



Gift giving a fun feature of Universiade

ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER SHOWS A WIDE RANGE OF PRESENTS FROM 118 COUNTRIES AND REGIONS

By CHEN XIAO
CHINA DAILY

SHENZHEN — Volunteers and athletes from different nations like to exchange pins when they meet. But for the official delegations, exchanging gifts with the host country is an unspoken tradition at any international sports event.

On the 14th floor of the administrative center at the Universiade Village, there is a room displaying all the gifts from the delegations.

"Here are 118 sets of gifts from 118 countries," Wang Xinyan, deputy manager for archives at the Village, said. "Each gift basically represents a special culture and custom from that country."

That is why it is not difficult to tell which country the gifts come from, except some common gifts such as T-shirts, polo shirts, hats, pins, towels and bags that are specially made for each delegation.

The gift from the Mexican delegation is a traditional broad-brimmed, high-topped hat that is worn during Mexican fiestas.

"All the golden lines are embroidered by hand, and a gift like this shows great sincerity," Wang said.

In addition, there is a wonderful Aladdin's lamp from Iraq and woodcarved sculptures and costumes with traditional prints from African countries.

Some gifts are practical, such as headphones specially made for the Shenzhen Universiade from the United States, and a multifunctional suitcase from the Swiss.

"The suitcase is a special gift," Wang said, while showing reporters its func-



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A wooden box in the shape of the Universiade Village and with a Village map carved on the surface is a gift from the Chinese delegation.

tions. "Well, it looks like a normal suitcase with wheels, but if you push the button in the middle, a foot board with a wheel will drop down, and the suitcase becomes a roller car. It's really convenient in a fashionable way."

The gift that the Chinese delegation gives to foreign guests is a wooden box in the shape of the Universiade Village with a Village map carved on the surface. Inside, there is a traditional Chinese stamp (with characters saying "Shenzhen Universiade"), and a jewelled mirror compact. Wang said from the outside to the inside, the gift represents traditional Chinese elements.

Where will the gifts go when the Universiade is over? Wang said the decision is yet to be made, but she's sure the public will have a chance to see them.

"Hopefully there will be a museum about this Universiade after the competition, where we can put all the gifts on display and let people see them."



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A multifunctional suitcase from the Swiss delegation is displayed at the Universiade Village.

Q & A >> MUBARAK AL — SHAREEF 21, TAEKWONDO ATHLETE FROM UMM AL-QURA UNIVERSITY IN SAUDI ARABIA



Have you participated in any taekwondo competitions before?

Yes. My first was during the Asian Games.

So it's your second time to China? How do you like it?

I like the Chinese people. You guys are very friendly. It's my first time to Shenzhen. It's a young city full of energy and vigor.

Have you got out of the Village?

Yes. For sure. We went out the first day we arrived. It was raining but it was our first time to Shenzhen and no one wanted to stay indoors. It's not as much fun.

Are you going to explore the city during your stay?

That's for sure, but probably after the

Games. We'd love to travel around afterwards.

To continue the carnival of youth?

(Laughing) Exactly. The Universiade itself is a carnival of youth itself and Shenzhen is also a young city. There is going to be a lot of fun before and after the Games. I'm looking forward to it all so much.