

= 2010 Asian Games =

The 2010 Asian Games , also known as the XVI Asiad , was a multi @-@ sport event celebrated in Guangzhou , China from November 12 to 27 , 2010 . Guangzhou was the second Chinese city to host the Games , after Beijing in 1990 . A total of 9 @,@ 704 athletes from 45 National Olympic Committees (NOCs) competed in 476 events from 42 sports and disciplines (28 Olympic sports and 14 non @-@ Olympic sports) , making it the largest event in the history of the Games . Due to reductions in the number of sports to be contested for the 2014 Asian Games , these Games marked the final time that six non @-@ Olympic events would be held during the Asian Games .

The Games were co @-@ hosted by Dongguan , Foshan and Shanwei , the three neighbouring cities . A total of 53 venues were used to host the events including 11 constructed for use at the Games . The design concept of the official logo of these Asian Games was based on the legend about the Guangzhou , featured a stylised calligraphic " Stone Statue of Five Goats in Yuexiu Hill " , a symbol of the host city .

The opening and closing ceremonies were held along the Pearl River in Haixinsha Island , and was the first time in history that the opening ceremony for a major sports event was not held inside a stadium . The final medal tally was led by China , followed by South Korea and third place Japan . China set a new Games record with 199 gold medals . Three World and 103 Asian records were broken . In addition , the badminton men 's singles gold medalist Lin Dan was voted as most valuable player (MVP) . The President of Olympic Council of Asia Sheikh Ahmed Al @-@ Fahad Al @-@ Ahmed Al @-@ Sabah hailed the Games as " outstanding " and " one of the best ever " .

= = Organisation = =

= = = Bid = = =

The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) selected Guangzhou to host the 2010 Games at their 23rd general assembly session in Doha , Qatar , site of the 2006 Asian Games , on July 1 , 2004 . Seoul and Amman dropped out before their bids were officially selected by the OCA , leaving only two candidate cities ? Guangzhou and Kuala Lumpur . Seoul withdrew after considering the short span of time between 2002 and 2010 , as South Korea hosted the 2002 Games in Busan . Evaluation committee of the OCA , headed by the then vice @-@ president of the association Celso Dayrit inspected both the final bidders . Kuala Lumpur was forced to withdraw its bid after the declaration of the Malaysian Government on April 15 , 2004 that it wouldn 't support the Olympic Council of Malaysia with a Kuala Lumpur bid , due to the high cost of hosting the Games , leaving Guangzhou as the sole bidder .

= = = Marketing = = =

The official emblem of the Games was unveiled at Sun Yat @-@ sen Memorial Hall on November 26 , 2006 . It is a stylized representation of Guangzhou 's " Statue of the Five Goats " (????) fused with a running track . The goat , in Chinese tradition , is a blessing and brings people luck while the host city Guangzhou is known as the " City of Goats " . The orange and yellow emblem also resembles a flame .

The mascots of the Games were the five sporty rams . They were unveiled on April 28 , 2008 at the Guangzhou Baiyun International Convention and Exhibition Center . The five rams , including four small with one large , were named ? A Xiang (?) , A He (?) , A Ru (?) , A Yi (?) and Le Yangyang (???) . The Chinese character " yang , " or " goat , " is an auspicious symbol because , when read together , the Chinese names of the five rams are a message of blessing , literally meaning " harmony , blessings , success and happiness " (???????) .

The official theme song was released on September 30 , 2010 , and is called " Reunion " (in Chinese , " Chongfeng " [??]) . It was composed by Wu Liqun , with lyrics written by Xu Rongkai ,

while the English version was translated by Chen Ning Yang , a Chinese @-@ American physicist , and his wife , Weng Fan . The song was also performed by Sun Nan and Bella Yao (???) . Sun Nan then performed it again with Mao Amin for a music video .

=== Financing ===

On March 11 , 2005 , Lin Shusen , then party secretary of the Guangzhou Municipal Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) said the Games " will not cost more than ? 2 billion " , in stark contrast to an earlier report , which had claimed that the cost could exceed ? 200 billion .

In March 2009 , the director of the marketing department of the Games , Fang Da ? er , claimed that the Games were short of funds , due to lack of sponsorship and the global financial crisis . An informal estimate put the Games ' expenditure at about US \$ 420 million and revenue at US \$ 450 million .

On October 13 , 2010 , Wan Qingliang , mayor of Guangzhou at the time , officially revealed in a press conference that the total cost of staging the Asian Games and Asian Para Games is about ? 122 @.@ 6 billion (\$ 18 @.@ 37 billion) , with ? 109 billion spent on the city 's infrastructure , ? 6 @.@ 3 billion on the venues and some ? 7 @.@ 3 billion spent on Games ' operation .

The full spending details would be released before 2013 , according to the city 's finance chief Zhang Jieming .

=== Venues ===

A total of 53 competition venues and 17 training venues were used for the Games , with four venues located outside of Guangzhou . Events took place at 42 pre @-@ existing venues ; eleven competition venues and one training venues were constructed for the Games , while the rest were renovated . Other venues included the Asian Games Town , which consists of the Athletes ' Village , Technical Officials ' Village , Media Village , Main Media Center and International Broadcast Center . Organisers revealed that the total investment was over ? 15 billion .

On April 19 , 2009 , organisers chose Haixinsha Island , along with the Pearl River , as the venue for the opening and closing ceremonies , the only venue which was not for competition purposes .

=== Transport ===

Guangzhou 's public transportation infrastructure was expanded significantly as a part of the preparation for the Games . Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport had been upgraded , in contracted to Crisplant (former FKI Logistex) , to support massive volume of passengers . A new Wuhan ? Guangzhou High @-@ Speed Railway was opened on December 26 , 2009 , shorten the travel time between two destinations .

In order to ease the traffic congestion and air pollution , the government ordered 40 percent reduction of vehicles and offered 1 @,@ 000 buses during the Games and Para Games . The government also had a free @-@ ride offer for public transportation during the month of Games , but cancelled one week prior to the Games due to overwhelming response from the citizens . Instead , government offered ? 150 (\$ 21) cash subsidies to each household with permanent residence for commuting purposes .

== Torch relay ==

Two torch designs were short @-@ listed in September 2009 for the 2010 Asian Games . A design named " The Tide " was chosen over one named " Exploit " by the organizers as the torch of the Games . " The Tide " weighs 98 g and is 70 cm long , and is tall and straight in shape , while dynamic in terms of image .

The torch relay route was unveiled on March 4 , 2010 . Due to financial reasons it remained within the confines of Guangdong province and was planned to travel across 21 major cities of the

province . The flame of the torch was lit at the Great Wall of China on October 9 , 2010 , and traveled around the Temple of Heaven in Beijing . As originally scheduled 21 cities were present in the list of relay , with 2 @, @ 010 torchbearers expected to carry it from October 12 to November 12 , 2010 ; however , two more cities ? Changchun and Haiyang , the host of 2007 Asian Winter Games and 2012 Asian Beach Games respectively , were also later added to the route for a single day on October 15 , 2010 , increasing the number of torchbearers to 2 @, @ 068 people .

= = Calendar = =

In the following calendar for the 2010 Asian Games , each blue box represents an event competition , such as a qualification round , on that day . The yellow boxes represent days during which medal @-@ awarding finals for a sport were held . Each bullet in these boxes is an event final , the number of bullets per box representing the number of finals that were contested on that day . On the left the calendar lists each sport with events held during the Games , and at the right how many gold medals were won in that sport . There is a key at the top of the calendar to aid the reader .

= = Games = =

= = = Opening ceremony = = =

The opening ceremony officially began on November 12 , 2010 at 20 : 00 local time . For the first time in history , the ceremony was not held inside a stadium ; instead , it was held along the Pearl River on Haixinsha Island . The ceremony was directed by Chen Weiya , assistant director of the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing , and featured a cast of about 6 @, @ 000 performers . It was attended by the Chinese Premier , Wen Jiabao , President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari , Prime Minister of Thailand Abhisit Vejjajiva , Chief Secretary for Administration of Hong Kong Henry Tang , as well as President of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) , Ahmed Al @-@ Fahad Al @-@ Ahmed Al @-@ Sabah and President of International Olympic Committee Jacques Rogge . The ceremony lasted for three hours , and together with the closing ceremony costed about ? 380 million (\$ 53 million) .

Athletes were paraded by boats along the Pearl River . The ceremony featured the water @-@ themed arts show and culture of Guangzhou . The last torchbearer , diver He Chong lit up the cauldron , after igniting the traditional Chinese firecrackers whose flare shot up to the top of the tower where the cauldron was held .

The ceremony was regarded as successful by IOC President Jacques Rogge who described it as " absolutely fantastic " , and said that " Guangzhou has the ability to host the Olympics " . OCA director general Husain Al @-@ Musallam praised the Games saying that it was unique , fantastic and " just better than the Beijing Olympics " .

= = = Sports = = =

Compared to the 28 sports and 302 events in the Olympic Games , the 2010 Asian Games featured 42 sports and 476 events throughout the 16 days of the competition , with added disciplines in some events . This version of the Asian Games comprised more sports and events than the last one , as 39 sports and 424 events were in the calendar of 2006 Asian Games . 28 and 5 gold medalists emerged during the opening and final day respectively , while a total of 48 gold medalists were awarded on November 26 , 2010 , the most in single day . Twenty20 version of the cricket was one of the debut sports , while dancesport , dragon boat , weiqi and roller sport were unique in the Games . Bodybuilding was dropped due to judging controversy in the 2006 Games .

= = = Closing ceremony = = =

The closing ceremony began on November 27 , 2010 at 20 : 06 local time in front of 35 @, @ 000 spectators . The show began with the theme " Leave Your Song Here " , which included music and dance from China , India , Indonesia , Lebanon , Japan , Kazakhstan and Mongolia . The ceremony featured songs from different cultures ? Indian " Saajan ji Ghar Aaye " and " Aao re Jhumo re " , Indonesian " Sing Sing So " and Japanese " Sakura " . Various artists from Taiwan , Hong Kong and mainland China performed " Triumphant Return " (??) , among them were Alan Tam , Leo Ku and Hacken Lee .

The ceremony also included an eight @-@ minute segment from Incheon with singer and actor Rain performing the segment . The Mayor of Incheon Song Young @-@ gil received the Games flag for 2014 Games .

The closing ceremony ended with the song " Everyone " (????) and " Cheer for Asia " (??????) .

= = = Medal table = = =

China led the medal table for the eighth consecutive time with a new record for the most number of gold medals (at 199 gold medals) won in a single Games . This bettered their previous record of 183 gold medals won by China at Beijing in 1990 . Macau , and Bangladesh won their first Asian Games gold medal from wushu and cricket , respectively . Some 35 NOCs (except Kuwait who competed under the Olympic flag) won at least a single medal with 27 NOCs winning at least a single gold medal , thus leaving nine NOCs failing to win any medal at the Games .

The top ten ranked NOCs at these Games are listed below . The host nation , China , is highlighted .

= = Participating nations = =

All 45 members of the Olympic Council of Asia that existed as of 2010 participated in the 2010 Asian Games . All National Olympic Committees were ordered to submit their entries before September 30 , 2010 . Organizers allowed each NOC to submit additional entries and injury replacements after the deadline . After the final registration deadline , some 9 @, @ 704 athletes , as well as some 4 @, @ 750 team officials , took part in the Games , an increase of 184 athletes from the previous Asian Games in Doha . According to the Games ' official website , Kuwaiti athletes participated the Games under the Olympic flag because the Kuwait Olympic Committee was suspended due to political interference in January 2010 .

Below is a list of all the participating NOCs ; the number of competitors per delegation is indicated in brackets .

= = Controversies = =

= = = Sports = = =

Cricket was among the five début sports in the Games . India , despite its historical record , decided not to send its cricket team to the Games . According to the Board of Control for Cricket in India , the decision was due to other international commitments . However , its main rivals , Pakistan and Sri Lanka , confirmed their participation .

In ten @-@ pin bowling , the Asian Bowling Federation decided to compete the Games behind closed doors , this resulted in protests from many delegates .

On November 17 , Yang Shu @-@ chun of Chinese Taipei , was abruptly disqualified with 12 seconds left in the first round of the taekwondo competition , while leading her opponent 9 ? 0 . She was accused of having installed illegal sensors on the heel of her socks . The event quickly turned into an international incident , with officials , politicians and public opinion from Chinese Taipei , China and South Korea trading accusations of manipulation and fraud .

About 1 @, @ 400 random doping tests were carried out during the Games . Two athletes tested positive ; judoka Shokir Muminov on November 19 , 2010 and Greco @-@ Roman wrestler Jakhongir Muminov on November 24 , 2010 , both from Uzbekistan , tested positive for methylhexanamine . On January 24 , 2011 , the OCA announced another two doping failures , Qatari 's Ahmed Dheeb who tested positive for exogenous testosterone metabolites and Palestinian Awajna Abdalnasser who tested positive for 19 @-@ Norandrosterone .

= = = Languages = = =

In July 2010 , the citizens of Guangzhou opposed the proposal suggested by the city committee of the Chinese People 's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) to use Mandarin more in television news programmes , rather than Guangzhou 's main language , Cantonese . The debates eventually led to a series of public protests .

In late October 2010 , in order to protest the government over the language policy in Tibetan area , the Tibetan Youth Congress (TYC) used the games as a channel to voice their concern .

= = = Environment = = =

Like the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing , Guangzhou also attempted to raise the air quality of the city . The authority had pledged ? 600 million to fight the problem , and had ordered around 32 chemical plants to stop production by the end of 2009 . A report shown on July 13 , 2010 indicates that the air quality was rated at 95 @.@ 07 % in 2009 , an increase of 12 @.@ 01 % since 2004 ; this improvement eventually cost authorities ? 24 billion . Later action from organisers to curb the pollution included decreasing the movement of vehicles up to 40 percent and banning barbecue stalls in 11 cities .

Between 2005 and 2008 about 150 Guolang villagers survived by growing tomatoes , beans and cabbages while fighting the government for fairer compensation after their homes were flattened for Asian games infrastructure . The Panyu government set aside a date to listen to petitioners complaint on October 18 , 2010 .

Prior to the opening of the games , Conghua reported 429 cases of Norovirus outbreak . The government officials stressed that the people recovered before November 12 .