

Beijing Olympics Update

In the previous issue of CRF, HRIC introduced its multi-year research and monitoring project Incorporating Responsibility 2008 (IR 2008) focusing on China's new global presence as a member of the World Trade Organization, host of the 2008 Olympic Games and participant in the UN Global Compact Initiative. In this issue we present a campaign update, which will highlight the role of foreign corporations. The role of international actors is particularly important at this stage of Olympics planning, as they are presented with valuable opportunities to exercise leadership in actively advancing human rights values and protections, or at the very least, in refusing to be complicit in human rights violations.

The Beijing Olympics is currently in the design and construction stage for the Olympic venues. HRIC's IR 2008 project aims to identify companies bidding on these projects and those selected as contractors, and to monitor and report on the impact of these projects on human rights issues such as relocations of local residents, labor rights, media access, and use of technology for surveillance and censorship.

PROGRESS ON THE PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION OF OLYMPIC VENUES TO DATE.

Tendering is currently underway for construction of eight Olympics venues at a total estimated cost of more than \$1.7 billion. The tender process requires the successful bidder to take full responsibility for the design, finance, construction, operation and maintenance of the venue, with a view to minimizing costs borne by the Beijing Municipality. In return, the successful bidder is promised great autonomy in defining post-Olympic use of the venue and fair return on investment.

So far, the names of companies pre-qualified to tender for these projects have not been released to the public, but some firms awarded design contracts for the projects have been identified.

National Stadium - estimated cost \$362 million

7 applications received, 5 bidders pre-

qualified (from PRC, Taiwan, United States, Germany and France)

At least three companies have confirmed that they will submit a final proprietary bid by June 30.

Architectural design: Contract awarded to Herzog & de Meuron Architekten AG (Switzerland)/China Architecture Design & Research Group [CADRG] (China).

Most of Herzog's projects have been in Europe and U.S. (<http://www.archinform.net/arch/291.htm?ID=0f8f6450c519fd478526cd5699742283>).

Among CADRG's projects are the Beijing Railway Station, China Art Gallery and Beijing National Library. www.cadreg.com.cn

Wukesong Culture and Sports Center

(Haidian District) – estimated cost \$362 million (includes basketball stadium, baseball and softball fields)

6 applications received, 4 prequalified

Architectural design: Awarded to Burckhardt + Partner AG (Switzerland), a stock corporation with share capital owned by its management staff. The firm designed the Wukesong Culture and Sports Center as “the world's biggest TV set,” with outer walls designed as huge liquid crystal display screens allowing spectators outside the stadium to view the events inside. (<http://www.burckhardtpartner.com>)

National Indoor Stadium (gymnasium) – estimated cost \$79 million – and Olympic Village – estimated cost \$400 million

13 applications received, 5 bidders pre-qualified, final tender issued May 20.

National Swimming Center (operator only) – estimated cost \$71 million

3 applications received, less than legal minimum of 3 prequalified. New procedure being prepared for a new round of bids.

Architectural design: Ten companies have prequalified for the final tender on June 18.

Meeting and Convention Center

estimated cost \$254 million

6 applications received, 4 bidders prequalified, final tender scheduled for late May.

Olympic Aquatic Park (Shunyi District) – estimated cost \$91 million

6 applications received, 5 bidders prequalified

Beijing Country Equestrian Park (Shunyi District) – estimated cost \$128 million

Only two bidders submitted applications, under the legal minimum of three.

Olympic Green – (holds all of the major Olympic venues)

Design: Awarded in April 2002 to Sasaki Associates Inc. (USA)/Tianjian Huahui Design Inc. (China). Sasaki's client list includes educational institutions and municipal governments in the U.S. Its international clients include the Guangzhou and Shanghai Urban Planning Bureaus. (<http://www.sasaki.com>)

In addition, the following consultants have been appointed by the Beijing Municipal Government Development Planning Commission:

- As financial consultants, China Development Bank with PricewaterhouseCoopers; and The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation
- As legal consultants Jingtian & Congcheng Attorneys at Law; and Allen & Overy, an international law firm with 4,800 staff in 26 offices worldwide, with a Beijing office of more than 100 lawyers.

The following consultants have been appointed by Beijing Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games to oversee its 10 billion *yuan* budget:

- PricewaterhouseCoopers (consulting partner) (www.pwcglobal.com)
- Mr. Maurice Louvet (consultant), a French national, was previously appointed to the Panel of Advisers for Special Duties of FIFA (Federation Internationale de Football Association) in 1998.
- Morrison & Foerster LLP, which last year, after putting in a bid to represent BOCOG, turned over its pro bono Tibetan asylum cases to other law firms. “We were concerned that [the asylum cases] would give rise to business conflicts given the high profile of the Olympic representation and the nature of the allegations that are raised in Chinese refugee cases,” MoFo chairman Keith Wetmore was quoted as saying. (www.mofo.com)