

WEATHER

Today's
forecast

Nanjing	20/25 Overcast
Suzhou	20/23 Overcast
Wuxi	20/24 Overcast
Yangzhou	20/26 Overcast
Xuzhou	21/29 Cloudy
Changzhou	20/23 Overcast
Nantong	20/24 Rainy
Lianyungang	20/29 Cloudy
Huai'an	20/28 Cloudy
Yancheng	20/27 Rainy
Zhenjiang	21/25 Overcast
Taizhou	18/25 Overcast
Suqian	20/29 Cloudy

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REACHING NEW HEIGHTS

Athletes scale a climbing wall during a show at the Sports Lab of the 2014 Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing on Sunday. Sports climbing is one of three demonstration sports that have been added to the Nanjing Games along with roller skating and skateboarding. PHOTO BY AFP

Rogge: China capable of hosting any big event

By XINHUA

Beijing will do a "very good job" if it wins the right to host the 2022 Winter Olympic Games, former International Olympic Committee president Jacques Rogge said in Nanjing on Friday.

In an interview with Xinhua News Agency, Rogge, who is in the capital city of Jiangsu province for the second Summer Youth Olympics, said China has the capability to organize any big event.

"Of course, Beijing is not alone. There are other candidates. But I'm sure if Beijing wins (the 2022 bid), they will do a very good job," Rogge said.

Along with Beijing, Oslo, Norway, and Almaty, Kazakhstan, remain in the race for the 2022 Winter Games. The IOC will choose the host city by secret ballot in Kuala Lumpur on July 31, 2015.

Rogge, who stepped down as IOC president in September last year, expressed his confi-

"Of course, Beijing is not alone. There are other candidates. But I'm sure if Beijing wins (the 2022 bid), they will do a very good job."

JACQUES ROGGE
Former IOC president

dence in the successful running of the Nanjing Youth Olympic Games, which officially opened on Saturday.

"I have been privileged to follow the preparations very closely since Nanjing was elected (as the host city). I came four or five times to review the preparations, so I know exactly what you did. It is remarkable. I'm very grateful to the Chinese people and Nanjing for what they have done," said the 72-year-old Belgian.

"My expectations (of the Nanjing YOG) are very high. I'm sure the young athletes will enjoy it," he said.

The former IOC chief is optimistic about the future of the YOG, which was launched four years ago, although some believe that the YOG will be affected by the Olympic Games.

"These Games (YOG) will grow in importance," said Rogge.

"This is only the second time they are being organized. With time the Youth Games will develop. They will prove to be very, very important for the Olympic Movement because it's an ideal way to bring young people to sport and to bring sport to the whole world."

Rogge refused to comment on the IOC's 2020 agenda, the strategic roadmap of the "Olympic Movement" initiated by his successor Thomas Bach.

"For me it's difficult to comment about these changes, because they have not been approved yet. They will be debated in the general assembly of the IOC in December. Only then the decisions will be taken. I cannot comment right now, because this is future," he said.

IOC boss wants to use Games for a brighter future

By SUN XIAOCHEN

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The International Olympic Committee wants to use the current Youth Olympic Games as a test model for a more sustainable approach to future Games' bidding processes and operations, said IOC president Thomas Bach.

Given the scale and cost of major sporting events, hosting the Olympics has been an appealing yet challenging task for many developing countries, which has hampered the spread of the Olympic spirit.

The IOC has been considering reforms to the Games' bidding procedure and more flexibility in sports programs and in the scale of events. The Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing provide a valuable test site, said Bach.

"We are considering the question of sustainability very seriously on our agenda for 2020. You can already see some results and some changes we have made in this respect," Bach, who was elected IOC president in September 2013, told a media conference on Saturday.

Following his election, Bach, a gold medalist fencer at the 1976 Olympics in Montreal, said he wished to change the Olympic bidding process and make sustainability a priority given that the current bidding process asks "too much, too early."

The Youth Olympic program, which was initiated by the IOC during the tenure of former president Jacques Rogge, calls for a frugal and experimental approach to the Youth Games, and that baton has been passed to Bach.

So far, the 60-year-old German feels satisfied with the Nanjing organizing committee's work to present the Games in a sustainable way.

"The Chinese hosts have done an excellent job, the stage has been set for a very successful Youth Olympic Games," he said. "We really enjoy the seamless cooperation between the IOC and the organizing committee in the last four years and do so now. We can be very confident that we will have an excellent and joyful YOG in Nanjing."

Still, issues about the reluctance of potential big-event host cities has begun to surface — especially after Vietnam announced its withdrawal in April from holding the 2019 Asian Games, citing a lack of funds and domestic support.

The reported \$51 billion price tag associated with the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics caused even more concerns about the host's heavy investment on urban infrastructure and public services.

Bach stressed spending on infrastructure should not be counted on the Games' operational budget.

"What we have to realize is that in some countries there is still a misconception about the organization of the Olympic Games. It is very clear that the cost for the organization of the Games has been the same at the past few Games. It is about \$2 billion for the Winter Games and \$3 billion for the Summer Games," he said.