

IR 2008: Olympics Update

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Beijing's hosting of the 2008 Olympic Games is the second-largest public works project ever undertaken in China, after the construction of the Three Gorges Dam Project.² Any undertaking of this size, requiring major construction projects and infrastructural changes, raises concerns regarding evictions and relocations as well as questions over transparency and accountability relating to the enormous expenditures on those projects.

In the last IR 2008 Update, *Promises, Promises*, HRIC examined the Beijing Olympic Action Plan, analyzing the promises Beijing made as host of the Olympics and the implementation concerns that had surfaced since the Plan's adoption in 2002. In this issue, HRIC provides an update on the progress of venue construction in Beijing, and outlines suggestions for a progress report by the Beijing Organizing Committee (BOC) to address the human rights issues presented by these construction projects.

The BOC has announced that by the end of 2005, all Olympic venues will have

begun construction, and all venues will be completed by 2007.³ The list below offers a brief update on the state of construction for each of those new projects. The 2008 venues will be located primarily in Beijing, with the venue for sailing events in Qingdao, and football venues in Tianjin, Shenyang, Shanghai and Qinhuangdao. In Beijing, the sites under construction are mainly part of the Olympic Green on the north end of the central axis of the city. Three other sites around the city are in Haidian District in the northwestern part of the city, the Western Community Area in the northern part of the city, and the University Area in the west. Beijing will house 32 venues in total for the Olympics, 19 of which will be newly-constructed (including six temporary sites).⁴

While some venues are simply being renovated, and others are being constructed on commercial property,⁵ other sites underway or being prepared for construction are located in formerly residential parts of Beijing. Seven of the venues will be built on the Olympic Green, which was a residential area when preparation for construction began in 2002. At a reception for the BOC in Hong Kong in 2002, Beijing Vice-Mayor Zhang Mao noted that the construction of the Olympic Green was a "land development project involving removal of some houses."⁶ The Vice-Mayor noted that

at the end of September 2002, more than 90 percent of necessary removals had been completed in that area, and the removals would be finished by the end of that year.⁷

The Center on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE) reports that 100,000 households comprising more than 300,000 people had been forcibly evicted for Olympic venue construction by 2004.⁸ Beijing officials, however, state that people have been relocated, not evicted, and that people removed for Olympics construction will be compensated.⁹ In March 2004, Beijing officials reported that "a total of 6,000 households will be relocated due to the construction of Olympics venues," and that as of that date, 5,000 had been removed.¹⁰ At the same time, however, officials admit that some demolitions of homes and evictions had been conducted illegally, though the official media states that forcible evictions amount to only four out of every 1,000 resettlements.¹¹ Furthermore, reports suggest that people are not being adequately compensated, and those seeking redress have been unable to do so. In fact, in 2004 courts received instructions not to take up cases seeking compensation.¹²

In planning and carrying out international events, states remain bound to their



Groundbreaking for the National Indoor Stadium on May 28. Photo: Getty Images

international human rights obligations. In addition to specific obligations undertaken for an event such as hosting of an international event like the Olympics, the PRC government has related obligations to respect human rights under international treaties it has ratified as well as international principles and it has adhered to, such as the Millennium Development Goals.

As a Party to the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the PRC must enact domestic legislation that protects against forcible evictions, and that strictly control the circumstances under which evictions are carried out.¹³ Wherever groups of people are evicted, as is the case in large development projects such as the Olympics, all affected people should be consulted prior to eviction, properly identified, and have the right to adequate compensation for the homes they lose.¹⁴ In March 2005, international human rights experts expressed concern that the PRC has not adequately ensured that evictions comply with these international human rights standards.¹⁵ In their Concluding Observations on the PRC's report this year, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) noted its concern "about the reports of forced evictions and insufficient measures to provide compensation or alternative housing to those who have been removed from their homes in the context of urban development projects," and expressed specific concern over "the number of forced evictions and demolitions that have occurred in anticipation of the 2008 Olympics."¹⁶

The Olympic Games are also a symbol of peace and international cooperation. In the Millennium Development Declaration, all UN members urged states to support the International Olympic Committee in its efforts to promote peace and human understanding.¹⁷ In order to ensure that the Olympics remain a positive symbol of peace, understanding and positive human

development, the various stakeholders in the Olympic Games, including the Chinese government, the International Olympic Committee and the BOC, the business community and in particular those companies that have undertaken venue design and construction contracts, civil society and the international community must take greater steps to ensure that individuals are not being forcibly relocated, and that where forcible relocations have occurred, affected individuals have access to adequate redress.

As most recently noted by the CESCR, the lack of sufficient information has been "an obstacle to effectively examining the situation" of forced evictions and demolitions in anticipation of the 2008 Olympics.¹⁸ In order to ensure transparency and monitoring of abuses, the following information related to venue construction should be made publicly available in a progress report by the Beijing Olympics Committee by the end of 2005:

SITE USAGE

The progress report should provide a complete accounting of the prior use for each Olympic venue prior to the start of construction, including type of use, the number of people residing on the site, identification of where those people have been relocated and what compensation they received.

RELOCATIONS AND EVICTIONS

If people were relocated or evicted, the progress report should clearly describe:

- Any consultation with the community, timeframes for these consultations, the process and information presented, whether officials were present, and the results of those consultations;
- The length of time and assistance provided to people during the eviction or relocation process;
- Procedures for carrying out the evic-

tions or relocations and what provisions were in place to protect against abuses;

- The number of people relocated or evicted reported by site, and the totals of all those relocated or evicted;
- Identification and description of land made available for relocation and whether the relocation sites provided were comparable in distance from the city, available resources and available use (e.g., arable land versus urban apartment) to the sites from which people were relocated; and
- Description of any transitional, temporary or ongoing homelessness resulting from these relocations or evictions, including arrangements made to address that problem.

COMPENSATION

The progress report should describe any compensation mechanism provided, the total resources allocated for compensation and the total compensation paid out to date.

INVESTIGATION OF ABUSES

The progress report should report in detail on any allegations of abuse during evictions or relocations, and the measures taken to address those allegations, including:

- Description of resources provided to investigate allegations of abuse;
- Identification of the public or private employees responsible for abuses;
- Description of the results of the investigations, criminal or other action taken against those responsible for abuse,
- Remedies available to those who lost real or personal property as a result of that abuse, and a complete list of the number of people who sought remedies and the degree to which they were successful; and
- Description of what measures will be put in place to prevent future occurrences of abuse.

UPDATE ON OLYMPIC VENUE CONSTRUCTION

Olympic Venue	Sport	Location	Status of Construction
China International Exhibition Center	table tennis, badminton, fencing, wrestling, modern pentathlon	The Olympic Green	Estimated cost: \$49.62 million To be built.
National Stadium	athletics, football finals	The Olympic Green	Estimated cost: \$362 million (up from original \$247.51 million)

UPDATE ON OLYMPIC VENUE CONSTRUCTION, cont.

Olympic Venue	Sport	Location	Status of Construction
National Stadium, cont.			<p>Construction start date: December 24, 2003 (halted in July 2004 costs found to be exceeding budget; resumed November 2004)¹⁹</p> <p>Construction end date: 2006²⁰</p> <p>Design: Herzog & de Meuron Architekten AG (Switzerland)/China Architecture Design and Research Group (China)</p>
National Indoor Stadium	artistic gymnastics, rhythmic gymnastics, trampoline, handball finals, volleyball finals	The Olympic Green	<p>Estimated cost: \$79 million</p> <p>Construction start date: May 28, 2005</p> <p>Construction end date: October 2007²¹</p>
National Swimming Center	swimming, diving, synchronized swimming, water polo finals	The Olympic Green	<p>Estimated cost: \$71 million (up from original \$46.21 million)</p> <p>Construction start date: December 24, 2003²²</p> <p>Construction end date: October 2007²³</p> <p>Design: CSCEC Design Company (China), PTW (Australia) and OVE ARUP (Australia)²⁴</p>
Olympic Green Archery Field	archery	The Olympic Green	<p>Estimated cost: \$116.56 million</p> <p>To be built.</p>
National Tennis Center	tennis	The Olympic Green	<p>Estimated cost: \$45.71 million</p> <p>To be built.</p> <p>Design: Contract bids due August 16, 2004.</p>
National Hockey Stadium	hockey	The Olympic Green	<p>Estimated cost: \$70.17 million</p> <p>To be built</p> <p>Design: Contract bids due August 16, 2004.</p>
Beijing Shooting Range	shooting	Western Community Area	<p>Estimated cost: \$37.91 million</p> <p>Renovations start date: July 13, 2004</p> <p>Renovations end date: March 2007²⁵</p> <p>Design: Architectural Design and Research Institute, Tsinghua University²⁶</p>
Laoshan Velodrome	track cycling	Western Community Area	<p>Estimated cost: \$43.13 million</p> <p>Construction start date: July 13, 2004</p> <p>Construction end date: first half of 2006</p> <p>Design: Contract awarded to Guangdong Architectural Design and Research Institute</p>
Wukesong Indoor Stadium	basketball	Western Community Area	<p>Estimated cost: \$362 million (up from original \$283.05)</p> <p>Construction start date: March 29, 2005</p> <p>Construction end date: end of 2007²⁷</p> <p>Design: Burckhardt + Partner AG (Switzerland)</p> <p>Owned and managed: Beijing Wukesong Culture and Sports Centre Co Ltd.²⁸</p>
Shunyi Olympic Aquatic Park	rowing, canoe/kayak	Scenic area northeast of Beijing (Chaobai River region), Shunyi District	<p>Estimated cost: \$95 million (up from original \$79.50)</p> <p>To be built, completion projected by the end of 2007²⁹</p> <p>Design: Tianhong Bidding Joint Venture (EDAW (Hong Kong/USA) together with other firms)³⁰</p> <p>Bids for construction contractor and supervisor opened in May 2005.³¹</p>
Shoutiyuan Indoor Stadium	judo, taekwondo	Northwestern Beijing	<p>Estimated cost: \$34.72 million</p> <p>To be built</p>
Beitida Indoor Stadium	volleyball	Beijing University of Physical Physical Education in the Northwestern Part of Beijing	<p>Estimated cost: \$14.66 million</p> <p>To be built</p>
Qingdao International Marina	sailing	Jiangquan Bay, Fushan Bay, outside of Damai Island of Qingdao City, 690 km to the east of Beijing. Daily flights will be available between Beijing and Qingdao	<p>Estimated cost: \$89.09 million</p> <p>Construction start date: Foundation laid May 25, 2004 on old site of the Beihai Shipyard</p> <p>Construction end date: completed by 2008</p>

RELATED CONSTRUCTION

SECURITY SYSTEM

Timeframe

Launched on March 23, 2005.³²

Implemented in four phases: preparation (2004), construction (2005–2007), rehearsal and adjustment (January–June 2008), and exercise (July 2008–end of Olympics).³³

The command and intelligence centers for the Olympics will be established in 2005, according to Director Ma Zhenchuan of the Beijing PSB.³⁴

Budget

No fixed budget as yet; total expenditure to exceed \$300 million.³⁵

Description

- Capabilities equal to the Athens Olympics 2004
- Security checks at public venues
- Detecting and tracking of suspicious incidents
- Portable explosives-recognition equipment under development
- New “Face Recognition and Warning System” to be development as “safeguard in the fight against terrorism.”

Will distinguish between different types of people, images can be sent through the network immediately.³⁶

- However, Beijing will not be turned into a “fortress,” but will be “a place with an auspicious and peaceful atmosphere that will make athletes, coaches and visitors feel relaxed and safe.”³⁷

Management and Responsibility

- To involve the participation of most security organizations in Beijing, including public security, national security and armed police.³⁸
- Beijing Public Security Bureau (PSB) established special security department, including an anti-terrorism unit.
- Minister of Public Security will head the PSB’s work and liaise with foreign experts, including the US Federal Bureau of Investigation.

- At least 92,500 security personnel, including 40,000 police, 27,000 armed police, 10,000 guards and 5,000 volunteers.³⁹
- June 2004 training for Beijing PSB included 2-month training at Beijing People’s Police College for the Olympics, focusing on anti-hijacking and anti-riot skills.⁴⁰

NEW SUBWAY LINES

Timeframe

Construction on four new subway lines to serve Olympics venues is now 70 percent complete.⁴¹

Budget

\$10.8 billion budgeted for various kinds of transportation improvements.⁴²

Description

- New subway line aims to improve transportation and access in Beijing.
- Subway system capacity will increase by 400 percent, making it capable of accommodating 1.74 billion passengers per year.⁴³
- Subway lines have attracted 15 billion yuan in private investment for the operation.⁴⁴
- Olympic spectators will benefit from free access to subways.⁴⁵

UPDATE ON OFFICIAL SPONSORS

BOCOG officially launched the Beijing 2008 Sponsor Program on March 31, 2005, encouraging businesses to take advantage of the opportunities brought by the Games to enhance brand awareness and company profile. This call marked the second phase of BOCOG’s sponsorship program. The first phase was Beijing 2008 Partners, and the third will be Beijing 2008 Suppliers.⁴⁶

PHASE 2 SPONSORS TO DATE:

China Petrochemical Corp. (Sinopec)—October 11, 2004—Official petrochemical partner. Sinopec will provide funds, refined petroleum and petrochemical products, lubricants and related services to the Games. One of China’s largest integrated petroleum and chemical companies,

Sinopec has nearly 30,000 service stations across the country. It ranked 53rd in the 2003 edition of the Fortune Global 500.⁴⁷

Corporate Web site:
<http://english.sinopec.com/index.jsp>.

China Mobile Communications Corp.—July 21, 2004—Official Mobile Communications Partner. Ranked 242 in the latest Fortune 500 listings.⁴⁸

Corporate Web site:
<http://www.chinamobile.com/>.

China Network Communications Corp. (China Netcom)—July 22, 2004—Official Fixed Telecommunications Partner. Has a wide range of telecommunications networks and facilities covering more than 260 countries and regions.⁴⁹

Corporate Web site:
<http://www.chinanetcom.com.cn/en/index.asp>.

Adidas Greater China—January 24, 2005—Official Sportswear Partner. Adidas will supply sportswear for all team members, staff, volunteers and technical officials of the Games, and will also outfit the Chinese Olympic teams to compete in the 2006 Olympic Winter Games.⁵⁰

Corporate Web site:
<http://www.adidas-salomon.com/en/home/welcome.asp>.

Air China Ltd.—August 5, 2004—Official Airline Provider. Air China will provide flights for “Olympians, officials, media representatives and tourists from more than 200 countries.”⁵¹

Corporate Web site:
<http://www.airchina.com.cn>.

Bank of China (July 14, 2004—CRF #3 2004)

Volkswagen Group (China) (June 10, 2004—CRF #3 2004)

PHASE 1 WORLDWIDE PARTNERS (REPORTED IN PREVIOUS CRFS):

- | | |
|-------------------|------------|
| Coca-Cola | McDonald’s |
| Atos Origin | Omega |
| General Electric | Panasonic |
| Kodak | Samsung |
| Lenovo | Visa |
| Manulife Sinochem | |

NOTES:

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