

AIMING FOR A GOLDEN FUTURE

NOC Spotlight: Bhutan

OCA/Olympic Solidarity 2013-2016

OCA President in Central Asia

OCA Fun Run + Learn



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SPORTING ASIA

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Front cover:

HRH Prince Jigyel Ugyen Wangchuck, President of the Bhutan Olympic Committee, concentrates on the target in the distance. Bhutan NOC is doing the same with its long-term plan to bring sporting gold to the Land of the Thunder Dragon.

GOLDEN OPPORTUNITIES FOR NOCS IN NEW OLYMPIC CYCLE



As the Olympic Movement continues to flourish in Asia and around the world, the National Olympic Committees are providing the firm foundations on which to build our success.

This is why the new Quadrennial Plan of the IOC's Olympic Solidarity for 2013 to 2016 presents many exciting opportunities and initiatives for the NOCs to continue with this growth.

All the Asian NOCs are now familiar with the details of the new Quadrennial Plan, thanks to the two Olympic Solidarity/OCA Regional Forums held in Sri Lanka and Cambodia in March, and it really is a golden opportunity to enhance and expand your activities.

Olympic Solidarity experts from Lausanne made detailed presentations on the funding available through the World Programme, such as athlete scholarships and coaching development, while the OCA outlined the package of projects in the Continental Programme.

Further details can be found elsewhere in the newsletter, so I would just like to take the opportunity here to encourage NOCs to make the most of the funding and the programmes at your disposal. Don't let it go to waste. It is for you, the NOCs, to use with your creativity, leadership and forward-planning.

There are many categories of funding available, and all of them are designed to assist the NOCs in their day-to-day administration and thereby strengthen the Olympic Movement as a whole.

Finally, I would like to thank the two host NOCs of the Regional Forums – Sri Lanka and Cambodia. The working environment and organisation was first-class, and the hospitality and surroundings showed Asia in all its cultural diversity and exotic splendour.



Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad Al Sabah

President, Olympic Council of Asia

President, Association of National Olympic Committees

Chairman, IOC Olympic Solidarity Commission

SHEIKH AHMAD RECEIVES ORDER OF MERIT IN AUSTRALIA

His Excellency Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad Al Sabah was awarded the Olympic Order of Merit by the Australian Olympic Committee on the sidelines of the 59th ANOC Executive Council meeting in Sydney on Tuesday, March 5. The ANOC and OCA President was presented with the award by Australian Olympic Committee President and IOC member John Coates in front of ANOC guests and members of the Olympic Solidarity Commission at a dinner at the home of prominent Sydney businessman John Symond.

The Executive of the Australian Olympic Committee saw fit to give Sheikh Ahmad the AOC Order of Merit for his remarkable contribution to the development of sport. In his remarks, Coates affectionately called Sheikh Ahmad just the second "foreigner" to receive an AOC Order of Merit. The only other non-Australian recipient is current IOC President Jacques Rogge, who led an ANOC delegation to Brisbane, Australia, in 2003.



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WRESTLING FIGHTS TO STAY IN OLYMPICS



The Executive Board of the International Olympic Committee has agreed on the 25 sports it will propose to the 125th IOC Session for approval as the core sports for the 2020 Olympic Games.

The 25 sports are: athletics, rowing, badminton, basketball, boxing, canoeing, cycling, equestrian, fencing, football, gymnastics, weightlifting, handball, hockey, judo, aquatics, modern pentathlon, taekwondo, tennis, table tennis, shooting, archery, triathlon, sailing and volleyball.

The EB recommended that wrestling, governed by the International Federation of Associated Wrestling Styles (FILA), not be included on the list of core sports.

Wrestling will now join the seven shortlisted sports – baseball/softball, karate, roller sports, sport climbing, squash, wakeboarding and wushu – vying for inclusion in the 2020 Olympic programme as an additional sport.

The eight sports are scheduled to make presentations to the Executive Board at its meeting in St Petersburg, Russia, in May.

The EB will select which of the eight sports to recommend to the 125th IOC Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from September 7-10 for inclusion as an additional sport on the 2020 programme.



Uzbekistan's Artur Taymazov wrestles his way to gold at London 2012.

IOC WARNS KOC



The Executive Board of the IOC has issued strong warnings to Korean footballer Park Jong Woo and the Korean Olympic Committee for inappropriate behaviour by the athlete during the London 2012 Olympic Games.

The Executive Board also called on the KOC to submit, for the IOC's review and approval, a programme proposed and designed by the KOC to educate its athletes on the rules of the Olympic Charter and respect for Olympic values.

The Korean men's football team finished third at London 2012, and the EB has informed the KOC to deliver a bronze medal to Park as long as it is done without fanfare or publicity of any kind.

IOC, OCA BACKS POA



The IOC and OCA met IOC member Syed Shahid Ali and Pakistan NOC President Lt Gen (retired) Syed Arif Hasan in Lausanne and all aspects of the situation currently prevailing in the Olympic Movement in Pakistan were reviewed.

The IOC issued a statement saying that the Pakistan Olympic Association had conducted its regular quadrennial elections on February 4, 2012 in a fair, transparent and democratic manner, in the presence of IOC and OCA observers, IOC member Syed Shahid Ali and all members of the POA General Assembly.

As a consequence, the IOC and OCA reiterated their full support to the legitimate POA, which is the sole and unique body recognised by the IOC and which has exclusive jurisdiction to deal with any Olympic-related matters in Pakistan.

OLYMPIC MEDAL-WINNER SARAH LEE CROWNED HK SPORTS STAR



Hong Kong cycling queen Sarah Lee Wai Sze was named Sports Star of the Year at the prestigious Bank of China Hong Kong Sports Stars Awards 2012 gala dinner and presentation at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre on March 14.

There were 126 nominations from 40 National Sports Associations, with 104 athletes competing for the individual awards.

In addition, the recently retired Hong Kong cycling legend Wong Kam Po was presented with the Hong Kong Sportsmanship Sports Stars Award.

It was a memorable London 2012 for Sarah, who won the bronze medal in the women's keirin on her Olympic Games debut and who also had the honour of carrying the flag of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region into the Opening Ceremony. It was the third Olympic medal in history for Hong Kong.

To complete an unforgettable evening at the Sports Stars Awards, Sarah was also named "Best of the Best" involving winners of all six categories.

The VIPs were headed by IOC member Timothy Fok, President of the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China, and OCA Vice President.



Sarah Lee Wai Sze with her award. ??????

WRESTLING FIGHTS TO STAY IN OLYMPICS



JORDAN

In a glittering ceremony, Jordan recognised its most outstanding athletes of 2012 at the annual Jordan Olympic Committee Black Iris Awards.

Presented by HRH Prince Feisal Al Hussein, President of the JOC and OCA Executive Board member, the ceremony was held at the Generations For Peace Theatre in Sports City in front of the Jordanian sporting family and a live TV audience.

More than 52,000 people voted for their favourites in three categories through the JOC's Facebook page and website, following a shortlist decided by the Jordanian sports media.

The winners were:

- Male Athlete of the Year:** Ahmad Abu Ghoush (taekwondo).
- Female Athlete of the Year:** Riham Abu Ghazaleh (karate).
- Paralympic Athlete of the Year:** Suhail Al Nashash (visually impaired marathon).



The JOC Black Iris Award winners 2012.

NATIONAL AWARDS IN MALAYSIA

Malaysia's two medal-winners at the 2012 London Olympic Games won the main individual honours at the 2012 National Sports Awards Ceremony on April 16 at the Grand Ballroom, Grand Dorsett Subang Hotel, Kuala Lumpur.

Men's badminton silver medallist Lee Chong Wei and women's diving bronze medal-winner Pandalela Rinong were named Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year, respectively.

The other awards included: Men's Team of the Year, National Junior Hockey Team; Women's Team of the Year, National Squash Team; Sportsman of the Year for Paralympic Athletes, Hasihin Sanawi (Archery).

OCA PRESIDENT VISITS IRAQ

OCA/ANOC President HE Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad Al Sabah became the first global sports leader from the Olympic Movement to make an official visit to Iraq since 1990 when he conducted a two-day trip to Baghdad and Basra in late March.

Speaking to Kuwait News Agency on his return, Sheikh Ahmad said his visit was a “positive translation” of the agreement to cement bilateral ties reached by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah during his visit to Iraq in 2012.

Sheikh Ahmad said his two-city trip highlighted a shared desire

to enhance youth exchanges and sports activities between the two countries.

“Sports and the friendly youth exchanges are conducive to the enhancement of the values of peace, mutual understanding and cooperation which, in turn, have a positive impact on political and economic ties,” he pointed out.

He added that his visit aimed to assess the quality of Iraq's sports facilities, particularly for football, and verify the country's preparations for hosting the 22nd Gulf Cup in the southern city of Basra in 2015.



Sheikh Ahmad arrives by helicopter to visit Basra International Football Stadium.

CENTRAL ASIA - A FUTURE POWER

In mid-March, Sheikh Ahmad conducted a five-country tour of Central Asia to assess the development of sport and the Olympic Movement in the region.

Sheikh Ahmad visited Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, 2011 Asian Winter Games host Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, which will stage the 5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games in 2017.

The OCA and ANOC President is convinced that Central Asia will be a new sports power in the near future, and noted their rapidly improving results in the Olympic Games and Asian Games, even with limited resources.

Furthermore, the governments of the five countries have increased their support for their NOCs, which will contribute

significantly to the further development and rise of the Olympic Movement in Central Asia.



Sport “fur” All in Kyrgyzstan.

OCA PLAYS KEY ROLE IN FIGHT AGAINST DOPING

By Nadiah Ali Al Shamali
Doping Control Department, OCA

The OCA Doping Control Department is always keen to participate in seminars, workshops and conferences at regional, Asian and international levels to observe recent trends and developments and to tackle any issues.

In addition, our department has a strong presence at Asia's five annual Regional Anti-Doping Organization (RADO) gatherings, including the RADO board meeting and its associated activities.

The Doping Control Department would like to emphasize that the OCA always works closely with the anti-doping organisations to reaffirm its joint commitment to eliminating doping in sport. Here are some of our activities through to April this year:

- January 24-25: WADA/JADA Therapeutic Use Exemp-

tion Seminar, Japan

- February 19-20: South East Asia RADO–Senior Doping Control Officers (DCO) Seminar, Singapore
- February 24: SEA RADO board meeting, Myanmar
- March 19-20: WADA Symposium, Lausanne
- March 28-29: 10th Asia/Oceania Intergovernmental Ministerial Meeting on Anti-Doping in Sport, Maldives
- April 3-5: South Asia RADO, Sri Lanka, where a DCO training course was conducted under the supervision of WADA and delivered by an expert from the UK
- April 12-13: West Asia RADO board meeting, Jordan.



©Samaranch Memorial



©Samaranch Memorial

SAMARANCH MEMORIAL OPENS IN CHINA

The first Samaranch Memorial was inaugurated on April 21 in Tianjin, China, in the presence of IOC President Jacques Rogge, the Samaranch family and many IOC members who came to pay tribute to the late IOC President three years to the day after he passed away.

The project brings to life the wish of IOC EB member and renowned architect Wu Ching-kuo to share Samaranch's Olympic treasure with the world. Samaranch donated his lifelong Olympic collections to the Chinese Taipei IOC member.

"We all know what we owe to Juan Antonio Samaranch," said

President Rogge.

"If our Movement is today strong and united it is thanks to his visionary qualities and extraordinary talent. Juan Antonio Samaranch left us a great legacy that we must conserve and perpetuate. This Memorial is the greatest homage that we can pay to him."

The Memorial will display more than 16,000 items from Samaranch's personal collection - books, stamps, souvenirs, paintings, letters, photographs and personal items, as well as a precious collection of texts on Olympic-related themes.



Delegates show their solidarity in Colombo.



The marquee venue at the Cinnamon Lakeside Hotel.



Coffee break in Colombo.

OLYMPIC SOLIDITY US\$435 MILLION

The good news just kept on coming for Asia's National Olympic Committees at the two Olympic Solidarity/OCA Regional Forums in March.

First came the presentations from Olympic Solidarity, which will have a budget of US\$435 million to assist the world's 200+ NOCs for the next Quadrennial Plan, 2013-2016. This is an increase of 40 per cent compared to the previous cycle.

Then came the news from the OCA's Asian Games department manager, Haider Farman, that just over US\$29 million would be available for Asia's NOCs through Olympic Solidarity's Continental Programme.

Included in these numbers was an annual administration subsidy to each NOC of US\$125,000, comprised of US\$40,000 from the World Programme and US\$85,000 from the OCA through the Continental Programme. And that's just the tasty appetizer at the Olympic Solidarity banquet.

Thanks to a detailed description of the programmes and projects available, the NOCs were encouraged to invest in their own future by making the most of the opportunities available for their athletes and administrators alike.

ARITY DELIVERS ON JACKPOT

“We should use this fund correctly, efficiently and creatively,” the OCA’s Honorary Life Vice President, Wei Jizhong, told delegates at the regional forum for NOCs from West Asia, Central Asia and South Asia at Colombo, Sri Lanka, on March 22-23. “No abuse is allowed,” he added.

“We believe you have everything you need to start the quadrennial plan,” concluded Olympic Solidarity’s Manager for Asia, Olivier Niamkey, at the forum for NOCs from South East Asia and East Asia at Siem Reap Angkor, Cambodia, on March 26-27. “This is the end of the forum but the beginning of the plan,” he said.

The World Programme has the largest percentage of the US\$435 million budget: US\$124 million, or 37 per cent, for athletes and teams, coaches, NOC management and the promotion of Olympic values.

Next comes the Continental Programme (US\$122 million, 33 per cent), ANOC (US\$48 million, 11 per cent), Olympic Games subsidies (US\$43 million, 10 per cent), Complementary Programmes (US\$21 million, 5 per cent) and Administration/Communications (US\$18 million, 4 per cent).

For more details on the Continental Programme operated by the OCA, turn to Page 10.



The Sokhalay Angkor Hotel in Siem Reap.



Checking out the Angkor Wat complex in Siem Reap.



OCA Vice President Maq. Gen. Charouck Arirachakaran goes 'ethnic'.

OCA OUTLINES CONTINENTAL PROGRAMME

The Olympic Council of Asia has added a new category to its Continental Programme for the 2013-2016 Quadrennial Plan: Social Development Through Olympism.

The OCA's Asian Games department manager, Haider Farman, informed the NOC delegates at the two regional forums that funding would be available for this new initiative.

Although the details are being finalised, the OCA plans to conduct 10 or 12 projects a year in cooperation with the NOCs whose proposals are approved, each with a budget of US\$8,000.

With a total Olympic Solidarity budget of US\$29,080,000 for the four-year Continental Programme, the OCA outlined the nine main areas of funding:

- ☀ OCA administration.

- ☀ NOC activities, including the annual US\$85,000 administration subsidy for staff salaries, office equipment etc – an increase of US\$20,000. NOC activities accounts for over half the Continental Programme budget.

- ☀ Asian youth development project, in particular the OCA youth camp. This year it will be for taekwondo in Bangkok in July, with two athletes aged from 15-17 (one male, one female) and one coach invited to attend.

- ☀ Social development through Olympism.

- ☀ Continental and regional games participation subsidies, on a sliding scale from the Asian Games at US\$20,000 per NOC.

- ☀ Olympasia, with US\$100,000 available for four projects a year, towards the construction costs of new sports facilities or upgrading/renovating existing buildings.

- ☀ Asian Games Fun Run, Fun Learn and Youth Reporter Project to promote the 17th Asian Games in Incheon, Korea, in 2014.

- ☀ OCA special projects, for example natural disasters such as flooding or an earthquake.

- ☀ OCA meetings, including Executive Board, General Assembly and Chefs de Mission Seminars.



The Fun Run in Maldives - part of the OCA's Continental Programme under Olympic Solidarity.

NOCS DISPLAY SOLIDARITY

The Olympic Solidarity/OCA Regional Forums provided the opportunity for Asian NOCs to inform their colleagues of the programmes they conducted in the previous cycle.

Athletes: Tajikistan reported on the high success rate of Olympic scholarship recipients qualifying for London 2012 (13 of 15), while Cambodia outlined a youth identification talent programme in eight sports building up to the 2014 Nanjing YOG.

Coaches: Sri Lanka reported on a grassroots tennis promotion, particularly successful in the previously war-torn Jaffna penin-

sula, and Indonesia focused on a three-day strength and conditioning course for female coaches.

NOC Management: Bhutan informed the forum of a long-term strategy put in place to develop sports infrastructure and build a sports culture, and Mongolia gave details of a three-month internship for a staff member with NOC Malaysia.

Promotion of Olympic Values: Maldives reported on the involvement of schools in an Olympic quiz and other activities, and Vietnam conducted a Sport for All project from village to city.

OLYMPASIA AT WORK IN CAMBODIA

The opening ceremony of the Olympic Solidarity/OCA Regional Forum at Siem Reap Angkor on March 26 provided an insight into the ambition of the NOC of Cambodia.

The NOC President and Minister of Tourism, H.E. Dr Thong Khon, said the Olympic Movement in the “Kingdom of Wonder” was developing quickly thanks to the support of the OCA and Olympic Solidarity.

He referred in particular to the OCA-funded Sports Science and Medical Centre which will be housed in the new NOC headquarters, due to be opened on June 13 by Prime Minister Hun Sen.

The seven-storey building will provide office space for 40 national sports federations, 18 of them Olympic sports and 22 non-Olympic sports, as well as the Paralympic and Special Olympic organisations.

There will also be a gymnasium for national team training, a media centre, executive floor and conference hall for 200 people aimed at building up human resources.

The government has met most of the construction costs, estimated at US\$3 million, and will also build a new, 100,000-capacity stadium 15km from Phnom Penh city centre.



The new Cambodia NOC HQ in Phnom Penh.

OLYMPIC DAY IN PHNOM PENH

The NOC of Cambodia is inviting runners from near and far to take part in the 3rd Phnom Penh International Half Marathon on June 16 as part of their Olympic Day celebrations.

NOC Secretary General Vath Chamroeun says the capital’s premier sports event will take place in the city centre, starting in front of the Royal Palace and running along four rivers.

“The participants will be from many nations, showing the diversity of Phnom Penh’s population,” said Vath. “The half marathon will be held in conjunction with World Environment Day and Olympic Day and to celebrate the birthday of Queen Norodom Monineath Sihanouk.”

There will be three distances - 21km, 10km and 3km - and the funds collected will support Kantha Bopha Hospital and the Cambodian Mine Action Centre.



Cambodia NOC Secretary General Vath Chamroeun displays the Phnom Penh International Half Marathon poster.

OCA COUNTS DOWN TO CENTENNIAL FESTIVAL

An OCA delegation led by the President, HE Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad Al Sabah, visited the Philippines in early March to meet with the organisers of the Asian Games Centennial Festival, which will be held on Boracay Island in November.

The festival will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first recognised multi-sports games in Asia - the Far Eastern Championships, in Manila in 1913. This event would evolve into the Asian Games, first held in 1951 and now the pride of the OCA.

Sheikh Ahmad said the Centennial Festival would display to guests from around the sports world Asia's early commitment to the values and solidarity of Olympism.

"All our partners and sponsors will be involved in the Centennial Festival to show Asia's rich sports history and culture through the five zones of the OCA," he said.

The meeting took place on Thursday, March 7 at the new Marriott Hotel near Manila international airport, after which a celebratory lunch was held in honour of Sheikh Ahmad and hosted by Philippine Olympic Committee President Jose Cojuangco Jr.

The official dates for the Centennial Festival are

November 27-29, with the first day reserved for OCA standing committee meetings.

The 64th OCA Executive Board meeting will be held on Thursday, November 28, followed by the Centennial Festival. The 32nd OCA General Assembly will take place on November 29.



The OCA President chats with the POC President.

OCA ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETS IN TAIPEI

The OCA Advisory Committee met in Taipei on Saturday, March 9, under the chairmanship of Ng Ser Miang, IOC Vice President from Singapore.

The members agreed that 2013 would be a very important year for the Olympic Movement as the IOC members will elect a new IOC President in September and choose the host cities of the 2020 Olympic Games and 2018 Youth Olympic Games.

The members were of the unanimous opinion that Asia - under the presidency of HE Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad Al Sabah - should work in total solidarity and unity so that the interests of the Asian continent are strongly represented and protected within the Olympic Movement.

The members thanked Dr Wu Ching Kuo, IOC Executive Board member, and the Chinese Taipei Olympic Committee, under its President, Thomas Tsai, for their hospitality and the excellent environment for the meeting.

Despite the tight schedule, members also toured the world-famous National Palace Museum in Taipei.



The Advisory Committee – providing a link between IOC and OCA.

COORDINATION COMMITTEE VISITS INCHEON, NANJING



OCA CC members in Incheon, Korea.

The Coordination Committee gathered in East Asia in mid-April to oversee preparations for the OCA's two major events this year, and for the 17th Asian Games in 2014.

The first stop was Incheon, Korea, for the 6th CC meeting for the 4th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games from June 29 to July 6, 2013, and the 17th Asian Games from September 19 to October 4, 2014.

The meeting took place on Monday, April 15, and was chaired by the OCA's Honorary Life Vice President, Wei Jizhong, in the absence of CC Chairman Tsunekazu Takeda, who was busy with Tokyo's bid for the 2020 Olympic Games.

After a series of presentations by various departments of IAGOC, the CC members visited the AIMAG Athletes' Village, which is comprised of two university campuses and the POSCO Research and Development Centre as the International Zone.

"The rooms and the services in the university dormitories are like

a four-star hotel," said CC member Dr M. Jegathesan, Chairman of the OCA Medical Committee. "With the high-tech facilities available at the International Zone, I am sure the athletes and officials from the NOCs will have everything they need close at hand to conduct a very successful Games."

The next day, the CC members travelled from Incheon to Nanjing, China, for the fourth and final CC meeting ahead of the 2nd Asian Youth Games from August 16-24, 2013.

The meeting was held on Wednesday, April 17, and chaired by OCA Vice President Hemasiri Fernando, President of the NOC of Sri Lanka.

"I am very happy and proud to be here because Sri Lanka is the host of the 3rd Asian Youth Games at Hambantota in 2017," he said.

"It will give me the chance to study and report on Nanjing's preparations before we send a team of observers here for the Games."



FIRST-CLASS TICKET TO SRI LANKA: Love Sri Lanka? Love the thrill of the stately steam train chugging through the mountains from Colombo to Kandy?

Then a new book by Hemasiri Fernando, OCA Vice President and Sri Lanka NOC President, is just the ticket for you.

His enthusiasm for everything connected with the railways runs back to his childhood days and resulted in the creation of the "Viceroy Special" - a steam-powered train that has carried thousands of tourists in colonial style to places of interest over the last 25 years. Now he tells the story behind the story, drawing on all his years of knowledge to bring the joy of the steam train experience to life with photos and sketches.

QATAR SIGNS BRIGHTON DECLARATION

The Qatar Women's Sport Committee signed the International Working Group's Brighton Declaration in Doha on Wednesday, April 3.

The Brighton Declaration is an agreement urging governments, public authorities, the business sector and any other relevant organisations to promote, develop and support women's sport.

The signing ceremony was held at the Doha Hilton Hotel on the sidelines of the IWG annual meeting ahead of next year's IWG World Conference on Women and Sport in Helsinki, Finland.

Mrs Ahlam Salem Al-Mana, QWSC President, and Ms Raija Mattila, Chair of the IWG delegation, signed the declaration in the presence of His Excellency Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, Secretary General of the QOC.



The signing ceremony of the Brighton Declaration in Doha.

More than 300 organisations worldwide have endorsed the Brighton Declaration on Women and Sport.

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL GROWS IN AFGHANISTAN



The signing ceremony of the Brighton Declaration in Doha.

Football's world governing body FIFA says a wider recognition of women's football is a key feature in the encouraging development of the game as a whole in Afghanistan.

"Eight years ago Afghan football was almost dead," AFF President Keramuddin Karim told FIFA.com.

"However, through strategic planning in the area of infrastructure we have been able to set up the basis for the future. FIFA's first Goal project was fundamental since it provided us with an artificial pitch we are currently using for our league matches in Kabul."

GOLDEN RITA

TOCA Executive Board member Rita Subowo has been named in the Golden 25 list of the most influential women in sport by Around the Rings.

The IOC member and Indonesian Olympic Committee President was joined by HRH Princess Haya bint Al Hussein of Jordan, President of the International Equestrian Federation (FEI) and also an IOC member.

Around the Rings selected HRH Princess Haya not only for her achievements in equestrian sport but also for her humanitarian aid efforts, including serving as a United Nations Messenger of Peace and Goodwill Ambassador for the UN World Food Programme.



HOSTS BAHRAIN DOMINATE GCC WOMEN'S GAMES



A mighty leap in the high jump.

Bahrain hosted the 3rd Gulf Cooperation Council Women's Sport Games from March 3-13 and finished well ahead of their four GCC rivals at the top of the medals table.

The hosts garnered 24 gold medals, 17 silver and 12 bronze for a total of 53, leaving Qatar (9-7-7-23), Oman (5-3-13-21), Kuwait (3-9-10-22) and UAE (3-8-10-21) trailing in their wake.



The Games featured 370 athletes in eight disciplines, including athletics for the disabled. UAE finished on top of this category with nine gold medals, three silver and two bronze for a total of 14, ahead of Bahrain (7-10-4-21), Oman (4-4-2-10), Kuwait (0-2-3-5) and Qatar (0-1-5-6).

The other seven sports were table tennis, volleyball, basketball, athletics, shooting, taekwondo and bowling.

The GCC Women's Organising Committee Chairwoman, Shaikha Naima Al Ahmad Al Sabah of Kuwait, congratulated Bahrain on the successful organisation of the event and said it had enhanced the promotion and development of women's sport in the region. Around 800 people were accredited, including 650 from the five GCC delegations. IOC Vice President Nawal El Moutawakel of Morocco was the chief guest at the opening ceremony.

The event was also supported by: Supreme Council for Women President, Princess Sabeeka bint Ebrahim Al Khalifa, wife of His Majesty King Hamad; Supreme Council for Youth and Sports Chairman and Bahrain Olympic Committee President, Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa; Bahrain Olympic Committee Honorary President, Shaikh Isa bin Rashid Al Khalifa; Bahrain Olympic Committee Chief Executive Officer, Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa; Bahrain Olympic Committee General Secretary, Shaikh Ahmed bin Hamad Al Khalifa; Supreme Council for Youth and Sports member, Bahrain Olympic Committee member and Games Executive Committee Chairwoman, Shaikha Hayat bint Abdulaziz Al Khalifa; and Bahrain Olympic Committee Sports Affairs Executive Director, Noaman bin Rashid Al Hassan.

FINAL MEDAL STANDINGS

| Rank | Country | | | | Total |
|--------------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| 1 | Bahrain | 24 | 17 | 12 | 53 |
| 2 | Qatar | 9 | 7 | 7 | 23 |
| 3 | Oman | 5 | 3 | 13 | 21 |
| 4 | Kuwait | 3 | 9 | 10 | 22 |
| 5 | UAE | 3 | 8 | 10 | 21 |
| Total | | 44 | 44 | 52 | 140 |

ATHLETICS FOR THE DISABLED

| Rank | Country | | | | Total |
|--------------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1 | UAE | 9 | 3 | 2 | 14 |
| 2 | Bahrain | 7 | 10 | 4 | 21 |
| 3 | Oman | 4 | 4 | 2 | 10 |
| 4 | Kuwait | 0 | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| 5 | Qatar | 0 | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| Total | | 20 | 20 | 16 | 56 |

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On track for victory.



Dr Shaikha Maryam arrives for the opening ceremony.



The volleyball tournament was fast and furious.



??????????



Soaring high in the hurdles.



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??????????



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Shooting for gold.



Maximum effort and concentration throwing the discus.



On the move in basketball.



Fighting spirit in volleyball.



MALDIVES

Dates: February 9-10, 2013
 Venue: Male
 YRP students: 80
 YRP Winner: Sherzod Qodirjonov, 18, Lyceum, University of World Economy and Diplomacy.
 Fun Learn students: 90
 Fun Learn Winner: Irash Hassan, 16, Imaduddin School.
 Fun Run entries: 600

ASSAD LIGHTS UP YRP

The 80 students at the Youth Reporter Project had a day to remember when national football hero Assad Abdul Ghani arrived as the special guest for the Press Conference exercise.

Assad, known as the Golden Captain after Maldives' success in the South Asian Football Federation Championship in 2008, stopped off at Kalaafaanu School on his way to training.

The 37-year-old national sports celebrity spent 15 minutes answering questions from the students about his career and his forthcoming retirement from international football. Wearing a Fun Run + Learn T-shirt, he was then asked to select the best two questions and presented the two lucky students with a souvenir gift



Honestly, dad, I asked for a S-sized T-shirt.



Ibrahim Ismail Ali and Ahmed Marzooq enjoy the calm.



Maldives AYR Winner Mohamed Dhaniyal Ageel.



Maldives Quiz winner Irash Hassan.



BHUTAN

Dates: February 22-23, 2013
Venue: Lungtenzampa Middle Secondary School, Thimphu.
YRP students: 51
YRP Winner: Lilly Yangchen, 14, Lungtenzampa Middle Secondary School.
Fun Learn students: 120
Fun Learn Winner: Sonam Choden, 16, Dechencholing Middle Secondary School.

LEARNING ABOUT ANTI-DOPING

For the first time during the Fun Learn session, students were given an anti-doping presentation conducted by Park Joo Hee, a member of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Education Committee and OCA Anti-Doping Commission.

The special guest at the Youth Reporter Project was Bhutan's London 2012 Olympic Games archer Sherab Zam, who attended the Press Conference with her coach, Tshering Choden, an Olympic archer in 2000 and 2004.

"It was really inspiring and exciting to meet her," said YRP winner Lilly Yangchen, 14. "She is a role model for everyone in Bhutan."



HRH Prince Jigyel Ugyen Wangchuck signs caps for lucky students.



Fun Learn winner Sonam Choden.



Bhutan AYR Winner Lilly Yangchen.



Bhutan Olympic Archer Sherab Zam (right).

BHUTAN PREPARES FOR A LONG CLIMB TO THE TOP

Looking up at the snow-capped peaks of Bhutan, beyond the rich green pine forests and winding mountain trails, the view is simply stunning.

But it requires a lot of effort and stamina to reach the top, and only the most ambitious and adventurous will stay the course.

This is where the Bhutan Olympic Committee stands right now: at the start of an arduous climb but determined to keep moving forward and plant their flag proudly at the summit.

“We have a very long journey ahead of us,” admits the BOC President, His Royal Highness Prince Jigyel Ugyen Wangchuck, the dashing young crown prince of Bhutan.

“If sport is to succeed in Bhutan we need all support from the government, the business sector, from all stakeholders, because the investment we make in sport is an investment in the future of our country. You put in the energy today and you see the dividends in 10-15 years.”

One big step in the right direction is the formation of a sports policy task force, led by HRH Prince Jigyel and comprised of the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Finance,

Ministry of Labour and Human Resources, Royal University of Bhutan, Bhutan Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the BOC.

The task force will produce a sports policy addressing both the hardware (sports infrastructure) and the software, meaning a value-based sports culture through a “sports in education” programme and also through the establishment of clubs and sports associations in the regions.

The OCA’s Olymposia Project has supported the BOC on three occasions for the construction of multi-sport halls in Gelephu, Gyalposhing and Trashigang districts, and - under a 20-year roadmap with a budget of US\$50 million - the BOC plans to build 27 multi-sport halls and five regional sports centres in the medium and long-term.

“In the short run, we will be looking at building a sports and recreation centre in Thimphu that will have indoor facilities for about six sports,” says BOC Secretary General Sonam Karma Tshering

“From our own experience with the newly installed astro turf football pitch, nothing generates more interest than world-class sporting infrastructure.”

Photo gallery



Bhutan NOC Secretary General Sonam Karma Tshering.



Bhutanese youngsters chase after the ball.



NOC PROFILE

Developing a comprehensive “sports in education” programme in the schools, however, remains crucial to the movement in Bhutan.

The benefits will be immense, as Sonam explains: “This would not only help us establish a broader base of athletes and create a larger selection pool, it would also provide the youth with a holistic academic experience and a love for sports.

“More importantly, we hope that, through sports, we will be able to inculcate in our youth the soft skills so essential in today’s world, such as values, discipline, respect, camaraderie, honour and, above all, happiness, thus making them better and healthier citizens. A value-based sporting culture is our ultimate vision.”

NOC: Bhutan Olympic Committee

Established: November 1983

Olympic Games debut: Los Angeles 1984

Asian Games debut: Seoul 1986

President: HRH Prince Jigyel Ugyen Wangchuck (since 2009)

Secretary General: Sonam Karma Tshering

Sports Federations: 15

Address: Changlingmethang National Stadium,
PO Box 939, Thimphu, Bhutan.

Telephone: +975-2-338064

Fax: +975-2-323937

Email: bhutannoc@gmail.com

Website: www.bhutanolympiccommittee.org



Volleyball with a view!



Bhutanese sport - reaching new heights.

AIMAG OFFERS ‘HOPE FOR THE FUTURE’

The stage is set for the first OCA Games of the year – and a new chapter in multi-sports events for the Olympic Movement in Asia.

From June 29 to July 6, Incheon Metropolitan City will host the 4th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games, a nine-sport, 100-event indoor extravaganza that combines the Asian Indoor Games and Asian Martial Arts Games for the first time.



The early indications are that the OCA's National Olympic Committees have welcomed the new-look AIMAG with open arms, as the number of athletes set to participate approaches 1,900.



The AIMAG fashion show at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

With nine venues to showcase a diverse range of sports, from the elegance and precision of dance sport to the intensity and aggression of kickboxing, the 4th AIMAG will not only serve as a high-profile test event for the 17th Asian Games in 2014 but also provide entertainment and top-level competition in its own right for the Korean public.

Certainly the workforce, staff and volunteers will stand out, as a fashion show on April 15 revealed the attractive designs of the sports and official uniforms. A total of 40,291 uniforms will be produced for 8,652 people by sponsor Cheil Industries, with the design concept “Hope for the Future”.

Another milestone on the road to the opening ceremony is the draw for team sports (kabaddi and futsal) and the Technical Delegates meeting on May 23.

MOUNTAIN VENUE FOR TORCH LIGHTING CEREMONY

The Torch Relay for the 4th AIMAG will start and finish on the same day: June 29 – date of the opening ceremony at the Samsan World Gymnasium.

The flame-lighting ceremony will be held from 10am to 10.30am at Chamseongdan Altar on Mount Manisan, Ganghwa Island, followed by an official event on a specially constructed stage on Mt Manisan from 11am to 11.20am.

The Torch Relay route is 50.8km, passing through 43 legs. Forty torch bearers will run a total distance of 7.3km, while vehicles will pass through the remaining three legs covering 43.5km.

The 40 torch bearers will include OCA and NOC representatives as well as local citizens and sponsors. Torch welcome events will be held at Noeuljong (Sunset Bell) in Jeongseojin and the Bupyeong-gu office district.

OCA PRESIDENT THANKS KOREAN GOVERNMENT FOR ASIAD SUPPORT

The OCA President, HE Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad Al Sabah, had some good news to report at the welcome dinner to celebrate the 6th OCA-IAGOC Coordination Committee meeting at Incheon on April 15.

Earlier in the day, Sheikh Ahmad had met with the President of Korea, Park Geun Hye, at the Blue House in Seoul to discuss the support of the central government for the 17th Asian Games at Incheon in 2014.



??????????????

"I had the honour to see the President of the Republic, Her Excellency Park Geun Hye, and she gave us her whole support," Sheikh Ahmad informed the guests during his official address.

"For that we give our gratitude and appreciation to the government of Korea for the support they are giving to the city of Incheon for the success of the Games."

Sheikh Ahmad said the 4th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games this June and the 17th Asian Games in September 2014 would display the unity and solidarity of the Asian continent.

"We are happy and proud to be here with you, not as guests but as partners, shoulder to shoulder, to work together," he added.

"I believe Incheon will deliver on their commitment to the movement, to the youth and to sport."

INCHEON'S TESTING TIMES

With IAGOC preparing to issue 100,000 accreditation cards for the 17th Asian Games in 2014, the magnitude of the event is clear to see.

When it comes to competition venues for the 36 sports, a total of 49 will be needed, including 23 new structures. Of these, two have been completed, 18 are under construction, including the 61,000-capacity Main Stadium, and three are in the design stage.

All venues are due to be completed by June 2014, some three months before the Games.

No wonder, then, that organisers are planning a host of test events over the next few months. These include the 2013 National Sports Festival, featuring 34 sports, at Incheon this October, and a sailing competition also this year.

No fewer than 16 sports will undergo test events in 2014, finetuning logistics and operations in readiness for the big day so that the 17th Asian Games run as smoothly as possible for athletes, officials and spectators alike.



VIRTUAL TORCH RELAY IGNITES CREATIVE FLAME

The wide-ranging social tools and high-tech creativity of today's youth will be reflected in the Torch Relay of the 2nd Asian Youth Games in Nanjing this August.

Although there will be a traditional torch relay in the build-up to the opening ceremony on August 16, this will be overshadowed by a virtual torch relay connecting all 45 countries and regions of the OCA in an innovative, on-line celebration.

The flame-lighting ceremony and start of the virtual torch relay took place in Nanjing on Wednesday, May 8. With AYG mascot Yuanyuan as the torchbearer, the virtual torch relay will take in 238 locations - cities and scenic spots - around Asia, China and Nanjing and feature inter-active games in 12 languages.

The virtual torch relay can be accessed on line via mobile



phones, PCs and tablets, and will connect the youth of Asia through social media over a 90-day period.

The traditional torch relay will involve 800 runners and follow two 5km routes - on top of the Ming Dynasty city wall and the culture and education route passing Zhonghua Middle School, Jinling Library and Nanjing Greenery Expo Park where NAYGOC is located.

The traditional and virtual torch relays will combine at the opening ceremony when the cauldron is lit in the stadium and a "virtual cauldron" lights up on screens around the city.



OCA Vice President Hemasiri Fernando.



Two AYG torch relay uniform models at the torch design launch.

AYG ATTRACTS BIG NUMBERS

The Asian Youth Games is proving to be wildly popular for the Olympic Council of Asia in only its second edition - almost too popular judging by the number of entries.

Members of the OCA Coordination Committee in Nanjing on April 17 heard that 33 NOCs had entered 2,735 athletes - 1,771 male and 964 female - for the 15 sports. The final deadline for Entry by Name for the 45 NOCs is June 25.

Team sports are proving to be particularly popular, meaning that football will start on August 13, three days before the opening ceremony and two days earlier than planned, and handball on August 14, three days earlier than the original competition schedule.

The men's football competition attracted 32 teams at the start of registration, but this has been reduced to a more manageable 18, possibly 20 teams. There are now four football pitches at the disposal of organisers instead of two, and two of the pitches have floodlights to allow evening kick-offs and avoid the 35-40C daytime temperatures.

With the overall capacity of the Athletes' Village set at 3,500, there is a contingency for the football delegations to be accommodated in hotels near the stadiums to reduce travel time and ease possible over-booking at the village for athletes and officials.

The draw for team sports and Technical Delegates meeting will be held on June 26.



Afghanistan

A women's taekwondo competition was held at the NOC Gymnasium in Kabul, Bakhtar News reports. An NOC spokesman said 30 athletes from Kabul city clubs took part. In other news, a two-day women's table tennis competition took place in Mazar-e-Sharif involving 19 players from Kabul, Jawzjan, Samangan and Balkh provinces. The top 10 players were chosen for the national team.



Bahrain

Bahrain Olympic Committee Chief Executive Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa has vowed to support gymnastics in the Kingdom due to its popularity in the Olympic Games and believes the Education Ministry can play a crucial role in discovering young talent in schools.



Shaikh Khalid met with the Board of Directors of the Bahrain Gymnastics Association, headed by Dr Khaled Ismail Al Alawi, in the presence of BOC General Secretary Shaikh Ahmed bin Hamad Al Khalifa.



Bangladesh



Bhutan

The 8th Bangladesh Games were opened in style at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on April 20 by Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The event brought together 7,875 athletes from 31 disciplines competing for 699 gold medals, 699 silver and 845 bronze medals in 346 events at 27 venues all over Bangladesh from April 21-28. (www.nocban.com)

HRH Prince Jigyel Ugyen Wangchuck, representative of His Majesty and President of the Bhutan Olympic Committee, was Chief Guest at the 56th National Shooting Championship in Hyderabad, India. HRH also competed in one of the disciplines.



"Shooting has great potential in Bhutan," he said. "We feel that this will be the first stepping stone to a greater and longer relationship between the National Rifle Association of India and the Bhutan Shooting Federation. I hope shooting becomes an important sport for Bhutan, too."

(www.bhutanolympiccommittee.org)



Brunei Darussalam

HRH Prince Hj Sufri Bolkiah, President of the NOC, has been elected the new president of the National Football Association of Brunei Darussalam. Brunei's governing body for football held the 5th Extraordinary Congress to reelect its Executive Committee through to 2015 at the NFABD House in Berakas on March 9. (www.bruneiolympic.org)



News and Sport from 45 NOCs



Cambodia

The National Sport Complex Morodork Techo Construction was inaugurated on April 12 under the Presidency of Hun Sen, the Prime Minister. It will cost 39 million USD and take nine years to complete. Located in Sangkat Backheng, Khan Reuseikeo, Phnom Penh, the new stadium will be the focal point of the 2023 SEA Games.

NOC President Dr Thong Khon, the Minister of Tourism, said the building of the new stadium reflected the prosperity of the kingdom and the development of sport. (www.noccambodia.org)



China

The Chinese Olympic Committee announced on April 27 a four-year agreement with Shuhua (China) Co. Ltd., a manufacturer of fitness equipment based in south China's Jinjiang, Fujian Province. Through the agreement, Shuhua (China) Co. Ltd. has become the official fitness equipment supplier for the COC in the period 2013-2016.

(www.olympic.cn)



DPR Korea

The IAAF-26th Mangyongdae Prize Marathon was held in the capital Pyongyang on Sunday, April 14 as part of the celebrations to mark the Day of the Sun (April 15) - the anniversary of the birth of the late President Kim Il Sung. Around 600 local runners were joined by athletes from 16 countries in the marathon, half-marathon and 10km race for juniors. Football, basketball, volleyball, table tennis, badminton, shooting and cycling events were also held to celebrate the Day of the Sun.

(www.kcna.kp)



Hong Kong, China

The Cheque Presentation Ceremony of the London 2012 Olympic Games was held at Olympic House, Causeway Bay, on March 23 and attended by a special guest – Lord Sebastian Coe, Chairman of the British Olympic Association.



IOC member, OCA Vice President and NOC President Timothy Fok presented a cheque for 200,000 HKD to bronze medal-winning cyclist Sarah Lee Wai Sze. (www.hkolympic.org)



India

Sports Minister Jitendra Singh believes the stand-off between the government and the Indian Olympic Association over the contentious Sports Code is nearing resolution, reports the Times of India. Talking to reporters after a meeting with IOC member Randhir Singh, the sports minister said he was confident of the country returning to the Olympic movement soon. A meeting with the IOC was scheduled for May 15.



Indonesia



Indonesian Olympic Committee President and OCA Executive Board member Mrs Rita Subowo presented a cheque for US\$50,000 to the Indonesian Badminton Federation on Friday, February 22. The funding was provided by Olympic Solidarity to identify and assist the development of talented junior badminton players that will represent Indonesia in the 2014 Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing, China. Ten players - five boys and five girls - are being supported. (www.olympic.or.id)



Iran



The first Asian Weightlifting Federation Anti-Doping Symposium commenced on March 6 at Kish Island, Iran, in the presence of Iran's Sports and Youth Minister, Dr Abbasi, and in association with the IWF, Iran NADO and Iran National Olympic Committee. AWF General Secretary Ali Moradi thanked the organising committee for all their efforts. (www.olympic.ir)



Iraq

The President of the Iraqi Olympic Committee, Raad Hamoudi, formed a special committee to consider 78 appeals following elections of Olympic and non-Olympic national sports federations in March, reports All of Iraq News Agency (AIN) in Baghdad.



Japan



Japanese skiing legend Kenji Ogiwara carried the Tokyo 2020 bid message of "athlete first" to the top of the Sochi 2014 Winter Olympic Games ski jump ramp while serving as a member of the Tokyo 2020 delegation at the AIPS Congress. Ogiwara was a Nordic combined champion in the team competition at the Albertville 1992 and Lillehammer 1994 Games. (www.joc.or.jp)



Jordan

Fourteen coaches from National Sports Federations completed the second level of the National Coaching Certificate organised by the Jordan Olympic Committee. The six-day course taught Education and Training, Making Moral Decisions and Basic Mental Skills and was held at the Royal Chess Federation building. (www.joc.jo)



Kazakhstan

ALBA President Wu Ching-kuo of Chinese Taipei has been decorated with the Republic of Kazakhstan's Star of the Order "Dostyk" in recognition of his contribution to the development of the Olympic Movement.

The presentation was made by the Kazakh Prime Minister, Serik Akhmetov, on behalf of President Nursultan Nazarbayev. (www.olympic.kz)



Korea

The Korean Olympic Committee informed the OCA that Dr Kim Jung Haeng was elected President of the KOC by the General Assembly on February 22. He replaces Park Yong Sung, who was appointed Honorary President by the General Assembly after serving as KOC President for the previous four years.



Kuwait

The men's national squash team took part in the five-day Asian Squash Championships in Islamabad, where Kuwaiti fourth seed and world No. 36 Abdullah Al-Mezayyin received the 2012 Outstanding Asian Player award, reports the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA). Nine countries and regions took part: Kuwait, China, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Sri Lanka and host country Pakistan.

(www.kuwaitolympic.com)



Kyrgyzstan

Kyrgyzstan took part in the 7th International "Toshkent Open" Chess Tournament in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, dedicated to the memory of the first Uzbek grandmaster Georgiy Agzamov, reports the Uzbekistan National News Agency.

More than 100 players competed from USA, England, Spain, Germany, Brunei, Azerbaijan, Russia, Ukraine, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, as well as the host country.



Laos

The NOC held its General Assembly in Vientiane on April 5 and made a special presentation to the outgoing Secretary-General and Executive Board.



Lebanon

The Lebanese Olympic Committee announced on Tuesday, March 5 that Lebanon will participate in the Olympic Winter Games at Sochi from February 7-23, 2014, reports the National News Agency, Ministry of Information, Lebanese Republic.



Macau

A delegation from the 2nd Asian Youth Games in Nanjing, China, this August visited Macau in February on an East Asian promotional swing. After a meeting at Macau Stadium with Macau NOC President Charles Lo and other leading sports officials, the two sides left for the Four Seasons Hotel and the opening ceremony of the Nanjing-Macau Culture Creative Industry Exchange Meeting.

(www.macauolympic.org)

News and Sport from 45 NOCs



Malaysia

The second meeting of the organising committee of the 127th IOC Session 2015 was held on April 19 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre. The committee discussed the draft Terms of Reference of the six sub-committees formed and also appointed their chairpersons. After the meeting the members had a brief tour of the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, venue of the 127th IOC Session.

(www.olympic.org.my)



Maldives



Maldives Olympic Committee held its 2013 General Assembly on March 30 at the Traders Hotel with the participation of 17 out of 19 member associations. Members from the Sports Council and Ministry of Home Affairs were also invited. The General Assembly began with the Recitation of Noble Quran followed by the Chef De Mission Awards to the Maldives delegation leaders in 2012. (www.nocmaldives.org)



Mongolia

Leaders of the Asian Canoe Confederation paid a courtesy call to Mongolia NOC during their visit to Ulaanbaatar at the invitation of their counterparts in Mongolia. Mr Narita (Japan) and Mr A Glamsiah (Iran), accompanied by Mr D Jiyandorj, President of the Mongolian Canoe Federation, were welcomed by Mr Jugder Oto, NOC Secretary-General, and discussed future cooperation. The Olympic sport of canoeing began developing in Mongolia in 1999 and Mongolia has competed in three Asian Games. (www.olympic.mn)



Myanmar

The first batch of 11 Myanmar athletes left Yangon on April 17 to undergo three months of intensive training in China to prepare for the 27th SEA Games in Myanmar this December, reports Xinhua News Agency. Ten batches of 176 athletes, officials and team leaders will undergo joint-training in China from April to October at Wuhan, Changsha and Kunming.



Nepal



The Director of the OCA's Asian Games Department, Haider Farman, visited Nepal on March 28 to check on the progress of the Olympaisa Project – new NOC offices at Satdobato, Lalitpur. (www.nocnepal.org)



Oman

Former Oman Tennis Association Chairman Khalid Al Zubair is the new Chairman of the Oman Olympic Committee, reports the Times of Oman. In the Olympic body's first democratic elections on April 25, Al Zubair came out on top against Vice Chairman Habib Macki and Oman Football Association chief Sayyid Khalid Al Busaidi.



Elected to the OOC Board were: Khalid Al Zubair (Chairman), Saif Al Hosni (Vice Chairman), Taha Al Kishry (Secretary General) and Mutasim Al Zadjali (Treasurer). Elected as board members were: Sheikh Badr Al Rawas, Sheikh Mahfoodh Al Juma, Dr. Said Al Shuhri, Saada Al Ismaili, Jihad Al Shaikh and Habib Macki.



Pakistan

Lt Gen (retired) Syed Arif Hasan, President of the Pakistan Olympic Association, and the entire Olympic family of Pakistan is deeply shocked and aggrieved to hear of the sudden and sad demise of Mr. Zakir Hussain Syed, former Director General of the Pakistan Sports Board. His contributions towards sports will always be remembered with high esteem. (www.nocpakistan.org)



Palestine

Palestine suffered a 2-0 defeat to Qatar in an international football friendly at the Jassim bin Hamad Stadium - home of Al Sadd SC in Doha - on Wednesday, April 17. The match was part of Qatar's preparations for the 2014 FIFA World Cup qualifier against Iran. (www.olympic.qa)



Philippines



Sportsman Frank Elizalde received a plaque of recognition for his outstanding performance as the IOC representative to the Philippines for 27 years. In other news, the POC Election Committee received commendation for their exemplary handling of the new set of POC officers for 2013-2016. (www.olympic.ph)



Qatar



A senior delegation from the Qatar Olympic Committee, chaired by His Excellency Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, the Secretary General, arrived in Bulgaria on Sunday, April 28 for an official two-day visit at the invitation of Bulgaria's Ministry of Physical Education and Sport. (www.olympic.qa)



Saudi Arabia

Prince Miteb bin Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, Minister of State, Cabinet member and Commander of the National Guard, inaugurated the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques Festival For Show Jumping, the Saudi Press Agency reports.

Upon arrival at the Noufa resort, the Prince was received by Prince Turki bin Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, Vice Governor of Riyadh region; Prince Nawaf bin Faisal bin Fahd bin Abdulaziz, General President of Youth Welfare and President of the Saudi Equestrian Federation; and Prince Abdullah bin Fahd bin Abdullah, Vice President of the Saudi Equestrian Federation. (www.saudiolympic.org.sa)



Singapore

The NOC held the second edition of the Singapore Youth Olympic Festival from March 16-23, bringing together 1,230 young athletes in six sports - basketball 3x3, badminton, indoor football, taekwondo, sailing and shooting - to celebrate the YOG in 2010.



More than 800 students and guests attended the opening ceremony, including guest of honour Ng Ser Miang, President of the Singapore Olympic Foundation, IOC Vice President and OCA Executive Board member. (www.singaporeolympics.com)



Sri Lanka

The Chef de Mission for the 4th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games in Incheon, Korea, is Brig. Franklin Rodrigo. Sri Lanka will take part in Chess, e-Sports and Short Course Swimming (25m).

The Chef de Mission for the 2nd Asian Youth Games in Nanjing, China, is Mrs Olivia Gamage. Sri Lanka will take part in Athletics, Aquatics - Swimming, Rugby, Shooting, Table Tennis and Weightlifting.

(www.srilankaolympic.org)

News and Sport from 45 NOCs



Syria

The International Sports Press Association (AIPS) ended the suspension of Syria at the 76th AIPS Congress in Sochi, Russia, in April, reports the Syrian Arab News Agency. The head of the Arab Sports Press Association, Muhammad Jamil Abdulkader, congratulated Syria and said it was an important move for the Arab sports media.



Chinese Taipei

Chinese Taipei Olympic Committee's Athletes Commission, in cooperation with the IOC Athlete Career Programme, held the first Chinese Taipei Athletes Career Guidance Workshop at the National Taiwan Normal University on April 21.



The lecturers were Mr Patrick Glennon, IOC ACP representative and Senior Vice President of Adecco, and Dr Chih-Ying Yu, Professor of the Sports and Physical Education Department of NTNU. The workshop was attended by 175 students. (www.tpenoc.net)



Tajikistan

Tajik sambo wrestlers earned two medals at the Anatoly Kharlampiyev Memorial Tournament in Moscow, reports the Asia-Plus media group from Dushanbe. Mahmadasoul Mahmadasoulov won the silver medal in the -90kg category and Khoushqadam Khusravov took bronze in the -57kg category. Wrestlers from 26 countries took part in the World Cup circuit event.



Thailand

Teenage badminton player Ratchanok Intanon has set a new target of reaching the top three in the world by the end of the year following her victory at the Indian Open on Sunday, April 28, reports the Bangkok Post. The 18-year-old world No. 6 and London Olympics quarter-finalist beat Germany's Juliane Schenk in the Delhi final to claim her first title of the year and her maiden Super Series win.



Timor-Leste

Chaired by its President, IOC member Julio César Maglione, the International Swimming Federation (FINA) Bureau met on February 22-23 in Barcelona, Spain, and registered Timor-Leste as FINA's 203rd member federation.



Turkmenistan

An international boxing coaching seminar organised jointly by the NOC and the National Boxing Federation under the IOC Olympic Solidarity Programme was held in April. The aim of the seminar was to promote boxing in Turkmenistan and develop professional skills of Turkmen boxing coaches. (www.turkmenistan.gov.tm)



United Arab Emirates

Under the patronage of HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of Dubai Sports Council, Fazza 5th International Athletics Tournament was launched at Dubai Police Officers Club on March 23. The event was organised by the Dubai Club for Special Sports in cooperation with Fazza Tournaments Office, the General Authority of Youth and Sports and Dubai Sports Council with the participation of more than 450 athletes from 32 countries. (www.uaenoc.net)



Uzbekistan



The 4th IWF Youth World Championships were held at the sports complex "Uzbekiston" in Tashkent and organised by the International Weightlifting Federation, Asian Weightlifting Federation, Ministry of Culture and Sports, NOC and Weightlifting Federation.

Athletes from nearly 70 countries competed for places in the 2nd Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing, China, in 2014. Boys battled for 25 places and girls for 22, reports the Uzbekistan National News Agency.



Vietnam

The Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Football Federation has named Vietnam's Dang Thi Kieu Trinh as women's goalkeeper of the year and Vietnam as national women's team of the year, reports VnnNews.net.



Yemen

His Excellency Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, Secretary General of the Qatar Olympic Committee, met with H.E. Muamar Al Iriani, Yemen's Youth and Sports Minister, at the QOC Headquarters on Thursday, April 4. Talks focused on ways of expanding sports cooperation, training and exchange between the two nations. (www.olympic.qa)

Prof. Ming-Hsin Tang, CTOC pioneer



The Chinese Taipei Olympic Committee announced the loss of Prof. Ming-Hsin Tang, a former Secretary General of the CTOC, who passed away on March 17 due to heart failure at his Los Angeles home.

Born in 1928, Prof. Tang had a distinguished career as a sports administrator and was a pioneer in Olympism education, with numerous publications on Olympic history and the Olympic Movement.

He initiated the first session of the Chinese Taipei Olympic Academy in 1978 and the publication of the Olympic Quarterly in the 1980s. He was a Director, Deputy Secretary General, Secretary General (1998-2000), then Commission Chairman (2000-2013) of the CTOC during his 40 years' service in the NOC.

He was awarded the Olympic Order by former IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch in 1993 for his immense contribution to the Olympic family.

Hossein Torkaman



The Asia branch of the World Association of Kickboxing Organisations reported on the demise of Hossein Torkaman, a member of the WAKO Asia Technical Committee and head coach of WAKO Iran. He passed away on March 1 after a short illness, aged 54.

Hossein's last major task, despite fighting his illness, was to coordinate the WAKO Iran team training camp for the 2012 WAKO Asian Championships in Pune, India.

Nasser Nassiri, President of the WAKO Asian Kickboxing Federation and President of WAKO Iran, declared: "Hossein was my friend, my partner in WAKO Iran for more than 18 years. He left us with great memories."

Pedro Ramírez Vázquez



IOC Honorary Member Pedro Ramírez Vázquez passed away on April 16 at the age of 94. An IOC member from 1972 to 1995, then an honorary member, he sat on various IOC commissions.

Ramírez Vázquez was a Vice President then President of the Organising Committee for the Games of the XIX Olympiad in Mexico City in 1968 and President of the Mexican National Olympic Committee from 1972 to 1974.

Chen Zhaodi



Chen Zhaodi, a renowned Chinese volleyball player and coach, has died from cancer at the age of 58.

FIVB Honorary Life President Wei Jizhong paid tribute to her, saying: "She was an excellent player and a Chinese hero who dedicated all her energies throughout her life to Chinese volleyball development."

Due to her outstanding contribution to the sport, Chen was awarded the national sports medal of honour twice – and is the only Chinese sports figure to have been promoted to the military rank of major general.

Dr Sivanthi Adityan



The Hon. Life President of the Indian Olympic Association and former OCA Vice President passed away at the age of 76 on April 19 in Chennai.

Dr Adityan was Honorary Executive Vice President of the International Volleyball Federation (FIVB). He received the IOC Olympic Order of Merit in 1995 and OCA Merit Award in 2010.

Eddy Choong Ewe Beng



The Olympic Council of Malaysia announced the passing of badminton legend Eddy Choong Ewe Beng, who died peacefully on February 28. He was inducted into the OCM Hall of Fame in 1995 and the Badminton Hall of Fame in 1997 by the International Badminton Federation.

Datuk Eddy Choong won the men's singles title at the All England Open Badminton Championships four times between 1953 and 1957 when it was considered the unofficial world championship. He also won the men's doubles crown with his brother, the late David Choong, in 1951, 1952 and 1953.

Olympic Sports Diary


2013


 Lausanne, Swaziland: June 14
ASOIF/ANOC Executive Council Meeting


 Lausanne, Swaziland: June 14
58th ANOC Executive Council Meeting

 Lausanne, Swaziland: June 15 – 16
ANOC Extraordinary General Assembly

 Incheon, Korea: June 29
63rd OCA Executive Board Meeting

 Incheon, Korea: June 29 – July 6
4th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games

 Bangkok, Thailand: July 9 – 23
Asian Youth Camp

 Hanoi, Vietnam: July 13 – 14
Asian Games Fun Run + Learn & Youth Reporter

 Nanjing, China: August 16 – 24
2nd Asian Youth Games

 Buenos Aires, Argentina: September 7 – 10
125th IOC Session

 Tianjin, China: October 6 – 15
6th East Asian Games

 Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar: December 11 – 22
27th South East Asian Games

 Boracay, Philippines: December
Asian Games Centennial Festival

 Boracay, Philippines: December
32nd OCA General Assembly

2014

 Sochi, Russian Federation: February 7 – 23
XXII Olympic Winter Games

 Nanjing, China: August 16 – 28
II Youth Olympic Games

 Incheon, Korea: September 19 – October 4
17th Asian Games

 Phuket, Thailand: November 14 – 21
4th Asian Beach Games

2016


 Lillehammer, Norway: February 26 – March 6
II Winter Youth Olympic Games

 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: August 5 – 21
XXXI Olympic Summer Games

 Nha Trang, Vietnam (dates to be confirmed)
5th Asian Beach Games

2017

 Sapporo, Japan (dates to be confirmed)
8th Asian Winter Games


 Ashgabat, Turkmenistan (dates to be confirmed)
5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games

 Hambantota, Sri Lanka (dates to be confirmed)
3rd Asian Youth Games

2018

 PyeongChang, Korea: February 9 – 25
XXIII Olympic Winter Games

2019

 Vietnam (dates to be confirmed)
18th Asian Games

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