieved their “personal best” - one of the mottos of the Tokyo 2020 Games. (Photo: Tokyo 2020)

JAPAN: About 1,000 people, including 700 children aged under 14, took part in the Olympic Day Run at Ota-city in Gunma on June 11, joining six Olympians such as Motoko Obayashi (volleyball in Seoul, Barcelona and Atlanta) and Takahiko Kozuka (figure skating, Vancouver). It was one of 10 such events that annually attract over 12,000 runners, including 6,500 children. The JOC’s traditional Olympic Concert was held on June 9. (PHOTO KISHIMOTO).
Olympic Day in Asia

HONG KONG, CHINA: Olympic Day 2017 was held on June 18 at one of Hong Kong’s tourist hot spots, Ocean Park. Orienteering (pictured), a family run and sports demonstrations were all part of the day, with 108 teams from national sports associations, the government, sponsors and sports clubs taking part.

CHINA:

New IOC TOP Partner Alibaba Group organised its first “Alibaba Olympic Day” on June 23 at the Alibaba Xixi campus in Hangzhou. An internal communication campaign was launched throughout the group to promote the Olympic spirit, and a range of activities were organised including exhibitions, a keep-fit campaign and sports competitions.
Olympic Day in Asia

CAMBODIA:
With Cambodia set to host the SEA Games for the first time in 2023, the NOC used Olympic Day 2017 to introduce young students to the Olympic movement as well as some of the new sports venues in Phnom Penh. The photo shows Olympic swimmer Vitiny Hemthon addressing the Olympic Day Seminar.

NEPAL:
Under the leadership of NOC President Jeevan Ram Shrestha, the week-long Olympic Day festivities around the country included a public speaking competition organised by the Everest English School (pictured). The celebrations ran from June 17-23 and involved 33 events, 25 sports associations and more than 5,000 participants.

AFGHANISTAN:
More than 400 female and male athletes from 40 sports took part in the Olympic Day programme at NOC HQ on June 22. Athletes from taekwondo, boxing, hockey, karate and other sports demonstrated their skills to an appreciative and enthusiastic audience. The Olympic Day message was peace and education for women in Afghanistan.
Olympic Day in Asia

SINGAPORE: A full morning of activities, including a 5km Olympic Day Walk to Marina Bay, took place at the Singapore Sports Hub on Saturday, July 22, bringing together SEA Games-bound athletes, government ministers, sports officials and members of the public. Around 2,000 sports enthusiasts joined in the packed programme.

CHINESE TAIPEI: The CTOC held their Olympic Day Run on May 7 at Yilan Sports Park in Yilan County. It was the 30th consecutive year to celebrate Olympic Day and the 21km half-marathon, 10km run and 3km fun run attracted 6,000 participants.
SRI LANKA: This year’s event was held on June 23 in Ampara, a city in the eastern part of Sri Lanka, over 300km from the capital Colombo, as the NOC continues to spread Olympism throughout the country. The local government, police and armed forces all contributed to an action-packed celebration of various sports and the Olympic values.

MONGOLIA: The Burte Chono Plaza in front of the NOC HQ hosted Olympic Day on June 23 with the participation of the National Sports Federations of karate, football, volleyball, badminton, baseball-softball, table tennis and athletics. More than 120 sports school students and orphans joined in the fun alongside Olympic medallists, NOC and government officials and foreign ambassadors.

BAHRAIN: More than 300 people from a wide range of age categories took part in celebrations at Doha Arad in Muharraq. The event was organised by the Bahrain Olympic Committee in collaboration with Gulf University and the Bahrain Athletics Association’s Bahrain Roadrunners.
The President of the Republic of Korea, Moon Jae-in, joined in the 200-day countdown to the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympics by visiting the host city on July 24. As the nation’s passion and excitement continues to grow in the final few months before the next Winter Games open on February 9, the 200 days to go milestone was also celebrated in Seoul and across Gangwon Province.

“For the government, this will be the first major international event since we took office. I believe the government has an obligation to make the Games a success,” President Moon told the audience at the Alpensia Convention Centre.

“Up until now, the government left this job to the Organising Committee and Gangwon Province. Now, with 200 days left, the central government will join forces to make the PyeongChang Olympic Winter Games a complete success.”

In Seoul, the PyeongChang 2018 Village was created along the Han River at the Hangang Summer Festival from July 21 to August 20.

A special “G-200 Fireworks Festival” was held in Chuncheon - capital of Gangwon Province - on Saturday, July 22, with more than 200,000 onlookers, including Winter Olympic athletes.

R&B diva Insooni performed the theme song “Let Everyone Shine” that will accompany the Torch Relay around Korea from November 1.

Both President Moon and Insooni were appointed Honorary Ambassadors of PyeongChang 2018.

Insooni performs the torch relay theme song “Let Everyone Shine”.

President Moon checks out the merchandise.
THREE YEARS TO GO TO TOKYO 2020

Tokyo 2020 co-hosted a “Tokyo 2020 Flag Tour Festival/3 Years to Go to the Tokyo 2020 Games” event in Shinjuku on July 24 which attracted around 5,000 spectators, Olympians and Paralympians and other guests.

The milestone celebration was also the prelude to the Nationwide Tokyo 2020 Flag Tour which aims to bring Olympic excitement to every corner of the country.

Since the Olympic and Paralympic flags arrived in Tokyo from Rio de Janeiro, they have been paraded through all cities, towns, wards and villages in the Tokyo Metropolitan area, as well as prefectures affected by the 2011 East Japan earthquake and Kumamoto prefecture, which was hit by a major quake in 2016.

The Flag Tour built on the momentum of support for the Games generated in Japan during the Olympic Games Rio 2016.

The 3-year countdown event featured a newly-created projection mapping show, whereby a spectacular video light show highlighting the attractions of Tokyo and the power of sport was projected on to the exterior of the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly building, accompanied by music.

BANK OF CHINA INVESTS IN BEIJING 2022

The Bank of China has become the first Official Partner of the Beijing Organising Committee for the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

The partnership document was signed at the BOC HQ in Beijing on July 13 by Zhang Jiandong, Vice Mayor of Beijing and Vice Executive President of Beijing 2022, and by BOC Governor Chen Siqing.

Tian Guoli, Chairman of the BOC Board of Directors, said the Bank of China would help promote and develop Olympism, the Winter Olympics in 2022 and winter sports in general.

“The BOC is the only bank in China that has operated for over a century – and is the only bank in China that has the privilege to serve both 2008 and 2022 Olympics,” he said.

“We will join hands with Beijing 2022 to provide good-quality, reliable and personalised banking services.”

The BOC plans to upgrade its hardware and software to make sure the banking system can operate properly against freezing and windy weather.
KICKBOXER BARAAH INSPIRES JORDAN

In a competition like the World Games, medals are hard to come by.

For some, qualification in itself is an achievement and a much-cherished prize.

Take the example of Jordan’s Baraah Al-Absi, who won a silver medal at the 2016 Asian Kickboxing Championships to become the first female kickboxer from Jordan to qualify for the World Games – the peak for athletes in non-Olympic sports.

“I am happy to participate, but the importance of me competing goes well beyond the fights themselves,” she said, before leaving for the 10th World Games in Wroclaw, Poland, in July.

Al Absi, 25, said that her participation alone should show all her countrywomen what was possible through hard work and determination, and that she hoped her appearance in Poland representing her flag would inspire every girl and woman back home in Jordan.

For a journey that began when she was just nine years old, it has been a long road for Al-Abi. But, as her silver medal showed last year, it is one that is delivering her to a destination as one of the world’s best.

MIKEE PROMOTES ATHLETES AT ASEAN FORUM

IOC member Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski of the Philippines spoke about the role of athletes as ambassadors at the ASEAN 2017 Dialogues at the Asian Institute of Management in Makati City, Manila, on July 31.

ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) 2017 Dialogues is a three-part forum and webinar (web-based seminar) which discussed the three pillars of ASEAN and the Philippines’ Chairmanship this year.

The theme focused on how establishing one ASEAN identity can lead towards integration and better harmonisation of policies.

“Proud and blessed to have been a part of the ASEAN 2017 Dialogues: ASEAN Identity at the Asian Institute of Management, speaking on athletes as ambassadors of our respective countries,” she said on her Facebook account, which has over 1 million followers.
Obituary

TRAGEDY STRIKES UAE PARA ATHLETE IN LONDON

The International Paralympic Committee announced the tragic death of United Arab Emirates Para athlete Abdullah Hayayei following a training ground incident in London on July 11.

Hayayei, 36, a thrower in the F34 class, was training at Newham Leisure Centre in preparation for the World Para Athletics Championships London 2017 when the incident took place. Emergency services were called shortly after 5pm to reports of a seriously injured man. Police, London Ambulance Service and London’s Air Ambulance attended the scene. At 5.20pm the athlete was pronounced dead at the scene.

It is believed that he was struck by a metal pole from one of the throwing cages which formed part of the training facilities at the sports centre.

Sir Philip Craven, IPC President, said: “We are all truly devastated by this tragic news and the passing of Abdullah.

HEIN VERBRUGGEN - FORMER CYCLING PRESIDENT

The Olympic Movement mourned the death of Hein Verbruggen, IOC Honorary Member in the Netherlands, at the age of 75.

A cycling fanatic and a true sports fan, Hein Verbruggen was President of the International Cycling Union from 1991 to 2005. He also headed the SportAccord Convention from 2003 to 2013.

He joined the IOC in 1996 and became an Honorary Member in 2008. He headed the Evaluation Commission for the Olympic Games 2008 and became Chairman of the Coordination Commission for Olympic Games Beijing 2008.

BRUNEI NOC PRESIDENT MOURNS PASSING OF DR HJ DANISH

HRH Prince Hj Sufri Bolkiah, President of the Brunei Darussalam NOC, expressed his condolences on the sudden passing of Dr Hj Danish Zaheer, Head of the Sport Medicine and Research Centre at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, on Wednesday, September 6. He was 57.

The Pakistan national, who was elected President of the Asian Federation of Sports Medicine in December, started working for the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports in 1994 and represented Brunei at numerous national, regional and international sports medicine and sports science forums.

His most recent engagement was at the 29th SEA Games in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from August 19-30.

“This is a great loss for Brunei sports, in particular for all the athletes and all sports affiliates he has given more than 20 years of dedicated service,” said HRH Prince Hj Sufri Bolkiah.

Abdullah Hayayei. Photo: Getty Images.
2017

Lima, Peru: September 11 – 12
IOC Executive Board meeting

Lima, Peru: September 13 – 17
130th IOC Session

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: September 17 – 23
9th ASEAN Para Games

Ashgabat, Turkmenistan: September 17 – 27
5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games

Ashgabat, Turkmenistan: September 19
OCA Executive Board

Ashgabat, Turkmenistan: September 20
OCA General Assembly

Greece: October 24
Torch-lighting ceremony for PyeongChang 2018 Olympic Winter Games, Olympia

Lausanne, Switzerland: October 28:
IOC Olympic Summit

Prague, Czech Republic: Oct 31 – Nov 1
ANOC Commissions and Working Groups

Prague, Czech Republic: November 1
ANOC Executive Council

Prague, Czech Republic: November 2
ANOC Gala Awards

Prague, Czech Republic: November 2 – 3
22nd ANOC General Assembly

Lausanne, Switzerland: November 11 – 13
8th IOC International Athletes’ Forum

Lausanne, Switzerland: December 5 – 7
IOC Executive Board

Sanya, Hainan Island, China: December 9 – 16
Youth Sailing World Championships 2017

2018

PyeongChang, Korea: February 9 – 25
Olympic Winter Games

Jakarta, Indonesia: February 10 – 24
18th Asian Games Test Event in Archery, Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Boxing, Football, Pencak Silat, Taekwondo, Volleyball and Weightlifting.

PyeongChang, Korea: March 9 – 18
Paralympic Winter Games

Jakarta-Palembang, Indonesia: Aug 18 – Sep 2
18th OCA Asian Games

Buenos Aires, Argentina: October 1 – 12
Youth Olympic Games

2019

Philippines: Dates to be Confirmed
30th South East Asian (SEA) Games