Sporting Asia celebrates
17th Asian Games
With the tagline “Imagine your Korea”, visitors to this magnificent Asian country simply know no boundaries: they are free to discover and perceive various aspects of South Korea in their own way.

I chose to experience Korea as an OCA Youth Reporter during the Incheon Asian Games and, simultaneously, as a traveller who always has a compulsion to set foot on every corner of the world.

My trip lasted for eight days. Although it was a short period of time, it still left me ample unforgettable memories.

When I first arrived in Korea, what instantly took me by surprise was how amiable and hospitable the Koreans were. Throughout the week I came across lots of Koreans who were always more than willing to help me: a married couple offered to take me to famous tourist attractions; a middle-aged man on the subway train gave up his seat to me; the mother of a Korean OCA Youth Reporter instructed me how to use the subway and drove me to the best local shopping malls.

Whenever I glance at Korean people, they always flash a bright smile right back to me. Their serene way of life, their carefree manners and the cordial atmosphere constantly present around them never failed to comfort me.

South Korea is, undeniably, a harmonious combination of antiquity and modernity. In the heart of Seoul - the capital city - lies the ancient palace Gyeongbokgung, rich in history and elaborate in architecture. Not far from the past royal residence is the new N Seoul Tower, which offers a panoramic and breathtaking view of the city. The past blends in perfectly with the present.

On the other hand, Incheon is a dynamic, ever-changing new city. Incheon is highly advanced, with the commuting system for the disabled running uninterruptedly, and the hectic yet well-organised main international airport.

My most memorable experience was unquestionably the Youth Reporter Project. Not only did the project grant me opportunities to watch the games live from the best angle in the stadium, it also taught me about the latent aspects of journalism I never under-
stood before. I got to familiarise myself with the Mixed Zone, where media interview athletes immediately after competition, the Press Conference with an English interpreter, where all international reporters can raise questions, and myriad other journalistic procedures.

From my experience, I gathered that it takes a lot of conscientiousness to be a good journalist. Paying attention to details and doing research in advance is one thing, but putting passion into every article is another thing, as sometimes fatigue takes over enthusiasm. Learning how to tactfully word the smartest questions as well as how to politely approach interviewees benefited me abundant improvement in social skills and critical thinking. By virtue of the brilliant project, I was also able to make new friends who will remain friends for ever.

South Korea in general and the OCA Youth Reporter Project in particular was a unique experience that I felt endlessly fortunate to be a part of. The trip left me with lasting impressions, which will always be gleeful and remarkable when I look back on my eight marvellous days at the Incheon Asian Games 2014.

---

**Incheon 2014**

**Facts and Figures**

- **Opening Ceremony:** September 19
- **Closing Ceremony:** October 4
- **Opened by:** Park Geun-Hye, President, Republic of Korea
- **Closed by:** Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad Al Sabah, President, OCA
- **Slogan:** Diversity Shines Here
- **Sports:** 36
- **Events:** 439
- **NOCs:** 45
- **Athletes:** 9,501
- **Male:** 5,823
- **Female:** 3,678
- **Media:** 9,700
- **Broadcasting:** 6,500
- **Press/Photographers:** 3,200
- **Ticket Sales:** 1.25 million
- **Ticket Revenue:** US$27 million
- **Accumulative TV viewership:** 1.3 billion
- **Transport:** 2,048 vehicles, comprised of 902 limousines, 363 mini-buses and 783 buses

*Figures provided by Incheon Asian Games Organising Committee*
## Final Medals Table - Incheon 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>NOC</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Mixed</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Rank by Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>CHN</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>17th Asian Games Incheon 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>KOR</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>130</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>JPN</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>114</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>KAZ</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>47</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>IRI</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>41</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>THA</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>PRK</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>IND</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>29</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>TPE</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>QAT</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>UZB</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>34</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>BRN</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>HKG</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>MAS</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>SIN</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>MGL</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>INA</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>KUW</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>KSA</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>MYA</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>VIE</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>PHI</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>PAK</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>TJK</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>IRQ</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>UAE</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>SRI</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>CAM</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>MAC</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>KGZ</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>JOR</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>TKM</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>BAN</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>LAO</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>AFG</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>LIB</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>NEP</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
China’s medal machine rumbles on

Olympic super power China continued to dominate the Asian Games at Incheon 2014, winning 34 per cent of the gold medals on offer across 36 sports and finishing more than 100 medals clear of the second-ranked team in total medals, Korea.

China amassed 151 gold medals in 439 events, with 108 silver and 83 bronze for a total of 342.

Korea won the race against Japan for second place in the table by collecting 79 gold, 71 silver and 84 bronze for a total of 234.

Japan came in third on both counts – gold and total medals – with 47-76-77 for 200, while Kazakhstan ended fourth with 28-23-33 for 84. Iran completed the top five by winning 21 gold, 18 silver and 18 bronze for 57 total medals.

East Asia proved to be the strongest of the five OCA zones with five teams ranked in the top 10 – China, Korea and Japan at 1-2-3 followed by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea in seventh place and Chinese Taipei in ninth.

28 of the 45 National Olympic Committees went home with gold.

37 NOCs won at least one medal of some colour, leaving eight NOCs empty-handed.

Thailand led the South East Asia zone by finishing in sixth place.

India was the top-ranked team from South Asia with an eighth-place effort.

Indonesia, host of the next Asian Games in 2018, came in 17th with four gold, five silver and 11 bronze for 20 medals in total – a performance it will aim to better significantly in four years’ time on home soil.
On top of the world
OCA congratulates Asia's world record-breakers at Incheon 2014

Archery (1)
Compound Women’s Team – Republic of Korea – 238 points

Shooting (4)
Men’s team 50-meter rifle prone – China – 1876.0 points
Women’s team 10-meter air rifle – China – 1253.8 points
Women’s individual double trap – Kim Mi-jin (Republic of Korea) – 110 points
Women’s team double trap – China – 315 points

Weightlifting (12)
Men’s 62kg – Kim Un-guk (DPR Korea) – 332kg
Men’s 62kg – Kim Un-guk (DPRK Korea) – 328kg
Men’s 62kg – Kim Un-guk (DPR Korea) – Snatch – 154kg
Men’s 56kg – Om Yun-chol (DPR Korea) – Clean and Jerk – 170kg
Women’s 53kg – Hsu Shu Ching (Chinese Taipei) – 233kg
Women’s 63kg – Lin Tzu Chi (Chinese Taipei) – 261kg
Women’s 63kg – Lin Tzu Chi (Chinese Taipei) – 259kg
Women’s +75kg – Zhou Lulu (China) – Clean and Jerk – 192kg
Women’s 53kg – Zulfiya Chinshanlo (Kazakhstan) – Clean and Jerk – 132kg
Women’s 63kg – Lin Tzu Chi (Chinese Taipei) – Clean and Jerk – 145kg
Women’s 63kg – Deng Wei (China) – Clean and Jerk – 144kg
Women’s 75kg – Kim Un-ju (DPR Korea) – Clean and Jerk – 164kg

IAGOC Vice President Kwon Kyung Sang presents a Tissot watch to DPRK weightlifters Om Yun-chol (left) and Kim Un-guk.

Chinese Taipei’s Lin Tzu Chi shows off her weightlifting gold medal in the women’s 63kg.
**Vision 2014 produces Asian Games gold**

The ambitious Vision 2014 programme run by the OCA and Incheon Metropolitan City produced a golden result at the Incheon Asian Games when Cambodia’s Sorn Seavmey, 19, won the women’s -73kg taekwondo title. Not only was it the first gold medal for Cambodia in Asian Games history, it was the crowning glory of the eight-year Vision 2014 project offering technical assistance to smaller NOCs in a bid to close the gap on the continent’s sporting super powers.

When the dust had settled on the 17th Asian Games, organisers of the OCA-Incheon Vision 2014 announced details of their project:

- 696 athletes in 12 sports from 30 NOCs were trained in Incheon from 2007-2014
- 97 athletes in nine sports from 20 NOCs who participated in Vision 2014 took part in the Incheon Asian Games
- Vision 2014 graduates obtained a total of seven medals - 1 gold, 1 silver and 5 bronze
- In addition, one athlete reached the semi-finals and 14 qualified for the top eight

Hyunjung Lee, Coordinator for the OCA-Incheon Vision 2014 programme, was more than satisfied with the golden result of this initiative.

**Vision 2014 medal-winners at Incheon Asian Games**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gold (1)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sorn Seavmey (Cambodia),</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>women’s -73kg taekwondo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Silver (1)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gulbadam Babamuratova</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Turkmenistan), women’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52kg judo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bronze (5)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paul Marton Dela Cruz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Philippines), men’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>archery compound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farkhod Negmatov (Tajikistan), men’s -80kg taekwondo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alisher Gulov (Tajikistan), men’s +87kg taekwondo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohru Halimova (Tajikistan), women’s +73kg taekwondo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muhammed Waseem (Pakistan), men’s 52kg boxing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
While K-Pop culture is sweeping the world in terms of music and Korean drama, the Incheon Asian Games witnessed a new phenomenon: DPRK-Pop!

Athletes and officials from the North proved wildly popular in the South with spectators and media alike, as the Olympic Movement in Asia built a bridge between the two sides and brought them together in a fitting tribute to the Incheon 2014 theme tune “Only One”.

The frenzy began at Incheon International Airport on the evening of Thursday, September 11, when the first batch of athletes and officials arrived on a direct flight from Pyongyang, capital of DPR Korea.

Onlookers were bemused by the scenes as banks of TV cameras, photographers and media assembled in the Arrivals Hall, waiting to greet the vanguard from the North. There was even a small group of unification campaigners to cheer the athletes, and a huge security presence to make sure things ran smoothly.

Dressed in dazzling white blazers and blue slacks or skirts, the DPRK athletes walked the gauntlet of media to the team buses, waiting to whisk them to the Athletes’ Village at Guwol with full police escort.
From this point on there was no escaping the Asian Games glare, and organising committee IAGOC issued a daily bulletin of training times for the DPRK athletes to cope with the demand.

In the opening ceremony on September 19 they were greeted as heroes, and their athletes were cheered on in every sport by a warm and generous home crowd.

Eleven gold medals, backed up with 11 silver and 14 bronze for 36 in total, lifted DPRK to seventh in the medals table and prompted the following tribute from the Korean Central News Agency in Pyongyang: “The signal achievements, scored by the DPRK athletes at the 17th Asian Games, have put the local people into tumult of joy, greatly inspiring them in their efforts to build a highly civilised nation under the guidance of supreme leader Kim Jong Un.”

To round off a highly successful Asian Games participation, two high-ranking officials from North Korea – Hwang Pyong-so, Vice Chairman of the National Defence Commission, and Choe Ryong-hae, Secretary of the Ruling Workers’ Party - made an unexpected visit to the closing ceremony to cheer for their delegation.
Sheikh Ahmad throws the ceremonial pitch at a baseball game.

Sheikh Ahmad signs a baseball.

Sheikh Ahmad attends the OCA Partnership Summit at Songdo Convensia on September 21.

Thumbs up from the OCA President and athletes.
The OCA President with weightlifting officials.

The OCA President celebrates Saudi Arabia’s 84th National Day.

The OCA President with Village Mayor Elisa Lee.

Admiring the decorations in the athletes’ activity centre.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony for the photo exhibition of OCA photographer Kim Min Jae outside Songdo Convensia.
It was billed as the Asian Games showdown between two Olympic champions – hometown hero Park Tae-hwan and Chinese giant Sun Yang in the men’s 200 metres freestyle final.

But someone forgot to tell Kosuke Hagino, who had been dubbed the “Japanese Michael Phelps” by Tokyo media coming into the Asian Games due to his all-round strength and versatility.

With a deafening roar from the packed stands on the opening night of the swimming, Park and Sun put on a tremendous show, only for Hagino to stun rivals and spectators alike by touching first to take the gold medal.

It would be the first of four gold medals - and seven medals in total - for the 20-year-old Japanese swimmer at Incheon 2014, as he followed up with victory in the men’s 200m and 400m individual medley and the 4 x 200m freestyle relay.

This made him an early front-runner in the race for the coveted Samsung MVP, and he was duly named in a shortlist of eight candidates presented to the media by the selection panel.

Almost 1,600 members of the media voted for their MVP from October 1-3 – and any athlete could be chosen, not just from the eight recommendations. The announcement was made official on the morning of the last day of the Games, and Hagino received his prize at the closing ceremony.

“I did not expect this at all,” he said. “I want to thank my family and my teammates.”

With the Rio Olympics in 2016, Hagino will be a strong contender with his Incheon experience and multiple medals behind him.

“I want to do well at the Rio Olympics two years from now and also at the Tokyo Olympics in six years’ time,” he added. “It was a pleasure and a great experience to race here against great athletes.”

The other seven nominees were: Nam Hyun-hee (Korea, fencing), Kim Jae-bum (Korea, judo), Yao Jinnan (China, artistic gymnastics), Suriyan Peachan (Thailand, sepaktakraw), Cao Yifei (China, shooting), Kim Un-guk (DPR Korea, weightlifting) and Nicol David (Malaysia, squash)

Samsung MVP Roll of Honour

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Athlete</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Sport</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bangkok 1998</td>
<td>Koji Ito</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>athletics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Busan 2002</td>
<td>Kosuke Kitajima</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>swimming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doha 2006</td>
<td>Park Tae-hwan</td>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>swimming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guangzhou 2010</td>
<td>Lin Dan</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>badminton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incheon 2014</td>
<td>Kosuke Hagino</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>swimming</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OCA Media Committee Chairman Charles Lo (left) is pictured with Lee Yung-kook of Samsung Electronics with the impressive Samsung MVP trophy. Mr Lo was a member of the steering committee and selection panel.
Kazakhstan wins gold in Asian kids’ art competition

One of the most eye-catching attractions in the Asian Games Athletes’ Village was an exhibition of artwork by the finalists of a continent-wide competition run by the OCA’s Culture Committee.

The committee invited the 45 National Olympic Committees to organise their own Asian Kids’ Art Competition in the build-up to the Asian Games. The winning entry from each NOC was sent to the organisers, who selected the best candidates for display inside the athletes’ activity centre during the Games.

From September 21 to October 1, the athletes could select their favourite entry - voting by number only, as the name of the artist and country/region of the NOC was withheld. The entries were so impressive that 2,700 athletes took part in the vote. The result was as follows:

- **Gold medal**: Entry No. 015 - Dinmukhamed Zhapanov, Kazakhstan
- **Silver medal**: Entry No. 011 - Victor Emmanuel Carmelo P. Nadera II, Philippines
- **Bronze medal**: Entry No. 018 - Noora Khalid Abduwahad Abdulrahman, United Arab Emirates.

The gold, silver and bronze medallists received their prizes from the OCA President at the closing ceremony on October 4.

In addition, a certificate of participation will be awarded to Le Thu Phuong from Vietnam and Ugyen Phuntsho from Bhutan.

Mohammad Al Kamali, Chairman of the OCA Culture Committee, thanked the OCA for all their support in organizing the Asian Kids’ Art Competition to provide a fresh perspective on the youth, sports and cultural festival that is the Asian Games.
Opening Ceremony Highlights
17th Asian Games Incheon 2014

K-Pop sensation PSY delighted the crowd with an energetic “Gangnam Style”.

The colourful opening ceremony.

President Park Geun-Hye enjoys the opening ceremony.

Jumping for joy at the opening ceremony.
SISTAR perform at the closing ceremony.

A taste of Indonesia ahead of the 2018 Asian Games.

A taekwondo exhibition delights the crowd.

North Korean officials attend the closing ceremony.
The 17th Asian Games was the setting for the third OCA Youth Reporter Project, held in conjunction with the Incheon Asian Games Organising Committee.

The YRP brought together seven students aged from 14 to 17 – four from Incheon and one student each from Cambodia, Vietnam and Tajikistan.

They had all taken part - and excelled - in the YRP hosted by their own National Olympic Committee as part of the OCA Fun Run and Learn campaign to promote the 17th Asian Games, and this was the third YRP at an OCA event following the 4th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games in Incheon and the 2nd Asian Youth Games in Nanjing in 2013.

Supervised by staff from OCA and IAGOC, the students observed the Asian Games from September 27 to October 4 and submitted articles on a regular basis for the OCA website, www.ocasia.org.

Their tasks included reporting on a gold medal-winning athlete, compiling an athlete’s profile, touring the Athletes’ Village, writing an article on a Games-related topic such as WADA or the Food Fair, and a summary of their experiences.

Their itinerary also included a sightseeing trip to Seoul as part of the OCA VIP programme, as well as a welcome dinner in a Korean BBQ restaurant in Songdo hosted by the OCA Media Committee Chairman, Charles Lo.

⭐ The OCA would like to thank IAGOC, Samsung and other stakeholders for their support, in particular Yu Byungjin and Youn Woori from IAGOC for their collaboration and coordination.

⭐ Read some of the students’ work on Pages 8-9 and over the following three pages.
The taste of Asia at Incheon Food Festival
By Park Minsung, OCA Youth Reporter, Korea

The Asian Games is not only about sport. Culture plays a big part, too, and for this reason I decided to visit the Asian Food Festival in the Northern Public Square of the Asiad Main Stadium.

The festival was divided into three sections: the best food restaurant, an event hall and a culture show.

The restaurant sold food from 10 different countries: Sri Lanka, Iran, India, Indonesia, China, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Vietnam, Thailand and Korea.

The event hall was like a food museum, exhibiting the types of food we eat at a Buddhist Temple and during a traditional family table setting, and we could make a kimchi pancake and dumplings and cook bibimbab.

Staff also prepared and gave out injeolmi - the Korean rice cake - and there was a cooking concert performed by famous chefs.

The exhibits included a mini Asiad Main Stadium made from the Korean traditional snack HyeonRyangGwa and Korea’s famous ship - built by Lee Sun Shin and known as Geobukseon (Turtle Ship) - made out of chocolate and other snacks.

A big cheer for WADA’s Outreach programme
By Namgoong Min, OCA Youth Reporter, Korea

The OCA’s young reporters visited the Athletes’ Village on Wednesday, October 1, and there was a place that caught everyone’s attention: the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Outreach programme, located in the lobby of the athletes’ dining room.

The goal of the programme is to raise awareness about anti-doping, to promote clean sport and, most importantly, to educate the athletes about what is allowed and what is not.

What we really have to focus on is the way the WADA staff attain their goals. They don’t just make the athletes sit down and listen to a list of what is allowed and what is prohibited. By playing a quiz that is in 34 languages, athletes are able to remember the information more clearly, and they get a chance to take an active part and to participate together in the programme.

Those who answered eight questions correctly out of 10 won a watch and were invited to sign up to the pledge for clean sport.

Since doping is one of the most serious problems during an international sports event, a programme such as this is indispensable.

Let’s give a big cheer for both the athletes and for those who work for WADA that makes our sport fair and enjoyable.
‘Only One’ Korea at Incheon Asian Games

By Kang Juhyuk, OCA Youth Reporter, Korea

There was a lot of speculation as to whether North Korea would send its athletes to the 17th Asian Games in South Korea.

In the end they did – and, although the two sides have had their differences, it looked as if the two countries had become one.

At the opening ceremony, when the North Korean athletes came out for the team parade, thousands of South Koreans gave them a standing ovation and cheered for them all the way round the stadium.

Even without their own band of cheerleaders this time, unlike at the 2002 Busan Asian Games, the North Korean athletes had no problem finding a source of encouragement as the South Korean spectators cheered for the North like their own athletes at every competition venue.

North Korea deciding to participate at the Asian Games being held in the South was a good gesture and the athletes seemed to be having a good time at the Athletes’ Village as their faces were filled with smiles.

This young reporter was hopeful that one day - through the help of the Asian Games, which brings Asian nations together - the two Koreas can set aside their differences and reunite as one.

Just like the theme song for the 17th Asian Games – “Only One”.

Ancient and modern on Seoul city tour

By Kimleng Tieng, OCA Youth Reporter, Cambodia

The OCA’s seven young reporters joined the VIP tour to Seoul on Monday, September 29, and witnessed ancient and modern Korea on a wonderful day out.

For many of the first-time visitors to Korea, this tour was particularly appreciated as it took us to the capital to see the Korea that we all know from travel shows, TV news and even from the popular Korean dramas.

The first port of call was the 600-year-old Gyeongbokgung Palace, which was packed with tourists even on a rainy day. If I compared the ancient Gyeongbokgung Palace with the Cambodian Royal Palace, there seemed to be quite a few differences. First, the Cambodian Royal Palace does not use the symbol of the dragon; instead we use the mythological creatures relevant to Buddhism and also Hinduism.

Moreover, the Cambodian Royal Palace was made out of stone with golden gates which differ from the materials in the Gyeongbokgung Palace.

We ate lunch in a typical Korean restaurant, where bibimbap was the star of the menu. The seafood pancake was also delicious, as were the small dishes of pickles and the ever-present kimchi.

We needed a good walk after such a tasty lunch, and the shops of Insa-dong were waiting for us with their colourful trinkets and crafts.
Wang beats World No. 1 in women’s badminton final

By JooMi Park, OCA Youth Reporter, Korea

World No. 3 Wang Yihan upset the top-ranked Li Xuerui 2-1 in the all-China final of the women’s singles badminton competition at Gyeyang Gymnasium on Sunday, September 28.

Li won the first set 21-11 but Wang came back to level the match by taking the second set 21-17. In the decider, Wang took the initiative and ran out a comfortable 21-7 winner to claim the gold medal from her World No. 1–ranked teammate.

The champion said: “There isn’t a special reason why I won this game. I just did my best. Compared to the world championships it feels like a greater honour to win the Asian Games.

“I feel even happier because Chinese National Day, on October 1, is approaching. Lastly, I’d like to thank my coach for putting me in the team, even though I’m ranked lower than Li Xuerui.”

Commenting on the one-sided third set, silver medallist Li said: “I made many mistakes in the third set, and Wang Yihan played very well. That’s why I lost.”

Wang considers Korea, especially Incheon, as a lucky place for her because she won the junior world championship in Incheon in 2006. Now she has another gold medal to add to her collection.

Korean drama comes to life for athletes

By Yosimin Avazbekova, OCA Youth Reporter, Tajikistan

With Korean culture riding the crest of a wave around the world, it is an exciting time to be in Incheon for the 17th Asian Games.

Many of the athletes are able to experience the Korean lifestyle for the first time and taste the flavour of this dynamic country which has produced so many K-Pop music stars and popular TV dramas.

One such athlete is Archand Christian Bagsit, a member of the Philippines track and field team. I was lucky enough to meet him at the Athletes’ Village dining hall and chat with him about his time in Incheon.

Bagsit is one of the leading track athletes in South East Asia, having won the men’s 400 metres at the 27th SEA Games in Myanmar last December, as well as anchoring the 4 x 400m relay team to the gold medal.

“I am really enjoying the friendly atmosphere of the Athletes’ Village,” he said. “It will leave me with a lot of happy memories of the Asian Games.”

Korean TV dramas such as “Boys Over Flowers” and “City Hunter” are extremely popular back home in the Philippines, and the 22-year-old athlete says his Incheon experience has opened his eyes to life in Korea.
IAGOC President Kim Young Soo opens the Polyclinic medical centre in the Athletes' Village.

A weightlifting exhibit in the Athletes' Village.

Flag Plaza - tranquil venue for the Team Welcome Ceremony.

A promo banner in Central Park, Songdo.

Preparing for the big kick-off at Incheon Stadium.

OCA Hon. Life Vice President Wei Jizhong with IAGOC officials at the International Broadcast Centre.

Having fun at the Sri Lanka Team Welcome Ceremony.

Outside the rugby stadium in Namdong.

The observer programme in Incheon for future games organisers.

Smiling in the rain... on the OCA VIP tour to Seoul.

Try one of these... at the Asian Food Festival.