

# Nanjing looks ahead to Youth Games

By SONG WENWEI in Nanjing  
songwenwei@chinadaily.com.cn

preparing for the event since it won the bid.

On the heels of the nation's successful 2008 Beijing Olympics, China is readying itself for another major multinational sporting event under the auspices of the International Olympic Committee in 2014.

IOC Chairman Jacques Rogge announced in 2010 that Nanjing, capital of East China's Jiangsu province, won the bid for the 2014 Youth Olympic Games.

Integrating sports, education and culture, the Youth Olympics is the world's top sports event for young people.

According to the organizing committee of the 2014 Nanjing Youth Olympics, the event will act as a stage for Eastern and Western cultural exchanges while raising the international profile of its host city.

The 2014 Youth Olympics, featuring 26 sports, will be held from Aug 17 to 28.

Fifteen competition venues will be made available in three distinct themed zones — the Olympic Center zone, the Cultural and Scenic zone and University Town zone.

Under the guidance of the IOC and the Chinese Olympic Committee, Nanjing has been

In order to create better conditions for the event, the Nanjing government has drawn up a comprehensive support plan.

City work crews have already begun the renovation and construction of venues. Measures are being taken to improve environmental quality, update transport infrastructure, tighten security and enhance medical services.

The Youth Olympic Village will combine the Olympic spirit, Chinese culture and Nanjing's characteristics. It is also designed to be a green, low-carbon community for the young athletes.

In addition to sports competitions, the organizers have also designed culture and education exchange activities for the young people, including a walk on the city wall, an Olympic flag relay and anniversary celebrations. These events will build enthusiasm for the Games and promote the Olympic spirit, organizers say.

The 2014 Games will be a chance for the young people to learn from each other.

## Modest spending

Nanjing will not spend a fortune on producing an extravagant event and is set to follow the frugal lead of London, organizers say.

"Nanjing will emulate London in the use of existing and temporary buildings when we host the Games in 2014," said Yang Weize, Party chief of Nanjing and executive president of the organizing committee.

"No new venues will be built



The emblem of the Nanjing Youth Olympics was unveiled on May 19, 2011.



PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

A ceremony was held to solicit proposals for the opening and closing ceremony from global applicants.

if the old ones can be renovated. No new facilities will be purchased if old ones can be repaired. No equipment will be bought if they can be rented, and they won't be rented if

they can be borrowed," Yang said after visiting London, the host of the 2012 Summer Olympics.

For the purpose, 25 out of the 34 competition and train-

ing venues will be renovated. Five temporary venues will be disassembled or replaced after the games end, and the four new ones will be opened to the public.



A nationwide long-distance running event is one of the warm-up activities for the upcoming 2014 Youth Olympics.

## Cultural gala keeps Olympic torch burning

By SONG WENWEI in Nanjing  
songwenwei@chinadaily.com.cn

cultural festival was held in 2011, and the annual event will last until 2014.

Since Nanjing won the bid for the 2014 Youth Olympic Games in 2010, a number of activities have been held to increase interest in the Games.

On March 31, the Youth Olympic Games Forest Park was unveiled. Athletes will plant trees there when they participate in the games in 2014.

In November 2011, the organizing committee held a ceremony to announce the Games slogan "Share the Games, Share Our Dreams".

IOC President Jacques Rogge sent a congratulatory letter saying that the Nanjing Games slogan successfully conveys the fervent spirit of Nanjing residents to the world.

Proposals for the opening and closing ceremonies have also been solicited from global applicants.

Various interactive activities for young people from different nations and cities will be carried out, such as the torch relay, the "Youth Role Model in My Heart" campaign, the Song of World Youth, the Youth Education Forum and the Dream Pursuit Online BBS for teenagers.

Nanjing is stoking the Olympic spirit of local youth with a series of promotional activities in the run-up to the Nanjing Youth Olympics, which will be held in August 2014.

Featuring a series of themed activities, the second Nanjing Youth Olympic Cultural Festival and International Exchange Gala was held from Sept 9 to 15.

Thousands of local primary and high school students joined international students in the activities.

Major events of the festival included live drama performances by local middle school students. There was also a display of local culture as well as the cultures of China and other countries.

Activities combined entertainment and sports with the aid of high technologies, and there were exhibitions of licensed sports products.

Other activities included a sports photography exhibition, the sports film week, the China-Europe teenager painting exhibition and a world champion talk show.

The first session of the cul-

