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GWANGJU CONDUCTS SUCCESSFUL TEST EVENTS, IBC OPENS, SWIMMING POOLS FILLED



Preparations for the 18th edition of the FINA World Championships in Gwangju, South Korea, are in full swings as a record participation is expected. The Organising Committee has finished to conduct a series of test events in the various venues that will host the prestigious biggest aquatic event in less than 10 days now, from July 12-28.

The Organisers hosted the 91st edition of the Dong-Ag swimming competition at the Nambu University Municipal Aquatics Centre, the venue that will stage the swimming events this summer from July 21-28 with heat sessions in the morning and finals at night. A total of 2400 athletes, ranging from kindergarden kids to students and adults took part in the swimming, diving, water polo and artistic swimming competitions for this test event.

This ultimate test event for the Gwangju World Championships has confirmed that the venue is fully functional and ready to host FINA showcase offering optimum conditions for the athletes, coaches and officials.

FINA Facilities Committee Chairman Joaquin Pujol made final inspection of all the swimming pools. Design and operational standards have been reviewed and it was confirmed that all FINA requirements are being met.

FINA Official partner Myrtha Pools was in charge of installing the pools and ensured highest benchmarks are respected. Myrtha Pools provided and mounted two pools for artistic swimming (competition and warm up), two water polo pools (competition and warm up) and one diving pool.

In parallel, the International Broadcaster Centre (IBC), located on the campus of the Nambu University, has opened its doors on Thursday June 27. The Centre will provide video and sound signals from all the competition venues to right holding broadcasters (RHB) around the world. The Centre's role is crucial as it allows the broadcasters to relay vivid moments and outstanding performances of this gigantic aquatic festival across the world for the fans.

Host broadcasters, MBC of South Korea and TV Asahi of Japan, will be in charge of sending out the international signals of the FINA World Championships.

Gwangju Mayor Lee Yong-sup, also Gwangju 2019 COO, said at the opening ceremony of the IBC that the municipality and the Organising Committee are committed to extend their full support to the IBC for the success of the Championships.

Athletes Village

The athletes village, the heart of the World Championships, is set to open on Friday July 5. Asian hospitality is renowned internationally, and Gwangju is no exception to the rule. Gwangju 2019 mission is to provide the athletes with the best service so that they feel at home and well rested before the competition days.

The athletes village has been ingeniously planned. The teams of experts have worked tirelessly to develop the most comfortable, peaceful and pleasant environment. The village is located no more than a 30min drive from each venue, with shuttle buses running regularly and efficiently. Moreover, numerous amenities will be available on site. This includes a restaurant, medical service, bank, convenience store, post office, fitness room and beauty salon.

Opening and Closing Ceremony highlights

The Gwangju 2019 FINA World Championships will officially kick-off on July 12 at 8pm with the Opening Ceremony. The theme of the ceremony will be "Light of Water", a representation of the world's waters rising to form a single wave in the spirit of democracy and peace. Over 700 cast members will perform with special effects that reflect South Korea's technological advancement and will guarantee a breath-taking show.

The celebrations will come to an end with the Closing Ceremony on July 28, as cultural representations will be held under the theme of "Beautiful Circulation". The show will include cultural arts of the South Jeolla Province combining the stream of water and harmonious circulation of life. After the cultural performance, the FINA flag will be handed over to Fukuoka, Japan, the host of the 2021 FINA World Championships.

[More on fina.org](https://www.fina.org)

OVER THE RAINBOW WITH DIVER WANG HAN (CHN)



Tipped a decade ago as successor to the peerless Guo Jingjing, Wang Han has yet to win a major title in her favourite individual 3m springboard event. At 27, the oldest in the Chinese diving team, Wang, currently preparing for the FINA World Championships in Gwangju (KOR), expects to compete in her first Olympic Games in Tokyo 2020.

Wang made her international debut at the 2009 Rome World Championships, where she collected a bronze medal in the 1m springboard. She has won several gold medals in the synchro 3m and mixed synchro at the Worlds but never in the 3m individual.

"I think of myself as a patient girl!"

What is your character? Do you go crazy or get upset in victory or failure?

I think I am a quite gentle and warm person. I never lose my temper or do something crazy. I am easy-going with people. I am talkative and positive. I would like to share common sense with friends and make all of them happy. When I face difficulties and failure I keep going and fighting and try to make myself a better person. In fact, I think of myself as a patient girl. Hope is always in the near future if I keep working hard, just as the rainbow comes after the storm.

You were tipped as the successor of Guo Jingjing and you have been compared to her all the time. How did you feel? Pressure or encouragement?

Maybe it was because I came from the same city, Baoding, as Guo, my provincial team coach Li Fang also taught Guo and my favourite is the 3m springboard, so I was regarded as a potential successor. In fact, when I started diving, no one talked about it and I was unaware of that. I trained like any other kid for many years. Besides, there were several talents called Little Guo Jingjing in my local team and later in the national team. I did not feel the pressure because Guo is a great diver. She is my idol. I am far from greatness and far behind her. I am on the way to improving myself and still fighting for my dream.

Did you learn from Guo Jingjing when you were in the national team?

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



To be honest, we did not talk a lot in the team because she was a famous star, while I was just a little rookie. But her hard-working attitude has inspired me to this day. One night before the 2004 Athens Olympic Games, Guo finished training very late while only young divers were left in the pool for basic technique training. I was wondering why she stayed so long. She told me she felt not satisfied with one of her competition dives during the training, so she tried more times to better the dive. "Champion is nothing but labour and diligence," Guo said. I can still remember her face, her tone and her attitude when she talked to me on the pool deck. I was not surprised that later she completed her dreams in Athens by claiming two gold medals. She has had a great influence on me in my career.

[...]

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FINA WORLD MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS: REGISTRATION DEADLINE EXTENDS TO JULY 10

The FINA World Masters Championships will take place in Gwangju (KOR) from August 5-18, 2019.

If you haven't registered yet, you can book your spot before July 10 via this [link](#).

All the information about the Masters Championships, accommodation and the possibility to travel around the region is available [here](#).

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The Fédération Internationale de Natation, FINA (founded in 1908) is the governing body for aquatics worldwide.

Its five disciplines - Swimming, Open Water Swimming, Diving, Water Polo and Artistic Swimming - are all included in the Olympic programme. High Diving is on the World Championships programme since 2013. FINA organises World Championships, World Swimming Championships in 25m-pool and World Masters Championships every two years. FINA counts 209 affiliated National Federations on the five continents and has its headquarters in Lausanne (SUI).