

# ABU Garden roots in Mongolia

**ABU office bearers and Administrative Council members gathered at the 'ABU Garden' located behind the premises of MNB-Mongolia for a tree-planting ceremony.**

The ABU Garden was a green campaign initiated by RRI-Indonesia. The garden land was provided courtesy of the Mongolian public broadcaster.

Each ABU Administrative Council member organisation was given an allotted area and a tree to plant.

General Director of MNB Naranbaatar Myanganbuu said: "I wish that all of you would come back to Mongolia again and again to see the progress of your tree."

ABU President Yoshinori Imai said: "I will make sure that my grandchildren and my great grandchildren will come back here to do that."

Before the ceremony concluded, RRI's President Director Parni Hadi presented a set of silver horses as souvenir to Mr Naranbaatar and said: "Horses are fed on grasses so we'll have to sustain the garden so that they will not starve."



ABU President Yoshinori Imai (centre) plants a tree



KBS-Korea representatives pose with their tree



MNB's Naranbaatar Myanganbuu receives souvenir from RRI's Parni Hadia

## ABU GA a 'good practice' for Mongolian students

**Delegates who attended the annual meetings will not forget the smiling faces of the volunteers who helped ensure things went smoothly.**

They were impossible to miss – dressed in blue T-shirts, running around assisting MNB, the host broadcaster of the annual event, and ABU Secretariat staff.

The student volunteers were a group of 25, invited by MNB to help out with the event. Their responsibilities ranged from airport pickup to assisting with the PA systems in

the meeting rooms in Ulaanbaatar Hotel.

Among them was B Urantzaya, who is nearing the end of four years of study for a Bachelor's Degree in British and American Studies at the National University of Mongolia.

"We were invited to provide help in this programme for a period of seven days," she said.

Another student, Oyuntungalag, said: "We will be English teachers and translators in the future, so this is a good practice for us. We get to meet a lot of foreigners and to be able to speak English."



Some of the student volunteers at the annual meetings

# Farewell from Mongolia



A prominent billboard on the road to Ulaanbaatar airport farewelled delegates attending this year's General Assembly. The billboard was sponsored by ABU Associate members Voice of America (VOA) and Radio Free Asia (RFA) who also sponsored the Daily Bulletin at the annual meetings. The blue sky was typical of the fine weather that delegates enjoyed during their stay in the Mongolian capital. A week later Ulaanbaatar was blanketed in snow

## Radio Today celebrates birthday



Staff at Radio Today in Dhaka celebrated the station's third birthday in October. Radio Today is Bangladesh's first FM radio station and broadcasts within a 100 km radius of both Dhaka and Chittagong. It has been an ABU member since 2007

# Delhi's Commonwealth Games countdown begins

by John Barton

**Empires have risen and fallen during Delhi's 5,000 year history so the few problems the city's fathers are encountering in the countdown to the 19th Commonwealth Games next year will not set the pulses racing.**

Not yet anyway!

With less than a year to the opening ceremony on 3 October 2010, the Games organising committee (OC) is facing its challenges. Most of the venues, including the national stadium, are unfinished as well as the new metro service, a pivotal transport link to hotels, venues and other key landmarks.

There's much to be done and not a lot of time in which to do it as the first test events are scheduled in a few months time! But there is a general air of inevitability that, no matter what obstacles may appear, the people of Delhi will meet them and go forward.

Just recently they could not be distracted from another equally important issue: saving Delhi's trees. They are literally being asphyxiated by concrete surrounds, so the Delhi High Court was told.

With the stroke of a pen the learned judges decreed that ALL trees in the capital would be given a lung; a six foot "breathing area" free of concrete and other materials.



The Commonwealth Games National Stadium under construction

Every tree, in a city that's described as the greenest in the world, would be spared! That's some commitment in a metropolitan area covering 1500 square kilometres. But it's clear evidence of their tremendous sense of civic pride and it is what will drive them towards delivering the biggest sporting event in India's history.

National pride is at stake as well. India is likely to play for even bigger sporting stakes with a bid to host the Summer Olympics in 2020. So the pressure is definitely on to stage a Commonwealth Games that is professional and without incident.

To underscore the latter point the Prime

Minister of India, Manmohan Singh, has given Delhi a guarantee that no effort would be spared to make sure that all venues and related infrastructure projects would be completed on schedule.

That is a relief to broadcasters who recently attended the first World Broadcasters Meeting in Delhi against a backdrop of delays in construction, and a spat between the organising committee (OC) and the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF).

For some months the Chief Executive of the CGF, Mike Hooper, has been locked in a personal duel with the Chairman of the OC, Suresh Kalmadi. Mr Hooper has been strident in his criticism of the slow pace of the build, suggesting that

some competition venues might not be completed to a satisfactory level. Mr Kalmadi called for his removal from Delhi.

Broadcasters were told that the clash between the two key men, who will play vital roles in the games delivery, had been resolved. We hope so. Apart from the construction problems there is also the issue of security and it will require both individuals to give it their undivided attention.

Broadcasters sought and were given iron clad guarantees that all venues, hotels and transport routes would have blanket security coverage involving police, military, para-military and intelligence officers. ●



Still a lot of work to do inside the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium where the Commonwealth Games ceremonies and track and field events will be held

## Games information

Delhi will stage the biggest Commonwealth Games ever. Other interesting bits of information:

- 12 days of competition from 3 to 14 October 2010
- 71 countries will take part representing one-third of the world's population
- 8,000 athletes and officials
- 17 sports in 23 world class venues
- 30,000 volunteers
- A promise of creative splendour in the two ceremonies which will focus heavily on Indian culture.
- Television audience of around 2 billion people

# Guangzhou learns the lessons of Beijing 2008

by John Barton

**Of all the multi sport games that are held around the world, including the Olympics, the Asian Games is the hardest of them all. No question. Just look at the stats.**

More sports (43). More venues (53). More feeds (78).

And, logistical challenges that would take your breath away.

You would think that after Beijing, the most successful Olympics of all time, the Chinese would have taken a good long break from staging another major international games or event and bask in the afterglow.

But, no!

They are indefatigable. No sooner had the Lord Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, disappeared north with the writ to stage the next Summer Games in 2012, than the Chinese turned their eyes deep south to another of its economic powerhouses, the industrial-manufacturing behemoth that is Guangzhou, known locally as 'Little Hong Kong'.

And it is there, along with its sister cities of Dongguan, Shanwei and Fushan, that the 16th Asian Games will be held in November next year, only two years after 'Beautiful Beijing!'.

The Summer Olympics Games in Beijing showcased 28 sports, all known as Olympic sports.

When the cauldron is lit next year in Guangzhou there will be 43 sports to see, all the Olympic ones and more 15 besides with a decidedly Asian flavour like kabaddi, sepak takraw, wushu, dragon boat racing, and ju-jitsu.

Hardly the stuff you would think that would excite a European audience, or would they?

It is just a question of exposure. For the first time in Asian Games history the event was broadcast in Europe and North America in 2006 which is indicative of the value of the event and the excitement provided by the sports.

No one can tell me that sepak takraw is not one of the more exciting and absorbing sports in the world. It is made for great television: highly athletic, skilful,

and with unpredictable outcomes.

Sepak takraw will survive the cut in sports for future Asian Games but others will not.

"It is time to rationalise what we are doing," said the Special Adviser to the Olympic Council of Asia, Patrick Furlong.

"Forty-three sports is too many and poses too many challenges to city fathers, organising committees, and broadcasters," he said at the 1st World Broadcaster Meeting held recently in Guangzhou.

So, when the next edition of the Games comes around the number of sports will be reduced to 35, still much more than the Olympic number which has been cut to 26 for London 2012, but one which take a lot of pressure off the host city.

Guangzhou has taken on a huge challenge but in the interests of its many millions of citizens.

Rather than congregate the venues into one city, it has spread them across the four metropolitan areas that make up the ancient capital of Panyu to make it

easier for residents to go and see their favourite sport.

It means that in basketball, for instance, there will be five venues. That is a logistical challenge not only for the host, but also for rights holding broadcasters who will want to be present at all venues to provide a comprehensive coverage.

Fortunately the games broadcaster is being run by the former Chief Operating Office of Beijing Olympic Broadcast, Mr Ma Guoli.

As the Chief Executive Mr Guoli has already streamlined the host broadcast to a point where it will meet or exceed the very high standard that was set in Doha in 2006.

It was gratifying to see so many staffers who were involved in the Beijing Games drafted into the organising committee – GACOC – and the host broadcaster – GAB – in Guangzhou.

With the lessons learned from Beijing there is no doubt that we will see the best ever Asian Games. ●



Delegates attending the WBM in Guangzhou

#### NOTE:

The ABU is representing 40 broadcasters in Guangzhou 2010. China and Korea have left the ABU pool for the event, as they are the host nations for 2010 and 2014.

It has very strong pools – three of them – from leading broadcasters such as DDI-India, down to the smaller nations such as Timor Leste. All will receive an excellent coverage from the ABU.