Sports carnival marks YOG logo launch

Jeanette Wang

The Singapore 2010 Youth Olympic Games may be over a year and a half away, but at the city centre yesterday it felt like the inaugural event was already taking place.

Over 10,000 youngsters thronged the Singapore Management University's Campus Green to celebrate the launch of the official Games logo. They filled the air with infectious enthusiasm as they immersed themselves in an afternoon of sport.

The carnival, named CAN! (Create Action Now), was organised by students from Singapore's four universities. It included a 2,010m fun run, try-outs for wrestling, equestrian, handball and modern pentathlon and a three-on-three basketball competition.

A concert, featuring local bands, wrapped up a fun-filled day that impressed even International Olympic Committee vice-president Chiharu Igaya.

"Today, I looked at the enthusiasm of the people and I'm convinced that the 2010 Games will be a great success, I can assure you," said the Japanese, who flew in just for the carnival.

One of the highlights of the day was an intricate 7.6m by 2.5m mechanism used to unveil the logo, specially designed by a team of 14 students from the Nanyang Technological University's mechanical and aerospace engineering club.

A mobile call triggered a 1min 50sec-long chain reaction involving the features of all 26 Youth Olympic Games sports and eventually bursting a veil of balloons to reveal the Games logo "Spirit of Youth".

Designed by a professional creative company, the logo incorporates a red flame (representing the passion to learn and the power of positive thinking), a purple star (excellence and the pride of representing one's nation) and a crescent (dynamic youth, full of promise).

Igaya complimented the design, calling it "unique".

Mayflower Secondary student Lim Ying Tsui, 16, agreed.

She said: "It's colourful, energetic and represents youth."

Youth Olympics' target of $50m still reachable

The Singapore Youth Olympic Games Organising Committee (SYOGOC) yesterday expressed optimism in reaching their $50 million sponsorship target, despite the current economic climate.

And a key reason for their confidence lay in the Singapore Table Tennis Association's (STTA) success in their recent fund-raising drive.

It is understood that the STTA's inaugural fund-raising dinner at Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel's grand ballroom tomorrow - when Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong will be guest of honour - has reaped a seven-figure sum, far exceeding its $500,000 target.

The money will be used for local youth development and to assist in supporting national paddlers after their competitive careers.

"The STTA managed to raise quite a bit of funds and at a level where I never thought was possible," said SYOGOC adviser and Senior Parliamentary Secretary (Community Development, Youth and Sports) Teo Ser Luck.

"So, if that is the case, I believe the YOG should be able to hit some targets too."

SYOGOC chairman Ng Ser Miang said they expect to start signing sponsorship agreements next month, with a "good number" of sponsors still in negotiations.

"With the downturn, I believe we will face some challenges in raising funds," said Mr Teo, "but I still have confidence that we will hit our target because of the strength of the Olympic brand."

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