YOG a resounding success: Rogge

THERE may still be five days to go, but Olympics chief Jacques Rogge is already giving top marks to the inaugural Youth Olympic Games (YOG).

“It’s still five or six days to go, and you always have to be very careful, but so far I’m extremely happy,” the Internation-
al Olympic Committee president told The Straits Times yesterday.

“I think these Games will be a resound-
ing success.”

Rogge was visiting the athletes’ village at Nanyang Technological University yes-
terday, accompanied by Singapore YOG Organising Committee chairman Ng Ser Miang. He stopped by several cultural edu-
cation booths set up by local students.

Said Rogge: “This is really the main purpose of this YOG.

“We want to have something that was not a mini-Olympics, that was not a world junior championship, but would contain education and culture along with high-level sport.

“That’s what we’re getting here. The athletes, they love it.”

A former Olympic sailor himself, Rogge described the village as “first class”.

He said: “This is the 22nd village I’ve visited, starting with my first Olympic Games in 1968 when I was an athlete.

“So I can compare, and this is really in the top league of the Olympic villages.”

He was also pleased with the larger crowds on Thursday after reports of half-filled stadiums at various sports.

“The organising committee took good steps and yesterday I saw full houses,” he added.

Rogge also visited the National Sailing Centre yesterday, where he spoke to com-
petitors. He was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean and Ng.

ROYSTON SIM

Jacques Rogge (centre), the International Olympic Committee’s president, on a tour of the Youth Olympic Village yesterday. He also visited the National Sailing Centre. ST PHOTO: FABIUS CHEN