

# THE MAYOR SAYS

**D**ear Friends: The Athletes Village for the 26th Summer Universiade in Shenzhen is excited to host a sports carnival packed with passion, vigor and fashion with young friends from all over the world. An arena for competition, a bridge to new friendships, and the temporary home for our athletes, the Village will accommodate over 12,000 competitors and officials from more than 100 countries and regions during the Universiade. We will enthusiastically provide our guests with a cozy, friendly and harmonious environment marked by hospitable service. We've resolved to make the Village another splendor, complementing the stadiums and gymnasiums. On the opening day of the Village, the official English-language tabloid, Universiade Daily, is ready to greet our new friends. We sincerely hope the newspaper will record the event's fighting spirit, and capture every moment in the Village. We believe the Universiade Daily will serve as a platform for communication across cultures, and pass on the spirit of the Universiade. Join us in wishing the utmost success to the 26th Summer Universiade in Shenzhen!

Wang Suiming, Mayor of the Athletes Village of the Universiade Shenzhen 2011

# NEW CITY'S SHOT AT HISTORY

## OFFICIAL WITH OLYMPIC EXPERIENCE SAYS SHENZHEN'S FACILITIES ARE WORLD CLASS

By SHI YINGYING  
CHINA DAILY

**SHENZHEN** — A young city plus a host of young athletes is going to equal a great event for everybody, an International University Sports Federation official says.

The World University Games in Shenzhen will feature "more participating countries and athletes, more sports events available and most importantly more experiences," than the Universiade 10 years ago in Beijing, said FISU assessor Stavros Douvis on Friday.

"I know the history of the city — it's such a young city of 30 years old," he said. "Look at the streets, there are young people all over the city. And that's the exact place to celebrate a gala for young (athletes)."

Paying his 15th visit to Shenzhen, the Greek assessor claims he feels "like a Shenzhen citizen right now."

And he gives the city full marks for its preparation.

"You've got great sports facilities; many new venues are exactly Olympics-level," he said. "Examples are Shenzhen Bay Stadium, where the opening ceremony is going to be held, and Universiade Center's basketball court."

Douvis worked for several Olympics before moving to FISU for the past 20 years.

With all of Shenzhen's 63 permanent and temporary games venues — including 22 brand-new ones — ready to go, the southern Chi-

nese city is ready to welcome an estimated 12,000 athletes and officials.

The hub recently has been the Universiade Village, with athletes from different countries and regions rushing to check in.

Douvis said the facilities have a bright future after the games.

"I heard these accommodation are going to be used as a local school's dormitory — that was a good idea," he said.

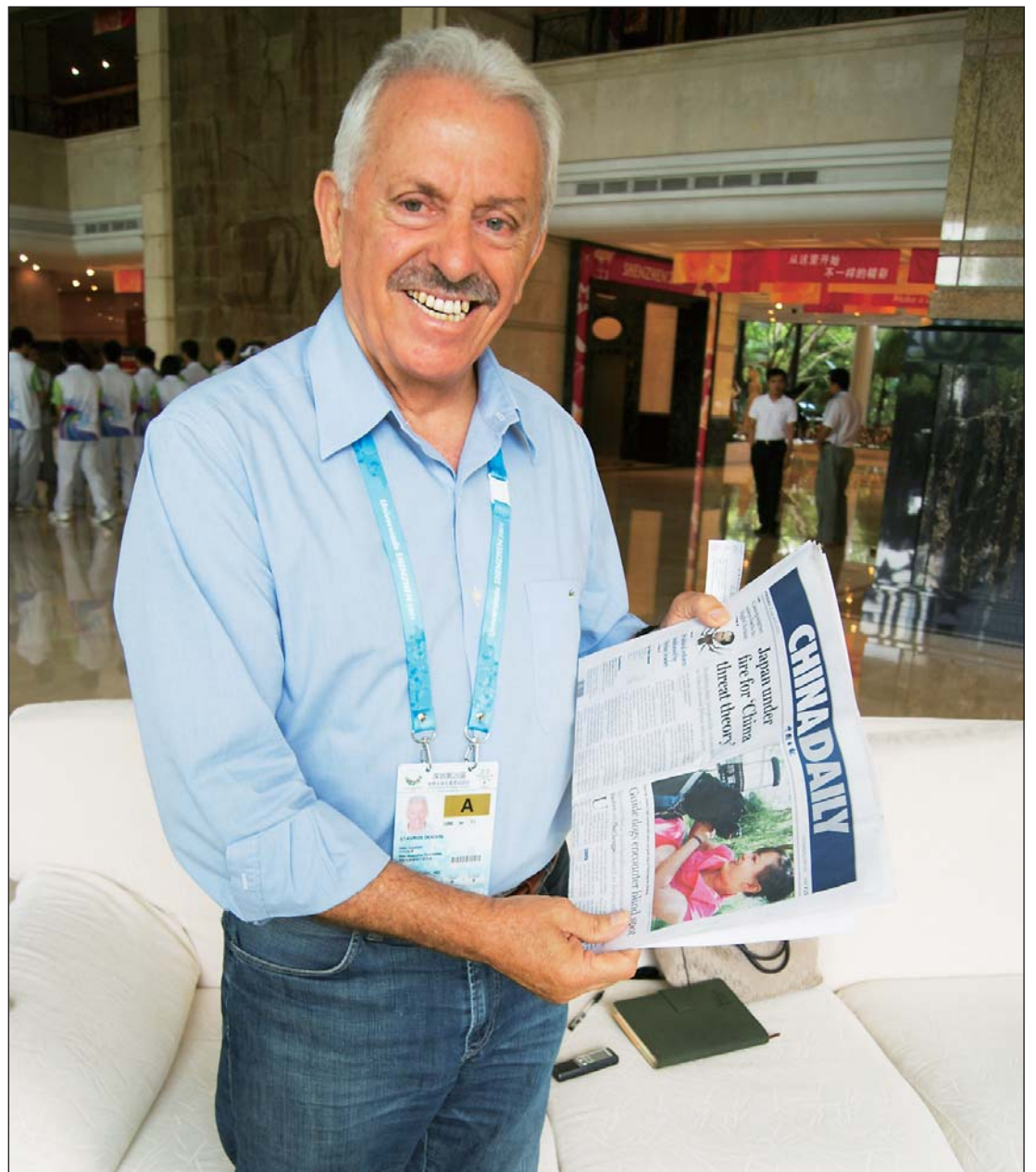
Of course, in the eyes of FISU president George E. Killian, people are more important than buildings.

"We talked about not just stadiums or other sports venues, but we talked about young people," he said in an interview with Russia's Sports express. "It's them we are working for, organizing University Games, Olympics. It's not for us, it's for them."

"Students are the future of every nation. These are people who will eventually hold senior positions in governmental institutions. It's their approach to sports that defines whether their successors, other students, will be doing sports as well."

Douvis agrees.

"A very easy example is Barack Obama — do you know he used to be a basketball player?" said Douvis. "If there's anything I want to tell the Chinese audience ... I would say 'come to check out the games first. After they come, during or after the games, I'd encourage young parents to let their children to participate more in sports at any level.'"



FISU assessor Stavros Douvis says Shenzhen has "great sports facilities; many new venues are exactly Olympics-level." He worked to organize several Olympics before joining FISU.