

MODERN OLYMPIC GAMES

The XXIX Summer Olympics are being held in Beijing, China from August 8 to 24, 2008. These are the first Olympic Games to be held there. The election of Beijing as the host city took place at the IOC session on July 13, 2001, in Moscow. China's candidacy beats those of Toronto, Istanbul, Paris, and Osaka. One year before the session, the IOC rejected the bids of Bangkok, Cairo, Havana, Kuala Lumpur, and Seville as incapable of organizing the Olympics. Even after the first round of voting, Beijing has many votes ahead of its competitors. The closest is Toronto with 24 votes difference. There are four cities left for the last second round. Beijing received 56 votes and won the household. This is Beijing's second bid for the Olympics.

China organizes the Games to show a different and interesting culture to the world, its economic power, and its rise as a world power. But the Olympics also draws attention to issues of pollution and human rights abuses in the country and the cause of Tibet's independence.

For the first time, a Paralympic athlete with a motor disability is participating in the Games, which is a kind of revolution in the Olympic movement. South African Natalie du Toit, who won five gold medals at the 2004 Paralympic Games in Athens, competed in the Beijing Olympics, although her left leg was amputated. For the first time in the history of the Olympic Games, the most gold medals are won by an Asian country.

During the Olympics, 34 world records were improved - in swimming, athletics, and weightlifting, cycling and archery.

The name of the Olympics logo is "Dancing Beijing" and was shown for the first time in August 2003. It combines traditional elements of Chinese society, reminiscent of the Chinese press, and the man's open arms show China's willingness and desire to share its culture.

On June 26, 2005, The motto of the Olympics has been announced - One world, one dream. It was selected from 211,000 proposals from around the world with the initiative for humanity to feel the Olympic spirit and build a better future.

In May 2007, construction began on all 31 Olympic venues. The Chinese government is also investing in strengthening and rebuilding six sites outside Beijing and 59 training centers. The rowing canal, which was opened on August 10, 2007, was designed by the Bulgarian gold medalist from the 1976 Montreal Olympics - Svetla Osetova.

Transport

On the occasion of the Olympics, major infrastructure improvements and expansions of the road network in Beijing were planned. Seven new lines have been built with about 80 new stations, which includes a connection to the airport. Eleven trains, each with a capacity of 83 passengers, took care of the transportation of passengers at the airport. Most of them were opened on June 30, 2008, exactly a month before the Olympics. Trains and the subway are equipped with plasma screens that report events during the games.

The official song for the countdown to the Olympics is called "We Are Ready" and was recorded by actor Jackie Chan. It has been announced that Celine Dion and Thai Jay Chow will sing during the opening ceremony of the games. In March 2008, a music choir from a high school in Pennsylvania, USA performed the song "One World, One Dream", originally composed by Peter de Mets. The song received a very high rating and was included in many materials for the Olympics, both in China and in the United States. The choir takes part in concerts in major cities in China.

As of the summer of 2007, the exact number of participating countries was still not completely clear. The rankings in the various qualifying competitions would help to predict the participating countries and the number of their athletes.

North Korea and South Korea are considering joint participation. The two countries have performed together in a parade of nations, but have never competed together. The Olympic committees of the two countries met with Jacques Roch on September 5, 2006, to discuss possible unification. In early 2007, a new meeting was held between the presidents of the Olympic committees of the two countries. South Korea wants the selection of athletes to be based on their abilities, while North Korea wants an equal number of athletes from both countries if they participate with a joint team. No agreement was reached, but it was announced that there would be discussions on this issue in the future.

In the pre-Olympic period, the IOC held various diplomatic meetings with various countries, some and former colonies of Western European countries for recognition and inclusion in the Olympic family. It recognizes Montenegro, which means it will participate separately from Serbia. Also, Kosovo representatives acquire this right, although this is unlikely due to the short time to win quotas. The problem with the Netherlands Antilles remains unresolved. More precisely, the islands of Curacao and St. Martin.

On July 24, 2008, the IOC excluded the Iraqi Olympic team from the Olympics. The reason for this is state interference in the country's Olympic Committee, which is banned by the Olympic movement. This decision would deprive a total of 7 qualified athletes in the sports of judo, archery, rowing, and weightlifting. On July 29, the IOC overturned its decision and allowed the country to take part, but with only 4 athletes, because the others missed the registration deadlines. The organization calls on Iraq to hold fair elections for the country's Olympic Committee by the end of November.

On the opening day of the Games, the International Olympic Committee expelled Brunei after Brunei's National Olympic Committee did not register its athletes by the deadline.

The path of fire is marked by differences and political currents around the world.

The plan to pass the Olympic flame was announced on April 26, 2007, in Beijing, and the Relay is called the "Journey of Harmony" and will last 130 days, during which 137,000 kilometers will be traveled - the longest route of the Olympic flame in the story. The start is scheduled for March 28, 2008, from Mount Olympus, Greece. From there, the fire will travel to Panathinaiko Stadium in Athens and arrive in Beijing on March 31st. From Beijing, the fire will pass through every continent except Antarctica. About 21,880 people will be selected by local organizations to carry the Olympic flame.

The Chinese organizing committee also plans to bring the fire to Mount Everest. The plan calls for a stop in Taipei shortly before entering Hong Kong. However, the Taiwanese government refuses to accept the fire because the plan gives the impression that Taipei is part of the Chinese route of fire, not an international one.

As the relay passed through London, thousands of demonstrators for a free Tibet sparked riots. Some are trying to put out the fire with a fire extinguisher and others are stealing the torch. From London, the Olympic flame travels to Paris, where protests are also expected.

On April 7, the fire arrived in France and the relay started from the Eiffel Tower. Expectations of protests were justified and hundreds of demonstrators did everything possible to obstruct the march.

After France, the Olympic flame went to San Francisco, which is the only American city through which the relay passes. The first torchbearer was the 1992 Olympic swimming champion, Lynn

Lee. The end of the relay ceremony was moved from Justin Herman Plaza to the city's central airport. This is done to prevent some of the protests of the organized demonstrators. The measures taken are effective and the passage of the fire is relatively smoother than in London and Paris.

The torch arrives in Buenos Aires on April 11. The relay starts from the city nature reserve and ends at the horse riding club. The event was again accompanied by protests for a free Tibet. Some of them are a huge banner with the inscription "Free Tibet" and an alternative to the Olympic torch - the human rights torch. The protests are not aggressive and there are no serious attempts to put out the fire.

After Argentina, the Olympic flame passes through Tanzania, Oman, and Pakistan in calmer circumstances. However, there have been major protests and security measures in India, Thailand, and Malaysia. The first 20 kilometers of the relay in Indonesia are not run again due to security measures.

The Olympic flame arrives in Canberra on April 24. The total mileage on this continent is 16. Among the torchbearers are famous Australian athletes such as Ian Thorpe, Ron Clark, and others. One of the participants, Lynn Dodds, refused to carry the torch in protest of the situation in Tibet. Hundreds of anti-Tibetan protesters and Chinese students took part in the protests. Ian Thorpe ends the relay. Five protesters were arrested. As in other developed countries, there are two groups of protesters in Australia - pro-Chinese and anti-Tibetan.

In Japan, the Olympic torch arrives in Nagano on April 26. The Buddhist temple, which is expected to begin the ceremony, has refused to accept the fire as a protest against the situation in Tibet. In addition to demonstrators for a free Tibet, Japanese nationalists and human rights organizations are taking part in the street protests. The protests are peaceful.

The next destinations are South Korea and North Korea. There are no violent demonstrations in North Korea. The relay is accompanied by many Koreans waving Chinese flags.

After Pyongyang, the fire visited Vietnam, Hong Kong, and Macao. The fire then arrives again in China where it will pass through a large number of cities. The culmination of the relay is the ascent of the Olympic flame to Mount Everest on May 8. A total of 36 torchbearers climbers took part in the endeavor. The entire relay race was broadcast live on television. During the preparations, the Nepal government banned access to all journalists' base camps and ordered police and the military to use force against any anti-Chinese demonstrations, even shooting if necessary.

Until September 2007, no country had announced plans to boycott the Games, but some activist groups were protesting against the Olympics. The most notorious organization that opposes the Olympics is the Tibetan independence movement, also known as the Free Tibet Students. They are organizing a protest campaign during the games. Their goal is the independence of Tibet and the cessation of the use of the Tibetan antelope as a mascot of the games. The group says it wants Tibet to appear separately from China in a parade of nations with its flag.

The International Journalists' Organization for Freedom of Speech also announced its decision to boycott but withdrew after a visit to China in January 2007. However, the organization continues to oppose China's policy towards the country's media.

Activists fighting for a successful end to the conflict in Darfur are also protesting against the Games over China's aid to Sudan's genocidal policies. The Games also acquired another name, the Genocide Olympics, introduced by Taiwanese activists. It came to the point that a group of 106 US lawmakers called on the United States to boycott the Games.

In preparation for the Olympics, the use of metals, especially copper, is dramatically increasing. The price of copper rose several times between 2001 and 2007. China uses about 20% of all copper on

the market. Metal structures have been used to build many facilities, including Beijing's National Stadium.

In February 2008, the British Olympic Association announced that it would force its athletes to sign contracts under which they would not make political statements or comment on protests and possible boycotts. The organization's spokesman Graham Newson justified this decision with the ideas of Olympism, not with a desire for censorship. According to the Olympic movement, no political, religious, or ethnic propaganda is allowed during the Olympics.

However, the Chinese government has received support from US President George W. Bush, who has said he will not advocate any protests. He says he sees the Olympics only as a sporting event.

In March 2008, several countries announced that they would not participate in the opening ceremony of the Games. German Chancellor Angela Merkel was the first to do so. She was followed by Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk and Czech President Vaclav Klaus.

On April 10, 2008, the Chinese government announced that an attempt to sabotage the Olympics had been prevented. Separatists from East Turkistan have planned suicide bombings in Chinese cities and numerous kidnappings to end the Olympics. However, the people of this region claim that there is nothing true in this news and that it was invented by the Chinese government. The Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region is a region in China that is populated mainly by Muslims who want to secede from the country and create their independent state. 35 people were reportedly arrested in connection with the attacks.

The Geneva-based human rights organization over its homes says nearly 1.5 million Chinese have been forced to flee their homes during the Olympics. However, the Chinese Olympic Committee and the country's government set that number at 6,037. Some sources report that in May 2005, some 300,000 Chinese were forced to flee their homes, and protesters were arrested. Other sources claim that the number of these people is 15,000.

Environmental problems in Beijing could be a serious obstacle for athletes. The air quality in Beijing and its effect on athletes is controversial. Despite the successful measures taken to reduce harmful emissions by the city government in 2001, studies show that neighboring settlements further pollute the atmosphere. It is estimated that 50% of the air masses come from critically polluted provinces. As of 2008, the air is 2 to 3 times more polluted according to the criteria announced by the World Health Organization. Marco Cardinale of the British Olympic Committee believes that poor air quality could make it difficult to breathe and raise the temperature, and it would follow that the achievements of athletes would not be very high. To reduce this risk, the city government removed 60,000 local taxis and buses from the outskirts of the village and relocated a total of 200 factories. To check the situation in the city, the IOC is conducting a series of studies, which show that there would be a risk only for competitions that take place outdoors for more than an hour.

The XXX Summer Olympics are being held in London, England, from July 27 to August 12, 2012. These are the third Olympic Games to be held in London. The other cities that have applied to host are Paris, Madrid, New York, and Moscow.

The athletes with the most medals from the Olympics are Michael Phelps with six (four of them gold) and Missy Franklin, Alison Schmidt, Ryan Lockett, and Alicia Coates with five (four, three, two, and one gold respectively). They are all swimmers, and traditionally in their sport, athletes receive the most medals.

During the games, 27 world records were improved in seven sports - swimming (8), weightlifting (5), cycling and athletics (4 each), sport shooting (3), archery (2), and rowing (1). .

Choosing a host

The selection of London as the host city took place at the IOC session on 5 July 2005 in Singapore. London's candidacy defeated Paris, Madrid, New York, and Moscow. One year before the session, the IOC rejected applications from Leipzig, Rio de Janeiro, Istanbul, and Havana for failing to host an Olympics.

For the first time, the same logo will be used for the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The competitions are held at 31 sports facilities, which are divided into five zones - the Olympic Zone, which extends into the Queen Victoria Olympic Park in Stratford, the area around the River Thames, the central zone, outside Greater London, and football stadiums.

The Games are attended by athletes from 204 countries, as well as non-state athletes competing under the Olympic flag (such as athletes from South Sudan and the Netherlands Antilles, who do not yet have national Olympic committees at the time of the Olympics).

These are the first Olympic Games in which at least one woman from each participating country has been nominated. Bhutan and Chad participate only with women.

Grenada won its first gold medal at the Summer Olympics and became the smallest country to win one in the history of the Games.

Sports

Before these Olympic Games, the IOC removed baseball and softball from the Olympic program.

Women's boxing has been added. The final of the women's football tournament was watched by the record for women's football tournament over 80,000 spectators.

The opening ceremony begins at 20:12 on 27 July 2012 and takes place at London's Olympic Stadium. Named "Island of Wonders", it includes scenes from the Middle Ages in England, the Industrial Revolution, and quotes from William Shakespeare. It lasts three hours, involves 15,000 volunteers, and is watched by about four billion people. Organizing it costs 36m euros. The "Parade of Nations" from the previous Olympics has been replaced by the "Parade of Athletes". To shorten the ceremony, not all competitors participate in it. It is traditionally discovered by Greece.

The closing ceremony lasted three hours and included some of Britain's most famous pop singers from previous decades. During the ceremonial part of the show, the Olympic flag was handed over by the Mayor of London to the Mayor of Rio de Janeiro and the Olympic flame was extinguished.

The Olympic Games were attended by a record 7.4 million people with 11 million tickets printed. The Olympics were watched by about 4.8 billion spectators.

Criticism

After the second day of the Olympics, two athletes were caught on doping, and confirmation of the second test is expected for the third. Three more athletes were later eliminated, including three-time world hammer-throwing champion Ivan Tsikhan of Belarus. The winner of the shot put, Nadezhda Ostapchuk, lost her title after being accused of doping.

Although all tickets are sold out, many competitions are not held in front of full stands.

The balance of the Olympics is that it is impressive despite suspicions of doping and commercialization.

XXXI Summer Olympic Games are held from 5 to 21 August 2016 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. These are the first Olympic Games held in South America. The games cost \$ 12.8 billion, of which \$ 2.236 billion is for facility construction.

Choosing a host

The host city was elected on 2 October 2009 during the 121st session of the IOC in Copenhagen, Denmark. The other candidates for the household are Madrid, Tokyo, and Chicago.

New sports

Before the games, there are two vacancies for new sports and initially, seven sports associations are applied to include their sports in the program of the 2016 games. Baseball and softball, which were excluded from the program in 2005, as well as karate, squash, golf, rollerblading, and rugby, are the suggested sports. The leaders of the seven sports presented their sports to the IOC Executive Board in June 2009.

In August, the Executive Board approved a majority of rugby 7 (a seven-player version of rugby), thus removing baseball, rollerblading, and squash from the competition. Among the remaining three - golf, karate, and softball, the council approved the golf as a result of a consultation. The final decision on the two sports was taken on 9 October 2009, the last day of the 121st session of the IOC. The decision was made under a new system; the approval of a sport now requires a simple majority of the full IOC committee instead of the two-thirds majority required until then. The IOC announced in January 2013 that it would check the status of cycling competitions following Lance Armstrong's confession about the use of performance-enhancing drugs and allegations that the cycling governing body had concealed doping.

Doping scandals

On November 15, 2015, the Russian track and field team was removed from all athletics competitions by the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) due to a report by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) on organized doping in the country. On July 18, 2016, an independent WADA investigation announced that the Russian Ministry of Sports and the country's Federal Security Service had pursued a policy of "state-sponsored" doping of their athletes and concealment of traces and positive samples. Due to this revelation, the IOC organized an emergency meeting to discuss whether to exclude the country from the Olympics. The IOC has spoken out against the country's total exclusion from the Games but has set new and stricter requirements for all Russian athletes at the Olympics. As of August 1, 2016, of all 387 Russian athletes with participation quotas, at least 117 have been eliminated due to doping. Many of Russia's political and sports elites define punishment as politically motivated.

At the same time, days before the visit to the United States of Russian and Austrian microbiologists to check the samples of American athletes, it turned out that the fault of the cleaning company in the US laboratories damaged all samples of American Olympians for the period 1996-2016. 30,000 samples were inadvertently destroyed, for which the US Anti-Doping Commission will hold the cleaning company accountable.

The XXXII Summer Olympics were to be held in the Japanese capital, Tokyo, in 2020. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, IOC President Thomas Bach agreed to postpone the Games by one year. Tokyo is hosting the Summer Olympics for the second time since the XVIII Summer Olympics in 1964.

The games feature the addition of 4 new Olympic sports - karate, sport climbing, surfing, and skateboarding, as well as three new disciplines in existing sports - 3x3 basketball, freestyle BMX, and relay cycling. He debuted at the Tokyo Olympics as an Olympic discipline and a 4 x 400 mixed cupboard, in which two men and two women took part.

In March 2021, the organizers announced that the Tokyo Olympics would be free of international audiences and only Japanese would be allowed. The reason is the COVID-19 pandemic.

The XXXIII Summer Olympics will be held in 2024 in Paris, France. The sports of baseball, softball, and karate are dropped from the Olympic program at the expense of breakdance, which will make its debut.

LITERATURE AND SOURCES

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