

7th ASIAN WINTER GAMES Rights Holders Newsletter



Astana - Almaty
7th ASIAN WINTER GAMES
2011

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WELCOME MESSAGE

IGBS is pleased to welcome you to the first Rights Holders Newsletter for the 7th Asian Winter Games Astana-Almaty 2011. The Newsletter will serve as a conduit for important broadcast and operational information. As such IGBS recommends that you read each issue carefully.

The second issue of the Newsletter will be issued in early December, at which point it will become a weekly publication, turning daily in mid-January in order to provide recaps of the Rights Holders Briefings held at the IBC.

The Newsletter can always be downloaded as a PDF file from the IGBS website; after the official IBC opening in early January it will also be available at the IBC Broadcast Information Office.

HISTORY OF THE ASIAN WINTER GAMES (1/6): SAPPORO 1986

The inaugural Asian Winter Games were staged in March 1986 in Sapporo, Japan. It was the Japanese Olympic Committee who had first proposed the idea of staging an Asian Winter Games, and the OCA granted them the right to host the first such event at their General Assembly in Seoul in 1984.

Seven sports made up the programme – alpine skiing, biathlon, cross-country skiing, figure skating, ice hockey, speed skating and short track speed skating. A total of 430 athletes and officials participated, representing seven countries.

Large hill ski jumping was also among the disciplines on the schedule, but only as a demonstration sport. When it came to the competition events the hosts were dominant, picking up 29 gold medals and an overall total of 58 – more than double the haul of second-ranked China.

IBC CONSTRUCTION NOW UNDERWAY 24/7

The International Broadcast Centre (IBC) in Almaty is the hub of television and radio operations for the 7th Asian Winter Games. It is located in Almaty's financial district, within the Almaty Towers complex which was completed in 2009, and will serve as the headquarters for the Host Broadcaster, IGBS, and the Rights Holders. The IBC is in close proximity to two of the competition venues and provides easy access to the other Almaty venues, which are situated just outside the city.



An exterior view of the IBC in Almaty

The venue handover occurred on 1 November. Since that date three shifts of construction workers have been operating around the clock seven days a week to ensure that all areas and technical installations are completed on time. IGBS' own broadcast installation is set to begin on 29 November.

While the IBC's most important purpose is to be functional, the IGBS Construction department also aims to make it a pleasant working environment for all users. The IBC is on the fifth floor of its building and features large glass facades on one side, providing plentiful daylight as well as a view of Almaty. The Contribution, Distribution and Transmission Room (CDT) will be positioned centrally, facing the main entrance, in order to allow all IBC users a glimpse of the host broadcast operations.



Two views of the well-lit IBC interior

Rights Holders who have not yet communicated their unilateral needs, or who wish to precise previously expressed needs, are asked to contact jmancheno@hbs.tv urgently.

BOOKING REMINDER: COMMENTARY POSITIONS

Rights Holders are asked to keep in mind that all requests for commentary positions must be confirmed to the IGBS Booking department (booking@hbs.tv) by 30 November at the latest.

RECENT UPDATES TO THE IGBS WEBSITE

Like this Rights Holder Newsletter, the IGBS website (www.igbs.tv) is a valuable source of information about the Host Broadcaster's plans for the coverage of the 7th Asian Winter Games Astana-Almaty 2011. Rights Holders are advised to check the site regularly for new content; recent updates include the latest version of the competition schedule, some general information about the host country, an introduction to the production plan, information on accreditation procedures, and a series of IGBS-related FAQs.