

By YUAN SHENGGAO

Input from local governments is ensuring that participants in the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, East China's Zhejiang province, are provided with outstanding service and that the event will provide lasting benefits for area residents.

As one of the Games hosts in the city, Linping district is organizing three events — karate, football and volleyball — and the Para events of sitting volleyball and blind football, which will produce a total of 19 gold medals.

Shen Wei, head of the district's communications department, said that since the beginning of the year Linping implemented the concept of simplicity, safety and the pursuit of excellence in preparing for the Games, overarching the objective of hosting a successful event and elevating the city's profile. District officials coordinated with various departments, towns and street administrations to streamline the process.

Infrastructure

Liping Sports Centre Venue Cluster is designed in the shape of a flexible curve to demonstrate the concept of the Silk Road, while the Tangxi Football Training Base for the Blind is the only private-owned venue designated for the Para Games. Built about 10 years ago, the renovated barrier-free facilities have been fully recognized by the Games organizing committee and the China Disabled Persons Federation.

Meanwhile, Linping's focus on major actions aimed at creating a better urban image resulted in the renovation of 11 entrances to the city and 18 commuting routes.

Additionally, seven former residential areas were refurbished and an Asian Games volunteer service system was established, consisting of 140,000 volunteers organized into 3,000 teams.

"To create an Asian Games atmosphere, we have focused on the venues and created an Asian Games viewing space in the People's Square," said Shen. "We have added flags at more than 50 overpasses along the Asian Games and Asian Para Games commuting routes, installed some 100 large-scale public service advertisements



An elevated view of the Linping Sports Centre Venue Cluster, whose shape is designed as a curve to demonstrate the concept of the Silk Road. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Hangzhou's Linping district shines as Asian Games host

Policies and measures are launched to allow the public to enjoy dividends of the event



From left: The E-fashion Town is becoming a popular shopping destination in the district, attracting people from outside Hangzhou. Tourists walk on the ancient Guangji Bridge in Tangxi Town, a seven-arch stone bridge on the Grand Canal. The Zhejiang Tangxi Goalball Base for the Blind located at Yunxi Road, Tangxi Town, Linping district.



and set up more than 200 public art installations with the Asian Games themes."

The district also opened 15 English-learning "corners" staffed

with more than 2,000 volunteers. More than 500,000 participants joined in the activities to learn rudimentary English and expand their knowledge of the Games.

Historical legacy

Liping has a history of civilization, written records and urban construction dating back thousands of years. The district

encompasses 40 kilometers of the Grand Canal, a UNESCO World Heritage Site; the Guangji Bridge, the only seven-arch stone canal bridge in China; the Tangxi

Ancient Town, built during the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties; and the Chaoshan Mountain, one of southern China's most popular tourist destinations.

"Since the beginning of the year, we have continued to promote the cultural inheritance based on the Grand Canal and made every effort to promote construction of the Song Dynasty (960-1279)-based cultural belt along the Shangtang River," Shen said.

The local government has also promoted the creation of more than 120 literary and artistic masterpieces, including the sports-themed drama *In Linping: Setting off to Happiness*, which is about to be released.

With the opening of the Hangzhou Wenrun Reading Room and recent release of six Games-themed tourism routes, the E-fashion Town, Tangxi Ancient Town Scenic Area and Museum of Chinese Jiangnan Watertown Culture all elevated their tourism profiles.

To allow the public to enjoy post-Games dividends, Linping district has emphasized urban-industrial integration and expansion of the industrial capabilities.

"We will make good use of Asian Games venues, introduce new forms of events and Asian Games exhibitions and forums," said Shen. "We will expand the usage of sports facilities and sports space and build up a quality athletic circle for all."

The district is promoting the core area of urban culture, tourism and leisure activities and developing the nighttime economy and exhibition economy to create a new type of shopping and entertainment center in eastern Hangzhou.

"We will also develop new cultural industries such as online micro-dramas, host the China-Arab Broadcasting and Television Summit and the Hangzhou Micro-drama Conference," Shen added.

"We will make a good use of the local film and television bases, ancient costume shooting bases and film and television industrial parks. We will continue to promote the deep integration of Asian Games culture and Linping's history while strengthening the coordinated operation and value interpretation of State-owned cultural assets."

Venues renovated to provide top-notch experience

By YUAN SHENGGAO

Situated in Nanyuan Street, Linping district in Hangzhou, the 19th Asian Games' venue for football and volleyball matches is showcasing its design philosophy after an extension and renovation.

The Linping Sports Centre features a stadium, gymnasium, aquatic sports arena (media center) and training hall to form a venue cluster.

Liping is known as a silk center. In honor of this history and the concept of the Silk Road, the design of the Linping Sports Centre features a flexible curve in its appearance.

Incorporating the concepts of "green, intelligence, thrift and civilization" of the Games, it demonstrates Chinese style, Zhejiang glamour and Hangzhou elements. On Sept 17, 2021, the Linping Sports Centre passed the comprehensive acceptance check of venue functions by the Game's organizing committee, becoming one of the first batch of venues in the province to pass it.

The renovated stadium located within the venue cluster has an area of approximately 22,050 square meters, a building area of 17,283 sq m, and a total seating capacity of 10,200 spectators. It is a small-sized class A stadium with a 400-meter standard circular track.

The renovated gymnasium cov-



Young men play basketball on a court in the Leisure Sports Park of the district's development zone.

ers an area of 8,383 sq m, with a building area of 16,885 sq m. The central court is 46 meters long and 28.5 meters wide, with a seating capacity of 4,200 spectators (including 900 movable seats). It will host the preliminary and final matches of the men's volleyball in the Asian Games, as well as the preliminary and final matches of karate and sitting volleyball in the Asian Para Games.

The newly built comprehensive training hall has a floor area of 9,500 sq m and is designed with four volleyball training courts across two floors.

After the Asian Games, it will be used for fitness activities and meet the training needs of youth competitive sports. The newly built underground parking lot with more than 700 parking spaces will be open to the public, alleviating parking pressure in the Linping urban area.

The Zhejiang Tangxi Goalball Base for the Blind is located at Yunxi Road, Tangxi Town, Linping district. It was designated as the venue for the goalball for the Para Games.

The base has been established for more than 10 years. In order to better meet the needs of the Games and address issues such as aging facilities, a renovation

project started in April 2021 with a total construction area of approximately 16,000 sq m. On Jan 20, 2022, the base passed the comprehensive acceptance inspection.

For the ongoing Asian Games and Asian Para Games in Hangzhou, the Linping competition zone will host five events, with a total of 19 gold medals; 15 for the Asian Games and four for the Para Games. The Linping Sports Centre will host four events.

The specific arrangements are as follows: The stadium is the venue of the Asian Games football preliminary matches from Sept 19 to Oct 3. The gymnasium is the venue of the Asian Games men's volleyball pre-final from Sept 19 to 26, awarding one gold medal. The second round event is the karate pre-final match from Oct 5 to 8, awarding 14 gold medals. The third event is the Para Games sitting volleyball pre-final from Oct 23 to 27, awarding two gold medals.

The Zhejiang Tangxi Goalball Base for the Blind will host the Asian Para Games blind football pre-final from Oct 23 to 27. According to the current information, there will be 13 teams (eight men's teams, five women's teams) with approximately 80 athletes, awarding two gold medals.

Local government tackles revamp of district with all-around approach

By YUAN SHENGGAO

With the commitment to organizing a good sports event and improving the city environment, Linping district in Hangzhou — the main host city of the 19th Asian Games — is making efforts to improve the urban environment, governance level and civilization of its residents.

In order to create a pleasant urban environment, the local government invested about 90 million yuan (\$12.3 million) to renovate 11 entrance ways into the city. They have repaired 18 commuting roads and key roads for the Asian Games with a construction area of 96,500 square meters.

As for the environment around the Asian Games venues, the local government picked 14 locations and upgraded the surrounding facilities. They created two boutique blocks to give a warm welcome to visitors from all over the globe.

To tackle environmental pollu-

tion, the local administration created cleaning areas on eight major roads and launched a water quality improvement project on three key rivers. They also replanted green spaces with an area of more than 14,500 sq meters.

In addition, seven old residential areas were given a facelift, 61 elevators were installed and secondary water supply facilities were renovated, bringing convenience to residents.

According to officials, criminal incidents in the district have declined significantly this year and the social security situation remains stable.

The district is establishing an intruder prevention and control system in the surrounding areas, has identified 72 potential river-entry points and upgraded 160 intelligent devices on the roads at the borders of Haining, Tongxiang and Deqing regions.

As part of its zero-tolerance law enforcement, the district has conducted inspections at more than

24,000 enterprises or locations and identified 48,000 hidden dangers so far.

The Linping Sports Centre, as one of the two designated Asian Games training bases in the province, has been completed and opened to the public, allowing residents to enjoy sports on their doorstep.

Working together under the theme of the Asian Games, the district organized nearly 3,000 activities such as the Walking along the Grand Canal event, oxygen music festival and various cultural performances, bringing the spirit of sports and the Asian Games to every household.

By organizing colorful neighborhood events such as park visits, neighborhood markets and outdoor concerts, it advocates good habits such as civilized dining, travel, internet use and spectating.

It has established a three-layer volunteer service system consisting of district, town and village communities, with 184 civilized practice stations and 259 volunteer service points to provide guidance, information, traffic guidance, language services, emergency assistance and other forms of service.

To promote a meticulous style of governance, the district has applied digital tools in communication, inspection and volunteer services.

An Asian Games city volunteer service team has been established to mobilize urban and rural residents to practice civilized etiquette and participate in voluntary service. The team strives to shape a civilization trend through public participation and dedication to the Asian Games, officials said.



An elevated view of the Fengcai Sports Park, which resembles a colorful guitar.