

INTRODUCTION

In this volume, we outline in detail the high quality and professional services, critical to efficient and safe Games operations, which Beijing intends to offer in 2008. We also present a rich program including our concept of the Olympic Torch Relay and the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, which is so vital to promoting Olympic values and embracing all Chinese people within the Olympism.

As a consequence of the nation's rapid economic growth, Beijing has experienced significant upgrading and modernisation in the fields of medicine, security, accommodation and communication during the 1990s. This has greatly improved the quality of life for the people as well as given Beijing the capability and confidence to hold major international events efficiently and safely.

Beijing is China's centre for medical and health care, research and teaching. It is a world leader in many medical areas, such as neurology and ophthalmology. Medical and health resources per capita are comparable with those in developed countries. Beijing's emergency service system is well equipped with a swift response capability. First class medical services will be available to all members of the Olympic Family and spectators.

Beijing is one of the safest cities in the world. Its police force is sufficient in number, well trained and well-equipped, and able to react effectively and quickly in the unlikely event of any security threat. Security operations will be carried out efficiently and discreetly under a clear, single chain of command. This will ensure that the Beijing 2008 Games are held in a friendly, orderly and peaceful manner.

Beijing is one of the world's most famous tourist destinations, with numerous first class hotels and conference and exhibition facilities, and is able to provide professional, high quality hospitality services. By 2008, star-grade hotels in Beijing will number 800, and the total number of hotel rooms will reach 130,000. Beijing can fully meet the accommodation requirements and demands of the Olympic Games from the existing hotels and other facilities and will have capacity well in excess of Olympic requirements by 2008.

Beijing is a rapidly growing city and is committed to the completion of extensive road, rail and airport infrastructure works for its long-term growth. This infrastructure expansion has commenced and will be completed well before 2008, providing a solid foundation for successfully meeting the significant challenge of Games transport operations.

Beijing transport agencies will be integrated through a central authority empowered to provide a city-wide and integrated transport plan for the Games. Beijing's plan for the venues will mean that for the vast majority of athletes travel time between competition venues and the Olympic Village will be less than 20 minutes.

Recognizing the crucial role which information and telecommunications systems play in the Olympic Games, Beijing is committed to satisfying all requirements by providing an effective and robust infrastructure, strong financial and human resources, and efficient management and organizational capabilities in the spirit of co-operation.

Close working arrangement will be established with all technology partners to provide the 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Games with world-leading information, timing, judging and result systems. The current rapid growth in the telecommunications and information technology industries in China will be further enhanced by hosting the Games of XXIX Olympiad.

Beijing seeks to provide maximum opportunities for people around the world to share the excitement of the Games by facilitating maximum coverage by broadcasters and the press. The world media will be provided with first class working, living and transportation conditions to ensure fast, efficient and successful coverage of the Games.

There will be no restrictions on journalists in reporting on the Olympic Games.

The Main Press Centre, the International Broadcasting Centre, the Olympic Village, the Media Village, the Main Stadium, the Swimming Centre and 12 other competition venues will all be located in the Olympic Green, ensuring maximum convenience for the accredited media.

The Beijing 2008 Olympic Games present a unique opportunity to harness the spirit of Olympism to the economic dynamism of modern China, with its rich complex of ancient and contemporary culture. New Beijing will be a cultural bridge for the celebration of the human creativity of the peoples of China and the world.

The Olympic Torch Relay will bring the Olympic spirit to the people of China. Beijing intends to give a majority of China's 1.25 billion people the opportunity to experience and celebrate the inspiration of the Olympic Flame.

Beijing's cultural program aims to leave a new generation of Chinese youth inspired by and educated in the three Olympic pillars —sport, culture and environment.