
CECC UPDATE: BEIJING OLYMPICS 2008

China's Prior Commitments on Media Control and Internet Access

Thursday, July 31, 2008

www.cecc.gov

Numerous press reports this week have described limits China placed on Internet access at Olympic press facilities. Blocking of web sites by Chinese authorities has affected large numbers of foreign reporters arriving in Beijing to cover the Olympic Summer Games, which begin next Friday, August 8. These developments have prompted inquiries from CECC Members, the press and public requesting clarification of what China promised with respect to media control and Internet access in connection with its bid to host the 2008 Olympic Summer Games. As a resource to CECC Members and others following this issue, the CECC has compiled this hyperlinked list of select official statements and background material related to this issue. One document that may be highly relevant, but that China has not made public, is Beijing's Host City Contract.

For further background information and analysis of this and other developments in China, visit, www.cecc.gov, download the pdf transcript of the CECC 's Hearing, "[The Impact of the 2008 Olympic Games on Human Rights and the Rule of Law in China,](#)" and browse the CECC Virtual Academy at, www.cecc.gov/pages/virtualAcad/index.phpd.

"There will be no restrictions on journalists in reporting on the Olympic Games."

-Beijing's Bid Documents (2000)

<http://images.beijing2008.cn/upload/lib/bidreport/introduction3.pdf>

"It was confirmed to the (International Olympic) Commission that there will be no restrictions on media reporting and movement of journalists up to and including the Olympic Games."

-Report of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Evaluation Commission for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad in 2008 (2001)

http://multimedia.olympic.org/pdf/en_report_299.pdf

"I think we will give the media complete freedom to report when they come to China."

-Wang Wei, Secretary General of the Beijing Olympic Games Bid Committee (2001)

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/en/doc/2001-07/12/content_69970.htm

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“Internet service provided to news services at the Games will be uncensored.”

-Reuters article paraphrasing statements by Li Jingbo, Media Services Head, Beijing Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games (BOCOG), as reprinted in the state-run China Daily (2006)

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/olympics/2006-09/27/content_6004759.htm

“During the Beijing Olympic Games, foreign journalists will be provided with convenient internet access in order to help them report the Games successfully.”

-Service Guide for Foreign Media Coverage of the Beijing Olympic Games and the Preparatory Period (2007)

http://en.beijing2008.cn/upload/Service_Guide_en.pdf

“For the first time, foreign media will be able to report freely and publish their work freely in China. There will be no censorship on the Internet.”

-Jacques Rogge, IOC President, quoted by Agence France-Presse (2008)

<http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5jCGwkif797Pab2RSG2-X5QDOpPPQ>

“(Vice Chairman of the IOC Coordinating Commission) Gosper said the Chinese had an obligation under the so-called ‘host city agreement’ to open Internet access to 30,000 accredited and non-accredited journalists expected to attend.”

- Associated Press article paraphrasing statements by Kevan Gosper, Vice Chair of the IOC Coordinating Commission, as reprinted in the International Herald Tribune (2008)

<http://www.ihf.com/articles/ap/2008/04/01/sports/AS-SPT-OLY-Beijing-Internet.php>

“The Chinese government has been proactively supporting and promoting the sound development of Internet. We have also borrowed the helpful experiences and practices of some western countries on Internet management. At present, our measures are in line with the general international practice. During the Games, we will honor our commitment in bidding for the Games and follow the general practice of Olympics so as to provide better service for the athletes and reporters.”

-Jiang Yu, PRC Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson, in response to the question “IOC officials say Internet in China must be fully open during the Olympic Games and the censorship should be lifted. Will China do so during the Games?” at an April 1, 2008 press conference (2008)

<http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xwfw/s2510/t420464.htm>

“Beijing seeks to provide maximum opportunities for people around the world to share the excitement of the Games by facilitating maximum coverage by broadcasters and the press.”

-Beijing’s Bid Documents (2000)

<http://images.beijing2008.cn/upload/lib/bidreport/introduction3.pdf>

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“BOCOG will be committed to the provision of comprehensive and up-to-date information to the world media.”

-*Beijing's Bid Documents (2000)*

<http://images.beijing2008.cn/upload/lib/bidreport/zt16.pdf>

“We will work diligently to ensure that the Media have easy access to advanced communication technologies and first-class working conditions so that each and every newsworthy event of the Games can be quickly and easily communicated to the rest of the world.”

-*Beijing's Bid Documents (2000)*

<http://images.beijing2008.cn/upload/lib/bidreport/conclusion.pdf>

“BOCOG will ensure that the broadband data services supplied for the Games will support the new technologies available in 2008, making it possible to access the Internet from devices including laptops, mobile phones, portable data assistants and other terminal devices.”

-*Beijing's Bid Documents (2000)*

<http://images.beijing2008.cn/upload/lib/bidreport/zt15.pdf>

“BOCOG will fully honour all guarantees, statements, and commitments made by Beijing Olympic Games Bid Committee (BOBICO) in the bidding process.”

-*Beijing's Bid Documents (2000)*

<http://images.beijing2008.cn/upload/lib/bidreport/zt2.pdf>

“From the date of its inception to the date of its dissolution, BOCOG will ensure that all of its activities are conducted in accordance with the Olympic Charter and the guidelines of the IOC Executive Board....The Chinese Government, the Beijing Municipal Government, and local governmental departments involved in hosting the Olympic Games, will fully respect and comply with the provisions of the Olympic Charter and the Host City Contract, and will conscientiously fulfill all obligations to, and agreements with, the IOC.”

-*Beijing's Bid Documents (2000)*

<http://images.beijing2008.cn/upload/lib/bidreport/zt2.pdf>

“The IOC takes all necessary steps in order to ensure the fullest coverage by the different media and the widest possible audience in the world for the Olympic Games.”

-*Olympic Charter (2007)*

http://multimedia.olympic.org/pdf/en_report_122.pdf

“All decisions concerning the coverage of the Olympic Games by the media rest within the competence of the IOC.”

-Olympic Charter (2007)

http://multimedia.olympic.org/pdf/en_report_122.pdf

“It is an objective of the Olympic Movement that, through its contents, the media coverage of the Olympic Games should spread and promote the principles and values of Olympism.”

-Olympic Charter (2007)

http://multimedia.olympic.org/pdf/en_report_122.pdf

“The IOC Executive Board establishes all technical regulations and requirements regarding media coverage of the Olympic Games in an IOC Media Guide, which forms an integral part of the Host City Contract. The contents of the IOC Media Guide, and all other instructions of the IOC Executive Board, are binding for any and all persons involved in media coverage of the Olympic Games.”

-Olympic Charter (2007)

http://multimedia.olympic.org/pdf/en_report_122.pdf

“The planning of the media needs (broadcast, press and photo) at the venues is one of the early priorities. In general, the common priorities for the media are the provision of good working spaces, close accommodation, efficient transportation services, fast and accurate information services and the fulfillment of the latest telecommunications and Information Technology needs.”

-Manual for Candidate Cities for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad 2008 (2000)

http://multimedia.olympic.org/pdf/en_report_297.pdf

“Providing proper facilities and services to the media is essential for the success of the Olympic Games.”

-Manual for Candidate Cities for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad 2008 (2000)

http://multimedia.olympic.org/pdf/en_report_297.pdf

“The IOC recognises the importance of the Internet in promoting the Olympic Games and the Host City. The IOC retains all rights relating to the Internet and similar technologies. These rights cover not only the content but also the choice of technical solutions and their implementation. The IOC is in the process of defining a global strategy in this area.”

-Manual for Candidate Cities for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad 2008 (2000)

http://multimedia.olympic.org/pdf/en_report_297.pdf

ADDITIONAL CECC RESOURCES

For a summary of the origins and scope of China's "Regulations on Reporting Activities in China by Foreign Journalists During the Beijing Olympic Games and the Preparatory Period," see:

"Chinese Government Relaxes Restrictions on Foreign Journalists for Olympics"
(2007)

<http://www.cecc.gov/pages/virtualAcad/index.phpd?showsingle=101020>

"Regulations on Reporting Activities in China by Foreign Journalists During the Beijing Olympic Games and the Preparatory Period" (full text in English and Chinese) (2006)

<http://www.cecc.gov/pages/virtualAcad/index.phpd?showsingle=81268>

Pdf download of full CECC Hearing Transcript "The Impact of the 2008 Olympic Games on Human Rights and the Rule of Law in China" (2008)

www.cecc.gov

Commission Analysis of recent developments in China:

www.cecc.gov/pages/virtualAcad/index.phpd

Pdf download of information on hundreds of political prisoners now detained in China:

www.cecc.gov/

OTHER RESOURCES

"The Olympics Countdown—Broken Promises" (2008)

-*Amnesty International*

<http://www.amnesty.org>

"In their Own Words: Beijing's Olympic Human Rights Commitments" (2008)

-*Human Rights Watch*

http://china.hrw.org/in_their_own_words

"Beijing 2008 Olympics Resources" (2008)

-*Human Rights in China*

<http://www.hrichina.org/public/>

"Falling Short: Olympic Promises Go Unfulfilled as China Falters on Press Freedom"

-*Committee to Protect Journalists* (2008)

http://cpj.org/Briefings/2007/Falling_Short/China/china_updated.pdf

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