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WELCOMING THE WORLD

The 2014 Nanjing Youth Olympics brings more than just sports to a new generation



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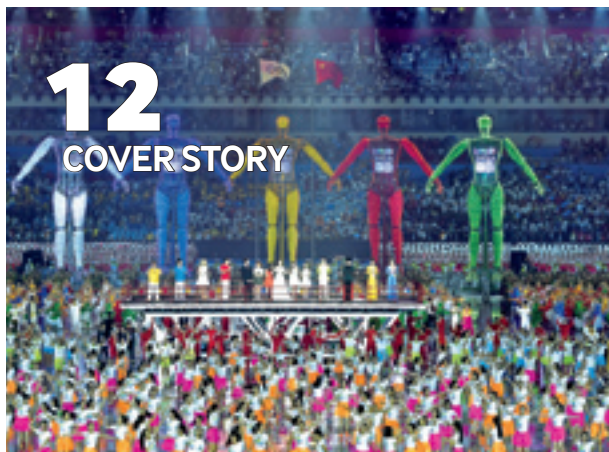
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Cover Photo: Lele, mascot of the Youth Olympic Games, waves to the crowd in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province (IC)

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EDITOR'S DESK

A Celebration of Youth and Unity

The Second Youth Olympic Games are being held from August 16-28 in Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu Province—a time-honored city and the ancient capital of six dynasties. Over 3,700 athletes from 204 countries and regions have descended on the city to participate in a grand occasion of sporting competitions and cultural exchanges, which, on a smaller scale, resembles in spirit the 2008 Beijing Olympics. The Nanjing Youth Olympic Games Organizing Committee promised to deliver an experience adhering to the concepts of youth, sharing, cultural fusion and thrift.

As the highest-level global teenage sporting event, the Youth Olympic Games are held every four years with staggered winter and summer Games. Athletes from 14 to 18 years of age compete in events largely the same as those of the Olympic Games.

Compared with the Olympic Games, however, the Youth Olympics places greater emphasis on communication and friendship—forging a spirit of togetherness rather than competitiveness. It presents not only an arena for competition but also offers a stage upon which countries may exhibit their unique cultures.

President Xi Jinping said at the opening ceremony that the Youth Olympics has not only given athletes an opportunity to demonstrate their talent, but also provided an important platform for cultural communications. Every teenager partici-

pating in the Games is a potential goodwill ambassador who can help improve understanding and friendship and promote cooperation between nations through the event, contributing to the realization of a harmonious world marked by lasting peace and shared prosperity.

This year's Youth Olympics takes a new approach to sports settings. Among the 28 sports featured, 15 offer mixed gender and nationality team events. For example, athletes are allowed to form a team with participants from other countries in mixed badminton doubles and diving contests.

In addition to the competitions, the organizing committee has offered a variety of cultural and educational activities enabling athletes from different countries and regions to form friendships, learn about their respective cultures, and forge links that will last well into the future.

Happiness and sharing will be the main themes underlying the Youth Olympics. Athletes are encouraged to experience the fun of sports by active participation and interaction.

As International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach has said, all the athletes will not only compete for medals, but also learn more about mutual respect, rules, fairness and justice while spreading the spirit of unity, friendship and tolerance from Nanjing to the world. ■

WRITE TO US



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REMEMBERING A TRAILBLAZER

Commemorative stamps marking the 110th anniversary of the birth of late Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping (1904-97) are displayed in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province, on August 20.

Addressing a symposium held in Beijing that day to mark the anniversary, Chinese President Xi Jinping expressed appreciation for Deng's pragmatism as well as his political courage in testing uncharted waters and breaking new ground.

Born on August 22, 1904 in southwest China's Sichuan Province, Deng was revered for championing China's reform and opening-up policy that has led to the country's dramatic transformation over the past 30-plus years.



Reform Plan

High school graduates in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province take picture together with teachers after the college entrance exam on June 9.

A meeting of the central leading group for comprehensive deepening of the reform headed by President Xi Jinping on August 18 reviewed the reform of the national examination and enrollment system to enhance the fairness and supervision, and connect all levels and kinds of education.

At the same meeting, Xi said that China will build several new-type media groups that are strong, influential and credible.

The meeting also reviewed a plan for the reform of the payment system for executives of major state-owned enterprises (SOEs) directly controlled by the Central Government. It was decided that the plan has to be further amended.

Xi stressed that apart from necessary expenses certified by financial and fiscal regulations, SOE executives will enjoy no other perks in the name of "entitled consumption."

Anniversary of Victory

The Chinese Government will hold commemorative activities as the 69th anniversary of winning the War Against Japanese Aggression (1937-45) approaches, the Foreign Ministry said on August 15.

"Relevant preparation is underway," said ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying.

The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, China's top legislature, in February designated September 3 as the victory day of the war and December 13 as the memorial day to commemorate the more than 300,000 Chinese killed by Japanese aggressors during the 1937 Nanjing Massacre.

Japan officially surrendered on September 2, 1945, ending the eight

years of resistance by the Chinese people.

China's State Archives Administration (SAA) on August 15 began releasing documents and videos showing Japan's aggression during the 1930s and 1940s. A 24-part video series, called The Great Victory, will be released on the SAA website, one episode per day.

Cult Crackdown

Chinese police have arrested nearly 1,000 suspected members of the illegal Quannengshen (Almighty God) cult, according to the Ministry of Public Security.

The suspects, all seized since June, are allegedly involved in more than 500 cases.

"Quannengshen cheats people, takes their money and violates the law

under the guise of a religion. A series of acts by its members have harmed people's lives and property and disrupted social stability," the ministry said.

Five members of the cult stood trial in Yantai, east China's Shandong Province, on August 21 for the killing of a woman at a McDonald's outlet in the province's Zhaoyuan County in May, when the deceased refused to give her telephone number to them, as they allegedly tried to recruit new members for the organization.

Founded in the 1990s in central China's Henan Province, Quannengshen claims that Jesus has been resurrected as Yang Xiangbin, wife of the group's founder Zhao Weishan. The couple fled to the United States in September 2000.

HIV Reduction

A total of 436,800 people were living with HIV or AIDS in China at the end of 2013, while 136,300 had died from the disease, according to figures from health authorities.

Mortality for the disease dropped to 6.6 percent last year from 17.9 percent in 2005, Wu Zunyou, head of the HIV/AIDS Division of the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, said on August 14.

The decline in mortality was attributed to policies such as free HIV tests nationwide and free treatment for rural and poor urban citizens, according to Wu.

Wu said that 95 percent of confirmed HIV/AIDS patients are under follow-up care.

Nearly 91 percent of the newly reported HIV/AIDS patients in China in 2013 were infected through sexual contact. About 21.4 percent of new cases resulted from same-sex intercourse, compared with 2.5 percent in 2006, Wu noted.

Office for Taiwan

The State Council Taiwan Affairs Office (SCTAO) on August 14 officially opened a special office to handle public petitions related to affairs on the island province.

Petitioning, also known as the "letters and calls system," is the administrative method for soliciting public complaints and grievances.

SUB-ZERO

Yang Weidong, President of video streaming site Tudou.com, attempts the ice bucket challenge on August 17



The office will keenly listen to the complaints and requests of Taiwanese compatriots and Taiwanese spouses on the mainland and try to solve their problems, said SCTAO Vice Minister Gong Qinggai.

Wildlife Protection

The Chinese Embassy on August 14 donated anti-poaching equipment worth \$20,000 to strengthen the fight against wildlife crimes in Kenya.

Chinese Ambassador to Kenya Liu Xianfa said that the donation is part of the long-term commitment from China to revitalize the war against poaching in Kenya.

During his visit to Kenya in May, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang said that a China-Africa joint research center will be established in Nairobi to strengthen war against poaching.

The Chinese embassy has partnered with Kenyan state organs to strengthen the fight against wildlife crimes in the east African nation.

Art for the World

Hong Kong-based Phoenix Television announced the launch of its new venture, Phoenix Art, at its Free-Thinking Innovation event and panel discussion in Beijing on August 19. Phoenix Art, which includes the new website, Art.ifeng.com, will provide exclusive content centered on education and innovation in the fine arts, both in China and around the world. Many distinguished guests—including Richard Saul Wurman, designer and co-founder of TED talks; Phoenix TV news anchor

←
“This donation will enhance the capacity of four Kenyan wildlife conservancies to provide security through targeted patrols in the northern rangelands and along the coast.”

Chinese Ambassador to Kenya Liu Xianfa



Memory of Days Past

An exhibition for the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps, a semi-military governmental organization shoulders the dual task of production and security in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, kicks off at the National Museum of China in Beijing on August 15.

Sally Wu, professor of the arts Victoria Lu; contemporary artists Cai Guoqiang, Xu Bing and Qiu Zhijie; and many more—spoke on topics ranging from technology's impact on the traditional arts to how innovation and creativity are sparked in the 21st century. More than 150 guests were present for the Free-Thinking Innovation event.

“Creativity comes from your distance from reality. If you only view the world inside a small area, you won't be inspired to have new thoughts,” said Xu Bing, speaking during the discussion on fostering creation in art and seeking out

new inspiration. In collaboration with Phoenix Art, internationally renowned painters, innovators, academics, photographers, calligraphers as well as other artists will bring their work to the Chinese population to provide that inspiration.

This new platform and website for art education and appreciation also hopes to make the classics, from ancient Greek sculpture to the Dadaist movement, accessible to anyone, anywhere. “There is no more past or future or East or West—we're all on the same level now,” Victoria Lu said at the event.

Multicultural Games

Beijing's Ninth Traditional Ethnic Sports Games open on August 19. The sports meeting is held once every four years.

This year, more than 6,000 athletes of 23 ethnic groups participated in 13 competitive events in six days.



Anti-Trust Probe

A total of 12 Japanese auto parts and bearing makers have been fined 1.24 billion yuan (\$201 million) owing to their collusion in creating a price monopoly, the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) confirmed on August 20.

The Japanese auto parts suppliers punished include Hitachi, Denso, Aisan, Mitsubishi Electric, Mitsuba, Yazaki, Furukawa, Sumitomo and bearing makers are Nachi, NSK, JTEKT and NTN.

Hitachi and Nachi were exempted from the punishment as they were the first Japanese companies to report their monopoly agreements and offer important evidence in this regard, the NDRC said.

The fines to 10 other companies varied from 290 million yuan (\$47.14 million) to 29.76 million yuan (\$4.84 million), according to the NDRC.

The eight Japanese auto parts suppliers were found to have frequently met

bilaterally or multilaterally in Japan from January 2000 to February 2010, negotiating over prices and implementing agreements over quoted prices concerning orders from the Chinese market.

The four bearing makers were also found to have jointly convened meetings in Japan and Shanghai from 2000 to June 2011 to discuss the timing and scope of price hikes for bearing products in the Chinese market and later raised their price according to these negotiations, the NDRC said.

Such moves by the 12 Japanese auto parts and bearing suppliers were in violation of the Chinese Anti-Monopoly Law, which prohibits behavior excluding or restraining market competition and thus damaging the rights and interests of downstream manufacturers and consumers, the NDRC said.

Housing Prices Drop

China's property sector showed new signs of cooling in July, with more cities



TECHNOLOGICAL INVESTMENT

A student browses laptop computers in a store in Liaocheng, Shandong Province, on August 19. The sale of digital products has been recently boosted as many new college freshmen shop for them prior to the start of their first semester in September.

reporting month-on-month price drops, official data showed on August 18.

Out of 70 major Chinese cities, 64 saw month-on-month price declines for new homes in July, compared with 55 in June, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said.

Only two cities—Xiamen in southeast China's Fujian Province and Dali in southwest China's Yunnan Province—saw month-on-month gains in new home prices last month, compared with eight cities in June and 15 cities in May, the NBS data showed.

The growth rates in the 65 cities moderated significantly in July, said Liu Jianwei, a senior statistician at the NBS.

Liu said many home buyers were adopting a wait-and-see attitude due to uncertain market prospects, which had led to month-on-month drops in home prices in more Chinese cities.

The latest data added to fears that China's property market is experiencing an obvious downturn after dismal growth in the last few years.

Zhang Dawei, chief analyst at real estate agent Centaline Property, said the latest data suggested that the cooling trend was still evident. Growth of property investment starting in February has decelerated for six months straight.

FDI Falters

Foreign direct investment (FDI) into the Chinese mainland fell sharply again in July, slumping 16.95 percent from a year earlier to \$7.81 billion, the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) said on August 18.

The sharp decline was in contrast with a 0.2-percent increase in June, according to the ministry.

For the first seven months, the FDI, which excludes investment in the financial sector, stood at \$71.14 billion, down 0.35 percent from the same period last year.

MOFCOM spokesman Shen Danyang said year-on-year fluctuation of inbound FDI data is totally normal.

"It has nothing to do with the recent anti-trust probes. The Chinese Government launched such probes with the aim of creating a fair market for all market participants," he said.

Meanwhile, the outbound FDI by Chinese non-financial companies



Rooftop Power Plant

Staff from a local power grid company connect solar panels to the grid in Zibo, east China's Shandong Province.

To date, over 130 households in Shandong have installed rooftop solar panels to generate electricity. Besides being used by those families, the extra electricity can be sold to the national grid.



BEN LUNGLIAN

Of Great Import

Two frontier soldiers walk past trucks that are waiting for customs checking in Ebu Duge Port on the border of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region and Mongolia.

On August 20, the previously seasonal port began to operate year round. In the first seven months, the throughput of the port reached 56,000 tons.

soared 84.9 percent from previous year in July, compared with a year-on-year decline of 5 percent in the January-June period.

Investment Firm

The country's first national-level private investment company, China Minsheng Investment, was established in Shanghai on August 21.

Endorsed by the State Council in April, China Minsheng Investment has a registered capital of 50 billion yuan (\$8.1 billion), funded by the top 59 private Chinese companies.

The 59 shareholders are all large private companies. They are involved in a range of businesses from machinery manufacturing, metallurgy, information technology, assets management, environmental protection, new energy, power generation and e-commerce.

WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU MELONS

Farmers harvest melons in Altay, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, on August 19. The plantation of melons has greatly increased local income



TANG XIAOBO

The most shares any single company can own are 2 percent of China Minsheng Investment, and the bottom stake is no less than 0.6 percent.

Before China Minsheng Investment, China Investment Corp., the nation's sovereign wealth fund, was the only large national-level investment company.

Amazon's Ambition

U.S. e-commerce giant Amazon.com Inc. looks set to capitalize on the massive purchasing power of Chinese customers, as it kicks off a planned foray into the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone (FTZ), where innovative policies are expected to boost cross-border online trade.

A memorandum of understanding was signed between Amazon and the Shanghai FTZ on August 18, under which Amazon will open its new cross-border e-commerce platform in the FTZ.

Amazon also will establish a logistics and warehouse center in the FTZ, whereby imported goods will enter China via the zone's cross-border e-commerce platform. Similarly, products from small and medium-sized enterprises in China can be sold to Amazon customers across the globe.

"China's e-commerce market is one of the most dynamic in the world with tremendous potential," said Diego Piacentini, Senior Vice President of Amazon International. "We just celebrated our 10th anniversary and believe it is still Day One for us, particularly in the areas of cross-border e-commerce, both into and out of China."

Revitalizing Northeast

The Central Government has announced an action plan to assist the northeastern region's staggering economy with a list of new measures.

The plan aims to free up private businesses, deepen reforms of state-owned enterprises (SOEs), develop modern agriculture, renovate rundown urban areas and launch dozens of infrastructure projects in the northeastern provinces of Liaoning, Jilin and Heilongjiang, according to the new measures announced on August 19.

The 35 new measures, listed in a document by the State Council on its website, came as northeast China saw the slowest economic growth among China's provincial areas during the first half of this year.

China will speed up the construction of eight rail lines and build or expand 10 regional airports in the region, the document said.

SOEs are encouraged to sell part of their equities to private and foreign investors to build a mixed ownership system and pay for the reforms.

For traditional sectors such as agriculture, the northeastern provinces' status as a core grain production base will be strengthened. Grain storage and logistical facilities will be improved.

The document also named a few power transmission projects, nuclear power plant projects and heating projects to be initiated as part of a clean-energy network in the region.



THE UNITED KINGDOM

Technicians carry out cleaning and maintenance work on one of the faces of the Great Clock atop the landmark Elizabeth Tower that houses Big Ben in London on August 19



THE UNITED STATES

Demonstrators hold a rally protesting the death of Michael Brown and the excessive use of force by police on August 18 in New York City



INDIA

A model displays an Indian creation during the Lakmé Fashion Week in Mumbai on August 21



BRAZIL

Supporters of the late Brazilian socialist presidential candidate Eduardo Campos, who died on August 13 in a jet crash, pay tribute as his coffin arrives on August 16 at the Palácio do Campo das Princesas



SOUTH KOREA

South Korean soldiers subdue a mock terrorist (bottom) during an annual South Korea-U.S. joint military drill called Ulchi Freedom Guardian in Seoul on August 18



PALESTINE

A Palestinian doctor carries a wounded child at a hospital following an Israeli air strike on a house in Gaza City on August 19

↓ OFFICIAL SENTENCED FOR NEGLIGENCE

Tong Mingqian, a former senior official in central China's Hunan Province, was sentenced to five years in prison for neglect of his duties in one of the largest election frauds in China on August 18.

A Beijing court convicted Tong, 56, of failing to investigate and stop a large-scale election fraud last year while serving as the leading official of Hengyang, Hunan. Then Secretary of the Communist Party of China Hengyang Committee, Tong was responsible for organizing the election for the city's deputies to the provincial people's congress. During the election, he was informed that some candidates offered bribes to buy votes but took no measures to stop the illegal practices.

Investigations showed 56 candidates bribed hundreds of city lawmakers and staff for election to the provincial legislature. The amount of money involved exceeded 110 million yuan (\$17.9 million).



Global Natural Gas Market

World Affairs August 16

Relying on its dominant status in the international natural gas market due to its gigantic reserves, Russia generally links gas prices, transportation and pipeline construction in such a way as to realize its political goals. Its influence mainly focuses on the regional market centered on Russia.

The United States typically links its natural gas strategy with the unforeseen circumstances of geopolitics. It can affect the international natural gas market via its powerful national strength to serve the country's political and economic targets.

Other natural gas giants like Qatar and Iran also intend to extend their political influences by controlling natural gas prices and trading. However, their energy advantages cannot convert into as much influence as they hope. Only with strong political power can energy advantages translate into international influence.

Under these complex circumstances, China should adopt both technical tools and political methods to deal with potential fluctuations. Technically, China needs to strengthen its natural gas resource exploration within technological, economic and environmental permissions to enhance the domestic natural gas supply while improving energy efficiency. Politically, it can use its influence to contribute to a more stable international natural gas market.



Ideal System Reform *Oriental Outlook* August 21

As early as in 1992, late Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping said that it might take 30 years for China to form a more mature and programmed institutional system, wherein all policies and principles would be even more conventionalized. He believed that three standards can measure whether or not the system is good enough: Economically, China should catch up with developed countries; politically, the country should help the people to govern in a way that is more practical and nuanced than the system in Western countries; and it should feature a more outstanding set of personnel than those countries.

The Third Plenary Session of the 18th Communist Party of China Central Committee held in November 2013 confirmed that the system should be established by 2020. President Xi Jinping expressed a similar determination when delivering a speech in February. He said that today's pressing historic task for China is to establish a more complete, more stable and more effective institutional system for the country's further development—a path that would lead to

“The gap between these companies and their Western counterparts is not that big. China's drone industry is quite competitive, especially in the areas of avionics and flight control.”

Zhang Feng, Secretary General of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association of China, commenting on the technological prowess of Chinese unmanned aerial vehicle companies in a recent interview with Xinhua News Agency

“China's active participation in drawing up international standards will help domestic toy factories better understand and employ such standards in production.”

Li Zhuoming, an executive with the Guangdong Toy Association, speaking on August 15 about China's release of a new international toy safety standard adopted by the International Organization for Standardization, which is largely based on a Chinese national standard



better livelihoods, social stability and long-term security for Chinese people.

China's governance system is a comprehensive result of long-term development, progressive reforms and endogenic changes based on historical heritage, cultural traditions and economic and social development. The country's national governance requires further perfection and progress, while Chinese people must have their own exclusive vision to make their dreams come true.

Celebrity Drugs Abuse

Beijing Youth Daily
August 19

Celebrities have occupied more of the social scene and carried influence. The public has a right to hold higher expectations of them. No one is above the law, not even celebrities. Famous people who get caught doing drugs can cause more damage to others and create worse consequences.

Recently, several Chinese celebrities, including kungfu star Jackie Chan's son Jaycee Chan, have been detained due to their drug problem.

The Ministry of Public Security said in June that many celebrities are using drugs,

and those caught were just the tip of the iceberg. It appeared poised to conduct a key crackdown on celebrity drug users, with even stricter punishment than usual.

Many people mistakenly think that celebrities hold a higher moral character. Public reputation, however, does not imply morality. Many stars have extraordinary influence over adolescents. Some even become icons that young people love and worship. Considering their significant influence on young people, these stars should set strict demands on themselves and set a good example. Celebrities who have been caught using drugs should apologize to their young fans and stay away from drugs from now on. Instead of hiding from the spotlight, they should take on more responsibility in the anti-drug fight.



AWARD-WINNING POET FACES BACKLASH

Zhou Xiaotian, a poet and professor with the College of Literature and Journalism at Sichuan University, came into the center of controversy after winning the prestigious Lu Xun Literature Prize in mid-August for his poetry collection, *Invitation to Tea*.

Not long after the prize was awarded, Zhou's verses were posted online by Internet users, with one commenting that they were "nothing more than doggerels unworthy of the prize." Many have criticized the winner for the colloquial style of his poems. Zhou, however, has refuted the criticisms. "Vernacular poems are not necessarily ill-written. You can hardly expect people to read serious poems nowadays," he said. Zhou, born in 1948 in southwest China's Sichuan Province, is adept at writing poems about current affairs using ancient Chinese poetic forms but vernacular language.

The poetry prize, named after Lu Xun (1881-1936), one of China's best-known modern writers, was first awarded in 1986. It honors writers of outstanding short- to mid-length novels, poems, prose, reportage and literary reviews, and is bestowed once every three years.



"Almost three quarters of the parts of the Great Wall that was built during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) are poorly preserved, and under 10 percent is in sound condition."

Wu Guoqiang, Secretary General of the China Great Wall Society, at a seminar in Beijing on August 15, calling for intensified efforts to preserve the Great Wall, which was built from the 3rd century B.C. to the A.D. 17th century for military defense

"Kenya and China have been recognized by the CITES [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna] for their dedication to alleviating the menace of poaching. Both countries mete out heavy penalties on offenders."

William Kiprono, Director of the Kenya Wildlife Service, commenting on China's donation of anti-poaching equipment worth \$20,000 to Kenya on August 15



COVER STORY

GOING FOR GOLD

The Nanjing Youth Olympic Games combine sporting events with cross-cultural education for young athletes By Ji Jing



SPECTACULAR SHOW: The opening ceremony of the Nanjing Youth Olympics on August 16

Dou Zecheng swings his arms in a delicate arc up and backward. Swinging his club back down, the small white ball atop his tee careens into the distance at the Zhongshan International Golf Club in Nanjing on August 15. The 17-year-old, who hails from central China's Henan Province, is the top-ranked Chinese amateur golfer, coming in at No. 39 in the World Amateur Golf Rankings. He is at the club training for the second-ever Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing.

Dou is lucky to have the opportunity to compete in this year's Youth Olympics: Golf has been introduced to the Youth Olympics for the first time this year, along with rugby. In order to be able to compete at his highest level in the Games, Dou gave up participating in a major competition in July to focus on training.

"I feel honored to be the only golf player representing China. I feel the pressure, but I can handle it. My goal is to enjoy the fun of the competition while trying to win medals," he said.

Introducing new sports represents just one of the many innovations of the Nanjing Youth Olympics. New features were included throughout the preparation and competitions of this year's Games.

Compared with the 118-year history of the Olympic Games, the Youth Olympics is still in the preliminary stages of its development. Singapore made the idea a reality four years ago, while Nanjing has assumed the mission of making the event better-rounded. In order to do so, the Nanjing Youth Olympic Games Organizing Committee (NYOGOC) has taken a series of measures to develop and expand the event.

Innovative approaches

New to the Youth Olympics is the Sports Lab, located in the Yuzui Wetland Park, which opened to the public for free on August 17.

Established by the proposal of International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas

Bach, the lab aims to showcase non-Olympic sports such as martial arts, rock climbing, roller skating and skateboarding. During the Games, top athletes from around the world will display their skills at the lab.

"All four sports at the lab have unique characteristics and a wide number of participants," said Wang Xiqu, Executive Director of the Sports Lab. "For example, rock climbing—one of the basic skills required for mountain climbing—is an exciting challenge for young people and is gaining popularity around the world, while martial arts are typically Chinese and combine competition with physical exercise."

Co-ed and mixed-nationality contests in 15 of the Games' 28 sports represent another innovation this year. For example, in the 8x100-meter relay, 680 specialized track and field athletes of both genders and all nationalities

will be randomly divided into 68 groups of 10 to take part in this competition.

Cheng Yuyang, chief referee of the track and field events at the Youth Olympics, said this giant relay involving all track and field athletes was created to allow athletes specializing in events such as the long jump, javelin throwing and shot-put to enjoy an afternoon of carefree, short-distance running.

"Most importantly, as athletes represent themselves rather than their countries in the all-nationalities competition, they are freed from the pressure of trying for gold and are able to enjoy the simple pleasure of sports," said Lin Feng, Director of the Sports Management Department of the NYOGOC.

"Additionally, mixed competition is better than a traditional one in nurturing athletes' teamwork skills, because participants don't

know each other beforehand and need to cooperate closely in order to win," Lin said.

Green games

Innovation applies not only to sports settings during the event, but also to the preparation for the Games. Frugality has been a focal point put forth by the organizing committee amidst the country's call to host less costly events and the IOC's push to reduce the commercialization of sporting events.

"We have upheld frugality as the basic principle guiding our preparations," Nanjing Mayor Miao Ruilin said on July 5.

The First Summer Youth Olympics, held in Singapore in 2010, cost an equivalent of 2 billion yuan (\$325.2 million). The NYOGOC has made clear that the total expenditure will be 10-percent less than that of the Singapore Games, or no more than 1.8 billion yuan (\$292.7 million). Striking a balance between hosting an Olympic-level event on a limited budget and enabling citizens to benefit from local investments afterward is a central concern of the organizing committee.

The 35 stadiums used for this year's Youth Olympic Games were all converted from existing buildings. For example, the city's International Expo Center was originally used for exhibitions. During the Youth Olympics, its two halls will host boxing, taekwondo and fencing competitions, along with the fencing portion of the modern pentathlon. All the seats and stands have been rented and set up for temporary use. When the Games are over, these installments will be removed and the stadium will return to its role as an exhibition center.

The only brand-new venue built for the Games is the Youth Olympics Sports Park. Scheduled to open to the public after the Games, the park will function as an outdoor fitness center. "Even if we were not hosting the Games, we would have still built this park," said Miao.

The torch relay, an important component of the Games that served to spread the Olympic spirit while introducing Nanjing to the world, was also tweaked with an innovative approach: A "virtual torch relay" app was used to pass on the torch online. With the exception of the lighting of the torch in Athens, Greece, and the arrival of

About the Youth Olympic Games

The concept of the Youth Olympics was put forward by Austrian industrial manager Johann Rosenzopf in 1998 in a bid to cope with youth obesity and the declining number of young people participating in sports. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) wanted the event to be as much about cultural education and exchange as it was about sports; thus, the Culture and Education Program was introduced as an important component of the event. The Games are held every four years in staggered summer and winter events.

The first summer Games were held in Singapore from August 14-26, 2010, while the first winter Games were held in Innsbruck, Austria, from January 13-22, 2012.

The Second Summer Youth Olympic Games are underway in Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu Province, from August 16-28. Over 3,700 athletes between 14 and 18 from 204 countries and regions will participate in 28 different sports.



Mascot: Lele. The designer drew inspiration from the colorful river stones, or Rain-Flower Pebbles, for which Nanjing is famous when designing the mascot's appearance.

Emblem: The two lowercase letters "n" in the name Nanjing form the outlines of the ancient city gates to the city and folk dwellings customary in south China. These gates invite everyone to take part in this friendly and educational international youth event.

Slogan: Share the Games, Share Our Dreams



(Compiled by Beijing Review)

WELCOME ATHLETES: Chinese President Xi Jinping attends the opening ceremony of the Nanjing Youth Olympics on August 16

the torch in Nanjing, all other segments of the torch relay took place on the Internet through the app. Web users could download it and register to be a torch-bearer.

"The online torch relay enabled more people to be involved in the activity and allowed the torch to reach places that otherwise would be impossible," said Zhang Le, an assistant spokesperson for the Cultural and Educational Section of the NYOGOC.

"The online torch relay has reduced costs, and really represented the concept of 'green' Youth Olympics," added Zhang.

Also, in order to improve the city's ecological environment and fulfill the promise of "green" and eco-friendly Olympics, the Nanjing Municipal Government has made efforts to improve the public transportation system. For example, the city's subways and light rails have reached 180 km, ranking Nanjing's public transportation access high among cities of a similar scale. All the stadiums hosting competitions in the Games can be reached by means of public transportation, including buses and subways.

A chance to learn

The Youth Olympics is not only a sporting event, but includes a Culture and Education Program. The program, originally proposed by the IOC, is designed to encourage young athletes to develop skills and interests outside sports from an early age. Over 20 culture and education activities featuring skills development, healthy lifestyle education, social responsibility and self-expression will take place in venues such as the Youth Olympic Village, the Nanjing Laoshan Forest Park and the Nanjing Olympic Museum.

"A lot of athletes stop their [athletic] careers for different reasons, but it's important for them to know there are other things in life. Even if you can't be a top athlete, life isn't over. You can always participate as a judge, a coach or a referee," said Gilbert Felli, IOC Executive Director for the Olympic Games.

The education program, which includes talks with Olympic champions, will provide young athletes with a chance to communicate with sports stars and learn what they can do after retiring from competition.

Galo Chiriboga Granja, an equestrian athlete from Ecuador, showed a deep interest in cul-



tural activities in the Youth Olympic Village. She learned some traditional Chinese dances upon arriving at the Youth Olympic Village on August 11, and said she hoped to take the cooking class to learn how to make local Nanjing dishes.

"I have never been to an Olympic Village before. It's fantastic. I can't believe that I'm here," Granja said.

To ensure that athletes have enough time to participate in these cultural and educational activities, the IOC requires single-sport federations to take two days off on their event schedules and encourages athletes to stay in

Nanjing until the end of the games.

Qin Jinjing, an 18-year-old Chinese badminton player, said the Youth Olympics offers her a chance to learn and make international friends.

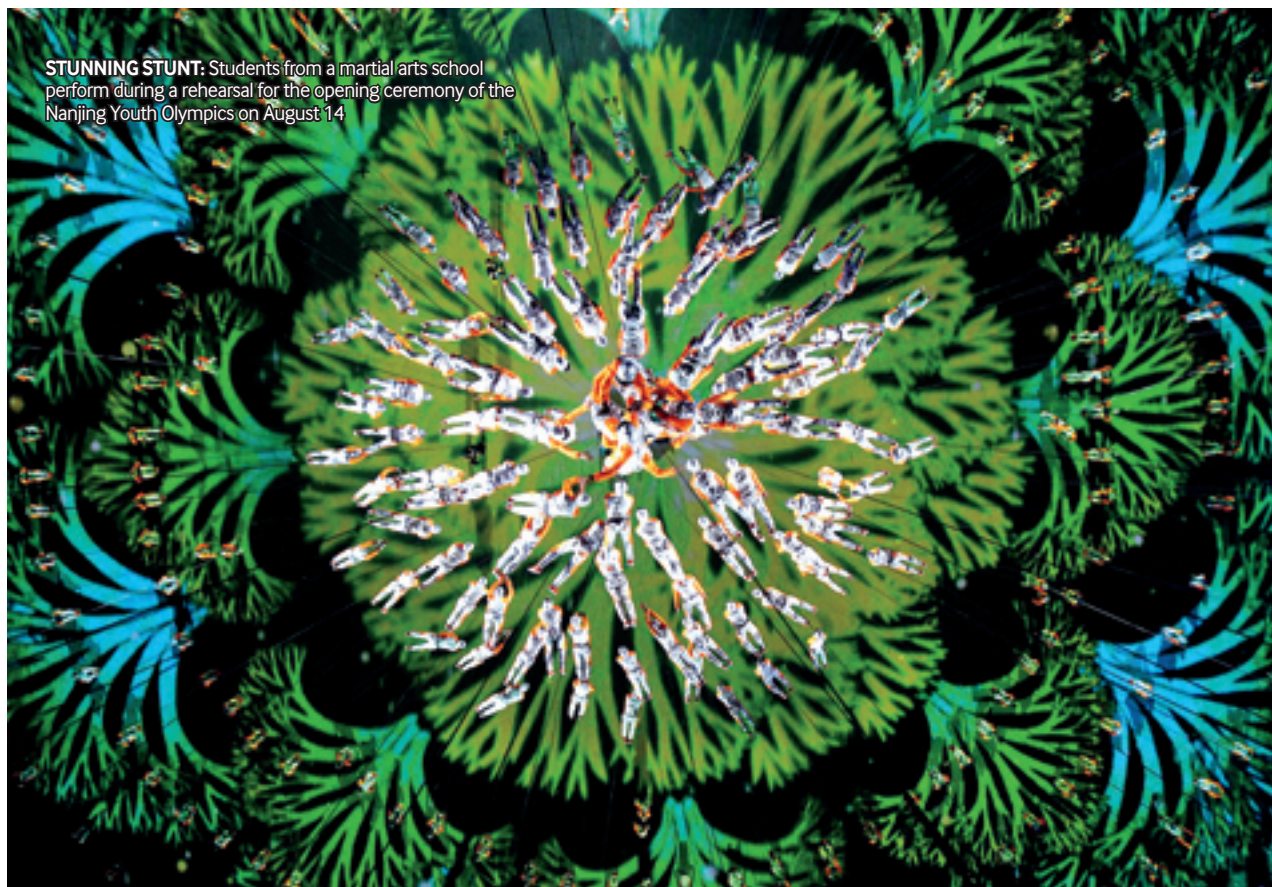
"The atmosphere here is more fun and relaxed than at other major events," Qin said. "We have time to explore what is offered in the village and socialize with teenagers from other countries." ■

(With reporting by Xu Bei from Nanjing)

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COVER STORY

YOUTH OLYMPICS IN PICT



STUNNING STUNT: Students from a martial arts school perform during a rehearsal for the opening ceremony of the Nanjing Youth Olympics on August 14

WANG SONG



AT YOUR SERVICE: Volunteers help an Egyptian journalist get set up at the Main Media Center of the Nanjing Youth Olympics on August 14

CHEN YENHUA



URES



MAKING MUSIC: Floflo Daniel (right), a beach volleyball athlete from Vanuatu, plays *guzheng*—a traditional Chinese musical instrument—at the Chinese Culture Booth in the Youth Olympic Village in Nanjing on August 14

YIN HUI



LAST HURRAH: Australian athlete Brittany Dutton races to the finish line during the women's triathlon final on August 17. Dutton won gold in the event, the first of the Nanjing Youth Olympics

LI XIAO



FLAME OF UNITY: The main torch burns during the opening ceremony of the Nanjing Youth Olympics on August 16

GUO DONG LIU

COVER STORY

MANY COUNTRIES, MANY ATHLETES, ONE OLYMPICS

In addition to hosting sporting events, the Nanjing Youth Olympics promotes the sharing of experiences among young athletes from around the world. On behalf of *Beijing Review*, reporter Xu Hao of *China Report* spoke to four participants about their lives, thoughts and aspirations.



Milica Babic, 17, Serbian Competing in the shooting event, Babic is a high school student and champion of a national shooting competition. Babic is excited about her first visit to China. She said that she has always wanted

to visit, but never had the chance to do so. She feels honored to participate in the Nanjing Youth Olympics.

"I like Nanjing very much. The local people are cheerful and friendly and everything is well organized," Babic said. She was particularly impressed with the opening ceremony of the Games.

"It's an exciting and magnificent ceremony. I was thrilled when the cauldron was lighted."

Babic's interest in the country spans from the Great Wall to Chinese calligraphy. In order to learn more about China, she often visits the Chinese Culture Booth in the Olympic Village and takes part in the cultural activities set up by the organizing committee. After the Games, she hopes to visit the ancient city wall of Nanjing built in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644).

Talking of future plans, Babic says she will work toward taking part in the adult Olympic Games and winning medals.

Tianna Kennett, 17, Canadian A student in the 11th grade, Kennett began wrestling in

2011, and has won silver in the event at the Pan American Games.

This is her first time in China.

"I like Chinese food, which is very yummy," said Kennett, an avid cook as well as athlete. When not training, she uses her spare time to visit the culture huts in the Olympic Village to learn about other countries' cultures.

In the future, Kennett hopes to become a psychiatric nurse, regarding such work as very meaningful and beneficial to the community.

"I wish all the athletes good luck in the Games," she said with a smile.

Ivo Bonacin, 18, Croatian Bonacin started rowing in 2006 and has championed several national tournaments.



Nanjing. Bonacin said that the city is very beautiful and people are quite friendly, especially the volunteers who have worked so hard and have offered him assistance.

Lin Yanqun, 18, Chinese

Hailing from Weihai, east China's Shandong Province, Lin is a professional handball athlete. She started to play in 2007 and later won second place in a national youth handball tournament.

The outgoing teenager has had a lot of interactions with foreign athletes in the Olympic Village. She even taught foreign athletes to sing Chinese songs during a cultural activity.

"The popular Chinese hit *Little Apple*, which went viral on the Internet, is very popular in the village. I want to dance to the song together with my new foreign friends," she said.

Lin was able to watch the opening ceremony of the Games in person and felt a deep sense of pride. "I want to train hard and make a name for my country in the Games," Lin said. ■



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