Getting the YOG party started

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SINGAPORE — A movie theatre, a disco that serves just Coca-Cola and all the facilities needed to stay in touch with the outside world. These are among the amenities available at the 55-hectare Youth Olympic Village to help more than 3,000 teenage athletes taking part in the Games feel right at home away from home.

Located within Nanyang Technological University’s (NTU) Jurong campus, the village will offer postal, financial, commercial and Internet services within a Village Square.

It also features a gym, sports facilities and an Olympic Gallery where torches from past Olympics and replicas of the 2010 Youth Olympic Games torch and medals, are displayed.

The village Residential Zone can accommodate more than 5,000 residents across 10 halls. The village officially opens on Aug 10 although its first athletes are expected to check in two days earlier.

“Most of the infrastructure has been installed, and we’re ready to receive the athletes and delegates,” said Singapore YOG Organising Committee (Syogoc) village director Sheryl Lim.

“There are over 4,000 bedrooms — we took them over from NTU and have to clean them daily for 18 days,” Ms Lim added.

“We’re also expecting over 5,000 laundry bags daily ... It is by far the largest such operation in Singapore.”

Over 300,000 Western and Asian meals, including halal meals, will be prepared, with menus updated regularly.

The Village Square will also have a world culture village, with booths of all 205 National Olympic Committees. This is where 46 athlete role models, including Denmark’s three-time 800m world champion Wilson Kipketer and two-time Russian Olympic swimming champion Alexander Popov, will mingle with athletes for the Games’ Culture and Education Programme (CEP).

After completing the CEP, athletes will receive special Swatch wristwatches, and their photos will feature on three walls at the Olympic Park in Marina Bay after the Games.

“In 10, 20 years, they can look at it and say they competed at the first YOG,” said Syogoc CEP director Lee Pak Sing.

The inaugural YOG, to be held from Aug 14 to 26, will feature 201 events across 26 sports and about 3,600 athletes aged 14 to 18.