

A blueprint for the future

By ZHENG XIN
zhengxin@chinadaily.com.cn

The Nanjing Youth Olympic Games are expected to leave the city with many benefits, in both urban development and spiritual legacy, said Miranda Kiuri, a scientific collaborator at the Laboratory of Local Environment Management and Analysis of the University of Liege, Belgium.

"Olympic emblematic architecture, sites and landscapes are somehow illustrative of an evolution of the understanding of the city itself as a catalyst of urban development and as a positive image a society wants to give of itself," said Kiuri.

"I think Nanjing is achieving these objectives."

After participating in different Olympic bids as a manager, planner and architect and having worked as a consultant and expert for different institutions and international sporting organizations, Kiuri said Nanjing is symbolized by its culture-centered urbanization and by the Youth Olympics.

"Tangible cultural heritage as well as sports are powerful symbols of peace," she said.

According to Kiuri, the sports stadiums in Nanjing can become a bridge between the city and the world.

During the YOG, Nanjing has broadened its links to the world through innovative technological initiatives as well as through media coverage of events where the stadiums are also protagonists, she said.

"The preparation and the celebration of the YOG play a role in the stadium's popularity," she said.

The relationship between the stadiums



A view of the Nanjing Olympic Sports Center, the main venue for the Youth Olympic Games. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



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MIRANDA KIURI

Olympic bid planner and architect

and the urban environment is a testimony to a way of developing the city through

exceptional infrastructures, said Kiuri.

Children worldwide can hugely benefit from it, she said.

Kiuri and her colleagues in Belgium analyzed how a dialogical strategy in architecture highlights an Olympic stadium's identity. That approach reflects essential values, for example, respect for diversity.

In this way, children can learn about Olympic values through the buildings.

Olympic Stadiums influence not only the groups affiliated with the world of sports but all citizens, said Kiuri.

Stadium space, as a place holding living memories, covers a special role in a city. They always have a historical role, containing authenticity and uniqueness as a representative example of culture, she said.

"Nanjing's stadiums' space can be considered as a culturally meaningful territory, where sports can become a part of the urban culture," she said.

"I think it would be interesting to evalu-

ate this impact for Nanjing at a long-term post-event stage."

According to Kiuri, the stadiums in Nanjing are also an element of significant urban composition. They have an influence on the city and can be used as an instrument from an urban planning perspective.

"They are examples of emblematic Olympic architecture that meets the highest technical standards for the practice and viewing of the sporting spectacle," she said.

Kiuri suggested Nanjing should further safeguard its existing heritage, study lessons issued from existing heritages and traditions, while reinterpreting them into new creative urban solutions to better maintain the city's ancient architecture.

"The city should also further safeguard its YOG memories, exploring and evaluating the Nanjing YOG legacy, like the notion of cultural heritage as part of its strategy of sustainability," she said.

Ex-boxer: Sports help youth fight against crime

By ZHENG XIN
zhengxin@chinadaily.com.cn

For Luke Dowdney, boxing is more than a combat sport involving strength, speed, reflexes and endurance.

"It is also a way for kids to let out aggression and stay off the streets at the same time," said the British anthropologist, former boxer and founder of Fight for Peace, a gym and education center for young men and women from under-developed areas.

"As a place instilled with hard work and a sense of community, it's a way for kids to fight for peace," Dowdney said.

On the subject of China, he said every country that experiences rapid economic growth is going to experience an element

of economic disparity that often leads to an increase in crime and violence.

"Often the people it impacts the most are children and adolescents who, because of the divide that is created between rich and poor, suffer from a lack of education and employment opportunities," he said.

"During times of economic prosperity, it is especially important that China focuses on methods to provide more opportunities for young people ensuring they have alternatives to becoming involved in crime and violence."

According to Dowdney, Fight for Peace reaches young people in more than 23 countries via its Global Alumni Program.

The program trains community-based organizations to deliver the Fight for

Peace ideals to help support young people in communities affected by crime and violence.

"It is Fight for Peace's aim to reach young people anywhere in the world who are affected by crime and violence," he said.

Despite the fact China has not yet been identified a partner country, Fight for Peace was open to working in the country, he said.

The Fight for Peace methodology uses boxing and martial arts combined with education to steer youngsters away from the mean streets.

In a research undertaken by Dowdney across four continents, he discovered the main reasons why youngsters got involved in crime were basically the same.

"This international research combined with the success of the Fight for Peace methodology has resulted in a global need for our services," he said.

"Trying to meet this demand has been a challenge, especially on our resources, though Fight for Peace is now meeting this need via the Global Alumni Program by training local organizations to deliver its services."

Dowdney moved around a lot as a child in London but always loved to box and even competed professionally.

While working as a volunteer for several groups in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, he got deeply involved in human rights issues.

He said he also saw a lot of youngsters he knew get killed.