

## Qingdao Facility Propels China's Sailing Prospects

Olympic sailing concludes, but the 2008 Olympic Games could mark the beginning of a wave of development for the sport in China.

The legacy of the Qingdao Olympic Sailing Centre, 500 km south of Beijing on Fushan Bay, is a physical example of the potential.

At a cost reaching nearly \$500 million, a marina and infrastructure now stand on the site of an aging shipyard. Not quite as extensive as Barcelona's 1992 waterfront makeover, Qingdao still has managed to transform an industrial eyesore in a city of nearly eight million.

Spectators by the hundreds of thousands watched from the 500-meter promenade atop a breakwater. Athletes and officials praised the venue.

"It's fantastic," said wind surfer Barbara Kendall of New Zealand. "Wind aside, the facilities are awesome," the five-time Olympian told Around the Rings. "The village is amazing; it's the best one so far."

"This is the best sailing venue we've ever had," said Jerome Pels of the International Sailing Federation, competition manager in Qingdao.

IOC President Jacques Rogge added to the best-ever comments during his visit to Qingdao. As a sailor for Belgium, he competed at multiple Olympic Games, beginning with Mexico City 1968.

Also studying the venue was Jane Pearce, the new media operations chief for London 2012. Sailing will



Barbara Kendall of New Zealand competes in the Women's RS:X class medal race held in Qingdao. / Getty Images

be held away from London, at Weymouth, about an hour south.

One consistent knock against Qingdao: unreliable, often light winds. "I really have to say the sailing hasn't been at its best because of the weather," said Kendall, who finished fifth.

"We knew we would have days when we couldn't sail," Pels said.

Additionally, Pels said the ISAF worried about a recurrence of the massive algae bloom that choked the course in June. He credits an "amazing job" by Qingdao officials, who organized an armada of small craft to clear the bay of algae.

Prospects for the development of sailing in China received another boost Wednesday when Yin Jian, 29, claimed the country's first gold medal in the sport in women's windsurfing.

- Ed Hula

View full story at [www.aroundtherings.com](http://www.aroundtherings.com)

## Record Votes Cast in Athletes' Commission Election

Athletes voted in record numbers to elect four fellow Olympians onto the IOC Athletes' Commission. A Korean martial arts athlete collected the most votes in a race for IOC membership among 30 candidates.

The winning candidates - Korean Moon Dae-Sung (taekwondo, 3,220 votes), Russian Alexander Popov (aquatic sports, 1,903 votes), German Claudia Bokel (fencing, 1,836 votes) and Cuban Yumilka Ruiz Cluaces (volleyball, 1,572 votes) - were announced in the Olympic Village by IOC member and chair of the election committee, Anita DeFrantz.

### IOC UPDATE

The election recorded 7,830 votes, representing a record 71.6 percent turnout, while nearly eight percent of votes were invalid due to being filled out incorrectly.

DeFrantz said she is extremely pleased so many athletes voted.

"It's a great day that more than 71 percent actually voted in this election," she told Around the Rings.

"I think the world knows just how important it is to have an athlete elected to the Athletes Commission. They work very hard, serve eight years and it's really an important position."

Popov, the Russian swimming legend, told Around the Rings it was a difficult campaign and said he received strong support from fellow swimming athletes.

"I tried to play by the rules; my own rules," Popov remarked.

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## 全世界同处一方 分享同一梦想

全世界各民族参加一个和平竞赛，庆祝我们拥有一个美好并充满青春活力的世界。这次，巴西有史以来最大的奥运代表团热切希望能亲身感受奥林匹克的价值，并且荣幸地期待上百万的巴西体育爱好者的支持。

里约2016年奥运申办委员会、巴西奥委会衷心祝贺中国人民和北京奥运组委会出色地准备了2008北京奥运会，让205个国家奥委会的一万多个运动员梦想成真。

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The Rio 2016 Bid Committee and the Brazilian Olympic Committee would like to congratulate the Chinese people and the Beijing Organizing Committee for the excellent preparation of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, which will make the dreams of over 10,000 athletes from 205 National Olympic Committees come true.



# Event of the Day: Beach Volleyball Shines In the Rain

Beach weather is not a prerequisite for beach volleyball. The sun never made an appearance during a downpour that soaked the women's Olympic final Thursday.

Still, spectators draped in ponchos filled nearly every seat in the 12,200-seat Chaoyang Park Beach Volleyball Ground. The loudspeaker blared the Pointer Sister's "It's Raining Men" and Rihanna's "Umbrella," and other wet and wild music as the constant rain failed to dampen any spirits in the enthusiastic crowd.



Poncho-clad spectators sit out the rainy final. (ATR)

"I think this is just another reason why we play in bathing suits," U.S. gold medalist Misty May-Treanor observed. "I think it's harder being a fan sitting out in the rain than a player."

Sun-drenched or rain-drenched, the show must go on.

And beach volleyball is definitely a show. May-Treanor and Kerri Walsh's victory over China's Wang Jie and Tian Jia was the main event, but it competed for attention with music, bikini-clad dancers and even a break-dancing public address announcer from the AVP Tour who flopped across the sand like a centipede.

"We have such great entertainers working with us to get the crowd involved in the match," veteran player Sinjin Smith, president of the FIVB World Beach Volleyball Council, emphasized to Around the Rings.

"We want them to interact, to keep their energy high. And that helps the game."

The presentation at beach volleyball events is so polished that an Argentine player said you could forget you were in China. The vibe looked and sounded like a tournament in San Diego, except for the constant chants of "jiayou!" the Chinese version of "Let's go!"

Smith added that the special disc jockey knows which songs to use to fire the crowd up.

"It's something we've been doing for several years on the world tour," Smith remarked. "It's not like we're experimenting. We know it works."

During Thursday's showers, some members of the crowd clapped thunder sticks to cheer on the players. Thankfully there was no lightning, which allowed the players to perform in a safe, but wet, environment.

"The rain is not the ideal condition to play under," Smith admitted, "but it was great, exciting volleyball and the crowd loved it, too."

"I think people would have been disappointed if we didn't play. They're here to watch. They bought their ticket. When does the rain stop? We don't know. So the players can play. It's not dangerous for them. The sand is of the quality that the water goes through. The sand still moves around."

The rain eventually took a backseat to the reign of May-Treanor and Walsh. The most dominant women's team in the world, they defended their Olympic title. They haven't lost since Aug. 19, 2007, and have now won 108 straight matches.

The rain was initially considered an equalizer between the U.S. team and the Chinese. It makes the ball heavier and has to be wiped off between points. It also makes the sand clumpy and harder, which was thought to favor the Chinese.

But May-Treanor and Walsh needed just 42 minutes to storm to a 21-18, 21-18 victory. China captured the bronze medal which marked its first two beach volleyball Olympic medals.

Zhang Xi, who won the bronze with Chinese teammate Xue Chen, stated the rain affected her performance. "I couldn't really stretch out my body in the rain and I didn't feel comfortable, especially with my back injury."

The U.S. team, however, had no trouble spiking in the rain.

"This is the steadiest, hardest rain we've ever played in," Walsh stated.

Her partner added that most rainstorms sprinkle and stop, and aren't continuous like this one.



FIVB beach volleyball council president Sinjin Smith says the rain could not dampen an exciting match. (ATR)

"Definitely, you don't want to look up too much," May-Treanor explained. "Otherwise, you lose the ball because rain's dropping in your eyes. It makes it fun."

Fun is what beach volleyball is all about. The sport started on Southern California beaches and quickly earned acceptance in the international sporting community. It joined the Olympic program in 1996 in Atlanta, where it was played on a specially-constructed "beach" in land-locked Jonesboro, Ga. Chaoyang Park is also land-locked.

The 2000 Olympic competition was held at famed Bondi Beach while the 2004 event was in Faliro, Greece.

"Now we know that you can play beach volleyball off the beach," Smith recalled. "Our World Championships last year was in Gstaad, Switzerland, in the mountains, and it was an absolutely incredible event with 10,000 people coming throughout."

Smith also added that the Chaoyang facility will stay, along with the training courts, so the Chinese can use it for clinics, development and tournaments.

"After each Olympic Games, there seems to be a big surge in the sport worldwide," he stated. "Our

- ATR Staff

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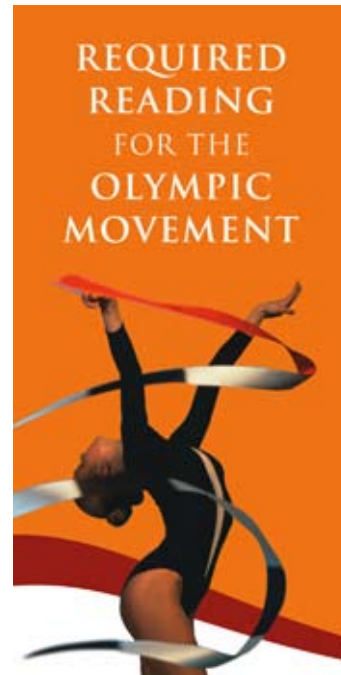
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## Main Press Centre

- **10 a.m.** – Vancouver 2010 executives led by CEO John Furlong hold a press conference to discuss lessons learned in Beijing. MPC Room 2.
- **11 a.m.** – Major softball announcement by federation president Don Porter and other leaders and athletes from the sport. Chrysanthemum Room.
- **11:15 a.m.** – Daily IOC/BOCOG press briefing
- **2 p.m.** – Press conference on the Paralympic Games torch relay. Room 4.

## Quote of the Day

*"I think he should show more respect, shake hands, give a tap on the shoulder to the other ones. Not making gestures like the one he made. He still has to mature."*

– IOC President **Jacques Rogge** questioning 100m champ Usain Bolt's sportsmanship when the Jamaican celebrated his victory before finishing the race.



## Beijing International Media Center

[www.2008bimc.cn](http://www.2008bimc.cn)

- **10 a.m.** – Registration deadline: 1:30 p.m. media trip to headquarters of Sohu.com where CEO Zhang Chaoyang will take questions; 2 p.m. visit to Tibetan Buddhist Lama temple in Beijing.
- **10:30 a.m.** – Tea ceremony performance. Hall 2.
- **2 p.m.** – State forestry commission official Wei Diansheng discusses urban forest development in China. Hall 1.
- **2:30 p.m.** – Government leaders from the city of Shenzhen talk about growth in the city's Special Economic Zone over the last three decades. Hall 2.
- **4:30 p.m.** – Movie: "Huayao Bride in Shangri-La".

## Coming Up!

- **Aug. 23, 8 a.m.** – ATR Newsmaker Breakfast. First-ever joint appearance by the four 2016 bid cities. Leaders from Chicago, Madrid, Rio de Janeiro and Tokyo discuss strengths their cities offer, what makes them suitable. Venue: McDonald's, Olympic Green, north end.

# 2008 Medal Projections

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total		Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
<b>China</b>	51	17	34	102	<b>Spain</b>	7	5	6	18
<b>U.S.</b>	46	29	30	105	<b>Netherlands</b>	6	4	6	16
<b>Russia</b>	26	25	26	77	<b>Ukraine</b>	5	8	10	23
<b>Great Britain</b>	20	14	17	51	<b>Jamaica</b>	4	7	1	12
<b>Germany</b>	18	10	20	48	<b>Kenya</b>	4	6	3	13
<b>Korea</b>	10	11	10	31	<b>Czech Republic</b>	4	4	2	10
<b>Italy</b>	9	11	13	33	<b>Romania</b>	4	3	3	10
<b>Australia</b>	8	14	14	36	<b>Cuba</b>	3	10	4	17
<b>Japan</b>	8	9	16	33	<b>Poland</b>	3	9	3	15
<b>France</b>	7	16	15	38	<b>Canada</b>	3	8	5	15

Based on results in recent World Championships. Projections are by Luciano Barra, former director of sport for the Italian Olympic Committee (CONI), and deputy CEO of TOROC 2006. Barra has been projecting medal counts for 10 years by analyzing past performances.

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# Last Days of Baseball? Schiller is Lobbying IOC Members in Beijing

Finalists will be decided Friday at Wukesong Sports Centre Baseball Field for what could be the last gold medal awarded in Olympic baseball.

Fourth-ranked Japan meets top-ranked South Korea at 10:30 a.m. Third-seed U.S. faces archrival Cuba the winners play Saturday.

The U.S. beat Japan in a Wednesday night thriller. The U.S. had four runs in the 11th inning in a 4-2 win.

NBC President and CEO Jeff Zucker and Mizuno Corporation President Akito Mizuno threw the ceremonial first pitches while NBC Olympics anchor Bob Costas umpired the pre-game proceedings.

Wukesong's baseball field won't be around for long after the Games. The baseball complex is set to be disassembled, and baseball will vanish as an Olympic sport.

A lack of marquee players released for the Olympics by ML teams is the prime reason why baseball won't be back for London 2012.

The sport debuted at Barcelona 1992,



The Wukesong Sports Centre Baseball Field will be disassembled after the Games. / Getty Images

but the IOC deleted it from the post-Beijing Games menu at the Singapore 2005 IOC Session. IBF President Harvey Schiller is in Beijing, lobbying IOC members to reinstate the sport when they meet in Copenhagen in October 2009.

"It's going to be a tough one to get

baseball back to the Olympics," said Canadian coach Terry Puhl, a 14-year outfielder for three big league U.S. teams. "They've tried everything to get the best players available. I just don't see the owners of Major League Baseball shutting down their season and losing a lot of revenues."

- Bob Mackin

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# On the Scene in Beijing: Uncertain Future for Games Venues

The fate of Olympic venues beyond 2008 poses a major challenge for Beijing authorities in their quest to deliver a sustainable Games legacy.

That was clear at a Thursday press briefing when the city's economic and legacy experts appeared at a loss to explain in detail how venues such as the 91,000-seat Bird's Nest Stadium and Water Cube will be used in coming years.

They said sporting, cultural and entertainment events would occupy Games' 31 venues, but there was no indication of a concrete business plan, or details on management and maintenance costs.

Du Wei, vice president of the Beijing Olympic Economy Research Association, said post-Games utilization of venues were considered in design and planning stages, although he failed to present details.

"We cannot expect in the short term that all the investment will be recouped right away; that was what actually happened to many other [host] cities," he said.

Du insisted BOCOG and city authorities provided a comprehensive set of facilities to stage sport and other activities on the Olympic Green after the Games have left town. Temporary Olympic venues would be revamped for new uses, he said.

Pointing to the dramatic growth in sports participation in Beijing since the city was awarded the Games – now at 50 percent of the population – Du said "these venues will probably be used quite well and the utilization rate will be quite high."

But he was unable to answer questions about costs to the government.

Earlier Wang Hui, BOCOG's director of communications, said the Games would open China to a "large amount of talented people" which would help promote economic development.

By the end of 2008, the per capita GDP of Beijing is expected to increase to \$8,000, more than double the figure of 2001.



German Football Association President Theo Zwanziger and FIFA President Sepp Blatter. / Getty Images

## Sneak Peek at 2012 in Beijing

London mayor Boris Johnson says he is "blown away but not intimidated" by Beijing's staging of the Olympics, insisting the British capital can do as well.

"With our native wit, our gift for pageantry, our fantastic ingenuity, I think it is possible that in London we will produce a truly fantastic opening ceremony and fantastic Olympic Games," Johnson said Thursday.

He said London's eight-minute handover event at the Beijing closing ceremony Sunday would provide "a foretaste" of what might be to come in London's opening ceremony.

And he confirmed that London organizers were seeking to bear down on costs without reducing the long-term value to London taxpayers, who are helping fund the Games.



London Mayor Boris Johnson. / Getty Images

"I still think we can produce a fantastic show without wasting taxpayers' money," he said.

Johnson will receive the Olympic flag from the Mayor of Beijing on Sunday.

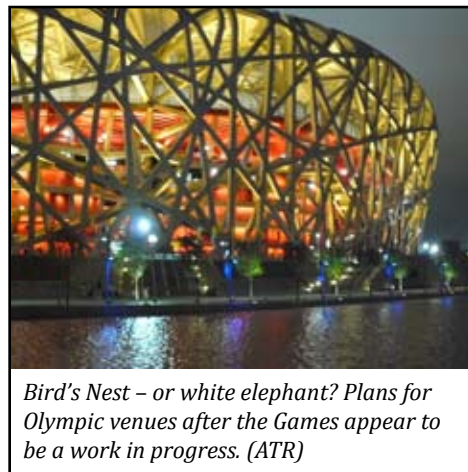
## Olympic Sponsors Satisfied with Coverage

Media accounts of China's failure to deliver on some of its pre-Games promises concerning human rights issues and curbs on media freedoms have made headlines around the world.

But IOC director of television and marketing services Timo Lumme said the IOC and its 12 worldwide sponsors have not been damaged.

"That view is corroborated by my client stakeholders, the sponsor corporations and the broadcasters," Lumme told reporters. "They are very happy and firmly believe the Olympic Games is about great sport and the focus is quite rightly on that."

The IOC's Director of Communications Giselle Davies said marketing surveys suggest there was



Bird's Nest – or white elephant? Plans for Olympic venues after the Games appear to be a work in progress. (ATR)

no detrimental impact on the IOC's image or that of its Olympic partners.

A Human Rights Watch report this week called for Olympic sponsors to urge the IOC to formally monitor human rights abuses in future host countries.

## Blatter Happy with Football Competition

FIFA President Sepp Blatter hailed the success of the Olympic football tournament, praising BOCOG and high standards of play and refereeing.

The football competition has set a new attendance record at an Olympics. By the end of the men's final Saturday, more than two million spectators will have watched matches at Games venues.

With a few exceptions, Blatter said "all the matches have been very attractive matches and they have produced good technical and tactical skill."

"The organization of the Olympics will give an impact in development of football (in China)," he said.

After the Games, football's governing body will engage the IOC in talks about limiting the competition only to under-23 players, ruling out the current system of allowing three "overage" players.

## Where's Jacques?

IOC President Jacques Rogge visited Beijing Science and Technology University Gymnasium to take in taekwondo and also attended the women's football final at Workers' Stadium.

## Beijing by the Numbers

Broadcast coverage of the Beijing Games is reaching some 4.5 billion people worldwide via TV and online. About 5,000 hours of coverage is provided by the IOC's broadcast rights holders in 220 countries and territories. In China, more than 102 million have watched live online broadcasts of the Games, with another 146 million watching video on demand.

- Mark Bisson

# Bidding in Beijing: *Pele to Campaign for Rio 2016*

Rio de Janeiro turns to superstar Pele in the city's international campaign for the 2016 Olympics.

Pele appeared at his first press conference on behalf of the Rio de Janeiro bid, which he promised would not be his last.

"I'm going to be available to attend what they need," said Pele, adding that discussions are underway to determine how he can be best used for the bid.

Pele, considered one of the greatest footballers to play the game, never competed in the Olympics across his nearly 20-year career. Professional players were excluded from the Olympic tournament when he would have competed, he explained.

Now 67, Pele serves as an ambassador of sport for Brazil and is active with FIFA. He also spent some time as minister of sport for Brazil.

Pele said the IOC should favor Rio de Janeiro for the impact the Games would have on South America.

"These would be Games for all of Latin America," he stated. "They are important for the youth of Latin America, to inspire them with the first Games of South America."

Pele drew from his experiences with FIFA as it sought to bring the World Cup to Asia and the U.S. for the first time.

"Now it is time to bring the Olympics to Brazil for the first time," he remarked.

Pele appeared at the briefing with another athlete ambassador of the Rio de



*Pele, 67, says he plans to campaign actively for Rio de Janeiro. (ATR)*

Janeiro bid, basketball player Janeth Arcain, member of the Brazil team that won a world championship.

Also on hand were Brazilian Olympic Committee President Carlos Nuzman and secretary general Carlos Roberto Osorio, both of whom mentioned the importance of bringing the Games to South America for the first time, a point that is clearly becoming a refrain for the campaign.

The press conference Thursday at Brazil House in Beijing attracted about 100 journalists, most of them lured by the presence of Pele.

- Ed Hula



## SPORT EVENT DENMARK

### *Hosting Winners*

#### SOME EXAMPLES OF MAJOR SPORTS EVENTS HOSTED IN DENMARK:

World Artistic Gymnastics Championship 2006 (FIG)  
World Orienteering Championship 2006 (IOF)  
World Match Racing Championship for women 2006 (ISAF)  
World Standard Championship 2006 (IDSF)  
World Floorball Championship for women 2007 (IFF)  
World Sailing Farr 40 Championship 2007 (ISAF)

#### SOME EXAMPLES OF UPCOMING MAJOR EVENTS TO BE HOSTED IN DENMARK:

World Taekwondo Championships 2009 (WTF)  
UEFA Congress 2009 (UEFA)  
World Wrestling Championship 2009 (FILA)  
121st Session & XIII Olympic Congress 2009 (IOC)  
World Track Cycling Championship 2010 (UCI)  
World Road Cycling Championship 2011 (UCI)



# IOC Issued Two Reprimands During Campaign

*(continued from cover)*

"I didn't do much in the village, but I did a lot in the swimming pool and everywhere else, so I think the swimming community helped me a lot. Hopefully my history of being an Olympian and a sportsman helped me as well."

The election was conducted over the past 15 days in the Olympic Villages in Beijing, Hong Kong and Qingdao, as well as at the remote football venues.

The IOC issued reprimands during the campaign, one to Bokel for distributing pamphlets where it was not allowed and one to the U.S. Olympic Committee for offering \$50 vouchers, redeemable for goods, to encourage team members to vote for its candidate, U.S. women's football captain Julie Foudy.

Every U.S. team member was eligible to receive a voucher regardless of the election.

Foudy, with 1,451 (7th), trailed fifth placed Belgian tennis star Justine Henin (1,502 votes) and Danish athletics legend Wilson Kipketer (1,456 votes).

"I had a warning," Germany's Bokel said. "I walked around with my sword and I distributed pamphlets and I played computer games in the voting area; I

did. It was actually the first time in a while I had a sword in my hand and I didn't let go."

Bokel's fellow German team member, trampolinist Henrik Stehlik, noted that Bokel has worked hard in Germany as an athletes' representative.

"I am very happy for her, she is a personal friend. She's been working hard," he told *Around the Rings*.

"We will support her work. She always supports athletes with good friendship and attentive engagement and I think it's a great thing she made it."



*Multiple gold medalist Grant Hackett has hope of an IOC appointment. (ATR)*



*IOC member Anita DeFrantz announces the winners. (ATR)*

Australia's unsuccessful candidate, triple Olympic swimmer Grant Hackett, finished ninth in the final vote tally with 1,131 votes.

According to the rules, each of the four winners needed to come from different sports and his rival in the pool, Popov, was easily able to claim representation for swimming.

"It could've been better," Hackett said of the result.

"But Alex is very popular. He's been around for eight years now and obviously he has the notoriety and experience and he's got the backing of the athletes."

But the election result is not the end of Hackett's hopes. Up to seven athletes can also be appointed by the IOC President "to ensure a balance between regions, genders and sports."

None of today's successful candidates are from Oceania. New Zealand's sailing Olympian Barbara Kendall - whose term on the commission is expiring - failed in her bid for re-election, with just 1,058 votes.

**- Anthony Stavrinos**



*Epee silver medalist Claudia Bokel of Germany. (ATR)*

Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) President John Coates says taekwondo competitor Moon had apparently been camping out at the athletes' dining hall for much of the Games, earning his respect.

"The Korean taekwondo guy has been there rain, hail or shine," Coates told the media at the daily AOC media briefing.

"He's put in a sterling effort. He's very interesting. He deserves something. He stops everybody and talks."

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*Newsweek*, October 16, 2006

"THE Comprehensive Olympic Web site"

*Chicago Sun-Times*, November 2007

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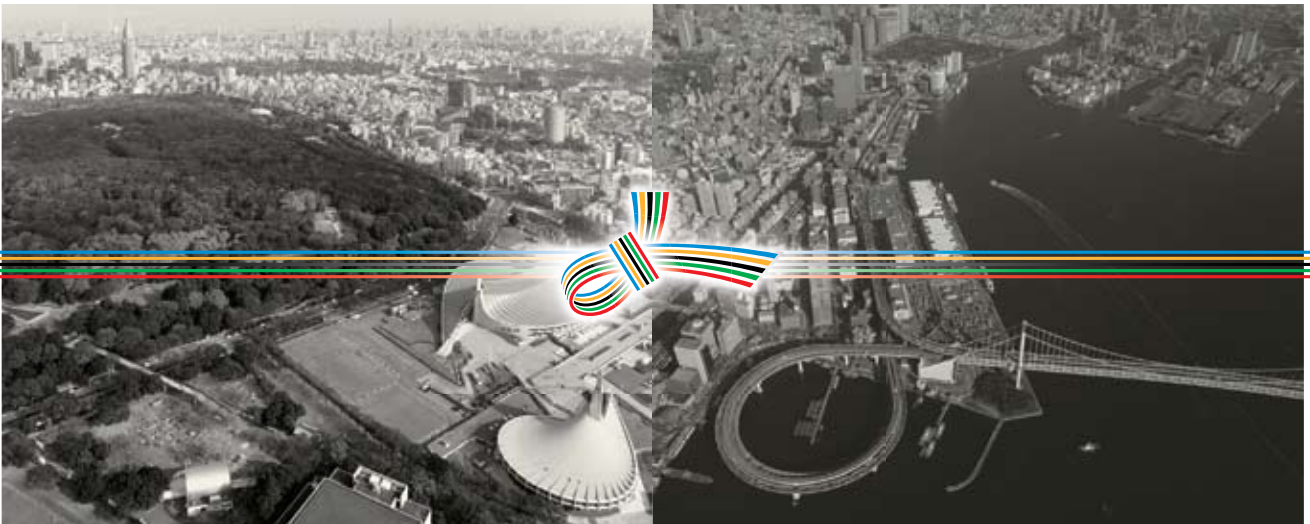
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