International Olympic President (IOC) Thomas Bach has praised the preparations for Beijing 2022 with 100 days until the Olympic Winter Games.

“The preparations for Beijing 2022 are going very, very well,” said President Bach. “All the venues are already finished. Test events are underway with international participation, and athletes are excited about the state-of-the-art venues.”

All of the competition venues are complete and a series of ten test events are being held to further test the venues, and help organisers gain experience in each of the different sports.

The design of the medals for which Olympic and Paralympic athletes will compete was revealed on the landmark day. The medals are based on ancient Chinese traditions of unity and peace and named ‘Tong Xin’, meaning ‘together as one’.

Beijing has had to face the challenge of preparing for a major global event in a pandemic, but President Bach is impressed by the preparations in the first city to stage both the summer and winter editions of the Games, including COVID-19 countermeasures.

“The determination of China and the Chinese people is impressive. China does not only want to contain the virus, it wants to eradicate the virus. This is being done now, with great efficiency with very strict measures, and these of course will also be transferred to the Olympic Winter Games.”

With the Games approaching the first editions of the Beijing 2022 Playbooks have also been released on October 25 (here). The two Playbooks, one for athletes and team officials, and one for all other stakeholders, provide comprehensive Covid-19 guidelines to help participants prepare for their time in China, for the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

The Olympic flame is in China, having been lit at the traditional ceremony in Ancient Olympia and handed over to Vice-President of Beijing 2022 in Athens last week.
The Olympic Winter Games take place between 4 and 20 February 2022 and the Paralympic Winter Games are held from 4 until 13 March 2022.

STORY SCRIPT:

**Question: How satisfied are you with preparations for Beijing 2022 so far?**

00:06 **SOUNDBITE:** Thomas Bach, IOC President (English Language)

“The preparations for Beijing 2022 are going very, very well. All the venues had already finished since some time now. Test events are underway with international participation and what we have heard from the athletes so far, they are excited about the state-of-the-art venues. So the stage is set for Beijing to write Olympic history as the first ever city to organise both the summer and the winter edition of the Olympic Games.”

**Question: How are the hosts coping with the challenges involved?**

00:45 **SOUNDBITE:** Thomas Bach, IOC President (English Language)

“The determination of China and the Chinese people is impressive. China does not only want to contain the virus, it wants to eradicate the virus, and this is being done with great efficiency with very strict measures. And these of course will also be transferred to the Olympic Winter Games so that everybody participating in these Olympic Winter Games can rely on safe organisation of these games and can all have the confidence in these preparations and in the covid countermeasures.”

01:28 Aerial view of Beijing 2022 Organising Committee buildings, Beijing, China.
01:33 Aerial View of Great Wall, Beijing.
01:38 Animated video of Beijing 2022 mascot Bing Dwen Dwen and Paralympic mascot Shuey Rhon Rhon.
01:49 Wide shot of Big Air Beijing Ski Jump
01:51 Mid shot of Big Air Beijing Ski Jump
01:54 Time lapse of Indoor pool converted to ice rink
01:57 Curling field of play laid
02:00 Time lapse of basketball court converted to ice hockey rink
02:06 Aerial wide shot of National Speed Skating Oval
02:11 Aerial Yanqing National Alpine Skiing Centre course
02:14 Aerial slow move down National Alpine Skiing Centre course
02:18 Wide of National cross country skiing facility
02:24 NEW - Olympic Winter Game Beijing 2022 Medals
02:52 NEW - Promotional video of Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022
02:57 Interior National Indoor Stadium, Ice hockey venue during practice game
02:59 Action from Ice hockey practice game
03:07 Interior Capital Indoor Stadium, Ice skating venue during figure skating pairs practice
03:18 Close Ice skating figure skating pair practice
03:19 Interior National Aquatics Centre, Curling practice.
03:21 Seat with anti-Covid instructions (Chinese and English language)
03:24 Close curling practice as stone released by competitor
03:28 Close sign with Anti-Covid instructions Chinese/English at venue
03:32 Entrance to venue with masked official on door
03:35 Giant panda mascots with children at Beijing winter sports exhibition
03:40 PyeongChang 2018, Men’s Downhill Skiing
03:50 PyeongChang 2018, Snowboard cross

04:01 Aerial view of The Bird’s Nest, Beijing National stadium.

04:04 Opening Ceremony China athletes march into stadium, Olympic Games Beijing 2008 (Athlete Yao Ming was holding the Flag)


04:17 Wide of High Priestess kneels to light Beijing 2022 flame, Temple of Hera lighting ceremony Ancient Olympia, Athens, Greece. (18.10.2021)

04:27 Tracking shot of Beijing 2022 torchbearer chinese Olympian Li, Jiajun running with the torch in Ancient Olympia. (18.10.2021)

04:30 Spyros Capralos, President of the Hellenic Olympic Committee (HOC) carries the Beijing 2022 Olympic torch at Panathenaic Stadium, Athens. (19.10.2021)

04:34 Spyros Capralos hands the Beijing 2022 torch to Zaiqing Yu, Vice-President of Beijing 2022 and Vice-President of the Chinese Olympic Committee. (19.10.2021)

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