

Striving Towards a Modern Coastal Metropolis

Countdown to the Asian Games

By Dong Na

The Hangzhou Asian Games will be officially opened on September 23 this year. On March 7, the 19th Asian Games ushered in the countdown to 200 days. As one of the co-host cities, the preparatory work in Ningbo is in full swing.

High-Level Sports Venues

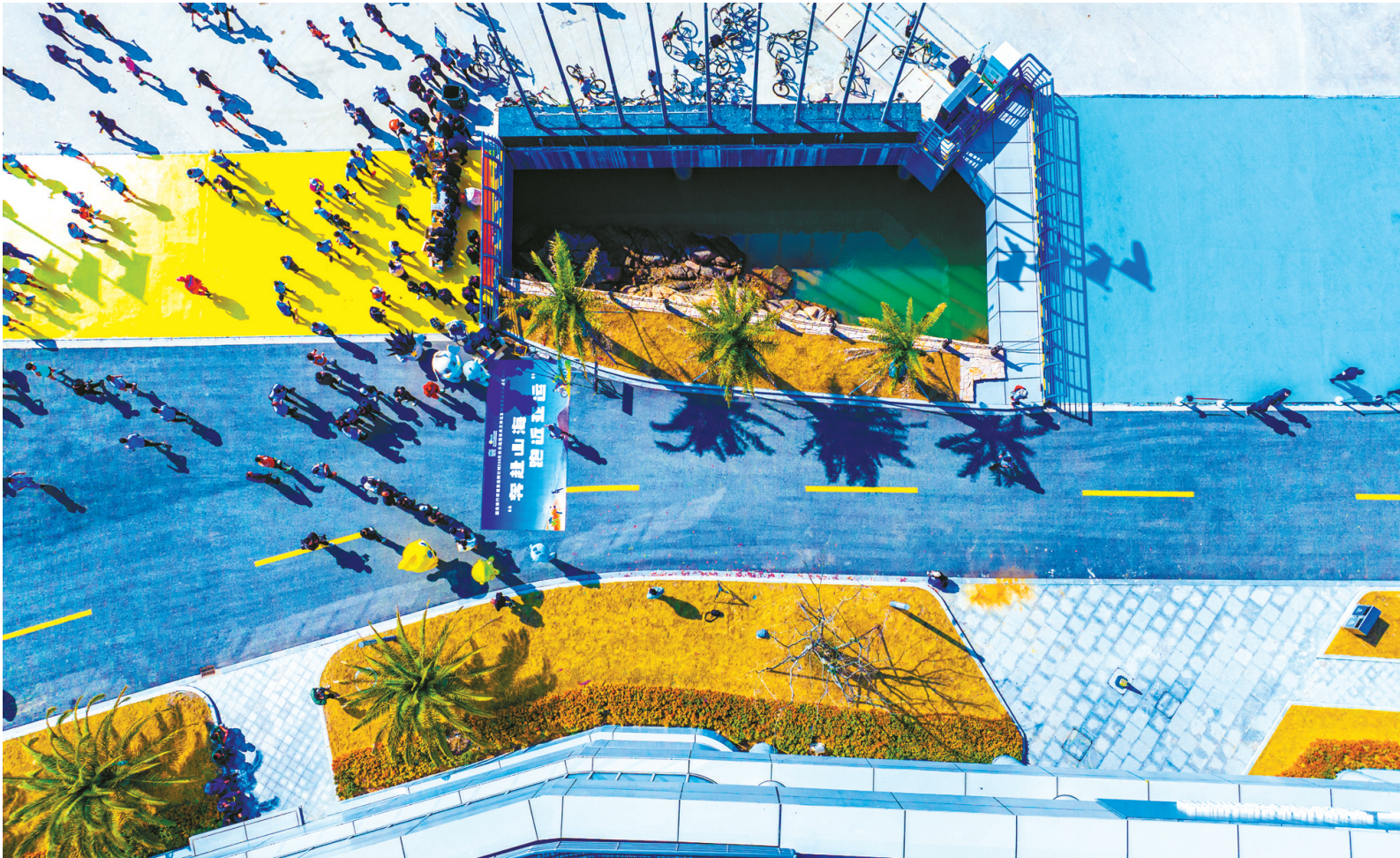
The Asian Games is the largest comprehensive sport event in Asia, which will be receiving worldwide attention. As the necessary facility for hosting Asian Games events, the 19th Asian Games will have a total of 56 competition venues across the Zhejiang Province.

Located in Xiangshan County, The Asian Sailing Center, the venue for the sailing, windsurfing and beach volleyball competitions of the 19th Asian Games, covers a sea area of 47 hectares.

With a total investment of roughly 600 million yuan, the Center is the first sports venue in Zhejiang Province qualified to host international A-level sports competitions, including a competition and training center, a water sports base, as well as a dock basin.

Since it was announced that Xiangshan would hold the event of the Asian Games, the sports atmosphere of the whole county has become stronger and stronger. In September this year, around 210 athletes and 175 technical officials from 19 countries and regions are expected to participate in the sailing competition, with 14 gold medals to be awarded.

As a coastal county of Ningbo, Xiangshan has the most beautiful coastline at 30 degrees north latitude, as well as unique advantages in developing the marine sports economy. The Songlan Mountain area has a vast bay and connected beaches, 5 kilometers long from north to



Ningbo holds a long-distance running race to welcome the Asian Games.

[Photo by Wu Minyong]

south. Professional clubs such as Xiangshan Damu Bay Sailing Club, Asian Sailing Center, Dongdan Beach and other water sports bases provide strong support for the marine sports industry.

Athletes Train at Full Strength

Athletes are the main force in this sports gala. Especially for athletes from Ningbo, it is a pride for them to participate in such an international event in their hometown.

Recently, a total of 25 Ningbo athletes are training with the China National Team, striving to qualify for the 19th Asian Games.

The 25 athletes, including Olympic champions Shi Zhiyong, Wang Shun and Yang Qian, belong to 15 sports, including weightlifting, swimming,

shooting, wrestling, rock climbing, athletics, street dance, equestrian, windsurfing, gymnastics, trampoline, cycling, badminton, archery and bridge.

From mid-October last year to now, Wang Shun, the top swimmer, has been training systematically for more than three months and is pressing ahead with his preparations for the Asian Games. He will participate in the national swimming competition in Qingdao at the end of March, which is also an Asian Games qualifying event, and in the Asian Games test event in Hangzhou at the end of May.

In addition, the China National Team of the Dragon Boat Race will hold 3 competitions of score rank game from May 30 to June 15. Ningbo athletes Li Jinda, as a member of the Zhejiang team, will participate in the national team selection.

Joyfulness of the Public

People in Ningbo are excited about the upcoming Hangzhou Asian Games. A few days ago, Xiangshan Fun Run themed by celebrating 200-Day+ Countdown to Hangzhou Asian Games was held in Damu Bay Asian Games Theme Park, attracting nearly 1,000 people.

On March 5, about 130 children from Ningbo were invited to the painting activity of "kids to greet the Asian Games". They drew a 100m-long scroll featuring Asian Games elements with paintbrushes to celebrate the countdown of the Hangzhou Asian Games.

The recruitment of volunteers in Ningbo closed at the end of Feb. Thousands of people actively applied for the positions. All volunteers who finally entered the interview process have strong points. Some of

them are retired athletes, some are proficient in multiple languages, some have participated in large sports events such as the Olympic Games and the Winter Olympics, and some have volunteered up to 4,000 hours. They will be providing voluntary services in concierge and language needs, audience requirements, media operation and logistic support and transportation.

With the 19th Asian Games approaching, there are a lot of shows of celebration all over the city, some even participated in the selection activity for warm-up programs at the big event. Among them, *The Sun Also Rises* by Jiuhe Art Troupe might have the opportunity to be on the stage of the Asian Games.

The performing team is from Yuyao District, composed of eighteen deaf-mute dancers and one limb-impaired dancer, with very rich performance experience.



双语汇 Different Tongues

亚帆中心：一半是陆地，一半在海中

By Jin Lu

Located in the Songlan Mountain tourist resort of Xiangshan County in Ningbo, the Asian Sailing Center is the only competition venue of the Hangzhou Asian Games that involves marine construction. Half of the center is on land and the other half is in the sea, and the combined design of sea and land integrates the competition with nature.

宁波象山亚帆中心，位于象山县松兰山旅游度假区内。作为杭州亚运会唯一涉及海域建设的比赛场馆，宁波亚帆中心一半在陆地，一半在海中，海陆结合的设计让赛事与大自然合二为一。

The land-based part is mainly a competition training center, consisting of five individual buildings. The sea-based part includes a sea operation platform and two breakwaters

surrounding a calm inner bay for various types of boats to berth.

陆域部分主要为竞赛培训中心，包含5栋单体建筑；海域部分有一座海上操作平台、两座防浪堤环抱着一片风平浪静的内湾供各类船艇停泊。

The Asian Sailing Center is located in the Songlan Mountain sea area. The natural conditions are superior, and the wind direction and strength, ocean currents, climate and water temperature are all very suitable for hosting large-scale marine sports events and year-round marine sports activities.

亚帆中心所在的松兰山海域自然条件优越，风向风力、洋流流向、气候水温均非常适合举办大型海洋运动比赛和常年开展海洋运动。

The project covers a land area of 39 acres and a sea area of 115 acres. The main construction content includes a 16,000-square-meter athlete center,



The Asia Sailing Center. /亚帆中心。

[Photo by Xu Neng] 徐能摄

competition control center, and logistics service center on land, as well as a 20,000-square-meter competition operation platform, 336,000-square-meter harbor basin, and 240 berths on the sea.

项目用地面积237亩，用海面积700亩。主要建设内容包括陆上1.6万平方米的运动

员中心、比赛控制中心、后勤服务中心等功能区，以及海上2万平方米的竞赛操作平台、33.6万平方米的港池和240个泊位。

According to the preliminary plan, the center will be transformed into a comprehensive water sports base that in-

tegrates "water sports, leisure and entertainment, fitness and health, and vacation tourism" after the Games.

根据初步规划，这里在赛后将转型为融“水上运动、休闲娱乐、健身康体、度假旅游”于一体的综合性水上运动基地。

SPOTLIGHT

The Sea Route from Xiangshan to Mount Putuo Opens

By Xu Zhuowei

On the morning of March 8th, the Xize Passenger Terminal in Xiangshan was bustling with people. At 7:30 a.m., with the loud whistle of the departure signal, the "Putuo Xiangyun" ferry carrying 210 passengers slowly left the dock and set sail for Mount Putuo, marking the official opening of the Xiangshan-Mount Putuo passenger shipping route, a new experience of sea transportation that takes only 100 minutes for a direct trip. Many passengers expressed their feelings: "This is much more convenient!"

The "Putuo Xiangyun" ferry is a double-hull high-speed passenger ship designed for 280 passengers. Compared with single-hull ships, it has a faster speed, larger space, and better comfort.

The ship will pass by several islands, such as Liu Heng Island, Xiazi Island, Taohua Island, and Ant Island. The panoramic windows on the ship allow passengers to enjoy the beautiful scenery along the way.

"With this route, the direct journey from Xize Port in Xiangshan to South Tianmen Port in Mount Putuo takes only about 100 minutes, avoiding the traffic jams on the cross-sea bridge and parking difficulties at the port. It not only significantly reduces time but also greatly improves the travel experience of tourists," said a person from the maritime department. Although the straight-line distance between Xiangshan and Mount Putuo is only 36 nautical miles, due to the restrictions of the shipping route, residents of the two places could only travel by land, which usually takes about four hours one way.

"Mount Putuo is famous for its Buddhist culture, while Xiangshan has many attractions, such as Xiangshan Global Studios, fishing ports, and so on. The direct shipping route can connect the high-quality tourism resources of the two places, achieve mutual integration and coordinated development," said Wu Chengjian, a person from maritime department.

The ferry departs from Xiangshan to Mount Putuo at 7:30 every day and returns from Mount Putuo to Xiangshan at 15:30. Tourists can purchase tickets at the Xize Passenger Terminal in Xiangshan or online, and check information through the Xiangshan Ferry WeChat official account. Currently, there are discounts available during the promotional period of this route.

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