



National Games sailing smoothly after four days

By ZHAO RUIXUE

All going smoothly and fault-free has been the verdict to date on the first four days of China's 11th National Games, currently taking place in the eastern province of Shandong.

Jiang Daming, the governor of Shandong and the director of the event's organizing committee said the province was committed to ensuring the games were a huge success.

He said: "We have invested four years of effort in preparing for the games. We are confident that we can deliver a well-organized and successful

sporting event."

The 11th National Games is the largest and most high-profile sporting event the province has ever staged since the foundation of the PRC in 1949. It will include 33 different sporting event and 362 individual heats, with the majority taking place in 17 cities spread across Shandong.

The Games has seen wide support. The Jinan competition area alone is home to 295 teams, with some 7,344 people now resident in the athlete's village.

To ensure this huge influx of visitors enjoy the competition, the organizing committee has initiated several plans with

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regard to service and security. This is in a bid to ensure that all of the participants - whether athletes or spectators - have no complaints about their time in Shandong.

Strict procedures have also been introduced in terms of food preparation and storage.

Some eight different menus have been devised and will be served rotationally in the 5,500 capacity dining room for athletes and the media.

All of the food resources have been subject to strict screening. All of the food materials at the 200 designated restaurants and hotels in the region are obliged to be registered through the event's electrical supervision system.

Highlights

The Shandong authorities have constructed a National Games' Village and a Media

Village, designed to provide excellent living and working condition for athletes and media teams.

The split-level organizing committee, composed of Jinan, the capital of Shandong, as the main venue and the other 16 cities as the sub-venues, has proved a successful initiative, allowing for the formation of an event involving all of the cities in the province.

This split-level of organization gave an opportunity for all cities to develop their own approach to the event. It also avoids the potential risk of having a number of redundant facilities following the games.

Benefits

Jiang said: "Staging the National Games has not only enhanced the sporting awareness of people in the province and triggered their enthusiasm for getting fit, it has also improved the sporting facilities in Shandong."

The development strategy has been designed to ensure the appropriate use of the new facilities after the games have been completed, with many of the venues constructed in the vicinity of schools and residential areas.

Besides the sporting venues built in urban areas, 32,000 ruraly-sited exercise centers have also been constructed,

representing a total investment of 650 million yuan.

Jiang said: "As the host and a participant of the 11th National Games, we have sought to provide an appropriate environment for the event, with first-class organizational skills and the necessary service to ensure the success of the event."

As the province's governor, Jiang also wished the best of luck to the athletes of Shandong, hoping that they did their best under the guide of good sportsmanship to achieve good results. He believed that their endeavors will promote the province's sporting development still further.

Home teams go for gold in Shandong



The opening ceremony of the ongoing 11th National Games featured a spectacular display of lights last Friday in Jinan, capital of Shandong province.

Ju Chuanjiang and Ju Chenghao

By DAI YAN

Shandong province is fielding a large delegation of competitors at the 11th National Games and is optimistic about the prospects for its team's success.

Zhang Hongtao, head of the Shandong Municipal Sports Administration, said: "We are hoping to win more than 42 gold medals and get the best result of any National Games in our history."

According to Zhang, the Shandong delegation is the largest team taking part in the 11th National Games. In total, it includes 1,175 people, including 710 athletes and 119 coaches. They will be participating in 30 large-scale events and 272 of the smaller ones. Among the 710 athletes are 359 young people who are attending National Games for the first time.

This year's Shandong sporting delegation has seen a significant increase both in the number of competitors and in the events they are participating in. Compared with the last National Games, four years ago in Jiangsu province, this year's event will see an additional 214 people entering into the

final competitions.

Over the past three years, Shandong athletes have performed extremely well and have achieved their best ever results in global and domestic sporting events.

During the 2008 Olympic Games, 55 athletes from the province formed part of China's national team. They participated in 17 major events and 46 smaller ones, winning five gold metals, three silver metals and three bronze metals. They also broke two world records and one Olympic record during the process.

The overall bronze medalist at the 10th National Games, the Shandong delegation is regarded as the favorite this time to take the top position among the gold medal winners.

The team is tipped to do well in a number of events, including track and field, wrestling, cycling, swimming, triathlon, judo, shooting, archery, taekwondo, diving, weightlifting, traditional Chinese boxing (or Wushu), football and table tennis. It also has high hopes in the rowing, canoeing, sailing, gymnastics, boxing, beach volleyball, basketball and handball events.



Volunteers of the 11th National Games are committed to providing comprehensive services for food, accommodation, transportation and travel information.

Dai Yan

Army of volunteers transform face of the host city

By WANG QIAN

Stepping into the 210,000-sq-m National Games Village, nothing is more impressive than the smiling faces of its thousands of volunteers.

Thanks to them, athletes, coaches and journalists from across the nation are able to enjoy enthusiastic and efficient service throughout their stay. Wang Hongyong, deputy director of the Shandong Civilization Office, said: "Shandong has long been renowned as the state of ceremonies. Now we have thousands of volunteers ready to impress athletes with their warmth, kindness and thoughtful service."

According to the Organizing Committee of the Games, there are altogether some 230,000 volunteers in Shandong province, among which more than 13,000 volunteers are working in the competition areas. There are also 16,800 in 440 city civilization pavilions around the province and 200,000 in streets, communities and other public places.

Before starting their duties, all the volunteers have received professional training in the fields of spectator organization, sport rules, etiquette, safety and rescue work. They are committed to providing all-round services throughout the competition, in terms of food, accommodation, transportation, and travel information.

Great changes

Despite being 80-year old, Guo Yulun is the team leader of the Jinan Cycling Association. He is very proud to become a volunteer and urged his fellow 100 team members to apply for the role. He said: "Although I am 80 years old, it is my greatest joy to be involved with the Games."

In addition, many activities of spiritual civilization are influencing the city and people's life. Smiling signs can be easily seen in many buses, restaurants, train stations and other public places.

Officials from the environmental sanitation and tourism departments are sparing no efforts to make every visitor

feel at home in Jinan.

A province-wide public opinion survey carried out by Shandong Opinion Research Center shows that 92.3 percent of citizens now have a basic knowledge of the Games and 70 percent have said they are willing to change the form of transportation during the Games.

Aside from the civilized activities, dramatic efforts have been made in the fields of transportation, the meteorological service, medicine and health to ensure the smooth operation of the Games.

During the Games, 1,400 cars have been requisitioned, whilst timely and efficient weather information has been provided by radio, television, Internet and mobile phones. Additionally, more than 20 medical emergency teams and a medical care group composed of 100 experts, have been established to provide medical and health services. More than 90 percent of the service staffs have now received an H1N1 influenza vaccine to prevent infections.

From September 5 to October 31, a series of fascinating cultural activities encompassing 19,000 programs are scheduled to be staged across the province.

The National Games has brought great changes to Jinan. Walking along the streets and lanes, visitors will see clean streets, colorful flags flying everywhere, pictures of sports events on both sides of the roads, and huge billboards with the slogan "Everyone is the host of the Games". The entire city is immersed in a festival-like atmosphere.

The Games has also set out to create an improvement in people's intellectual and spiritual development. In Jinan, 4,200 buses are decorated with posters of wise words from the Analects—the masterpiece of the ancient Chinese philosophers, including many of the sayings of Confucius.

"The classic sayings of Confucius serve like a light to enlighten people and brighten their days," said Xue Xinghai, general manager of the Jinan Bus Corporation.

Athletes, officials won over by facilities

By JI YUAN

If first impressions count, the 11th National Games are off to a good start with the event's competitors said to be hugely impressed by the venues offer in east China's Shandong province.

Commenting on the work that has gone into ensuring the success of the games, Huang Sheng, the vice-governor of Shandong, said: "As part of our preparations for the 11th National Games, we renovated 85 existing venues and built 44 new ones. We believe these facilities are now first class."

Initial construction work began in 2005 with all the ven-

ues being completed by May this year. To meet the demand of the event, 129 venues were constructed in 17 areas of the province, including 64 competition stadiums and 65 training venues. Among these venues, 44 were newly built and 85 were renovated.

The venues are said to be of innovative design and are set to become landmarks in their host cities.

Nine Jinan-based venues have been either renovated or newly built for the National Games. According to Yin Luqian, deputy director of the Jinan Organizing Committee for the National Games, a number of new projects, including the Athlete's Village, the Media

Village and the Olympic Sports Hotel have all been completed and put into operation.

He said: "In Jinan we built China's first National Games Village. This will house all the participating athletes, as well as the officials and the athletic trainers. Some 11,500 bedrooms, with three-star hotel standards, have been prepared."

As an important venue for the Games, the Jinan Olympic Sports Center staged the opening ceremony. The natatorium, tennis stadium and gymnasium in the east together resemble the shape of a blooming lotus, whilst the Olympic Sports Center Stadium in the west has been designed in the image of two willow leaves.

Alternative energy sources and innovative technology have been employed in the construction of the venues in a bid to ensure their green credentials.

As part of this eco-friendly initiative, the beautiful Jinan Olympic Sports Center has been equipped with a unique external sunshade system, which can save on the energy used for air-conditioning.

The amount of steel required for the Jinan venues was reduced by 50 percent thanks to the use of advanced roofing technology.

Similar environmental concerns were shown in the construction of the Jinan Olympic Sports Center Natatorium and Tennis Stadium, where a solar

energy heated water system was installed, together with a ground sourced heating and air conditioning system.

The Deputy Director of Beijing Municipal Sport Bureau Wang Zhongshan said: "More than 200 new energy-friendly buses will make their debut at the Games, representing an energy saving capacity of some 25 percent compared to conventional vehicles."

"After the Games, the venues will cater to the needs of other sporting events. Most venues will be turned into sports stadiums for local cities and, with 70 percent of the venues located near universities. Many will serve as sports centers for students."



The Olympic Sports Center in Jinan, the main venue of the 11th National Games.

Ju Chuanjiang