



No pay, but a heck of a lot of work

By ZHANG CHUNMEI
CHINA DAILY

SHENZHEN — He had already sat in heavy rain for nearly half an hour in Shenzhen Stadium. The rainwater blurred his vision and soaked his shirt, but he still kept his eyes focused on the football as the coach kicked in different directions.

Chen Hongjun, 21, a sophomore majoring in computer science from Shenzhen University, is serving as a volunteer at the Universiade soccer matches. As a ball boy, his job is to retrieve the ball when it goes out of bounds and pass it back to the players.

The rain-sodden day was the last training session for Chen and 699 other volunteers in Shenzhen Stadium. The first formal competition of the 2011 Shenzhen Universiade, a soccer match between Ukraine and Malaysia, was held on Thursday.

“We rehearsed the process, made some tiny adjustments, finally arranged the position of every volunteer, and encouraged them to show their best tomorrow,” said Zhou Xiaoqian, a volunteer manager, on Wednesday.

Being a ball boy is one of the toughest tasks at the venue. They need to sit outdoors, regardless of the weather, for the whole match. Over the past two months, Chen’s skin has tanned and his legs ache so much that he can hardly walk

upstairs after training.

“I have repeated every action and gesture thousands of times. For instance, I must roll the ball back to players, instead of throwing it,” said Chen. “It was like military training, and I now feel like a soldier when he finally gets sent to the battlefield.”

While 20 ball boys sit down on the field, Liu Zhitong, 19, a freshman majoring in computer and software at Shenzhen University, hands out towels and pour tea for important guests in the stands with 21 other volunteers.

As an etiquette guide, Liu has had to learn the customs of different countries and also memorize photos of VIPs.

“Officials from different countries might come to watch the games. I have to remember their customs well. For instance, male volunteers cannot get too close to female guests from Malaysia, and this month is Ramadan for some guests, so we cannot serve them some food,” said Liu.

On the second floor, behind the stands, Ke Jiewen and 25 of his peers were busy putting medicine on shelves under the guidance of doctors in the infirmary.

Ke, 20, a sophomore majoring in biomedical engineering at Shenzhen University, is the leader of a stretcher party. “We finally practiced moving the stretcher several times this afternoon (Wednesday),



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Ke Jiewen (left) and his peers are confident they will perform well at the Universiade.

especially upstairs and to the ambulance. Tomorrow, before the match begins, we will ask the teams for the players’ basic information, including height, weight and physical condition. It will help us to provide better service,” said Ke on Wednesday.

Not all the volunteers believe they have had enough time to prepare. Sun Kejia, 20, a sophomore majoring in broadcasting and hosting at Northwestern University in Xi’an, Sha’anxi province,

arrived in Shenzhen on Aug 7. She will act as an usher.

“It has been a rush for me to get familiar with the stadium. I needed to remember the seats, toilets, entrances and other details in only two days,” Sun said. “Two local volunteers were assigned to help me. Now, besides the venue, I can also answer questions like ‘what is the history of the stadium?’ and ‘where is the most popular bar in

the city?’ I will also keep reminding myself to smile.”

Some volunteers took a nap in the rest room on Wednesday, and then went to their positions for a final run-through. “Volunteers are ambassadors for the city. Thursday was the first day to show our hospitality and vitality. We hope guests feel the energy from our young volunteers’ words and smiles,” said Ruan Shuangchen, vice-president of Shenzhen University.

English team turns pig meat back into harbors

By MICHELLE FEI
CHINA DAILY

SHENZHEN — While other Universiade volunteers have been spreading smiles, one group has been serious and critical.

Clad in red jackets, the team’s members wandered the streets of Shenzhen, scouring the English-language signs for mistakes.

“English isn’t our mother tongue, but it is how foreign guests coming for the Universiade will get to know us,” 24-year-old English Correction Panel volunteer Li Bochen said.

“Fixing these mistakes presents a better image.”

Volunteers had their work cut out for them.

The sign for “Shekou Port” appeared as “Shekou Pork”.

The sign for Wenxin 2nd Road



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Two road signs offer different English translations.

read “Wenxin Rd 2st” on one end and “WenXin 2 Rd” on the other.

“Network Management Centre of Government Office Block” was changed to “District Internet Management Center” at a government

office. A sign reading “Free Passage” at railway stations was corrected to “Concession Fares”.

“Foreigners who have lived in China for years might be used to ‘Chinese English’ or be able to read some simple pinyin,” Li said.

“But the Universiade brings many people to China for the first time. They might be confused or misled by these signs.”

Li was raised in Shenzhen. He received his bachelor’s degree from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University in 2009 and earned his master’s from the University of Hong Kong in 2010.

“It’s great to finally have the chance to use my English studies to improve my hometown’s image,” he said.

Li was older than most of the thousands of “English correction ambassadors”. Most were university, high school and middle school students, because the younger generation was believed to have received more English-language training.

Li believed the work to be “necessary.”

“It could present a perfect Shenzhen to the world and show our respect to international visitors,” he said.

The city had inspected 1,714 road signs at more than 5,000 locations by the end of July.

Mistranslations, misspellings and “Chinese English” were the most common mistakes, Shenzhen’s English Learning Campaign Organizing Committee said on Aug 8.

“We are doing our utmost to get rid of incorrect English-language translations,” an organizing committee spokesman said.

“We want to show the best Shenzhen we can at the Universiade.

“The government has also encouraged residents to learn more spoken English and has made great progress.”