The Youth Olympic Games: What now?

Singapore, fresh from winning the bid, has already dubbed it the YOG. Youthlinkers wonder what more will happen in the lead-up to the Games.

Let's show the can-do spirit

SINGAPORE has lobbied and the International Olympic Committee has responded positively. What this means is not only a step closer to the Olympics for Singapore but also for many other countries that do not have the capability of hosting the larger scale games.

I am definitely looking forward to the Youth Olympic Games in 2010. While it is a proud moment to sing the National Anthem each time a Singaporean wins a gold medal, I am glad to know that this time, I'll be singing with gusto on our very own shores.

The Games will be a milestone for sports volunteers. It's a time when Singaporeans young and old work hand-in-hand to welcome the world, with the Olympic flame burning in their hearts.

Let's all rise to the occasion, volunteer our time, and give the athletes competing in the Games a sense of the volunteer spirit in Singapore.

Ephraim Loy, 25, is a second-year social science student at SMU

Let's not forget Moscow

I'M PROBABLY one of the few in Singapore who wished that the Youth Olympic Games went to Moscow.

Frankly speaking, I don't think that we deserve such an honour of hosting the Games.

Two years ago, I had the chance to meet some members of Moscow's 2012 Olympics bid when they were here in Singapore. I was extremely impressed by their eagerness and determination to showcase Moscow's rich sporting tradition and historical culture to the rest of the world.

The Olympics isn't just about infrastructure and efficiency. Rather, it is about celebrating a culture of sporting excellence and appreciation. Singapore has neither at present.

I am confident that Singapore will stage a successful, albeit uneventful, Youth Olympic Games.

It's just unlikely to have a lasting impact on our sporting culture — or lack thereof.

Teo Chin-Ker, 22, is a second-year economics student at SMU

Will the stadiums be empty?

BEING given the honour of hosting the inaugural Youth Olympic Games is certainly a feather in Singapore's sporting cap.

But the hard work has only just begun. And the question to ask is, will Singaporeans still be as supportive and boisterous by the time the Olympic torch is lit? It's difficult to say.

Attendances at local events like S-League football matches and National Basketball League games have been, to put it politely, modest. It appears that the crowds come only when big names like Manchester United and Maria Sharapova are headlining the match.

The Youth Olympics is unlikely to have big-name athletes participating; it would be a shame if we invest effort and resources into putting up an event that Singaporeans won't come to watch.

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