



CUI MENG / CHINA DAILY

Australian 400m runner Sean Wroe shows off his national flag and the Universiade torch after his leg of the relay.

ARE YOU READY?

By TANG ZHE
CHINA DAILY

SHENZHEN — The city-wide torch relay of the 26th Summer Universiade hit the road at Longgang district of Shenzhen on Thursday.

A total of 160 torchbearers, including 42 foreign athletes and 57 Chinese university students, joined the 10-kilometer event, which passed landmarks such as Longcheng Square, Longxiang Boulevard, the Universiade Main Sports Center and the Universiade Village.

"I'm really happy to be here and it's a very nice experience for me to pass the torch," said No. 42 torchbearer Australian Sean Wroe, who is studying at Swinburne University in Melbourne and will take part in the men's 400m race during the meet.

According to Siobhan James, an official of the Australian delegation, the organizing committee said it could nominate one athlete to be a torchbearer one week ago, and it chose Wroe.

"This is Sean's third time at a Universiade, and he won medals at both of the previous Games, so we chose him," said James.

After the last run in Longgang, the torch will be brought to the main stadium of Shenzhen Bay Sports Center during the opening ceremony on Friday to light the Universiade cauldron.

The relay's end also marks the end of an online torch relay, which covered more than 90 percent of Chinese universities and no less than 1,000 overseas universities since it was launched in early May.

According to an official release, more than 10 million people took part in the online torch relay up to midnight on Tuesday.

To reward the participation and enthusiasm of online torchbearers, eight were chosen to take part in the actual relay on Thursday.

Shenzhen set to embrace the games of its life

By TANG ZHE AND SHI YINGYING
CHINA DAILY

SHENZHEN — With the clock ticking and quickly running down to the Universiade's opening ceremony, the city of Shenzhen is ready to embrace the sports festival that will run from Aug 12-23.

Residents from the city's Longgang district, where most of the competition venues are located, are looking forward to the new look of their hometown and a grand sports carnival.

"Where I'm standing right now used to

be my playground when I was little; there was nothing but a muddy pond," said Luo Runmei at the 18,000-seat gymnasium at the Universiade Center. "I'm so excited to see the Universiade upgrade my hometown, it's not only about building new stadiums and gymnasium facilities, but also (about) improving public transport."

Meanwhile, residents are also sacrificing the convenience of their private cars and will use public transport to make room for the Universiade's shuttle bus service.

"Even if it costs me 40 minutes more on

the way to work, I'd rather spend the time and support the games. By doing so, I regard myself as a volunteer for the Universiade," said An Kang.

By Thursday, more than 400,000 car owners had participated in the "green travel plan", which calls for citizens to voluntarily leave their cars in the garage during the event.

Food safety is also among the city's priorities. The organizing committee has set in place a series of rules to help avoid food poisoning, food deterioration or food-borne stimulants.

"All the athletes and delegation officials are recommended to eat in the Universiade Village," said Wang Mei, a spokeswoman for the organizing committee. "The raw materials of all the food provided during the games will be collectively purchased from government suppliers and companies which served the Beijing Olympic Games and the Guangzhou Asiad."

Three meals a day will also be provided for officials, referees, accredited media and distinguished guests of the Universiade living at official hotels. All the suppliers have been carefully selected.