A bird's-eye view of the main stadium for the Hangzhou 2022 Asian Games. CFP

City seeks upgrading through organization of global event

Paradise on Earth taking shape to be a sports gala in the future

By YUAN SHENGGAO

Hangzhou should seize the opportunities brought by the 19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022 and the 4th Asian Para Games Hangzhou 2022 to upgrade the city in an all-around way, said a top official of the city.

Zhou Jiangyong, Party secretary of Hangzhou, the host city of the Games, made the remarks at a meeting on April 17.

Hangzhou in East China's Zhejiang province won the bid to host the Asian Games in September 2015, becoming the third city in China to host the quadrennial continental event, after Beijing in 1990 and Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong province, in 2010.

The Hangzhou Asian Games will be held in the city from Sept 10 to 25 in 2022 and the Hangzhou Asian Para Games are scheduled to take place from Oct 9 to 15, 2022.

By organizing the international sports event, Hangzhou will speed up the building of a world-renowned city with distinctive features, according to the official.

An overall plan stating the detailed arrangements for the upgrading of the city from eight perspectives was also released at the meeting. Zhou said the plan, aiming to push forward with the city development, is necessary for Hangzhou to make high-level preparations for the Games, to shore up the confidence of people and to improve global competitiveness and influence.

In general, he noted that to host the Games, Hangzhou will be more amiable with city functions improved, more civilized with every resident having etiquette, more livable and smarter with intelligent and green technologies adopted in the event organization and more open with global exchanges and cooperation activities held.

Sheikh Ahmad al-Fahad al-Sabah, president of the Olympic Council of Asia, inspects venues for the Hangzhou Asian Games in November 2018. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Hangzhou plans to organize more than 1,500 events and activities each year and construct about 30 new sports venues for the public, according to the plan. Moreover, each district and county in the city will build a park themed on the Games.

To promote Hangzhou's global development, the city is striving to attract headquarters and branch offices of international institutions, sports organizations and transnational corporations.

As the integrated development of the Yangtze River Delta region has been elevated to a national strategy, Hangzhou pins more hopes on the interconnections with other areas in the delta region, such as Shanghai, for further development.

Hangzhou, along with other co-hosting cities of the Games, will design a service system for integrated rail transportation and provide more convenience for people to get to Shanghai Pudong International Airport, one of the busiest airports for international flights in China.

As stated in the plan, a batch of public spaces for outdoor activities, including match watching, will be authorized to operate citywide.

Hangzhou is a city boasting a country-leading digital economy. When designing opening and closing ceremonies, and building sports venues and the Asian Games villages, advanced technologies such as 5G, artificial intelligence and blockchain are expected to be applied to empowering the event digitally, according to the plan.

Also, as a home to a myriad of time-honored cultural items, Hangzhou hopes to display its long history and profound culture via an exhibition hall, the plan stated.

Through the international event, Hangzhou hopes to showcase its culture of harmony and civilization to the world, which makes the government include citizens' etiquette into the plan of upgrading the city for the Games. The culture of the Asian Games will be promoted at schools, communities as well as villages, and institutions and companies.

As many as 100 schools featuring sports education will be created in Hangzhou, according to the plan.

In addition to the overall plan, a detailed action scheme about the construction of a barrier-free environment was released on June 4, noting that by 2022, the city, which is home to 500,000 handicapped people, will have a world-class and barrier-free environment with complete policies, standards and facilities.

Scan the code to learn more about the Games!

Timeline

Sept 16, 2015:
Hangzhou won the bid to host the 19th Asian Games, becoming the third city in China to host the quadrennial continental event after Beijing and Guangzhou.

Dec 12, 2017:
The construction on venues for the 19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022 began.

Jan 29, 2018:
The official website for the 19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022 Organizing Committee went online.

August 6, 2018:
The emblem of the Games, named Tides Surging, was unveiled.

Sept 2, 2018:
A cultural performance named *Hangzhou Time* was staged at the closing ceremony for the 18th Asian Games in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Dec 26, 2018:
The marketing program for the Games was officially launched by organizers.

April 8, 2019:
The Hangzhou Asian Games was confirmed for Sept 10 to 25, 2022.

Dec 15, 2019:

The slogan for the Games, "heart to heart, @future", was released at a celebration activity for 1,000-day countdown to the event in Hangzhou.

April 3, 2020:
The mascots of the Games, Congcong, Lianlian and Chenchen, were introduced to the public at an online ceremony in Hangzhou.

April 17, 2020:
Hangzhou issued an overall plan, stating its ambition to seize the opportunities brought by the Games to upgrade the city in an all-around way.

High-quality preparations in full swing for Hangzhou Asian Games in 2022

By YUAN SHENGGAO

The 19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2020 will be held from Sept 10-25, 2022 in Hangzhou, capital of East China's Zhejiang province. China Daily is teaming up with the organizing committee of the Games to focus on the preparation and facts around the Hangzhou Asian Games.

When the curtains on the 18th Asian Games fell in Jakarta, Indonesia, in September 2018, the quadrennial continental event was officially announced to have entered "Hangzhou time".

It marked the start of an intensive preparatory phase for the Games in Hangzhou, dubbed "paradise on Earth". Hangzhou, capital of East China's Zhejiang province, will become the third city in China to host Asia's prime sports gala, after Beijing in 1990 and Guangzhou, capital of South China's Guangdong province, in 2010.

The 19th Asian Games will be held from Sept 10-25, 2022 and preparations for the Games in the city are in full swing. Upholding the concept of organizing the event in a green, smart, economical and ethical way, Hangzhou is pushing forward with high-quality preparations for venue construction, visual products, marketing programs, agenda, opening and closing ceremonies.

Venue construction

According to the Hangzhou Asian Games Organizing Committee, construction on 42 of the 58 venues and auxiliary facilities for the Games, which represent more than 85 percent of the total construction work, will be completed by the end of 2020.

Since February, projects for the Games resumed construction after the coronavirus was largely controlled in China.

On May 18, construction of the key structures for the main stadium and the indoor swimming pool in the Hangzhou Olympic Sports Center, which will be used for the Games as the main venue, passed inspection.

Now, the focus of the main venue construction will be turned to the interior, including decoration and equipment.

In addition, co-hosting cities in Zhejiang, including Wenzhou, Ningbo and Huzhou, are to support the Games with accelerated construction on sports venues.

In the coastal county of Xiangshan, Ningbo, the construction of the Asian Games Sailing Center has seen new progress with the roof-sealing of the land venue completed, and a breakwater to protect the shore from waves being built.

According to the plan made by organizers of the Games, all 45 competition venues are expected to be built by March 2021.

Chen Weiqiang, deputy secretary-general of the HAGOC and vice-mayor of Hangzhou, attends a ceremony to mark the launch of the specially-designed stamps for the 19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022 on May 18, 2019. Chen sends stamps to people around the world as invitations to the Hangzhou Asian Game in 2022.

The Games has three villages. The athletes village is expected to serve 10,400 athletes and team officials. The media village is to hold 5,000 registered media workers and the technical officials village is designed to receive 3,800 technical officials. The villages will be completed by the end of 2021.

Emblem, slogan, mascots

The emblem for the Hangzhou Asian Games, which is called Tides Surging, was officially launched in August 2018 and was the first visual element of the event to be unveiled.

Consisting of six elements: a Chinese fan, the Qiantang River, a tidal bore, a running track, the internet icon and the glowing red sun of the Olympic Council of Asia, the emblem embodies the characters of the current times and the Olympic spirit.

In a congratulatory response to the launch of the emblem, OCA President Sheikh Ahmad al-Fahad al-Sabah described it as dynamic and said it highlighted all the unique aspects of the city of Hangzhou.

The official slogan of the Games is "heart to heart, @future", which was announced in December 2019. It reflects that in the digital era, people from all over the Asian continent are connected with each other.

Mascots for the event, Congcong, Lianlian and Chenchen, were unveiled in early April with the cultural and technical prowess of Hangzhou embodied in the designs.

Chen Weiqiang, deputy secretary-general of the Games' organizing committee and vice-mayor of Hangzhou, said they hope the three mascots will serve as the envoys of the Olympic spirit, extending a warm welcome to people from Asia and the world. At the same time, visual products for the 2022 Asian Para Games were released to the public, mirroring the core message and aesthetic of those for the Hangzhou Asian Games.

Marketing program

The organizers of the Games launched an official marketing program in December 2018, calling for partners from around the world.

As of today, the event has established partnerships with eight enterprises, including e-commerce giant Alibaba Group, auto manufacturer Geely Group and the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China.

On March 10, the organizing committee began invitations to sponsors and suppliers.

They are expected to come from the fields of internet safety, internet of things technology, photography, videography, nonalcoholic beverages, travel services, Western-style fast food and household kitchen appliances. They will also be entitled to certain rights, as well as priority in negotiations. The organizing committee has confirmed the participation of 33 franchised manufacturers in areas such as noble metal, silk, stationery and clothing, and 16 offline stores and one online franchised retailer store, as well as a shopping platform on television.

A television media information platform, named Asian Games Channel, was jointly founded by the organizing committee and Hangzhou Culture Radio Television Group in May.

It has the aim of recording the city's preparations for the Asian Games and promoting the brand of the event, as well as the image of the host city.

Schedule

The draft of the agenda, an indispensable part of the event organization, has been compiled and will be submitted to the OCA for confirmation in the second half of 2020. The making of plans for competitions, victory ceremonies and other activities is also underway. Preparations for the opening and closing ceremonies, an opportunity to display the host city's charm and interconnection of Asian countries, will move forward in 2020 with teams of directors confirmed. On Sept 10, 2019, the organizing committee initiated a campaign to solicit ideas and proposals for the closing and opening ceremonies for the 19th Asian Games. By the end of January, it had received a total of 104 creative proposals.

This page is sponsored by the 19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022 Organizing Committee.