SEE YA IN SANYA

BEACH GAMES ORGANISERS ANNOUNCE EMBLEM, SLOGAN

6th ASIAN BEACH GAMES
Sanya 2020
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Front Cover:
The emblem of the OCA’s 6th Asian Beach Games, Sanya 2020, and “See Ya in Sanya” slogan. See Page 28 for update.

SPORTING ASIA
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President’s Message

The first ANOC World Beach Games in Doha, Qatar, in October proved to be a big success for all concerned.

The athletes took great pride in representing their flag at a global Olympic event and the spectators enjoyed the feast of new sports on display.

All in all there was a fresh and youthful vitality about the ANOC World Beach Games with the dynamic sports presentation and fast-paced action around the various venues.

In short, the event instantly established its own identity within the Olympic sports movement and can build on this concept in the years to come and develop this beach and sea sports celebration around the world.

It was also significant to note that the first ANOC World Beach Games took place in Asia – which can be regarded as the birthplace and home of beach sports.

The OCA’s own Asian Beach Games success story began in Bali, Indonesia in 2008 and we have built on these firm foundations to create a thoroughly modern multi-sport event that appeals greatly to the host cities.

In 2020, 12 years on from Bali 2008, we will be holding our sixth Asian Beach Games in Sanya, China, where the twin attractions of sport and tourism will go hand in hand.

It will be a “win-win” partnership for the OCA and the Sanya 2020 organising committee.

Sanya will win because their beautiful city, magnificent beaches, sparkling sea and tropical landscape will become well-known throughout Asia and beyond through the Asian Beach Games.

The OCA will win because Sanya will add to the rich legacy of the Asian Beach Games and to the development of the Olympic movement as a whole in Asia, China and the world.

Once again we thank our partners in China for their loyal support of the Olympic movement in Asia and we look forward to working together as a team for the next 12 months ahead of the sixth Asian Beach Games.

See Ya in Sanya!

Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad Al Sabah
President, Olympic Council of Asia
KUWAIT NOC VISITS IOC:
IOC President Thomas Bach welcomed the newly elected President of Kuwait Olympic Committee, HE Sheikh Fahad Nasser Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al-Sabah, and the NOC Secretary General, Husain Al Musallam, for a courtesy meeting at the IOC in Lausanne. The discussions were focused on the current situation of sport in the country and the preparations of the athletes for Tokyo 2020.

(Photo: IOC/Greg Martin)

BANK REWARD: The sports community in Macau, China gathered at Macau Tower on September 17 for the annual Bank of China Macau Branch awards night. The Bank of China, whose delegation was led by Deputy General Manager Ip Sio Kai, handed out 888,600 MOP (112,000 USD) to 103 athletes in 12 sports for their achievements in 2018-2019.

NOC President Charles Lo thanked the Bank of China Macau Branch for their loyal support of the local sports scene.

GREEN GAMES IN MONGOLIA: Mongolia will host the first International Youth Green Games under the auspices of UNESCO from September 13-19, 2020 with the support of the government and Mongolia NOC. Around 4,000 athletes aged 18 and below are expected from the 195 member countries of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals. Sports programme: archery, athletics, basketball 5x5 and 3x3, chess, climbing, cricket, e-sports, fencing, football, jujitsu, judo, kurash, sambo, shooting, swimming, table tennis, taekwondo, volleyball and wrestling. Paralympic – athletics and basketball; Special Olympics – chess and fencing; Deaflympics – judo and volleyball.


DEGREE OF SUCCESS: Zhang Hong has been appointed Associate Professor at the Harbin University of Science and Technology in China, where she obtained her law degree. The IOC Member won speed skating gold over 1,000m at the Sochi Winter Olympics in 2014 and is an Executive Board member of the Chinese Olympic Committee.

FLAG DAY IN SINGAPORE: As Team Singapore gears up for the 2019 SEA Games, 2020 Winter Youth Olympic Games and 2020 ASEAN Para Games, a flag presentation took place for the delegations. Guests-of-Honour Tan Chuan-Jin, Speaker of Parliament and President of the Singapore National Olympic Council, and Grace Fu, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, presented the flags to Samuel Kang (squash) for the SEA Games, Alyssa Pok (short track speed skating) for Lausanne 2020 and Tay Wei Ming (badminton) for the ASEAN Para Games. Swimmer Tao Li and pencak silat exponent Muhammad Shakir Juanda were inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame.
WONDER WALL: India’s six-time women’s world boxing champion Mary Kom, the Olympic Games flyweight bronze medal-winner at London 2012, and Hungarian boxer Istvan Kovacs signed the Olympians’ Wall in the IOC Sports Department on a visit to Olympic House.

(Photo: IOC/Greg Martin)

WALKING THE WALK: The Qatar Olympic Committee marked World Walking Day - organised annually by the Association For International Sport for All (TAFISA) - at Katara Cultural Village. Around 400 students from 15 schools took part in the event, which was attended by QOC Secretary General HE Jassim Rashid Al Buenain. The QOC’s Director of Sports Affairs, Khalil Al Jaber, highlighted the QOC’s commitment to sport for all and a healthy lifestyle. (www.olympic.qa)

QATAR HERE WE COME: The Chinese Taipei Olympic Committee organised a flag presentation ceremony for the Chinese Taipei delegation at the ANOC World Beach Games in Doha, Qatar from October 12-16. Deputy Education Minister Teng-Chiao Lin presented the flag to CTOC President and delegation head Hong-Dow Lin. Five athletes represented Chinese Taipei in Doha.

(Photo: CTOC)

FENCING FEVER: A course for fencing coaches was organised by the Olympic Academy of the NOC of Bahrain in cooperation with Olympic Solidarity. A total of 27 coaches took part in this course at the headquarters of the Bahrain Fencing Association.
CARRY ON, KULIBAYEV: The President of Kazakhstan NOC, Timur Kulibayev, was re-elected President for another four years at the General Assembly on September 18.

He was first elected in 2015. “Today, the NOC of Kazakhstan is a truly important member of the international sports community and a reliable partner of world sports organisations,” he said.

TEAMWORK: The Jordan Olympic Committee and Jordan Football Association have agreed a partnership to support the U23 team’s bid to reach Tokyo 2020. The partnership was agreed between JOC Secretary General Nasser Majali and JFA Secretary General Cezar Subar and will tap into the JOC’s Olympic Preparations Programme. (Photo: www.joc.jo)

ANOC THANKS OMAN: The President of the Oman Olympic Committee, HE Sayyed Khalid Bin Hamad Al Busaidi, met with ANOC Secretary General Gunilla Lindberg at the ANOC HQ in Lausanne on November 8. The President was joined by NOC Secretary General Taha bin Sulaiman Al Kishry. Mrs Lindberg thanked Oman for their support in offering to host the ANOC World Beach Games when the location was moved and expressed her hope to work with Oman in the future.

FOND FAREWELL: Nepal Olympic Committee President and Member of Parliament the Hon. Jeevan Ram Shrestha, together with NOC Secretary General Nilendra Raj Shrestha, held a send-off ceremony for taekwondo athletes Bhupen Shrestha and Govinda Bahadur Ale and coach Limbu Tika Prasad ahead of a training camp in Tokyo under the Jikei Gakuen School Cooperation programme. (www.nocnepal.org.np)

SAMBO IN MALAYSIA: The Director General of the Sambo Union of Asia, Suresh Gopi, made a courtesy visit to the Olympic Council of Malaysia on Thursday, October 24 accompanied by members of the Malaysia Sambo Association. They were welcomed by OCM Deputy President Dato’ Seri Azim Zabidi, Secretary General Dato’ Mohd Nazifuddin (left in photo), Chief Operating Officer Michelle Chai and General Manager Fong Wan Hor. The SUA is looking forward to assisting the MSA in organising the first ever Sambo National Championship in 2020.
The Olympic Council of Asia’s 45 National Olympic Committees converged on Bangkok in the first week of November for the two regional forums organised by the OCA in cooperation with the IOC’s Olympic Solidarity.

The NOCs from East Asia and South East Asia gathered at the Arnoma Grand on November 3-4 and the NOCs from West Asia, Central Asia and South Asia met from November 5-6.

The official welcome reception for all 45 NOC delegations took place on the evening of November 4, creating a spirit of camaraderie and friendship among the five zones of the OCA.

“Thailand in general and Bangkok in particular have been loyal partners with the OCA over many decades and have played a big part in the development of the sports movement in Asia,” said the OCA Director General, Husain Al Musallam.

“You know, Asia is one of the most active continental associations in the world in terms of organising multi-sport events and developing the sports movement. Sport and the Olympic movement in Asia have grown a lot and this is not automatic – it is because of the unity and solidarity of the NOCs and the support of Olympic Solidarity.”

The host of the forum was the IOC Member from Thailand, Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul, who is also Chair of the OCA Culture Committee and a member of the OCA Executive Board, along with the Thailand National Olympic Committee and Sports Authority of Thailand.

“I would like to commend all parties for the detailed preparations they have made for this forum and for all the information they have provided about next year’s Olympic Games in Tokyo,” said Mrs Leeswadtrakul.

“There are many matters that NOCs should understand and I am sure the forums have been extremely useful for the NOCs to engage with the IOC and Tokyo 2020. I would like to wish all our Asian NOCs good luck at the Olympic Games.”
These were just some of the interesting tidbits served up to the NOC delegates during the extensive presentations by Tokyo 2020 organisers.

Along with the more bureaucratic elements of Games preparations such as accreditation deadlines, arrival and departure procedures and logistics for the accompanying sports equipment, the NOC representatives were taken inside the heart of Tokyo 2020 and given a real taste of what to expect next summer.

OLYMPIC VILLAGE

One of the most interesting points concerned the Olympic Village. Apart from the main village by the water front at Tokyo Bay there will also be satellite villages for sailing, 70km from the Olympic Village, and for cycling, 160km from Tokyo.

With the marathon and race walking events having been moved 800km north to Sapporo by the IOC in the days leading up to the regional forums, there were few details at hand for the organisers to pass on to delegates – but a third satellite village would appear inevitable for the athletes, coaches and NOC officials involved in these long-distance disciplines.

Sapporo, better known as a winter sports destination, is estimated to be 5-6°C cooler than Tokyo, where the maximum temperature in the summer is expected to be 30.8°C.

BOXING QUALIFICATION

Another key presentation involved boxing, as the qualification tournament is being run by a special IOC-appointed task force instead of the suspended governing body AIBA.

With eight boxing events for men and five for women at Tokyo 2020 and a total entry of 286 athletes (186 men and 100 women), the Asia/Oceania qualifier will be held in Wuhan, China from February 3-14, 2020.

For Asian athletes who are not successful in Wuhan there will be a last chance to book a ticket for Tokyo in the World qualifier in Paris from May 13-24.
The head of the IOC’s Olympic Solidarity team in Bangkok, Olivier Niamkey, had plenty of good news for the delegates during the two forums.

“We are presenting something new here that will further help the NOCs prepare for the Olympic Games,” he said.

“Olympic Solidarity is offering a subsidy of 15,000 USD to every NOC that intends to hold a pre-Games training camp in Japan.

“There are a couple of conditions attached to this subsidy: first, that the camp must be held at a venue endorsed by Tokyo 2020; second, that the camp must take place in the weeks leading up to the Games, preferably in July, to avoid the costs of two journeys to Japan.”

Mr Niamkey explained that this was a new initiative put forward by Olympic Solidarity and that the funds would be available from January 2020, although applications could be made immediately.

With several Asian NOCs organising training camps and signing cooperation agreements with towns and cities around Japan, this 15,000 USD will certainly help them in their preparations and particularly to acclimatize to the weather and conditions of a Japanese summer.

- To close the forum - and unrelated to Tokyo 2020 - Olympic Solidarity informed the NOCs that 10,000 USD would be made available to all NOCs to either establish an NOC Athletes’ Commission or to fund the activities of an existing Athletes’ Commission, for example by hosting a career workshop or seminar.

- Jordan NOC will organise a pan-Asia “business accelerator” workshop following an online course for Olympians or elite athletes planning for the future. A date has not been fixed.

Olympic Solidarity has allocated 46.7 million USD for Tokyo 2020 preparations to National Olympic Committees around the world. This includes subsidies for the Chef de Mission Seminar, training camps and for eight regional forums for the five continental associations, including two in Bangkok.

In addition, every NOC will receive 16,000 USD as a Games operations subsidy for items such as team uniforms, insurance, sports equipment and NOC team events, plus 10 flights for athletes (six), team officials (two) and NOC officials (two), and a maximum of 20 nights for two rooms in the Olympic family hotel from July 23 to August 10.

A total of 1,552 athletes from 184 NOCs are enjoying the benefits of the Olympic Solidarity athlete scholarship programme at a cost of 31 million USD. In addition, 189 teams from 143 NOCs are receiving the team support grant worth a total of 10 million USD as they try to qualify for Tokyo 2020 or finetune their preparations.

After Tokyo 2020, all NOCs will receive 2,500 USD for each athlete that participated in the Games as a contribution to the success of the event. With over 11,000 athletes set to take part, this works out at more than 27.5 million USD, payable from November 2020.
Cambodia - SEA Games hosts in 2023. The Laos delegates prepare for the forum.

Good morning Palestine!

Iraq and Kuwait tackle their assignment.

Delegates from the UAE.

The groep from the UAE.

Cambodia - SEA Games hosts in 2023.

The Laos delegates prepare for the forum.

Uzbekistan - Asian Youth Games hosts in 2025.

Team Jordan.

The Turkmenistan team in Bangkok.

Hello Nepal.

Afghanistan - working hard.
The Olympic Council of Asia Culture Committee has agreed to add a festival and expo alongside the OCA portfolio of multi-sport games in order to promote Asian culture and sports history.

The Culture Committee met at the Arnoma Grand Hotel in Bangkok on Monday, November 4 under the leadership of the committee Chair, IOC Member Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul.

The decision of the committee was taken following a survey of trends and challenges during the 18th Asian Games in Jakarta and Palembang, Indonesia, in 2018 and the new initiative aims to involve more young people in and around the various games.

It is planned to host a festival of music, culture and food as well as an expo for sports history, including a mobile museum, and commercial companies in an effort to combine entertainment and education and add a new dimension to the OCA’s sports events. The festival/expo will take place at one designated site in the host city for the duration of the games.

The OCA intends to appoint an events management company to put together the festival and expo in association with the organising committee of the games and with the support of the tourism board of the host city.

The plan is to begin the festival/expo at the 6th Asian Beach Games in Sanya, China in November 2020 and build on this concept through to the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China in 2022.
A CULTURAL TREAT TO OPEN CULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING

This was a meeting of the OCA Culture Committee like no other.

Before the business began, the committee members and guests were treated to a moving performance by award-winning vocalist Sarun Kungbunpot, supported by a string quartet from the Thailand Philharmonic Orchestra.

Mr Sarun is a winner of 14 medals and three honour shields from the World Championships of Performing Arts. He is also a Senior Director of the Bank of Ayudhya, a part-time lecturer at Thammasat University and a writer for Rabbit Today.

This cultural delight was presented by the new Chair of the OCA Culture Committee, Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul, IOC Member from Thailand and Deputy President of the Badminton World Federation. She is also a keen patron of the arts, holding the positions of Chairperson of the Thailand Philharmonic Orchestra and Honorary Chairperson and Founder of the Thailand Choral Association, among others.

It was the perfect way to welcome the visitors to Bangkok and to set the scene for the first OCA Culture Committee meeting under new leadership.

OCA UPGRADES WEBSITE ON DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION JOURNEY

The OCA’s IT team unveiled the new-look OCA website (www.ocasia.org) during the OCA Culture Committee meeting, and later at the welcome reception.

The upgrade is part of the “digital transformation journey” being undertaken by the OCA IT department and incorporates the latest tech trends and mobile cutting-edge technology.

With a secure connection and easy navigation, the website devotes special sections to all NOCs, to the OCA administrative structure and to its portfolio of multi-sport games as well as lots of other Olympic content and information.

The themes running through the new-look website are “Excellence, Friendship and Respect”, Fair Play, “Faster, Higher, Stronger” and the OCA motto “Ever Onward”.

WOMEN IN SPORT: The OCA Culture Committee member from Yemen, Naela Nasr, joins Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul and OCA Director General Husain Al Musallam for a souvenir photo. Naela attended the OCA/OS regional forum and said that Yemen hoped to have eight athletes – five male and three female – at Tokyo 2020 in athletics, boxing, archery, judo, shooting and swimming. Naela added that, due to the difficult circumstances in Yemen, athletes often trained in Cairo.
The OCA awarded the fourth edition of the Asian Youth Games in 2025 to Tashkent, capital of Uzbekistan, at the 73rd Executive Board meeting at the City Centre Rotana Hotel in Doha, Qatar on September 28.

Following a presentation from the bidding city, the OCA’s Honorary Life Vice President, Wei Jizhong, said the sports facilities and infrastructure required to host the Asian Youth Games already existed in Tashkent without the need to build new venues.

Mr Wei’s comments followed a two-day visit to Tashkent by an OCA inspection team in the build-up to the OCA Executive Board meeting.

“We spent two days in Tashkent and we visited 21 places including sports facilities,” Mr Wei told the EB members.

“Our conclusion is that Tashkent is ready with the existing city infrastructure and sports facilities to host the Asian Youth Games.”

The OCA President, HE Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad Al Sabah, proposed that Tashkent be awarded the 4th AYG in 2025 and this was approved unanimously by the Executive Board members.

“We are very comfortable with our games calendar,” said Sheikh Ahmad.

Uzbekistan’s Minister of Sport, Nabiyev Dilmurod, thanked the OCA Executive Board members for their support and trust in awarding the 4th AYG in 2025 to Tashkent and said the event was fully supported by the government and Uzbek authorities. Tashkent is also bidding for the Asian Games in 2030.

The Secretary General of the Qatar Olympic Committee, HE Jassim Rashid Al Buenain, presented Doha’s bid for the 2030 Asian Games. He described Doha, which hosted the 2006 Asian Games, as “the world capital of sports events” and said the 2030 Asian Games would strengthen the partnership between the QOC and the Olympic sports movement in Asia and the world. “This is the start of a new, exciting chapter in Qatar’s sports journey,” he told the OCA Executive Board members.

The OCA accepted an invitation from the President of the National Olympic Committee of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Seyed Reza Salehi Amiri, to host the next EB meeting in Tehran on a date to be fixed.

The OCA Executive Board agreed to recognise the newly-constituted DanceSport Asia Ltd as the sole governing body of dance sport in the continent.
NEW ERA DAWNS IN DOHA

Special Coverage

Pages 16-17: Overview, Facts and Figures, Medals Table
Pages 18-19: Photo Gallery - Asian Gold
Page 20: Pride of Asia
Page 21: Wonderful Wednesday!
ANOC’S BEACH GAMES DREAM COMES TRUE IN DOHA

Doha proved to be the perfect host for ANOC’s inaugural World Beach Games.

Despite being given only four months to prepare for the event after ANOC withdrew the WBG from San Diego, Qatar produced a magnificent spectacle for athletes and spectators alike.

Just like the OCA’s Asian Beach Games, ANOC’s World Beach Games gave the opportunity to young athletes from around the world to take part in an international multi-sport event outside the main Olympic Games and experience the Olympic values, spirit and camaraderie.

Although most of the sports were familiar to the masses, the new formats such as volleyball 4x4, the fast-paced beach wrestling and the “rat-a-tat-tat” of beach tennis provided a fresh and fun twist to the traditional presentation.

Also, in keeping with the Olympic Agenda 2020 strategic roadmap of IOC President Thomas Bach, the ANOC WBG were compact, short - only six days from the start of group play in team sports on October 11 - free of extravagant expenditure and with a varied sports programme focusing on youth such as skateboarding, sport climbing and kitesurfing.

“I would like to congratulate everyone in ANOC for a beautiful and excellent World Beach Games,” said Raja Randhir Singh, a member for Asia on the ANOC Executive Council.

“This would not have been possible without the support of the Emir of Qatar, His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, and the President of the Qatar Olympic Committee, His Excellency Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani,” he added.

“Credit goes to the Qatar Olympic Committee. In just four months to host these games is an amazing feat.”

Indeed, the success of the WBG was further evidence of the organisational expertise of Doha in particular and Qatar in general. The Qatari capital has become one of the major sports destinations in the world and officials used all this experience to pull things together in such a short space of time.

The exotic locations, the gleaming white tented villages in the competition venues, the shimmering sea and the eye-catching “look of the games” all contributed to a memorable event and set a high standard for future hosts to follow.

ANOC plans to hold the World Beach Games every two years and there will be no shortage of cities around the world pushing for hosting rights due to the opportunities for tourism promotion associated with the event.

The colourful opening ceremony on October 12. (Photo: Xinhua/Nikku)
The story of Qatar at the opening ceremony.

The Vice Mayor of Sanya, Zhou Jun (third from left), led a delegation from the 6th Asian Beach Games 2020 host city to Doha to check out the operations and management of the ANOC World Beach Games. Their presence inspired the Chinese women’s beach handball team to victory over Australia.

Kitefoil racing provided stunning images against the modern Doha skyline.

## MEDAL RANKING

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**Legend:** Gold Medal | Silver Medal | Bronze Medal
Asia at the ANOC World Beach Games

HISTORY-MAKERS: CELEBRATING

Kai Harada of Japan climbs to gold in the men’s bouldering final.

Japan’s Miho Nonaka shows all her agility and strength to win the women’s bouldering gold medal.

Pakistan’s Muhammad Inam Butt shows his pride after winning gold in the beach wrestling men’s 90kg event.
Japan’s Sakura Yosozumi shows off her gold medal after winning the skateboarding park women’s title.

Iran’s Pouya Rahmani (left) powers his way to the gold medal in the beach wrestling men’s +90kg competition.
NEW OLYMPIC SPORTS PROVIDE RICH PICKINGS

Asian NOCs won a total of 16 medals in the 36 events at Doha 2019 – five gold, six silver and five bronze.

This was a commendable performance in itself against the best from the rest of the world, but what was even more significant was that many of Asia’s medals came in sports that will make their Olympic Games debut in Tokyo next summer.

Japan dominated the sport climbing (bouldering), winning both gold medals, and added a third gold in the women’s park discipline of skateboarding. These three gold medals were supported by two silver medals in men’s bouldering and women’s park – putting Japan in fifth place in the final medal rankings with a 3-2-0 record.

Another good omen for Tokyo 2020 was that Asia won three medals in karate. There were silver medals for Wang Yi (Chinese Taipei) and Fatemeh Sadeghi (Iran) in the men’s and women’s individual kata (forms), respectively, and Grace Lau Mo-sheung of Hong Kong, China took bronze in the women’s individual kata.

The performance of Asian athletes in skateboarding, sport climbing and karate bodes well for Tokyo 2020 with genuine medal prospects on the biggest stage of all.

Elsewhere in individual sports at Doha, Pakistan and Iran both won gold medals in men’s beach wrestling, with the explosive, energy-sapping first-to-three points format very much to their liking.

The first medal for Asia at Doha 2019 was from China’s Hou Yawen in the women’s 5km open water swimming competition.….but there would be many more to come on a dramatic final day of the first ANOC World Beach Games (see Page 21).
MEDALS FLOW FOR ASIA ON WILD WEDNESDAY

If there was ever any doubt that the ANOC World Beach Games could establish itself on the busy Olympic calendar, the final day of competition at Doha 2019 ended all debate.

Call it the “wild and wonderful Wednesday” of October 16 as the team sports competitions reached their dramatic - and at times dazzling - conclusions.

The performance of Qatar’s men’s 4x4 volleyball team had captured the imagination of the nation on their way to the final – and there was an electric atmosphere for the gold medal showdown against the United States at Katara Beach.

The Americans are made of stern stuff, however, and have a proud legacy to defend in all forms of volleyball. In a pulsating encounter, USA came home 21-18, 26-24 to take gold and leave the hosts with the silver medal – the best performance by any Asian team in the WBG.

In another spectacular men’s beach volleyball match, Indonesia held off Poland 21-13, 19-21, 15-11 to take the bronze – a fitting reward for the country where the OCA’s Asian Beach Games success story began at Bali in 2008.

Iran’s bronze medal in men’s beach soccer must have felt like a gold after they beat Italy 3-1 in a penalty shootout following a 5-5 draw after three periods of stirring, seesaw action plus a goalless extra time.

To complete the wild and wonderful Wednesday, Mongolia (men) and China (women) won bronze medals in the basketball 3x3. Mongolia beat Ukraine 20-16 and China defeated Brazil 17-13 to take their places on the podium.
ASIA’S ROLL OF HONOUR

GOLD (5)

Muhammad Inam Butt (Pakistan) – beach wrestling, men’s 90k
Pouya Rahmani (Iran) – beach wrestling, men’s +90kg
Sakura Yosozumi (Japan) – skateboarding, women’s park
Kai Harada (Japan) – sport climbing, men’s bouldering
Miho Nonaka (Japan) – sport climbing, women’s bouldering

SILVER (6)

Keita Watabe (Japan) – sport climbing, men’s bouldering
Kihana Ogawa (Japan) – skateboarding, women’s park
Fatemeh Sadeghi (Iran) – karate, women’s individual kata
Hou Yawen (China) – women’s 5km open water swimming
Wang Yi (Chinese Taipei) – karate, men’s individual kata
Qatar – men’s beach volleyball 4x4

BRONZE (5)

Grace Lau Mo-sheung (Hong Kong, China) – karate, women’s individual kata
Iran – men’s beach soccer
China – women’s basketball 3x3
Indonesia – men’s beach volleyball 4x4
Mongolia – men’s basketball 3x3

NOTE: The Olympic Council of Asia congratulates all the medal-winners from Asia and thanks the National Olympic Committees for their enthusiastic participation and for displaying an exemplary Olympic spirit throughout the ANOC World Beach Games.
The Olympic Council of Asia’s dynamic portfolio of multi-sports events came under the spotlight at the 24th ANOC General Assembly in Doha.

The OCA’s Honorary Life Vice President, Raja Randhir Singh, made the continental association presentation on behalf of the OCA and informed the 1,200 delegates from 204 NOCs, International Federations, Olympic Games organising committees and other stakeholders of the stability of the sports calendar in Asia.

“Last year we held our main event, the 18th Asian Games, in Indonesia where we witnessed six world records and 86 Asian Games records,” said Raja Randhir.

“In total we have five multi-sport games – with the Asian Winter Games, Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games, Asian Beach Games and Asian Youth Games – so we have a very active and busy calendar for our athletes.”

Raja Randhir added: “With the next two Olympic Games in Asia – Tokyo 2020 and Beijing 2022 – Asia is becoming a major sports destination.

“We wish all our host cities the best of luck and we have no doubt they will present a very big image to the world of Asia’s hosting of major games.”
Kuwait’s equestrian champion Ali Al Kharafi was named Male Athlete of the Asian Games 2018 at the sixth annual ANOC Awards at Katara Cultural Village in Doha on October 17.

Al Kharafi, 30, was riding the bay mare Cheril at the equestrian event in Jakarta last year and beat a top-class field in the individual jumping competition to bring glory to Kuwait.

The victory was even more sweet as the Kuwaiti athletes were competing under their own flag after the IOC Executive Board had temporarily lifted a suspension on the Kuwait Olympic Committee on August 16 – just two days before the opening ceremony of the 2018 Asian Games. This suspension has since been lifted permanently.

“This is really an honour to be presented with this prestigious award by ANOC - it is for all athletes in Kuwait,” he said.

“Winning the individual jumping event at Jakarta 2018 is one of my greatest career accomplishments, and this award only adds to the memory. I look forward to building on this achievement.”

Al Kharafi dedicated the award to the Emir of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, to the athlete’s father and also the Kuwait Olympic Committee for all their efforts.

Talking about the level of equestrian sport in Kuwait, Al Kharafi said: “As Kuwait is a bit small compared to other countries in the area, having won this award I think we can win more.”

The Female Athlete of the Asian Games was Chinese gymnast Chen Yile, who won three gold medals at Jakarta – all-around, balance beam and team.

Chen, 17, said: “I really appreciate and acknowledge this award of ANOC. Winning three gold medals at the Asian Games will be an inspiration for me to work harder.”

She described her Beijing training base as “brilliant” and the coaches “very professional” and said she would continue to train hard to qualify for Tokyo 2020 and make her dream come true.

Japanese Olympic Committee President and 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games judo champion Yasuhiro Yamashita received the ANOC Outstanding Athlete Award from five-time Olympian and OCA Hon. Life Vice President Raja Randhir Singh.
Yamashita said: “It is a great honour and a big pleasure to be awarded at this kind of ceremony. Next year we will host the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games and, for athletes from all over the world to show their best performance, we will do our best preparation.”

The Contribution to the Olympic Movement Award was presented to the Qatar Olympic Committee President, HE Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al-Thani, by ANOC Acting President Robin Mitchell.

QOC President HE Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al-Thani receives his award from ANOC Acting President Dr Robin Mitchell.

Judo legend Yasuhiro Yamashita receives the Outstanding Athlete trophy from Raja Randhir Singh, Asian member on the ANOC Executive Council.

The cultural performance during the ANOC Awards gala. (Photo: Nikku/Xinhua)
YOUTH CAMP ATHLETES URGED TO ‘SWIM BIG’

The course instructor for the OCA/Olympic Solidarity Asian Swimming Youth Camp, Pierre Lafontaine, urged the 32 coaches to keep the spirit alive on the conclusion of the Doha camp.

“When you get back home, remember to send a small ‘thank you’ email to the people who were involved in getting you and your team down here for the past nine days,” he told the coaches in his final address.

The people Lafontaine was referring to were the Olympic Council of Asia and the Qatar Swimming Association, who, together with the Qatar Olympic Committee, paved the way for 66 swimmers and 32 coaches from 33 NOCs to attend the November 6-14 training camp run by the former Canadian Olympic swimming team head coach.

It was the second time this year that the OCA, supported by Olympic Solidarity funding, had organised a youth camp – following skateboarding in Nanjing, China.

The OCA's mission to support and develop the youth in Asia through education and sport was a resounding success with swimmers and coaches benefiting from Lafontaine’s expertise and experience.

Apart from having two two-and-a-half-hour sessions every day - morning and evening - in the pool, Lafontaine also touched the heart of the programme with five 90-minute coaches’ clinics.

Lafontaine made it fun. The swimmers, all under the age of 17 – the youngest being 11-year-old Chen Piu-lam from Macau, China – were instilled with the mantra of ‘swim big’ with technique, strength, flexibility, fitness and team work being the key components.

“To compete on the international stage, Asian swimmers have to be very fit and have a very good technique to counter the power and physique of swimmers from the West and Australia. I’m a great advocate of the human spirit and I have tried to instill this belief in them,” said Lafontaine.

“I know that, as a group, you swimmers and coaches have evolved and come a long way in the past nine days. I have enjoyed working with you and I hope you will go home and become a better ambassador for the sport,” he added.
TALENT FROM BOTH ENDS OF SPECTRUM NURTURED

The biggest cheer was always reserved for Aseel Khousrof. The 14-year-old Yemeni always brought up the rear during simulated races, be it the freestyle or the backstroke.

Yet, that did not matter for course instructor Pierre Lafontaine and the other coaches who cheered on Khousrof as he gamely headed for the finish.

Yes, the nine-day camp was not all about the best swimmers - and there were plenty of them. Like Korea’s Wu Huang-soon, whose giant wingspan of 1.94 metres made it a doddle for him to churn through the pool, or the little dynamo from Vietnam, An Mai Tran, who, despite being only 13, swam like a fish.

Khousrof and his clan were not forgotten. They were encouraged. Take Timor-Leste’s 14-year-old Julanio Guterres. Having discovered swimming only seven months ago, Guterres was virtually thrown in at the deep end in Doha and could not swim backstroke on the first day.

“It has been quite a mix of swimmers. You have got children who are quite adept and others who are still learning the basics. We have to nurture all of them; that is the goal of this camp,” says Lafontaine.

INSPIRATION THE KEY FOR ASIAN COACHES

Like the swimmers, the coaches, too, came from different backgrounds.

On the one hand you had coaches like Bhutan’s Sangay Lhendup and Joao Guterres of Timor-Leste who had been on the job for less than two years; on the other hand there were coaches who have devoted their entire lives to fostering talent in the pool, like India’s Girish Basavalingappa and Sri Lankan Manoj Mark.

Old or new, they all counted in the eyes of course instructor Pierre Lafontaine, who paid as much focus, if not more, on the 32-strong coaching group.

“Never under-estimate the power and influence of a coach. Swimmers come and go but coaches are there for 30 years - and you never know when you will inspire a kid. Coaches make the impossible possible,” says Lafontaine.

Lafontaine has coached at the highest level, being a former head coach of Canada’s Olympic team. The coaching contingent who came to Doha can only aspire to such heights, just like their swimmers.

“This was a great experience for all of us, swimmers and coaches,” says Tamil Nadu-based Girish. “Pierre was very knowledgeable and very understanding. He took time to explain the details to each of us. I have learned a lot during this stay in Doha and I will pass on this knowledge when I return home to India.”
The organising committee of the OCA’s 6th Asian Beach Games in Sanya, Hainan Province, launched the emblem and slogan at a 400-day countdown ceremony on Friday, October 25.

The blue, yellow, orange and green colours of the emblem represent the sea, sun and tropical landscape of Sanya and are shaped into the number 6 to signify the sixth edition of the Asian Beach Games.

The two main features of the emblem are an athlete playing beach sports and a deer looking backwards – the symbol of the city. The shining sun emblem of the OCA is prominent in the design.

The English slogan “See Ya in Sanya” is a catchy, youthful and friendly call for visitors from all over Asia and beyond. It represents the relaxed and family-oriented concept of the beach and sea sports festival.

The Mayor of Sanya, Mr A. Dong, said the slogan and emblem had been chosen from 3,218 submissions after coordination with all relevant parties and expert evaluation before being submitted to the OCA for approval.

“Our are sure the emblem and slogan for the Asian Beach Games will contribute to the sports and tourism concept of Sanya city and Hainan province,” he said.

The ceremony took place at the scenic Luhuitou Peak Park which offers spectacular views of Sanya’s sweeping bays and the South China Sea.

The 6th Asian Beach Games will run from November 28 to December 6, 2020.

One of the most popular tourist destinations in Sanya is being lined up to host the opening ceremony on November 28, 2020.

Tianya Haijiao is a romantic and scenic spot with eye-catching rock formations alongside the South China Sea.

It has several interpretations, including “end of the earth” and “edge of heaven”, and was regarded in ancient China as the place where the land ended and the sea/heaven began, with no concept of distant continents.

Tourists from China and overseas flock to Tianya Haijiao and stroll around the forest park surrounding the distinctive rock formations.
OCA, HANGZHOU 2022 SIGN FOUR SPONSORSHIP CONTRACTS

The OCA and the organising committee of the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China in 2022 (HAGOC) signed sponsorship agreements with four companies on Monday, November 4.

The signing ceremony took place on the sidelines of the OCA/Olympic Solidarity regional forum at the Arnoma Grand Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand.

The prestige partner contracts were signed with Geely automobile suppliers, China Telecom, the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) and Loongair, the local airline serving Hangzhou and Zhejiang province in east China.

The top table guests were the IOC Member for Thailand and member of the OCA Executive Board, Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul, Mao Genhong, Deputy Secretary General of HAGOC, OCA Director General Husain Al Musallam and Maj. Gen. Charouck Arirachakaran, Vice President and Secretary General of the Thailand National Olympic Committee.

“This signing ceremony is a prestigious event for the OCA and for the history of the Asian Games,” said Mr Al Musallam.

“AICHI-NAGOYA ANNOUNCES 2026 ASIAD SLOGAN

The Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games Organising Committee (AINAGOC) announced “Imagine One Asia” as the official slogan for the 20th Asian Games Aichi-Nagoya 2026 at a press conference.

“Imagine One Asia” was created by Waka Sakamoto, a famous copy writer in Japan, and selected as the final candidate through careful examination by the slogan selection panel. The slogan was finalised at an Executive Board meeting held just before its official release.

Hideaki Ohmura, President of AINAGOC and Governor of Aichi Prefecture, and Takashi Kawamura, Deputy President of AINAGOC and Mayor of Nagoya City, attended the meeting and the press conference.

In the Executive Board meeting, new board members were nominated from the Japanese Olympic Committee: Vice President Kohzo Tashima as Deputy President of AINAGOC and Secretary General Tsuyoshi Fukui as Vice President of AINAGOC.

The 20th Asian Games are due to take place from September 19 to October 4, 2026.
The Korean capital Seoul will be the destination for the next General Assembly of the Association of National Olympic Committees in 2020.

The annual gathering of the world’s 206 NOCs will be part of the centenary celebrations of the Korean Sport and Olympic Committee, which was established on July 13, 1920 as the Chosun Sports Council.

“We are looking forward to welcoming the National Olympic Committees from all around the world to Seoul in our centenary year,” said the KSOC President and IOC Member Lee Kee-Heung.

“The next ANOC General Assembly in 2020 will be the perfect occasion to celebrate the growth and development of the Olympic sports movement in Korea.

“It will also be an opportunity for Korea to contribute to the Olympic movement and to practise peace through sport.”

The ANOC General Assembly will take place on November 25-26, 2020 at the COEX Convention and Exhibition Centre, with the ANOC Awards on the evening of November 25.

COEX is located in the trendy Seoul district of Gangnam, which became famous around the world in 2012 due to the global K-pop hit “Gangnam Style” sung by Korean musician Psy.

Delegates will stay at the COEX InterContinental Hotel, a three minute walk from the venue, and will also be treated to cultural performances highlighting the traditional and modern Korea.

Korea to Welcome ANOC in Centenary Celebration

1920: Chosun Sports Council established on July 13
1947: Renamed Korea Sports Council; joined IOC
1986: 10th Asian Games, Seoul
1988: Olympic Games, Seoul
2002: 14th Asian Games, Busan
2014: 17th Asian Games, Incheon
2016: Korean Olympic Committee merges with Korea Council of Sport for All to form KSOC in March
2018: Olympic Winter Games, PyeongChang
2020: Centenary celebrations
IOC PRESIDENT ‘EXCITED’ BY SPORTS DEVELOPMENT IN KSA

IOC President Thomas Bach visited Jeddah in Saudi Arabia to meet with Olympic officials and athletes and to see the progress of sports development in the Kingdom.

President Bach was welcomed by the President of the Saudi NOC, Prince Abdulaziz bin Turki al Saud.

The IOC President was able to see a number of new sports facilities and hear directly from the NOC’s Executive Board about a modernisation plan for sport in the country, part of the national Vision2030 reform plan.

The NOC’s plans include more and better access for female athletes. He also heard about the preparations for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.

Later, President Bach met athletes at the King Abdullah Sports City. Young men and women were able to show their skills in fencing, table tennis, athletics, football and taekwondo.

Afterwards, the President met the members of the newly elected Athletes’ Commission - with gender parity - who were able to present their strategy for athlete engagement in the Kingdom and empowering the athlete voice.

“I’m really excited by the development of sport in Saudi Arabia at both the grass roots and elite level,” said President Bach. “The enthusiasm of the young athletes really touched me; also, to see, in particular, the many young girls participating is really a very encouraging sign,” he added. (www.olympic.org)
The fifth International Women and Sport Conference organised by the Chinese Taipei Olympic Committee was held in Taipei on September 10-11.

The conference was hosted under the theme “Women: The Makers of Sustainable Development in Sport” and covered topics under the following sub themes:

- Women Empowerment and Leadership
- Health Promotion and Lifelong Learning
- Safe Sport

CTOC President Hong-Dow Lin, Ms. Feng-Chi Chu, Chairperson of the CTOC Women and Sport Commission, and Dr. Chin-Hsung Kao, Director General of Sports Administration, officiated at the opening ceremony.

The keynote address was given by the IOC Member and Secretary General of Palau National Olympic Committee, Ms. Baklai Temengil.

A total of 100 prominent domestic scholars and university students attended this two-day conference, which was first held in 2011 and takes place every two years.

China’s double Olympic short track speed skating champion, Yang Yang, was elected Vice President of the World Anti-Doping Agency at WADA’s fifth World Conference on Doping in Sport at Katowice, Poland, on November 7.

The 43-year-old Chinese sports icon will be Vice President to the new WADA President, the former elite runner and Poland’s Minister for Sport and Tourism, Witold Banka.

The election will place athletes in the top two leadership roles in WADA when they officially take office on January 1, 2020.

Yang Yang, a former IOC Member, said: “I am very honoured to be elected to this important position. As a former athlete I have a strong passion for sport and I truly believe in the fight against doping and the need to protect the rights of clean athletes.

“Together with Minister Banka I am very confident that we can make a real difference. I am looking forward to starting this work so that there can be a bright future for sport.”
Women in Sport

ASIAN GAMES CHAMPION SPEEDS TO WORLD RECORD

Indonesia’s Asian Games “Spider Woman” Aries Susanti Rahayu smashed the women’s speed climbing world record and became the first woman to climb 15 metres in under seven seconds.

Her time of 6.995 seconds in the final of the IFSC Climbing World Cup in Xiamen, China, on October 19 saw her beat home favourite and former world record holder Song Yiling to take gold.

The 24-year-old Indonesian, who won two gold medals at the 18th Asian Games in Palembang last year, beat Song’s previous mark of 7.101 set in Chongqing in April.

“New record and the winner,” she said. “My condition is not good; you can look at my finger, my hand…but still a world record. Wow, amazing for me!”

FOUR ASIAN REPS ON NEW IOC COMMISSIONS

The International Olympic Committee has announced the names of the 18 members who will sit on the two new Future Host Commissions for the Summer and Winter Olympic Games.

After consultation with the IOC Executive Board, the two commissions were appointed by the IOC President Thomas Bach.

The two commissions are both gender-balanced: five female members and five male members for the Summer Games and four female members and four male members for the Winter Games.

They include Samira Asghari (Afghanistan) and Zhang Hong (China) in the winter commission and Li Lingwei (China) and Mikee Cajuangco Jaworski (Philippines) in the summer games commission.

The commissions are made up of IOC members who are not on the IOC Executive Board. Additionally, there are representatives of the athletes, International Federations, National Olympic Committees and the International Paralympic Committee, in line with the IOC regulations.
IOC wears ANTA

The IOC announced that the Chinese sports apparel company ANTA has become its official sportswear uniform supplier until the end of 2022.

IOC President Thomas Bach said: “ANTA is a strong partner of the Olympic Movement and we thank them for their commitment to sport in China as well as their partnership with the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022.

“We look forward to wearing their uniforms with pride at the Winter YOG Lausanne 2020, Tokyo 2020, Beijing 2022 and the Dakar YOG 2022.”

Tokyo 2020 3x3 update

FIBA has announced the four women’s teams and four men’s teams who have qualified directly for Tokyo 2020 in 3x3 basketball:

Women - Russia, China, Mongolia and Romania.
Men - Japan, Serbia, Russia and China.

The main FIBA 3x3 Olympic qualifying tournament will be held in India in March.

Asia’s boxing ambassadors

India’s six-time women’s world boxing champion Mary Kom and China’s Hu Jianguan have been named Asia’s female and male boxing ambassadors, respectively, in the build-up to the Olympic qualifying tournaments for Tokyo 2020.

With boxing’s governing body AIBA suspended by the IOC, a boxing task force is organising the five qualifying tournaments (four continental and one world) on the road to Tokyo and selected one male and one female boxer from each of the five continents to promote the event as athlete ambassadors.

China to host swim series

China will host both legs of FINA’s Champions Swim Series in January 2020. The first event will take place in Shenzhen on January 14-15 and Beijing will stage the second meet on January 18-19.

Olympic and World Championships medallists, World Cup stars, world record-holders and top-placed athletes in the world ranking will be invited to the competition, which was successfully launched by FINA this year.

The programme will include 28 individual events (in a 50m pool) and two relays (mixed 4x100m freestyle and 4x100m medley) over two days of competition. Only finals will be held, with four athletes per race. (www.fina.org)

Asian dates for FINA

FINA has announced the competition calendar for the 2020 Swimming World Cup, which will comprise six meets from September to November.

The calendar is: Singapore, September 4-6; Jinan, China, September 10-12; Kazan, Russia, October 2-4; Doha, Qatar, October 8-10; Berlin, Germany, October 23-25; Budapest, Hungary, October 30-November 1.

Minister Erick

IOC Member Erick Thohir of Indonesia was named Minister of State-owned Enterprises by Indonesian President Joko Widodo on October 23.

Erick is a former President of Indonesia NOC and was the driving force behind the success of the 18th Asian Games in Jakarta and Palembang in 2018.
SRI LANKA NOC MOURNS RISING NETBALL STAR, 17

Sri Lanka NOC was deeply saddened to report on the death of promising young netball player Melony Wijesinghe on October 20 at the age of 17.

In a Facebook post, the NOC said that Melony had passed away after a short illness.

“She was a youth national player with a dazzling future but tragically it was all taken back from the maker of all things itself,” said the emotional tribute.

“One of the brightest stars on the netball horizon, she was still a student at Visakha Vidyalaya when she fell victim to a vicious bout of leukemia and this left the Sri Lankan netball community in shock at her demise.”

The 6ft 3in Goal Shooter had fallen ill during the All Island Schools Netball Championship in August.

SIDNEY TUNG, MALAYSIAN TENPIN BOWLING

The Olympic Council of Malaysia reported that tenpin bowling official Sidney Tung Kim Kee passed away peacefully on Monday, June 3 at the age of 74.

He served as team manager, technical delegate and other high-ranking positions during his long association with the sport.

Tung was the founding Secretary of the Kuala Lumpur Tenpin Bowling Association in 1975 and was appointed Assistant Secretary General of the Malaysian Tenpin Bowling Congress from 1978 to 1980 before taking over as Secretary General from 1980 to 2013.

Mr Tung was also Vice President of the Asian Bowling Federation (1991-2007), Vice President of the Commonwealth Tenpin Bowling Federation (2001-2013) and Deputy Secretary General of the World Tenpin Bowling Association (1999-2003).

GRIEF IN YEMEN OVER ASIAN GAMES WUSHU ATHLETE

The Yemeni Embassy in Spain announced that 18th Asian Games wushu athlete Helal Ali Mohammed al-Hajj had drowned while trying to reach Spain via a small boat from Morocco, the Yemen Press Agency reported on September 21.

“Helal al-Hajj was an example of a committed and hard-working athlete, a person with high morals, who reaped many achievements and died away from his family and homeland,” said the agency.

“Yemeni champion Helal al-Hajj won a bronze medal at the 4th Islamic Solidarity Games in Azerbaijan in 2017 as well as several medals at the Arab and Asian levels.”

Al-Hajj competed in the men’s Sanda 60kg at the 18th Asian Games in Jakarta and Palembang, Indonesia, in 2018.