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## A Winter Spectacle: Beijing 2022 Opens

By LU Zijian

President Xi Jinping on the night of February 4 declared the 24th Olympic Winter Games open at the National Stadium in Beijing, at a dazzling opening ceremony.

Once again, Beijing presented a global audience with spectacular performances and special effects, highlighted by Olympic rings that emerged from a giant "ice cube."

Sports play an important role in uniting and inspiring people, which are especially needed during a time when the world is still reeling from the negative effects of COVID-19. This sentiment is echoed in the updated Olympic motto "Faster, Higher, Stronger - Together" approved by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) last July. Together, the newly added term in the motto, recognizes the unifying power of sport and the importance of solidarity, according to the IOC.

Despite the current division, conflict and mistrust in the world, "it is possible to be fierce rivals, while at the same time living peacefully and respectfully together," said IOC President Thomas Bach at the opening ceremony.

The ceremony also demonstrated solidarity via a large snowflake, which was formed by uniting all the placards bearing the name of each participating team.

The large snowflake was later revealed to be the cauldron to hold the Olympic flame. For the first time ever, the last torch delivering the flame

was used as the key torch to hold the flame, which put rigorous requirements on the torch from a technical perspective.

Scientists had run numerous tests on the connection reliability and environmental suitability of the torch to ensure long-time combustion and connection with gas, electricity and signal control when it was plugged in to the cauldron.

The flame is also much smaller than previous versions as a manifestation of the idea of low carbon and sustainable development.

The spectacular Olympic rings also featured sci-tech achievements. Visually, they are carved out of the large "ice cube" with 24 laser beams. However, the Olympic rings are LED devices, which are powered by enough batteries that are able to offer a stable power source even at temperatures as low as -20°C.

Continuing with the LED device theme, the surface of the main stage was covered with the largest LED screen (10552m<sup>2</sup>) ever made. The huge screen can perfectly display various special effects and add dimension by transforming into polyhedral convex screens.

At the opening ceremony there were many more sci-tech achievements used, without which the spectacle would have been much less exciting.

The Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games will last until February 20, and China is ready to offer a splendid experience for all with many more sci-tech achievements.

## Chinese Premier Holds Symposium with Foreign Experts in China

Premier Li Keqiang on January 26 held a symposium in Beijing with representatives of foreign experts working in China before the Spring Festival or the Chinese Lunar New Year.

Li extended Lunar New Year greetings to the foreign experts and thanked them for their contributions to China's reform, opening-up, and modernization.

Experts from countries including Britain and South Africa shared their advice and suggestions.

Li said China made significant achievements in social and economic development in the past year despite severe internal and external challenges and risks.

The country has prioritized employment in its macro policy and revitalized market entities through tax and fee cuts, said Li. "We have implemented policies in proper intensity, leaving policy space for this year to address challenges."

In the face of new downward economic pressure, Li stressed that the country would strengthen cross-cyclical adjustments to keep the country's economy running within an appropriate range.

China will strengthen targeted adjustments, take timely and effective measures to cope with challenges, stabilize market expectations, and boost market confidence, he said.

The premier added that China will take bolder measures to alleviate difficulties faced by enterprises, including implementing tax and fee cuts, lowering financing costs of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, and expanding effective demands.

Stressing that opening-up is a fundamental state policy in China, Li said China would continue pushing forward high-level opening-up and provide more convenience for foreign experts to work and live in China.

Source: XINHUA



A staff member of the Russian Olympic Committee holding and reading the Science and Technology Daily Weekly Edition at Beijing 2022 Main Media Center. (PHOTO: S&T DAILY)

## Beijing 2022 Sparks Winter Sports Interest Across China

Edited by TANG Zhexiao

The Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games will be the start of a new era for winter sports worldwide, said International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach ahead of the event's opening ceremony.

China has been boosting its snow sports economy since winning the 2015 bid to hold the Winter Olympics in Beijing. As of January 2022, more than 346 million Chinese people had engaged in winter sports, according to the National Bureau of Statistics of China.

As Bach said in the opening ceremony on February 4, China is a winter sports country, and the increased physical activity generated through winter sports is contributing to the health and wellbeing of the Chinese people.

Many people in Beijing have long enjoyed winter skating on rivers and lakes. Nowadays, young Chinese are expanding their aspirations from basketball, football and gymnastics to sports such as ice hockey and skiing.

Various programs have been launched to familiarize young generations with winter sports. By the end of 2021, almost 3,000 schools across the country had integrated winter sports into their curriculum, with theory-based classes and practical sessions.

The development of ski resorts and winter sports facilities has also soared over the last few years. In 2014, there were only 460 ski resorts in China. Currently, there are 803 indoor and outdoor ski resorts across the country,

with 3,500 kilometers ski tracks measuring 100 million square meters.

David Peng, a regular ice skater at Beijing's Houhai Lake, said hosting the Winter Olympics has improved China's winter sports infrastructure and boosted China's international influence.

Although China is a late comer to the winter sports market, it also has advantages and potential. According to Little Red Book, a Chinese social media and e-commerce platform, one of the "Top 10 Life Trends in 2022" is skiing tutorials. The search volumes for this topic have been more than twice that of the course number in 2021.

The Chinese winter sports boom has many economic benefits and is directly impacting local residents. One in five residents in Chongli, a district of Zhangjiakou City which is host to the biathlon, ski jumping, cross-country skiing and snowboard and freestyle during the Games, are employed in the snow sports industry. Official data showed during the last snow season, Chongli received 2.462 million tourists, earning 2.02 billion RMB (about 320 million USD). With help of the winter sports industry, all 12 poverty-stricken counties and districts in Zhangjiakou have been lifted out of poverty as of June 2021, including 939,000 people in 1,970 villages.

With snow sports boom and fulfilling the goal to engage 300 million people in winter sports, Beijing 2022 will also mean a lot for winter sports beyond China, which would change the global landscape of winter sports forever, according to the IOC president.

### Sci-tech Highlighted in Beijing 2022

- High-tech Winter Olympics**  
Targeting to be one of the most innovative Games in Olympic history, Beijing 2022 is to use environmentally friendly technology, green energy, cloud broadcasting, 5G, and augmented reality tech. (PHOTO: VCG)
- Low-carbon Venue**  
The National Speed Skating Oval, known as the Ice Ribbon, adopts carbon dioxide trans-critical direct ice-making technology, making carbon emissions close to zero. (PHOTO: XINHUA)
- 5G Studio in High-speed Train**  
The world's first high-speed train that incorporates a studio powered by 5G technology has been launched to serve Beijing 2022 to connect different venues and international media. (PHOTO: XINHUA)
- Rescuing Helicopter**  
With an improved medical transport system, injured athletes at Beijing 2022 might see the rescuing helicopter as fast as in four minutes after accidents. (PHOTO: XINHUA)
- Catering Service**  
Using green electricity and biodegradable tableware, Beijing 2022 provides a menu of 678 dishes during the Games to athletes from diverse cultural backgrounds. (PHOTO: VCG)
- Medallists' Bouquets**  
To replace traditional fresh flowers, the bouquets using traditional Shanghai wool-knitting techniques will be presented to award winners at Beijing 2022. (PHOTO: VCG)

Presented by Science and Technology Daily



Chinese athlete Ren Ziwei celebrates after winning the gold medal for men's 1000m short track speed skating at Capital Indoor Stadium in Beijing. (PHOTO: XINHUA)



China's Gu Ailing claims the historic gold for women's freeski big air at Beijing 2022. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

WECHAT ACCOUNT E-PAPER

