

# 7<sup>th</sup> ASIAN WINTER GAMES Rights Holders Newsletter



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## WORLD BROADCASTER MEETING RECAP

The daily 7<sup>th</sup> Asian Winter Games World Broadcaster Meeting took place this afternoon in the Almaty IBC. The main points raised in the meeting follow:

- Difficult weather conditions in Almaty today have affected some of today's events.
- The Alpine Skiing events (Men's Super combined and Super G) will now take place tomorrow at 10:00, alongside the Women's events initially scheduled for tomorrow.
- Women's 15km Biathlon was cancelled due to fog and will now take place tomorrow at 11:00.
- Ski Jumping training was cancelled due to a problem with a cooling unit. Training will now take place tomorrow at 9:00, with competition jumps beginning at 10:15.
- Today's Freestyle Skiing Dual Moguls marked the end of competition of the sport as well as the closing of the first venue, Tabagan Resort.

## IBC DEPARTURE

Rights Holders are advised of the following points regarding their departure from the Almaty IBC next week:

- IGBS Construction will begin to remove the carpeting from the shared IBC halls immediately after the Closing Ceremony on Sunday 6 February in order to facilitate Rights Holders' own dismantling process.
- The Contribution, Distribution and Transmission Room will be switched off at 12:00 on Monday 7 February.
- Technical Power will be switched off at 12:15 on Monday 7 February.
- Furniture will be removed from all IBC areas on Tuesday 8 February.
- The IBC will remain accessible 24/7 until midnight on Tuesday 8 February.

Rights Holders with queries about any of these points should contact the IBC Construction Help Desk at their earliest convenience.

## RIGHTS HOLDER PROFILE - KAZAKHSTAN TV

Like everyone in Kazakhstan, the staff of Kazakhstan TV are immensely proud that the 7<sup>th</sup> Asian Winter Games are being staged on their soil.

"It is not an extra pressure," explained Technical Director Raushan Akpenova. "It is an honour for us as we know that the whole of the nation is watching our channel's coverage."

Sharing the broadcast rights with Khabar TV, Kazakhstan TV are able to offer a range of events for their viewers. "We have an agreement with Khabar TV for

this event to split the sporting disciplines. As a result we are broadcasting Men's Ice Hockey, Cross-Country Skiing, Bandy and Freestyle Skiing." With a total of 90 hours of broadcasting scheduled, 80% of which is live coverage, they have more than enough chance to gain valuable experience for the future. Approximately 100 staff are working on the project, at the IBC, competition venues and at Kazakhstan TV's main studio in Almaty.

Fortunately IGBS has been there every step of the way to help Kazakhstan TV achieve their goals. "Our station is over 50 years old and we have a lot of experience," explained Akpenova. "But this is the first time we have operated at this level. We have had the chance to utilise many of the services operated by IGBS, such as commentary booths and pre and post interview spots. Our SNG crews are working hard at all the venues, broadcasting as much on site as possible, and it is thanks to IGBS that we have had the chance to go live at all the events. They have assisted us at each venue, showing us the best position to place our cameras."

As a first experience of broadcasting a major international sporting event of this scale, Kazakhstan TV have learned a lot of important lessons which will serve them well in years to come. "In 2012 the World Bandy Championships are expected to be held in Almaty and we have already been in touch with the International Bandy Federation. We hope that our experience gained broadcasting the 7<sup>th</sup> Asian Winter Games will help us to take the opportunity to broadcast this event also."

## NEW YEAR'S WISHES

IGBS wishes the Chinese and Korean Rights Holders of the 7<sup>th</sup> Asian Winter Games a very happy Lunar New Year.

## KNOW YOUR AWG SPORTS - CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

With 12 categories of competition, Cross-Country Skiing is the sport that has the most different disciplines represented in Kazakhstan. It has featured at every previous Asian Winter Games and is known to be one of the toughest endurance event sports in the world.



Its origins, as a means of transportation, can be traced as far back as prehistoric times in Scandinavian areas but it has been a recognised Olympic sport since the 1924 Winter Games held in Chamonix, France.

At previous Asian Winter Games the event has been staged over distances ranging from 10km to 30km for men and 5km to 15km for women. Thus far Japan have won four golds in the 2011 competition, with Kazakhstan taking three and Korea one.

