

IOC and BOCOG delegation visits Olympic equestrian facilities

Members of the International Olympic Committees (IOC) Co-ordination Commission for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad - Beijing 2008 and of the Beijing Organising Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad (BOCOG) today (October 22) toured the Olympic Village and equestrian venues in Sha Tin and Sheung Shui on the last day of their visit to the Olympic Co-host city of Hong Kong.

The IOC delegation, headed by Commission Chairman, Mr Hein Verbruggen, arrived yesterday for a two-day visit to see for themselves how Hong Kong is preparing to stage the equestrian events of the Beijing 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Early this morning, the delegation had the opportunity to look at the accommodation arrangements that have been made for the Olympic Village at the Royal Park Hotel in Sha Tin.

They then toured the Cross-Country event venue at the Hong Kong Jockey Club's Beas River Country Club and the adjacent Hong Kong Golf Club in Sheung Shui.

There they were briefed on the 5.7-kilometre Cross-Country course, the warm-up and finish arenas, as well as the facilities for the Olympic Family and the media by the Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Ms Miranda Chiu; and the Hong Kong Jockey Club's Head of Racing Operations and Equestrian, Mr John Ridley.

Later in the morning, the delegation proceeded to the core equestrian venue in Sha Tin, which was converted from the Hong Kong Sports Institute and Penfold Park. There they had a look at the main stable complex and the main arena, as well as the practice arenas for jumping and dressage.

After the venue tour, the delegation participated in a meeting with the Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs, Mrs Carrie Yau and the President of the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China, Mr Timothy Fok. During the meeting, Hong Kong's efforts in Olympic promotion and its readiness for the equestrian events next year were presented to the delegation.

Before leaving Hong Kong in the afternoon, the IOC group had a chance to tour the Hong Kong International Airport and to look at the Olympic promotions on show.

Ends/Monday, October 22, 2007