



# Bridge Bulletin



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# BEIJING WONDERLAND



*A snapshot from the spectacular Opening Ceremony*

The Opening Ceremony of the Beijing 2012 Sport Accord World Mind Games was a triumph from start to finish, mirroring the spectacular images afforded by the early morning snowfall.

The Officials and Guests entered the hall to Elmer Bernstein's stirring theme tune from The Magnificent Seven.

Hosted by Liu Jingmin, Deputy Director of the Committee of Education, Science, Culture, Health Sports of the CPPCC National Committee and Executive Vice Chairman of BODA, the ceremony commenced with the

arrival of the World Mind games flag and representatives of the judges and athletes of the five Mind Sports.

The raising of the national flag of the People's Republic of China and the playing of the national anthem was followed by the raising of the Sport Accord flag and the playing of its anthem. (A brilliant touch was the use of a wind machine to ensure the flags flew!)

After the introduction of the Officials and Guests there came inspirational speeches by Lu Wei, Vice Mayor of Beijing, Hein Verbruggen, Sport Accord President and Feng Jianzhong, Vice Sport Minister.

The Vice Mayor told the story of the Chinese prodigy Cao Chong (196–208) a son of the late Han Dynasty warlord Cao Cao.

According to the Records of Three Kingdoms by Chen Shou, Cao Chong had the intelligence of an adult around the age of five. On one occasion, the southern warlord Sun Quan sent a gift of an elephant to Cao Cao, who wished to know the animal's weight. No one could think of a method but young Cao Chong had an ingenious idea. He asked to have the elephant loaded onto a boat, on which the water level was marked. The elephant was then replaced with smaller weighable objects until the boat was submerged to the same level. The weight of the elephant could then be found out by summing up the weights of all the objects.

After representatives of the Athletes and Judges had taken the Oath the Vice Mayor declared the games open.

Then came a spectacular Arts Performance; The Light of Wisdom, a sand painting by Gao Zanmin, was followed by Heaven, a martial arts dance by the Sports Troupe of Beijing Sport University, Earth, an instrumental performance by Girl's Crystal Band and a chessboard street dance by the Beijing Contemporary Music Academy Modern Dancing Department. Then came Human, featuring the world famous Peking Opera, the Jingju Department of the National Academy of Chinese Theatre Arts.

The Finale, Light of the Future was performed by the whole cast.

At the lavish banquet which followed everyone had time to reflect on the superbly orchestrated ceremony.

