

Beijing Olympic Logistics Center put into operation



Beijing Olympic Logistics Center unveiled.

(BEIJING, March 8) -- The Beijing Olympic Logistics Center at Beijing's Capital International Airport was officially inaugurated on Thursday.

At the same time, the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad (BOCOG) announced the creation of the Preparatory Group of the center.

This marks the beginning of the venue-oriented operation of the Beijing Olympic Games' venues, especially its non-competition venues.

Vice-Mayor of Beijing and BOCOG Executive Vice-President Liu Jingmin attended the launch ceremony and delivered a mobilization speech.

He said logistics is a major part of the Olympic preparations and the material foundation for high-level Olympics. The logistics center is charged with reception, storage and distribution of the materials for the Beijing Olympics and it will also engage in the materials' security checks, quarantine and customs procedures, as well as transportation arrangements.

The Olympic logistics operation has entered into a new phase as the "Good Luck Beijing" events and the venue-oriented operations are drawing near. As one of the eight major non-competition venues for

the "Good Luck Beijing" events, the logistics center was the first to go into service and will serve until the Beijing Olympics and Paralympics are over.

Official ticketing website of the 29th Olympic Games launched

(BEIJING, March 8) -- The official ticketing website of [Beijing](#) 2008 Olympic Games (<http://www.tickets.beijing2008.com>) has been launched to accept domestic public registration. The news was announced on March 8 by Beijing Organizing Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad ([BOCOG](#)).

The just-opened official ticketing website is BOCOG's sole official online media for ticketing information and distribution. In Chinese and English, the website will provide global netizens with ticketing policies and information of the upcoming Olympic Games.

According to the plan, the website does not accept any ticket reservation at present, and it will release in due time more updated information on [competition schedules](#), ticketing prices, ordering procedure, ticketing policies, [venues](#) and traffic as well as the notices to spectators. The website will provide reliable and convenient ticketing services for the public.

Olympic products to mark 500-day countdown unveiled



The obverse and reverse sides of the badge

(BEIJING, March 12) -- The Beijing organizing Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad (BOCOG) has unveiled new [licensed products](#) under the theme of "time" to mark the 500-day countdown to the Olympic Games.

One of them is a yellow commemorative badge whose obverse side bears the characters of "500 days to go before the Games of the XXIX Olympiad" in both Chinese and English as well as the description of the countdown on March 27, 2007 and the Games' opening on August 8, 2008. On its reverse side the official emblem of the Olympics is shown.

The badge's issue is limited to 10,000 and each piece has a serial number which collectors pay attention to.

Another product is a set of four badges whose design blends the Olympic elements with the Chinese style. Its dominant colors of yellow and red represent happiness and auspiciousness in Chinese tradition.

The bi-lingual description of the 500-day countdown is also displayed on each badge and the set is imbedded in a photo frame. The issue is rather smaller – only 5,000!

Glass-made images of Olympic Winners



"A Picture of 112 Olympic Winners" in an art museum in Zhejiang Province on March tenth. The sculpture is about 2.5 meters high and 4 meters wide. The total cost is over 100 thousand yuan. It is said that this work will have a national exhibition tour during 500 days before the opening of the 2008 Olympic Games, and finally, be presented to the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad (BOCOG).

BOCOG starts recruiting pre-Games volunteers

(BEIJING, March 14) -- In a joint effort with the Volunteer Department of the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad ([BOCOG](#)), the Beijing Volunteers Association is recruiting the first batch of 96 pre-Games volunteers for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games from higher education institutions and social organizations around the BOCOG headquarters.

Applicants who have good communication skills, are able to do part-time or full-time work, who are enthusiastic and law-abiding, and have a sense of devotion and responsibility, can be chosen to provide voluntary services at the concerned departments of BOCOG from March 30 to June 30.

The recruitment process starts on March 14 and ends on March 20, 2007. The volunteers will be provided with collective insurance and basic transportation and food allowances.

Interested people can fill in the registration form (word format) and the intended position (excel format) and e-mail them to BOCOG Volunteer Department. It is preferable that each applicant fill in

only one position. Those who intend to join more than one position need to indicate so beside the first option. BOCOG Volunteer Department, the Beijing Volunteers Association and other concerned organizations will take the interview and conduct the training work.

For further information, please visit the website of the Beijing Volunteers Association:

<http://www.bjvolunteer.org>.

Promise of clean air during Olympics

Bai Keming, Party secretary of Hebei Province, has promised that every effort will be made to keep the areas surrounding [Beijing](#) pollution-free during next year's Olympics.

"During the 2008 Olympic Games, blue skies are a requirement not only for Beijing, but also for the places around it," Bai said yesterday in an exclusive interview with China Daily at the ongoing annual session of the National People's Congress.

One measure that has already been taken is the relocation of national steel manufacturer Beijing Shougang Group, which is currently in the process of moving its operations from the capital to the tiny island of Caofeidian, some 80 kilometers south of Tangshan in Hebei Province.

Responding to concerns that the move was simply shifting the pollution problem, Bai said the new company is a joint venture with a local steel firm and that it would operate to high environmental protection standards.

"The new company is based on the concept of a modern circular economy," said Bai.

"And it will create much less pollution than it did in Beijing."

He said the operations of the new company would comply with strict international standards, which require such measures as the recycling of slag, the use of desalinated water in furnaces and the re-use of emitted gases for steel rolling.

"Even if we were not hosting the Olympics, we would still carry out these policies to save energy and reduce pollution for the long-term benefit and development of Hebei," Bai said.

"We have already phased out several smaller companies that were generating pollution and have gathered together a number of others so that we can apply tighter controls," Bai said. "We are determined to continue with our environmental protection efforts."

Strong coastal province

With its prime geographical position, which includes 487 kilometers of Bohai Sea coastline, Hebei has huge economic potential, something Bai was keen to highlight in October when he set out his goal to turn it into a "strong economic and social coastal province".

He said that last year the province had a GDP of 1.16 trillion yuan (\$150.05 billion) last year, placing it sixth on the nationwide rankings.

"With such a strong foundation, we are seeking to create an all-round, well-off society by 2015. We also plan to position Hebei as a strong economic and social coastal province by the year 2020," Bai said.

"Besides achieving a high national GDP ranking, upgrading the living standards of its people must be the primary goal of a strong province," he said.

With GDP figures for the first two months of this year up "considerably" year-on-year, Bai said he was confident that his plan to develop the seaports was central to the economic success of the province as a whole.

"It is essential that we concentrate on the development of the coastal economic zone, because that will be our link to the world economy. Once we have that we can look to develop areas inland and stimulate further growth," said Bai.

"To achieve a strong province we must first set up the coastal economic zone," he said.

Perhaps the most important project in the development of the coastal zone is the Caofeidian industrial area, which has been under construction since 2002.

Located along the western shore of the Bohai Bay, Caofeidian boasts superb natural conditions for the construction and development of a large-scale deep-water port.

"The construction process is progressing well and is now entering a key stage. Thanks to the efforts of the people of the whole province Caofeidian will one day emerge as a first-class modern port," Bai said.

Beijing Kicks off Hutong Campaign

The city of [Beijing](#) recently launched a campaign to discover the history and culture behind its traditional [hutongs](#).

These are ancient city alleys or lanes typical of Beijing, which were once numbered in the thousands. Nowadays, with only a few hundred left, experts are concerned their legacy is disappearing as even more of them fall under the wrecking ball.

Experts say hutongs are significant elements in preserving the ancient capital's culture.

Li Jianping, is secretary-general of the Beijing History Research committee.

"The configuration of today's Beijing hutongs is a relic of the Yuan Dynasty, which was over 800 years ago. The culture from the time is reflected in these hutongs. It has long historical standing."

Combining its collection of documents, the committee is carrying out field surveys as part of its campaign to find out more about hutongs.

NOTE: The above articles are from BOCOG Beijing2008 website (www.beijing2008.cn). Please refer to the website for more information