

Major Sports Events Committee

**Report of the Hong Kong Delegation to
Visit Major Sports Events and Facilities in Shanghai**

Dates of the Shanghai Visit: 17 & 18 September 2005

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1. Preface

1.1 At the invitation of the Shanghai Municipal Government and the Shanghai Sports Bureau, the Administration formed a 11-member delegation to visit the 2005 Shanghai Golden Grand Prix and the Qi Zhong Forest Sports City Tennis Centre in Shanghai from 17 to 18 September 2005. The purpose of the visit was to promote sports exchanges between Hong Kong and the Mainland. The Delegation, which was comprised of eight members of the Major Sports Events Committee and three officers from the Home Affairs Bureau and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, was led by Mr HU Shao-ming, Chairman of the Major Sports Events Committee. Membership of the Delegation and the Itinerary of the Visit are at Appendices (1) and (2) respectively.

1.2 As one of the three committees under the “Sports Commission”, the “Major Sports Events Committee” is responsible for advising the Administration on the policy of organising major sports events and the allocation of resources for such events in Hong Kong. This exchange activity is highly conducive to boosting the future development of major sports events in Hong Kong and carries enlightening implications.

2. Visit to the “2005 Shanghai Golden Grand Prix” (17 September)

2.1 Upon arrival in Shanghai on 17 September, the Hong Kong Delegation headed for the 80 000-seat Shanghai Stadium in the evening to watch the 2005 Shanghai Golden Grand Prix. The Grand Prix was one of the outdoor athletics competitions officially approved by the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF). Hosted by the Athletics Association of the People’s Republic of China and the Shanghai Sports Federation, the event was the first international top-level athletics competition organised in China, and also a world-class single sports event organised in Shanghai following the staging of the Tennis Masters Cup and the Grand Prix Formula One Championship.

2.2 The Shanghai Golden Grand Prix was aimed at capturing nationwide attention to athletics, fostering the development of athletics in China, raising China’s athletics standard, and helping uplift Shanghai to the status of a sports event capital. Furthermore, with the strong support from the State Sport General Administration, the Shanghai Municipal Government and the IAAF, the staging of the Shanghai Golden Grand Prix was a great leap forward for raising Shanghai’s profile as a first-class sports event capital in Asia.

2.3 The Shanghai Golden Grand Prix will be held for five consecutive years. As the investor and manager of this event, the Shanghai Golden Grand Prix Co. Ltd. has strived for successfully staging the event in its augural year. It is hoped that the event will become one of the most successful athletics events in Asia within three years, achieving truly global status within five years.

2.4 The Shanghai Golden Grand Prix Co. Ltd. planned to make this event a super brand for a public carnival. Through the combination of sports and entertainment, which are two elements drawing the greatest social attention, a “Sports cum Entertainment Carnival” on a considerable scale was introduced to the people.

2.5 In the 14 events of the Shanghai Golden Grand Prix, the winners of the Olympic athletics events, the World Championships in Athletics and the world record holders in athletics from places all over the world competed fiercely against each other. The results of the participating athletes would be counted into their annual total scores kept by the IAAF. With the IAAF’s special permission, a quota of two places was reserved for the participation by China’s two top athletes in each event. In addition to the sports competitions, cultural activities such as concerts and carnivals were held during the Shanghai Golden Grand Prix.

2.6 The arrangements of the activities related to the Grand Prix were as follows :

<u>Date</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Activity</u>
16 September	Shanghai Stadium Square	Carnival
17 September	Shanghai Stadium Square	Carnival
	Shanghai Stadium	2005 Shanghai Golden Grand Prix and Live Concert
18 September	Shanghai Stadium Square	Carnival

Competition Events

2.7 There were a total of 14 events in the Grand Prix with 7 events each for men’s and women’s divisions :

Men’s	100m, 200m, 110m hurdles, 800m, 3000m, high jump and long jump
Women’s	100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, 5000m, shot put and pole vault

Observations and Recommendations

2.8 The Delegation attended the Opening Ceremony of the Grand Prix at the night of 17 September and watched various exciting matches. Apart from enjoying the breathtaking competitions among the world's top athletes, members of the Delegation could also have a first-hand experience of the entertainment element injected into the Grand Prix. It is believed that such an approach can serve as a reference model for future major events to be held in the Hong Kong, with their attraction to be enhanced by injecting the entertainment element into competitions.

3. Visit to the Shanghai Qi Zhong Forest Sports City Tennis Centre (18 September)

3.1 In the morning of 18 September, the Hong Kong Delegation visited the Shanghai Qi Zhong Forest Sports City Tennis Centre, which is the competition venue for the 2005-2007 Tennis Masters Cup.

3.2 The Tennis Masters Cup, which is the grand final of the men's professional tennis circuit and a tennis tournament of the highest level, covers events of the ATP Masters and the Masters Cup Series as well as the Grand Slam. From 1 January each year, all men's professional players secure points according to their results from the Grand Slam and the nine Tennis Masters Series events as well as their best five results from the ATP Masters Series events until the Monday following the last ATP Masters Series event. The top seven players in the ATP Champions Race are eligible to enter the Tennis Masters Cup. The eighth position goes to either a current Grand Slam winner who is within the Top 20 or the player who is ranked eighth in the ATP Champions Race.

3.3 The Qi Zhong Tennis Centre is located in Ma Qiao Town of Minhang District in the southwest of Shanghai, covering an area of about 508 acres. The 85 438m² built-over area of the site consists of a centre court stadium, 3 indoor stadiums, 14 indoor courts and 22 outdoor courts, making a total of 40 tennis courts. The Qi Zhong Forest Sports City Complex of 20 hectares also provides a golf course and residential villas in addition to the tennis centre. Upon completion of the centre in late 2006, it will become a training base for young tennis players in Shanghai as well as the largest tennis facility in Asia.

3.4 The centre court stadium of the tennis centre has a building area of 30 649 m² and can accommodate an audience of 15 000. At a height of about 40m, the building has a steel roof employing a magnolia-blooming-like (magnolia is the city flower of Shanghai)

opening method, which is the first of its kind in the world. The whole process of opening or closing can be completed within 8 minutes. Under each spectator's seat is an air-conditioning outlet for cooling or heating. Other than regular seats, the stadium also renders seating for VIPs, the media and the handicapped. Moreover, the centre court stadium will provide each Tennis Masters Cup player with a deluxe player lounge furnished with shower and massage facilities. Ancillary facilities for common use such as gym and dining areas will also be available.

3.5 In respect of competition broadcasting, the centre court stadium offers more than 20 broadcasting rooms allowing 20 media corporations from all around the world to broadcast the event simultaneously. The 1 800m² media centre has 240 journalist workstations equipped with telephone, fax and internet facilities. Each photojournalist will be provided with an individual locker for proper keeping of equipment.

3.6 Built to be a world class multi-purpose competition venues, the centre court stadium not only can be used to stage international tennis competitions of the highest level, but also qualified for competitions of basketball, volleyball, table tennis and gymnastics.

Observations and Recommendations

3.7 Guided by the management of the centre, the Delegation visited various facilities in the centre court stadium of the tennis centre. Although the project in the centre court stadium is yet to be finished, the Delegation managed to take a glance of the major facilities provided in the centre. The management of the centre indicated that the centre court stadium could be used for tennis competition as well as other sports competitions or major events (e.g. concerts). The Delegation reckoned that the approach adopted by the multi-purpose venue was the same as that adopted in the management of similar venues in Hong Kong. From the economic point of view, it can enhance the flexibility and effectiveness of resource utilisation.

3.8 The Delegation believed that the centre, apart from providing a world-class multi-purpose sports centre for Shanghai to organise major events and activities, would also provide an excellent base for the city to train up elite tennis players. Subject to the availability of resources, the Delegation considered that the development approach of the centre might serve as a good reference for Hong Kong.

4. Exchange of experience with the Shanghai Municipal Government and the Shanghai Sports Bureau

4.1 Mr YAO Mingbao, Deputy Secretary-General of the Shanghai Municipal Government, and Mr QIU Weichang, Vice Minister of the Shanghai Sports Bureau, hosted a luncheon for the Hong Kong Delegation on 18 September 2005. Mr. ZHANG Lan, Vice President of the Shanghai Qizhong Forest Sports City Tennis Centre, was one of the guests present. During the luncheon, both parties had mutual sharing and exchange in connection with the experience gained from the development of major sports events and the government's coordination in organising various major events at municipal level. Both parties agreed that the municipal government played an important role in coordinating the organisation of major events by maintaining a balance and an efficient allocation of resources in the community.

5. Conclusion

5.1 Through this activity, we aimed at watching and learning from the high-level international athletics event organised by China for the first time and visiting the major sports facilities with a view to enhancing sports exchanges between Hong Kong and the Mainland. Members participating in the visit considered the activity very meaningful. They could have first-hand information about the approach adopted by the Mainland in organising major events and benefit from the Mainland's experience of developing and managing the venues for such large-scale activities. This is conducive to boosting the development of major sports events in Hong Kong.

5.2 In view of the fact that the activity could achieve the expected objectives of visiting Shanghai, Members proposed that similar activities be organised again in future so that they could have a deeper understanding of the approaches adopted by the Mainland or overseas regions in promoting major sports events and exchange among themselves what they have learned and experienced. By doing so, it is hoped that the level of local major sports events can be further raised.

Home Affairs Bureau, HKSAR Government
Visit of Major Sports Events Committee Delegation to Shanghai

Head of Delegation

Mr Herman HU Shao-ming, JP
(Chairman, Major Sports Events Committee)

Member

Mr. SIN Pak Wing, Daniel
(Acting Principal Assistant Secretary, Home Affairs Bureau)

Mr CHAN Ka-Kui, BBS, JP
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(Member, Major Sports Events Committee)

Mr Victor YANG
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Department)

Home Affairs Bureau
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
Delegation of the Major Sports Events Committee
Itinerary of the Shanghai Visit
(17 & 18 September 2005)

17 September (Saturday)

Noon	12:00	Departure from the Hong Kong International Airport for Shanghai [Flight No. KA892]
Afternoon	2:25	Arrival at Pudong International Airport, Shanghai
	3:25	Checking into hotel
	5:30	A light meal was served
	6:50	Departure from the restaurant for the Shanghai Stadium
Evening	7:15	Attend the Opening Ceremony of the 2005 Shanghai Golden Grand Prix [the 80 000-seat Shanghai Stadium]
	10:15	End of activities

18 September (Sunday)

Morning	9:00	Breakfast at hotel
	9:40	Visit to the Shanghai Qizhong Forest Sports City Tennis Centre [Competition venue of the Tennis Masters Cup 2005]
	10:00	Visit to the Tennis Centre
	11:00	Departure for the luncheon, to be served at Regal International East Asia Hotel, Shanghai

	11:45	Luncheon for the Delegation hosted by the Shanghai Municipal Government and the Shanghai Sports Bureau
Afternoon	12:45	Luncheon finished; return to the hotel for check-out
	1:30	Heading for the Pudong International Airport, Shanghai
	4:15	Departure from Shanghai for Hong Kong [Flight No. KA875]
	6:55	Arrival at the Hong Kong International Airport

上海體育場
Shanghai Stadium



2005 上海國際田徑黃金大獎賽
The 2005 Shanghai Golden Grand Prix



上海旗忠森林體育城網球中心
Shanghai Qizhong Forest Sports City Tennis Center



上海市政府及體育局宴請代表團
Lunch Reception hosted by Shanghai Municipal Government
and Shanghai Administration of Sports

