

SPECIAL ISSUE ON BEIJING 2022  
WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES

The Press Office, International  
Department of the CPC Central Committee

# China nsight



*Together for a Shared Future*

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# Xi Jinping on the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games



Chinese President Xi Jinping encourages ice hockey and skating fans at a sports center in Beijing, capital of China, on February 24, 2017

**“Hosting the Winter Olympic Games will inspire over 300 million Chinese to participate in winter sports, which will contribute greatly to the development of the international Olympic cause.”**

Excerpts from Xi's speech in a meeting with Sheik al-Fahad al-Sabah, President of the Association of National Olympic Committees and chief of the Olympic Council of Asia, on January 14, 2015



**“We should vigorously develop mass winter sports to improve people’s physical health.”**

Excerpts from Xi’s speech when listening to a report on the preparatory work for the Beijing Winter Olympics and Paralympics on March 18, 2016

**“Projects in the games should be managed under the principle of sharing, openness, cleanness and being eco-friendly.”**

Excerpts from Xi’s speech while inspecting preparation for the 2022 games in Zhangjiakou City, Hebei Province, on January 23, 2017

**“Energy saving and environmental standards should be carried out in a strict manner to protect heritage and bring symbolic effects for the cities.”**

Excerpts from Xi’s speech while inspecting preparation for the 2022 games in Zhangjiakou City, Hebei Province, on January 23, 2017



President Xi Jinping learns about venues construction and athletes’ preparations, and extends greetings to athletes and coaches while visiting the Capital Gymnasium in Haidian District, Beijing, capital of China, on January 18, 2021



President Xi Jinping inspects preparatory work for the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics and Paralympics in Beijing on January 18, 2021

**“Preparation for the Beijing Winter Olympic Games should embody the spirit of green, open and shared development, along with fairness and honesty. We should make the Winter Olympic Games as pure and clean as snow and ice.”**

Excerpts from Xi’s speech during an inspection tour in Beijing on February 23-24, 2017

**“New technologies such as information technology and big data should be used to better serve the Games.”**

Excerpts from Xi’s speech during a symposium on the preparatory work for the Beijing Winter Olympics and Paralympics on February 23-24, 2017

**“We should develop sports while preserving the natural environment, and integrate sports facilities into the natural scenery in a harmonious way.”**

Excerpts from Xi’s speech when inspecting preparatory work for the Beijing Winter Olympics and Paralympics on January 18-20, 2021

**“China will work tirelessly to stage a green, inclusive, open and corruption-free Winter Olympic Games for the world.”**

Excerpts from Xi’s speech during a symposium on the preparation for the Beijing Winter Olympics and Paralympics on February 23-24, 2017

**“Hosting the Beijing Winter Olympics and Paralympics is an important job for the Party and the country, and is a solemn promise China has made to the international community.”**

Excerpts from Xi’s speech when inspecting preparatory work for the Beijing Winter Olympics and Paralympics on January 18-20, 2021





Chinese President Xi Jinping visits the National Speed Skating Oval in Beijing, capital of China, on January 4, 2022

**“Simplicity, safety and excellence should be prioritized in the Games’ preparations. The Games’ organizing committee needs to adhere to the regulations and institutions, adopt stringent budget management, control the Games’ costs, and avoid corruption.”**

Excerpts from Xi’s speech when inspecting preparatory work for the Beijing Winter Olympics and Paralympics on January 18-20, 2021

**“We are fully confident and capable of presenting to the world a fantastic, extraordinary and excellent Winter Olympics.”**

Excerpts from Xi’s speech during the inspection of the Games’ preparatory work on January 4, 2022

**“More Chinese elements should be integrated in the venue’s operation to make it an important window to showcase the unique features of Chinese culture and winter sports development.”**

Excerpts from Xi’s speech during the inspection of the Games’ preparatory work on January 4, 2022

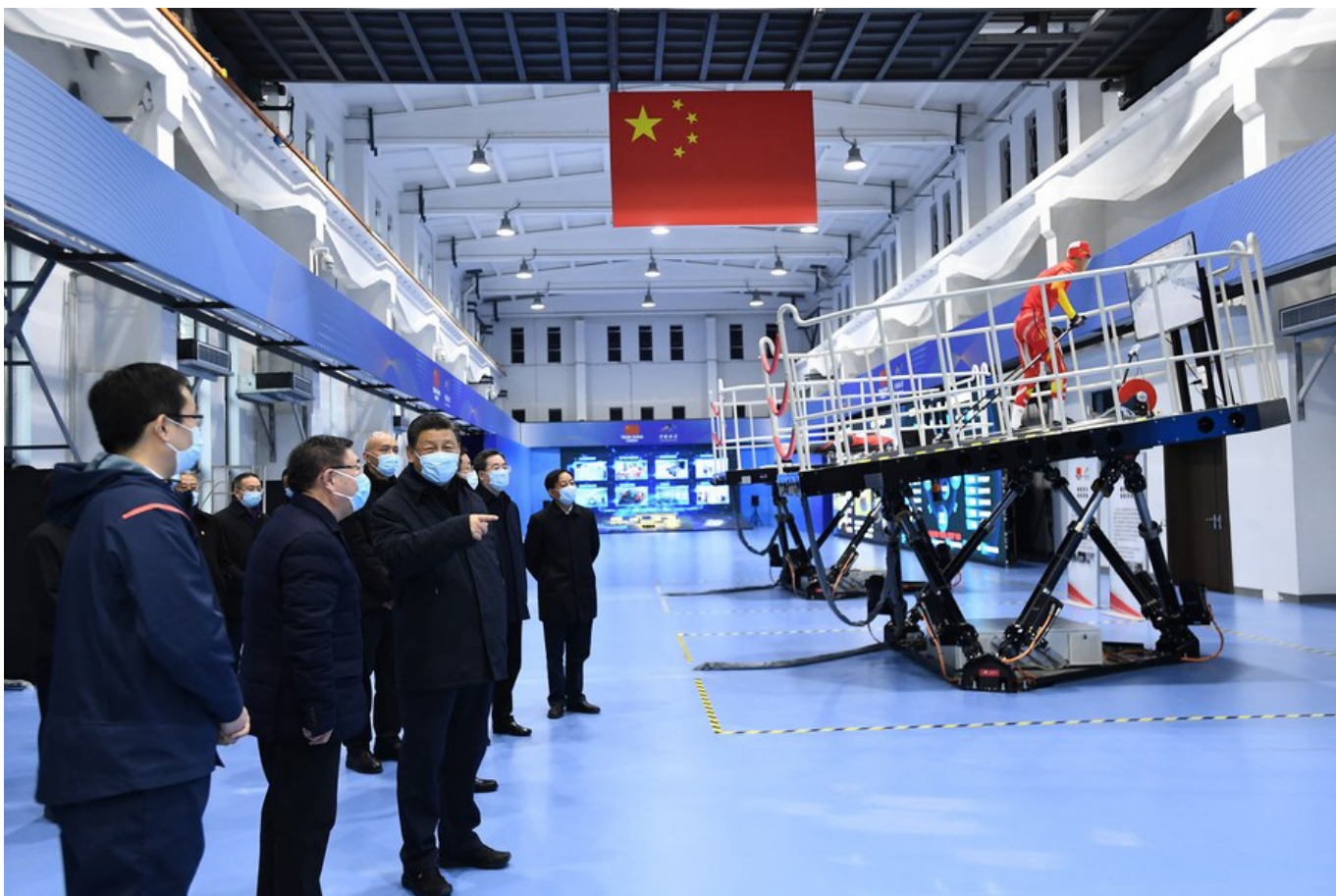


“The successful hosting of Beijing 2022 will not only enhance our confidence in realizing the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, but also help present China as a positive, prosperous and open nation committed to building a community with a shared future for mankind.”

Excerpts from Xi's speech during the inspection of the Games' preparatory work on January 4, 2022

“China has achieved its goal of engaging 300 million people in winter sports. the ultimate goal of building a sporting powerhouse and a healthy China is to strengthen the people's fitness, which also forms an essential part of China's endeavor to build a modern socialist country in an all-round manner. The enthusiasm brought about by Beijing 2022 should be maintained to promote sustainable development of winter sports at both elite and grassroots levels.”

Excerpts from Xi's speech during the inspection of the Games' preparatory work on January 4, 2022



Chinese President Xi Jinping visits a winter sports training base in Beijing, capital of China, January 4, 2022

# Evaluation and Expectations

The Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022 will kick off on February 4. Political heads, leaders of international organizations and athletes have shared their views on the Games. Edited excerpts follow:

“Thailand appreciates China’s active role in maintaining international and regional peace and stability. The Beijing Winter Olympics will make positive contributions to peace and progress of mankind and the friendship among all peoples. We wish the Beijing Winter Olympics a complete success.”

Prawit Wongsuwon, Leader of the Palang Pracharat Party, Deputy Prime Minister and President of the National Olympic Committee of Thailand, said when making a video call with Song Tao, Minister of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee (IDCPC), on December 23, 2021



“Greece, the birthplace of the ancient Olympic Games, looks forward to the success of the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing, and believes that the 2022 Winter Olympics will make contributions to peace and progress of mankind and friendship of people of the world.”

George Papandreou, President of Socialist International and former Greek Prime Minister, said when making a video call with Song Tao, on April 2, 2021

“The Olympic Games were started to enhance unity and countries and peoples are brought together through sports. The ideal is reflected in the forum which aims to become a bridge. Clashes of civilizations are not true. There are only clashes of different interests. The Olympics have come in a time when world politics are at a crucial juncture and the true embodiment of shared values of humanity is needed.”

Egyptian Ambassador to China Mohamed Elbadri said at the Second Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning Among Civilizations hosted by the Chinese Association for International Understanding in Beijing on January 10, 2022





“The Olympics also served as a platform for cultural exchanges and added that the spirit of the Olympics went beyond competition. People from different cultures and civilizations come together and exchange ideas and go home with something more than just the competition in their sports.”

Alexander Kallweit, the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Foundation of Germany's resident representative in China, said at the Second Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning Among Civilizations hosted by the Chinese Association for International Understanding in Beijing on January 10, 2022

“We are looking forward to successful Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022 and we have great confidence built on our experience that we will stage a safe and secure Olympic Winter Games for everybody. 2022 will be a great opportunity for our Olympic community: a great opportunity to strengthen the role of sport in society and to contribute to building a better post-pandemic world. 2022 will be our chance to live our new Olympic motto: to go faster, to aim higher, to become stronger by standing together in solidarity.”

International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach said in his New Year message published on the IOC website on December 31, 2021



“Attempts of reactionary foreign forces to boycott the Beijing Winter Olympic Games are doomed to fail. Since ancient times, sports have been a celebration of friendship, the will to win, and the spirit of honest competition. However, some foreign forces are distorting facts and trying to politicize the Beijing Winter Olympics. China is making every effort to make the Olympics a spectacular, exciting and safe event, to hold it at the highest level. The 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing proved China's unique capabilities. They have significantly increased the international prestige of China as a country capable of hosting large-scale events. China has many more friends than opponents in the world. Together, we will turn the Winter Olympic Games, which are just a few months away, into a real sporting event for all people on the planet.”



Russia's communist party leader Gennady Zyuganov told Xinhua News Agency in an interview in 2021



“It’s a very long and complicated journey, not only for the intrinsic difficulties of organizing Winter Games, but also having to organize that in a COVID-ridden environment. We are very confident in the health secure measures taken by our hosts in Beijing with the expert support from the World Health Organization that the Games will be safe.”

Juan Antonio Samaranch, Chairman of the IOC’s Beijing 2022 Coordination Commission, told the second briefing of the Beijing 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games held at Beijing’s Shougang Industrial Park on November 26, 2021



“I have had the chance to visit some of the venues and I’ve had a look at all the work that’s been going on to prepare the venues. I’m quite confident that China will be ready and well-prepared when the Games start in February.”

Signe Brudeset, Norwegian Ambassador to China, told the second briefing of the Beijing 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games held at Beijing’s Shougang Industrial Park on November 26, 2021

“With the world still battling challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the climate crisis, compassion, solidarity, and friendship among nations have never been more critical. Delivery of a Beijing Winter Olympics and Paralympics, that are green, inclusive, open, and clean, as stressed by President Xi Jinping, can again be a beacon of hope, demonstrating the value of unity, resilience, and international cooperation in overcoming today’s pandemic.

The UN family in China fully supports and will play its part in ensuring the success of the Beijing Winter Olympics and Paralympics. As we enter 2022, let us harness the Olympic spirit to achieve great things for people and our planet.”

Siddharth Chatterjee, Resident Coordinator of the United Nations in China, in an article published on January 5, 2022





“The Australian team is looking forward to the Beijing Winter Games with great anticipation. Over many years, Australian and Chinese sport have united and cooperated for the benefit of athletes in both countries. This Olympic solidarity continues with discussions on further sporting exchanges.”

Australian Olympic Committee Chief Executive Matt Carroll told an online event jointly hosted by the Chinese Consulate-General in Sydney and the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) on January 4, 2021

“I’m excited to come to Beijing for the third Games. We’ve been so warmly welcomed here for the Olympic test events in November. The facilities at the Olympic venues are amazing. Everything is so professional. The Chinese have been so welcoming to us and we are really grateful for the opportunity to represent our country and experience some of your culture. We can’t wait to experience your great culture and experience a fantastic Games here in February 2022.”

Australian Winter Olympian Sami Kennedy-Sim told an online event jointly hosted by the Chinese Consulate-General in Sydney and the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) on January 4, 2021



“I’m not only excited for the Olympic Games, but also excited for China as a country. I’m looking forward to this special event. This is my first time in China.”

Austria Alpine ski racer Matthias Mayer talked about 2022 Beijing Winter Olympic Games in an interview with CGTN on January 7, 2022

# Key Milestones in Preparations for Beijing 2022



**March 14, 2014**

China submitted application files and letter of guarantee to the International Olympic Committee (IOC).



**July 31, 2015**

Beijing was selected to host the 24th Winter Olympic Games in 2022.



**July 7, 2014**

Candidate cities for the 2022 Winter Olympics were announced.



**December 15, 2017**

Emblems of the Beijing 2022, respectively named "Winter Dream" and "Flight", were unveiled.



**January 2015**

China submitted the bid report and letter of guarantee to the IOC.







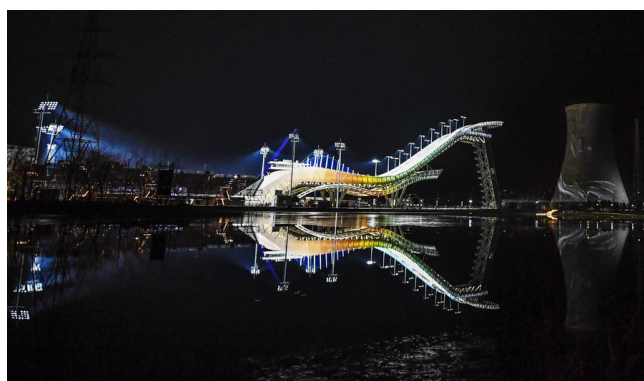
## October 18, 2021

The Beijing 2022 Olympic Flame was lit at the ancient Olympia site on the Peloponnese Peninsula. The flame landed in Beijing on October 20.



## September 17, 2019

"Bing Dwen Dwen" and "Shuey Rhon Rhon" were unveiled as the two mascots for Beijing 2022.



## February 4-20, 2022

The 2022 Winter Olympic Games will be held.

## September 17, 2021

Beijing 2022 revealed "Together for a Shared Future" as its official motto.



## March 4-13, 2022

The 2022 Paralympic Winter Games will be held.



## October 26, 2021

Beijing 2022 unveiled the design of the medals.

## Principles for the 2022 Games

# Corruption-free Games

“We should deliver a fantastic, extraordinary and excellent Olympics in 2022 with a green, inclusive, open and clean approach.”

Excerpts from Xi's speech when inspecting preparatory work for the Beijing Winter Olympics and Paralympics on January 20, 2021

The steady progress of preparations for the 2022 Winter Olympics can be attributed not only to the tireless work of thousands of staff, but also to the many people who are part of China's Olympic inspection teams. These teams have ensured discipline within Olympic organizations and also promoted projects aimed at making the Games “as pure as snow.”

Since 2019, an inspection team has been responsible for supervision of preparations in the Yanqing competition zones in suburban Beijing, including COVID-19 prevention and control, project bidding, the work of personnel, and supporting services for the competitions. Their supervisory role has ensured the efficient operation of these preparations. In Zhangjiakou, Hebei Province, inspection teams have kept a close eye on expenditure and engineering work. Major focus has been laid on the progress of projects, safety, cost control, procurement, major changes of design and finance.

The inspection helped ensure the 2022 Games is corruption-free. The Water Cube has been transformed into the Ice Cube, and the Shougang Industrial Park, which used to be a steel plant, has been transformed into the headquarters of the Beijing Organizing Committee, as well as an Olympic training base for winter sports. The inspection authorities have made efforts to make full use of existing venues and facilities to cut the cost of the Games.

The sports authorities have also carried out inspection on the selection of athletes. Regulations have been formulated to encourage coaches to maintain transparency and encourage athletes to maintain integrity in training. Management staff have also been encouraged to take responsibility for the conduct of those they manage.

Many Chinese athletes have voiced their support for holding a pure and corruption-free Olympic Games, with many making public declarations. **C**



A staff checks projects at the National Bobsleigh and Tobogganing Center on July 29, 2020

**I believe the Chinese government will bring us a green, corruption-free, high-tech, and sustainable Winter Olympic Games.**

—Thomas Bach, President of the International Olympic Committee



**“I will fight for Olympics that are corruption-free.”**

—Ren Ziwei, national short-track speed skating team



**Beijing 2022 has committed to staging “green, inclusive and clean” Games.**

—Andrew Parsons, President of International Paralympic Committee



**“I will follow regulations to make China's sports as pure as snow.”**

—Han Yu, national curling team





# Green, Sustainable Winter Olympics

Organizers of the 2022 Winter Olympic Games are fully prepared to hold a series of simple, safe and splendid competitions. All venues and facilities are in place, clean air and green energy are already flowing, and a closed-loop system is ready up to prevent COVID-19.

The Beijing government has approached the Winter Olympics with the principles of being green, low-carbon and sustainable, which provide a great opportunity to improve the city's environment, transform and upgrade in a direction toward green development.

The 2022 Winter Olympics will be the first Games in history to exclusively power all venues with clean energy from renewable sources. Solar and wind power will be generated in the Zhangbei area of Hebei Province. All venues can be reached via public transportation.

The Big Air Shougang, the only snow sports venue in the capital's urban area, has completed its first stage of snow-making work. The organizers introduced a batch of intelligent snow-making machines that can adjust water usage in different weather

conditions and save about 20 percent of the water compared with traditional methods.


Since launching the snow-making work, operators have been monitoring the real-time temperature and humidity in the venue every day. With the weather getting colder, they will roll out next phase of snow-making during the day to improve the venue's snow-making efficiency. The venue will soon be open to the public and used for various sporting competitions to become the world's first-ever permanent big air venue.

For the first time in the history of the Olympic Games, Beijing will use carbon dioxide in its ice-making procedures. Removing ozone layer-harming Freon as a refrigerant in ice making during the Games is expected to help reduce carbon emissions equivalent to that of 3,900 cars per year, and cut emissions from the activity to nearly zero. The new ice-making technology will also significantly reduce energy consumption by the refrigeration system, saving more than 30 percent of the system's power consumption.

All venues in the 2022 Olympic Games will

be wholly powered by green energy. The feat is made possible by a flexible, direct-current power grid transmitting electricity produced by the plentiful wind and solar power generation capacity in Zhangjiakou, the 2022 Games' co-host city, located 240 kilometers northwest of the Chinese capital. Zhangjiakou is known for its rich resources in renewable energies, and much of the power consumption in the Chongli District, where all the Zhangjiakou venues are located, has been supplied from renewable energy resources.

The targets during the construction of the Olympic Village in northwest Beijing's Yanqing District underwent is to be green and sustainable. All three Winter Olympics villages meet the three-star green building standard. During the construction of the Yanqing Village, about 130 native trees were preserved, and 24,000 trees were transplanted to an Olympic forest.

Another important task ahead of the Olympics is the cleaning and waste management of the villages. The organizing committee created a waste removal operation system. 



The National Ski Jumping Center in Zhangjiakou City, locally known as the "Snow Ruyi", will host the ski jumping and Nordic combined events during the Beijing Winter Games.





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1. Athletes in a curling test in Water Cube on April 6, 2021
2. Flowers and grass flourish near the National Alpine Skiing Center in the Yanqing District in the outskirts of Beijing on June 23, 2021
3. The Big Air Shougang on December 28, 2021
4. Photovoltaic power projects in Zhangjikou City, Hebei Province, on September 18, 2016



## Requirements for the 2022 Games

# Safe and Smooth

“The Chinese side appreciates the active support of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for China’s sports enterprise, and will continue supporting the IOC’s work... China has taken the lead in putting its own epidemic under control and realizing economic recovery, creating favorable conditions for the smooth hosting of the Beijing Winter Olympics.”

Excerpts from Xi’s speech during his telephone conversation with IOC President Thomas Bach on January 25, 2021

The Beijing 2022 Organizing Committee is on alert over a cluster of new COVID-19 infections. The pandemic control protocols for the Games feature a closed-loop system to keep Olympic participants separated from local communities. With international media, broadcast staffers and technical officials arriving in China, the closed-loop management system has already been activated at a number of Games venues.

In order to provide sufficient medical

and emergency care during the Beijing Games, more than 10 hospitals in Beijing and Hebei Province have selected relevant clinical personnel since 2018 to form a medical care team, including experts from well-known departments. Over the past few seasons, the doctors have received plenty of alpine skiing training and are now able to sprint to any corner of the course carrying medical equipments weighing up to 15 kilograms.

Emergency response workers will

arrive promptly to treat the injured. Accident handling will be completed through fast channels to ensure the safety of all people as soon as possible. The organizing committee’s traffic department has formulated a thorough plan and rehearsed the process for handling such accidents.

As the Winter Games are susceptible to local weather conditions, China has enhanced weather research and forecasting to support the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games. The accurate and reliable prediction of temperature, humidity, visibility and extreme wind is launched to ensure the running of the sport events and athlete performances. High-speed dedicated lines and 5G transmission technology are being used to ensure real-time updates of weather data.

Visitors and staff can check real-time temperatures, wind speeds and humidity levels for all three venues via the official weather forecast website for the Winter Olympics.

Beijing will advocate for green and low-carbon travel, prioritize public transport, and comply with regulations governing Olympic lanes and give precedence to Olympic traffic. Its subway and bus services will extend operating hours and may open additional routes depending on the situation to ensure residents’ travel during the Spring Festival holidays, which overlap the Olympics.

Transportation infrastructure for the Beijing Winter Olympic Games has been put into use, with 16 temporary transport stations and nine hydrogenation stations completed.

Spectators at the 2022 Winter Olympics will be encouraged to travel by public transport across the three competition zones connected by an electric-powered high-speed railway. All passenger vehicles used for the Games’ official transport service will be powered by renewable energy. New energy vehicle charging facilities have been built at the venues and along roads between Beijing and Zhangjiakou. **CI**



Doctors of the medical team for the National Alpine Skiing Center in northwestern Beijing’s Yanqing District on March 14, 2021





Weather monitoring staff test a facility at the Genting Resort in Chongli District of Zhangjiakou, north China's Hebei Province, on March 20, 2020



Beijing's first hydrogen filling station opens on August 15, 2021 in the city's Changping District. Staff members fill the first tank of hydrogen fuel for a service vehicle helping to prepare for the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics



Beijing Winter Olympic Village in Zhangjiakou, Hebei Province, on December 30, 2021. Closed-loop arrangement has been launched



# Simple and Economical



Beijing's "Bird's Nest" National Stadium hosted the opening ceremony for the 2008 Olympic Games



A view of the National Aquatic Center on November 27, 2021

Nicknamed the Bird's Nest, the National Stadium is one of the most iconic legacies from China's first Olympic Games. In 2008, a spectacular opening ceremony wowed the world and put Beijing firmly in the global spotlight. In 2022, it will stage the Games' opening and closing ceremonies. Renovation work on the Bird's Nest stadium was completed in 2021.

Beijing has re-used venues from the 2008 Olympics for the 2022 Winter Games. Among these, the National Aquatic Center or "Water Cube" - known as the "Ice Cube" for the upcoming Winter Games - will host curling events, and the National Indoor Stadium will host ice hockey.

The National Indoor Stadium, which hosted gymnastics, trampoline, and handball events in 2008 has been expanded to accommodate 18,000 fans for ice hockey games in 2022.

On August 25, 2021, the curtain wall for the expanded part of the venue, comprising 863 pieces of glass, was completed, and its ice surface construction is finished. The venue has been delivered.

The Wukesong Sports Center, home to three-time Chinese Basketball Association (CBA) champions Beijing Ducks, is no stranger to seasonal transformations, having

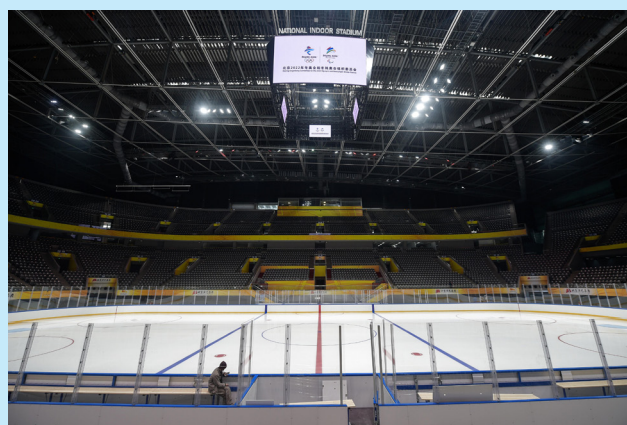




A comparison of the Wukesong Sports Center in 2008 (top) and in 2021 (bottom)



Work on the expansion of the National Indoor Stadium in 2020



The National Indoor Stadium on January 27, 2021

staged the National Hockey League (NHL) China Games in 2017 and Beijing's first-ever winter sports meet in 2018.

Built to Olympic standards, the stadium will be completed by the end of 2020. With a capacity of 9,000, Wukesong joins the National Indoor Stadium as women's ice hockey venues for Beijing 2022.

The Capital Indoor Stadium, also called the Capital Gymnasium, was the volleyball venue in 2008, and has been renovated for short track speed skating and figure skating events during the Winter Games.

Renovations on the 18,000-seat venue has been completed by the end of September, ready to host the ISU Grand Prix Final of Figure Skating and the ISU Speed Skating World Cup as test events in December 2020.

Most facilities at the Beijing Organizing Committee for the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games are rented instead of being bought. The tables and chairs can be folded to save transportation costs. Laptops, sports and technical equipment and furniture in the Olympic Village used during the Games are also rented. The actual acquisition has saved 16 percent of the funds meant for the facilities. **C**



The Beijing Organizing Committee for the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games on December 20, 2021



# Splendid Games



The kindling lamp of the torch adopts the appearance of the Gilt Bronze Human-Shaped Lamp made in the Western Han Dynasty, dated 172 BC, which embodies the Chinese wisdom of an environmentally-friendly design thousands of years ago, but with modern techniques.







The emblem for the Games uses the figures of an ice skater on top and a skier underneath to form the Chinese character *dong* (winter). The flowing, ribbon-like motif between the two figures symbolizes rolling mountains, Olympic venues, ski runs and skating rinks. The 24 pictograms of the Winter Olympic Games are inspired by traditional Chinese pictographs and the art of seal cutting.



### 北京2022年 冬奥会体育图标

Olympic Winter Games  
Beijing 2022 Sport Pictogram



短道速滑  
Short Track  
Speed Skating



速度滑冰  
Speed Skating



花样滑冰  
Figure Skating



冰球  
Ice Hockey



冰壶  
Curling



高山滑雪  
Alpine Skiing



跳台滑雪  
Ski Jumping



越野滑雪  
Cross-Country Skiing



北欧两项  
Nordic Combined



自由式滑雪  
空中技巧  
Freestyle  
Aerials



自由式滑雪  
雪上技巧  
Freestyle  
Moguls



自由式滑雪  
障碍追逐  
Freestyle  
Ski Cross



自由式滑雪  
坡面障碍技巧  
Freestyle  
Slopestyle



自由式滑雪  
U型场地技巧  
Freestyle  
Halfpipe



自由式滑雪  
大跳台  
Freestyle  
Big Air



单板滑雪  
平行大回转  
Snowboard  
Parallel Slalom



单板滑雪  
障碍追逐  
Snowboard  
Cross



单板滑雪  
坡面障碍技巧  
Snowboard  
Slopestyle



单板滑雪  
U型场地技巧  
Snowboard  
Halfpipe



单板滑雪  
大跳台  
Snowboard  
Big Air



雪车  
Bobsleigh



钢架雪车  
Skeleton



雪橇  
Luge



冬季两项  
Biathlon



### 北京2022年 冬残奥会体育图标

Beijing 2022 Paralympic  
Winter Games Sport Pictogram



残奥高山滑雪  
Para Alpine Skiing



残奥冬季两项  
Para Biathlon



残奥越野滑雪  
Para Cross-Country Skiing



残奥单板滑雪  
Para Snowboard



残奥冰球  
Para Ice Hockey



轮椅冰壶  
Wheelchair Curling



The National Ski Jumping Center located in Zhangjiakou, North China's Hebei Province, is named "Snow Ruyi" due to its design inspired by the traditional Chinese ornament Ruyi. In Chinese culture, Ruyi, usually made of jade or gold, represents auspiciousness.

Designed by a Tsinghua University team, Snow Ruyi has combined Chinese traditions with international sports culture. The S-shaped track looks like the main body of a Ruyi hanging in the air, while the bottom consists of a soccer field and audience area.





The torch, named as “Flying,” spirals upward to resemble two overlapping fluttering ribbons. The inner red ribbon evokes rising flames, with the outer one plated in silver to produce a striking contrast. Beaming with dynamism and vitality, the two-tone torch presents a metaphor of ice and fire, symbolizing how it will bring light and warmth to the winter sports gala.

The torch features the Beijing 2022 emblem and the Olympic rings etched on its section, with patterns of clouds and snowflakes painted from the bottom up to the flame.

As the torch turns, the whirling red line hidden in the crack seems to stretch endlessly, representing mankind’s relentless pursuit of brightness, peace, excellence and the values promoted by the Olympic Movement. The 2022 torch features a similar design to the 2008 Games’ main cauldron, which resembled a giant scroll, highlighting the legacy of the Olympic spirit in the Chinese capital.

The cloud patterns covering the handle also drew inspiration from the main visual element of the 2008 torch, according to the design team.





The medals named “Tong Xin,” meaning “together as one”—are composed of five rings and a center; the design is based on Chinese ancient jade concentric circle pendants with the five rings representing the Olympic spirit to bring people together and the splendour of the Olympic Winter Games being shared all over the world.

The shape of the gold, silver and bronze medals is simple and classic, resembling the jade-inlaid medals of the Summer Games in 2008 as well as showcasing Beijing as the first “Dual Olympic City” to host both Summer and Winter Games.

The five Olympic rings are engraved in the center on the front of the medals and the words “XXIV Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022” are engraved around it, surrounded by ice, snow and cloud patterns. On the back, the emblem of the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022 is placed in the center with the full Chinese name of the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games engraved around it. Also on its back is the name of the medal event, engraved on the outermost ring. The ring is concave, which echoes the traditional jade pendant design. The shallow carved designs on the rings are all based on traditional Chinese patterns.



Pandas combine China's traditional culture and its modern appearance together with winter sports elements in a compelling image that shows our great expectations for the Games and shows that we welcome the world. The mascot really incorporates the best elements and characteristics of China and the Chinese people. The halo surrounding the mascot's face is suggestive of ice and snow tracks, as well as the flowing "ribbons" on the exterior of the National Speed Skating Oval. The oval is one of two new competition venues in downtown Beijing expected to become a landmark of the Games.

Shuey Rhon Rhon—a personification of a red lantern—is the mascot for the 2022 Beijing Winter Paralympic Games. The lantern mascot emanates a glow from its heart that symbolizes warmth, friendship and resilience of disabled athletes. The vivid red image is a perfect fit for the gala event, especially as the Games will coincide with China's Lunar New Year celebration in February and March 2022.



## Chinese Styles of the 2022 Games

# Modern Technology

“The Beijing Winter Olympic Organizing Committee should actively use modern technology, especially informatization and big data, to improve operation and efficiency.”

Excerpts from Xi's speech during a symposium on the preparatory work for the Beijing Winter Olympics and Paralympics on February 23-24, 2017



China's National Speed Skating Oval, dubbed the "Ice Ribbon," on December 26, 2021

The National Speed Skating Oval, with the concepts of energy conservation and epidemic prevention prevailing in its design, is the only arena that has been newly built for the Games. Its curtain wall is surrounded by 22 crystal ribbon-like curved glass walls, which is why it's been dubbed the "Ice Ribbon."

It was built on the site of the former hockey and archery arena for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. In the construction process, the original ecosystem of the site

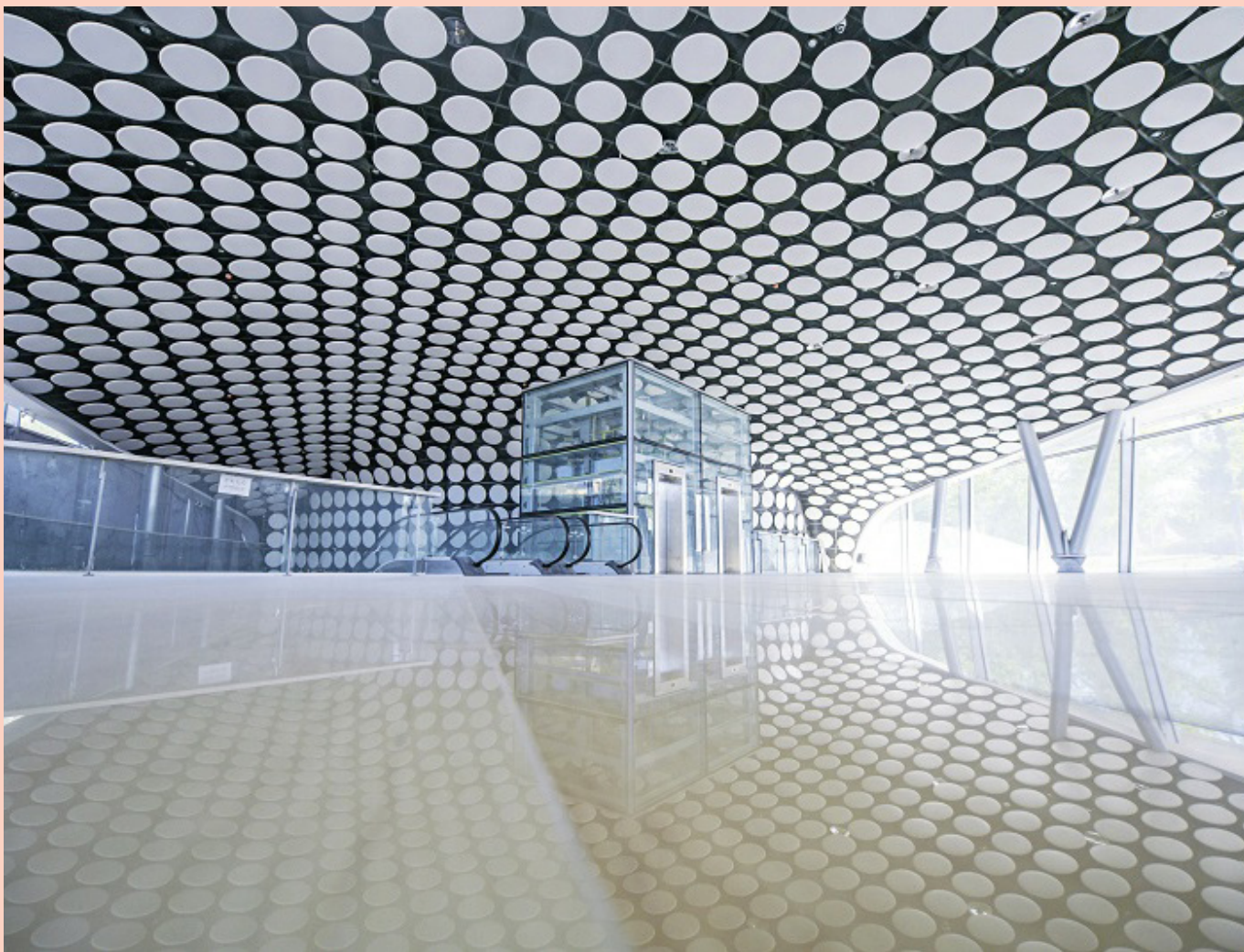
was fully preserved, and the original 8,000 square meters of grass and forest were also retained.

Energy efficiency and environmental protection were the core concepts that prevailed in the construction of the Ice Ribbon. The entire process of ice-making applies carbon dioxide, taking into account green and energy-saving requirements. The Ice Ribbon also has intelligent sports management, spectator management and venue management systems. Through

intelligent management, the temperatures in different parts of the pavilion can be stratified.

In the Beijing Winter Olympic Village (Winter Paralympic Village), the operation area has been renovated and converted from an old factory. During the Beijing Winter Olympic Games and Paralympics, athletes will live safely, comfortably, and healthily.

Each room for the athletes has an independent primary air system, using high-efficiency haze removal modules and ozone



The Beijing Winter Olympic Village will provide athletes with various services such as catering, entertainment, commercial services, and cultural experience

removal modules. The system can continue to provide fresh air to the room even when the window is closed.

A small weather station is set up outside the apartments to measure parameters such as PM2.5, PM10, temperature, and relative humidity. Athletes can check the indoor and outdoor air quality through the lobby on the first floor. During the Games, the whole village will be covered with 5G signal to provide athletes with top notch connectivity. 🇨🇳



Beds in the apartments are adjustable to meet various guests' needs of sitting or sleeping



The Beijing Organizing Committee for the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games has applied a slew of advanced technologies to the renovation and construction of sports venues, food logistics, and more. After candidate service robots were chosen, they underwent testing and pilot application for better adaption to the upcoming Games.

The cold chain industry has been a key factor in the frontline combat against COVID-19 in recent months. To stem the spread of the virus in this sector, Beijing Academy of Blockchain and Edge Computing (BABEC) developed a cold chain tracking platform, which provides effective monitoring while fully protecting data privacy.

To cater to the needs of people with hearing disabilities, Beijing Academy of Artificial Intelligence (BAAI) developed a digital news anchor who can translate news broadcasts into sign language in real time. This technology makes the Beijing 2022 more accessible to people with disabilities. **CI**



A Geely disinfection robot cruises around the Beijing National Stadium on December 2, 2021

A 5G digital operation system for the Winter Olympic Games is on display at the 2021 World Conference on VR Industry, convened in Nanchang, Jiangxi Province from October 19 to 20, 2021





## Olympic Figures

# From Steel Worker to Ice Maker: What do Winter Olympics Bring to Liu Yongliang

The National Winter Sports Training Center in Beijing's Shougang Park is the training base for China's national figure skating, short track speed skating, curling and ice hockey teams.

As the Venue Director at the center, Liu Yongliang, 38, leads the team that creates ice and maintains its quality. As the Winter Olympics approach and athletes' training intensifies, so too does the work of Liu and his colleagues.

Before and after every training session, Liu's team is on hand to prepare and repair the surface of the ice. In an interview with China Central Television (CCTV), Liu said the ice can easily be damaged. "The surface of the ice is scratched by athletes' skates, particularly when they are jumping or moving with force. Usually, the ice needs repair after approximately two hours of use."

Liu got into ice making in 2016, after he applied to train as an ice technician, a decision that changed his life's trajectory. After several years of practice and experience, Liu has mastered the art and science of producing flawless ice. He understands the techniques and the equipment so well that he and his team have been developing ice-making innovations and acquired their own intellectual property rights.

In addition to producing high-quality ice and conducting constant repairs, Liu is also responsible for coordinating his team's activities with the training and competition schedules of several national teams.

Before switching to ice making, Liu worked for steel giant Shougang Group. In 2010, the company moved its operations from Shijingshan District, on the outskirts of Beijing, to Tangshan City in neighboring Hebei Province, as part of efforts to reduce air pollution in the capital.

After the move, Liu and many of his colleagues chose to remain in Beijing to work

on transforming the old steelworks into a cultural, creative and industrial tourist attraction, now known as Shougang Park.

The relocation to Tangshan was a monumental move for Shougang. The departure left 8.63 square km of available land in the capital, which became home to the Beijing Organizing Committee for the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games after the capital city's successful bid in 2015 for the right to host the Games. The arrival of the Committee heralded the beginning of a new life for the industrial park.

The West Ten Silo, which had been used to store raw materials for steel production, was transformed into the Committee's office, with restaurants, bars, cafes, apartments, hotels and other facilities established in the surrounding area. Similarly, what once was a coal storage workshop has now become China's National Winter Sports Training Center.

As the transformation of the old steelworks progressed, Liu became increasingly aware that his steelmaking skills were no lon-

ger needed. "I was interested in ice making and I wanted to take a challenging job," he told CCTV. When he saw ice technician training was offered, he seized the opportunity and enrolled in the five-month course.

Liu soon discovered that ice making is far more complex than he had imagined. He told CCTV the process of producing a smooth ice surface requires seven or eight processes and at least a week's work.

"After the bottom layer is set, any marks, lines or logos need to be painted or pasted onto the ice. After that, a middle layer of ice is built up until it reaches the required thickness. An ice resurfacer is then driven across the ice to ensure its smooth and even before the process of adding the surface layer can begin," he said.

Liu said he's looking forward to the task ahead. "It's an honor to have the opportunity to serve the Winter Olympics, and this is a good opportunity to learn from other international ice makers." **CI**

(Source: Beijing Daily)



Liu Yongliang works at the Capital Indoor Stadium



# Shouldering Responsibility

With the 2022 Olympic Winter Games just a few days away, the operation team at the National Sliding Center is taking rigorous measures to minimize the risk of COVID-19 infection. Epidemic prevention and control has been attached importance since the center's construction stage.

The center, located in Beijing's Yanqing Competition Zone, is set to host bobsleigh, skeleton and luge competitions at the upcoming Games.

Construction of the center started in 2018. In early 2020, ice making was carried out at the center. The project team working at the center faced a number of challenges posed by COVID-19. But thanks to combined efforts led by Yao Yuan, a member of the Communist Party of China, the challenges were dealt with, and the preparations proceeded smoothly.

In that year, Yao, the secretary of the Party branch of the project team, gave up the time he planned to spend with his family during the Spring Festival holiday, the most important holiday for Chinese people, working extra hours to ensure the smooth running of the project to meet the race track pre-certification

deadline in early March 2020.

Ice making at the center started in late January 2020, a time when COVID-19 cases had already been reported in Wuhan, capital of Hubei Province. Before the epidemic began to spread on a large scale, he told the project department to purchase materials such as protective masks, disinfectants and thermometers, and distributed protective equipment to his colleagues. He also regularly monitored and recorded their body temperatures, and disinfected and sterilized the public areas every day.

"As a Party member, you should keep calm during crisis periods," Yao said.

In order to prevent other people from being infected, Yao and the project manager, Lin Jianfeng immediately set up an emergency prevention and control working group, established a working mechanism, and quickly compiled and launched a COVID-19 Prevention and Control Plan.

As the pandemic became increasingly severe, the project department conducted an urgent investigation into the staffing situation on site, identified infection risks, and took measures accordingly.

On that Spring Festival Eve, the proj-


ect's festival gathering was canceled. It is a Chinese tradition for family members to get together and enjoy a delicious and sumptuous dinner on that evening. Yao followed this tradition, delivering not only the festival dinner but also a festive atmosphere to project team members during the special time.

"When you are on duty during the Spring Festival holiday, you should perform your duty and respond to emergencies," Yao said.

"The colleagues on duty were very understanding and responsible. Not one of them complained. In the face of the pandemic, people need to join hands," Yao said.

Work on the project was allowed to resume after Spring Festival on the condition that protective measures were undertaken and that the health of staff members was closely monitored.

As a result, prevention and control activities proceeded in an orderly manner. The physical conditions of people were closely watched, and plans for responding to emergencies in a timely manner were ready.

"Setting an example and working for others during emergency is a responsibility that a Party member should shoulder," Yao said. 

(Source: China.org.cn)



The National Bobsleigh and Tobogganing Center on January 19, 2021



# “I’m Yang Yang A”: Legendary Olympian Inspires Chinese Youth

Yang Yang went from being an ordinary little girl in northeast China to a short track world champion who broke China’s gold drought at the Winter Olympics.

From 1997 to 2002, Yang won six consecutive individual overall champions in the World Championships. What is the secret to her success? Yang gave a long answer.

The first is the sense of crisis. A reporter asked Yang, “Do you think no one can challenge you?” She answered no, and says she felt like she was standing on the edge of the cliff every day and could fall off easily without hard work. When she stepped down from the podium, she had to find something to improve.

The second is how to find deficiency. Yang wants to look at things from her opponent’s point of view. She often tried to picture herself as an opponent’s coach and then looked back at her match to check her strategy.

The third is to unite and integrate the team. Stand up from where you fall, she said. At the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympics, the Chinese delegation once again fought for their first gold medal. However in the women’s 1500m, an event she had not lost in five years, Yang only finished fourth and missed the podium.

Yang eventually won the women’s 500m event. Her victory at the 2002 Winter Olympics made her China’s first-ever Winter Olympics gold medalist.

Born in 1975, Yang is also known as Yang Yang (A), to differentiate from her teammate whose name is also Yang Yang.

She added a second gold in the women’s 1000m at the same Games. China’s first and second Winter Olympic gold medals were both won by Yang.

After the 2003 World Championships, Yang took time off from competing, but came back in the 2004-2005 season in the lead-up to the 2006 Winter Olympics where she won the bronze medal in the 1000m race and became the flag bearer at the opening ceremony. She retired soon afterwards.


Yang went on to become an IOC member and an ISU council member. Her term as an IOC member has just come to an end.

Now Yang chairs the Athletes’ Commission of Beijing 2022.

“Beijing 2022 attaches great importance to the Athletes’ Commission and arranges specific tasks for our commission, which is a huge recognition for us. The Games is athlete-centered, and we therefore need to understand the demands of athletes. From sports organization to event operation, athletes’ opinions should be taken into consideration,” said Yang.

Yang also established the Champion Foundation to provide playground, facilities

and PE teachers for children, and to provide the retired athletes with education and to help athletes successfully get through the transitional period after retirement.

She also opened a Skating Center to encourage more people in the country to participate in winter sports. “The dream enables us to see the future, motivates us to move forward, and constantly surpass ourselves,” Yang said. 

(Source: Xinhua News Agency)



Yang Yang won the first gold medal of the Olympic Winter Games for China at the Salt Lake City 2002 Olympic Winter Games on February 16, 2002



# Eileen Gu: Superstar in the Making



Gu capped the FIS Freestyle Ski World Cup season with a perfect record in women's halfpipe after a triumph at Mammoth Mountain in California on Saturday to capture the first crystal globe of her career

**B**orn in California and representing the United States before switching to China, Eileen Gu looks destined to become one of the faces of the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games.

The freestyle skier broke records in January when she walked away with two golds and a bronze on her debut at the Winter X Games in Aspen, Colorado.

Gu's timing could not have been better,

achieving her historic triumphs as Beijing entered the one-year countdown to the 2022 Games in February.

The 17-year-old, who also goes by her Chinese name, Gu Ailing, is a freestyle skier, model and grade-A student with an American father and a Chinese mother. She grew up in the United States and still lives there.

"I was raised bilingual and spent every

summer in Beijing so I know Chinese culture and American culture," she told the Xinhua News Agency.

"So, I have that dual identity, where together, two halves make a whole me."

Gu started on the snow at the age of three, was competing nationally at nine and won her first World Cup event by fifteen.

She claimed two gold medals and a silver for China at the 2020 Youth Olympic Games in Lausanne.

As her talent developed, she soon found herself competing mostly against boys.

"It wasn't until I was fourteen that I had any female ski friends who were at my level," she said. "So, I was constantly thinking, 'Do I have to prove myself? I'm the only girl here, so do I have to do a bigger trick? Do I have to make myself better so people won't laugh at a woman skiing?'"

Gu isn't just a high achiever on the snow. She's an accomplished piano player and an avid runner who led her high school team to a second-place finish at the state championships. She graduated from the rigorous San Francisco University High School in three years and is enrolled at Stanford, where she'll start in 2022.

What makes a professional athlete also a top student in the classroom? Gu concluded that her secrets are "passion, focus and balance."

"I'm not skiing just for the Olympic Games. I'm skiing because of my passion for the sport. I started skiing at a young age because I love the snow. Only when you do the things you have passion for can you put all your heart into what you're doing," said Gu.

## Eyeing the 2022 Winter Olympics

Gu is now firmly focused on having the last laugh at the 2022 Olympics, with her rising profile sure to greatly help with China's aim to bring 300 million people into the fold of ice and snow sports.

When asked what her message to the world is as the one-year countdown begins, Gu said she would love to inspire youngsters in China to follow their own dreams on the slopes.

"All of us were little girls surrounded for the first time by people we were scared of in the beginning," she said. "But I just want to see more people out there." **C**

(Source: *China.org.cn*)

# Shen Xue and Zhao Hongbo: China's Olympic Figure Skating Champion Duo



Shen Xue and Zhao Hongbo at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics on February 15, 2010

Shen Xue and Zhao Hongbo are China's best-known figure skaters. Pairing up on the ice back in 1992, Shen and Zhao's skating career spanned 18 years, in which they have carved out a path decorated with a number of firsts for the country in the sport.

In 2002, they became the first Chinese figure skating pair to win the World Championships.

In Vancouver 2010, they made history once again by winning the country's first Olympic gold medal in the sport, breaking Russia's 46-year stranglehold on the Olympics figure skating pairs event.

Starting off winning a fifth place at the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan and settling for two bronze medals at the Salt

Lake 2002 and Turin 2006, the long-awaited Olympic winning was their fourth attempt on the Olympic stage.

It solidified their legendary status and put a perfect end to their nearly two-decade pursuit of glories and world records on the ice.


Having married in 2007, the couple stepped off the ice after the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics but continued their work to groom China's next-generation figure skating champions as well as promoting the sport throughout China.

Now, as head coach of China's national figure skating team, Zhao is endeavoring to keep in check the ambitions of a young but promising national squad for the upcoming Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics.

"We are making progress, but we are far from becoming a major force in the world with our men's, women's and ice dancing skaters all struggling to catch up with the world's best," Zhao said.

Shen Xue is now president of the Chinese Figure Skating Association (CFSA), a newly-founded organization in 2018 with the mission to promote the sport throughout China and provide support for Chinese figure skaters to prepare for the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics.

"We will provide all-around training for athletes to strive for the championship," said Shen.

With new roles but the same passion and love for the sport, their stories with figure skating continue to be written. 



# Chinese Figure Skating Team Refine Details Ahead of Winter Olympics

Chinese athletes are making a final push toward the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympic Games which are less than a month away. On January 5, the Chinese national figure skating team conducted their last public training session before the Winter Games.


The team's figure skating star duo Sui Wenjing and Han Cong have geared up for the upcoming competitions. After missing the gold medal by just half a point in Pyeongchang in 2018, and overcoming various injuries, the duo have extra motivation to

strive for the top glory.

"We will do our best, do best as a team, and avoid possible problems. We will strive to show the best of ourselves during the games," Sui said.

A big part of the nearly-two-hour-long session was invested in the practice of single-jumping.

Peng Cheng of the national team said single jumping has always been a problem for her, but she's gathering experience every day to build muscle memory.

"Now athletes are training three times a day, and they have extra training at night. Single jumping training has been intensified. From physical training to targeted explosive training, athletes have a specific training plan. They are trying their best," Zhao Hongbo, head coach of the national team, said. 

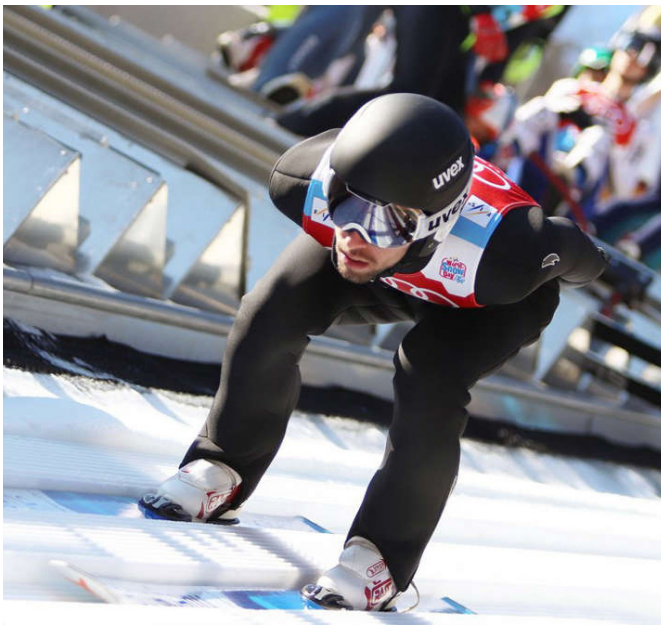
(Source: CGTN)

Chinese figure skaters Sui Wenjing and Han Cong train on January 5, 2022

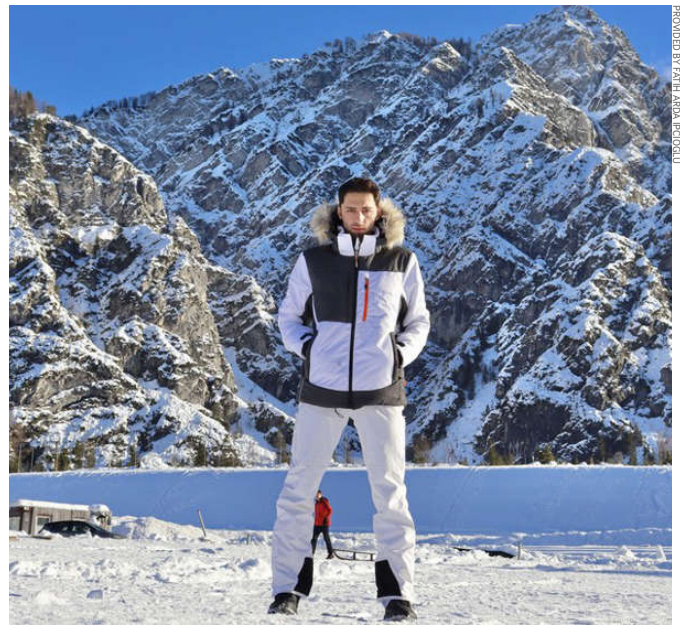


# “Flying Turk” Seeks Perfect Jump in Upcoming Beijing Winter Olympics

By Zeynep Cermen



PROVIDED BY FATIH ARDA IPCIOGLU



PROVIDED BY FATIH ARDA IPCIOGLU

The photo shows Fatih Arda Ipcioglu skiing on February 1, 2020

The photo shows Turkish national ski jumping and Olympic athlete Fatih Arda Ipcioglu on February 14, 2020

**F**atih Arda Ipcioglu, 24, was born at the foot of the Palandoken Mountain in the eastern end of Turkey in a family fond of winter sports.

This mountainous region in Erzurum province, which has later turned into an important winter sports center of the country, became a cornerstone for him to become a national ski jumping and an Olympic athlete.

Ipcioglu started skiing at a very young age with the encouragement of his father at the age of 11, he received an offer to become a licensed club athlete in ski jumping.

Now known as the “Flying Turk,” he will represent his country in the upcoming Beijing Winter Olympics in February. Accomplishing a “perfect jump” there is his “biggest dream.”

“I am proud and happy to go to the 2022 Winter Olympics in China,” he told Xinhua at an online interview from Austria, where he attended the ski jumping world cup.

In Ipcioglu’s view, the opponents may change at any time in ski jumping, where the

athletes’ scores are unpredictable.

“(In this branch) you can make big mistakes with small details and miss the meters, or you can also perform a perfect jump by fixing these minor details,” he pointed out.

Talking about his Chinese peers in the Olympics, he said China has been giving great importance to this sport, and its ski jumpers have been training very professionally. “They are on a beautiful road. I hope this will continue after the Olympics,” Ipcioglu noted.

Speaking about new athletes who will shine during the games, he said “the ski jumping family is wide open to new countries and new athletes. The sport gets better as it grows and is shared.”

Meanwhile, the athlete feels safe with the measures that China has taken against the COVID-19 pandemic during the games.

“There are very strict precautions. I’m aware of these because we are told about the rules beforehand, and we know what to do and not to do,” Ipcioglu said. “I appreciate them in that regard. It is a very tough

method but a correct one.”

Chinese authorities have said that they have imposed a series of steps to overcome the challenges posed by the Omicron variant to “deliver a streamlined, safe, and splendid Winter Olympic Games for the world.”

In Ipcioglu’s view, holding the Olympic games in time without any delay in a safe environment amid the pandemic is very valuable for all the participating athletes.

“Let me put it this way, the postponement of the Olympics would be destructive for the athletes because everyone works for the games and completes their training accordingly,” he stressed. “I hope that the competitions will take place in a healthy environment, and everyone will return home safely.”

“That is, of course, a beautiful thing as the Olympics is also a platform that showcases the host country’s innovations and technology to the world,” he noted.

At the end of the interview, Ipcioglu conveyed a message and said: “Beijing 2022, we are coming!” **C**



# Friedrich Focused on Glory

For good reason, there's only one topic occupying the mind of Francesco Friedrich. "It's all about the Games in China," says Germany's most successful bobsleigh athlete.

Discipline, desire and attention to detail seem to come naturally to the all-conquering Friedrich, a double Olympic gold medalist in 2018 and a 13-time world champion.

A passionate approach has been Friedrich's trademark throughout his career, and with Beijing 2022 just around the corner, the 31-year-old is moving up the gears to realize his dream of retaining his two-man and four-man bobsleigh titles.

After training on the Olympic track in Yanqing—which he praised as outstanding and spectacular—Friedrich is in confident mood approaching the Games.

However, he stops short of describing himself as the overwhelming favorite for gold in his events. "After all, we are preparing for the Olympic Games, not a regional event," he said.

Friedrich's preparations have been as meticulous as possible, especially when it comes to health and safety amid the pandemic.

His uncompromising approach seems to make it easier for him to accept the

strict rules implemented by the Chinese organizers and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to keep everyone safe during the Games.

For Friedrich, the pandemic remains a threat to all events. "It doesn't make sense to think about the measures. Instead, use your energy to deliver a satisfying competition," he said.

Friedrich's World Cup results bode extremely well for his Olympic bid. On Sunday in Winterberg, Germany, he clinched the World Cup four-man overall title with one race remaining. It was Friedrich's 14th consecutive international victory in four-man competition, and the fourth consecutive season in which he's won the World Cup four-man overall crown.

Friedrich has a 229-point lead over Canada's Justin Kripps going into this week-end's World Cup finale.

In the two-man competition, Friedrich enjoyed a 21-race World Cup winning streak that came to an end on New Year's Day.

His preparations also include working on his sleigh—worth a surprisingly expensive 80,000 euros (\$91,000)—talking to engineers, and training until his last drop of

energy has been used.

As for his approach to the Yanqing track, he has learned how it is vital to maintain speed from the start to cover the flat sections.

He hopes team spirit and his vast experience can also give him an edge during the Games.

Friedrich and his brakeman, Thorsten Margis, expect a strong challenge from Canada and Latvia, and claim not to be taking the Chinese team lightly too.

With the Chinese athletes able to have a significantly higher number of test runs, Friedrich hopes his superior experience can counteract their home advantage. "It seems the Chinese athletes lack the same experience we have collected over many years," he said.

The Olympic Games, from his perspective, unleash extra motivation for all athletes, even more so when they are competing on home soil. For Friedrich, this is reason enough not to forget about the smallest details—even down to the possible celebrations, which for the Friedrich team usually involve smoking a cigar in his garage in his hometown of Pirna, near Dresden. **C**

(Source: Xinhua News Agency)



Germany's bobsleigh athlete Francesco Friedrich

# Beijing 2022 Volunteer Zeng Ziyi: Volunteering Brings Responsibility and Happiness

A volunteer's smile is Beijing's best business card. This is a motto deeply rooted in the mind of Zeng Ziyi, who was an elementary student in 2008 when Beijing hosted its first Summer Olympics. Now, she's a volunteer for the Winter Olympics.

Zeng, a native of southwest China's Chongqing Municipality, has been studying Russian for five years and is pursuing her master's degree at the Beijing Foreign Studies University.


She recently started her training and offered language services as a Beijing 2022 volunteer during the Experience Beijing series, which featured Asian Figure Skating Open and the International Skating Union Short Track World Cup at Capital Indoor Stadium.

As volunteers offering language services, Zeng and her teammates mainly provide translations for foreign athletes in the interview zone, or explain the process for medal winners ahead of the awarding ceremony.

"The Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics is under strict closed-loop management, including the test series. We volunteers also need to follow the rules and have restricted routes from hotel and venues," Zeng said.

"I get a nucleic acid test every day and a mask is mandatory during volunteering time, except meals breaks. If I change my work position, I have a thorough disinfect. Athletes can take off their masks during interviews, but our volunteers need to wear protective facial masks in the interview zone."

Zeng also shared details about a 24-hour smart body temperature sticker. "This gadget is full of scientific and technological elements that can monitor our body temperature, location and other information in real time."

"Our volunteer team is like a warm and big family as we always help each other," Zeng said. "I am happy to be a volunteer because I can take advantage of my knowledge to help others while gaining new knowledge and making friends during volunteering. Volunteering inspires me to be responsible and achieve happiness." 

(Source: CGTN)



Zeng Ziyi



Zeng Ziyi (R) translates for an athlete during an interview



# Volunteers Serving With Pride



About 900 volunteers from Tsinghua University take an oath during a mobilization event for the Beijing Winter Olympics in October 2021

**V**olunteers for the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics hope their work will not only ensure the smooth running of the Games but also inspire the next generation to answer their country's call.

In October 2020, Li Wanghua completed the latest round of weeklong training for volunteers that will serve in the Zhangjiakou competition zone in Hebei province during the Games, which will run from February 4-20.

The 23-year-old Hebei Normal University student said she immediately signed up when the Beijing 2022 organizing committee began recruiting volunteers in September 2020. More than 2,500 volunteers will provide services across over 30 fields during the Winter Olympics.

"The professionalism and passion of the volunteers of the Beijing Olympics in 2008 are deeply imbedded in my memory, although I was only a primary school student back then. It's an honor to have the opportunity to emulate them," she said.

After joining the volunteer program, Li discovered that the selection process was much tougher than she had initially envisaged.

After completing more than 20 training sessions online, the candidates had to pass a series of exams, testing their knowledge

of winter sports and the Games, health and safety, and English-language skills. Next, they were interviewed by the management teams of various venues before being officially approved as volunteers.

"As the competitions in Zhangjiakou are all snow events held outdoors, we also have to pass physical assessments such as 15-kilometer cross-country walking. Meanwhile, cold-resistance training helps prepare us for working long hours in the chilly weather," said Li who will serve at the Zhangjiakou competition zone's medal plaza.

Her role is to ensure all personnel needed for each award ceremony are in place and on time ahead of the events that will be livestreamed globally.

"Although the tasks for volunteers are all very specific and may seem trivial, they are all irreplaceable links to ensure the smooth running of the Games. As our training has intensified, it has become clearer than ever that we will have to shoulder great responsibilities," Li said.

Like Li, Xia Tingyu said her decision to serve at the Games was also inspired by the volunteers of the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

"Although I was only a child in 2008, I was impressed to see the volunteers help-

ing others on TV. I then began to wonder if I could do the same one day," the 21-year-old said. "Now it's my turn to show the world the passion of the young people of China."

Xia, from Beijing Sport University, will provide information services for reporters covering the events at the National Speed Skating Oval. She took part in the speed staking test event at the venue in early October.

"The test event provided volunteers with a valuable opportunity to familiarize themselves with the state-of-the-art venue and be better coordinated. Detailed preparations can significantly improve the efficiency of our work and provide better services," Xia said.

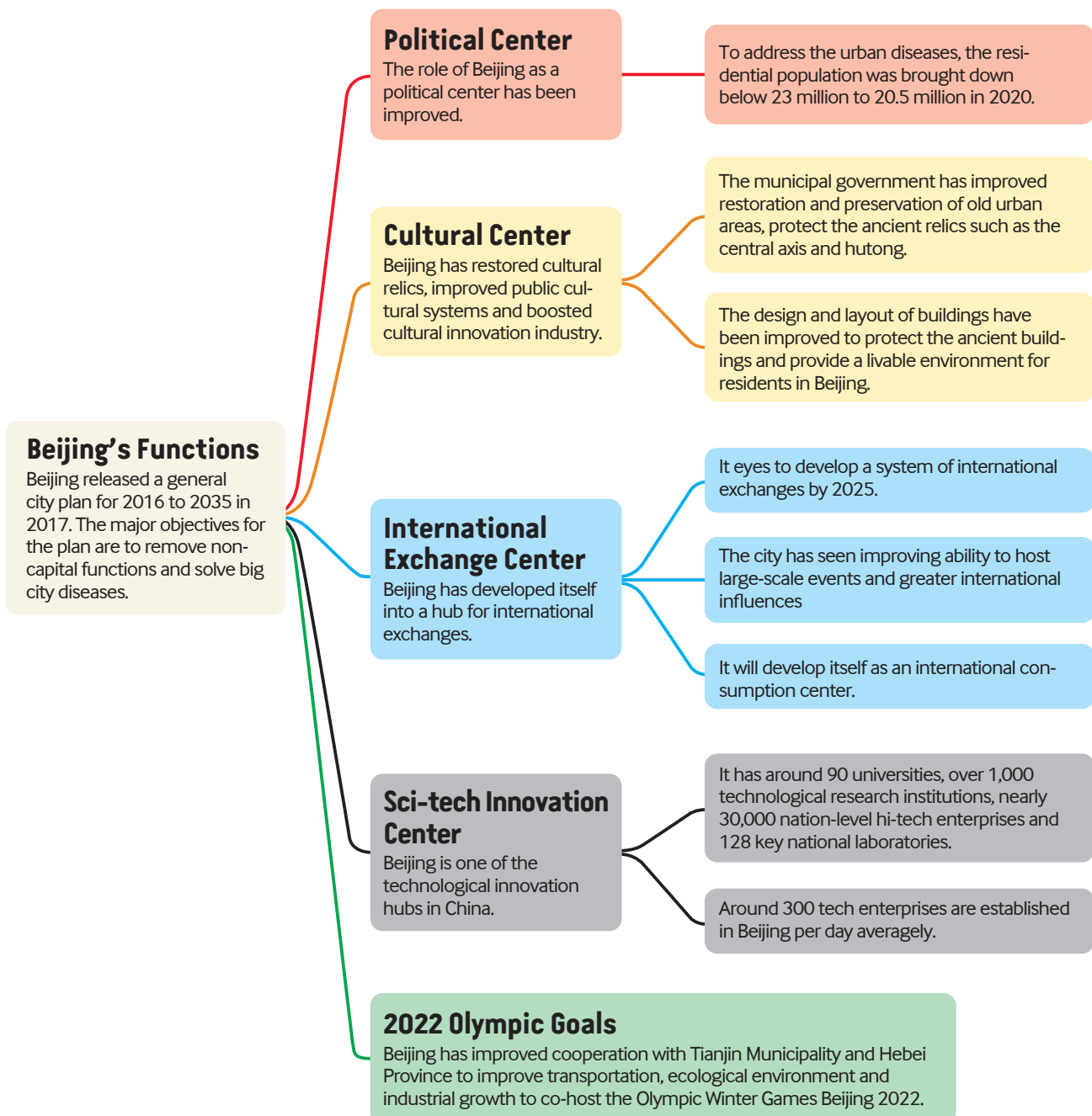
She added that although the test event had no audience in attendance, volunteers designated to provide services to spectators at the Games were also in place so they could learn how to guide people, especially those with disabilities.

"The test event has made me realize the importance of volunteers. Our actions matter to the Games and image of China. Furthermore, I want to inspire the next generation just as the volunteers of the 2008 Beijing Olympics inspired me," Xia said. **C**

(Source: China Daily)

# Beijing: A City of Dual Olympics

It has been thirteen years since the 2008 Olympic Games was held in Beijing, and now, the city is making preparations to host the 2022 Olympic Winter Games. Beijing, the first host city of both the Summer and Winter Olympics, is set to deliver a “fantastic and extraordinary and excellent” Winter Games.





## A Decade of Change in Beijing: 2008 and 2020

### Economic Growth

Beijing's GDP

1.2 tln yuan  
2008



Value-added output of major industrial enterprises

219.85 bln yuan  
2008

421.65 bln yuan  
2020



Value-added of hi-tech industries

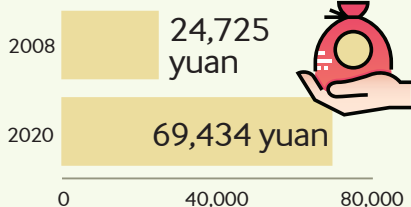
51.37 bln yuan  
2008

924.23 bln yuan  
2020

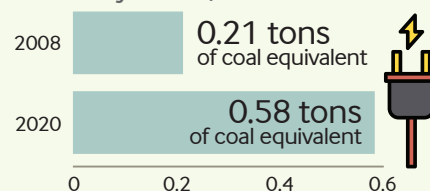


(\$1= 6.35 yuan)

Per capita disposable income

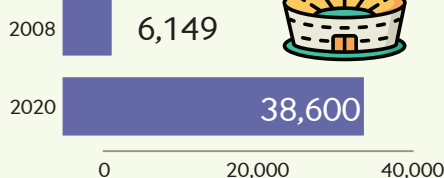


Energy consumption for every 10,000 yuan (\$1,575) of GDP

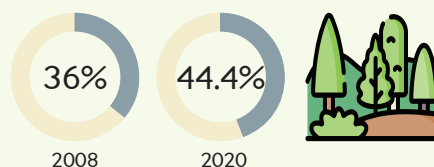


### Social Development

Number of stadiums



Forest coverage rate



### Tourism



Tourism spots raked in **162.7 mln yuan** during the 2008 Games



(Source: Beijing Municipal Statistics Bureau; designed by Pamela Tobey)

## Opinions

# As It Did in 2008, China Will Surprise the World in 2022

By Djoomart Otorbaev

Everything is going according to the plan. The world will be watching the Winter Olympic Games in Beijing from February 4 to 20 and the Winter Paralympic Games from March 4 to 13. It looks like these events will be unprecedented in history. The government and the private sector have invested a whopping \$3.9 billion in events in Beijing and nearby cities for the Games. About 3,000 athletes will take part in 109 different competitions. The Paralympic Games will feature 736 athletes in 78 disciplines. The Chinese capital is ready to be the first to host both the Winter and Summer Olympic Games.

In his New Year's address to the nation, Chinese President Xi Jinping said the country would spare no effort to bring the great Winter Olympics to the world. "The world is turning its eyes to China, and China is ready," he said. However, politicians from a few countries decided to spoil this sporting event. Last month, the Biden administration said it would not send a U.S. diplomatic or official mission to the Games due to China's "ongoing genocide and crimes against humanity in Xinjiang and other human rights violations." After that, a few "allies" joined the diplomatic boycott only to see that the U.S. reneged on its promise and sent visa applications for officials to attend the Games.

These few "allies" were in the absolute minority in their desire to spoil the feast. The leaders of many countries and international organizations spoke out against such an attitude. French President Emmanuel Macron said, "I don't think we should politicize these topics, especially if it is to take steps that are insignificant and symbolic." UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he would attend the opening of the Beijing Winter Olympics, stressing that the event "should be an

instrument of world peace."

"The Olympic Games is an extremely important event, and it's an event that symbolizes the role of sports in bringing people together and in promoting peace," he said on December 30. Britain's Lord Coe, the president of World Athletics and member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), was clear as well: "Boycotts, on balance are historically illiterate and intellectually dishonest. A political boycott is, frankly, meaningless," he openly said.

The idea of politicizing the Olympics received a sharp rebuff from Beijing. When the Biden administration announced its diplomatic boycott of the Games, a Chinese Foreign Ministry official said the Olympics were "not a stage for political posturing and manipulation," adding that the boycott was "a grave travesty of the spirit of the Olympic charter" and "a blatant political provocation." Foreign Minister Wang Yi, hinting at the controversy surrounding the Games, told the media, "The political manipulation of a few Western politicians will not damage the excitement of the Olympics, but will only expose their own ugliness."

Then there is the coronavirus. A highly contagious variant Omicron presents a new challenge for the authorities and the Games. The protocols will be similar to last summer's Tokyo Olympics but stricter. Organizers are creating what they call a "closed-loop system" in which thousands of athletes, coaches, team officials, Olympic staff, contractors, volunteers and journalists will stay for the duration of the Olympics. The system will include competition venues, hotels and other accommodation for athletes, the media and the transportation network. All Olympic participants should be vaccinated and will be tested every day. Due to the pandemic, foreign tourists will not be allowed to attend.

The 211,000-square-meter main media center will be the temporary home and office for 3,000 journalists from over 100 countries and 12,000 broadcasters from over 200 networks. In a video released on December 31, IOC Chairman Thomas Bach expressed his confidence that the Beijing Olympics would be a success. "The support of the international community for these Olympic Winter Games is very evident and is very much welcome," Bach said.

Just as it was in 2008, China will again demonstrate its growing power and potential to the world. Neither the onset of a new coronavirus variant nor the dirty games of certain politicians will prevent this. "Oh, sport! You are the world!" said the founder of the Olympic movement, Pierre de Coubertin. We will see this again very soon. **■**



Athletes compete during the women's 1,500m final at the Experience Beijing Speed Skating China Open on October 10, 2021

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Beijing Winter Olympic Park opens on September 29, 2021

# Olympics Should not be Hijacked by Politics

By Rachana Gupta

**L**ess than 70 days are left before Beijing hosts the prestigious 2022 Winter Olympics and Paralympic Winter Games. This is the first time that Winter Olympics will be held in China, and with this event, Beijing will become the first city in the world to have hosted both the Summer and Winter Olympics.

While a sporting event of this magnitude should provide a welcome sigh of relief in the world marred and divided by COVID-19, some politicians from the Western countries are trying to defeat its very purpose – bringing the international community together – by politicizing it and calling for a “diplomatic boycott” of the event.

However, the international sports community, including the International Olympic Committee (IOC), is not in favor of a boycott, given such acts do nothing but harm the morale of those athletes who put in years of hard work in order to prepare for the event. The IOC President Thomas Bach, in a recent interview, said, “Our role in the world is, first of all, about sport, and our social role is to unite and not to divide people.” Indeed, the most important competition of an athlete’s entire sports career is the Olympic Games, and so it’s unfair if their competition is affected by political issues.

The politically motivated boycott of a sports event not only compromises the athletes’ morale but also hampers the overall Olympic spirit. The Olympic Charter clearly states that sports organizations within the Olympic Movement shall apply political neutrality and

oppose the misuse of sports and athletes for any political or commercial purposes. The Olympic Games thus endorse a peaceful future of humankind through sports as an event that brings athletes from across the globe together for a healthy competition. Sports and the Olympic Games, in particular, can serve as a model example, where people, nations, athletes, and teams take part without discrimination of any kind.

Those politically motivated boycotts of the Olympics will do nothing but promote small-mindedness and create friction among the international community. The world continues to suffer at the hands of challenging issues like climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic, which cannot be handled properly until the world joins hands.

Isolating some nations is never the solution to the real problem. It is in the best interest of the international community not to further complicate things by using sports as a ground for playing politics. Given the challenges brought about by the pandemic, solidarity is what the world really needs, just as the new Olympic motto says – Faster, Higher, Stronger, and Together. **C**

(Source: [China.org.cn](http://China.org.cn))

The author is a blogger, poet, and freelancer. She is the author of the book “To The Horizon We Indeed Sail.”

# Beijing Steps Up Preparations to Welcome the World for Winter Olympics

By Kirtan Bhana

As Beijing welcomed the winter's first snow, organizers of the Beijing 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games speeded up preparations to welcome the world for the grand events. In February 2022, Beijing will become the first city in the world to have hosted both the Olympic and Paralympic Summer and Winter Games in the history of the games. A great deal of effort, time and resources have been invested to ensure the facilities are of the highest standard for the athletes, fans and visitors alike.

Winning the bid to host the games is a tribute to the remarkable development of the Chinese nation, a country that has managed to eradicate poverty and elevate itself to the second spot in the world economy. The saying by the late Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping that "Poverty is not socialism" has come true.

Beijing was elected as the host city of the 2022 Olympic Winter Games after the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Executive Board reviewed the bids from all applicant cities on July 7, 2014, and selected three cities, Oslo (Norway), Almaty (Kazakhstan) and Beijing (China) as the final candidates. At the 128th IOC Session in Kuala Lumpur on July 31, 2015, Beijing was declared the winner.

## Impact of hosting

China's greatest strength in hosting the 2022 Olympic Winter Games lies in its human capacity and capabilities. The capabilities have enabled the country to accomplish great industrial and technological feats. The logistics, infrastructure and facilities for the Beijing Olympic



A view inside the Beijing Winter Olympic Village on November 20, 2021



Winter Games have been completed in record time and the competition venues have passed the International Sports Federation's scrutiny. Existing facilities including the Olympic athlete's village, media and broadcast centers and the National Stadium have been handed over to the organizing committee and have already been used for several events as a test run.

Through the hosting of 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, China plans to engage more people in winter sports by creating state of the art sports, recreation and leisure facilities.

The renovation and rebuilding of unused or abandoned facilities is a significant contributor to the urban renewal projects underway in the city. It will be a valuable addition to the "Green Olympics" as Beijing Olympic Winter Games has been dubbed. The appointment of a Sustainability Advisory Committee will ensure clean, inclusive and environmentally friendly games. The measures that involve planting trees at the new venue sites, the reuse of soil excavated from building sites as well as the use of new and renewable energy for the games will mitigate any impact on the surroundings and enhance the ecological footprint of the games. The innovative use of natural and low carbon-emission refrigeration systems will be used at the ice venues.

## Overcoming unnecessary political rhetoric

As is the case with every major event, the host nation comes under scrutiny. Criticism and dissatisfaction are expressed, some of which may be constructive and can be dealt with amicably. However, some unscrupulous politicians use it as an opportunity to play to their constituents and present their misinformed rhetoric, calling for sanctions or boycott as the magnitude of the events supposedly amplifies their unfounded and unjustified concerns.

The Olympics are related to the people. Any calls for a boycott of the event shows a clear disregard for the professionalism of the athletes and their dedication to their sport. Their many years of training and discipline is not always apparent in that moment when an athlete competes in an event. Besides the highest state of physical fitness, it takes a lot of emotional and mental strength to compete at this level. The euphoria of victory and the heartbreak of defeat are often accompanied by the triumph of being able to just compete at the highest level of the sport against the best of the best.

The athletes have honed their skills, studied their opponents and are ready, spurred by the awareness of what is at stake. They owe it to themselves as much as they owe it to those who supported them on this journey. Parents, families, friends, relatives, coaches and the fans all revel in the excitement, drama and fanfare. At this professional level, the commitment to sponsors, organizers and other administrators who make it possible to make a living from their natural ability, skill and talent must be steadfast. For some, it may be the first opportunity to participate in the games, while for others, it could be their last.

So, let sports be sports with no political interference, and let us just sit and watch the athletes display their abilities and skills in their competitions at the Beijing Olympic Winter Games.



Olympic flame on display in Beijing on November 7, 2021

## Africa in the Winter Olympics

Because of their geographic locations, African countries are not strong in winter sports, and thus, do not have a lot of athletes attending Beijing Olympic Winter Games. But there are many African winter sports athletes with a dream of competing at the highest stage of winter sports, and their spirit of being higher, faster and stronger should be encouraged.

Brolin Mawejje, a 24-year-old Ugandan snowboarder, is vying for a much-coveted spot in Beijing as the first Ugandan winter games Olympian and the first African snowboarder to compete. He developed his skills and passion for the sport when he moved to Wyoming in the United States at a young age. For him, it will be a dream come true just to participate in Beijing Olympic Winter Games, having overcome a heart condition.

## COVID-19 challenges

The pandemic has created new and unprecedented challenges for everyone concerned with Beijing Olympic Winter Games. The authorities have had to tighten control and prevention measures to contain the outbreaks. The safety, comfort and wellness of all, including spectators, staff and volunteers, is paramount to the success of the games. With thousands of athletes from around the world expected to participate, health protocols are likely to be bolstered. Vaccinations will once again come under the spotlight as nations voice their valid concerns on the double standards and inequity in the distribution and availability of vaccines.

The world will be united in Beijing in February and March 2022. The city will witness an explosion of the diversity and the splendor of humankind. It will become a melting pot of emotions as the celebration of victory and the anguish of defeat permeate the arenas of sporting excellence. New bonds will be formed as athletes pit their wits against each other and also challenge themselves for the glory of gold, silver and bronze.

Beijing is ready to welcome all top athletes in winter sports from all over the world. 🇨🇳

(Source: ChinAfrica)

# China's Sports Diplomacy

By Muhammad Asif Noor

When the Olympics flame extinguished in Tokyo, China roared to the medals' table with 38 gold medals followed by the US bagging 39 medals, the first-ever narrow in Olympics history. This significant triumph is a message to the globe about China's soft image and a healthy nation despite fighting the COVID-19 at home and sharing support globally. China did not reach this position overnight; rather it takes effective planning, immense resources, and sheer physical standards for achieving excellence in sports. After Beijing Olympics 2008, China began to aim for mastering the elite sports and projecting itself as a leading nation in sports as it developed interaction with leading sports organizations and nations. China capitalized its profile in the subsequent two Olympics and managed to stand at second in the Olympics 2020, which is indeed a great feat as the Chinese profile in sports took a steep trajectory in recent years. These Olympics projected China's global soft image and paving way for the country to build momentum for the upcoming grandeur Winter Olympics.

In efforts to produce world-class athletes, China could not possibly rely on the internalization of sports. China developed interactions with global sports bodies and leading sporting nations for healthy competition indulging in building diplomacy through sports. Although, diplomacy is no longer a redundant subject and practice in the 21st century as it covers every dimension of statecraft, let alone foreign relations. The international community is going through radical shifts in the execution of day-to-day diplomacy and passing through an immense transformation. Sports Diplomacy is the resurrection of an old phenomenon bringing people, communities, and nations together through a mutual love of games and sports. The direct interest of the common public in sports makes it a luring area of cooperation in public diplomacy among states.

Chinese confidence in sports comes from its economic profile necessitating China to build its soft power through sports. The policy relevance of sports and its diplomatic character in China emerged in the last two decades reflected in its success rate in elite sports and hosting the Olympics. Through sports diplomacy, China has been able to project the positive impact of its economic outreach and political stability through the images of successful athletes. A new brand image to China's growing national health, strength is also reflecting that how well the country has maintained the fight on COVID-19. Meanwhile, China actively engaged with international sports organizations and development professionals followed by its commercialization. Over the years, China has offered various sports promotion tools such as Sports Law, multiple Five-Year Plan for Development, National



Players from China and the United States take part in a friendly match to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Ping-Pong Diplomacy between China and the United States at the International Table Tennis Federation Museum in Shanghai, east China, on April 10, 2021

Fitness Programme and Strategic Olympic Glory Plan have been instrumental in the progression of Chinese sports profile.

In efforts to examine the spiking Chinese graph, it is critical to analyze its post-Beijing Olympics 2008 policies. It appears that China masterfully used Olympics 2008 as a driving force to its public and sports diplomacy coupled with political, economic, and environmental considerations. China was able to earn revenue from sports and use it as an industry that later capitalized on its political profile. It helped China to project itself as a brand, an emerging economic power with considerable political influence. Meanwhile, China began to forge diplomatic relations with neighboring states for the revival of old silk route and develop the Belt and Road Initiative where sports is seen as a potential area of cooperation.

Under the auspices of the Belt and Road Initiative, the range of cooperation was not limited to economy and geopolitics; rather it includes every social domain including sports. Keeping the pace, it became crucial for the Chinese diplomatic corps to bring sports into the limelight. Driven by its success graph in Olympic sports, China seeks sports cooperation with partner states to boost public diplomacy and capacity build-up in friendly nations. There is no denying the fact that victory in sports brings national pride, making it an attractive area of cooperation. ■



# China Insight

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