

A Busy Year for Asian Volleyball in 2007

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The highlight of the calendar in Asia this year will be the FIVB World Cup, which China's women won in 2003 in Beijing, China, 22 January 2007 -- The Sport Event Council of the Asian Volleyball Confederation has finalized the 2007 AVC competition schedule, which includes continental qualification for the 2007 Youth World Championships.

The 6th Asian Youth Girls' and Boys' Championships will be played from May 7-15 and May 20-28, 2007 in Ratchaburi Thailand and Gecting Highlands of Malaysia respectively. The two Championships also serve as the qualification tournaments for Women's Under-18 and Men's Under-19 World Volleyball Championships. The top three teams in the Asian youth events will receive tickets to the World Championships.

From 1 to 8 June, the 2007 Asian Men's Clubs Championship will be held in Manama, Bahrain, while the same Championship for Women's Clubs will be staged in Vinh Phuc, Vietnam, from 16-23 June. The AVC SEC said the value and prestige of the Asian Clubs Championships are gradually diminishing with less interest and participations, so they are seriously considering other options.

The most important AVC events in 2007 are the 14th Asian Senior Men's and Women's Championships. The men's will be played in Jakarta, Indonesia, from 1-9 September with 15 teams participating.

From 5-13 September, Thailand will welcome the female stars of Asian Volleyball. Suphanburi City will host the Asian Senior Women's Championship which will draw nine teams.

2007 will also see the following events in Asia:

VTV Cup Women's Volleyball Invitation from May 11-20 in Vietnam.
 19th Asian Men's Pacific Cup in Fukuoka of Japan from June 22-24.
 3rd Sting Cup Men's Volleyball Invitation in Ho Chi Minh of Vietnam from November 6-15.

AVC members will also actively host a number of FIVB events. The most important FIVB event to be held in 2007 in Asia is the World Cup in Japan, which is also the first qualification tournament for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, with the top three teams in each gender winning berths in the Olympic Games.

Shanghai (China), Sentosa (Singapore), Seoul (Korea) and Phuket (Thailand) will host 2007 SWATCH FIVB World Tour stops for women, while Shanghai, Manama and Bali will stage men's competitions.

The final of 2007 Grand Prix will be played in Ningbo, China, from August 22-26, with the three preliminary rounds held in Tokyo, Osaka, Hong Kong, Macao, Taipei and other European cities