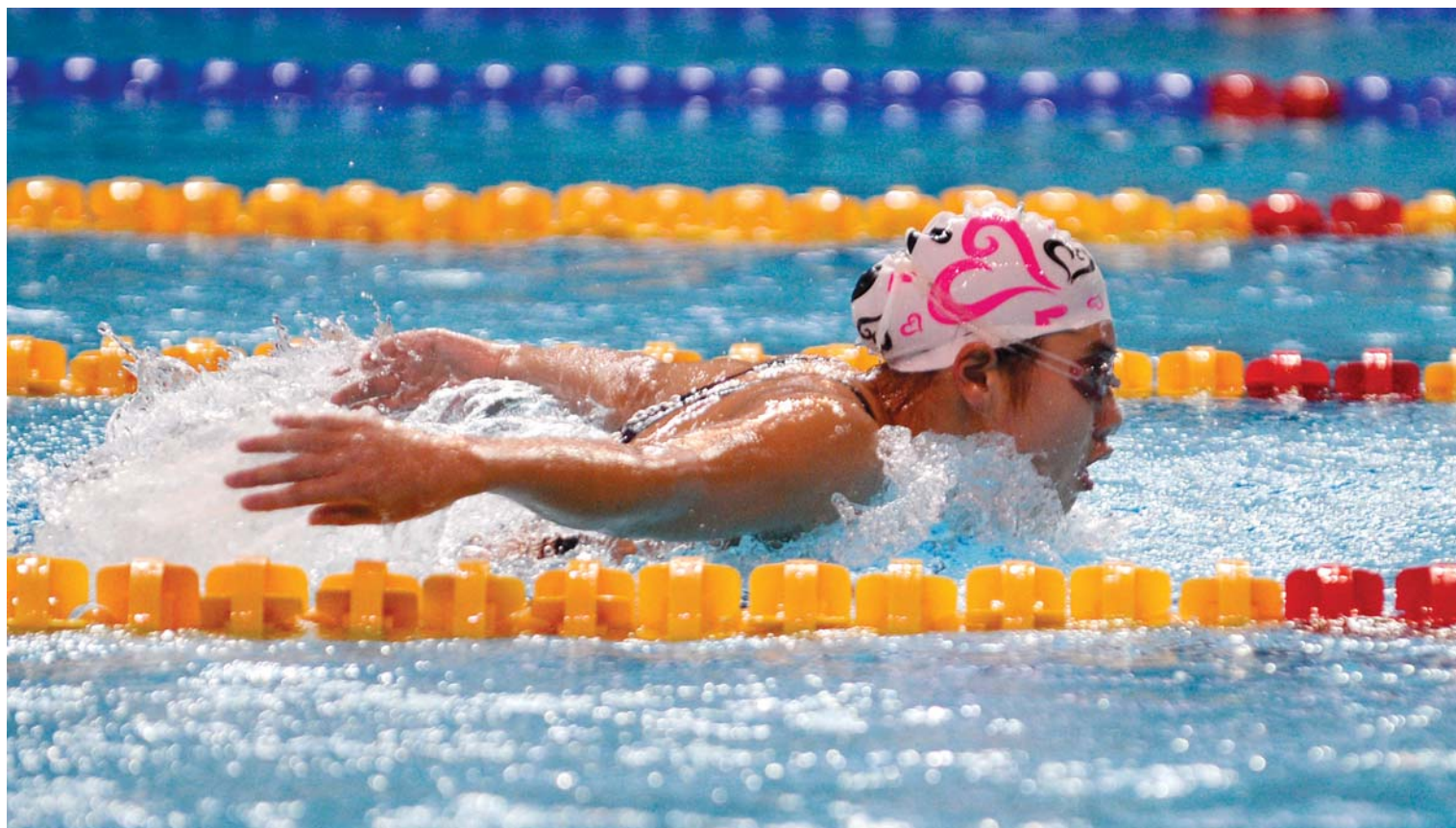


VENUES



Athletes from around the world have started warming up for the upcoming competitions at the Nanjing Youth Olympic Games. PHOTO BY WEI XIAOHAO / CHINA DAILY

City adopts strict traffic measures for Games

By GAO CHANGXIN
gaochangxin@chinadaily.com.cn

Seventeen traffic lanes in Nanjing will exclusively serve the Nanjing Youth Olympic Games, the city's traffic department said on Wednesday.

From Aug 10-31, vehicles on highways will be instructed to bypass Nanjing as part of efforts to alleviate traffic in the city. City police have mapped out 22 routes in seven directions that drivers can take without entering the city's downtown areas, said Mao Hanqi, a spokesman with the Nanjing Traffic Management Bureau.

Traffic controls will be imposed during the opening ceremony on Aug 16 on roads near the Nanjing Olympic Sports Center in Hexi district. Event ticket holders will have access to free public transportation on days when the opening and closing ceremonies will be held.

The city's shuttle bus system has 20 lines that connect the Olympic village, hotels and competition and training venues. Special transportation arrangements have been made for remote venues, such as the Laoshan Forest Park and Jinniu Lake.

Twelve of the 20 lines are existing bus lanes; the rest were newly created to ensure smooth shuttling between the busy district of Hexi and the main competition venues.

Transporting hazardous goods, including firearms, explosives and toxic and radioactive substances, is banned on the streets of Nanjing from Aug 10-31. The moving of general hazardous goods will need special approvals.

Twenty-four three-to five-star hotels have been designated as official hotels for the Nanjing Youth Olympic Games. By the end of July, 2,892 rooms had been booked.

LONG-LASTING LEGACY

By GAO CHANGXIN
gaochangxin@chinadaily.com.cn

Chen Renhu, general manager of the Nanjing Olympic Sports Center, is excited about the legacy that will remain after the Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing. The center is already Nanjing's biggest and most popular public sports venue, and Chen said its business will reach a new level after the Games.

The center was built in 2005 for the 10th National Games and was then the biggest multipurpose sports facility nationwide; before the Beijing National Stadium, or the Bird's Nest, was built for the Olympics in 2008.

About 150 million yuan has been spent on renovating the venue, which will serve as the Olympics' primary site and will host the opening ceremony and seven competitions, including swimming, gymnastics and track and field.

"After renovations, our venue is now able to provide better affordable sports services to citizens and also be in a better position to maintain economic independence without government funding," said Chen.

In 2013, the venue realized revenue of about 75 million yuan, and Chen expects the figure to pass 100 million in a few years.

The Nanjing Olympic Sports Center is one of 27 competition venues that the Nanjing Youth Olympics developed based on the concepts of

thrif and sustainability.

Only one of the venues is newly built; the rest have been adapted from existing sites. Renovations were carried out with meticulous attention to saving on cost.

The budget for the sports meet is just 1.8 billion yuan, 10 percent less than the previous Youth Olympics in Singapore. In another comparison, about 300 billion yuan was spent on the Beijing Olympics.

The Nanjing Youth Olympics Organizing Committee issued more than 50 finance control measures to ensure budget adherence.

In fact, it is the International Olympic Committee's stipulated rule that potential host cities of the Youth Olympics keep all events within the same city and that no new sports venues should be built. Exceptions are only made for a media center, amphitheater facilities for classes and workshops, and a village for coaches and athletes.

But Nanjing's decision to organize the Games thriftily also draws

from the country's ongoing austerity campaign.

To make sure all the venues meet Youth Olympic Games standards on a limited budget, Nanjing has come up with creative ways to renovate venues.

At the arena for fencing, 12 million yuan was saved as engineers decided to install a new lighting control system to help meet Olympic standards, instead of simply bringing in new lights.

Longjiang Stadium replaced its incandescent lights with LED lights. The replacement helped the venue cut its electricity bill from 35,000 yuan a month to 15,000 yuan a month. It also brought in lower power air conditioners that save 30 percent in energy consumption.

The only newly built venue, the Youth Olympic Sports Park, is located in Pukou district, the only one of the 11 districts in Nanjing that didn't have a public sports stadium. The venue will open to the public after the Youth Olympics and fill the district's void for sports facilities.

Construction of the Olympic Village proved to be the biggest expense. To cut costs, the organizing committee used existing furniture, kitchenware and the monitoring system left over from the Asia Youth Games held in the city in 2013. That saved more than 80 million yuan.

The main building at the venue

for sailing at Jinniu Lake was originally designed to have a construction area of 45,000 square meters. It was then cut to 14,000 square meters. Temporary structures were also preferred over permanent buildings. The moves helped reduce costs from 10 million yuan to 3 million yuan.

The organizing committee solicited sponsors for all of the sports equipment for the Nanjing Youth Olympics. Also, among the 28 sports, 23 had commercial sponsors, totaling 12.92 million yuan.

The organizing committee went all out to find commercial partners to help the event strike a budgetary balance. It pinned down six partners, including China Telecom, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China and 361 Degrees International Ltd. 361 Degrees, a Chinese sportswear maker provided sponsorship of more than 300 million yuan.

The committee is still not sure if the Nanjing Olympics can strike that balance, but local officials are certain the city will benefit greatly from the event in the long term.

"Nanjing's city management was primitive. Preparing for the Youth Olympics helped us improve in that regard. Nanjing's image and environment has improved a lot," Nanjing Mayor Mou Ruilin said in an interview with local media.

"The Youth Olympics has a very significant meaning for Nanjing's sustainable development and trans-