



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES

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BRING ON THE GAMES

A NATION WAITS



There will be a strong educational programme focusing on topics like doping prevention, respect for the Olympic values and a healthy lifestyle – an Olympic education programme is to be introduced in all Singapore schools by September, almost two years before the YOG comes to Singapore.

“The legacy which the Games will leave behind will not just be felt in the venues and stadia which will be upgraded for the Games, but more importantly in schools where the Olympic values will become a part of the child’s life,” said Ng.

The Games will bring an estimated 3,500 athletes aged 14 to 18 from all over the world to Singapore. Bring on the Games. A nation awaits.

When International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge announced the host city for the inaugural 2010 Youth Olympic Games on 21 February, all it took was one word to set 10,000 young voices roaring as one: “Singapore”. Thousands of young Singaporeans, who had gathered next to the historic City Hall were joined by others around the world in cheering the birth of the Youth Olympic Games (YOG).

An idea first mooted by the IOC President in 2001, the Games will not only be about competition, they will also be the platform through which young people will learn about the Olympic values and the benefits of sport.

“This is indescribable, it means so much to all of us,” said 16-year-old student Wu Guoyi after the announcement. “I’m very happy we won,” said Liane

Wong, a 13-year-old national fencer. “I can’t wait for the Youth Olympic Games. I’m going to win for Singapore.”

Prime Minister Hsien Loong Lee called the hosting of the Games a great honour for Singapore. “For the first time, the Olympic flame will be in Southeast Asia, and in Singapore,” he said. “We will be the focus of a new era of sports development for Singapore, for Southeast Asia and for the Olympic Movement.”

IOC Executive Board member Ser Miang Ng, Vice-President of the Singapore National Olympic Council, said: “Both the bid and the organisation of the Games have and will involve all Singaporeans, particularly young people. They will be exposed to a high level of sport from a young age and will get first-hand experience of what an Olympic event is about.”

The Singapore bid was built around a compact venue plan, including one large cluster of 13 sports at the Marina-Kallang area. Boxing, fencing, handball, judo, taekwondo and wrestling will send roars through the vast 25,000m² exhibition halls of the International Convention Centre at Suntec City, and rowing and canoeing will be at the nearby Marina Reservoir with the Singapore Flyer, the world’s largest observation wheel, as the backdrop.

Thanks to an efficient transport plan, all venues will be within 30 minutes of the Athletes’ Village at the University Town, currently under construction, while the Opening and Closing Ceremonies will be at the Marina Bay floating platform, offering a unique experience of a water-front stadium backed by the Singapore city skyline.

- With an overall area of 639 km², Singapore is 42 kilometres long and 23 kilometres across at its widest point.
- Singapore’s average daily temperature is around 28°C.
- Singapore’s population of four million comprises 77% Chinese, 14% Malays, 7.6% Indians and 1.4% of diverse ethnicity.
- English is the language of education and administration and is widely spoken. Other official languages are Malay, Mandarin and Tamil.
- Popular sports in Singapore include football, cricket, swimming, badminton, basketball, rugby union, volleyball and table tennis.
- As might be expected on an island, water sports including sailing, kayaking and water skiing are also popular.

FOREWORD BY JACQUES ROGGE

AN EXCITING JOURNEY

For young people in today’s world, it’s all about action, not just words. With the Youth Olympic Games, we want to give them an event reflecting their own spirit. They will come together for high-level competitions, learn about the Olympic values and the benefits of sport,

and share their experiences with other communities around the globe.

Join me on this exciting journey for our next destination: Singapore, the first city to host the Youth Olympic Games, in summer 2010.

To make these Games happen, just like



for the Olympic Games, each member of the Olympic Family is playing an important role. The NOCs, with the IFs, are the spearhead of the Youth Olympic Games.

It is through your active involvement that these Games will reach far beyond a given edition, allowing us together to meet the expectations of the world’s young athletes and young people everywhere.

The host city will demonstrate, together with the IOC, its creativity in

adapting the Games and the messages to young people. I am confident in the team in Singapore.

Our vision and objectives are simple. We want young people to take up the thrill of active sports. We want them to benefit from a healthy lifestyle, while protecting them from the excesses in sport. We want them to become ambassadors in society for sport and the Olympic values. We count on all our partners to spread these messages.

The young people of the world are looking forward to it! And I am counting on you all!



A POWERFUL INTRODUCTION TO OLYMPISM

By bringing together and celebrating the world's best young athletes aged 14-18 at a top-class event, the Youth Olympic Games (YOG) will raise awareness of sport and participation among the young and propose a unique and powerful introduction to Olympism. They will address social challenges and promote Olympic and multi-cultural values to youth communities throughout the world, acting

as a catalyst for initiatives within the Olympic Movement.

The sports in Singapore will mirror those of the 2012 Summer Games, with a limited number of disciplines, including youth-driven events that are not part of the Olympic Games. There will be mixed competitions for girls and boys as well as innovative new formats. But equal in significance to the sport itself is an educational and cultural environment for the YOG that will

add a new and complementary dimension to the Olympic ideal.

A multi-cultural entertainment programme will feature music, film and art that reflect the global nature of the YOG. Modern communication tools, such as digital media, that appeal to young people will allow the young participants and young people of Singapore to share an intense moment of celebration with their counterparts around the world, highlighting, in particular, strong Olympic symbols such as the torch relay, flag and anthem.

There will be interactive workshops on the history of the Olympic Movement, the Olympic values, the benefits of sport for a healthy lifestyle and the social values sport can deliver, as well as on the dangers of over-training and inactivity, doping and betting. The workshops, hosted by world-famous athletes and experts, as well as artists and other personalities, will interact with the outside world

1ST WINTER YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES IN 2012

Four cities are currently bidding to host the 1st Winter Youth Olympic Games in 2012:

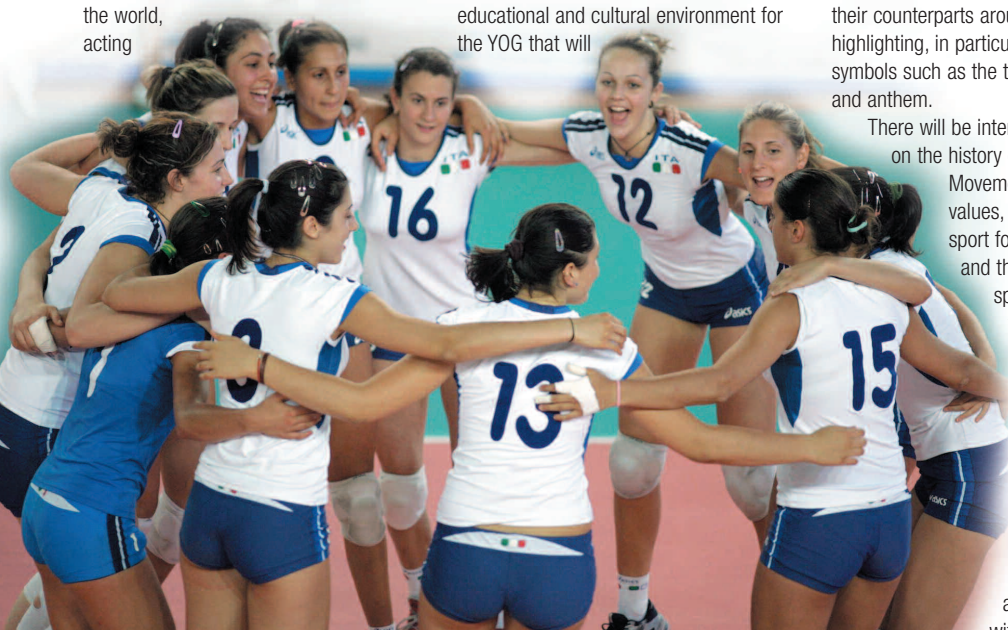
- HARBIN (CHN)
- INNSBRUCK (AUT)
- KUOPIO (FIN)
- LILLEHAMMER (NOR)

The Host City will be announced in December 2008 following a postal vote by all IOC members.

through forums and chats on the internet.

Youth participation will be encouraged not only for athletes, but also for young technical officials, reporters, sports presenters and organisers. All will become ambassadors in their countries with the aim of stimulating their peers to practise sport.

The opportunity for the world's best young athletes to test and inspire themselves will always be its *raison d'être*, but the Youth Olympic Games will be very much more than a sporting celebration. It will be a festival, with cultural and educational initiatives mingling seamlessly with top-level sport.



CELEBRATE THE CULTURES OF THE WORLD

SERGEY BUBKA, the man who still holds the pole vault world record, will chair the first IOC Coordination Commission for the Youth Olympic Games.

Bubka has a great combination of skills and experience as an Olympic champion and as a sports leader. He will be supported by an excellent team,

Below: Sergey Bubka with Gabriel

whose experience and knowledge will prove invaluable in assisting the work of the Singapore Youth Olympic Games Organising Committee (SYOGOC).

WHAT DO THE YOG MEAN TO YOU?

It's a fantastic idea for today's youth. It's an opportunity to do sport and compete. And at the same time to learn,

to discover the world and to build friendly relations with people all around the globe, even if you don't speak the same language.

I grew up in a more closed society. If, at that time, I had had the opportunity to take part in such an event, I think it could have changed so many things in my life and helped me to understand the world better.

WHAT DIFFERENCE CAN THEY MAKE?

Today, a young person thinks that he's doing sport while he's playing a video game. But this is not sport. How can he have a healthy lifestyle? By going on the field of sport. The YOG could have a great impact on young generations for their future success.

HOW WILL YOU INTERPRET YOUR ROLE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION?

As a conductor. With my colleagues, our main objective will be to deliver a successful first Games. We have to keep in mind the simplicity that these Games must have. Alongside the competitions, these Games will offer a unique and powerful introduction to Olympism and its values, and will celebrate the cultures of the world. All ideas are welcome!



Gabriel is the young boy who handed over the envelope containing the name of the host city of the 1st Youth Olympic Games. At the age of 14, sport is already an integral part of his life. His goal is to go as far as possible and acquire new skills.

Asked how he felt about the ceremony, he replied: "It was emotional." Gabriel, like his friends from the sports club and his school, thinks the idea of the YOG is great, and can imagine himself in Singapore in 2010.

Gabriel had already heard of Sergey Bubka, but it was the first time he had had the opportunity to see him up close. This meeting made him realise that participating in the Olympic Games needed hard work more than anything else. And especially that you mustn't dope yourself to get there. For Gabriel and his friends, going to Singapore would be a dream come true!