ASIA LIGHTS UP WINTER YOG

GOLD MEDALS GALORE AT LAUSANNE 2020

OCA Games Updates
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OCA pays tribute to Sultan Qaboos
Regional Games Round-up
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Front Cover:
Korea’s You Young won the ladies’ figure skating gold medal at the Winter Youth Olympic Games Lausanne 2020 and was named No. 1 breakthrough star in the YOG Review by the International Olympic Committee. (Photo: IOC / Olympic Information Service)
The sports world – just like every other aspect of life – has been seriously affected by the outbreak of the novel coronavirus in recent weeks.

The impact is being felt not only in China and Asia but around the world as the authorities try to control the spread of COVID-19.

This means that several major sports events have been moved, postponed or cancelled and we must wait until the conditions are more conducive to major gatherings of athletes, officials and administrators before the sports world can return to normal.

Like every other major sports organisation, the OCA has been affected by the outbreak – especially as we have three international multi-sport games coming up in China in the next three years.

In consultation with the Chinese Olympic Committee, the central government in Beijing and the provincial governments of the host cities, we have decided to postpone a series of meetings that were due to take place in March.

We will let you know the new dates as soon as possible, as it will take time for the situation to unfold, particularly regarding travel in and out of China and other logistics.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the organising committees of our upcoming games and also our member National Olympic Committees for your understanding, your cooperation and unity during these uncertain times.

We would also like to extend our support and encouragement to our friends and colleagues in China in the fight against the novel coronavirus and look forward to joining “as one” again in the near future.

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

One of the most eagerly awaited sports events in the build-up to Tokyo 2020 is the boxing qualification tournament for Asia and Oceania.

It was due to be held in Wuhan, China, from February 3-14 but had to be moved as the city in central Hubei province is the epicentre of the novel coronavirus outbreak.

The boxing qualifier will now take place in Amman, Jordan, from March 3-11.

Several other Olympic qualifying events have also been affected, for example women’s basketball and women’s football, while other major sports competitions have been postponed or cancelled. These include the world indoor athletics championships in Nanjing, LPGA Tour stops in Thailand and Singapore, world rugby sevens tournaments in Hong Kong and Singapore and many others.
FOR the first time since 2015, the Saudi Arabian Olympic Committee hosted Olympic Day - on December 31, 2019 at the Prince Faisal bin Fahad Olympic complex in Riyadh. Over 500 children and their families took part in six sports – athletics, fencing, taekwondo, badminton, tennis and gymnastics – and other fun activities. Prince Abdulaziz bin Turki Al Faisal, SAOC President, joined in the 2km run.

OVER 10 million Macau Patacas (1.2 million USD) was distributed to 60 athletes and 29 trainers from 23 sports by the Macau government in an awards presentation at Macau Tower on January 10. The President of the Sports and Olympic Committee of Macau, China, Charles Lo, who is Chairman of the OCA Media Committee, presented some of the cheques – reward for outstanding performances in 2019.

ONE of Asia’s most popular and respected sports officials, Dato’ Sieh Kok Chi (left), has been inducted into the Olympic Council of Malaysia’s Hall of Fame. The former OCM Secretary-General, 81, said he was very flattered by the honour. “I volunteered to serve OCM and the athletes and, if the sports people think I have done well, I was only doing my duty to the best of my ability and, as such, do not deserve anything else,” he said.
MORE than 50 coaches and referees attended the International Wrestling Coaching Course in Lahore from December 15-19 thanks to the support of the Pakistan Olympic Association and the IOC’s Olympic Solidarity.

The course was organised by the Pakistan Wrestling Federation and run by United World Wrestling with the assistance of two coaches from Britain and Spain.

Photo: @Pakistan Olympic Association

DIRECTORS and officials of the NOC of the Islamic Republic of Iran visited the homes of former Olympic champions and Olympians from various editions of the Olympic Games to present a Board of Honour to display outside their homes in recognition of their achievements. The Director of the National Sport, Olympic and Paralympic Museum, Hassan Rangraz, met Olympians and medallists in six different cities.

MALDIVES Olympic Committee Secretary General Ahmed Marzooq welcomed International Table Tennis Federation President Thomas Weikert to the NOC offices on January 22. It was the first visit by an International Federation President to the MOC. Marzooq said the support of the ITTF would greatly benefit the development of table tennis and build on the great work of the Table Tennis Association of the Maldives.
CHINESE Taipei Olympic Committee President Hong-Dow Lin (right) and Dr. Chin-Hsiung Kao, Director General of the Sports Administration, Ministry of Education, are pictured at the opening ceremony of the end-of-year Road to Tokyo celebration on December 6.

The CTOC reflected on a busy 2019 and looked ahead to the final preparations for the 2020 Olympic Games.

NOMINATED athletes and teams attended the press conference of the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China to announce the start of public voting for Cathay Pacific 2019 Hong Kong Sports Stars Awards on January 19. There are six categories in the awards, and the gala presentation will take place on May 18.

JORDAN Olympic Committee President HRH Prince Feisal Al Hussein welcomed a delegation from Noshiro, Japan, led by city mayor Shigenobu Saito.

Noshiro, located in northwestern Akita prefecture and bordered by the Sea of Japan, will host Jordan’s athletes in a pre-Tokyo 2020 training camp.

PALESTINE Olympic Committee’s Olympic Solidarity director, Ghayda’ Abu Zayyad, took part in the Masters programme in Sports Management in Sydney, Australia, focusing on human resources and communications.

Abu Zayyad, who works in the POC’s International Relations department, is preparing a project on the development of sport in Palestinian refugee camps.
TURKMENISTAN NOC Vice President Dayanch Gulgeldiev led a delegation to Lausanne, Switzerland, to meet with ANOC Acting President Robin Mitchell and Secretary General Gunilla Lindberg on January 16. They discussed the success of the inaugural ANOC World Beach Games in Doha last October and the ANOC General Assembly 2020 in Seoul as well as future cooperation. (Photo: @ANOC)

TAJIKISTAN NOC’s anti-doping education project is gaining momentum with the support of the Central Asia Regional Anti-Doping Organisation and Olympic Solidarity. Eight education officers have been trained to hold seminars and lectures in 56 towns and regions and 90 coaches and sports specialists will be instructed how to present classes in an informal and accessible way.

KAZAKHSTAN NOC President Timur Kulibayev held a meeting with heads of NOC departments on preparations for Tokyo 2020. “There is not much time left before Tokyo 2020,” he said. “The crucial period has come not only for our athletes who are fighting for Olympic places but also for all those involved in the preparation of the Kazakhstan national team. The success of our athletes depends on our well-coordinated work.”

INDONESIA NOC President Raja Sapta Oktohari visited the IOC President, Thomas Bach, at Olympic House in Lausanne. They spoke about Indonesian athletes’ preparations for Tokyo 2020 and various Olympic topics, including a candidature from Indonesia to host the Olympic Games in 2032.
Awards

HIS Majesty the King, Sultan Abdullah Ri’ayatuddin (pictured centre), and Her Majesty the Queen, Tunku Azizah, were the Royal Guests of Honour at the 26th Olympic Council of Malaysia annual dinner and awards night at the Shangri-La Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, on December 19. The Olympians of the Year were (male) Loh Choon How (wushu – second from right) and (female) Farah Ann Abdul Hadi (gymnastics – far right).

OVER 820,000 sports fans voted in the Kazakhstan NOC’s “Altyn Samgay 2019” National Sports Awards, which were held in the Central Concert Hall “Kazakhstan” on November 30. Prime Minister Askar Mamin was the chief guest. The awards included: Best Athlete in Summer Sport, Bekzad Nurdauletov (boxing - pictured); Best Athlete in Winter Sport, Elizabet Tursynbayeva (figure skating - pictured); Best Young Athlete, Abilmansur Batyrzali (karate); Best Coach in Summer Sport, Aset Serikbayev (freestyle wrestling); Best Coach in Winter Sport, Elena Kruglykhina (freestyle skiing); Best National Federation, Kazakhstan Ice Hockey Federation; Breakthrough Athlete, Alisher Yergali (freestyle wrestling); Best Team, men's national ice hockey team; Paralympic Athlete of the Year, Nurlan Dombai (taekwondo).

UZBEKISTAN NOC, in cooperation with the Ministry of Physical Culture and Sports, held the National Sports Awards 2019 at Navruz Palace in Tashkent on December 26. The 19 award winners included: Female Athlete of the Year, Dilnoza Rakhmatova (canoe sprint); Male Athlete of the Year, Bahodir Jalolov (boxing); Team of the Year, national boxing team; Paralympic Athlete of the Year, Timur Giyazov (swimming); Coach of the Year, Ravshan Ruzikulov (Greco-Roman wrestling); Most Promising Athlete, Zainab Dayibekova (fencing); Outstanding Service to Sport, Oksana Chusovitina (gymnastics).
HRH Prince Sultan Bin Fahd Bin Abdulaziz, former President of the Saudi Arabian Olympic Committee, received the highest distinction at the inaugural SAOC Awards in Riyadh on December 25 for his leadership and achievements during his presidency from 1999 to 2011. Other awards included: Women and Sport, Best Sports Event, Sports Promotion and Development and Sponsors award. SAOC President Prince Abdulaziz Bin Turki Al-Faisal said the awards would be expanded in 2020 and held annually.

MONGOLIAN boxer Erdenebatyn Tsendbaatar was named Male Athlete of 2019 and awarded the prestigious Burte Chono Trophy in an event organised by Mongolia NOC and the Mongolian Sports Journalists Federation on December 13. Ankhtsetseg Munkhjantsan (weightlifting) was named Female Athlete of the Year. (Photo: Mongolian News Agency)

WORLD champion Kento Momota (pictured) was named Male Player of the Year at the Badminton World Federation Awards in Guangzhou, China, on December 9.

The Japanese ace went on to win a record 11th title of the year at the end-of-season HSBC BWF World Tour Finals.

Huang Yaqiong (China) won Female Player of the Year for the second consecutive season for her form in mixed doubles.

Other awards: Eddy Choong Most Promising Player, An Se Young (Korea); Male Para Player, Qu Zimo (China); Female Para Player, Leani Ratri Oktila (Indonesia); Most Improved Player, Kim So Yeong/Kong Hee Yong (women’s doubles, Korea).

Photo: BWF.
MISS WORLD JOINS ASIAN BEACH GAMES MASCOT LAUNCH IN SANYA

With a helping hand from a former Miss World, the organising committee of the OCA’s sixth Asian Beach Games launched the mascot at the one-year countdown ceremony on Thursday, November 28.

Stephanie Del Valle Diaz, Miss World 2016 from Puerto Rico, joined the mascot Yaya on stage for the ceremony.

“Yaya is based on the deer, which is an iconic symbol of Sanya city. I think it is the perfect mascot for the Asian Beach Games,” said the former Miss World, who handed over her crown to her successor when Sanya hosted the competition in 2017.

Sanya, a tropical tourist resort on Hainan Island in southern China, will host the sixth ABG from November 28 to December 6, 2020. There will be 17 sports contested by athletes from the OCA’s 45 National Olympic Committees.

The OCA’s Life Vice President, Raja Randhir Singh, represented the OCA at the countdown and mascot launch ceremony.

Regarding the mascot Yaya, Raja Randhir said: “I think it’s fantastic. The local people, especially the children, will love Yaya, as will all the athletes and officials from Asia taking part in the Asian Beach Games.

“The mascot will present the fun and friendly face of the Asian Beach Games and of Sanya city.”

The organising committee is undertaking 76 projects related to the hosting of the ABG including the recruitment of 8,000 volunteers.

Sanya 2020 released the emblem, which also features the deer, and the slogan – “See ya in Sanya” – in October.
MERICHHANDISE SALES PROMOTE SANYA’S HOSTING OF ABG

The organising committee of the OCA’s sixth Asian Beach Games Sanya 2020 took a big step forward on the marketing front on Wednesday, January 22.

Licensed products in seven categories went on sale to the public for the first time, including stuffed toys of mascot Yaya, home textile products, sports waist bags, handicrafts and badges.

The licensed store of the 6th ABG 2020, covering 30 square meters in the lobby of the Mangrove Tree Resort World in Sanya Bay, created a festive atmosphere and attracted locals and tourists alike.

Zhou Jun, Deputy Secretary General of SABGOC and Deputy Mayor of the Sanya Municipal People’s Government, and other guests attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the licensed store of the ABG.

Not only are the products fresh, creative and beautifully made, they come at a wide range of prices to suit all pockets – from 10 yuan to several hundred yuan.

ABG VILLAGE WILL LEAVE LASTING LEGACY FOR HAINAN

The sixth Asian Beach Games at the end of this year will leave more than a legacy of just beach and sea sports tourism.

It will also leave Sanya city with the biggest and most modern football and athletics stadium in all Hainan province.

With a 1,000-strong workforce, construction of the Sanya International Sports Industrial Park is well under way - and the main focus for the ABG is the main stadium and the 3,000 apartments being built in five zones.

The new stadium, with a capacity of 45,300, will host the closing ceremony on December 6. The apartments will accommodate around 4,000 athletes and officials from the 45 NOCs in their own ABG Village located in Baopo Road in the Jiyang district, just a 10-minute drive to downtown Sanya.
HANGZHOU 2022 ANNOUNCES SLOGAN FOR 19TH ASIAN GAMES

The OCA and the organising committee of the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, in 2022 celebrated the 1,000 days countdown to the opening ceremony and slogan launch in Hangzhou on Sunday, December 15.

The ceremony took place in the Tennis Centre of the Olympic and International Expo Park – nicknamed Little Lotus – and was attended by sports and government officials from Hangzhou city, Zhejiang province and the central government in Beijing, led by Gou Zhongwen, President of the Chinese Olympic Committee and of the General Administration of Sport of China.

The slogan for the 19th Asian Games is “Heart to Heart, @Future”, reflecting the ability of the digital age to connect people from all over the continent through the Asian Games.

The Life Vice President of the OCA, Raja Randhir Singh, described the joint celebration as “another major milestone” in the countdown to the 19th Asian Games.

“We can see the progress of the preparations and we can feel the excitement is building in the city,” said Raja Randhir.

“The OCA is confident that the 19th Asian Games will be a big success due to the experience and expertise of our partners in China.

“China has become a loyal and trusted friend in the Olympic movement at national, continental and world level and we are sure that the 19th Asian Games will add to this rich legacy.”

The Vice President of organising committee HAGOC, Zhou Jiangyong, said they had received 26,536 slogan suggestions for the 19th Asian Games, which will be held from September 10-25, 2022.
E-COMMERCE GIANT ALIBABA BECOMES PRESTIGE PARTNER

Representatives from organising committee HAGOC signed a Prestige Partner agreement with the Alibaba Group and its affiliate Alipay on December 10. This takes the number of Prestige Partners to seven.

“We hope Alibaba will use its advanced information technology and cloud services to empower the 2022 Hangzhou Asian Games, enabling athletes, officials, media and millions of viewers from across Asia to feel the unique charm of the Hangzhou Asian Games,” said Chen Weiqiang, Vice Mayor of Hangzhou and Deputy Secretary-General of HAGOC.

Zhang Yong, CEO of Alibaba, said that Alibaba would contribute to the Asian Games in the form of IT, cloud services, financial technology and ecological preservation. Alipay will also work to make the 19th Asian Games as digital as possible, Zhang added.

During the Games, a mini-app will be launched providing 18 intelligent services for visitors, including buying tickets, booking hotels and searching for tourist destinations.

The seven Prestige Partners are: Geely Auto, China Telecom, China Mobile, ICBC, Loongair, Alibaba Group, Alipay.

FAMOUS HANGZHOU POET LOOKS FORWARD TO ‘EXTRAORDINARY’ ASIAN GAMES

Hangzhou Asian Games organising committee HAGOC published a New Year’s poem entitled “A Letter from Hangzhou to Asia” by renowned local poet Huang Yazhou introducing the city to Asian athletes and promising a warm welcome.

The poem begins: “Do you hear the call of Hangzhou, my friends from every corner of Asia? In the name of the 2022 Asian Games, Hangzhou is calling.”

The poem introduces the city, which is the capital of Zhejiang province in eastern China, to Asian athletes, pointing out the Grand Canal, the Qiantang River and the West Lake.

It also states that Hangzhou is a modern and “smart” city, full of technological innovations and a hub of e-commerce.

“My dear friends, the Hangzhou people extend their heartfelt welcome to you, for you will inject new life into the city,” the poem continues.

OCA Honorary Life Vice President Raja Randhir Singh, accompanied by the Director of International and NOC Relations, Vinod Tiwari, browse the first official merchandise store for the 19th Asian Games on opening day in historic Hefang Street, Hangzhou, on December 15.

“We welcome you, athletes from across Asia, with open arms. As you come, 2022 will be an extraordinary year, marking an exciting milestone for the city in its strides ahead.”

Read the full poem at: https://www.hangzhou2022.cn
HANGZHOU 2022 DELEGATION VISITS KUWAIT ON MASCOT MISSION

A four-strong delegation from the Hangzhou 2022 Asian Games Organising Committee (HAGOC) paid a visit to Kuwait – home of the Olympic Council of Asia – from January 8-12.

The main purpose of the visit was to submit the mascot design for the 19th Asian Games and gain the OCA’s approval before the official launch.

The Director General of the OCA, Husain Al Musallam, was very impressed with the creativity involved in the concept and design.

“It is excellent work and follows the overall direction of the 19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022, which is to have a smart Asian Games; the mascots are a true representation of that,” he said.

“The OCA appreciates all the dedication and hard work that has gone into this process and we look forward to the official launch in the near future.”

HAGOC received 4,633 mascot designs from within China and from overseas, reflecting the interest in the 19th Asian Games.

OCA’S OLYMPASIA PROJECT REAPS REWARDS IN NEPAL

Nepal’s hosting of the 13th South Asian Games in December put the NOC’s headquarters in the spotlight – and it’s all thanks to the OCA’s Olympasia project.

Olympasia was established by the OCA in 2001 to provide funding for NOCs to construct, renovate or expand Olympic-related buildings and infrastructure. The project is supported by the IOC’s Olympic Solidarity.

“We wanted to provide sports facilities for Asian countries and promote sports and Olympic principles,” said the OCA’s Financial Officer, Nayaf Sraj, on a visit to the Nepal Olympic Building during the South Asian Games.

“In the case of Nepal, they said what they needed most was a place to house their NOC - and we got right behind them. You get a lot of satisfaction when you visit these places and see what has been built.”

The Nepal Olympasia project began in 2013 and was completed a year later. The official opening was on September 13, 2014.

Sujan Shrestha, Executive Secretary of Nepal NOC, added: “We used to be housed in a rented property. It was small and we didn’t have enough space for our needs let alone to provide facilities for others including the national federations.

“We are very grateful to the OCA. They heard our call and backed us to the hilt. Without the OCA we would still be living in a cramped place instead of this three-storey building.”
Full speed ahead in the women’s mass start speed skating event at St. Moritz Speed Skating Oval.
ASIA GRABS THE HEADLINE NEWS AT 3RD WINTER YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES

Asian athletes dominated proceedings at the 3rd Winter Youth Olympic Games Lausanne 2020 – and earned the top five rankings in the YOG news review by the IOC’s Olympic.org website.

Without further ado, here are the top five performances identified by the IOC, plus other outstanding performances by Asian athletes:

1. **You Young (Korea):** The 15-year-old figure skating sensation dazzled the judges and spectators alike to finish first in both the short programme and free skate to take the gold ahead of the relentless Russian challenge.

“Young E”, as she is known affectionately, has already won the national championship four times - the first at 11 years old - and is following in the footsteps of her idol, the Olympic legend Kim Yuna.

2. **Yuma Kagiyama (Japan):** Coached by his father and two-time Olympian Masakzau Kagiyama, 16-year-old Yuma is the latest figure skating prodigy from Japan.

Seven points adrift in third place after the short programme, Kagiyama delivered a sensational free skate to overtake his two Russian rivals and take the gold medal. The joyous reaction of Kagiyama and his coach told the story (see Page 18)

3. **Eileen Gu Ailing (China):** The San Francisco high school student and part-time model became the face of Chinese winter sports by sparkling under the YOG spotlight.

Fresh off the catwalks of Paris Fashion Week, Gu, 16, brought glitz and glamour to the freestyle ski slopes and won two gold medals, in women’s halfpipe and big air, and silver in slopestyle.

4. **Japan’s women’s ice hockey team:** The ice hockey tournaments lit up Lausanne and provided a glimpse of the future at the Winter Olympics and in the NHL.

On the women’s side, Japan made history by beating Sweden 4-1 in the final and preventing a Swedish three-in-a-row; Japan, with several players only 14 years old, could easily make the step up and challenge the world order at the Winter Olympics in the near future.

5. **Japan’s unstoppable snowboarders:** Japan won four gold medals and three silvers in nine events as they dominated the halfpipe and big air disciplines.

The four golden snowboarders were Mitsuki Ono (women’s halfpipe), Ruka Hirano (men’s halfpipe), Ryoma Kimata (men’s big air) and Hinari Asanuma (women’s big air).
Other Asian highlights included:

Korea cleaned up on the short track, winning all four gold medals in women’s and men’s events.

On the women’s side, Seo Whi-min sped to a golden double at 500m and 1,000m; in the men’s races, Jang Sung-woo (1,000m gold, 500m silver) and Lee Jeong-min (500m gold, 1,000m silver) each claimed one gold and one silver medal to block out their rivals.

Japan dominated the men’s speed skating and claimed all three gold medals – two for Motonaga Arito in the men’s 1,500m and mass start and one for Yudai Yamamoto in the 500m.

Roll on Beijing 2022 and Gangwon 2024!

MEDAL TABLE

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LAUSANNE 2020

Opening Ceremony: January 9
Closing Ceremony: January 22
NOCs: 79
Athletes: 1,872
Gender Parity: 50/50
Sports: 8
Disciplines: 16
Events: 81
Venues: 8
Spectators: 640,000
Including: 80,000 schoolchildren
Volunteers: 3,800
Media: 1,000 from 39 countries on 4 continents.

Broadcast Reach: 191 countries
Live Coverage by Olympic Broadcasting Services: 165 hours
Next Winter YOG: Gangwon, Korea, JAN 19 – FEB 2, 2024
Asia at Lausanne 2020

GOLDEN MOMENTS FROM ASIAN ATHLETES

China’s Yang Binyu wins Winter YOG gold in the women’s speed skating mass start at St. Moritz (Photo: Thomas Lovelock)

Yuma Kagiyama of Japan celebrates his spectacular free skate score to win the gold medal in men’s figure skating.

Seo Whi-min exchanges high fives with the coaching staff after winning short track gold. The Korean sped to a 1,000m-500m golden double.
The Japanese women’s ice hockey team stunned two-time Winter YOG defending champions Sweden 4-1 in the final to become the first Asian country to win a gold medal in the sport at Olympic level.

Japan’s Mitsuki Ono displays a golden smile after victory in the snowboard halfpipe. (Photo: Dylan Burns/OISphotos.com)

Yau Yam of Hong Kong, China celebrates a gold medal with the Green team in Mixed NOC men’s 3-on-3 ice hockey. (Photo: SF&OC)
OCA CONGRATULATES ASIA’S MEDAL WIN

JAPAN

Gold
Yuma Kagiyama: Men’s single figure skating
Yudai Yamamoto: Men’s speed skating 500m
Motonaga Arito: Men’s speed skating 1,500m
Motonaga Arito: Men’s speed skating mass start
Mitsuki Ono: Snowboard women’s halfpipe


Ruka Hirano: Snowboard men’s halfpipe
Hinari Asanuma: Snowboard women’s big air
Ryoma Kimata: Snowboard men’s big air

Japan as part of Mixed NOC
Yukino Yoshida: Mixed NOC team speed skating sprint, Team 3
Utana Yoshida: Mixed NOC team figure skating (ice dance), Team Courage
Shingo Nishiyama: Mixed NOC team figure skating (ice dance), Team Courage
Shogo Miyata: Short track speed skating mixed NOC relay, Team B

Silver
Yuka Takahashi: Women’s speed skating 1,500m
Curling mixed team (Takumi Maeda, Momoha Tabata, Asei Nakahara, Mina Kobayashi)
Ayane Miyazaki: Nordic combined women’s individual Normal Hill/4km
Ski Jumping mixed team (Ayane Miyazaki, Yuto Nishikata, Machiko Kubota, Sota Kudo)
Manon Kaji: Snowboard women’s halfpipe
Kaishu Hirano: Snowboard men’s halfpipe
Aoto Kawakami: Snowboard men’s big air

Korea as part of Mixed NOC
Motonaga Arito: Mixed NOC team speed skating sprint, Team 16
Yuma Kagiyama: Mixed NOC team figure skating, Team Focus
Reina Sato: Ice hockey women mixed NOC 3-on-3, Team Black

Bronze
Yukino Yoshida: Women’s speed skating 500m
Japan as part of Mixed NOC
Yuna Kusama: Ice hockey women mixed NOC 3-on-3, Team Blue

KOREA

Gold
You Young: Women’s single figure skating
Seo Whi-min: Short track speed skating women’s 1,000m
Jang Sung-woo: Short track speed skating men’s 1,000m
Seo Whi-min: Short track speed skating women’s 500m
Lee Jeong-min: Short track speed skating men’s 500m

Korea as part of Mixed NOC
Shin Seo-yoon: Ice hockey women mixed NOC 3-on-3, Team Yellow
Kim Chan-seo: Short track speed skating mixed NOC relay, Team B

Silver
Kim Chan-seo: Short track speed skating women’s 1,000m
Lee Jeong-min: Short track speed skating men’s 1,000m
Jang Sung-woo: Short track speed skating men’s 500m

Korea as part of Mixed NOC
Jang Sung-woo: Short track speed skating mixed NOC relay, Team G

Bronze
Korea as part of Mixed NOC
Seo Whi-min: Short track speed skating mixed NOC relay, Team A
OCA CONGRATULATES ASIA'S MEDAL WINNERS AT WINTER YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES

CHINA

Gold
- Yang Binyu: Women’s speed skating mass start
- Eileen Gu Ailing: Freestyle skiing women’s freeski halfpipe
- Eileen Gu Ailing: Freestyle skiing women’s freeski big air

Silver
- Wang Jingyi: Women’s speed skating 500m
- Eileen Gu Ailing: Freestyle skiing women’s freeski slopestyle
- Li Fanghui: Freestyle skiing women’s freeski halfpipe

Bronze
- China as part of Mixed NOC
- Zhang Xinyue: Ice hockey women mixed NOC 3-on-3, Team Black

HONG KONG, CHINA

Gold
- Hong Kong as part of Mixed NOC
- Yam Yau: Ice hockey men mixed NOC 3-on-3, Team Green

Bronze
- Hong Kong as part of Mixed NOC
- Elvis Hsu Chuo Xi: Ice hockey men mixed NOC 3-on-3, Team Brown

CHINESE TAIPEI

Silver
- Chinese Taipei as part of Mixed NOC
- Chang En-Ni: Ice hockey women mixed NOC 3-on-3, Team Black

Bronze
- Lin Wei-Yu: Ice hockey men mixed NOC 3-on-3, Team Red
- Chang Hui: Short track speed skating mixed NOC team relay, Team G

NOTE: This chart focuses on the medals won outright by athletes and teams from a particular NOC. Some Asian athletes also won medals as part of a mixed NOC team and these medals are also recorded.
ASIAN NOCS MAKE THEIR MARK ON SNOW AND ICE

Asia’s “big three” of Japan, Korea and China were not the only NOCs from the OCA to make an impression at the 3rd Winter YOG.

Countries such as Thailand, Mongolia, Qatar, Singapore and Malaysia also made their mark amidst the fierce competition from the traditional winter sports strongholds of Europe and North America.

The “TK and Nat Show” proved popular as Nichakan “TK” Chinupun and Natthawut “Nat” Hiranrat, both 16, entertained the Olympic media with their story of their journey from tropical Thailand to the ski slopes of Switzerland.

The alpine skiers were part of a five-strong team that also included two cross-country skiers and one short track speed skater.

Qatar joined the Winter YOG for the first time as Thawab Al-Subaey, 15, took part in the mixed NOC men’s 3-on-3 ice hockey competition, while both Malaysia and Singapore continued to build on their winter sports foundations, notably in short track speed skating.

Mongolia had six athletes – four in cross-country and two in biathlon – and much of it was down to the generosity and passion project of a retired Swiss doctor, Pascal Gertsch, who used to work in Mongolia and wanted to put something back into the sport and country that he loved.
The Singapore National Olympic Council put sport to one side when athletes and officials visited an orphanage in the Philippines during the 30th Southeast Asian Games.

Having been made aware of the orphanage while staying at the Quest Hotel in Clark, Pampanga, Singapore NOC Secretary General Chris Chan decided to bring some festive cheer to the local children.

Chris and the hotel organised a small convoy to the Duyan Ni Maria Children’s Home in Mabalacat City on the morning of December 9.

They took cuddly toys, food and drinks, a cake and 100,000 peso (2,000 USD) in gift vouchers for the local shopping mall in an act of goodwill that cheered the children and humbled the adults in equal measure.

The delegation of around 20 athletes and staff were greeted by Sister Alessandrina M. Casas, who founded the children’s home in 1988 and is now a sprightly 89 years old. The orphanage relies totally on donations to care for the 46 children, who attend a nearby school.

“This was the highlight of the SEA Games for me,” said Chris. “It really touched my heart and my soul. Winning a gold medal is one thing – but nothing can match what our athletes have done today.”
The 30th Southeast Asian Games 2019 in the Philippines proved to be a “win-win-win” situation for the host country. First, the Philippines won the overall title with 149 gold medals, 117 silvers and 121 bronze for a total of 387. Vietnam was a distant second with 98 gold medals and Thailand was third with 92. It was the first time the Philippines had topped the medal chart since last hosting the event in 2005.

Second, the infrastructure at the SEA Games hub of New Clark City, 110km north of Manila, has put the Philippines in a winning position to host future championships at regional and continental level. These facilities include the main athletics stadium, aquatics complex and village.

Third, the 30th SEA Games exposed the host country’s leading athletes to a new army of sports enthusiasts, led by Hidilyn Diaz (weightlifting), Carlos “Caloy” Yulo (gymnastics), Ernest John “EJ” Obiena (pole vault) and Margielyn Didal (skateboard). They may have been well known inside sports circles before the SEA Games, but now their star shines around the entire nation.

The fans were a major factor in the undoubted success of the 30th SEA Games. Their pride and passion was in evidence around all 56 sports, none more so than the rugby sevens at the parade grounds at Clark – the former US air base in Pampanga province.

As the Philippines romped to victory over Malaysia in the men’s final, the excitement in the spectator stands boiled over after the final whistle and the pitch was immediately invaded by joyous fans. The players, in return, were happy to delay the victory ceremony to pose for souvenir photos with their new-found fan base.

Those scenes really captured the pride and the spirit surrounding the 30th SEA Games – and were touched upon in the closing ceremony address by House Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano at New Clark City on December 11.

“Christmas has come early,” he declared.

“We Southeast Asians, we Filipinos have shown the world that we can do it - and that we will do it with world-class quality.

“We have hosted 530 events in 56 sports – the biggest in the history of the SEA Games…amazing athletes, amazing coaches and amazing how Filipinos welcomed our guests.”

In a moving part of his speech, Cayetano spoke of the sacrifice and dedication of the Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) who had left their families behind in the Philippines to work overseas and provide a better living for their children and relatives back home.

“We do not forget the 10 million Filipinos abroad. We dedicate the 149 gold medals to our OFWs.”
ABLE SEA GAMES

In other SEA Games highlights:

◦ The Philippines took an early lead in the medals table by winning 14 of 20 gold medals in the traditional martial art arnis and 10 in dance sport – and never looked back.

◦ The Philippines flag in the closing ceremony was carried by surfing hero Roger Casugay, who received the 30th SEA Games Fair Play award for rescuing a stricken rival from Indonesia who had been separated from his board and was being battered by huge waves in the seas off San Juan, La Union province.

◦ Golden swimmers Nguyen Thi Anh Vien and Quah Zheng Wen were named Female MVP and Male MVP respectively.

◦ Vietnam’s “Little Mermaid” Anh Vien won six gold medals and two silvers and Quah was responsible for six of Singapore’s 23 gold medals in the pool, plus two silvers.

◦ Anh Vien, 23, now has a total of 25 SEA Games gold, eight silver and two bronze medals in five appearances dating back to 2011 in Indonesia.

◦ The SEA Games Federation flag was passed to Vietnam as the host of the 31st SEA Games in Hanoi in 2021. The 2023 SEA Games will be in Cambodia for the first time.

MEDAL RANKING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Gold</th>
<th>Silver</th>
<th>Bronze</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>387</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>288</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Although Nepal had plenty of experience in hosting the South Asian Games on two previous occasions - the inaugural event in 1984 and again in 1999 - the 13th edition in 2019 presented a whole new set of challenges.

Not only did it bring together around 5,000 athletes and officials from seven National Olympic Committees, it also heralded the sporting rebirth of Nepal after the tragic events of April 2015 when a severe earthquake killed almost 9,000 people, injured 22,000 more and destroyed or damaged infrastructure on a massive scale.

The newly reconstructed Dasrath Rangashala Stadium in Kathmandu was a proud symbol of this recovery and hosted both the opening and closing ceremonies of the 13th South Asian Games. Sports events were held in Pokhara and Janakpur as well as the capital.

The games featured 26 sports and over 300 events, and India showed their regional prowess by winning over 50 per cent of the gold medals.

Nepal set a target of 50 gold medals and surpassed this on the last day of the games by beating Bhutan 2-1 in the men’s football final and finished second in the overall table, ahead of Sri Lanka.

So, in terms of hosting an international sports event and also in the performance of the Nepali athletes, the 13th South Asian Games achieved their aim of putting the country back on the sporting map in south Asia and at continental level.

The government decided to reward the Nepali medal-winners with monetary prizes as a gesture of encouragement, reported The Himalayan Times.

Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli announced the initiative after inviting the winners to his official residence in Baluwatar on December 11 - the day after the closing ceremony.

The gold medallists received a cash prize of Rs 900,000 (7,686 USD) while the silver and bronze medallists were awarded Rs 600,000 (5,124 USD) and Rs 300,000 (2,562 USD), respectively.

Athletes who won more than one gold medal received Rs 1,100,000 (9,393 USD)
13th South Asian Games Nepal 2019

Host country: Nepal
Opening ceremony: December 1
Closing ceremony: December 10
NOCs: 7
Athletes: 2,715
Male: 1,464
Female: 1,251
Sports: 26
Events: 317
Mascot: Krishnasar (blackbuck antelope)

REBIRTH OF NEPAL

Other highlights included:

ês  The President of Nepal, the Rt. Honorable Bidhya Devi Bhandari, declared the games open.

ês  History was made in the women’s T-20 cricket competition at Pokhara when Nepal’s Anjali Chand took six wickets for no runs in 2.1 overs to help dismiss Maldives for 16. Nepal won the match by 10 wickets in the first over of their reply. It was the best bowling figures in T-20 international cricket.

ês  Olympian Hassan Saaid made history for Maldives again. After winning the Maldives’ first gold medal at the Indian Ocean Island Games, he added a first gold for Maldives in the history of the South Asian Games by winning the 100 metres sprint.

“I’ve been dreaming of this moment since I was a child. I’ve played cricket all my life and I’ve always dreamed of winning a gold medal. I’ve worked hard all my life to make this happen. I’m so happy and proud,” he said.

ês  The President of the South Asian Olympic Council and of Nepal NOC, Jeevan Ram Shrestha, handed over the flag of SAOC to the President of Pakistan NOC, Syed Arif Hasan. Pakistan will host the 14th South Asian Games.

ês  For more details see: https://www.13sagnepal.com

The closing ceremony of the 13th South Asian Games in Kathmandu on December 10.

Nepal beat Bhutan 2-1 to win the gold medal in men’s football.
KOREA, SAUDI ARABIA QUALIFY FOR MEN’S OFT

Korea and Saudi Arabia claimed two of the three places on offer for the Olympic Football Tournament (OFT) at the AFC U23 Championship in Bangkok in January.

In the play-off for third place – and the crucial third qualifying spot for the Olympic Games – Australia defeated Uzbekistan, the defending champions, 1-0.

Sixteen teams began the AFC U23 Championship aiming for a top-three finish. The 16 included Japan, who had already qualified for the Olympic Games as host nation, but they could manage only one point from their three Group B games and went home early.

The Koreans, on the other hand, built on their gold medal-winning performance at the 18th Asian Games in Indonesia in 2018 to win all six matches and take the continental crown for the first time at this level – and qualify for a ninth straight Olympic Games.

The final against Saudi Arabia went to extra time after a goalless 90 minutes and Korea produced the winner in the 113th minute – a header from defender Jeong Tae-wook.

Korea’s coach, Kim Hak-bum, said: “This tournament was really tough. It was very difficult for us. We came here with two objectives and that’s why it was a long, hard journey.

“It’s a little early to talk about our objectives for the Olympic Games, but we won the bronze medal in 2012 and we’re looking to top that.”

Quarter-finals: Saudi Arabia 1 Thailand 0, Australia 1 Syria 0, Korea 2 Jordan 1, United Arab Emirates 1 Uzbekistan 5.

Semi-finals: Saudi Arabia 1 Uzbekistan 0, Australia 0 Korea 2.

Third place play-off: Australia 1 Uzbekistan 0

Final: Korea 1 Saudi Arabia 0

Note: Korea, Saudi Arabia and Australia qualify for Tokyo 2020.
IRAN, KOREA WIN ASIAN VOLLEYBALL QUALIFIERS

Iran’s men’s team and Korea’s women’s team won their respective Asian qualifying tournaments to take their place in the 12-team volleyball competition of the Olympic Games.

In the men’s qualifying event at Jiangmen, China, Iran eased past the host nation 3-0 (25-14, 25-22, 25-14) in the final to take the sole Asian qualifying spot in Tokyo.

Iran’s coach, Igor Kolakovic, said: “We’ve trained and played under great pressure for a long time because everybody in Iran expected us to qualify.

“I didn’t say too much about our problems such as the injured players but, in the end, I am so happy because I sit on the bench of this team. They played very well to show that we deserve to play at the Olympics on behalf of Asian volleyball,” he added.

Iran qualified for the Olympics for the second time in a row and finished fifth at Rio 2016.

The women’s qualifier was held in Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand, and Korea advanced to a third straight Olympic Games by defeating the host team 3-0 (25-22, 25-20, 25-20) in the final on January 12 thanks to a dominant 22-point performance from captain Kim Yeon-koung.

China, the defending women’s champions from Rio 2016 and three-time Olympic gold medallists, had already booked a ticket to Tokyo 2020 by winning the FIVB qualifying tournament at home in Ningbo last August.

KOREA, CHINA TAKE DIRECT ROUTE IN RUGBY SEVENS

Hosts Korea beat 2018 Asian Games champions Hong Kong 12-7 in the final of the Asia Rugby Olympic qualifier to secure their place in the men’s sevens competition at Tokyo 2020.

With the final in sudden death extra-time, Korea produced a spectacular try by Jang Seong-min to spark wild celebrations at the Namdong Asiad Stadium in Incheon on November 24.

“The last try was amazing, it means so much to us,” said Korea captain Park Wan-yong. “This is for the fans.”

Hong Kong will have another chance to qualify, along with third-placed China, at the global repechage tournament in June.

The women’s event was held in the 2010 Asian Games host city of Guangzhou and China responded with a magnificent team display to beat Hong Kong 33-0 in the final on November 10.

Hong Kong and third-placed Kazakhstan will join the global repechage event to determine the final qualifiers for Tokyo 2020.

TOKYO 2020 VOLLEYBALL

Women
Pool A: Brazil, Dominican Republic, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Serbia.
Pool B: Argentina, China, Italy, Russia, Turkey, USA.

Men
Pool A: Canada, Iran, Italy, Japan, Poland, Venezuela.
Pool B: Argentina, Brazil, France, Russia, Tunisia, USA.
TOKYO 2020 DISPLAYS FORMAL AND CASUAL T.O. UNIFORMS

Tokyo 2020 has unveiled the uniforms that will be worn by technical officials at the Olympic and Paralympic Games this summer.

The uniforms have been designed in line with Tokyo 2020’s guiding principles of “Sustainability and Diversity” with some plant materials used in the composition of the fibres.

Both the formal and casual uniforms incorporate features to protect against the heat and humidity of a Japanese summer. The material has superior breathability, excellent moisture-absorbing properties and is quick-drying, making the uniforms comfortable to wear and easy to move around in.

The formal wear, which was designed by AOKI Holdings, is gender neutral with unisex jackets and slacks and with a tie or scarf. The casual uniform was created by ASICS Corporation, who have extensive experience in providing uniforms for athletes and teams. (www.tokyo2020.org)

NEW ARIAKE ARENA SPIKES VOLLEYBALL NOSTALGIA

Another world-class facility has officially opened for the Games. Ariake Arena was inaugurated on February 2 in a ceremony blending sport, Japanese culture and entertainment and attended by more than 3,000 spectators.

The venue will host the 12-team volleyball competitions at the Olympic Games and wheelchair basketball during the Paralympic Games.

Ariake Arena was constructed by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and was completed in December 2019. It has a main arena and a sub arena and will have a seating capacity of 15,000.

After the Games it will become a new hub of entertainment, sport and culture. It will reopen in August 2021 and will be operated by Tokyo Ariake Arena Inc. - a new special-purpose company which has concluded Japan’s first ever concession agreement with the Tokyo Metropolitan Government.

The volleyball tournaments will have a nostalgic feeling for volleyball fans as the sport appeared at the Olympic Games for the first time at Tokyo 1964.

Japan’s men’s team took the bronze medal and the women’s team surprised the world by winning gold - an achievement that led to the huge popularity of women’s volleyball around the country. The players remain national heroes to this day.
BEIJING 2022 SEeks 39,000 PASSIONATE, DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS

Beijing 2022 has launched its “Building a Dream Together” campaign aimed at recruiting passionate and dedicated volunteers for the Olympic Winter Games and Paralympic Winter Games.

Continuing the powerful legacy and spirit of volunteerism from the Olympic Games Beijing 2008, the Beijing 2022 Organising Committee plans to recruit 27,000 volunteers for the Olympic Winter Games and 12,000 volunteers for the Paralympic Winter Games.

The volunteers selected will have the unique opportunity to work in the Beijing, Yanqing or Zhangjiakou competition zone and play a valuable role in one of 12 areas such as sport, media operations, language services and technology.

A ceremony was held on December 5 to launch the volunteer global recruitment drive at the recently completed Big Air venue located in Shougang Park. Volunteers from Beijing 2008, as well as athletes and artists, were on hand at the event as a symbol of the lasting legacies of 2008.

Applicants should fulfil the following requirements:

- Be at least 18 years of age on January 1, 2022
- Be able to communicate in Chinese or English
- Be available to participate in pre-Games training and provide volunteer services throughout the Games period.

Timeline:

December 5, 2019-June 30, 2021: Applications accepted
September 30, 2021: Successful applicants will receive official notice

QI AN XIN NAMED CYBER SECURITY/ANTI-VIRUS SOFTWARE SPONSOR

Qi An Xin was announced as the Official Cyber Security Service and Anti-Virus Software Sponsor at a press conference at the Beijing 2022 HQ in Shougang Park on December 26, 2019.

Qi An Xin is one of the largest cyber security enterprises in China and works with governments, businesses and education and financial institutions. It is known for its groundbreaking achievements in the fields of big data and security intelligence, terminal security protection, security operation and emergency response.

Han Zirong, Vice President and Secretary General of Beijing 2022, said that participating in the marketing programme was not only a “glorious responsibility” for companies to contribute to the national development but also a great opportunity for them to accelerate brand-building and sharpen their competitive advantage.

She hoped that Qi An Xin would forge an unbreakable cyber security shield for the success of the Games.

Wu Yunkun, President of Qi An Xin, said the company would develop customized cyber security services for Beijing 2022 and that its 7,000-plus workforce was ready to ensure “zero incident” with the cyber operation of the Games.
SEA REGION HIGHLIGHTS SUCCESS OF WOMEN IN SPORT MISSION

When it comes to the promotion of women in sport, one of the hardest workers is undoubtedly Prof. Dr Supitr Samahito.

The high-ranking Thai official is totally dedicated to the advancement of women in sport, from female athletes under the spotlight to administrators behind the scenes and leaders of the Olympic movement.

So it was a particularly proud Supitr at the gathering of 11 NOCs for the 30th Southeast Asian Games in the Philippines at the end of last year.

“I am very happy to see the percentage of female athletes in the delegations,” she said of the 5,630 total athletes taking part.

“We have 49 percent females in the Thai team and the average for all teams is between 43 and 45 percent. Everyone is striving for 50 percent in accordance with the message of the IOC President, Thomas Bach, and this is coming much closer.”

KOREAN BADMINTON ACE AN Picked as TOP TIP FOR 2020

The Badminton World Federation has identified Korean teen An Se Young as the hottest prospect for 2020.

In an article entitled “2020 and beyond – some top prospects”, An was at the top of the BWF list heading into Olympic year.

“The Eddy Choong Most Promising Player of the Year from 2019 has everything going for her at the moment,” said the BWF article.

“Opponents can only wonder at how much stronger – physically and mentally – she is likely to get.”

An, who turned 18 on February 5, is ranked ninth in the world with career earnings of over 120,000 USD.

RANI NAMED WORLD GAMES ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

Indian hockey superstar Rani Rampal is The World Games Athlete of the Year for 2019.

With an impressive number of votes - 199,477 - Rani was the clear winner of the Athlete of the Year race in which sports fans from all over the world voted for their favourite during 20 days of polling in January. A total of 705,610 votes were cast.

In 2019, India won the FIH Series Finals and Rani was named Player of the Tournament. With Rani’s lead, India qualified for the Olympic Games women’s hockey competition for just the third time in history.

Rani, 25, thanked the International Hockey Federation for nominating her and said: “I dedicate this award to the entire hockey fraternity, my team and my country.”
MATHILDA SO PROUD TO REPRESENT SRI LANKA

Sri Lankan showjumper Mathilda Karlsson became the first athlete from the island nation to qualify for Tokyo 2020. Together with 11-year-old stallion Chopin VA, Karlsson finished second in the Olympic equestrian rankings in Southeast Asia and Oceania to secure a ticket to Tokyo. Karlsson, who is based in Germany, will also be the first Sri Lankan competitor in equestrian at the Olympic Games.

“We qualified for the Olympic Games in Tokyo 2020!” Karlsson tweeted. “Chopin VA - words can’t describe what an amazing horse you are to me and to all the people around you. This has been an unbelievable journey from the beginning to the end but we finally made it.”

Born in Sri Lanka in 1984, the 35-year-old Karlsson was adopted by Swedish parents when she was only three months old. She grew up in Kristianstad in the south of Sweden and started her equestrian career at the local club where she developed a passion and love for horses and showjumping.

PAKISTANI SKIER MIA HAS HIGH HOPES FOR GIRLS BACK HOME

Pakistan’s alpine skier Mia Nuriah Freudweiler is hoping her appearance at the Winter Youth Olympic Games in Lausanne in January can inspire and empower girls back home. The 16-year-old skier, who lives in Switzerland at Villars-sur-Ollon, has made it her personal goal to improve both gender equality and recognition of winter sports in Pakistan.

“My goal is to inspire and empower young girls, young Pakistani girls, to fulfill their dreams,” Mia said in an interview with the Olympic Channel.

“I am tired of women being portrayed as weak, as not being able to pursue their career, their sport, their hobby or anything.”

KARMA’S OLYMPIC QUALIFICATION IS A FIRST FOR BHUTAN

Karma has become the first athlete from Bhutan to win an Olympic quota place in any sport. The 29-year-old Karma won a place in the women’s recurve archery tournament at Tokyo 2020 during the Asian continental qualification tournament in Bangkok.

“I feel my dream has come true,” she said. “Before, it was a wildcard entry for me. Now I can compete with others, thank you so much.”

Archery is Bhutan’s national sport. The country has competed in every Olympic archery tournament since Los Angeles in 1984 – on a universality invitation. Karma had one of those free tickets for the Rio 2016 Olympics.
FINA finale in Abu Dhabi

FINA will conclude 2020 with its main competition of the year – the 15th FINA World Swimming Championships (25 metres) in Abu Dhabi, UAE, from December 15-20.

The event will bring together more than 1,000 athletes from 180 nations. There will also be the FINA World Aquatics Convention, the FINA Swimming Golden Coaches Clinic, the FINA World Sports Medicine Congress and the FINA “Soirée des Étoiles” Aquatics Gala, where the best athletes of the year will be honoured. (www.fina.org).

JOC President becomes IOC Member

The President of the Japanese Olympic Committee, Yasuhiro Yamashita, was one of three new IOC Members elected at the 135th IOC Session in Lausanne, Switzerland, on January 10.

Yamashita is a sporting hero in Japan and in the judo world, having won the gold medal at the Los Angeles Games in 1984. There are now 101 IOC Members.

Gangwon to host 2024 Winter YOG

The fourth edition of the Winter Youth Olympic Games will be held in Gangwon province, Korea, in 2024, the IOC announced on January 10. It will be the first Winter YOG in Asia.

The 2024 Winter YOG will build on the legacy of the Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018, with the snow events in PyeongChang and the ice events, including figure skating, speed skating, short track, ice hockey and curling, in Gangneung.

Dakar 2022 dates, sports

The IOC Executive Board has approved the period of October 22 to November 9, 2022 for the fourth edition of the Youth Olympic Games in Dakar, Senegal.

The IOC EB also approved the request from the Dakar 2022 Organising Committee to add baseball5 and wushu to the sports programme.

Five Asian athletes nominated for IOC AC

Thirty candidates from 19 summer sports, including five athletes from Asian NOCs, have been nominated for four available positions on the IOC Athletes’ Commission. The elections will take place during the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

The five Asian candidates are: Mutaz Aissa Barsham (Qatar, M, Athletics – high jump), Chou Tien Chen (Chinese Taipei, M, Badminton), Oksana Chusovitina (Uzbekistan, F, Gymnastics), Mir Saeid Marouf Lakrani (Islamic Republic of Iran, M, Volleyball), Yuki Ota (Japan, M, Fencing). (www.olympic.org)

ANOC invites WBG bids

Following the success of the inaugural ANOC World Beach Games in Doha last October, the Association of National Olympic Committees has sent a letter to all 206 NOCs asking for interested parties to host future editions.

Regarding a survey on the first WBG, a total of 68 NOCs provided feedback along with all 13 International Federations. The average feedback score for both the NOCs and IFs was above 8.5 out of 10. (www.anocolympic.org)
The Sultanate of Oman was in grieving – along with the rest of the world – when His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said passed away on January 10. He was 79.

The Diwan of the Royal Court on January 11 declared an official mourning period of three days with the flag flown at half-mast for the next 40 days. The mourning period ended on February 19.

The strongest ever Paralympian, Siamand Rahman, passed away at the age of 31 on Sunday, March 1.

Rahman died at the Nabi-akram Hospital in his hometown of Oshnavieh, West Azerbaijan, after suffering a heart attack, the Tehran Times reported.

Powerlifting superstar Rahman, a two-time gold medallist at London 2012 and Rio 2016 and three-time Asian Para Games champion from 2010 - 2018, was aiming for his third successive gold at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.

Rahman broke the 300kg barrier in the men’s over 107kg at the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games, lifting an unprecedented 310kg.
2020

Lausanne, Switzerland: March 3 – 4
IOC Executive Board meeting

Amman, Jordan: March 3 – 11
Olympic Boxing Qualifying Tournament, Asia/Oceania

Bengaluru, India: March 18 – 22
FIBA 3x3 Olympic Qualifying Tournament

Kuwait: April 4 – 14
3rd Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Games

Tashkent, Uzbekistan: April 17
Asian Weightlifting Federation Congress

Tashkent, Uzbekistan: April 18 – 25
Asian Weightlifting Federation Asian Championships

Lausanne, Switzerland: April 19 – 24
18th SportAccord 2020

Tokyo, Japan: April 21 – 26
FINA 2020 Diving World Cup

Tokyo, Japan: July 24 – August 9
Olympic Games

Tokyo, Japan: August 25 – September 6
Paralympic Games

Singapore: September 4 – 6
FINA 2020 Swimming World Cup (25m)

Jinan, China: September 10 – 12
FINA Swimming World Cup (25m)

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia: September 13 – 19
International Youth Green Games

Doha, Qatar: October 8 – 10
FINA Swimming World Cup (25m)

HSBC Singapore Sevens: October 10 – 11
HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series 2020

HSBC Hong Kong Sevens: October 16 – 18
HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series 2020

Seoul, Korea: November 25 – 26
ANOC General Assembly and Awards

Sanya, China: November 28
OCA Executive Board

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

Sanya, China: November 29
OCA General Assembly

2021

Shantou, Guangdong Province, China: Nov 20 – 28
3rd Asian Youth Games

2022

Chandigarh, India: January (dates to be confirmed)
Commonwealth Archery and Shooting Championships

Beijing, China: February 4 – 20
Olympic Winter Games

Beijing, China: March 4 – 13
Winter Paralympic Games

Birmingham, England: July 27 – August 7
Commonwealth Games

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

Dakar, Senegal: October 22 – November 9
IOC 4th Youth Olympic Games

Qatar: November 21 – December 18
FIFA World Cup

2024

Gangwon, Korea: January 19 – February 2
IOC 4th Winter Youth Olympic Games

2025

Tashkent, Uzbekistan: (Dates to be finalised)
4th Asian Youth Games

2026

Aichi-Nagoya, Japan: Sep 19 – Oct 4
20th Asian Games