

SPORTS

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COOPERATION

Kenya keen to ramp up China's input

African nation looking to expand mutually beneficial sports links

By XINHUA in Nairobi

Kenya's sporting development owes much to the country's links with China, with the African nation looking to strengthen those ties after this week's Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in Beijing spotlighted China's cooperative efforts on the continent.

Sports links between the two countries can be traced back to the 1980s, when the

China-built Kasarani Stadium in Nairobi was opened and hosted the 1987 All-Africa Games. The venue has subsequently played a major role in promoting Kenyan sport, especially swimming, basketball and volleyball.

These days, the countries' sporting bonds are stronger than ever.

Kenyan soccer player Ayub Masika, for example, has seen his career blossom since joining Chinese Super

League club Beijing Renhe last year, while a 25-strong team of paddlers from Oshwal Sports Complex Table Tennis Club has just returned to Nairobi following a month-long training stint in Hebei province.

The players learned the latest techniques from the world's leading nation in the sport at Zhengding International Table Tennis Training Center.

Kenya Table Tennis Association president Andrew Mudibo said the trip will have a big impact on the local game.

"China is the best in the world and you improve a lot



China is the best in the world and you improve a lot when you learn from the best."

Andrew Mudibo, Kenya Table Tennis Association president

when you learn from the best. This is what we want to boost our standards," he said.

The relationship is a two-way street that has continued to reap benefits for both sides.

In 2015, 16 members of China's female athletics squad took part in a high-altitude training camp in Iten, Kenya, as preparation for the world championships in Beijing.

China's Athletics Association hired Italian coach Renato Canova, whose expertise honed the talents of Kenya's middle- and long-distance greats, including Wilson Kiprop and Florence Kiplagat, to oversee the running team.

The African country's cabinet finance secretary, Henry

Rotich, recently said that he will be seeking ways to better expand the cooperation with China in all areas, including sport.

With President Uhuru Kenyatta leading Kenya's FOCAC delegation this week, more is expected in the area of sports development.

As of 2010, there were 50 sports arenas across Africa that were built with Chinese support, including Kasarani Stadium in the Kenyan capital.

Chinese construction company Wi-Wu is working on a \$200 million renovation of the arena, which includes the lay-

ing of a new astro-turf track in the venue that hosted the 2017 World Athletics Under-18 Championships.

Council of East and Central Africa Football Associations Secretary General Nicholas Musonye has lauded the ongoing cooperation.

"We only have one stadium in Kenya of international stature, and it is courtesy of China," he said.

Musonye added other countries in the region that are currently carrying out similar cooperative projects with China include Rwanda, Ethiopia, Uganda and Burundi.

GOLF



Canada's Richard Jung tracks a shot during the final round of the Suzhou Open on Sunday.

PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Cool Canadian holds off challenge from charging Yuan

By CHINA DAILY

QINHUANGDAO, Hebei province — Canada's Richard Jung vaulted from 35th to eighth on the PGA Tour Series-China's order of merit after earning 270,000 yuan (around \$40,000) for his dramatic two-stroke win over playing partner "Carl" Yuan Yechun at the Suzhou Open on Sunday.

The top 10 on the money list are all competing at this week's Qinhuangdao Championship (Sept 6-9) before the tour has a two-week break and wraps up with the Macao

Championship (Sept 27-30), Zhuhai Championship (Oct 4-7) and Clearwater Bay Open in Hong Kong (Oct 11-14).

Jung's surprise triumph at Jinji Lake Golf Club in Jiangsu province followed just one previous top-10 this year, a tie for eighth at the season-opening Chengdu Championship.

In Suzhou, the unflappable Canadian led from the start, sharing the lead with England's Callum Tarren after the first three rounds before his birdie on the 18th ended an inspired charge by Yuan, the 21-year-old Chinese

who turned pro last week.

"My goal before the event was to finish in the top 25 on the order of merit and get into the second qualifying stage (for the Web.com Tour) because I was so far down on the money list," Jung said after the biggest win of his career and first in a 72-hole event.

"Now my goal has changed to finishing in the top 10, if not the top five.

"You never know what is going to happen. We have four events left, so hopefully I will get another win."

Yuan almost won his first

pro title just six weeks after becoming the tour's second amateur champion by winning the Qingdao Championship, for which he was unable to accept the winner's check of 270,000 yuan.

The big-hitting Yuan won 162,000 yuan for his solo second in Suzhou to enter the money list in 30th place as he seeks to make the most of his new earning potential.

Yuan turned professional on Aug 28 after helping China win team silver at the Asian Games in Indonesia.

Tarren, 27, remained second

on the order of merit, but his third-place finish in Suzhou helped him close the gap on leader Charlie Saxon of the US, who pocketed 863,667 yuan for finishing eighth.

"My goal is to keep putting money on the board," said Tarren, who has six second-place finishes but no wins on the tour.

"I've had another fantastic week and I've closed the gap on Charlie so I just have to keep going and keep improving."

South Korea's Todd Baek (548,650 yuan), American

Joseph Winslow (496,717 yuan) and Hong Kong's Motin Yeung (493,375 yuan) rounded out the tournament's top five finishers.

The top 25 players after this week's Qinhuangdao Championship are exempt from the second stage of the Web.com Tour qualifying tournament, which will be held from Oct 30-Nov 2 and Nov 6-9.

From the final order of merit, the top five will earn status on next year's Web.com Tour and the top 10 will be exempt from the final stage of qualifying (Dec 6-9).

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