



PREPARATIONS WELL UNDERWAY FOR XXIV OLYMPIAD IN SEOUL

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The Seoul Olympic Organising Committee - SLOOC - reports that preparations are well underway and progressing smoothly for the 1988 Summer Olympic Games. Most of the new facilities under construction will be completed in 1986 when the capital of the Republic of Korea hosts that year's Asian Games. Existing facilities - 22 stadiums, gymnasiums and athletic fields - will all be refurbished and expanded well in advance of the XXIVth Olympiad.

At the new Seoul Sports Complex, a main stadium holding 100,000 spectators was already inaugurated on Sept. 29. Joining SLOOC President Roh Tae-Woo for the ceremonies were world sports leaders including Juan Antonio Samaranch, President of the International Olympic Committee, Director Monique Berlioux, Primo Nebiolo, President of the International Amateur Athletic Federa-

tion, and Mario Vazquez Raña. President of the Association of National Olympic Committees. The stadium will be the site of the opening and closing ceremonies in 1988, the track and field events and football. Other facilities within the Complex - less than 30 minutes' journey from the centre of Seoul by subway or freeway - will include an indoor stadium for volleyball, an indoor pool for the swimming, diving and synchronised swimming competitions, and a student gymnasium for the boxing and other indoor events. The Complex covers a total area of 545,000 square metres and will provide seating for more than 200,000 people.

Organisers confidently predict trouble-free movement out to the Complex and another new National Sports Complex just four kilometres to the east. Subway lines, some already operational and the others near completion, will move 180,000

persons hourly into and out of the Games area. Fast freeways will further provide easy surface movement by bus, taxi and private automobile.

The National Sports Complex, scheduled for completion in 1986, covers an area of 2.9 million square metres. It will include a velodrome taking 6,000 spectators, three gymnasiums with a combined capacity of 26,000 for the gymnastics, fencing and weightlifting events, and a 10,000 - capacity swimming pool arena.

The Athletes' Village and the Press Village will also be at the National Sports Complex. Apartments, to be later sold for private occupancy, will accommodate two athletes per room in the Athletes' Village and one journalist per room in the Press Village. The main press centre will be located in the same area with subsidiary pressrooms at all other sites. A new International Broadcasting Centre is being built by the Korean Broadcasting System near its existing studios on Yo-i Do, the island on the Han River which runs through Seoul. Hotel accommodation for some television and radio media representatives will be provided near the IBC.

Anxious to avoid expensive and wasteful over-building, the SLOOC insists on maximum use of existing facilities in and around the city. These will include the Changchoong gymnasium in eastern Seoul, with seating capacity of 8,000, to be the basketball venue, and the close by Seoul Municipal Stadium, seating 30,000, to be used for soccer and for track and field training. Shooting events will take place at the fully-equipped firing range at Taenung in northeastern Seoul and the archery competition will be held at the adjacent Hwarang Archery Field. Judo events will be at a new Judo School in Yongin, and the handball competition at a new centre in the provincial town of Suwon.

Seoul National University is getting a new gymnasium which will be the site of the table tennis competition while the Suwon Campus of Kyunghee University is to have brand-new tennis facilities - both table tennis and tennis being featured as new Olympic events for the first time in 1988. An equestrian arena will be in the suburbs, rowing will be on the Han River, and yachting at Pusan.

SLOOC has tentatively set the XXIVth Summer Games for 16 days in September and early October, 1988. It expects 12,000 athletes and officials, 5,000 organisational personnel and an 11,000-strong media corps. Foreign tourists are anticipated at 200,000 with an additional 150,000 Koreans who live abroad. While the Athletes' and Press Villages

will accommodate 20,000, Seoul presently has 52 international-grade hotels with a total of 12,000 rooms, all within 10 kilometers of the city centre. A further 4,000 rooms are being added, while any overflow will be accommodated in college dormitories, new but as yet unoccupied apartments, and private homes.

The organisers expect competitors from 152 countries; there will be 23 sports and some 223 Gold Medals at stake.

As for cost, the SLOOC puts at 2.28 billion US dollars the necessary outlay on new facilities, renovation of existing facilities and other related public projects. This is being financed by the government, local authorities, business donations, individual contributions and revenue from the Games themselves. "The economic goal," SLOOC says, "is to break even in expenses". Additional income will be derived from Olympic coins, a lottery and licensing arrangements.

Unless the pattern of past decades is broken, the weather should be ideal. Temperatures for September and October in Korea average 20.9° C, or 69.1° F. Rainfall is practically unknown - an average of just five millimetres. This goes for Seoul as well as for Pusan, Korea's largest port city 480 kilometers to the south.

INTRODUCING HODORI THE MASCOT

The tiger, admired for its courage, vigour and nobility, has for time immemorial been a central figure in Korean legends and folk tales. Approved as the official 1988 Summer Olympics mascot by the IOC, a friendly, cuddly tiger cub also met with the overwhelming approval of the Korean people. Out of 2,295 suggested names, the public voted for "Hodori", derived from "ho", which is Korean for tiger, and the masculine diminutive, "dori". Thus, "the little tiger". Hodori wears a "sang mo", the little hat worn in traditional country folk dancing, has a ribbon with the Olympic Rings around his neck, and is encircled by a sweeping "S" representing the city of Seoul.

AND THE OFFICIAL EMBLEM

Selected as the emblem of the XXIVth Olympiad was a modification of the traditional Korean decorative motif known as the "Sam Taegeuk". The basic trifoliate design symbolises the harmony of Man, Heaven and Earth with the Universe. This



basic motif was modified through an added upward spiral to symbolise progress towards world understanding and peace.

SECURITY AND SAFETY

Arrangements are being made to mobilise between 30,000 and 40,000 police and military personnel to protect the Athletes' Village and other sites and facilities. There also will be some 1,700 interpreters who will function as guides for competitors, officials and the media.

Seoul, with a population of more than nine million and the world's fourth largest metropolis, is the second Asian city - after Tokyo - to be chosen to host the Summer Games. Korea also is the second developing country, after Mexico, to receive the honour. Seoul's Kimpo International Airport is being expanded and will by 1988 be able to handle 23,560 passengers daily. It takes some 20 to 25 minutes to travel between the airport and the main sports complexes and around 45 minutes to get downtown. The taxi ride costs some eight US dollars, or half that by shared "call taxi". Hotel rates go up to around 50 dollars daily while meals - Korean and international food - cost from as little as two dollars to fifteen dollars. SLOOC says private

enterprises may offer reduced prices for competitors and officials. The city lies at 85.8 metres above sea level while most of the competition sites are just 10 metres above sea level.

THE SITES

- Rowing and Canoeing will be held on the Han River on a course where the water is some 2.5 metres deep. The course will be 2,500 metres in length.
- Archery will be on a tournament field measuring 350 metres long by 300 metres wide.
- Swimming events planned for new pools at the Seoul and the National Sports Complexes.
- Track and Field will be at the main stadium.
- Cycling events at the new velodrome one kilometre from the Olympic Village with a 333.3 metres long track. There will also be a training track.
- Equestrian events at the new riding centre with an 8-kilometre cross-country course.
- Fencing will be in a 4,800-square-metre hall at the National Sports Complex.
- Football : At the Main Stadium, the Seoul Municipal Stadium and Hyochang Stadium, with four additional stadia for preliminary matches.

- Gymnastics : The planned competition hall at the National Sports Complex will accommodate 15,000 spectators.
- Handball : The preliminaries will be held at the Sun-in Gymnasium (capacity 20,000) and the In-chon Gymnasium (capacity 12,000), with the finals at the new facility of the Seoul Sports Complex.
- Hockey: There are two fields within the Seoul Sports Complex.
- Judo : At the Sogang University athletic complex.
- Shooting : At existing facilities.
- Volleyball : At the Seoul Sports Complex.
- Weightlifting : At the National Sports Complex with the competition hall holding 5,000 spectators.
- Wrestling : At Seo-ae-kwan.
- Yachting : At a new Pusan marina with water depths between 24 and 52 metres, without obstacles. (Pusan is a one-hour flight).

MEDICAL SERVICE

SLOOC is organising free medical treatment for all officials, competitors and media representatives - with the exception of chronic and dental cases. There are 4,660 hospitals and clinics in Seoul with a total capacity of 19,327 beds, although there will be more by 1988.

PRESS, RADIO AND TELEVISION

Telecommunications systems are sophisticated with satellite facilities, electronics witchboards and direct international telephone and telex dialling. Korea uses the NTSC system but there are converters for PAL and SECAM. All events will be video-taped and provided on request. By 1986, there will be 3,000 international telephone lines at the press centre, as well as 3,000 local lines. Lines will be installed between the press centre and all competition sites. Media at the press centre will be able to select different ongoing events on television monitors, results and personal data on athletes will be immediately available on computer printouts and the marathon will be covered by helicopter. The government is guaranteeing duty-free entry and exit for all broadcasting equipment.

KOREA AND ITS PEOPLE

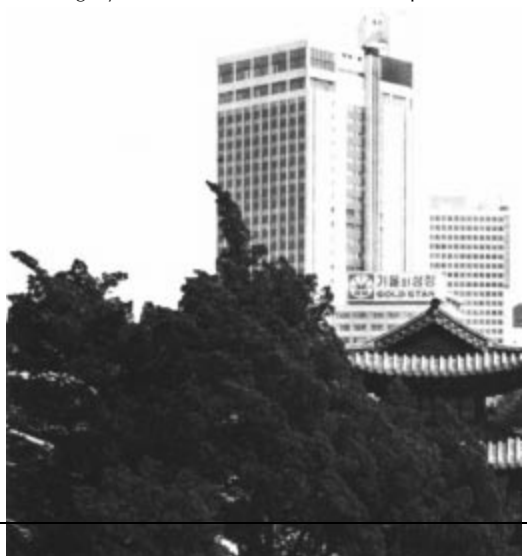
Seoul has for 500 years been the focal point of Korean thought; culture and history after being chosen by King Taejo, founder of the Yi Dynasty (1392 to 1910) as the seat of his throne. The city balances old and new, past and present. Korea, with

5,000 years of history, was known in ancient Chinese records as the "Eastern Land of Courtesy". The people have retained a traditional kindness and hospitality, in particular towards foreigners. Although once known as "The Hermit Kingdom," the Republic of Korea today is a modern nation, fast moving from being a developing to an industrialised country.

Sporting events aside, plans are being drawn up for what the SLOOC calls a "cultural Olympics". A "Master Plan" calls for no less than 50 artistic performances highlighting the history of Korea. These will include symphony concerts, a folk arts festival, lantern parades, firework displays, and modern and traditional dance and theatre. Seoul is the home of most of Korea's cultural institutions including the National Museum, National Folk Art Museum, Modern Art Museum and the National Classical Music Institute. There are 15 performing arts facilities, the most famous being the Sejong Cultural Centre in the heart of Seoul with a stage holding as many as 500 performers.

FOOD

While international cuisine is easily available, there has been no change in traditional cuisine. Koreans love their food and most of them eat three hearty meals a day. Steamed rice (the Korean equivalent of bread) is served with vegetable and meat dishes, with the best-known vegetable dish being Kimch'i - a highly- seasoned and fermented pickle of



cabbage, turnip or cucumber. Soups are almost always served and are based on meat, vegetables - or seaweed. Beef, pork and fish usually are grilled over charcoal. Pulgogi, or marinated beef thinly sliced and charcoal-grilled, is Korea's best-known meat dish. Meat and vegetables placed in thin pancakes - by chopstick - comprise a popular first course. "A majestic view has no charm when the table is bare", says a Korean proverb. Koreans heed the warning.

Seoul, today, is a metropolis of nine million people, a thriving city combining the old and new, Oriental and Western, beauty with utility. Ancient royal palaces now are public parks and museums while gleaming skyscrapers point to the future.

Sport has a long tradition in Korea and an ancient form of wrestling called "ssirum" is still practiced at harvest and other festivals, as well as tug-of-war competitions and bull-fighting - without harm to the bull. Today, soccer is the most popular national sport although there is also wide interest in boxing, judo, shooting, archery, basketball, athletics and especially table-tennis.

Korea's first appearance at the Olympic Games was indirect, when Kitei Chung Son won the gold medal in the marathon at the Berlin Games in 1936. But because Korea was under Japanese occupation at that time, the medal went officially to Japan. Korea was at the 1948 Games in London, participating for the first time under her own name and flag. By 1976, in Montreal, Korean athletes had improved to the extent of taking one gold, one silver and four bronze medals, with Korea ranking 19th overall out of some 100 participating nations.

J. C.

