

**LegCo Panel on Home Affairs
Special Meeting on 16 November 2000
at 4:30 - 5:30 pm in Conference Room A, LegCo Building**

**OUTCOME OF HONG KONG'S BID
FOR 2006 ASIAN GAMES**

Introduction

The Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China (SFOC) with the support of the Government, made a bid to the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) for the right to host the 2006 Asian Games. Besides Hong Kong, three other cities also submitted bids; they were New Delhi of India, Doha of Qatar and Kuala Lumpur of Malaysia. At the OCA General Assembly held in Pusan, Korea on 10-12 November 2000, OCA members voted for Doha as the city to be awarded the 2006 Asian Games.

Background

2. The Asian Games are held once every four years, involving some 10,000 athletes and officials from the 43 members of OCA. The hosting right is awarded by the OCA to the bidding city about six years before the event. Bids are made by the National Olympic Committees of the member countries/territories which form the OCA.

3. In November 1999, we decided to support SFOC's proposed bid for the 2006 Asian Games. The Asian Games Bid Committee was established to coordinate and steer the bidding process.

4. We complied fully with the requirements of the OCA in submitting all the necessary documentation, including the preparation of a comprehensive Bid Document to describe how the Games would be organised. The OCA Evaluation Team visited Hong Kong in July to verify the Bid Document contents and meet with the Bid Committee. We made presentations on our bid at OCA meetings in Rio de Janeiro in May, Tashkent in August and Pusan in November respectively.

Outcome of the Bid

5. The four bidding cities were invited to make a final presentation at the OCA General Assembly in Pusan, on 12 November 2000. This was immediately followed by closed door voting by the OCA delegates. The method adopted was one of elimination until a candidate city received an absolute majority of votes. In other words, the candidate city with the lowest number of votes in each round was eliminated, until the city with an absolute majority emerged. Doha was eventually chosen as the winning city for the 2006 Asian Games, but the actual vote count was not officially disclosed.

Experience gained

6. Although we are disappointed that Hong Kong's bid has not been successful, we are satisfied that our bid did not falter for lack of effort or want of trying. This is the first time we have bid for an event of this magnitude and we have learnt a lot in the process. It allowed us to highlight our strengths in the eyes of our neighbours in the region. Through several SFOC visits to OCA members states, we were able to understand them better and also to provide them with more information about Hong Kong. The community programme which was mounted to promote the bid in Hong Kong during the process raised community awareness of the importance of sport and the achievements of our athletes. The bid received support from a wide cross-section of the community including: national sports associations, schools, District Councils, business, trade unions, non-government organisations, and many individuals. We have united the entire community behind sports. We have also been able to take stock of the facilities we have now and will need for the long term future of sport in Hong Kong.

7. In the days to come, we will continue to work closely with the SFOC and the Sports Development Board to raise the standard of sport in Hong Kong, to promote a sports culture, and to improve facilities.

Home Affairs Bureau
15 November 2000