



# SPORTING ASIA

Official Newsletter of the Olympic Council of Asia

Edition 64 - March 2024

## HELLO HARBIN! MASCOTS, EMBLEM, SLOGAN FOR AWG

OCA Games Updates  
Asia's first Winter YOG  
OCA General Assembly  
OCA Sports Diary



冰雪同梦 亚洲同心  
*Dream of Winter, Love among Asia*



HARBIN 2025  
ASIAN WINTER GAMES



OLYMPIC COUNCIL OF ASIA

# Contents

Inside Sporting Asia Edition 64 – March 2024

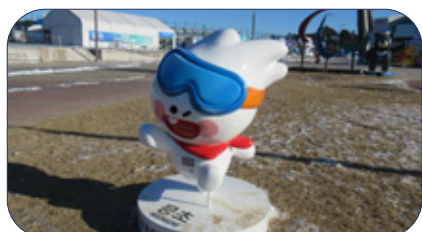
15



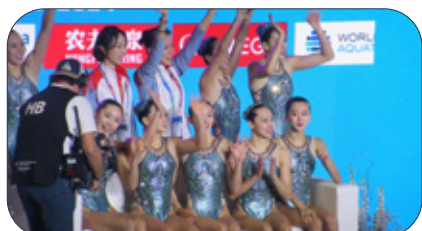
22



25



41



54



- 3 OCA Acting President's Message
- 4 – 14 NOC News in Pictures from the five zones of OCA
- 15 – 21 OCA Coordination Committee meetings for 9th Asian Winter Games, Harbin 2025
- 16 – 17 Launch of mascots, slogan and emblem
- 20 – 21 Special Interview, with Indian luge legend Shiva Keshavan
- 22 – 24 OCA Coordination Committee visits Nagoya for 2026 Asian Games
- 25 – 40 Winter Youth Olympic Games, Gangwon 2024
  - 25 Introduction
  - 26 – 27 General Overview
  - 28 Asian NOCs participation
  - 29 Medals Table
  - 30 Thailand's Silver Sensation
  - 31 – 34 Photo Gallery: Asian NOCs at the Winter YOG
  - 35 – 37 Gangwon 2024 News Desk
  - 38 – 39 Asian Roll of Honour: Gold, Silver Bronze
  - 40 Behind the Scenes of Gangwon 2024
- 41 – 48 21st World Aquatics Championships - Doha 2024
  - 49 Inside the OCA
- 50 – 53 AIMAG 6 meetings, visits
- 54 – 59 Women in Sport
  - 54 – 55 International Women's Day
- 60 – 61 Obituary
- 62 – 63 News in Brief
- 64 OCA Sports Diary

## OCA Sponsors' Club



## SPORTING ASIA

Sporting Asia is the official newsletter of the Olympic Council of Asia, published quarterly.

Raja Randhir **SINGH**  
OCA Acting President

Husain **AL-MUSALLAM**  
Director General & Technical Director  
husain@ocasia.org

Vinod Kumar **TIWARI**  
Deputy Director General  
vinod@ocasia.org

Waleed **MUBARAK**  
Director, IT Department  
waleed@ocasia.org

Nayaf **SRAJ**  
Financial Officer  
nayaf@ocasia.org

Jians **ZHOU** Jian  
Director, Media and Broadcast  
jians@ocasia.org

Wissam **TRKMANI**  
Projects & Operations Manager  
wissam@ocasia.org

Sabine **FAKHOURY**  
Gender Equity & Safeguarding Manager  
sabine@ocasia.org

Jeremy **WALKER**  
Sporting Asia Editor  
jeremy@ocasia.org

Alvin **SALLAY**  
Correspondent  
alvin@ocasia.org

**Olympic Council of Asia (OCA)**  
PO Box 6706, Hawalli  
Zip Code 32042, Kuwait

Tel.: +965 22274277 - 88  
Fax: +965 22274280 - 90  
Email: info@ocasia.org  
Website: www.oca.asia

### Front Cover:

Siberian tiger cubs Binbin and Nini were introduced as the mascots for the 9th Asian Winter Games in Harbin, China in February 2025 during the first OCA Coordination Committee meeting on January 11. (HAWGOC)



## NEW SPORTING ASIA SETS THE SCENE FOR OCA GAMES

**W**elcome to the first Sporting Asia of 2024, and the 16th season of our quarterly newsletter since its launch in 2009.

Our busy calendar of multi-sports games, meetings and conferences is reflected in this 64-page edition for March 2024.

There are reports and photos from OCA Coordination Committee meetings in Bangkok, Harbin and Nagoya as we count down to the 6th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games in Thailand this November, the 9th Asian Winter Games in 2025 and the 20th Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya in 2026.

We also celebrate the grand success of the first Winter Youth Olympic Games to be held in Asia – the fourth edition at Gangwon, Korea.

The Koreans put on a great show, and also demonstrated legacy and sustainability by using many of the venues that staged the Olympic Winter Games in PyeongChang in 2018.

With the Paris Olympics due to start at the end of July, Sporting Asia also looks at leading medal prospects in swimming, diving and artistic swimming with extensive coverage of the 21st World Aquatics Championships Doha 2024 – the first world championships to be held in the Middle East.

Inside the OCA provides dates and details on the popular regional forums held in cooperation with Olympic Solidarity, and the General Assembly to be held this year in Bangkok.

Our Women in Sport section jumps to six pages, including two pages dedicated to events and activities around International Women's Day on March 8.

Sadly, our Obituary section pays tribute to the very popular Charles Lo, OCA Media Committee Chair and President of the Sports and Olympic Committee of Macau, China. Charles will be missed around the OCA circuit and we send our deepest condolences to his family, friends and the entire Olympic sports movement in Macau.

With all the regular features, such as 11 pages of NOC News in Pictures from the five zones, News in Brief and OCA Sports Diary, Sporting Asia – March 2024 is packed with news and information.

**Raja Randhir Singh**  
Acting President,  
Olympic Council of Asia

# NOC News in Pictures

## West Asia

OMAN Olympic Committee's Board of Directors held its first meeting of the year under the chairmanship of Khalid bin Muhammad Al-Zubair.

The meeting heard that Oman will compete in five major international events this year, including the Paris Olympics and the 6th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games in Bangkok and Chonburi province in November. (ooc.om)



LEBANON was represented by five athletes at the Winter Youth Olympic Games Gangwon 2024 in Korea – two in alpine skiing and three in cross-country. The athletes, coaches and officials were full of gratitude for the support of the Lebanese Olympic Committee under the President, Pierre Jalkh.

SYRIA'S table tennis prodigy Hend Zaza, who competed at the Tokyo Olympic Games aged 12 and is now 15, won the WTT Youth Contender under-15 title in Doha and also finished runner-up in the under-17 event, reports the Syrian Arab News Agency.



QATAR Olympic Committee President HE Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani met with Mr. Spyros Capralos, President of the European Olympic Committees and President of the Hellenic Olympic Committee, on the sidelines of the World Aquatics Championships - Doha 2024 to discuss sports cooperation and the latest developments in the Olympic movement. (QOC)



PALESTINE Olympic Committee President Maj. Gen. Jibril Rajoub met with the French Consul General, Mr. Nicolas Kassianides, in Ramallah to discuss sports cooperation and preparations for the Olympic Games in Paris this summer. The guests were treated to a presentation by karate and taekwondo athletes.



JORDAN Olympic Committee President HRH Prince Feisal Al Hussein met with his Qatari counterpart, HE Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani, on the sidelines of the World Aquatics Championships in Doha. The pair discussed joint sports cooperation and mutual support. (JOC)



YEMEN Olympic Committee's Board of Directors held a meeting on February 7 and approved the budget and activities plan for 2024. The election for the Athletes' Commission was also discussed. The YOC secretariat put forward a proposal to hold the first National Games in order to promote the Olympic movement and unearth new talent.



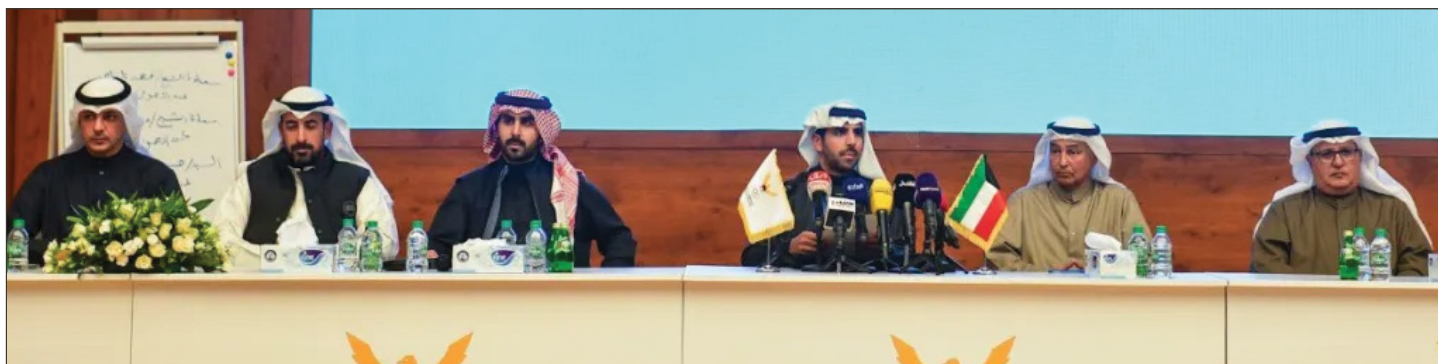
SAUDI Olympic and Paralympic Committee President HRH Prince Abdulaziz bin Turki Al Faisal Al Saud signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the President of the French National Olympic Sports Committee, Mr. David Lappartient, aimed at fostering a mutual relationship. The Vice President of the SOPC, HH Prince Fahad bin Jalawi Al Saud, and SOPC Secretary General Mr. Abdulaziz Baeshen also attended the signing ceremony. (<https://olympic.sa>)



IRAQ NOC President Dr Aqeel Muftin Khafif said the hosting of World Archery's Baghdad 2024 Asia Cup Leg 1 in February represented a new beginning for the Olympic movement in the country, and that the target was for Iraq to win an Olympic medal in the sport.



UNITED Arab Emirates NOC's Board of Directors welcomed the President of the Albanian National Olympic Committee, Mr. Fidel Ylli, to Dubai to discuss bilateral cooperation in support of the Olympic movement for the benefit of all stakeholders. The Board conveyed the greetings of His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Second Deputy Ruler of Dubai, President of the UAE NOC, to the visiting guest. (<https://www.uaenoc.ae>)



KUWAIT Olympic Committee held an Extraordinary General Assembly at the KOC HQ in Jaber Al Ahmad City on December 3, 2023 and elected the Board of Directors for 2023-2027: President, HE Sheikh Fahad Nasser Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah; Vice President, HE Sheikh Mubarak Faisal Nawaf Al Sabah; Secretary General, Mr. Husain Al Musallam; Members, HE Sheikh Jaber Thamer Al Sabah, Mr. Ali Jaber Al Marri, Mr. Gazi Al Juraiwi, Mr. Ali Nader Al Dabouss, Mr. Musaed Adnan Alajeel, Mr. Nael Al Awadhi, Ms. Fatema Hayat.

BAHRAIN Olympic Committee President His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa received the national Paralympic teams following their success in winning 36 medals (10 gold, seven silver and 19 bronze) at the 4th West Asian Para Games, held in Sharjah, UAE. HH Shaikh Khalid emphasised that Bahrainis consistently overcome challenges to create inspiring success stories and achievements to raise the kingdom's status.





TURKMENISTAN sent three representatives to a seminar for international referees and technical officials in the popular Asian Games sport of kabaddi in Tehran, Turkmenistan Golden Age reports. Over 80 kabaddi officials from 16 countries attended the three-day course held under the auspices of the International Kabaddi Federation, Asian Kabaddi Federation and the Kabaddi Federation of Iran. (turkmenistan.gov.tm)



AFGHANISTAN'S IOC Member Samira Asghari was invited to take part in a panel discussion hosted by Human Rights Watch in Los Angeles on February 25 to coincide with the LA Film Club's screening of "We Dare to Dream." Samira posted: "Hoping for a day when all deserving people get their rightful rights by breaking the darkness of cruelty." The movie focuses on the Refugee Olympic Team at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.



TAJIKISTAN President Hon. Emomali Rahmon, who is also President of the NOC, met with the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, during a one-day visit to Doha on February 17. President Rahmon congratulated Sheikh Tamim on Qatar's victory in the AFC Asian Cup and thanked the Emir for the warm hospitality afforded to the Tajikistan national football team during their time in Qatar.

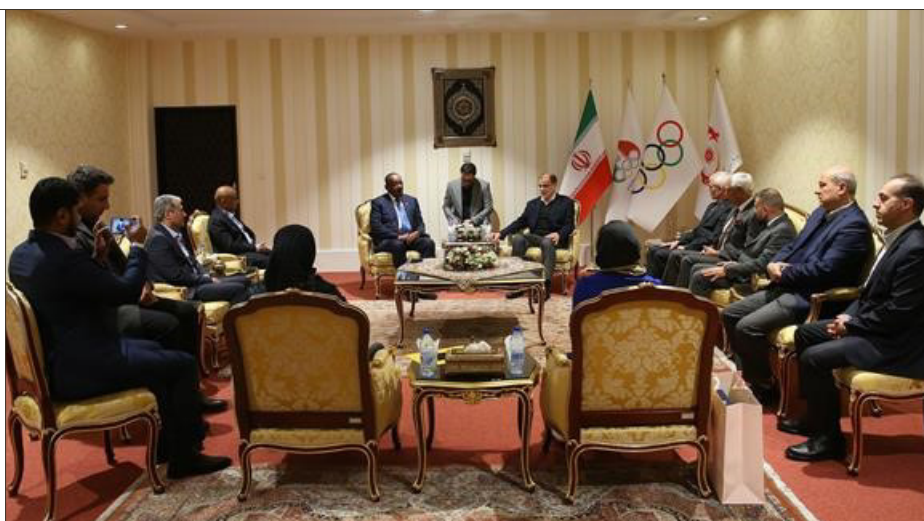


KYRGYZSTAN NOC reports that four athletes have received Olympic Solidarity scholarships of USD750 per month to prepare for the Milano Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics in Italy. They are: Arthur Saparbekov, Nadim Mukhtarov, Albina Ivanova and Eldar Kadyrov. Kyrgyzstan received two athlete scholarships for the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics.



UZBEKISTAN held the National Sports Awards for 2023 at the Renaissance Hall in Tashkent. The event was attended by the head of the department of the presidential administration, Mr. Odil Abdurakhmanov, Minister of Youth Policy and Sports Mr. Adham Ikramov, OCA Vice President Mr. Otabek Umarov and Mr. Oybek Kasimov of Uzbekistan NOC. Takhmina Ikramova (rhythmic gymnastics) and Abdumalik Khalikov (boxing) were named female and male athlete of the year, respectively.

IRAN NOC President Mahmoud Khosravi Vafa welcomed the President of the Asian Athletics Association, Gen. Dahlan Jaman B. Al-Hamad of Qatar, on the sidelines of the Asian Indoor Athletics Championship in Tehran. The Iran NOC President stated that sports competitions promoted peace and brotherhood.



KAZAKHSTAN Olympic Committee announced that legendary boxer Gennadiy Golovkin was elected President of the NOC on February 26, 2024. Golovkin succeeds Timur Kulibayev.

"As you know, I am neither a politician nor an official. I have learned to prove my actions with actions, not words. I believe that one of the most important tasks before us is the regulation of international relations," Golovkin said.

(Photo: NOC Kazakhstan)



BANGLADESH Olympic Association disbursed cash rewards worth Tk 15 lakh each to Bangladesh men's and women's cricket teams for winning bronze medals in the Hangzhou Asian Games. BOA President and Army Chief General SM Shafiuddin Ahmed handed over the cheques to both teams at Army Headquarters, where BOA Secretary General Syed Shahed Reza was also present. (The Daily Star)



BHUTAN Olympic Committee President His Royal Highness Prince Jigyel Ugyen Wangchuck inaugurated the Gelephu International Cricket Ground on February 17. Among the guests present at the ceremony were Mr. Imran Khawja, Deputy Chairman of the International Cricket Council, Mr. William Glenwright, Head of Global Development of ICC, Aminul Islam, Development Manager of ICC, Mr. Niteen Yoela, Deputy Ambassador of the Indian Embassy, and Ms. Andrea James, Country Representative of Unicef Bhutan



PAKISTAN Olympic Association President Lt. Gen. (ret) Syed Arif Hasan stepped down from his post on December 28, 2023 and has been replaced by Syed Muhammad Abid Qadri Gillani, Chair of the Pakistan Handball Association. He was elected by the POA Executive Committee with 23 votes out of 25 at a meeting held on December 31. Syed Hasan had been in the post of POA President for 19 years. (Photo: thenews.com)



MALDIVES Olympic Committee President Mohamed Abdul Sattar has secured re-election for his second term as the 2nd Vice President for the Organizing Committee of the Indian Ocean Island Games (CIJ).

The announcement came following the CIJ meeting held in Comoros.

# NOC News in Pictures

## South Asia/South East Asia

NEPAL Olympic Committee President Jeevan Ram Shrestha, along with Vice President Tej Gurung and Secretary General Nilendra Raj Shrestha, held a send-off ceremony for shooting athletes Bipesh Khadka and Olympic Scholarship holder Susmita Nepal ahead of a training camp in Pakistan.



INDIAN Olympic Association President PT Usha had fruitful discussions on the future of kickboxing with the President of the World Association of Kickboxing Organizations (WAKO), Roy Baker, WAKO Chairman and Technical Director Romeo Desa and Santosh Kumar Agarwal, President of WAKO India.



SRI LANKA NOC President Suresh Subramaniam and other members of the NOC took part in the Pirith Chanting ceremony on January 5-6. Pirith refers to Buddhist scriptures, believed to be recited by Lord Buddha.

## South East Asia



BRUNEI Darussalam wushu star Basma Lachkar has been nominated as a candidate for the World Games Athlete of the Year 2023. The wushu talent, 20, etched her name in the record books after becoming the first Bruneian to secure a silver medal in the Asian Games following her exploits in the women's taijijian and taijiqian All-Round event.



PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee has congratulated the newly announced POC Athletes' Commission members who will lead the way in shaping the future of sports, solidarity and camaraderie. They are: Inna Palacios (football @phifootballfederation), Jessie Lacuna (aquatics @world\_aquatics), Nesthy Petecio (boxing @neshpetecio), EJ Obiena (athletics @ernestobienapv) and Jack Animam (basketball @samahangbasketbolngpilipinas). "A heartfelt thank you to all our athletes for your dedication and contributions," POC said following the election.



THAILAND NOC Secretary General Gen. Vitch Devahasdin has officially endorsed the SSRU Olympic Studies Centre with the support of Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University, Faculty of Science and Technology. The IOC recognized the SSRU Olympic Studies Centre on February 6 following the NOCT endorsement, becoming the 69th such Olympic studies centre under the IOC umbrella.



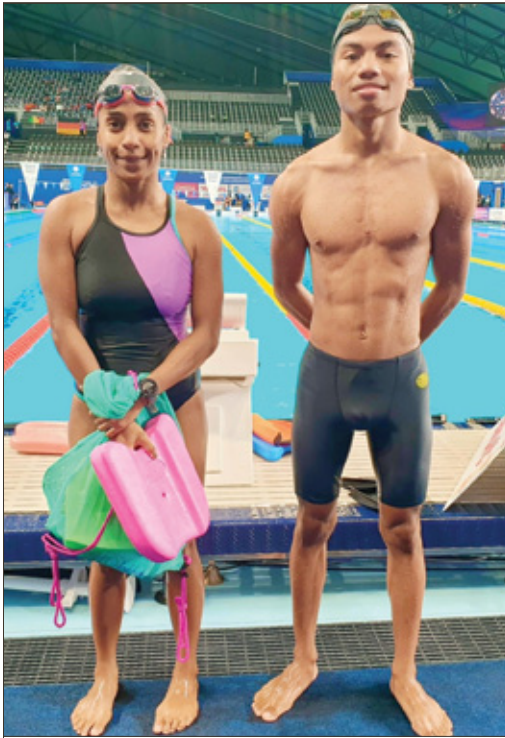
MYANMAR Olympic Committee President and Union Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs U Minn Thein Zan attended the opening ceremony of the 2023-24 state and regional billiards and snooker tournament at Wunna Theikdi Stadium, Naypyidaw on February 24. Several members of the National Administrative Council were present, along with Union Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Departmental Officials.



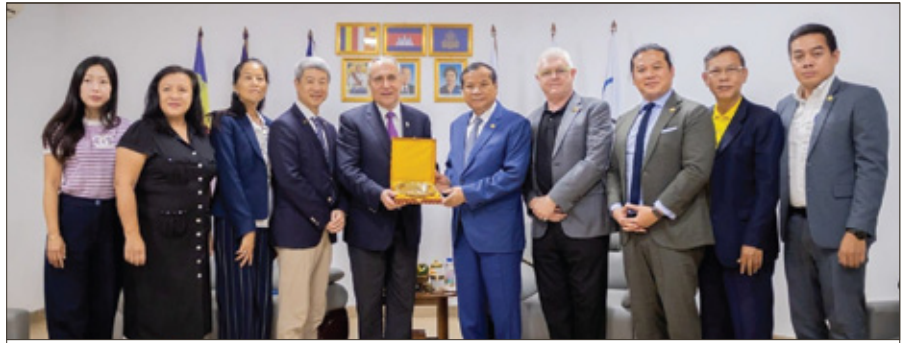
OLYMPIC Council of Malaysia's Chef de Mission for the Olympic Games, Datuk Hamidin Mohd Amin, and Deputy CDM Datuk Nicol David paid a visit to two athletes who have qualified for Paris 2024 on February 22. They were Bertrand Rhodict Lises (diving, men's 10m platform, pictured) and Johnathan Wong Guanjie (shooting, men's 10m air pistol).



INDONESIA NOC is collaborating with the French Embassy in Jakarta to enhance relations and communication ahead of the Olympic Games in Paris this July. At a meeting on February 16, the NOC was represented by Secretary General Wijaya Noeradi, Deputy Secretary General Cresida Mariska and Marketing and Communications Manager Arki Prizananda. The French Embassy was represented by Cooperation and Culture Counselor Jules Irrmann and Charlotte Esnou as Cultural Attaché.



TIMOR LESTE sent two swimmers with Asian Games experience to the World Aquatics Championships – Doha 2024: Jolanio Guterres and Imelda “Edha” Ximenes Belo. Both swimmers continue to serve as sports ambassadors for their National Olympic Committee.



CAMBODIA NOC President and Senior Minister His Excellency Dr. Thong Khon and International Equestrian Federation (FEI) President Ingmar De Vos discussed the possibility of including equestrian events at the 5th Asian Youth Games in 2029 during a visit by the FEI to Phnom Penh. The FEI President was accompanied by Vice President Jack Huang.



LAOS NOC held the General Assembly of the VIII Executive Committee for the year 2023 in Vientiane on January 26, 2024.

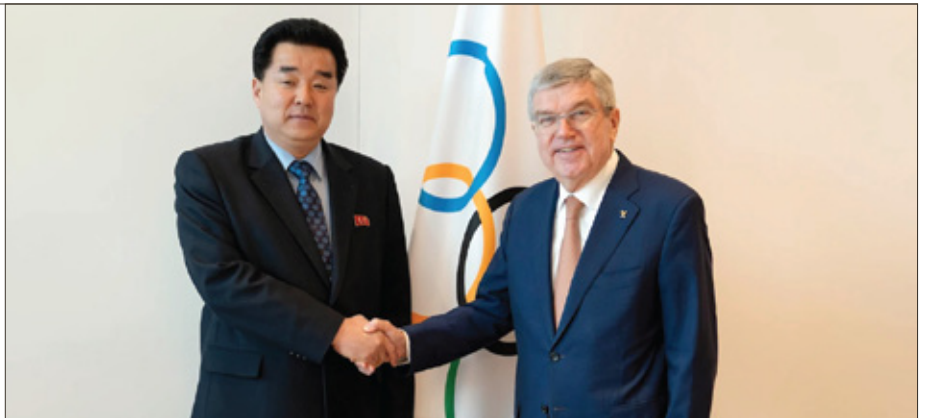


VIETNAM Olympic Committee jointly hosted the “Esports and Physical (Physical-Digital) Sports Festival Vietnam 2024” at Bac Ninh University in Hanoi on January 6-7. Over 3,000 players took part in 10 esports and 22 “phygital” sports in the inaugural national festival combining these two forms of modern-day disciplines.



SINGAPORE National Olympic Council has congratulated Olympians Syed Kadir (boxing), Joscelyn Yeo (swimming) and Yu Mengyu (table tennis), as well as sports leaders the late Dr Tan Eng Liang, Ng Ser Miang, Jessie Phua, Dr. Teo-Koh Sock Miang and Kenneth Kee, for their induction into the Singapore Sport Hall of Fame. “You are all deserving of recognition and thank you for serving the Olympic Movement,” SNOC said.

DPR Korea Olympic Committee President Kim Il Guk visited IOC President Thomas Bach at Olympic House in Lausanne and discussed several topics of mutual interest, including the Olympic Games Paris 2024 and the geopolitical situation. (Photo: IOC)



CHINA held the 14th National Winter Games in Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region from February 17-27. It was China's premier national-level winter sports event following the Beijing Winter Olympics and provided winter sports athletes with top-class competition ahead of the 9th Asian Winter Games Harbin 2025 and the 2026 Winter Olympics in Italy. (Photo: COC)

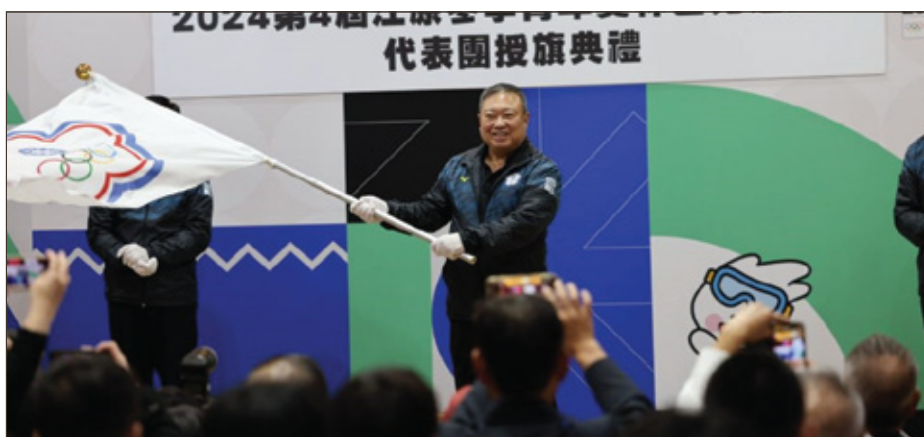


JAPANESE Olympic Committee President Yasuhiro Yamashita, 66, suffered a cervical spine injury after he fell while off duty and required surgery and hospitalisation, the JOC reported in early November. There was no date given for his return. Vice President Yuko Mitsuya, a former women's volleyball player, deputised in his absence. (Photo: International Judo Federation)



MONGOLIAN Olympic Committee President and IOC Member Battushig Batbold paid tribute to the leaders and staff on the occasion of the 68th anniversary of the founding of the NOC on February 26. "With deep respect to the current management and Mongolia Republic for successfully joining 29 Winter and Summer Olympic Games," he said. "The hard work and dedication continue towards Paris 2024."

SPORTS Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China President Timothy Fok, along with government officials and athletes, attended the opening ceremony of the “Passing the Torch On” programme on January 27. The Hong Kong Olympic Fan Club initiative highlights the perseverance of athletes and the Olympic spirit to encourage young people to strive for self-improvement when facing adversity.



CHINESE Taipei Olympic Committee President and head of delegation Hong-Dow Lin received the CTOC flag from Wen-Chung Pan, Minister of Education, at the flag presentation ceremony for the CTOC delegation to the 4th Winter Youth Olympic Games Gangwon 2024 on January 12. CTOC sent 19 athletes in four sports.

MACAU NOC has announced that Mr. Andrew Chan Chak Mo has succeeded the late Mr. Charles Lo as President of the Sports and Olympic Committee of Macau, China for the term 2024-28. Andrew Chan was Secretary General under Mr. Lo, who passed away last October.

The new Secretary General is Mr. Carson Ma Chi Seng. Elections were held on January 3. “We are privileged to follow in the footsteps of the late Mr. Charles Lo, whose unwavering commitment to the Olympic Movement serves as a guiding beacon for our future endeavors,” said Mr. Chan.



KOREAN Sport and Olympic Committee President Lee Kee-heung joined the “Zero Disposable Products Challenge” organised by the Ministry of Environment. “Recently, there were concerns from the IOC that, due to climate change, the number of countries that can host the Winter Olympics will decrease.

“As sports are also closely linked to climate change, the KSOC will do its best to host sports events in an environmentally friendly manner and expand the use of green products to achieve our environmental benchmark goals,” he said.

## HARBIN WELCOMES OCA FOR AWG COORDINATION MEETINGS

The Olympic Council of Asia's Coordination Committee for the 9th Asian Winter Games paid their first visit to Harbin from January 11-13.

With the 9th AWG set to be held from February 7-14, 2025 in the capital city of Heilongjiang province in north-east China, the OCA CC members were able to meet with sports and government leaders, visit venues and immerse themselves in the snow and ice culture of Harbin.

This will be the second time for Harbin to organise the AWG, following their hosting of the third edition in 1996, and the Chair of the OCA Coordination Committee, Timothy Fok, had no doubts about the capability of the Chinese to stage another winter extravaganza.

"Harbin is well-known and world-famous for the annual ice and snow festival. It is also recognised as the hotbed of winter sports in China," he said.

"In the build-up to the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022, China introduced more than 300 million people to the joys of winter sports. The OCA congratulates China on this staggering achievement, and we are sure the Asian Winter Games Harbin 2025 will benefit from this explosion of interest in winter sports."

The OCA Director General, Husain Al Musallam, said the new Harbin was unrecognisable from the Harbin of 1996 as it had become a "modern and dynamic" city and tourism capital.



OCA CC Chair Timothy Fok is interviewed by local TV.



"I congratulate you on what you have done since 1996. We are very happy and proud with the impact the Asian Winter Games in 1996 made on Harbin, and how it has changed Harbin."

Regarding the 9th AWG in February 2025, Capt. Husain added: "Time is not in our favour. We have one year to go and we have a lot of things to do but, with good cooperation and understanding, I am sure the organising committee, the city, the province and the Chinese Olympic Committee will organise one of the best Asian Winter Games in the history of Asia and show the world that we, in Asia, are committed to the development of winter sports."



The official group photo of the first OCA CC visit to Harbin for the 9th AWG 2025.



## HAWGOC UNVEILS MASCOTS,

**T**he Harbin Asian Winter Games Organising Committee (HAWGOC) put on a colourful and high-energy show to launch the mascots, emblem and slogan for the 9th Asian Winter Games Harbin 2025.

The event took place at the Shangri-La Hotel on Thursday, January 11 and brought a fun, festive and family feel to the occasion.

The cultural programme began with the opening dance, "Welcome to Harbin", before the Mayor of Harbin, Zhang Qixiang, outlined the public contribution to the process, with 4,608 entries received since the global solicitation period began on September 19, 2023.

"We believe that the slogan, emblem and mascots will become historical imprints to be passed down, shining brightly in the Olympic Movement," said Mayor Zhang.

Chen Lei, a professor from the Academy of Arts and Design at Tsinghua University, then spoke of the creative process and design concepts behind the emblem and mascots.

After the VIP guests had taken part in the launch ceremony on stage, and a promotional video was shown to highlight the role and value of the mascots, slogan and emblem, the event concluded with a charming song and dance performance entitled "I'm waiting for you in Heilongjiang".

### EMBLEM

The emblem of the 9th Asian Winter Games is entitled "Breakthrough". It cleverly integrates the graceful posture of a short track speed skater together with the colour lilac – the city flower of Harbin – and dancing ribbons.

The emblem depicts China's growth as a winter sports power and, like a tough and determined short track speed skater, the ambition to challenge all the way to the finish line.

The OCA's shining sun emblem beams down on the athlete, while the dancing ribbons add a festive visual sensation.

"It shows China's pursuit of becoming a sporting powerhouse in the new era and its willingness to contribute to the ice and snow sports in Asia," Prof. Chen noted.



The ceremony was a friendly and colourful affair.



The cultural performance during the unveiling ceremony.



## EMBLEM, SLOGAN FOR HARBIN 2025

### MASCOTS

The mascots of the 9th Asian Winter Games in 2025 are a pair of cute Northeast tigers: Binbin and Nini.

Binbin represents ice sports, skating happily and with a red scarf to keep out the cold. Nini, on the other hand, represents snow sports as she flies through the air on her snowboard.

The name Binbin is taken from the last syllable of host city Harbin, and Nini comes from the pronunciation of the Chinese character Nin (You). Together, they mean "Harbin Welcomes You" and showcase Harbin's fervent expectations and sincere welcome to friends from various Asian countries.

The overall image of the two mascots is that they are strong, cute and enthusiastic about winter sports on both ice and snow, and will provide a warm welcome to the Harbin AWG.

In traditional Chinese culture, the tiger, as a symbol of auspiciousness, is endowed with lots of positive qualities, among which integrity, strength and courage are highly compatible with the spirit of the Olympic Games.

Binbin and Nini are designed and created based on two cute little Northeastern tigers born in September 2023 in the Northeast Tiger Forest Park of Heilongjiang Province.



Mascots Binbin and Nini prove popular with the local children who performed in the ceremony.

### SLOGAN

The slogan for Harbin 2025 is "Dream of Winter, Love among Asia".

"Dream of Winter" aims to showcase the charm of ice and snow sports for athletes from around Asia and to build a stage for realising their dreams, while "Love among Asia" demonstrates the common aspiration of people from all countries to enhance unity and friendship and to promote mutual understanding.



VIP guests unveil the slogan.



## GETTING TO KNOW HARBIN AND YABULI AHEAD OF AWG 2025

- The 9th Asian Winter Games Harbin 2025 will open on February 7 and close on February 14. Harbin International Conference Centre will host the opening and closing ceremony.
- The men's ice hockey, women's ice hockey and curling will all begin on February 5, two days before the opening ceremony.
- There will be a total of 64 medal events across the 11 disciplines of six sports: skating, ice hockey, curling, skiing, biathlon and ski mountaineering.
- Skating comprises speed skating, short track speed skating and figure skating
- Skiing consists of alpine skiing, cross-country skiing, freestyle skiing (aerials, halfpipe, slopestyle, big air) and snowboard (halfpipe, slopestyle, big air).
- Speed skating offers the most gold medals with 14, followed by short track with nine.
- The ice events will be held in Harbin, while the snow events will be at Yabuli Ski Resort, 193km from Harbin.
- Venues in Harbin: Heilongjiang Ice Events Training Centre Speed Skating Rink (speed skating), Heilongjiang Ice Events Training Centre Multifunctional Hall (figure skating and short track), Harbin Ice Hockey Arena (men's ice hockey), Harbin Sport University Student Skating Rink (women's ice hockey), Harbin Pingfang District Ice Hockey Arena (curling).
- Athletes and team officials from NOCs: 2,000+.
- Technical officials: 1,000+. Media, 2,000+.
- Accommodation: Harbin zone, 15 hotels. Yabuli zone, 16 hotels.
- Medical services: 24 designated hotels, 30 doctors on standby at venues
- Media and Broadcasting: Main Media Centre, Victories Hotel International Conference Centre and Auditorium, Harbin. Venue Media Centre, YBL (Yabuli) Broadcast International Hotel. Host Broadcaster: China Media Group.
- City Upgrading: 163 urban road upgrading and landscape improvement projects. Phase II expansion project of Harbin Taiping International Airport. Northwest loop line project of Metro Line 3. Yabuli Ski Resort tourist tram extension project.
- Volunteers: 6,600
- Games Concept: Spectacular, Successful, Green
- The organising committee of the 9th AWG Harbin 2025 was officially established on January 10, 2024.

## HARBIN 2025 - GENERAL COMPETITION SCHEDULE V1

Sport	Discipline	5-Feb	6-Feb	7-Feb	8-Feb	9-Feb	10-Feb	11-Feb	12-Feb	13-Feb	14-Feb	Medal	
Ceremonies				OC							CC		
Skating	Speed Skating				2	2	4	2	4			14	
	Short Track Speed Skating				•	3	2	4				9	
	Figure Skating								•	2	2	4	
Ice Hockey	Men's Ice Hockey	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	1		1	
	Women's Ice Hockey	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	1		1	
Curling	Curling	•	•	•	1	•	•	•	•	•	2	3	
Skiing	Alpine Skiing							1	1			2	
	Cross-Country Skiing				2	1	1		1	1		6	
	Freestyle Skiing	Aerials					2	1	2				5
		Halfpipe			•	2							2
		Slopestyle							•	2			2
		Big Air									2		2
	Snowboard	Halfpipe								•	2		2
		Slopestyle			•	2							2
Big Air							2					2	
Biathlon	Biathlon							2			2	4	
Ski Mountaineering	Ski Mountaineering					1	1			1		3	
Medal					9	9	11	11	8	10	6	64	

OC Opening Ceremony    
 • Event Competitions    
   Event Finals    
 CC Closing Ceremony

## SAUDI ARABIA TAPS INTO CHINESE EXPERTISE AHEAD OF 2029 AWG

The transfer of knowledge from one organising committee to the next is a big part of the smooth transition and success of an international multi-sport games.

This is most certainly the case for the 9th – and 10th – Asian Winter Games.

The OCA Coordination Committee for the 9th AWG in Harbin includes His Highness Sheikh Fahad bin Jalawi bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Vice President of the Saudi Olympic and Paralympic Committee – host of the 10th AWG in Trojena in 2029.

Between now and 2029, Sheikh Fahad is gathering as much information as possible, from Harbin and also from Milan-Cortina, Italian hosts of the next Winter Olympics in 2026.

“Harbin is really a nice city, amazing city, nice people, nice hospitality, and the Chinese Olympic Committee and the Chinese community, they are already having the best experience of hosting any kind of games,” said Sheikh Fahad.

“A few months ago, we witnessed the success of the Hangzhou Asian Games. Regarding the winter sports, two years ago was the Winter Olympic Games which was a great success as well, with a difficult timing with the restrictions of covid, but they organised it in a very high standard.



The OCA Coordination Committee includes Sheikh Fahad. (OCA)

### AMAZING GAMES

“So, I really believe that the Asian Winter Games here in Harbin will be a high-standard games. The venues are really amazing, and Harbin as a city has experienced the Asian Winter Games in 1996 and the Winter Universiade in 2009, so I am sure that this will be an amazing Games. I am looking forward to being here next year.”

During the OCA Coordination Committee meeting on January 11, OCA Director General Husain Al Musallam pointed out the significance of the transfer of knowledge from one city to the next host.

Sheikh Fahad said: “This is very important. I discussed this with Captain Husain and I discussed it with the Chinese side regarding the observer programme.

“But we don’t want to have it as a normal observer programme; we want to get deep on the Chinese side to understand how they organise the winter sports.

“Our team already started two years ago for the preparation and I think that Saudi will be ready in 2029. But, of course, we have to work with the Chinese to get the most of the experience they have in Harbin next year, and hopefully we will have a successful Games in 2029.”



Sheikh Fahad joins a venue tour in Harbin. (OCA)

### CITY OF DREAMERS

When asked what to expect in Trojena in 2029, Sheikh Fahad replied: “Trojena is a city of dreamers, so you can expect whatever you are dreaming of because it is having the city of the future. They have Trojena in the mountains and we have The Line project not far from it, so it will be co-hosted hopefully with some venues in The Line.

“I think the progress of the project is going very well. As I mentioned, you have to expect anything high and everything amazing.”

The Line is the city of the future, as stated by Sheikh Fahad, with plans for 9 million residents in 34 square km. It will be 500 metres tall, 200m wide and 170km long – hence the title of The Line.



## SHIVA'S PASSION FOR WINTER SPORTS STILL BURNS BRIGHTLY

**A**t the age of 42 and with six Olympic Winter Games under his belt, the passion for ice and snow still burns brightly within retired Indian luge legend Shiva Keshavan.

Shiva, who made his Olympic debut as a 16-year-old daredevil at Nagano 1998, continued his association with winter sports as a member of the OCA Coordination Committee for the 9th AWG in Harbin.

During the course of the three-day visit, Shiva shared more than just his experience and knowledge of winter sports competition; it was his pure love of winter sports that was evident throughout.

When asked what winter sports meant to him, Shiva replied: "For me, winter sports is freedom; it is socialising; it is just this renewal of the world because everything looks new in winter.

"So, I think the appeal of winter sports - there is a lot more romance, there is a lot more adventure, which is why I think I have spent my entire life in this field.

"From the youngest kid who dreams of the snowflakes falling, making snowmen, to the most experienced athlete chasing that thrill and that adventure down the slope...it

wakes up that child in you. You want to connect with people and share this experience."

Shiva, whose last Olympics as a luge athlete was PyeongChang 2018, said he was "very grateful" to be nominated by the OCA to this AWG Coordination Committee as it would help him make the transition from athlete to administrator by keeping him involved at the highest level.

He also believes that China is perfectly positioned to become a world leader in the Olympic winter sports movement.

"It is always impressive to visit China and to discover all the progress they have made in recent years, specifically for winter sports," added.

"From Asia's perspective, if we have to plan and have a new development programme, new circuit, this is a place that can really take a lot of initiatives."

"With the kind of facilities they have, they can really be a leader for developing the sport in the entire region. Winter



Shiva was once described as "one in a billion" – the only luge athlete in India (Photo: olympics.com)

sports has traditionally been very central European focused; of course, we have the emergence of North America already for quite some time, and Russia has always been there, but the governance and the competition structure and everything has been centered in central Europe.

“From Asia’s perspective, if we have to plan and have a new development programme, new circuit, this is a place than can really take a lot of initiatives. From an organisation point of view, the efficiency of the organisation is fantastic; that’s how they have been successfully able to host multiple sports events so frequently and doing a good job with it.”

Looking ahead to the AWG Harbin 2025, Shiva thinks the athletes can expect “a fantastic level” of competition, organisation and venues.

“The facilities are really great; as for the organisation, there is nothing to say about the efficiency of how the logistics are organised here.

“I think that we can expect, from the official motto ‘simple, safe and spectacular’, so no frills but it is going to be top-class so the athletes can compete at top-of-the-world level infrastructure over here.”

## Profile

**Name:** Shiva Keshavan

**Country:** India

**Date of Birth:** August 25, 1981

**Age:** 42

**Place of Birth:** Manali, Himachal Pradesh, northern India.

**Sport:** Luge

**Olympic Winter Games (6):** Nagano 1998 (aged 16)  
Salt Lake City 2002  
Turin 2006  
Vancouver 2010  
Sochi 2014  
PyeongChang 2018

**Record Speed:** 146.7 km/h (Turin 2006)

**Olympic Council of Asia** Member, OCA Athletes’ Committee  
Member, OCA Coordination Committee for 9th AWG Harbin 2025



Shiva joins a venue tour in Harbin.



Shiva relaxes at the Shangri-La Hotel in Harbin.

### ALL EYES ON AICHI-NAGOYA AFTER HANGZHOU SUCCESS

Just three months after the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou came to a close on October 8, the OCA Coordination Committee for the 20th Asian Games in 2026 visited Nagoya for the first time.

The two-day programme took place on January 8-9 and included the main meeting between the OCA and organising committee AINAGOC, a tour of stadiums and hotels in Nagoya and even a stirring ninja performance at the official dinner.

Addressing the opening session of the meeting, Chair Timothy Fok said: "The 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou last September and October are still fresh in our memory and I am sure that we all learned a great deal from this wonderful sporting and cultural festival.

"We have less than three years to the next Asian Games and there is no time to waste in our planning and our preparation.

"We will move forward together as a team and achieve our goal of a successful and memorable Asian Games 2026 through cooperation and collaboration.

"I am sure the meeting will be most fruitful and productive and put us firmly on the right path towards the 20th Asian Games."

The commitment of Nagoya City and Aichi Prefecture to the success of the 20th Asian Games was evident by the presence of Mr. Hideaki Ohmura, President of organising committee AINAGOC and Governor of



Aichi Prefecture, and by Mr. Takashi Kawamura, Deputy President of AINAGOC and Mayor of Nagoya City.

The Japanese Olympic Committee was represented by Ms. Yuko Mitsuya, Deputy President of AINAGOC and JOC Vice President.

The 20th Asian Games will be held from September 19 to October 4, 2026 with the slogan "Imagine One Asia".



The official group photo on January 8, 2024. (Photo: OCA)

### MINUTE'S SILENCE

The OCA and AINAGOC held a minute's silence at the start of the meeting as a mark of respect for the people who perished in the earthquake on the Noto Peninsula of Ishikawa Prefecture on New Year's Day.

AINAGOC President and Aichi Prefecture Governor Hideaki Ohmura remarked: "I am grateful for the heartfelt message received from the OCA. The disaster area is far

from Aichi-Nagoya and we are not impacted by the earthquake, so we have been providing support for the affected area since the disaster happened.

"I would like to express my deepest condolences and sympathy to all those affected and wish for a quick recovery on behalf of all attendees here today."

## OCA CC MEMBERS ENJOY FIRST VENUE TOUR IN NAGOYA

Members of the OCA Coordination Committee were taken on their first venue tour as part of the first OCA Coordination Committee meeting for the 20th Asian Games 2026 in Nagoya on Monday, January 8.

The OCA CC members were shown various venues, both competition and non-competition, during a two-bus journey accompanied by representatives of organising committee AINAGOC.

The tour began at the Prince Hotel Nagoya Sky Tower, which has been proposed as the NOC HQ Hotel, and continued with the Nagoya Convention Hall, which occupies three floors of the hotel.

With 170 rooms, the Prince Hotel, which opened in 2017, is being considered as the accommodation for the Chefs de Mission and team officials, incorporating all the associated services.

The tour then went past Nagoya City Mizuho Park Athletic Stadium, which is under construction and will be the main venue for the 20th Asian Games featuring the opening and closing ceremony and the athletics competition.

The new venue will have a capacity of 30,000, with 5,000 temporary seats available for the ceremonies.

The final port of call was the Toyoda Gosei Memorial Gymnasium, known as Entrio. The venue has a capacity of 3,000 seats and will be one of the two venues for the handball competition at the 20th Asian Games.

OCA CC members were able to check the court, the spectator seating and the facilities for athletes.

Some of the sports will be held outside Aichi prefecture, including swimming and diving at the Tokyo Aquatics Centre, equestrian at the JRA Equestrian Park in Tokyo and cycling – track at Izu Velodrome in Shizuoka.



Indian Olympic Association President PT Usha joins the venue tour.



Group photo in the handball venue.

## MASCOT CALL

With the emblem and slogan of the 20th Asian Games already published, organising committee AINAGOC is now turning its attention to the mascot.

AINAGOC has announced that it will start collecting mascot ideas from March 20 through to April 4, and

displayed all the Asian Games mascots from Doha 2006 through to Hangzhou last year on their website to stir the imagination and creative juices.

For further information, see: <https://ag2026-mascot.jp/>

### AICHI GOVERNOR PLANS FOR ASIAN GAMES 'NEW MODEL'

The Governor of Aichi Prefecture and President of AINAGOC, Hideaki Ohmura, is planning to stage a "new model" for the 20th Asian Games in 2026.

The Governor outlined his plans in his opening address to the OCA Coordination Committee on January 8 and also looked back on the successful 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou.

"I would like to mention the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, which was a great success," he said.

"I attended both the opening and closing ceremonies and watched various kinds of sporting events. The high-level performance of the athletes and smooth operation of the Games were most impressive.

"At the closing ceremony I received the OCA flag as well as the flag and torch from the 1st Asian Games in Delhi. The OCA flag is now touring across Aichi so that the citizens can feel the spirit of the Asian Games."

Looking ahead to the next Asian Games, Governor Ohmura added: "Aichi-Nagoya has a number of sports and accommodation opportunities thanks to our past investments

and, at the 2026 Asian Games, we hope to demonstrate a new model that will make the most of such existing resources."

The prefectural governor said he looked forward to receiving advice and comments from the OCA "so that, together, we can overcome various challenges we face" and work towards a successful Asian Games in 2026.



Opportunities await in Nagoya.

### OCA SEES BENEFITS OF WIDESPREAD ASIAN GAMES

The first OCA Coordination Committee meeting for the 2026 Asian Games wrapped up with a press conference for the local and national media on January 9.

The OCA was represented by Director General Husain Al-Musallam, Deputy Director General Vinod Kumar Tiwari and Coordination Committee Vice Chair Tayyab Ikram, while Secretary General Satoshi Murate spoke on behalf of AINAGOC.

The main topic of discussion was that the 20th Asian Games would be held throughout the prefecture of Aichi and not just in the city of Nagoya, and even further afield in Tokyo and Shizuoka Prefecture.

Vice Chair Tayyab said this presented a wonderful opportunity to spread the message of the Asian Games far and wide and engage citizens throughout the prefecture as different cities and prefectures would come under one Asian Games umbrella.



The press conference on January 9.

"We look at this in a very positive way because it gives the OCA and the organising committee the opportunity to promote the message of the Asian Games to a much wider audience, and not only in one city," Tayyab said.

Summing up the two-day meeting, Tayyab added: "We are going in the right direction. We had very positive discussions. This meeting was about trying to understand each other's challenges."



# GANGWON 2024



YOUTH  
OLYMPIC  
GAMES

OCA celebrates success of first Winter YOG in Asia with 16-page special coverage



Korean hero Kim Hyungyeom wins men's figure skating gold  
(Photo: IOC)

**Pages 26-27:** General Overview, Facts and Figures. **Page 28:** Asia at the Winter YOG. **Page 29:** Medal Table. **Page 30:** Thailand's silver sensation. **Pages 31-34:** Asian athletes in action at Gangwon 2024. **Pages 35-37:** Inside Gangwon 2024. **Pages 38-29:** OCA Roll of Honour. **Page 40:** Gangwon Gallery.

## IOC PRESIDENT THOMAS BACH HAILS GANGWON 2024

IOC President Thomas Bach described Asia's first Winter Youth Olympic Games, Gangwon 2024, as a "brilliant success" during a press conference on the closing day of the YOG in Korea.

President Bach, who was accompanied by the Chair of the IOC Coordination Commission for Gangwon 2024, Zhang Hong of China, said the Winter YOG had demonstrated the legacy of the PyeongChang 2018 Olympic Winter Games in terms of hardware and software.

"You see a very happy IOC President and a very happy Chair of the Coordination Commission, Zhang Hong, because this Winter Youth Olympic Games has been a brilliant success, so I would like to congratulate everybody who has contributed to this outstanding success," he said.

The IOC President added that the athletes had been able to compete in the same state-of-the-art facilities as their winter sports idols of PyeongChang 2018, while Gangwon 2024 had been able to call on many volunteers from the Winter Olympics six years ago in order to ensure the smooth running of the YOG.

Organisers stressed they had used all existing facilities in the four competition hubs and not built any new stadiums to host the Winter YOG.

The IOC President also praised the legacy programmes of PyeongChang 2018, as 39 athletes from these programmes had competed at Gangwon 2024 and two athletes from countries not associated with winter sports, Thailand and Tunisia, had both won silver medals in monobob bobsleigh.

"Everybody felt at home and welcomed by the volunteers," said President Bach.

On the financial side, the IOC had assisted Gangwon 2024 to the tune of 37 million USD – 25 million USD towards the cost of organising the YOG, 10 million USD for free travel and accommodation for 78 National Olympic Committees and 2 million USD for athlete preparations and qualification.

Regarding the profile of the Winter YOG through TV and social media, President Bach said 30 per cent of Korean people had seen some coverage, 75 per cent of Korean people were aware of Gangwon 2024 and 80 per cent of them had a positive view.

"The digital world went way beyond our expectations. There were 250 million engagements, which is an overwhelming success and unprecedented for a junior sports event," he said.

The IOC President added that the Winter YOG had provided the Olympic experience to the young athletes and prepared them for the Olympic Winter Olympics so that they would not be



Gangneung Olympic Park stands out against the mountain backdrop.



Welli Hilli Park was a spectacular venue for the freestyle skiing and snowboard events.

## 2024 AS 'BRILLIANT' SUCCESS'

“overwhelmed” by the occasion.

Summing up PyeongChang 2018 and Gangwon 2024, the IOC President concluded: “Korea has established itself as a premier Olympic organiser. Korea as a host is always very well appreciated, and now it is in the hands of our Korean friends,” he added, referring to the possibility of a Korean bid for a future Olympic Games.



## GANGWON 2024

<b>Opening Ceremony:</b>	January 19, 2024
<b>Venue:</b>	Gangneung Oval
<b>Opened by:</b>	President Yoon Suk-yeol
<b>Closing Ceremony:</b>	February 1, 2024
<b>Venue:</b>	Gangneung Olympic Park
<b>Closed by:</b>	IOC President Thomas Bach
<b>NOCs:</b>	78
<b>Athletes:</b>	1,800
<b>Sports:</b>	7
<b>Disciplines:</b>	15
<b>Events:</b>	81
<b>Mascot:</b>	Moongcho
<b>Slogan:</b>	Grow Together, Shine Forever
<b>Competition venues (4):</b>	Gangneung, Pyeongchang, Hoengseong, Jeongseon
<b>Volunteers:</b>	1,984
<b>Media:</b>	950
<b>Broadcasting:</b>	521
<b>Press:</b>	429 local/international
<b>Spectators:</b>	500,000
<b>In Competition Venues:</b>	270,000
<b>At Cultural Events:</b>	230,000
<b>Safety/Security Personnel:</b>	1,900
<b>Winter YOG History:</b>	2012: Innsbruck, Austria 2016: Lillehammer, Norway 2020: Lausanne, Switzerland 2024: Gangwon, Korea 2028: To be announced



The Olympic rings are covered in snow to welcome the Winter YOG.



IOC President Thomas Bach attends the press conference on the closing day of the Winter YOG.



Lee Chaeun won two gold medals for Korea in men's snowboard. (Photo: IOC/OIS)

## KOREA EXCELS AS WINTER YOG HOST WITH SEVEN GOLD MEDALS

**F**ive Asian countries won medals at the 4th Winter YOG, with pride of place going to host nation Korea.

The Koreans finished third in the overall medal rankings with seven gold, six silver and four bronze medals for a total of 17. They finished behind only Italy (11-3-4-18) and Germany (9-5-6-20).

Korea's seven gold medals came in figure skating (2), snowboard (2), bobsleigh, freestyle skiing and short track speed skating.

Kim Hyungyeom won two gold medals in figure skating, men's single and team, while Beijing Winter Olympian Lee Chaeun recorded a golden double in men's snowboard - slopestyle and halfpipe.

China came in fifth with six gold, nine silver and three bronze medals for 18 in total. Their brilliant form in short track speed skating brought them four gold medals, and they also finished top of the podium in freestyle skiing and speed skating.

Japan joined Korea and China in the top 10 with a record of 3-4-8-15, with their gold medals coming in snowboard (2) and figure skating.




Kazakhstan produced a new sporting hero when ski jumper Ilya Mizernykh soared to gold on the men's normal hill, and Thailand surprised the winter sports powers with silver in the women's monobob for Agnese Campeol.

**Asian NOCs at Gangwon 2024 and number of athletes:** Chinese Taipei (19), Hong Kong, China (3), India (1), Iran (5), Japan (69), Kazakhstan (41), Kyrgyzstan (4), Lebanon (5), Mongolia (12), Nepal (2), China (55), Philippines (3), Qatar (2), Korea (101), Singapore (2), Thailand (20), United Arab Emirates (2), Uzbekistan (2).

# GANGWON 2024



International  
Olympic  
Committee

Rank	Country/NOC				Total
1	Italy	11	3	4	18
2	Germany	9	5	6	20
<b>3</b>	<b>Korea</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>17</b>
4	France	7	5	6	18
<b>5</b>	<b>China</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>18</b>
6	United States	5	11	5	21
7	Austria	5	6	5	16
8	Sweden	4	4	3	11
9	Great Britain	4	1	1	6
<b>10</b>	<b>Japan</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15</b>
11	Canada	3	2	1	6
12	Netherlands	3	1	1	5
13	Finland	3	0	4	7
14	Latvia	2	3	1	6
14	Slovenia	2	3	1	6
16	Denmark	1	3	0	4
17	New Zealand	1	2	4	7
18	Switzerland	1	1	7	9
19	Czech Republic	1	1	2	4
<b>20</b>	<b>Kazakhstan</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
20	Poland	1	0	2	3
22	Hungary	1	0	1	2
23	Norway	0	4	3	7
24	Australia	0	2	1	3
25	Slovakia	0	1	2	3
26	Ukraine	0	1	1	2
<b>27</b>	<b>Thailand</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
27	Tunisia	0	1	0	1
27	Turkey	0	1	0	1
30	Brazil	0	0	1	1
30	Romania	0	0	1	1
30	Spain	0	0	1	1
		<b>81</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>243</b>

Legend:  Gold Medal  Silver Medal  Bronze Medal

### THAI TEEN MAKES WINTER SPORTS HISTORY WITH BOBSLEIGH SILVER

**T**ropical Thailand has a new sporting hero – and it’s in winter sports!

At the Alpensia Sliding Centre on Monday, January 22, 17-year-old daredevil Agnese Campeol won the silver medal in the women’s monobob of the bobsleigh competition at the Winter YOG.

It was a major breakthrough, not only for Thailand but for the whole of southeast Asia, and Agnese herself couldn’t quite believe it.

“I’m so confused, and so proud,” she said.

“I was a little bit nervous at the start but I said to myself, ‘I can do it’. This is big, so big. This is Thailand history - the first Winter YOG medal for Thailand. I want to keep going, I want to go to Milan-Cortina 2026. I will push 100 per cent no matter what. No matter the result.”

Looking back on her start in the sport, she added: “I started with the Ski and Snowboard Association of Thailand. They wanted to look for athletes who wanted to go to the Winter Youth Olympic Games - and I wanted to go.

“At the start, I didn’t know what bobsleigh was about at all. But I wanted to try. Bobsleigh is like The Hulk driving a Ferrari. I really like that. I have to fight with myself. It’s me against myself.”

Regarding the reaction of her friends and family to her taking part in bobsleigh, she said: “They think I’m crazy. At first, my parents didn’t know what I was doing. But I wanted to do it, so they supported me.”



Thailand’s ‘silver lady’ Agnese Campeol (Photo: OIS/IOC)

#### PHENOMENAL

Nobody was prouder of her achievement than Nicola Minichiello, event delegate of the International Bobsleigh and Skeleton Federation.

“It’s amazing,” Nicola said. “Thailand have put a lot of effort and energy into getting involved in sliding sports and it’s been incredible to see their evolution.

“It’s phenomenal for Thailand, it’s phenomenal for Asia, it’s phenomenal for her as a person, also for the sport as a whole.”

The British official said she was immediately impressed with the “positivity, attitude, dedication and work ethic” of the Thai athletes as soon as they joined the IBSF development programme two years ago, and that this silver medal proved that athletes from non-winter sports countries could excel with these qualities.



Thailand’s IOC Member Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul gives a piggyback ride to Agnese. (Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul Facebook)



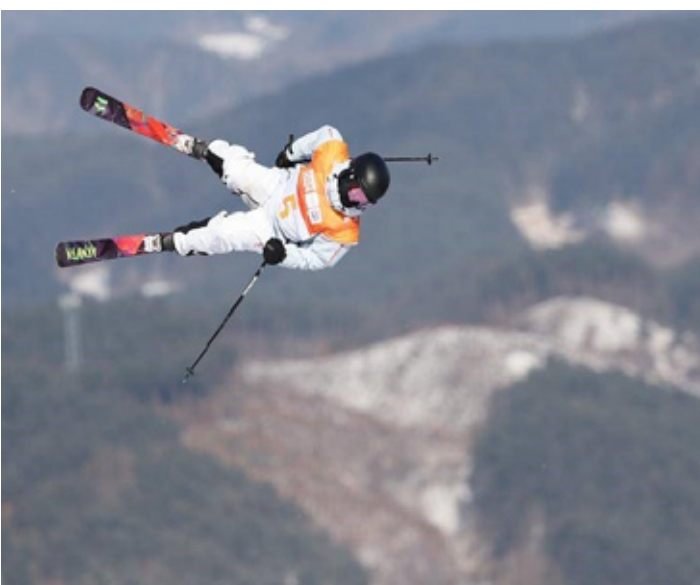
Peter Groseclose of the Philippines speeds around the short track ahead of two rivals. Peter reached the final of the men's 500m – a great effort. (Photo: PHSU/POC)



Alpine skier Sahil Thakur was India's lone representative in Korea. (Photo: Olympics.com)



Chinese Taipei take on Spain in the men's 3-on-3 ice hockey competition. (Photo: IOC/ANOC)



Han Linshan of China flies through the air on her way to the silver medal in the women's freeski slopestyle. (Photo: Xinhua/Li Ming)



Amenah Al Muhairi, 15, made history as the first female Olympic snowboarder representing the United Arab Emirates on the snowy slopes of Gangwon province. Amenah finished 18th in big air and 19th in slopestyle (Photo: Aletihad News Centre)

# Winter YOG

## Gangwon 2024



One of the most popular athletes at Gangwon 2024 was Korea's Shin Jia, who won women's figure skating silver in front of a packed Gangneung Ice Arena. (Photo: OIS/Bob Martin)



gettyimages  
Credit: Chung Sung-Jun

Punpreeda Premprecha of Thailand competes in the women's 1500m short track semifinals at Gangneung Ice Arena.



Mongolia sent a record 12 athletes to the Winter YOG, including alpine skier Khaliun Khuderchuluun, who finished 42nd in the women's giant slalom and 43rd in the slalom. (Montsame – Mongolian National News Agency)



Qatar's Aldana Al-Fahad and Mohammed Al-Naimi take on Norway in their first game of the curling competition.





Kyrgyzstan sent four athletes to Korea in three sports: alpine skiing (2), biathlon and cross-country. (Photo: Kyrgyz Republic NOC)



Uzbekistan's Sabina Rejepova had a busy schedule, taking part in the women's slalom, giant slalom, Super-G and women's alpine combined. (Olympic.uz)



Singapore's Amelia Chua challenges Michaela Izarova of Slovakia in the women's 500m short track. (Photo: SNOC).



Kazakh ski jumper Ilya Mizernykh, 16, celebrates his gold medal-winning performance on the men's normal hill. (Olympic.kz)



Nepal boasts some of the highest mountains in the world but has never had an alpine skier at the Winter Olympics, the IOC reports. However, at Gangwon 2024, Nepal was represented by two skiers, Chhowang Mingyur Tamang (second from left) and Laxmi Rai (second from right), who came to Korea as part of the Dream Project legacy programme. (Photo: Nepal NOC)

# Winter YOG

## Gangwon 2024



Iran's cross-country skiing team take a team picture as a happy memory of Gangwon 2024. (Photo: NOC Iran)



Chan Sin Ying of Hong Kong, China speeds to a new personal best of 2 minutes, 0.656 seconds in the women's 1000m short track speed skating. (Photo: SF&OC)



Lebanon's Kiana Sakkal enjoys the occasion after competing in alpine skiing. (Photo: Lebanon NOC)



Japan's Kojima Kaede sets the pace in the speed skating mixed relay final. (Photo: OIS/Bob Martin)

## LEE AND KODAIRA INSPIRE NEW GENERATION OF SPEED SKATERS

If the young speed skaters at the Winter YOG needed any inspiration, two Winter Olympics icons provided this on the opening day of speed skating action at Gangneung Oval.

Korea's Lee Sang-hwa and Japan's Nao Kodaira produced one of the most memorable moments in Olympic Winter Games history at this very venue in 2018, when Nao ended Lee's hopes of a 500m hat trick in her final Olympic race.

Kodaira edged Lee to finish first in a Games record of 36.94 seconds, becoming the first Japanese female to win a speed skating gold.

Lee, on the other hand, was distraught and in tears, unable to come through. But there was Kodaira, draped in the Japanese flag, embracing and consoling her Korean friend who wept in her arms like a child.

Gangwon 2024 organisers and the IOC brought the pair together again for a reunion – and an opportunity for the media to project this feel-good Olympic story.

Lee said: "We have kept in touch since the PyeongChang Winter Olympics and we were on TV together in Japan when I visited her hometown Nagano. We have kept our friendship strong through

messaging and email. To return to the Gangneung Oval brings back a lot of memories and makes me feel very emotional."

Kodaira added: "When we were young athletes there was no Winter Youth Olympic Games, so this is a wonderful opportunity for everyone here to get experience and make new friends. We are telling them to enjoy this occasion and strive to compete in the Winter Olympics."



Nao Kodaira (left) and Lee Sang-hwa at Gangneung Oval.

## ISU PRESIDENT LOOKS FORWARD TO AWG HARBIN 2025

The President of the International Skating Union, Kim Jae Youl, was a proud man at the Winter YOG in his home country, Korea.

Not only was he impressed with Korea's hosting of the first Winter YOG in Asia, he was also delighted with the technical quality of the skaters both on the short track and inside the speed skating oval.

"I am extremely proud because the competitions are going really well," he said, after presenting the medals on the last day of speed skating.



ISU President Kim Jae Youl (right) presents the medals at the speed skating mass start.

"We will be seeing many of these young athletes in the years to come at the Olympics, World Cup and World Championships. We are very, very excited."

The winter sports boom in Asia has seen PyeongChang host the 2018 Winter Olympics, Beijing the 2022 Winter Olympics and now Gangwon province the fourth Winter YOG, and first in Asia. The winter sports circuit moves to Harbin, China in February 2025 for the OCA's 9th Asian Winter Games.

"The young athletes are enjoying the venues, the competitions and the atmosphere, and the international guests are also appreciating the Winter Youth Olympic Games Gangwon 2024.

"The Youth Olympic Games is a unique platform where the young, the next generation of stars are competing at the global level.

The ISU President is already looking forward to it. "I am very excited that we are having the Asian Winter Games because the last one we had was 2017. I am very happy that China, Harbin, decided to host the Games, and we will have another one in 2029 in Saudi Arabia. There will be a great opportunity to develop skating in the Middle East," he said.

## CHINA'S 'RABBIT TACTIC' EARNS GOLD AND SILVER – AND MILLIONS OF TIKTOK VIEWS

Chinese short trackers Yang Jingru and Li Jinzi raced to a remarkable gold-silver finish in the women's 1500 metres – the first short track final of the Winter YOG.

On the first lap of the 13 and a half lap-race, Yang burst out from the pack and, before anyone had time to react, she had raced around the track and caught up with the rest of the field.

When the bell rang to signal the last lap of the race for Yang, all the other skaters thought it applied to them, too – apart from Yang's Chinese teammate, Li.

As Yang cruised to victory on her final lap, Li moved into position to attack on the last lap for everyone else – and easily won the silver medal with the rest of the field in disarray.

After the race, the pair dubbed it the "rabbit tactic" – and it caused such a sensation that the TikTok video attracted over 22 million views.

According to Yang, the success of the tactic was down to two all-out sprints. "Normally in the 1500m race the athletes should speed up in the last few laps, but this time I have to sprint twice."



Li Jinzi (left) and Yang Jingru of China celebrate after the women's 1500m final. (Photo: Xinhua/Xu Yanan)

Li said she believed she got the silver medal because she executed the tactics well.

"After Yang won the race, my coach told me with hand signals that I still had one lap to go," said Li.

"When seeing the reaction of the other skaters, I also wondered if I had finished it, but my coach told me there was still one lap, so I continued to skate."

## FIGURE SKATING CAPTURES ESSENCE OF OLYMPIC IDEALS

As always at a Winter Olympics, the figure skating packed in the crowds at the Gangneung Ice Area.

In East Asia, the rivalry is intense in the men's and women's singles between Japan and Korea – and this led to the highest attendances of the Winter YOG, with 12,000 spectators for the short programme and free skate on all four nights.

Not only is the graceful strength and athleticism of the skaters on display, so, too, is the impeccable behaviour of the spectators – women, men and children united as one in admiration of the athletes down in the pressure cooker on ice.

A skater falls, the crowd reacts with a collective "ahh", followed by a huge round of applause for encouragement. A skater performs a perfect jump, the crowd reacts with wild cheers, no matter which flag they represent. A skater, on completing their programme, reacts to the applause by bowing to all four sides of the arena as the gifts pour down from the stands.

It's heart-warming; it's moving and refreshing; it unites all nations, just as the Olympics should.

With the music and the colourful costumes, the relentless tension, the sheer joy and relief of nailing a jump that has been years in the making...figure skating is truly the king and queen of Olympic winter sports.



Japan's Mao Shimada beat Korea's Shin Jia to gold in a thrilling women's single competition. (Photo: OIS/IOC/Joel Marklund)

## PATIENCE IS KEY TO CROSS-COUNTRY SUCCESS

Winter Olympian Samaneh Beyrami Baher had plenty of advice for her three cross-country skiers from Iran at Gangwon 2024.

Parastoo Absalan and Melika Mirzaeidizaj competed in the women's competitions and Amir Mohammad Abolhassanzadeh Amghani in the men's races. All three were 16 years old, and all three were taking part in only their second competition overseas after a recent trip to Kazakhstan.

Samaneh, Iran's national youth coach, declared herself "totally satisfied" with their performances.

"They were sure in their technique, good in uphill and downhill and flat area, and they finished the race, so I am satisfied," she said.

As for the long journey ahead in this gruelling, energy-sapping sport, Samaneh added: "I want them to know that cross-country skiing is not like a speed sport.

"They have to train too much. They have to spend too much on training for their resistance and they have to train too much for their muscles, so it takes too much time to achieve their best performance. They need to be patient and try for their goals and not give up."



Samaneh is pictured (right) with the Iranian delegation.

Samaneh, 32, has been involved with the national cross-country team for 13 years and was flagbearer for the Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018. She also participated in five world championships and recorded a top-10 finish in qualification at Slovenia in 2021.

Despite moving into coaching, she has not given up her own career – and is aiming to qualify for her second Olympics in Italy in 2026.

## QATARI CURLERS HAVE FUN ON WINTER YOG DEBUT

There was an unfamiliar curling country among the teams in the mixed doubles competition at Gangneung Curling Centre: Qatar

The Gulf state was represented by Aldana Al-Fahad, 15, and Mohammed Al-Naimi, 17, in the six-team round-robin Group B.

Although they lost all five games, to Norway, United States, Slovenia, Sweden and Ukraine, at least they scored 14 points during their campaign and gained international experience.

"Even though we lost the game, it doesn't matter. We learned a lot of things and had fun. It was very nice. We really enjoyed it," said Mohammed.

Aldana and Mohammed have been playing curling for only three months and found the opponents much too experienced in their strategy and their accurate delivery of the stone at crucial points of each end.

Aldana added: "It is ok. Even if we lose, we learn a lot of things. We learn how to focus and how to go straight on the line. I had a lot of fun."



Mohammed and Aldana represented Qatar in mixed doubles curling.

# OCA ROLL

## ALL THE ASIAN MEDALS



### Korea

#### GOLD (7)

- ▶ Joo Jaehee, men's 1500m short track
- ▶ So Jaehwan, bobsleigh, men's monobob
- ▶ Lee Chaeun, men's snowboard slopestyle
- ▶ Lee Yoon Seung, freestyle skiing, men's dual moguls
- ▶ Kim Hyungyeom, figure skating, men's singles
- ▶ Figure skating, team event – Kim Jinny, Kim Yuseong, Lee Namu, Shin Jia, Kim Hyungyeom,
- ▶ Lee Chaeun, men's snowboard halfpipe

#### SILVER (6)

- ▶ Jung Huidan, women's 500m speed skating
- ▶ Kang Minji, women's 500m short track
- ▶ Women's 3-on-3 ice hockey
- ▶ Speed skating, mixed relay: Heo Seok, Lim Leewon
- ▶ Freestyle skiing, mixed team dual moguls: Yun Shin-Ee, Lee Yoon Seung
- ▶ Figure skating, Shin Jia, women's singles

#### BRONZE (4)

- ▶ Kim Yousung, men's 1500m short track
- ▶ Shin Seonung, men's 500m speed skating
- ▶ Chung Jaehee, women's 500m short track
- ▶ Shin Yeonsu, men's skeleton



### China

#### GOLD (6)

- ▶ Yang Jingru, women's 1500m short track
- ▶ Li Jinzi, women's 1000m short track
- ▶ Zhang Xinzhe, men's 1000m short track
- ▶ Short track, mixed team relay: Li Jinzi, Yang Jingru, Zhang Bohao, Zhang Xinzhe.
- ▶ Speed skating, mixed relay: Pan Baoshuo, Liu Yunqi
- ▶ Liu Yishan, freestyle skiing, women's freeski halfpipe

#### SILVER (9)

- ▶ Li Jinzi, women's 1500m short track
- ▶ Zhang Xinzhe, men's 1500 m short track
- ▶ Yang Jingru, women's 1000m short track
- ▶ Zhang Xinzhe, men's 500m short track
- ▶ Liu Yunqi, women's 1500m speed skating
- ▶ Pan Baoshuo, men's 1500m speed skating
- ▶ Han Linshan, women's freeski slopestyle
- ▶ Pan Baoshuo, speed skating, men's mass start
- ▶ Chen Zihan, freestyle skiing, women's freeski halfpipe

#### BRONZE (3)

- ▶ Chi Xiangyu, bobsleigh, men's monobob
- ▶ Ice hockey, women's 3-on-3
- ▶ Liu Yunqi, speed skating, women's mass start

# OF HONOUR FROM GANGWON 2024



## Japan

### GOLD (3)

- ▶ Murase Yura, women's snowboard big air
- ▶ Shimada Mao, figure skating, women's single
- ▶ Kudo Rise, women's snowboard halfpipe

### SILVER (4)

- ▶ Olly Nicholls, men's freeski slopestyle
- ▶ Olly Nicholls, men's freeski big air
- ▶ Ice hockey, women's six-team tournament
- ▶ Shimizu Sara, women's snowboard halfpipe

### BRONZE (8)

- ▶ Inoue Nonomi, women's 1500m short track
- ▶ Kida Raito, men's 1000m short track
- ▶ Sasabuchi Waka, women's 500m speed skating
- ▶ Kubo Sota, men's 1500m speed skating
- ▶ Short track, mixed team relay: Inoue Nonomi, Yoshizawa Aoi, Fuchigami Yuta, Kida Raito.
- ▶ Nakamura Takuto, freestyle skiing men's dual moguls
- ▶ Takagi Yu, figure skating, women's single
- ▶ Yamada Ryusei, men's snowboard halfpipe



## Kazakhstan

### GOLD (1)

- ▶ Ilya Mizernykh, ski jump men's normal hill individual

### SILVER (0)

### BRONZE (2)

- ▶ Polina Omelchuk, women's 1,000m short track
- ▶ Men's 3-on-3 ice hockey



## Thailand

### GOLD (0)

### SILVER (1)

- ▶ Agnese Campeol, bobsleigh - women's monobob

### BRONZE (0)

## BEHIND THE SCENES OF GANGWON 2024



China's IOC Member Zhang Hong visits the up-and-coming athletes and said Gangwon 2024 had discovered a new generation of winter sports stars.



Two of Asia's IOC Young Leaders, Tania Lee Xu Yar of Malaysia and Lee Sang Eun of Korea, were on duty in the International Zone of the Athletes' Village to promote their work and aims of the programme.



The anti-doping education kiosk in the International Zone of the Athletes' Village was as popular as ever with athletes and team officials alike.



Kazakhstan short-tracker Polina Omelchuk signs a message board presented to her in the mixed zone media interview area at Gangneung Ice Arena.



### DOHA PROVIDES ‘OUTSTANDING HOME’ FOR AQUATICS ATHLETES

The World Aquatics Championships – Doha 2024 marked the first time that one of the world’s biggest sports events had been held in the Middle East.

With only three venues hosting the six sports, Doha 2024 provided a compact and spectacular backdrop for this 21st edition of the world championships, which ran from February 2-18.

Artistic swimming, diving and open water swimming took centre

stage in the first week of the championships, while swimming and high diving took over the second week. Water polo ran throughout, building to a crescendo for the finals of the women’s and men’s competitions.

Speaking at the handover ceremony from Qatar 2024 to Singapore 2025 on the last night of swimming at Aspire Dome, World Aquatics President Husain Al-Musallam said he could not be prouder of Doha’s achievement in hosting such a successful first world championships in the Middle East.

“This has been a truly exceptional World Aquatics Championships – Doha 2024. Doha has been an outstanding home for our athletes and our aquatics family. The venues are absolutely superb,” he said.

“Our athletes have loved competing here, and I know they would want me to give a very big thank you to all the organisers under the leadership of H.E. Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani for creating this magnificent aquatic palace,” he added, referring to Aspire Dome.

“So much hard work is necessary to stage an event like this. I will always be grateful to every person here in Doha who has helped to turn all the plans into a reality. Qatar, thank you for showing the world once again that you are a remarkable destination for hosting major events.”

Capt. Husain concluded that Doha 2024 had seen a new generation of aquatics stars emerge and described it as a “thrilling time” for the sport with the Paris Olympic Games just five months away.



## Doha 2024

**Dates:** February 2-18, 2024

**Host city:** Doha, Qatar

**Sports (6):** Artistic Swimming, Diving, High Diving, Open Water Swimming, Swimming and Water Polo

**Medal Events:** 75

**Venues (3):** Aspire Dome (swimming, water polo, artistic swimming), Hamad Aquatic Centre (diving) and Old Doha Port (open water swimming, high diving)

**Athletes:** 2,600

**Countries and Regions:** 204

**Plus:** World Aquatics Refugee Team

**Next World Aquatics Championships:** Singapore 2025



World Aquatics President Husain Al-Musallam takes part in the flag handover ceremony at the end of Doha 2024. (Photo: World Aquatics)

### CHINA WARMS UP FOR PARIS OLYMPICS WITH DOHA DOMINANCE

China's medal machine was in full production mode at the World Aquatics Championships – Doha 2024.

At the end of the 17-day, six-sports championships, China led the medal rankings on both counts – number of gold medals and total medals.

China left Doha with a healthy haul of 33 medals - 23 gold, eight silver and two bronze - in what was a very happy and prosperous start to the Lunar New Year of the Dragon.

The United States finished in second place with 9-6-8 (23), ahead of Australia on 7-12-5 (24), Netherlands 5-4-0 (9) and Great Britain 4-5-9 (18) to complete the top five.

Lower down the order, Korea came in eighth with 2-1-2 (5); Japan 17th with 1-1-2 (4); Hong Kong, China 20th on 1-1-1 (3); Kazakhstan 23rd with one gold medal; and DPR Korea in 25th place with two silver medals.



Thanks to their brilliant form in both diving and artistic swimming, China's place at the top of the overall rankings was virtually guaranteed before the eight days of swimming, worth 42 gold medals, had even started.

China won all nine of the diving events they entered, and added seven more gold in artistic swimming for a total of 16 heading into the swimming, in which they collected seven more. This was one swimming gold fewer than the United States, who won eight swimming gold and the women's water polo title.

For China, this was perfect preparation on the road to Paris 2024 – even in the absence of their leading swimmers: Hangzhou Asian Games MVPs Zhang Yufei and Qin Haiyang, who were focusing on their preparations for the Olympic Games.



China's Quan Hongchan and Chen Yuxi on their way to the women's 10m synchronised diving gold medal. (The Associated Press)






WORLD AQUATICS  
CHAMPIONSHIPS

DOHA 2024

بطولة العالم للألعاب المائية



Rank	Country/NOC				Total
<b>1</b>	<b>China</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>33</b>
2	United States of America	9	6	8	23
3	Australia	7	12	5	24
4	Netherlands	5	4	0	9
5	Great Britain	4	5	9	18
6	Italy	3	10	6	19
7	Canada	2	3	6	11
<b>8</b>	<b>Republic of Korea</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
9	New Zealand	2	1	1	4
9	Sweden	2	1	1	4
11	Portugal	2	0	1	3
12	Ireland	2	0	0	2
13	Spain	1	5	4	10
14	France	1	4	1	6
15	Germany	1	2	3	6
16	Mexico	1	1	4	6
17	Hungary	1	1	2	4
<b>17</b>	<b>Japan</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>
17	Ukraine	1	1	2	4
20	Greece	1	1	1	3
<b>20</b>	<b>Hong Kong, China</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>
22	Lithuania	1	1	0	2
23	Croatia	1	0	0	1
<b>23</b>	<b>Kazakhstan</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>DPR Korea</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
26	Austria	0	1	1	2
27	Denmark	0	1	0	1
27	Israel	0	1	0	1
27	Switzerland	0	1	0	1
30	Poland	0	0	3	3
31	Colombia	0	0	2	2
31	Egypt	0	0	2	2
31	Neutral Independent Athletes	0	0	2	2
34	Bosnia and Herzegovina	0	0	1	1
34	Brazil	0	0	1	1
34	Romania	0	0	1	1
34	South Africa	0	0	1	1

Legend:  Gold Medal  Silver Medal  Bronze Medal

### WORLD RECORD PERFORMANCE WAS NO 'FLASH IN THE PAN'

In the absence of leading Chinese swimmers such as Hangzhou Asian Games MVPs Zhang Yufei and Qin Haiyang, could anyone pick up the baton and climb to the top of the podium?

Yes, they could – and his name was Pan Zhanle.

The 19-year-old Pan broke the world record of 46.86 seconds in the men's 100m freestyle by clocking 46.80 on the first leg of the men's 4x100m freestyle relay on the opening night of the swimming competition.



Pan-tastic! Pan Zhanle celebrates gold at Doha 2024. (Photo: Olympics.com)

Pan and his team went on to claim gold, and the new world record-holder added three more gold medals to his tally during the course of the meet: 100m freestyle, men's 4x200m freestyle relay and mixed 4x100m freestyle relay.

"Actually, I wasn't feeling in great form," Pan said. "I would've been happy with just getting on the podium. I told myself, 'Just swim hard'. I was shocked when I saw the time. I wasn't expecting to break the record now - I wanted to leave it for the

Paris 2024 Olympic Games."

After adding the men's individual 100m freestyle gold, Pan commented: "This is only the beginning. Let's meet again in Paris."

Pan had announced his arrival as a world-class freestyler at the Hangzhou Asian Games last September-October by winning three gold medals, three silvers and one bronze.

### CHINESE TWIN SISTERS CELEBRATE GOLDEN GRAND SLAM

Chinese twins Wang Liuyi and Wang Qianyi completed a golden grand slam in artistic swimming at Doha 2024.

The 27-year-old sisters won four gold medals – women's duet technical, women's duet free, team acrobatic and team technical.

Wang Liuyi said: "I feel so excited and appreciate to have four gold medals. This is based on our hard training every day. Our team is a great team so they inspire us to show our best version."



Chinese twins Wang Liuyi and Wang Qianyi – four gold medals each (Photo: XINHUA)

She added that their mentality going into the finals – "a little bit of pressure and a little bit excited" – was the perfect condition to perform at the highest level.

Only two minutes separate the birth of the twins, and they admit they inspire each other every day in training and in their daily lives. "It is heart-warming when we get a great performance," said Liuyi.

## ADVENTURE IS A WAY OF LIFE FOR INDIAN TEEN RITHIKA



Rithika at Old Doha Port. (Photo: OCA)

**A**t the age of 16, India's Rithika Bangalore Mahesh has already competed in two World Aquatics Championships in women's open water swimming.

And she plans to attend many more as she prepares for her future after completing her education.

"I am still at school. I am in the 12th grade right now," she said, after the women's 5km open water race at Old Doha Port. "I

wish to continue swimming. I am thinking about becoming professional," she adds.

Until then, Rithika will continue to make inroads into the 5km race, and feels she made progress in Doha compared to her world championships debut in Fukuoka, Japan last July.

"I have been training in open water swimming for the past two or three years now, so this is my second world championships. In Fukuoka my time was 1 hour and 12 minutes and here it was 1 hour 8 minutes; I have improved on the time so I guess I am happy with that. I am going to train better."

Living in Bangalore, Rithika swims in the pool and also in the "back waters – the dam waters basically," she says.

"Open water swimming is far more adventurous. I like the sport," she adds.

Rithika admits that her goal is to improve her time in every race. "My aim is to go ahead of yourself, push yourself," she says.

Looking back on her Doha experience, Rithika said: "The staff are quite supportive here and they are quite caring, too. The venue is amazing – it's clean, nice. I like it."

## SINGAPORE 'EXCITED' BY WOMEN'S WATER POLO DEBUT

**M**aking their first appearance in the women's water polo competition of the World Aquatics Championships, Singapore found out exactly how tough it was at the top.

They finished 16th out of 16 teams and suffered some heavy defeats along the way, but still they remained optimistic and excited about the future, especially with the next world championships in Singapore in 2025.

Ranice Yap Jingxuan, 17, said the players were far from downhearted.

"Generally, we are still quite excited to be playing in this competition because it is all like a learning opportunity and everything is new to us," she said.

"It is the first time for us to play on the world stage and it is an eye-opening experience for us; it's exciting to play every game and exciting to learn new things from the other teams."

Looking ahead to next year in Singapore, Ranice added: "I think



Singapore discuss tactics in their match against Hungary.

we would like to show how much we have improved throughout the years and also put up a fight. We want to show our fighting spirit in the pool, and also once again gain experience from other teams.

### ASIA'S ONLY HIGH DIVER IN DOHA – 'I FEEL ALIVE RIGHT NOW'

Standing alone at the top of the high diving tower, 27 metres above an entry pool of just 15 metres in diameter, Korea's Choi Byunghwa feels very much alone.

This is pretty much how he feels most of the time in his life as a high diver – alone.

Choi, 32, was Asia's only representative in the high diving competition, men and women, and struggles for funding back home in Korea with high diving not an Olympic Games sport.



Choi Byunghwa. (Photo: OCA)

When asked how he felt to be Asia's lone high diver in Doha, Choi replied: "It's a really great, great honour for me.

"Actually, you know I am the only one - Asian high diver - and I am really proud of that kind of meaning. I don't have the acrobatic base; I am not a former professional diver or gymnast; I just started this sport at age 24. I came a really long way, really tough way."

Choi accepts that high diving is not a priority for the Korean Swimming Federation, as they have many top athletes in Olympic sports such as swimming, artistic swimming and diving – or "indoor diving" as he refers to it.

He adds: "I am the only athlete, high diver, in South Korea. Also, there is no coach in my country, so I am here alone by myself everywhere – every training, every competition...everything I do by myself."

But this does not concern him when he stands on the 27m podium – the equivalent of jumping from the eighth storey of a high-rise building into an entry pool that resembles a bowl of soup from such a great height.

#### 'I love my life'

"I don't think too much about the ranking of the game, it does not matter for me. It's a really great honour to participate in this

competition with the world's greatest high divers. It's a really great honour for me - I really love my life."

Asked why high diving was not popular in other Asian countries, he replied: "Actually I am not sure about other countries like Japan or China, I don't know about that, but in my country we have many great 10-metre divers but they don't want to do higher.

"Many times, I ask them but they said 'hey, crazy, hey Choi, I don't want to die!' People think like that. People in my country, they don't want to take some risk. Everybody thinks crazy things about this sport, that it's too dangerous, so it's really hard for me in one of the Asian countries, South Korea...doing high diving is a really tough way."

The rewards are worth it, though, as he plummets into the pool – and fulfills something deep inside.

"I want to live my life how I want, how I really want," he adds. "I cannot earn much money for this but I feel alive right now."

To fund his passion for high diving, Choi teaches swimming, life-saving and first aid in Seoul, but is seeking sponsors from the corporate world so that he can train in countries like the United States, Austria and Canada and compete on a regular basis on the world circuit.

Reflecting on his Doha experience, in which he finished 23rd of 27 competitors, and his second world championships after Fukuoka 2023, Choi said: "I am super happy with my performance. I know I need more training and experience, but for now I am really happy to finish my competition with safety and with good dives. So, I am really satisfied and really huge happy, I feel."

Choi feels he can carry on for five or six more years, even up until he reaches 40 years old, as his life in general has benefited from the discipline of high diving and training.

"I eat clean food only and I sleep well – I take care of everything about my condition," he said.



The imposing high diving tower at Old Doha Port.

## ALL EYES ON SINGAPORE FOR NEXT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

**W**orld Aquatics President Husain Al-Musallam has expressed excitement about Singapore hosting the next World Aquatics Championships.

“We have made history here in Doha, just as we will in Singapore in 2025 - the first time the World Aquatics Championships will take place in Southeast Asia,” he said.

“Singapore has everything we hope to share with our athletes: world-class

facilities, proven experience of hosting events of the highest quality and a passion for aquatic sports that runs from an elite to community level.”

Mark Chay, Co-Chair of the World Aquatics Championships - Singapore 2025 Organising Committee, noted the impact the event will have in Southeast Asia.



Singapore will host the World Aquatics Championships in 2025.

“In just 18 months, the world's attention will turn to Southeast Asia as Singapore takes the stage to proudly host the 2025 edition of the World Aquatics Championships and World Aquatics Masters Championships,” he said.

“Singapore eagerly anticipates welcoming the world's most elite athletes and masters aquatics athletes. Their performances are certain to ignite inspiration in future generations across Singapore, the region, and beyond.”

Competition venues in Singapore will include the Singapore Sports Hub, a world-class complex that includes the National Stadium, Singapore Indoor Stadium and OCBC Aquatic Centre which features two 50m pools and a diving facility.

## BEIJING AWARDED 2029 WORLD AQUATICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

**B**eijing was announced as the host of the 2029 World Aquatics Championships on the sidelines of Doha 2024.

The showcase World Aquatics event will be organised in close cooperation with the China Swimming Association and the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Sports.

World Aquatics President Husain Al-Musallam commented: “Beijing has repeatedly welcomed major aquatics events, providing excellent conditions that enable our athletes to perform at their very best.

“Thanks to our longstanding collaboration with our friends in China, we know the global aquatics community can look forward to world-class sporting action and entertainment in one of the world's most iconic cities.”

Beijing in particular and China in general has a long history of hosting top-class international aquatics events.

“The People's Republic of China is deeply passionate about aquatic sports. We have a very proud history of

welcoming the best aquatics athletes to our country,” said China Swimming Association President Zhou Jihong.

Following Doha 2024, the 2025 and 2027 editions of the World Aquatics Championships will be hosted in Singapore and Budapest, respectively.



The World Aquatics-Beijing 2029 signing ceremony in Doha.

### ASIA'S MEDAL-WINNERS AT DOHA 2024



China

#### GOLD (23)

##### Artistic Swimming (7)

- ▶ Team Acrobatic: Chang Hao, Feng Yu, Wang Ciyue, Wang Liuyi, Wang Qianyi, Xiang Binxuan, Xiao Yanning, Zhang Yayi.
- ▶ Women Duet Technical: Wang Liuyi/Wang Qianyi.
- ▶ Men Solo Technical: Yang Shuncheng
- ▶ Team Technical: Chang Hao, Feng Yu, Wang Ciyue, Wang Liuyi, Wang Qianyi, Xiang Binxuan, Xiao Yanning, Zhang Yayi.
- ▶ Women Duet Free: Wang Liuyi/Wang Qianyi
- ▶ Team Free: Chang Hao, Cheng Wentao, Feng Yu, Li Xiuchen, Wang Ciyue, Xiang Binxuan, Xiao Yanning, Zhang Yayi.
- ▶ Mixed Duet Free: Cheng Wentao/Shi Haoyu.

##### Diving (9)

- ▶ Men's 10m Synchro: Lian Junjie/Yang Hao
- ▶ Women's 10m platform: Quan Hongchan
- ▶ Women's 10m Platform Synchro: Chen Yuxi/Quan Hongchan
- ▶ Women's 3m Synchro: Chang Yani/Chen Yiwen.
- ▶ Men's 3m Springboard: Wang Zongyuan
- ▶ Mixed 10m platform synchro: Huang Jianjie/Zhang Jiaqi
- ▶ Men 3m Synchro: Wang Zongyuan/Long Daoyi
- ▶ Women's 3m Springboard: Chang Yani
- ▶ Men's 10m Platform: Yang Hao.

##### Swimming (7)

- ▶ Men's 4x100m freestyle relay: Pan Zhanle\*, Ji Xinjie Zhang Zhanshuo and Wang Haoyu.
- ▶ Women's 100m breaststroke: Tang Qianting
- ▶ Men's 100m freestyle: Pan Zhanle
- ▶ Women's 4x200m freestyle relay: Ai Yanhan, Gong Zhenqi, Li Bingjie and Yang Peiqi.
- ▶ Men's 200m Breaststroke: Dong Zhihao
- ▶ Men's 200m Freestyle Relay: Ji Xinjie, Wang Haoyu, Pan Zhanle and Zhang Zhanshuo.
- ▶ Mixed 4x100m Freestyle Relay: Pan Zhanle, Wang Haoyu, Li Bingjie and Yu Yiting.

\*world record in the first leg of 46.80 seconds

#### SILVER (8)

##### Artistic Swimming (1)

- ▶ Mixed Duet Technical: Cheng Wentao/Shi Haoyu

##### Diving (4)

- ▶ Women's 10m Platform: Chen Yuxi
- ▶ Men's 3m Springboard: Xie Siyi
- ▶ Women's 3m Springboard: Chen Yiwen
- ▶ Men's 10m Platform: Cao Yuan

##### Swimming (3)

- ▶ Women's 400m Freestyle: Li Bingjie
- ▶ Women's 1500 Freestyle: Li Bingjie
- ▶ Women's 50m Breaststroke: Tang Qianting

#### BRONZE (2)

- ▶ Artistic Swimming: Women solo technical – Xu Huiyan
- ▶ Swimming – Women's 200m Individual Medley: Yu Yiting.



Korea

#### GOLD (2)

##### Swimming (2)

- ▶ Men's 400m freestyle: Kim Woo-min
- ▶ Men's 200m freestyle: Hwang Sun-woo

#### SILVER (1)

- ▶ Swimming – Men's 4x200m Freestyle Relay: Yang Jae-hoon, Kim Woo-min, Lee Ho-joon and Hwang Sun-woo.

#### BRONZE (2)

##### Diving (2)

- ▶ Women's 3m Springboard: Kim Su-ji
- ▶ Mixed Synchronised 3m Springboard: Kim Su-ji/Yi Jae-gyeong



Japan

#### GOLD (1)

- ▶ Swimming – Men's 200m butterfly: Tomoru Honda

#### SILVER (1)

- ▶ Artistic Swimming – Team Free: Higa Moe, Kijima Moeka, Kobayashi Uta, Sato Tomoka, Wada Ami, Yanagisawa Akane, Yasunaga Mashiro and Yoshida Megumu.

#### BRONZE (2)

- ▶ Artistic Swimming – Team Technical: Higa Moe, Kijima Moeka, Kobayashi Uta, Sato Tomoka, Shimada Ayano, Wada Ami, Yasunaga Mashiro, Yoshida Megumu.
- ▶ Swimming – Men's 400m Individual Medley: Daiya Seto.



Hong Kong, China

#### GOLD (1)

- ▶ Swimming – Women's 200m Freestyle: Siobhan Haughey

#### SILVER (1)

- ▶ Swimming – Women's 100m Freestyle: Siobhan Haughey

#### BRONZE (1)

- ▶ Swimming – Women's 100m Breaststroke: Siobhan Haughey



Kazakhstan

#### GOLD (1)

- ▶ Artistic Swimming – Mixed Duet Technical: Nargiza Bolatova/Eduard Kim



DPR Korea

#### SILVER (2)

##### Diving (2)

- ▶ Mixed 10m Platform Synchro: Jo Jin Mi/Im Yong Myong
- ▶ Women's 10m Platform Synchro: Kim Mi Rae/Jo Jin Mi



## OCA SETS DATE FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Olympic Council of Asia announced on March 8 that the 43rd OCA Ordinary General Assembly will be held in Bangkok, Thailand on Saturday, May 11.

The GA was originally scheduled to take place in New Delhi, India on April 14 but was moved due to the festival of Eid and also the forthcoming general elections in India.

“This would have caused severe difficulties to several NOCs and to OCA if the General Assembly were to be held in New Delhi as originally planned,” the OCA said.

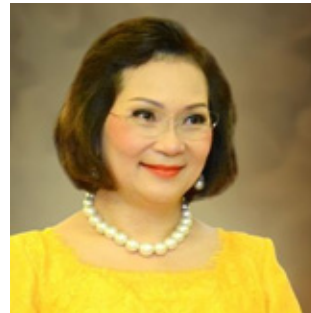
The GA was moved to Bangkok to make sure all NOCs could attend.

The agenda includes progress reports from the organising committees of four upcoming games – AIMAG 6 in Thailand this November, Harbin Asian Winter Games in February 2025, Tashkent Asian Youth Games 2025 and Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games 2026 – as well as a report from the Chair of the OCA Constitutional Reforms Committee.

IOC President Thomas Bach is scheduled to attend and give an address to the GA.

## OCA CULTURE COMMITTEE

The Chair of the OCA Culture Committee, Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul, highlighted the close relationship between sport and culture during an online meeting of the committee on Wednesday, March 6.



The IOC Member from Thailand provided details of all the art and cultural events attached to the OCA’s Asian Games in Hangzhou, China last September and October and the recent Winter Youth Olympic Games Gangwon 2024.

“Since our last meeting on July 1, 2023, there have been so many important events organised with a combination of sport and culture which may give us inspiration for the future,” said Khunying Patama.

Committee member Francis Wanandi of Indonesia reviewed the One Asia 110-years celebration held in Hangzhou last September 24 and said the One Asia brand was expanding its activities with an event running alongside AIMAG 6 in Thailand this November.

## MALAYSIA, BAHRAIN TO HOST OS/OCA REGIONAL FORUMS

The popular and informative regional forums for the OCA’s 45 National Olympic Committees have been confirmed for 2024.

Lumpur, Malaysia on Friday and Saturday, May 3-4, and the forum for West, Central and South Asian NOCs will be held in Manama, Bahrain on Monday and Tuesday, May 6-7.



The two-day forum for South East Asian and East Asian NOCs will take place in Kuala

NOCs are allowed to register two delegates, including the Chef de Mission of the 6th AIMAG and the Secretary General/staff member responsible for IOC/OCA activities (Paris 2024/AIMAG or Harbin Asian Winter Games).



OCA’s IT audit team spent a busy few days working with the organising committees of three upcoming games. The OCA team started in Bangkok with the third OCA IT audit for the 6th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games this November and then moved on to Japan for their first meeting with the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games 2026. The tech team ended their tour in Harbin, China (pictured here) for their inaugural IT audit session with the 9th Asian Winter Games organisers ahead of the February 2025 AWG.

By Alvin Sallay, OCA Media

## OCA'S AIMAG MEETINGS IN BANGKOK 'VERY FRUITFUL'

The Deputy Director General of the Olympic Council of Asia, Vinod Kumar Tiwari, described a series of meetings with Thai organisers of the 6th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games as "very fruitful".

After a delay of three years from the original hosting period in 2021, AIMAG 6 will now be taking place in Bangkok and Chonburi province from November 21-30, 2024.



In order to prepare for the Games, the OCA organised three meetings in early March for the key participants to set the ball rolling on the road to AIMAG 6.

The first Technical Delegates Meeting took place from March 2-3, the first Chefs de Mission Meeting on March 4-5 and finally the fourth OCA Coordination Committee meeting from March 6-7.

In addition, a 260-day countdown ceremony was held at the Centara Grand Hotel in Bangkok on March 5 with the presence of OCA Director General Husain Al-Musallam.

Summing up the technical delegates and chefs de mission meetings, Mr. Tiwari said: "Those two meetings have been very, very fruitful for us. We had the site visits and meetings and we are pleasantly very surprised that the preparations are going on quite well. This time in November we will have a very, very successful Asian Games.

"Regarding the preparations, though the venues are still dry, but we hope that by the time we come back in November everything will be in place and we will have a very, very successful Asian Games."

There will be a total of 36 sports, with 20 in Bangkok and 16 in Chonburi province, some two hours' drive from the capital and well known for the tourist hot spot of Pattaya, along with two demonstration sports.

The exact number of events is still being discussed between the two sides, although the provisional figure is 357.

**NOTE:** Sporting Asia's AIMAG 6 coverage runs for four pages from Page 50 to 53.



The 260-day countdown ceremony to AIMAG 6 took place on March 5. (Photo: OCA)



Husain Al-Musallam addresses the Thai media at the 260-day countdown ceremony. (Photo: OCA)

## OCA DIRECTOR GENERAL PRAISES SPECIAL TIES WITH THAIS IN GAMES HOSTING

Thailand's close ties with the Olympic Council of Asia were highlighted by OCA Director General Husain Al-Musallam during the 260 days countdown ceremony on March 5.

Thailand has hosted the Asian Games four times, in 1966, 1970, 1978 and 1998, the first Asian Indoor Games in 2005 and the first Asian Martial Arts Games in 2009, as well as the Asian Beach Games in Phuket in 2016. AIMAG 6 this November will continue that journey.

"We are deeply appreciative of what Thailand has done for Asia. You are always ready to welcome our OCA Games to your beautiful country," he said.

"It is our duty at the OCA, hand-in-hand with the Thai government, the Thai people and the Thai NOC, to make the Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games a success. We are ever grateful to this country and we want to make sure this event is organised in the best possible fashion," Mr. Al-Musallam added.

Referring to the three-year delay, Mr Al-Musallam said: "Covid impacted everything. But I know that the Thai organising committee is doing its very best to host these Games in the best manner they can."

He pointed out that hosting the Asian Games four times previously had helped play a role in Thailand developing its tourism industry and other sectors, and hoped AIMAG 6 could also be similarly seen as a jump-start for the Thai economy.

Mr. Al-Musallam added: "The benefits of sports are many and, by hosting this event, let's hope everyone sees that. There is nothing more important in life than health and a healthy society. And the best way to achieve these goals is through sport."



## AIMAG 6

**Host:** Bangkok and Chonburi Province

**Opening Ceremony:** November 21

**Closing Ceremony:** November 30

**Mascot:** Fighting Parrot

**Slogan:** Garland of Hope

**NOCs:** 45

**Athletes:** 6,000 – 8,000

**Sports:** 36

**Events:** 357\*

**Demonstration Sports:** 2

**Events:** 6

**Team Welcome Ceremony:** November 19 – 20, Indoor Stadium Huamark, Bangkok

**Ticket Sales:** Only for 8 sports – badminton, basketball, esports, futsal, muaythai, volleyball, sepak takraw, taekwondo

### Sports and Events\*:

**In Bangkok (20 sports):** Aquatics (30 events), Badminton (5), Baseball Fives (1), Basketball 3x3 (2), BMX Cycling (2), Bowling (8), Cheerleading (4), Climbing (6), Fencing (6), Floorball (2), Futsal (2), Indoor Hockey (2), Jujitsu (20), Kickboxing (10), Netball (1), Pencak Silat (11), Sepaktakraw (11), Shooting (5), Skateboarding (12), Volleyball (men, 1).

**In Chonburi (18 sports):** Indoors Athletics (27), Billiard Sports (15), Chess (6), DanceSport (14), Esports (4), Hockey5s (2), Indoor Rowing (10), Kabaddi (2), Karate (13), Kurash (15), Mixed Martial Arts (20), Muaythai (21), Roller Skiing (6), Sambo (8), Taekwondo (20), Volleyball (women, 1), Weightlifting (14), Wrestling (18).

**Note:** Volleyball and hockey will be played in both Bangkok and Chonburi.

**Demonstrations Sports:** In Bangkok, Airsport (drone racing) and Teqball

## OCA VP OUTLINES ‘SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS’ AT TD MEETING

The OCA Vice President for AIMAG 6, Dato’ Seri Chaiyapak Siriwat, informed the technical delegates that “significant progress” had been made on the road to Bangkok and Chonburi.

Dato’ Seri Chaiyapak was addressing delegates at the first Technical Delegates Meeting on March 2 at the Centara Grand Hotel in Bangkok and set the scene for the 36-sport AIMAG in November.

“We have made significant progress in preparations in all areas including all technical aspects like competition venues, training facilities, equipment and other amenities,” he said.

“Everything will be in place before the Games get underway in November.”

Thailand’s Minister of Tourism and Sports, Ms. Sudawan Wangsuphakijkosol, sent a video message to the TD meeting and said AIMAG 6 would showcase Thailand’s readiness to host major international sports events in the future.

“It is a great honour and pride to host this major international



OCA Vice President Dato’ Seri Chaiyapak Siriwat. (Photo: OCA)

event,” said Sudawan, who is also the Chair of the AIMAG 6 organising committee, TAIMAGOC.

“On behalf of the Government, we will showcase our readiness to host this major event which will portray Thailand as an international sports hub,” she added.

## AIMAG INCLUSION PROVIDES BOOST FOR TENPIN BOWLING

AIMAG 6 will be a massive boost for the sport of tenpin bowling in Asia, said Danny Santos, a senior official of the International Bowling Federation and Asian Bowling Federation.

The Technical Delegate for bowling said AIMAG 6 would come at a good time for his sport, especially after it missed out on the Hangzhou Asian Games last year and is not on the programme for Aichi-Nagoya 2026.

“The Bangkok event will serve to keep our sport in the limelight especially when it comes to funding for national federations across Asia,” Santos explained.

Bowling has to depend on government funding in Asia, according to Santos, so missing out on Hangzhou 2022 and Aichi-Nagoya 2026 has been a big blow.

“AIMAG 6 will go some way towards alleviating this pain,” added the Filipino, who is based in Kuwait with the Asian

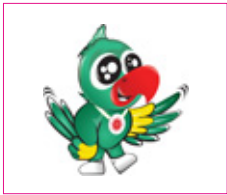


Technical Delegates are all ears at the TD meeting in Bangkok.

Bowling Federation.

“Luckily, in Southeast Asia, next year will see the SEA Games take place in Bangkok where bowling has been included. Taking part in international multi-sports events like these help national federations in funding,” Santos said.

## CC MEETING RECOMMENDS SPORTS PROGRAMME CHANGES



The 4th OCA Coordination Committee meeting brought the curtain down on the six days of meetings involving Technical Delegates and Chefs de Mission.

Under the chairmanship of OCA Vice President Timothy Fok, the OCA and AIMAG organisers discussed all key aspects of the Games.



OCA Vice President Timothy Fok chairs the 4th CC meeting.

Among the decisions taken were:

- Streamlining the sports programme, especially limiting team sports to 12 teams per competition, with the exception of futsal with 16 teams.
- To cut down on the number of events per sport, as 359 in 36 sports was deemed too large, especially in two hosting cities a long way apart.
- To cut down on the number of technical officials.
- Water polo, with two events, to be dropped from the aquatics programme.

Organisers will keep the number of sports at 36, plus two demonstration sports, making this the biggest AIMAG in OCA history going back to 2013, but the measures taken at the CC meeting were an attempt to cut down on costs.

Thai organisers, who looked at various issues like venues, transport, volunteers and medical and anti-doping, also revealed that the accreditation card issued for athletes and officials could not be used as an entry visa, and that all participants would need to apply for a Thai visa separately if required.



Chefs de Mission embark on a site visit.

# Women in Sport

International Women's Day, March 8

## OCA PAYS TRIBUTE TO LEADERS AND LEGENDS ON IWD

On the occasion of International Women's Day on March 8, the OCA paid tribute to a series of ground-breaking and inspiring women in sport.

Sports leaders and legends were given centre stage in the build-up to March 8 to mark their achievements in the world of sport on and off the field.

On International Women's Day itself, the Chair of the OCA Gender Equity Committee, Sheikha Hayat bint Abdulaziz of Bahrain, sent a motivational message via video to all girls and women in Asia, encouraging them to reach for their dreams.

"Women, with their determination, confidence, capabilities and potential, are a force to be reckoned with within their communities," Sheikha Hayat said.

"Arming themselves with knowledge, keeping up with developments in various fields, especially in sports, with passion and enthusiasm will ensure sustainability and continued development for future generations.

"As former national team players, our role is also to encourage young girls to practice sports whether for competition or for the health of society as it cares for normal human values."

Sheikha Hayat concluded: "On this occasion I call on every woman to set her goal and draw a path for her ambition no matter how difficult or impossible it may seem - but with her determination and perseverance she will achieve it one day and say to herself 'I deserve it'."

✿ The sports leaders featured were Mikako Kotani of Japan, Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul of Thailand, Rita Subowo (Indonesia), Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski (Philippines), Sheikha Hayat bint Abdulaziz (Bahrain), Zhang Hong (China), Samira Asghari (Afghanistan) and Venera Abdulla (Kazakhstan).

✿ The athletes featured were Momiji Nishiya (Japan, skateboarding), Lubna Al Omair (Saudi Arabia, fencing), Yara Al Hogbani (Saudi Arabia, tennis), Hidilyn Diaz (Philippines, weightlifting), Susi Susanti (Indonesia, badminton) and Ghada Shouaa (Syria, heptathlon).



### NEPAL NOC HONOURS TWO OUTSTANDING FEMALE LEADERS

**O**n the 114th International Women's Day, the Women and Sports Commission of NOC Nepal celebrated the achievements of women in sports by honoring two outstanding athletes.

Ms. Parbati Thapa, Nepal's first female Olympian in shooting from the 1988 Olympic Games, and Ms. Ganga Shrestha, a devoted member of the National Sports Council for 34 years, were recognised for their contributions.

The IWD event, attended by two female representatives from 27 affiliated associations, showcased the importance of recognising and supporting women in sports at all levels. The participants were presented with appreciation letters and a cash prize of Rs. 25,000 each in acknowledgment of their outstanding efforts.

Mr. Jeevan Ram Shrestha, NOC President, praised the awardees for their dedication and encouraged all women

to embrace their achievements proudly. Alongside the felicitation ceremony, the Nepal Olympic Academy organised a session on Safeguarding, led by Mr. Sujan Lal Shrestha, Director of NOA, to promote safety and inclusivity in sports environments.



Nepal NOC's Women and Sports Commission awards event on IWD.

### OCM CELEBRATES 'EXTRAORDINARY ACHIEVEMENTS' OF FEMALE ATHLETES

**T**he President, Executive Board and Management of the Olympic Council of Malaysia marked International Women's Day with their colleagues and stakeholders on March 8.

"Today, we celebrate the extraordinary achievements, resilience and invaluable contributions of women not only in Malaysia but around the world," said Dato' Paduka Mumtaz Jaffar, Vice President of OCM and Chair of the OCM Women and Sport Committee.

"I'm very happy to see countless inspiring women who continue to shape and uplift our sporting community. Hopefully, it will continue to grow.

"I also want to take this opportunity to wish all the best to the women athletes who will be competing in the Olympic Games Paris 2024."



Malaysia's Wall of Fame on IWD. (Photo: OCM)



CHINA'S Xinhua News compiled a series of messages from female athletes on IWD. Here's a poster made by Team Inner Mongolia of the Women's Chinese Basketball Association to mark the special day. "We are all amazing goddesses. May you be lovely, gentle, strong and brave, achieving the best version of yourselves on the path of pursuing your basketball dreams."

## FEI SOLIDARITY GRANT FUELS EQUINE CAREERS IN CAMBODIA

**T**he Cambodian Equestrian Federation (CEF) has launched a pioneering training programme aimed at boosting the participation of young women in Cambodia's growing equestrian sector, reports the International Equestrian Federation (FEI).

Created with the support of a Gender Equality Grant from FEI Solidarity, the primary objective of the programme is to provide comprehensive support and mentorship to women aged 15 to 20, guiding them towards establishing sustainable careers as grooms in stables or riding centres.

The programme will offer basic training as well as specialised courses to equip the participants with advanced skills in horse care and facility maintenance.

The training programme – which will take place at the Genius Resort, the new CEF training centre situated in Phnom Penh – has been officially endorsed by the FEI President and Chair of the FEI Solidarity Committee, Ingmar De Vos, and by FEI Vice President and Group VIII Chair Jack Huang.

A total of 20 women, in two groups of 10, will join the programme. Once they have graduated, the apprentices will be accompanied by the CEF in their job search.

HRH Nanda-Dévi Norodom, CEF Secretary General and the architect of the training programme, said: "We are honoured to be the recipients of this Gender Equality Grant. The financial support from FEI Solidarity will go a long way to improving the know-how required for equestrian activities to grow and thrive in our country, while giving these young women the opportunity to make significant economic contributions to society.

"In Cambodia, the equine sector has a shortage of skilled and qualified professionals which makes it impossible to address the increasing demand and needs of the different stakeholders in the equestrian sector.

"While this programme blends practical and theoretical learning, participants will also be taught basic English vocabulary relating to horses, grooming and riding. Our aim is to ensure that these young women leave the programme well prepared for the workforce and can avail of any and all opportunities for employment."

The project has garnered enthusiastic backing, notably from Cambodia's Queen Mother Norodom Monineath Sihanouk - a passionate advocate for women's empowerment.



The young women about to embark on the equestrian programme in Cambodia. (Photo: FEI)



Wishing the students all the best. (Photo: FEI)



Pinning their hopes on a successful career. (Photo: FEI)



## GRACE FU ELECTED PRESIDENT OF SINGAPORE NOC

**G**race Fu, 59, was elected unopposed as President of the Singapore National Olympic Council at an Extraordinary General Meeting held on January 5 at the Singapore Sports Hub.

Ms. Fu is a Member of Parliament and currently serves as the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment. She was

appointed to oversee the nation's sports agenda from 2015-2020 when she served as the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth.

Ms. Fu will take over the reins from Acting President Mrs. Jessie Phua, who will now resume her duties as Vice President.



Grace Fu, the new President of Singapore NOC (Photo: SNOC)

Ms Fu was co-opted to serve the SNOC Executive Committee in October 2023. She will hold office as President for the term ending 2026.

"I am thankful for the privilege to serve the SNOC and the Olympic Movement," she said.

"I hope we can continue to work together with our National Sports Associations and stakeholders to realise the potential of our athletes to bring Singapore sport to greater heights and continue to create opportunities for our athletes to represent Singapore at the major Games.

"I would like to extend my appreciation to my fellow Executive Committee members and our National Sports Association affiliates for their support, and to Mrs. Jessie Phua for her contribution as Acting President," said Ms Fu.

## OCA EB MEMBER KOTANI WINS ARTISTIC SWIMMING GOLD



Capt. Husain presents the gold medals to Kotani and Abe. (Photo: World Aquatics)

**O**CA Executive Board member Mikako Kotani has proved she still has what it takes to win medals at the highest level.

Mikako, who is Chair of the OCA Athletes' Committee, won the gold medal for Japan with Atsushi Abe in the artistic swimming mixed duet at the World Aquatics Masters Championships in Doha.

The Japanese pair were presented with their gold medals by the President of World Aquatics and OCA Director General Husain Al Musallam.

Mikako, 57, represented Japan in two Olympic Games, winning bronze medals in both the solo and duet events at Seoul 1988. She also competed at Barcelona 1992.

Abe, 41, won two bronze medals at the 18th FINA (now World Aquatics) World Championships in Korea in 2019, in mixed duet technical and mixed duet free.

## TURKMENISTAN WOMEN CHALLENGE FOR CHESS CROWN

A total of 52 chess players competed for the final five places in the Turkmenistan national women's chess championship at a top league qualifying tournament in Dashoguz, northern Turkmenistan.

The five qualifiers joined the three players who had already booked a place in the eight-player national championship being held in Ashgabat from March 3-17.



The women's chess tournament is under way. (Chess Federation of Turkmenistan)

The qualifying tournament was won by Byagul Ezizova, 17, followed by Leyla Shokhradova, Jennet Durdyeva, Jahangir Rejepova and Enesh Arazmedova.

The winners were awarded the Cup, medals, diplomas, valuable prizes and gift certificates from the "DZ Burgerhouse" restaurant.

The results of the top league of the Turkmenistan Championship will determine the composition of the women's national team for the World Chess Olympiad, which will take place this September in Budapest, Hungary. (Turkmenistan Golden Age)

## BAHRAIN ENTRY WINS GCC WOMEN'S SPORTS HACKATHON

The project "Discovering, Nurturing and Developing Sports Talents" from the Kingdom of Bahrain won first place at the GCC Women's Sports Hackathon event in Oman.

aim of exchanging ideas and experiences regarding the promotion of GCC women's sports, characterised by organizing specialized workshops." (<https://ooc.om>)

The event was organised by the Oman Olympic Committee, represented by the Oman Women's Sports and Gender Equality Committee, over two days, under the patronage of HH Sayyid Shihab bin Harib bin Thuwaini Al Said and in the presence of Sayyida Sana bint Hamad Al Busaidiyah, Chair of Oman Women's Sports and Gender Equality Committee.

Sayyida Sana bint Hamad delivered the opening speech and pointed out the great strides made in women's sports at the GCC level.

She added: "This initiative comes on the sidelines of the 35th meeting held in Muscat last October, with the



The GCC women's sports hackathon in Oman. (Photo: OOC)



NEPAL NOC has congratulated Olympic Solidarity Scholarship-holder Nabita Shrestha for being appointed Global Ambassador of Toyota. The table tennis coach is pictured under the slogan "Start Your Impossible". Toyota has been a worldwide Olympic partner since 2015. (Nepal NOC)

## CHEN NAMED DIVING ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

China's Chen Yiwen has been named female diving athlete of the year for 2023 by World Aquatics.

The 24-year-old 3m springboard ace dominated her discipline throughout the year and collected a prize of USD 10,000.

Chen was honoured for winning just about everything in women's 3m springboard in 2023, including the Xi'an World Cup in April with a personal record 404.70 points and the Montreal World Cup in May.

In July, she successfully defended her 2022 world title in Fukuoka and went on to win the Berlin Super Final in August and the Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, in October.

"This award made my day," Chen said. "Last year was not the best year of my life, definitely not. Last year's world championships were not as good as I wanted, but it gave me a lot of experience, like how to change my mindset going into the competition."

As for the prize money, Chen said, "It is Chinese New Year so I need to support my family. I will spend it on my family."

Australia's 10m platform world champion in Fukuoka, Cassiel Rousseau, was named male diving athlete of the year.



Chen Yiwen with her trophy. (Photo: World Aquatics)

## KISHMALA EARNS PAKISTAN SHOOTING SPOT AT PARIS 2024

Pistol shooter Kishmala Talat has become the first female shooter from Pakistan to qualify for the Olympic Games.

Kishmala, 21, won the silver medal in the women's 10m air pistol at the Asian Shooting Championships in Jakarta in January to earn direct qualification for Paris.

The Olympic Solidarity scholarship athlete has shown great potential in her shooting career.



Kishmala Talat of Pakistan. (POA)

She won a silver medal in the South Asian Games in Nepal in 2019 and a bronze medal in the women's 10m air pistol at the Hangzhou Asian Games last year.

"With Kishmala's great performance, Pakistan is geared up to compete in five shooting events in Paris 2024," the Pakistan Olympic Association said in a statement.

"Let's cheer for our star. Congratulations, Kishmala Talat, on your remarkable feat."

## ABE CROWNED JUDOKA OF THE YEAR

Tokyo Olympic champion Uta Abe, 23, was named International Judo Federation female judoka of the year for 2023 - the second year running after continuing her dominance of the women's 52-kilogram division.

Abe, who has not lost in IJF competition since 2019, went back-to-back as both world

champion and Tokyo Grand Slam winner last year. Her world title victory in Doha in May was the fourth of her career.

"I'm very happy. I want to fight with all my might at the 2024 Paris Olympics," Uta said in a video message played at the award ceremony in Paris.



Uta Abe (Photo: Kyodo News)

## OCA MEDIA COMMITTEE CHAIR CHARLES LO PASSES AWAY, 79

The OCA was in deep mourning after the much-loved Charles Lo, Chair of the OCA Media Committee, passed away on October 7 at the age of 79.

Mr. Lo, who was born in 1944 into a prominent family in Macau, served three terms as OCA Media Committee Chair from 2011 to 2023.

He was President of the Sports and Olympic Committee of Macau, China, the Golf Association of Macau and the Automobile General Association Macau-China, overseeing the annual Macau Grand Prix.

"On behalf of the Olympic sports movement in Asia, the OCA is deeply saddened to learn of the passing of our dear friend and colleague, Mr. Charles Lo," the OCA said in a statement.

"He was always one of the most popular members of the OCA Executive Board and we will miss his friendship and his bright, positive outlook on life. He is a great loss to the OCA and to the Olympic sports movement in general."

For his commitment and dedication to the development of sport in Macau, Mr. Lo was awarded the Medal of Merit for Sports by the Macau Special Administrative Region Government in 2012.



Mr. Charles Lo, OCA Media Committee Chair.

## DATO' KRISHNASAMY THAMBUSAMY

The Olympic Council of Malaysia reported that two-time Olympic sprinter Dato' Krishnasamy Thambusamy passed away peacefully on December 20, 2023, at the age of 79.

Dato' Krishnasamy Thambusamy, who was well known as "Thambu Krishnan" within the athletics fraternity, was a renowned sprinter in the 1960s and 1970s.

He represented Malaysia at the 1968 and 1972 Olympic Games, the Asian Games in 1966 and 1970 and four South East Asian Peninsular Games. (OCM)



Thambu Krishnan (63) wins the silver medal behind Dr. M. Jegathesan (61) in the men's 100m final at the 3rd SEAP Games Kuala Lumpur 1965. (Photo: NSTP)

## DR RASHEED AL ENEZI

The OCA would like to convey its heartfelt condolences to the family of Dr Rasheed Al Enezi, the OCA Ethics and Chief Compliance Officer, who passed away in Kuwait on January 15 after a prolonged illness.

Dr Rasheed was part of the OCA family for the last five years and the OCA would like to place on record its appreciation for the knowledge and wisdom he brought to the table in performing this challenging role.



OCA tribute to Dr. Rasheed Al Enezi

## LISA RUMBEWAS, INDONESIAN WEIGHTLIFTER

Indonesia NOC announced that three-time Olympic medallist Lisa Raema Rumbewas died on January 14 at the age of 43.

Born in 1980, Rumbewas competed at three editions of the Olympic Games, starting at Sydney 2000 where she won a silver medal in the flyweight (-48kg) category.

In 2002, she obtained an Olympic Solidarity scholarship to prepare for the Athens Games in 2004, where she won silver in the featherweight (-53kg) category.

At her last Olympic appearance in Beijing in 2008, she was awarded the bronze medal, again in the featherweight (-53kg) category.



## AJIT SINGH, SINGAPORE HOCKEY

Ajit represented Singapore at the Melbourne 1956 Olympic Games as part of the first and only hockey team to represent the Republic at the Games.

Grace Fu, President of the SNOG, paid tribute to the versatile athlete: "I am saddened by the passing of Mr Ajit Singh and would like to extend my heartfelt condolences to his wife Surjit and his family.

"Ajit was the quintessential sportsman of his time - he was a golfer into his 90s, played cricket, represented Singapore in hockey at the 1956 Olympic Games and competed in masters athletics races.

"He remained active in Singapore sports after his competitive sporting career and participated in many activities. He will be greatly missed."



Ajit Singh is pictured with Olympic swimming champion Joseph Schooling. (Photo: SNOG)

## MOHAMMAD TAVAKOL, IRAN WRESTLING

Dr. Mohammad Tavakol, a former member of the United World Wrestling Bureau and Hall of Famer, passed away in Tehran at the age of 89 after a period of illness.

Born in 1923 in Qazvin, Iran, Tavakol chaired the Iranian Wrestling Federation and was Vice President of the UWW. He served four six-year terms as a member of the Executive Committee of the UWW and was elected head of UWW Asia for a four-year term.

He was chairman of the Medical Commission of UWW and was inducted into the UWW Hall of Fame in 2011.

Iran NOC, deeply saddened by the death of Dr. Mohammad Tavakol, expressed its condolences to his respected family and the country's sports community, especially the proud sport of wrestling.



(Photo: NOC Iran)

## Beijing to host 2027 world athletics championships

The World Athletics Council has selected Beijing to host the 2027 World Athletics Championships, 12 years on from the Chinese capital's successful staging of the world championships in 2015. The 2025 world championships will be in Tokyo. China will also host next year's World Athletics Indoor Championships, in Nanjing.

## China, Japan qualify for Paris Olympic women's basketball tournament

The 12-team field for the Women's Olympic Basketball Tournament Paris 2024 from July 29 to August 11 is now complete following the conclusion of the four FIBA Women's Olympic Qualifying Tournaments in Antwerp, Belgium; Belem, Brazil; Xi'an, China and Sopron, Hungary.

The 12 teams are: Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, France, Germany, Japan, Nigeria, Puerto Rico, Serbia, Spain, USA.

○ Mai Yamamoto (Japan) was one of four players to receive the TISSOT MVP award.

## Kuwait joins ISA

Kuwait has become the 115th member to be officially recognised of the International Surfing Association. The Kuwait Surf Committee strives to educate and inspire Kuwaiti surfers.

The core values of the Kuwait Surf Committee are passion for surfing, community, respect for the ocean, education and inclusivity.

(kuwaitsurfcommittee.com)



## Meet Tina and Milo

The mascots for the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games Milano-Cortina 2026 are stoa siblings Tina and Milo – abbreviations of host cities Cortina and Milano. Over 1,600 entries were received and a public poll was held.

It was also decided that six little snowdrops known as "the Flo" will accompany Tina and Milo in highlighting the fun and adventure of Milano-Cortina 2026. (IOC)

## Asian water polo teams prepare for Paris 2024

The draw was made for the men's and women's water polo competitions at the Paris Olympic Games from August 5-11 on the sidelines of the World Aquatics Championships – Doha 2024 on Saturday, February 17.

### Men (12 teams):

Hungary, Greece, Croatia, Spain, United States, Australia, Japan, Romania, Serbia, Italy, Montenegro, France. Japan have been drawn into Group B with Australia, Serbia, France, Hungary and Spain.

### Women (10 teams):

Netherlands, Spain, Greece, Australia, Hungary, Italy, United States, China, Canada, France. China have been drawn in Group A with Hungary, Australia, Canada and the Netherlands. (World Aquatics)

## Indian tennis player elected to tour panel

The International Tennis Federation has revealed the 12 players elected to serve on the ITF World Tennis Tour Player Panels for the next two years until the end of the 2025 season.

Parth Aggarwal (India) has been elected as a member of the five-strong men's player panel.

The results follow the third election since the Player Panels were established in 2020, with seven members elected to the women's panel, and five elected to the men's.

## Riyadh to host 2024 UIPM Congress

The Executive Board of the UIPM – Modern Pentathlon has agreed unanimously to award the 73rd UIPM Congress to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

The elective Congress will take place on November 16-17, 2024 as the capital of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia hosts UIPM's global decision-making summit for the first time.

The UIPM 2024 Congress was originally awarded to Antigua (GUA) but the award was withdrawn in March 2023 after the suspension of the Guatemala Olympic Committee by the IOC.

## Shanghai selected for OQS

Shanghai and Budapest have been selected as hosts for the Olympic Qualifier Series - a new series of festival-style events combining sport with urban culture.

The two-part series, taking place in the period leading up to the Olympic Games Paris 2024, will be an important step in determining which athletes qualify in BMX freestyle, breaking, skateboarding and sport climbing for Paris 2024.

The Shanghai stop on the Series will be held at the Huangpu Riverside from May 16-19, while the Budapest event will take place at the Ludovika Campus from June 20-23. (IOC)

## IOC President honours table tennis Olympians

IOC President Thomas Bach presented a diploma and OLY pin to table tennis Olympians Feng Tianwei (Singapore) and Sharath Kamal Achanta (India) at Olympic House.

Currently an IOC Athletes' Department intern, four-time Olympian Feng won one silver medal at Beijing 2008 and two bronze medals at London 2012.



An International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) Athletes' Commission Co-Chair, Kamal competed in four Olympic Games - Athens 2004, Beijing 2008, Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020.

The two athletes and their fellow Olympian Liu Shiwen, who is the other Co-Chair of the ITTF Athletes' Commission, signed the Olympians Wall. (Photo: IOC)

## Five sports accepted for LA 2028

Baseball/softball, cricket (T20), flag football, lacrosse (sixes) and squash have been officially included as additional sports on the programme for the Olympic Games Los Angeles 2028. The decision was taken at the 141st IOC Session in Mumbai, India last October.

The five sports were proposed by the LA28 Organising

Committee as a package for their edition of the Games only, and were reviewed and supported by the IOC's Olympic Programme Commission and Executive Board.

For baseball and softball, cricket and lacrosse it will be a return to the Olympic Games, while flag football and squash will be making their Olympic debut in LA. (IOC)

## 2024



March 19 – 20  
**IOC Executive Board**  
Lausanne, Switzerland



April 16  
**Lighting Ceremony and Handover Flame for Paris 2024**  
Olympia, Greece



May 3 – 4 (NEW)  
**OS/OCA Regional Forum**  
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



May 6 – 7 (NEW)  
**OS/OCA Regional Forum**  
Manama, Bahrain



May 11 (NEW)  
**OCA 43rd General Assembly**  
Bangkok, Thailand



May 16 – 19  
**Olympic Qualifier Series**  
Shanghai, China



June 12 – 14  
**IOC Executive Board**  
Lausanne, Switzerland



June 20 – 23  
**Olympic Qualifier Series**  
Budapest, Hungary



July 19  
**IOC Olympic Solidarity Commission**  
Paris, France



July 20 – 22  
**IOC Executive Board**  
Paris, France



July 23 – 24  
**IOC 142nd Session**  
Paris, France



July 26 – August 11  
**Olympic Games**  
Paris, France



August 28 – September 8  
**Paralympic Games**  
Paris, France



October 30 – 31  
**XXVIII ANOC General Assembly**  
Cascais, Portugal



October 30  
**ANOC Awards**  
Cascais, Portugal



November 21 – 30  
**6th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games**  
Bangkok and Chonburi, Thailand

## 2025



February 7 – 14  
**9th Asian Winter Games**  
Harbin, China



Dates to be confirmed  
**Asian Youth Games**  
Tashkent, Uzbekistan



Dates to be confirmed  
**15th National Games of China**  
Hong Kong, Macau and Guangdong province



December 9 – 20  
**33rd South East Asian Games**  
Bangkok, Chonburi, Songkhla, Thailand

## 2026



February 6 – 22  
**XXV Olympic Winter Games**  
Milano-Cortina, Italy



March 6 – 15  
**XIV Paralympic Winter Games**  
Milano-Cortina, Italy



September 19 – October 4  
**20th Asian Games**  
Aichi-Nagoya 2026, Japan



Dates to be confirmed  
**7th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games**  
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia



October 31 – November 13  
**IOC Youth Olympic Games**  
Dakar, Senegal

## 2028



July 14 – 30  
**Olympic Games**  
Los Angeles, United States



August 15 – 27  
**Paralympic Games**  
Los Angeles, United States

## 2029



Dates to be confirmed  
**10th Asian Winter Games**  
Trojena, Saudi Arabia



Dates to be confirmed  
**Asian Youth Games**  
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

## 2030



Dates to be confirmed  
**21st Asian Games**  
Doha, Qatar

## 2032



July 23 – August 8  
**Olympic Games**  
Brisbane, Australia



August 24 – September 5  
**Paralympic Games**  
Brisbane, Australia

## 2034



Dates to be confirmed  
**22nd Asian Games**  
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia