

WEATHER

Today's
forecast

Nanjing	21/29 Rainy
Suzhou	24/30 Rainy
Wuxi	24/30 Rainy
Yangzhou	21/29 Rainy
Xuzhou	22/30 Overcast
Changzhou	23/30 Rainy
Nantong	22/29 Rainy
Lianyungang	21/29 Overcast
Huai'an	21/29 Rainy
Yancheng	21/29 Rainy
Zhenjiang	23/30 Rainy
Taizhou	22/29 Rainy
Suqian	22/28 Overcast

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SOCIAL BUTTERFLY

A foreign athlete wears a mask that he painted at the Youth Olympic Village. A series of activities have been organized in the village to enhance exchanges among athletes from different countries and regions. PHOTO BY WEI XIAOHAO / CHINA DAILY

LEADING A MOVEMENT

By SUN XIAOCHEN

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Nanjing expects to forge a vibrant international image by hosting the Youth Olympic Games with an innovative yet frugal approach, organizers said.

Promising innovations in competition format and non-athletic activities, the second Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing will spearhead the reform of the international Olympic movement toward sustainability and youth development, while helping raise the city's international appeal.

"Hosting a major international event like the Youth Olympics, Nanjing has to upgrade its urban infrastructure and public services to meet international standards so that it can accommodate global visitors without barriers", said Xu Ning, director of the Nanjing government's publicity department.

"Our goal is to make Nanjing a city where foreigners find it easy to travel and they don't feel like strangers," Xu said.

More than 200 international volunteers including local expats, college students and foreign visitors from more than 20 countries and regions will staff competition venues, transport hubs and public service booths.

"They are more than ready to serve visitors from around the world while showing the hospitality of the city," said Wang Peng, an executive official

"Our goal is to make Nanjing a city where foreigners find it easy to travel and they don't feel like strangers."

XU NING

Director of the Nanjing government publicity department

with the volunteer department of the Games' organizing committee.

To accommodate thousands of athletes, officials, journalists and sports enthusiasts, the city has invested heavily to improve its public transportation system, bilingual orientation signs and tourism services at scenic spots, making city attractions accessible for international visitors.

Total spending on urban infrastructure upgrades was contained to adhere to the International Olympic Committee's principles of frugal and sustainable Games, said Qi Lu, vice-secretary general of the organizing committee.

Nanjing has planned some innovations to set it apart from other cities that have hosted major sporting events.

For the first time in Olympic history, the torch relay of the Nanjing Youth Olympics went online with Internet users able to take part in a virtual relay by using an app on Android and Apple devices.

As of Tuesday, more than 42 mil-

lion participants had registered on the app to carry the flame through 204 countries and regions in cyberspace. A real mini torch relay also started in Nanjing on Wednesday to highlight symbolic landmarks in the city.

"The online relay is an approach better adopted by youth and it's a new way to celebrate the Games with much less spending," Qi said.

In the competitions, 15 of the 28 sports featured will introduce mixed gender and mixed nationality contests to promote the slogan of "Share the Games, Share Our Dreams".

For example, in track and field, the 680 athletes will be randomly divided into 68 10-a-side teams regardless of their gender, nationality or specialist event to compete in an 8×100-meter relay. Members of the winning team will be awarded medals but they will only count as individual prizes, not toward their nation's medal count.

"By introducing mixed races at the Youth Olympics, we aim to educate the young contenders on the idea of sharing happiness as well as responsibilities," said Chen Xiaohang, deputy director of the athletic department of the committee.

The Nanjing event will also, for the first time, include golf and rugby as official events, and accept wushu, a traditional Chinese martial art; sports climbing; roller skating and skateboarding as showcase events at Sports Lab venues.

RAIN PUTS
CITY ON
ALERT FOR
CEREMONY

By ZHENG XIN

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Nanjing could resort to weather modification to prevent rain from dampening the opening of the Nanjing 2014 Youth Olympic Games.

All its science and engineering capacity has been mobilized, including satellite monitoring and cloud seeding to prevent rain from spoiling the highly anticipated opening ceremony on Saturday, said Zhang Zuqiang, deputy commander-in-chief of the Nanjing 2014 Meteorological Services Command Center.

Data indicating the possibility of rain during the ceremony has thrust the center into action.

However, as weather modification only works in certain meteorological situations, it has not been confirmed that the technology will be applied.

Cloud seeding, a technology developed by American scientists, is achieved by shooting shells or rockets containing silver iodide particles into clouds.

The icy particles freeze drops in clouds, making them grow and eventually fall.

Nanjing has seen 20 percent less precipitation this year compared to 2013.

The center will also provide the public with up-to-date weather forecasts through websites, TV and newspapers.

According to the center, Nanjing is expected to witness cool temperatures during the Games.

However, heat waves, rainstorms, lightning and even typhoons could occur during the event, according to Zhang.

"There is the possibility the city could face frequent rainy days, electrical storms and occasional occurrences of haze and possibly typhoons," said Zhang.