

Night view of the coastal city
Ju Chuanjiang

Dream comes true

By JU CHUANJIANG
AND ZHAO RUIXUE

"One world, One dream". A national 100-year-old dream of China is coming true with the opening ceremony of the 2008 Beijing Olympics to be held tonight.

On the Yellow Sea, about 882 km southeast of Beijing, Qingdao, the co-host city of the Beijing Olympics, will see 400 competitors vie for medals in 11 sailing events.

With races kicking off tomorrow, Xia Geng, mayor of Qingdao and chairperson of the Olympic Sailing Committee (Qingdao), told China Daily: "Although we are shouldering great responsibility, we are confident in fulfilling our commitment to the world that we will exert great effort to hold a unique and well-run Olympic sailing competition."

The more than 8 million

residents in the city feel equally proud to have the Olympic sailing competition held in their hometown.

"Nothing could be better than holding the world's highest-level sporting games in our city," Liu Jicheng, a photographer, told China Daily.

Since July 13, 2001, when Beijing was awarded the right to host the 2008 Olympic Games and Qingdao sealed the opportunity to host the sailing events of the Games, Qingdao has prepared wholeheartedly for the Olympic gala.

Great moments were recorded in Olympic history:

■ May 25, 2004: The Qingdao International Sailing Center breaks ground.

■ December 28, 2005: Ahead of schedule, Qingdao completes building its executive and management centers for the sailing center.

■ April 3 to 8, 2006: Qingdao makes an impressive debut as a stopover in the 2005-06 Clipper Round the World Race.

■ August 2006 and 2007: Two test events of the Olympic sailing competition are successfully held in Qingdao.

■ April 2008: The Olympic village, the final project in the sailing center, is completed.

Seven years' preparation, together with the experience accumulated in holding sailing events, will all add up to a successful Olympic sailing competition.

Two international sailing regattas have proven that the sailing center, a recipient of more than 3 billion yuan of investment, to be the best venue in the world.

Work in areas including city operations, medical care and traffic has been greatly improved.

With an investment of more than 80 billion yuan in improving hardware such as highways and environmentally friendly facilities, Qingdao is presenting the world its impressive assets.

By living up to values of the

2008 Olympics - green, hi-tech and people-oriented - Qingdao people will show the world their progress, strength and confidence in hosting successful sailing events.

Boasting long-lasting friendships with 21 cities around the world, Qingdao is becoming increasingly globalized with more than 60 international conferences and expositions held here every year.

The Olympics has become an engine driving the city's economic development. Over the past five years, the city's economy saw an annual increase of 16 percent, with utilized capital surpassing \$17 billion and the total imports and exports volume breaking through \$100 billion.

Gross income generated by the expenditure of more than 30 million tourists hit 40 billion yuan last year.

The throughput of containers realized by the city's port was also among the world's top 10 last year.

Sailors during preliminary training in Qingdao
Ju Chuanjiang

Good luck, Beijing!



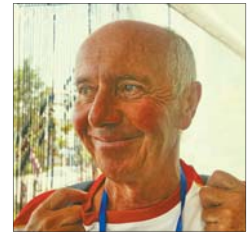
"I wish the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games huge success. I visited China 15 years ago. China has changed a lot, the Chinese people, in my eyes, are more and more globalized." — Bjorn Johansson, Coach, Sweden



"Both preparation work and service here are very good. I hope there will have enough wind for sailing during the Games." — Ute Hoepfner, Germany



"Good luck to the Beijing Olympics. It looks like it's doing everything to make the Games a very successful Olympics. I wish you all well for the Olympics." — Peter Anthony Logan, Technician, Singapore



"China has really good organization. It is one of the countries that has made the most efforts for a successful Games." — Paul Maes, Coach, Spain



"I would like to win a medal in the Beijing Olympic Games. The sailors' level is very high and the conditions here in Qingdao are good for our competition. We started training one year ago and will possibly do well during the Games." — Giovanna Micoc, Italy



The Olympic Village in Qingdao

Ju Chuanjiang

Paradise for all athletes

By XUE XIAOYING

The largest non-competition venue for the Olympic Sailing Competition, the Qingdao Olympic Village is located in Qingdao International Sailing Center, just across the street to the sailing competition venue.

"It is rare for the Olympic village to be so close to the competition venue," said Shan Liang, administrative vice-director of the Qingdao Olympic Village.

"It took about two hours from the Athens Olympic Village to the competition venue, whereas the Qingdao Olympic Village is just a few meters away from the competition venue," Shan added.

"I believe the athletes will be very spoiled here. You possess all the necessary facilities here to have a fantastic stay," said Gilbert Felli, the Olympic Games' executive director for the International Olympic Committee.

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EVERT BASTET
Deputy Chef-de-Mission from Canada

"On top of that, the village is just by the sailing harbor so they can go and sail by walking. It is also fantastic for the athletes," Felli added.

Qingdao Olympic Village is a paradise for all athletes to live and compete, providing 93 kinds of services for about 700 athletes and team officials from over 60 countries during the Games, including accommodation, catering, commerce and competition information.

"It's unbelievable. Qingdao Olympic Village is one of the best of its kind I have ever seen," Deputy Chef-de-Mission from Canada Evert Bastet said.

With a cost of more than 700 million yuan and an acreage area of 100,000 sq m, Qingdao Olympic Village is equipped with 400 guest rooms, with 30 fitted for wheelchairs. The village is divided into residential, international, operational and

park zones for the Games.

Green environment

Comprehensive environmental protection materials have been used for the village, which has become a model of recycling economy and a modern stadium that unites three concepts of a Hi-tech Olympics, People's Olympics and Green Olympics. The village will also be used as one of the highest-rated hotels after the Games.

According to Dong'ao Group Company, the Qingdao Olympic village is a green project which uses a reclaimed water system. A garbage disposal station has also been built to ensure that refuse will not pollute the environment. Similarly, large quantities of solar energy pipes have been installed to maximize the use of solar energy for heating and refrigeration.

In the international zone, almost all requisite services can be found here, including postal, banking, telephone, Internet, newsstand and general store facilities.

Various cultural activities are also being provided for guests, such as folk customs culture displays and tea art performances. Athletes from all over the world can look forward to experiencing unique Chinese culture.

Olympic spirit breezes into the city

By ZHANG YING

Everyone coming to Qingdao is surrounded by the warmth of the Olympics, with landscape sculptures, huge billboards and flying five-ring Olympic flags at every corner of the city.

Wan Wei, vice-chairperson of the Qingdao Olympic Sailing Committee, told China Daily that the local government has done everything possible to create an Olympic atmosphere in the city, with 80 Olympic landscape sculptures and 1,000 billboards put up.

Several million pots of green seedlings have also been planted and about 5,000 sq m of sod shaped like the "Olympic five rings" have been laid, making the city more beautiful and colorful.

Donghai Road, just outside the Olympic Sailing Center, is decorated with 154 streetlamps shaped in special torch 8.8 meters high, becoming a gorgeous "torch street", a visual treat in Qingdao.

About 20 million pots of flowers bloom in all the streets and parks, making the city a fabulous garden. A warm welcome is present throughout the city, with flowers shaped in

a "Welcome to Qingdao" set in the airport, a green Olympic five rings downtown and a "Harmonious City" in the May 4th Square.

One of the country's largest building posters also showed up on Qingdao International Finance Center this July to promote the Olympic spirit, with the 150-meter high, 40-meter wide poster covering the 50-floor building.

Huge Olympic posters and electronic screens also appear on about 10 skyscrapers over 100 m in the city's east.

All Qingdao citizens have contributed their own part to become good hosts, welcoming friends from home and abroad with a friendly attitude and a sincere smile.

More than 10,000 city volunteers help divert traffic and provide help to visitors in every corner of the city.

About 1,800 Games volunteers are also contributing to the Olympic sailing competition by helping athletes.

Some 1,189 brand new environmentally friendly buses sport the Olympic logo "One World, One Dream", charity advertisements and other Olympic slogans, running throughout the city and creating a warm at-

mosphere in Qingdao.

A folk customs culture display in the Qingdao Olympic Village, entitled Dynamic China, showcases the unique charm of China's history and culture, which enjoys wide popularity among athletes and coaches living in the village.

Local people young and old actively participated in the activity to show their talent and skills in the Olympic village, displaying traditional Chinese arts like painting, Chinese ancient zither playing, calligraphy, *erhu* playing, Chinese lute playing, martial arts and a Shandong clapper ballad.

Students in Qingdao's universities and colleges organized and passionately participated in all kinds of activities to show their love for the Olympics, like a Qingdao University's volunteer group, Qingdao University of Science and Technology's recreational sports meeting, and Ocean University of China's grand campus discussion, to carry forward Olympic spirit and promote Olympic ideas.

All these efforts showcase the city's readiness and joy to provide the best service and to present a wonderful sailing competition.

A street close to the Qingdao International Sailing Center features 154 streetlamps shaped in a specially designed torch.
Ju Chenghao