



SÉOUL 1988



Mr. Rob Tae-Woo, President of the Seoul Olympic Organising Committee (SLOOC), stated, during a television appearance, that the private sector would make a contribution of 720 million dollars for the construction of an athletes village and a press office. He added that the SLOOC would need a further 880 million dollars for the construction of various sports complexes.

Sport and town-planning in Seoul

Seoul, the fourth largest capital in the world with its nine million inhabitants, is the second town in Asia to be awarded the staging of the Games of an Olympiad. Situated at an altitude of 280 ft in the heart of the Korean peninsula, Seoul, founded in 1394, reflects the vestiges of a brilliant past in a modern setting of elegant skyscrapers.

The real growth of the town began in the 60's, at a time when Korea initiated a series of plans designed to speed up industrialisation. The ultra-modern development of the city was a result of this economic upsurge.

At the present moment, the overall town-planning scheme has two main objectives: control over the urban setting -the size of the population and the increase in foreign trade call for an expansion of public and private services - and the preparation of the Games of the XXIVth Olympiad in 1988.

The prospect of this sports festival, preceded in 1986 by the Asian Games, a large-scale regional rehearsal, called for the multiplication of existing sports facilities and the construction of a sports complex, the whole being capable of receiving over four hundred thousand spectators (two hundred thousand for the complex alone).

A huge sports domain

Today, almost the whole of this sports centre, situated on the south-east outskirts of the capital on a huge flat area of some 5,864,000 square feet, on the south bank of the river Han, is already advanced enough to stage competitions.

The sports installations are very varied in an ideal environment. The complex comprises a covered swimming pool, gymnasiums, stadiums for different sports and a school for athletes.

In drawing up the plans for this city of sport, the architects obviously aimed at an elegance that appeals to the eye.

Beneath an immense shell in profiled steel of a Pacific turtle, the swimming pool combines a main pool measuring the regulation 50 x 25 m and a smaller pool for water-polo and aquatic ballets. When not used for competitions, these pools are open for use by students. The two gymnasiums each have their own function ; the smallest, with its roof in the shape of an inverted hull somewhat similar to that of the Olympic swimming pool in Tokyo, is mainly reserved for pupils of the school for athletes, and it is here that the Olympic boxing matches will be held in 1988. The big gymnasium, shaped like a discus, has a ground area of 277,600 square feet and can hold 20,000 spectators. It has already been used, in 1979, for the VIIIth Women's Basketball World Championships ; it is also equipped for handball, volleyball and table tennis matches. It has two training halls and a lecture hall.

Situated to the south-west of the park, the baseball stadium is typically Korean in appearance, its shape being that of a traditional Korean drum.

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The Olympic stadium

In addition to these facilities, which have been in use for several years now, the main stadium, the most important part of the overall project, is nearing completion. The simplicity and pure white of its exterior curves are intended to recall the traditional porcelain of the Yi dynasty. The grassed area covers 995,300 square feet and the stands can seat over 200,000 spectators. The inauguration, in the presence of the SLOOC President, Mr. Tae Woo Roh, and the Vice-Presidents, Mr. Sang-Ho Cho, Bo Hyun Yum and Ju Yung Chung, and government officials, is scheduled for the

end of September. At the end of the year therefore, athletics and equestrian meetings will be able to be staged in this stadium, as well as, of course, football matches.

Here too will be held the opening and closing ceremonies of the Olympic Games in 1988.

In the overall project, other facilities are planned, as well as many playing fields and different sports halls.

We shall be speaking of them in due course.

The Seoul Sports Complex



1. The baseball stadium - 2. The main stadium under construction - 3. The main gymnasium - 4. The swimming pool - 5. The athletics school - 6. The secondary gymnasium.

