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Joey Romasanta named Chef de Mission to Asian Games

JOEY Romasanta, the spokesperson of the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) and former head of Project Gintong Alay, has been named RP Team Chef de Mission to the 16th Asian Games in Guangzhou, China.

POC President Jose 'Peping' Cojuangco appointed Romasanta to the sensitive post in a bid to start early the country's preparation for the November 12-27 sports meet.

"I chose him not because he's been with me for a long time, but I think he really deserves it," Cojuangco announced. "I think he knows what he's going to do. Besides, we need to prepare early. We now have to pick the people who are willing to work with him to provide him assistance."

Although surprised, Romasanta said it was an honor to be personally handpicked to get the entire RP delegation ready for the Asiad.

"It's really a pleasant surprise and also at the same time, a distinct honor to be recognized and be appointed as Chef de Mission," said Romasanta, who is also Deputy Vice President of the Philippine Karatedo Federation.

"I'm just hoping I'll prove equal to the task."

Romasanta already attended the press briefing of the Asian Games in Guangzhou last month during the height of the 25th Southeast Asian Games in Laos.

Aside from setting up a proper administrative organization, Romasanta will also work closely with the various National Sports Associations (NSAs) and yes, coordinate and hold talks with the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC).

"Coordination with the PSC is a must. The POC and the PSC can work together here. Hopefully, we can come to terms with an agreeable working set up," he added.



2010 Asiad has most events ever

FIVE events, including dragon boat and dance sport, have been included in the calendar of events for the coming Asian Games in Guangzhou, China.

Other than the two sports, also to be played in the meet set November 12-27 are cricket, roller sports such as skating and roller blades, and the Chinese chess sport of Weiqi and Xianqi.

Together, they make up the 42 sports disciplines on tap during the two week long games, with 28 of the events considered as Olympic sports. In all, a total of 473 gold medals will be at stake.

“The IOC (International Olympic Committee) said this is probably the Asian Games with the most number of events,” declared Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) spokesman Joey Romasanta, the appointed RP Chef de Mission to the Asiad.

The inclusion of dragon boat and dance sports augurs well for the RP campaign as the two sports have been a consistent gold medal producer for the country in past international meets.

The RP Dragon Boat team for one, bagged two gold medals during the 9th International Dragon Boat Racing Championship in Racice Regatta Center in the Czech Republic last year, besting 24 other countries and its own world record in the 200-meter premier open and mixed categories.

The country brought home four gold medals during the 2006 Asiad in Doha, Qatar courtesy of boxing (Joan Tipon and Violito Payla), wushu (Rene Catalan) and billiards (Antonio Gabica).

Aside from the four golds, the Filipinos also bagged six silvers and nine bronzes.