



American Ericka Bancks (left) and Katya Ekaterina from Russia provide service at the Multilingual Call Center for the 2008 Olympic sailing event in Qingdao.

Overseas volunteers answer the call

▶ Thirty-six from around the world provide best service for a success

By Guo Xin

QINGDAO: Thirty-six foreign volunteers are contributing their time and efforts in Qingdao to make the 2008 Olympic sailing event a success.

Rosa Treffers is one of them. Every morning at 9 o'clock she arrives on time at the No 63 station near the Olympic Sailing Center. The 21-year old is a third-year student at Inholland Amsterdam Diemen College in the Netherlands.

"To be a volunteer and working for the Olympic sailing

competition is a privilege for me," said Treffers. Her main task is to provide translation and information service for foreign visitors, which means she must know a great deal about Qingdao and the Olympic sailing competition.

Treffers has prepared well - in addition to English and Dutch, she can now speak simple Chinese words and sentences.

"I will try my best to serve the Olympic Games," she said.

Last month Jenny Hou and her sister Anastasia Hou came to Qingdao together from their home in Maryland to serve

To be a volunteer and working for the Olympic sailing competition is a privilege for me. I will try my best to serve the Olympic Games.

ROSA TREFFERS
Volunteer from the Netherlands

as volunteers for the Olympic sailing event. The two Chinese-Americans are staying at their grandfather's home in Qingdao.

Jenny was a volunteer in the media operation department

during last year's Olympic test event. She is doing the same job at the Olympic Sailing Center.

"I feel so lucky that I can do something for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. It's a once-in-a-life-time opportunity," said Jenny.

Her younger sister Anastasia works in the Beijing Media Center's Qingdao branch, providing language services for non-registered media.

"Working here is a great experience for me, I learned a lot about media operations," she said.

"Foreign and Chinese volunteers who have studied abroad make the service group here more globalized. Their hard work also improves the media operation for the Olympics,"

said Xu Jianmin, director of the operation department in the Beijing Media Center's Qingdao branch.

American Ericka Bancks and Katya Ekaterina from Russia are volunteers in the Multilingual Call Center for the Olympic sailing event.

"Gathering people with different mother tongues together - the call center is like a world community," said Erica.

Together with 106 volunteers, Erica and Katya are helping provide 24-hour services on shifts for all Olympic athletes and visitors during the competition. Besides Chinese, the call center accommodates seven languages - English, French, Russian, German, Japanese, Korean and Spanish.



49er in full swing
Sailors in the 49er class sail downwind during the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games Sailing Competition yesterday in Qingdao. 49er sailors have finished six races till yesterday.

Ju Chenghao

Windsurfer Yin makes flying start

QINGDAO: Windsurfer Yin Jian made a flying start to her bid to win a first sailing gold for China by powering to victory in the opening two races yesterday.

The 29-year-old Yin, silver medalist four years ago in Athens, led around every mark in both races in Fushan Bay. Yin was cheered on by a large number of home spectators lining the 534m-long main breakwater at the Olympic Sailing Center.

Yin was reluctant to talk to reporters but her coach, Jiang Chen, said she had implemented their pre-race plan to perfection.

"Her performance today in this wind was very good and she is a strong challenger in this event," he said.

China has won two silver medals in Olympic sailing - Yin four years ago and Zhang Xiaodong in 1992, also in windsurfing - but never gold.

In the men's event, China's Wang Aichen lay third after two races, with Israel's Shahar Zubari taking a victory and a third place to lead overall.

Zubari is bidding to become the second Israeli to win Olympic gold in any sport after

Gal Fridman's windsurfing triumph in Athens. The 21-year-old Zubari beat his friend Fridman to win selection for these Games.

"I had two really good races, it's a good start. I'm really happy but it's just the beginning and everything can change," he said.

Asked if Fridman had passed on any tips, Zubari told Reuters: "Not really, but if I need any I know where to go to. We spoke a few days ago, nothing serious ... like friends do."

Defending champion Ben Ainslie seized the lead in the

Finn class to lead by one point from American Zach Railey after six races.

Ainslie finished first and 10th in the day's skirmishes, although his 10th place can be discarded from his points total. After five races competitors are allowed to discard their worst race score.

Each event consists of an opening series - 10 races in all classes, except the 49er for which 15 are scheduled - and then the medal race for the top 10 for which double points are scored.

Agencies

Fans line breakwater, ships to view races

By Huang Yanhong and Zhang Ying

QINGDAO: Qingdao's clear weather and brisk winds ensured smooth sailing competition over the past three days as spectators in the harbor cheered sailors from all over the world.

Thousands of fans have lined the 534m-long spectator breakwater at Qingdao Olympic Sailing Center since the competition opened on Aug 9.

"This is our first time in Qingdao and we came here to see our daughter's performance. We like the sea here very much," said an Italian couple surnamed Conti, whose daughter

Guilia Conti is teamed with Giovanna Micol in the women's 470 class.

Eighty-two-year-old Zhang Shunlan came to Qingdao with her family.

"The Olympics is a grand event and I am thrilled to watch the sailing competition in Qingdao," she told China Daily.

"China did a great job to construct such a long breakwater, which allows spectators get so close to the sailing competition. I love sailing and used to have a boat myself," said David Miller, an American who has been working in Qingdao for eight years.

"This is the first time in history for the public to watch from such a vantage point. It can accommodate 8,000 to 10,000 spectators," noted Sun Lijie, vice-chairperson and general secretary of Qingdao Olympic Sailing Committee. Finals will start on Aug 16, which falls on the weekend, so more locals are expected to rush to buy tickets.

Altogether 60,000 tickets will be available for watching the competition. More than 50,000 were sold by Aug 9. Visitors are also watching the races from six ships that can hold 640 spectators every day, all of 8,000 tickets for which have been sold.

The ships set out to sea from 12:45 every day. Many spectators on the ships are well equipped, holding telescopes, cameras, sunglasses and sunscreen.

Local resident Chen Tianqi bought a telescope to watch from a ship.

"It is very exciting for me to see how the athletes are competing so clearly," he said after disembarking.

People can also watch the races from May 4th Square and Music Square, both near the competition venue. "I do hope my son can remember the Olympics and the sailing competition," Song Zhengqiao, a Qingdao resident, told China Daily, as he held his 1-year-old son in his arms. "The sailing event is fantastic. We hope our national team can win some medals and I also give my best wishes to China," said Anna Surnakova from Russia.



Song Xiaqun, Yu Yanli and Li Xiaoni of China warm up before competing in the Yngling class of the Beijing Olympic Games Sailing Competition yesterday in Qingdao.

Ju Chuanjiang

RESULTS

- 49er results after six races**
1. Australia 13.0 pts (Nathan Outteridge, Ben Austin)
 2. Denmark 15.0 (Jonas Warrer, Martin Kirketerp Ibsen)
 3. Italy 20.0 (Pietro Sibello, Gianfranco Sibello)
 4. Germany 28.0 (Jan Peter Peckolt, Hannes Peckolt)
 5. Spain 35.0 (Iker Martinez de Lizarduy, Xabier Fernandez)
 6. France 36.0 (Emmanuel Dyen, Yann Rocherieux)
 7. Brazil 36.0 (Andre Fonseca, Rodrigo Duarte)
 8. Austria 40.0 (Nico Luca Marc Delle Karth, Nikolaus Resch)
 9. Great Britain 41.0 (Stevie Morrison, Ben Rhodes)
 10. Portugal 43.0 (Jorge Lima, Francisco Andrade)
- Men's 470 results after two races**

1. France 9.0 pts (Nicolas Charbonnier, Olivier Bausset)
 2. Spain 10.0 (Onan Barreiros, Aaron Sarmiento)
 3. Portugal 10.0 (Alvaro Marinho, Miguel Nunes)
 4. Australia 11.0 (Nathan Wilmot, Malcolm Page)
 5. Slovenia 14.0 (Karlo Hmejjak, Mitja Nevecny)
 6. Italy 14.0 (Gabrio Zandona, Andrea Trani)
 7. New Zealand 17.0 (Carl Evans, Peter Burling)
 8. Japan 22.0 (Tetsuya Matsunaga, Taro Ueno)
 9. Ireland 23.0 (Ger Owens, Philip Lawton)
 10. Great Britain 24.0 (Nick Rogers, Joe Glanfield)
- Women's 470 results after two races**
1. Netherlands 4.0 pts (Marcelien Koning de, Lotke Berkhout)
 2. Australia 4.0 (Elise Rechichi, Tessa Parkinson)
 3. Spain 9.0 (Natalia Via Dufresne, Laii Luusa Tutzo)
 4. Czech Republic 10.0 (Lenka Smidova, Lenka Mrzlikova)
 5. France 12.0 (Ingrid Petitjean, Gwendolyn

- Finn results after six races**
1. Ben Ainslie (Britain) 17 points
 2. Zach Railey (United States) 18
 3. Guillaume Florent (France) 26
 4. Chris Cook (Canada) 33
 5. Gasper Vincec (Slovenia) 34
 6. Daniel Birzmark (Sweden) 36
 7. Rafal Szukiel (Poland) 41
 8. Ivan Kijakovic-Gaspic (Croatia) 44
 9. Eduardo Couto (Brazil) 48
 10. Rafael Trujillo (Spain) 53

- Women's yngling results after six races**
1. Britain Sarah Webby/Pippa Wilson/Sarah Ayton 15 points
 2. Netherlands Annemieke Bes/Mandy Mulder/Merel Witteveen 18
 3. Australia Karyn Gojnych/Angela Farrell/Krystal Weir 32
 4. U.S. Sally Barkow/Deborah Capozzi/Carrie Howe 32
 5. Finland Maria Klemetz/Livia Vaeresmaa/Silja Lehtinen 33
 6. Norway Siren Sundby/Alexandra Koefoed/Lise Birgitte Fredriksen 34
 7. Russia Ekaterina Skudina/Natalia Ivanova/Diana Krutskikh 34
 8. France Anne Le Helley/Catherine Lepesant/Julie Gerecht 34
 9. China Song Xiaqun/Li Xiaoni/Yu Yanli 35
 10. Greece Sofia Bekatorou/Sofia Papadopoulou/Virginia Kravarioti 36
 - Giulia Pignolo 53

- Women's RS:X results after two races**
1. Yin Jian (China) 2 points
 2. Jessica Crisp (Australia) 6
 3. Bryony Shaw (Britain) 7
 4. Alessandra Sensini (Italy) 8
 5. Marina Alabau (Spain) 8
 6. Olga Maslives (Ukraine) 11
 7. Faustine Merret (France) 15
 8. Barbara Kendall (New Zealand) 20
 9. Chan Wai Kei (Hong Kong) 21
 10. Yasuko Kosuge (Japan) 22

This special supplement is co-published by the Information Office of Qingdao municipal government and China Daily