

Showcasing new images of China, Chinese troops and Wuhan to the world

By Yu Guowei

A total of over 10,000 athletes and officials will arrive in Wuhan during the 7th CISM Military World Games to be held in 2019. The games will feature the largest number of contestants among all the military games, according to a press conference held on November 24, which attracted more than 60 media outlets from home and abroad.



7th CISM Military World Games Press Conference Photo by Ren Yong

State-of-the-art military equipment to be displayed

Senior Colonel Jia Shijiang, the military press spokesman for the Executive Committee of the 7th CISM Military World Games (MWG), stated that MWG is also dubbed the "Military Olympic Games." Compared with the traditional Olympic Games, it features the unique "feel of military." The first and biggest difference from the traditional Olympic Games lies in the contestants, since those of MWG are all military sportspeople from all over the world. The second difference is with the competing events, as MWG has added some exclusive events. The 7th MWG has further highlighted the characteristics of the army, military affairs, military personnel, and military sports by setting such military events as air force pentathlon, military pentathlon, navy pentathlon, orienteering, and parachuting.

The spokesman believed the 7th MWG will be brilliant with a lot of highlights. He revealed that state-of-the-art military equipment, distinctive military uniforms, splendid dances and music, and sports stars will all debut during the event.

Both participants and audiences will be witnesses of the brand new image of China, which will celebrate her 70th birthday in 2019. A more powerful and civilized image of Chinese troops after they have completed their reconstruction, and Wuhan, which has taken the opportunities to develop through innovation, will also present to the world

a new look. In short, the Military World Games is certain to be a peaceful, friendly, and joyful gathering, offering the world a spiritual and cultural feast.

Chinese military athletes busy preparing for 7th CISM Games

The upcoming 7th CISM Military World Games will be comprised of 25 sports and 316 events, including aeronautical pentathlon, military pentathlon, naval pentathlon, orienteering, parachuting, modern pentathlon, triathlon, archery, cycling, swimming, and basketball. Among them, the first five are featured sports of MWG, while the remaining ones are Olympic sports. Besides, it will also incorporate two performing sports – tennis and men's gymnastics – and 13 performing events.

"If you ask me which events are worth watching, I would suggest that you watch all the games if time allows because all of them will be exciting and marvelous," Jia said.

The Chinese army has always attached great importance to the CISM Military World Games and taken part in each of the first six Games. According to Colonel Jia, the preparation work by the Chinese military teams is advancing pretty well. All the Chinese military athletes are looking forward to competing with their international counterparts and making friends with them, just as the motto of CISM goes, "Friendship through Sports."

A scientific competition model

One common concern from media members at the

conference was how the 7th CISM Military World Games will be different. Previously, the CISM Military World Games have been held six times in Italy (the 1st and the 3rd), Croatia, India, Brazil and the Republic of Korea.

Colonel Jia said that the 7th MWG will implement the new development philosophy of "innovation, coordination, green, openness and sharing," and the civil-military integration strategy, giving full play to Wuhan's role as one of the National Double Support Model Cities. With the support of the national government, the joint efforts of the military and local people, the organization of the local government and institutions, and the involvement of all Chinese society, Wuhan is expected to shine brightly in the world with a great Military World Games.

"When my colleagues and I reported to Mr. Abdul Hakeem Al-Shino, the President of CISM, and other CISM members about the preparations going on in Wuhan, they were quite pleased. Al-Shino believes that socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era while CISM is also marching into a new era after it selected Wuhan to be the host city of the 7th Military World Games," Jia added.

According to Jia, Wuhan, as one of the National Double Support Model Cities, is well-known for its solid economic and technological foundation, rich historical and cultural background and favorable infrastructure. It is believed that with the concerted efforts of millions of enthusiastic and generous Wuhan people, the coming 2019 Military World Games will surely be a great success.



Al-Shino giving a hand heart gesture for Wuhan

Photo by Wang Juan

In addressing the question as to why the CISM chose Wuhan as the host city of the 2019 MWG, Al-Shino said that Wuhan has met every requirement for hosting the event. He learned decades ago that Wuhan was a very important city in China. It was called "Great Wuhan", and served as a key military base. Al-Shino also mentioned that in past years the city has successfully hosted many major sporting events. Wuhan's rich experience in this regard and its willingness to host the MWG made Wuhan the best possible choice.

The kindness and hospitality of the people of Wuhan has also deeply impressed him. "You can ask our Russian colleagues for confirmation," he joked, and added that during his visit to Wuhan, he saw a lot of Wuhan citizens participating in athletic activities along the Yangtze River. "These are all elements that attracted the CISM to Wuhan."

Frequent contact between the CISM and Wuhan began when the city made a bid to host the 2019 MWG.

Al-Shino said that Wuhan has taken recommendations and suggestions from CISM into consideration and has integrated them into its planning for the 2019 MWG. He said that the CISM was very satisfied with the progress that Wuhan has made preparing for the 2019 MWG. CISM members have been favorably impressed by the rapid headway that has been made in the construction of buildings and sports venues for the 2019 Military World Games. Buildings and sports venues for the 2019 Military World Games have risen from the ground in a very short period of time. "We have a great working relationship with the Wuhan government," said Al-Shino, adding that Wuhan has exceeded the expectations of the CISM.

"The 2019 MWG will be unparalleled in all categories," said Al-Shino. There were 118 delegations from countries participating in the 2015 MWG in Mungyeong. He believes

Al-Shino, president of CISM: 2019 MWG will be one of the best

By Helen Pan

"To begin with, I would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to our Wuhan partner for their hard work. They have done a great job. The 2019 Military World Games (MWG) in Wuhan will no doubt be one of the best," said Colonel Abdul Hakeem Al-Shino, the president of the International Military Sports Council (CISM) during his interview with media shortly after the 7th CISM Military World Games Press Conference on November 24.

that the 2019 MWG in Wuhan will be much bigger in terms of the number of participating countries, athletes, competitive events, and sponsors. He anticipated that athletes from more than 120 nations will compete in the 2019 MWG and by doing so promote international peace.

CISM's motto is "Friendship through Sports." Al-Shino said, "with the backing of China, CISM will showcase to the world its leadership role in the promotion and maintenance of global peace." He further commented that by holding the 2019 MWG in Wuhan, CISM has entered into a new era, and Wuhan has taken another step in its evolution as a great city.

Al-Shino spoke highly of the Chinese armed forces. "The Chinese delegation has been a dominant force in the past MWGs. Other countries have learned a lot by observing the high-level performances of their Chinese counterparts." He looked forward to seeing the Chinese team win more medals and grow in stature in the 2019 MWG.

This is Al-Shino's third visit to Wuhan. Besides inspecting sports venues for the 2019 MWG, he also went to the multi-dimensional live show on the Zhiyin Cruise, and took in the *Han Show*. He described both performances as amazing, and said that the two shows demonstrated the creativity of Wuhan's cultural industry. "Wuhan will be one of the best cities in the world in the future," said Al-Shino, adding that his observation was based on his personal experiences here, and in particular, what he has learned about Wuhan's "fantastic" strategic plans and future vision.

On behalf of CISM, Al-Shino sent his greetings and good wishes to the citizens of Wuhan at the end of the interview. He said that he expected to return to Wuhan in the near future. "We look forward to enjoying and celebrating the 2019 CISM Military World Games with people of Wuhan."