

INTRODUCTION

The six themes outlined in this volume will demonstrate that China and Beijing have the political will, administrative capability, legal and juridical authority, economic resources, and environmental commitment to deliver an outstanding Olympic Games. Its aim is to present a clear picture of the basic conditions under which the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing will be organized.

China has been one of the fastest growing countries in the world in the past 20 years. Its GDP in 2000 exceeded US\$ 1 trillion. It enjoys political stability, economic growth and social progress. The living standard of the population has been drastically improved under the impact of economic reform and market opening.

While maintaining its unique cultural heritage, new Beijing is a great metropolis full of vigorous growth and vitality. Profound changes are taking place as the city rapidly modernises. Beijing's economy has been growing at an average annual rate of over 9.5% since the 1990s.

China is eager to absorb and develop the latest technology and the knowledge economy. Information technology is expected to become the number one industry in China by 2010 and knowledge-based, leading edge technology is a driving force in Beijing's economic growth.

The city is a major target of foreign investors. A total of US\$ 16.861 billion of foreign investment has been absorbed by Beijing, which is very open to mutually beneficial cooperation with foreign companies. Beijing's participation in foreign trade has also expanded steadily.

Beijing's fast growth has not only provided a sound economic basis and financial resources for hosting the Olympic Games, but has also created the conditions for their successful financing and marketing.

The major investments which are made annually into the city's infrastructure have greatly improved the road system, telecommunications and environment.

Environmental protection and sustained growth are strategic priorities and basic goals for China and Beijing in the 21st century. The quality of the environment in Beijing and its vicinity has greatly improved due to the sustained efforts of the Government and people. Beijing's investment in environment will amount to US\$ 12.2 billion from 1998 to 2007. At the same time, clean energy has been implemented on an extensive scale; three Green Belts have been built, and the Green Olympics Action Program and the Environment Awareness Program have been implemented.

By 2008, the environmental quality in Beijing will be comparable to that of major cities in developed countries, with clean and fresh air, a beautiful environment, and healthy ecology. Meteorological observations in the area of Beijing in the past 10 years have indicated that July and August are good time to hold the Olympic Games.

China has a sound and effective legal system, fully capable of protecting the rights and interests of the Olympic Movement. Beijing undertakes to abide by the Olympic Charter and the related IOC regulations, to strictly observe the Host City Contract, to protect the rights and interests of the IOC, the IFs and sponsors in China, and to ensure that members of the Olympic Family are able to enter and exit China easily and freely.