

WEATHER

Today's
forecast

Nanjing	22/28 Overcast
Suzhou	24/29 Overcast
Wuxi	23/28 Overcast
Yangzhou	22/28 Cloudy
Xuzhou	22/31 Cloudy
Changzhou	23/27 Overcast
Nantong	22/27 Overcast
Lianyungang	22/29 Cloudy
Huai'an	21/28 Cloudy
Yancheng	21/28 Cloudy
Zhenjiang	23/28 Cloudy
Taizhou	22/28 Overcast
Suqian	21/29 Cloudy

YOG
DAILY

NANJING
2014
YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES

The official English publica-
tion of the Nanjing 2014
Youth Olympic Games

Published daily by
China Daily

Issue: 2

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TALK TO US

Editorial

Tel: 86-10-6499-5311,
Fax: 86-10-6491-8377

Advertising

Tel: 86-25-84574342,

Subscriptions

Tel: 86-25-84574343,

Email

wuzhili@
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FIND US

Address: No 15, Huixin-
dongjie, Chaoyang District,
Beijing

北京市朝阳区惠新东街15号

Address in Nanjing: Room
2602, Fuxin Plaza, No 359,
Hongwu Road, Nanjing

江苏省南京市洪武路359号福
鑫国际大厦2602东

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YOU'RE WELCOME

A sculpture outside the eastern gate of the Nanjing Olympic Sports Center greets athletes for all over the world, in various languages, to the second Youth Olympic Games in the historic city. PHOTO BY WEI XIAOHAO / CHINA DAILY

MORE THAN JUST SPORT

By SUN XIAOCHEN

sunxiaochen@chinadaily.com.cn

The International Olympic Committee hopes to teach young Olympians the value of sports and cultural exchanges through a number of non-athletic activities during the second Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing.

Gilbert Felli, the IOC's Olympic Games executive director, showered praise on the Nanjing Youth Olympic Village's cutting-edge facilities and also outlined the organization's intentions earlier this week.

Felli said what makes him more excited than the actual sporting events is the culture and educational programs (CEP) of the YOG that are designed to inspire the young participants.

"Yes, we want it to be different. We want the athletes to follow what we bring to them in the educational part (of the event)," Felli said.

"Apart from all the necessary support for the preparations, what the YOG promote is encouraging the youth to learn together and try to understand more about sport and the values it embodies."

According to the Nanjing Youth Olympic Games Organizing Committee, the CEP will include 20 activities based on five themes defined by the IOC: the Olympic spirit, skill development, healthy lifestyles, social responsibility and expression.

Activities like the Youth Festival, Discover Nanjing, New Media Practices and Boost Your Skills should

appeal to the young athletes.

Jiao Yong, director of the organizing committee's CEP department is confident the activities will encourage young athletes to assume leadership roles, interact through social media and integrate their various cultures through sport.

Felli said the YOG experience would inspire youngsters to explore options outside of sport.

"If you are an athlete, you want to compete and want to perform; it's important. But it's important for you to know there are other things in life," he said.

"Even facing difficulties in sport, there remain a lot of positives. Even if you can't be a top athlete, everything is not finished. You can still be a judge, a coach or a referee. That is what we try to tell them (through non-athletic activities)."

To guarantee enough time for athletes to take part in CEP activities, the IOC has mandated that the various sport federations allow two days off from their schedules and has also asked the athletes to stay in Nanjing until the end of the Games; even if their events have finished.

"We want to build a big community together so people can share and try to create a better world," said Felli.

Among the initiatives encouraging cultural exchanges at the YOG, the mixed-gender and mixed-nationality competition formats stand out in promoting the Nanjing YOG slogan of "Share the Games, Share our Dreams".

For example, in shooting competitions, air pistol and air rifle will



Gilbert Felli, IOC's Olympic Games executive director

PHOTO BY WEI XIAOHAO / CHINA DAILY

include mixed National Olympic Committee (NOC) contests.

In track and field, the 680 athletes will be randomly divided into 68 10-a-side teams regardless of their gender, nationality or event to compete in an 8x100-meter relay. Members of the winning team will be awarded medals but they will only count as individual prizes, not toward their nation's medal haul.

"We did some mixed NOC events in Singapore (in 2010) to try to bring the athletes more together," said Felli.

"It was a fantastic experience in Singapore and that is a great thing that we are testing again here."

Felli recalled the poignant moment when an athlete from the United States and another from Cuba competed together in the mixed modern pentathlon event and made international headlines.

ANTI-DOPING
DRIVE ADOPTS
EDUCATIONAL
APPROACH

By SUN XIAOCHEN

sunxiaochen@chinadaily.com.cn

The anti-doping campaign at the Nanjing Youth Olympic Games will focus more on educating young athletes about drugs rather than intimidating them through intensive tests, Games officials said.

To instill fair-play principles from an early age, the anti-doping activities at the second Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing will involve teaching the dangers of drugs and promoting honesty, said Zhao Jian, executive deputy director of the anti-doping team for the Nanjing organizing committee.

"Education will play a major role as important as testing in the anti-doping program in Nanjing," Zhao told the YOG official news agency.

"These athletes are just starting their careers in sports and they need to understand that doping is not the answer. Of course, if anyone tests positive, action will be taken," he said.

Tests during the YOG will be conducted only at a doping control station situated in the Youth Olympic Village. At the Olympic Games, tests are taken at each venue.

Athletes will be notified in advance once they are chosen to take a test and a coach will be allowed to accompany them for the testing since the athletes are under the age of 18.

From Aug 12-28, approximately 300 urine tests will be conducted, according to International Olympic Committee and World Anti-Doping Agency rules. Blood tests may also be required if necessary, Zhao said.

All samples collected in Nanjing will be sent to a WADA-accredited laboratory in Beijing and analyzed by 30 lab technicians working specifically for YOG under the China Anti-Doping Agency.

The Nanjing organizing committee has trained 50 doping control officers to carry out testing procedures.

"CADA conducts regular training annually and all the staff are people with medical backgrounds, such as nurses and doctors. Student volunteers will not be involved in anti-doping operations," said Zhao, who is also the deputy director of CADA.