



# Security with a smile

PROTECTION IS A VILLAGE PRIORITY — NO MATTER HOW HOT IT GETS



CHEN CHAO / CHINA DAILY

Security guards and volunteers in the Village have to work 24/7 at all five entrances. "Sometimes people get impatient, even angry, but we have to be patient and friendly," a volunteer said.

By CHEN XIAO  
CHINA DAILY

SHENZHEN — Like the other venues at the Universiade, a compulsory security check at the entrance to the Village is always the first thing everyone does.

"There are more than 12,000 people living in the Village, including athletes, officials and staff. So, no doubt, safety here is always the top priority," Zhao Yong, deputy manager of the security department of the Village, said.

"Every day, hundreds of visitors, athletes and staff come and go, and we have to make sure every detail is under watch. We don't allow mistakes."

According to Zhao, security guards and volunteers in the Village have to work 24/7 at all five entrances. At each entrance, at least two security guards and four volunteers, who are mostly students from the local police school and training institute for security guards, work together.

"Every day we have three groups of staff, each working for eight hours," Zhao said.

Gong Chengyi is a volunteer who works at the East Entrance 2, which gets the most visitors every day. He said it is very hard work, not only to be outside for so many hours, but especially in such hot weather.

"Sometimes people get impatient,

even angry, but we have to be patient and friendly all the time," Gong said.

Nadika Keshan Jayasooriya, a badminton player from Sri Lanka, had just passed the security gate and entered the Village.

"Yes, it's boring to have several security checks each day," Jayasooriya said. "But it has to do with so many people's safety and mine, so I think it's necessary."

Jayasooriya added that the pleasant attitude of the volunteers makes him feel better every time he gets checked.

It is not only the volunteers at the entrances who take care of safety in the Village. According to Zhao, another big part of the security work is fire control.

"The fire control team, which is made up of policemen and firefighters, works as hard as the people at the entrances. Some of them have made a lot of sacrifices," Zhao said.

The story of Chen Qimeng, a policeman and also a member of the fire control team, has become well known among Village staff.

Chen has been working for the fire control team since the construction of the Village. Just a few days after the competition began, he was told his mother was critically sick with cancer. But he chose to stay in the Village.

"Of course, I was extremely upset when I heard it," Chen said. "But here, everyone's

work was planned a long time ago. And it's so much work. If there's a little change, the whole plan has to change."

At first, Chen didn't even tell his colleagues about his mother. But after other officials in the department heard the news, they made "an order" to Chen that he must go and visit his mother. Finally, Chen was off for three days.

Zhao said such touching stories happen every day, not only in the security department but also among the whole team that keeps the Village running.

"Devoting themselves to work are not just empty words," Zhao said. "Their devotion and passion is everywhere. You can just feel it."

In addition to the great stories behind the scenes, there are also stories that you just don't know whether they're funny or annoying.

Some of these occur when volunteers and security guards meet athletes and officials returning to the Village drunk.

"The other night, an athlete insisted on going through the X-ray machine himself," Zhou said.

"Several volunteers tried to stop him, but he wouldn't listen. He said he was a good person who obeyed all the rules for security checks. So finally we let the big guy through the machine."

## Golden time for athletes

By CHEN XIAO  
CHINA DAILY

SHENZHEN — Lights, camera, strike a pose. As the Universiade nears its end, an exclusive club inside the Universiade Village grows busier by the day.

The cover charge? A gold medal.

The Village provides a free photo studio for athletes and their coaches to pose with their gold medals. Liu Pingsheng, deputy director of the Universiade Executive Office, said it's a much-deserved reward for the winners.

The organizing committee invited Chen Zhonghe, a well-known aerial photographer, to snap pictures of the athletes.

"From the sky to the ground, from the venues to portraits of winners, I think I'm an audience that sees the Universiade from all aspects," Chen said. "And I feel honored to be part of the Universiade. Here, I can meet every winner from the competition, and that makes me feel more special."

All gold medalists get an invitation from the studio to have their photos taken.

Chen takes 10 pictures of each winner.

"Each photo shoot takes about 10 minutes. We have all the poses designed for the portrait, and some athletes are really creative, and make funny poses or faces," Chen said.

With the help of three assistants, Chen provides the athletes with one print with a frame and a disc with all 10 pictures.

"Every day we work until 9pm in the Village, and then my assistants will go back to my studio and have the photos retouched and printed out," he said.

Since the start of the games, the studio has taken photos of more than 300 winners, Chen said.

Raj Pal Singh, a shooting coach from India, was at the studio to get photos of himself and two gold medalists.

"It's beautiful, just like a gift," Singh said. "When I go back to India, I will have all the pictures printed out for my athletes. They are the best souvenirs."

When Asli Cakir Alptekin from Turkey, a track gold medalist in the women's 1500m, arrived, she told Chen she was leaving Shenzhen early the next day.

Since the prints usually come out a day later, Chen had his assistants rush her pictures.

"I think the No 1 goal for the athletes is to win a gold medal, so we will do all that we can to make the winners happy," Chen said.



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Indian shooting coach Raj Pal Singh (left) poses with photographer Chen Zhonghe.