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## The Physical Education and Sports in People's Republic of China (Communist)

*By Kohsuke Sasajima\**

The People's Republic of China was founded on October 1, 1949. Earlier, in November 1931, the Chinese Communist Party established the Chinese Soviet Republic after the split between the Chinese Nationalists and Communists. Even during the subsequent period of a series of wars such as the Nationalist-Communist civil war, Sino-Japanese Incident and Pacific War, importance was placed on physical education and sports.

The Chinese Communist Party, after founding the People's Republic of China in 1949 by bringing the Chinese mainland under its authority as a result of its victory in a war with the Nationalist Party, firmly established a system for physical education and sports by following the example of the Soviet Union which was then taking the leadership of the Communist nations. It enforced the Ordinance on Physical Education System for Labor and Defense, which was aimed at promoting sports, and a grading system for players, umpires and coaches, and is making efforts for the development of these systems. The Communist Chinese Government is leading and enlightening the people in a systematic way by setting goals backed by contemporary political, economic, cultural and educational policies and conforming to such policies. In line with national policies, the Government has been making steady, energetic efforts with the aim of improving productive capacity and strengthening national defense power.

Also, spare-time athletic schools for juniors and youths have been established for the training of persons of superior ability with the aim of developing sports. Those efforts are bearing fruit steadily as the nation's sports records, which were much lower than the international level before World War II, have improved to the extent that in some events Chinese players rank with veteran players in the world and set many

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world records.

However, with politics taking priority over sports in the present state of affairs of the country, the People's Republic of China does not participate in the Olympics or the Asian Games. Furthermore, because of the problems of "two Chinas," the People's Republic of China has withdrawn from the International Olympic Committee and other international athletic organizations.

Importance is being placed also on improvement of physical educational facilities. The Government is making a large amount of disbursement for construction of physical educational facilities in many parts of the country.

The People's Republic of China is placing importance on all kinds of sports. "Chuan-fa," a national tradition of China, is being preserved with good care under the name of "Wu-shu" (martial arts).