

AROUND NANJING



Nanjing residents perform their morning exercises. The Games are trying to raise people's awareness of sports. PHOTO PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Nanjing uses low-carbon measures

By GAO CHANGXIN
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This year's Nanjing Youth Olympics not only bring changes to the urban environment and to the city's landscape but also instills the concept of "sustainability" into facets of the city's daily management.

To promote a low-carbon transportation system, the Nanjing Youth Olympics Organizing Committee introduced a state-of-the-art electric tram line. The new tram cars, which began operations on Aug 1, can be charged via an overhead contact system installed at every tram station.

With a limited budget, the committee seeks a maximum return for every penny it spends. At the Jinniu Lake sailing venue, geothermal energy was adopted for the heating and cooling of the water in the shower room. Lighting controls at the venue for fencing is optimized through minor software fixes instead of costly hardware replacements.

The Olympic Village has a rainwater collection system and it also can utilize exhaust steam from nearby power stations to produce 6 C water through non-electric air-conditioning equipment that will be funneled into the central air for the village.

Nanjing's metro and light rail lines cover 180 kilometers. During the Games, every competition venue will be accessible through public transportation. There are also 15,900 public bicycles and 556 bicycle service stations throughout the city that can serve 40,000 residents every day. By 2015, 60 percent of all buses in the city will be powered by clean energy.

Xu Jiru, the bid ambassador for the Nanjing Youth Olympics, believes the Olympics will promote a healthy lifestyle and encourage residents in Nanjing to participate more actively in sports.

A greener, more livable city

By ZHENG XIN
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Boasting a vast area of wetlands, parks and forests by the Yangtze River, Nanjing intends to become even more "green," said Liu Yian, deputy secretary of the organizing committee of the Nanjing 2014 Youth Olympic Games.

The green areas are mainly along the city's Ming Dynasty city wall, ring roads and expressways.

"The forestation efforts have been designed to make Nanjing a more habitable place to live and a cozy place to visit," Liu said.

Nanjing has always focused on promoting green energy, optimizing the urban energy structure and boosting energy conservation while reducing emissions by cutting down on its coal consumption, said Liu.

"We have come up with four green belts in the city — one along the Yangtze River, one by the Ming Dynasty city wall, one around Purple Mountain and one around Xuanwu Lake," he said.

"Locals can take a stroll after dinner or exercise at any of the areas, which are within five minutes walking distance."

To further promote the green theme, Nan-

jing also offers about 15,900 public bicycles, which residents can use for free.

Nanjing was awarded the Habitat Scroll of Honor in 2008 by the Human Settlements Program of the United Nations for its progressive and environmentally friendly urban planning.

The city had embarked on major projects that saw improvements to roads, parks, town squares, water supplies, drainage, sewage treatment and garbage disposal.

Nanjing has also vigorously promoted the use of solar energy and wind power, under the banner of "Planning an Ecological City and Building a Livable Home".

Newly renovated city wall opens to public

By ZHENG XIN
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The 25-kilometer-long ancient city wall in Nanjing, built during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) opened to the public earlier this month after a major retrofit.

Renovation of the wall, which was used to consolidate the sovereignty and keep out invaders about 600 years ago, is one aspect of Nanjing that makes the city more warm and welcoming for the Youth Olympic Games, said Diao Renchang, deputy head of the Nanjing Culture, Radio, Television, Press and Publication Department.

"The city wall has always been well-preserved and in good condition. The revamp better protects one of the largest city walls ever constructed in China while giving the public a better grasp of history."

Sections along the city wall have been designed to accommodate the public's demand for daily exercise, leisure and for sightseeing. The length of each section varies from one to about six km.

The city government has also improved vegetation along the city wall. There are more than 250,000 square meters of afforestation and more than 7,300 trees were recently planted.

About 190 seats in newly built gardens along the city wall, as well as 110 garbage bins, more than 300 directional signs and 430 street lamps are provided for the public.

To give residents and tourists a better view of the wall, Nanjing established bicycle rentals that enable tourists to ride on some sections of the wall. The bikes have bigger tires to reduce damage to the wall, city government officials said.

The Ming Dynasty wall was constructed between 1365 and 1386 and originally stretched over 30 km. It was once the longest city wall in the world. Only two-thirds of the wall is intact and it reach-



The historical Zhonghua Gate recently opened to the public after a major retrofit. PHOTO PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

es from the north end of Xuanwu Lake to the southwest corner of Purple Mountain. The wall show-

cases at China's ancient military defense and advanced construction technologies.