



# FISU boss praises city for 'best ever Games'

GALLIEN SAYS SHENZHEN EXCEEDED EXPECTATIONS WITH 'VERY POSITIVE' EVENT ON AND OFF THE FIELDS

By SHI YINGYING  
CHINA DAILY

SHENZHEN — With his flight booked for tomorrow, Claude-Louis Gallien, president of the International University Sports Federation (FISU), had a lot of "thank yous" to say before he left Shenzhen.

"I want to extend our warmest thanks to our Chinese hosts for the huge work they've done during the games," Gallien said. "It's a tradition to say that the present Universiade is the best ever, but this time it's true."

The Shenzhen Games broke the record for the number of participants — 10,603, made up of 7,132 athletes and 3,471 officials from 151 countries and regions — according to the latest statistics released by FISU's International Control Committee. Shenzhen Universiade also set a record for the number of events.

"The sports program of these games was very ambitious," Gallien said. "It was the first time we had 24 sports — 10 compulsory and 14 invited.

"This was also the first time that the number of participants passed the 10,000 mark. There were 1,597 more participants here than there were at the previous largest games, at Bangkok in 2007.

"It is worth mentioning that the city of Shenzhen has made a huge investment to reach such a level of excellence."

If there is anything to say about Shenzhen's Organizing Committee, Gianni Merlo, president of the International Sports Press Association, put it into one sentence: "Gold medal, no, diamond medal must be given to the organizers."

As Gallien pointed out, it was not easy to welcome so many people and fit them into the tight competition schedules. However, "the organizing committee brilliantly took up this challenge by offering our athletes excellent conditions in which to compete," he said.

"Feedback received from FISU technical delegates and heads of delegations was very positive," he said.

"I want to mention one specific point: our Muslim friends, they are in Ramadan this month and

they've been taken good care of by the organizers," said Gallien, referring to special dining treatment Muslim athletes received in the Universiade Village.

Shenzhen's passionate sports fans also impressed Gallien.

"I was at the women's soccer final between China and Japan on Sunday night," he said.

"You could see and hear the way 34,000 people filled Shenzhen Bao'an Stadium. They're real spectators, they're the real audience. Compare it with the men's soccer final at the last Universiade, where there were only 2,000 people. Here was totally different."

In addition to the support of large crowds, spectators across the world enjoyed the competition either through television or the Internet, thanks to the media coverage.

According to Gallien, the Shenzhen Universiade had the biggest television coverage in FISU history for 20 of its 24 events. The coverage went to more than 70 countries.

"It also gives families the opportunity to watch their kids competing," said Gallien.



CHEN CHAO / CHINA DAILY

Claude-Louis Gallien, president of the International University Sports Federation, said the Shenzhen Universiade is the best ever.

# Russia's 'sports capital' all set for next Universiade



Ilsur Metshin, mayor of Kazan.

By SHI YINGYING  
CHINA DAILY

SHENZHEN — Ilsur Metshin, the mayor of Kazan in Russia, not only came to Shenzhen to attend the closing ceremony of the Universiade, but also to take the games' flag for the 27th Universiade, which will be held in Kazan in 2013.

"This was an outstanding games and everything was planned very well," Metshin said of the Shenzhen event.

"Shenzhen made huge efforts and (therefore gained) great results

from the Universiade. First of all, I would like to congratulate the Chinese government, Shenzhen government and its residents for their magnificent hospitality.

"And we need to do it even better. Russia is vast. Maybe it is not so big in terms of population, but we have many things to show. We want to show the real Russia to the whole world."

Known as the "sports capital of Russia", Kazan plans to use 64 venues for the next Universiade, and 36 of them will be new.

"I've seen some of the venues. They're almost ready to welcome

people," said Claude-Louis Gallien, president of the International University Sports Federation (FISU).

"I visited the village a few months ago and it was the most impressive village I've ever seen. Also, they already know what they will do with the village after the Universiade. They want it to be a legacy for the city.

"They've been working hard for years preparing to be the next 'best'. For the Russians, it's not a question of what they will do, but what they have done. They're ready to go."

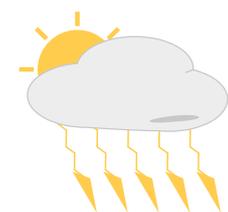
When asked why FISU is staging a summer Universiade instead of

a winter one in Kazan, the largest city of the Republic of Tatarstan, Metshin smiled and said: "We have six months of summer in our city and we just came from temperatures of 33 C."

Metshin said he was surprised to see Shenzhen's achievements in city infrastructure. Selecting the slogan of "U are the world", Kazan plans to provide 13 new traffic interchanges to improve the city's transport.

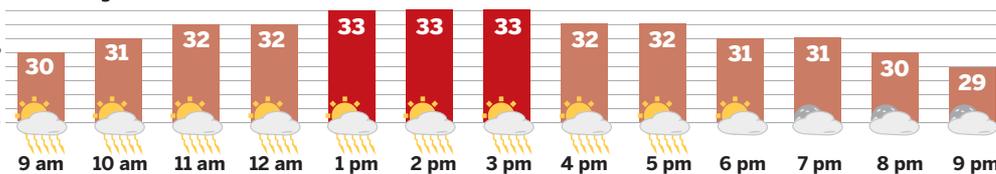
Thanks to the Universiade preparations, Kazan will hold the World Water Sports Championships in 2015.

## WEATHER CENTRAL >> FORECASTS, TEMPERATURES AND TODAY'S CHANCE OF RAIN



Today's forecast  
**Scattered T-Storms**  
Max **33°C**  
Min **28°C**  
Source: weather.com

### Hour by hour



Wednesday  
32°C  
27°C

Thursday  
32°C  
27°C

