



# It's food, glorious food

By ZHENG XIN  
CHINA DAILY

SHENZHEN — Food first, then basketball. When Japan's Aimi Abe arrives in a foreign country, she sets her GPS for comfort food.

"My picky stomach won't be satisfied without eating udon or soba," she said. "I have to go find my favorite."

When Aimi, who plays for Yamagat University, arrived on Aug 8 for the Universiade, no GPS was necessary.

With more than 300 dishes available, the restaurant at the Universiade Village has been designed to meet the needs of almost every athlete.

"I just took some rice and curry," said Lance Muller, a cyclist from Cape Peninsula University of Technology in South Africa, wiping his mouth. "The curry is pretty authentic, just like those at home."

The 13,000 square meter dining hall, which can seat 3,800 diners, has five zones of different flavors, with the Mediterranean section serving Italian food like pizza and pasta, the Asian section covering Japanese noodles and Chinese fried dishes, a Muslim section for the Islamic athletes, a McDonald's, and an international zone serving typical western food.



CHEN CHAO / CHINA DAILY

**Athletes and delegation members have plenty of dishes to dine upon at the Villiage restaurant.**

"It's hard to cater to everyone's needs, but we're determined to make everyone living in the village satisfied with our wide variety of cuisine," said chef Ricky Chen.

"Besides, since the Islamic athletes have to observe fasting from dawn to sundown during Ramadan, we'll be providing food 24 hours a day for their convenience," he said.

"The food here is awesome," said T.K. Reuben, a soccer player from the University

Kebangsaan Malaysia. "I love spicy food, like the Malaysian Nasi Lemak in my hometown. I'm glad I found some curry dishes here as spicy as those."

Besides comfort food, local dishes have become a favorite for a lot of athletes.

"I tried some fish cooked in the local style just now and I love it," said Kads Thilina, a swimmer from Sri Lanka. "We have Chinese food in Sri Lanka, yet they're just not as good."

## Q&A

T.K. Reuben from Malaysia, who will participate in men's soccer.

### Is this your first time in Shenzhen?

Yes, and the Malaysian delegation is believed to be the first foreign delegation to arrive in China for the games.

### What's your major in school?

I major in IT at the University Kebangsaan Malaysia.

### And it seems your major has little to do with soccer?

Yes, but I love football very much, and it's especially an honor (to) participate the University Games on behalf of my country.

### How do you like the food here?

It's pretty good, and I really appreciate it. I'm more used to spicy food so I always add more pepper seasoning and sauce.

### What's your favorite food? Can you find it here?

My favorite food is called nasi lemak. It's a coconut-flavored rice meal, also known as the Malaysian national dish. It provides me with enough energy and protein. I love the food in the restaurant in the Villiage, as well. It has a great variety.



Universiade SHENZHEN 2011

UNIVERSIADE Union  
大运联盟

合作伙伴



赞助商



独家供应商



供应商



官方合作媒体

