



**Ice Skating Institute of Asia**



**WINTER NEWSLETTER 2011**

*Hope 2011 finds all our skaters practicing hard to improve their skating skills, and coaches busy researching music and ideas for their solo and team programs for an exciting year of competitions ahead. Here are a few up coming events for your diary*

**“JACKSON ULTIMA”**

**“SKATE ASIA”**

*AUGUST 11-18 2011*

*IMPERIAL WORLD ICE SKATING BANGKOK*

The dates are now fixed for this years “SkateAsia” to be held at the Imperial World Ice Skating in Bangkok, Thailand this summer from August 11 - 18th.

So time to start planning your summer holidays with all your skating friends!

also.....



If you are looking for more competition experience before then, and also want to take in some great sightseeing over Easter, there is “Skate Beijing” now confirmed to take place over the Easter weekend April 22-24th at Le Cool Ice rink in Beijing. There are many different events being offered here such as rhythm - hoop, ball and ribbon, dance, figures and many team events, synchro dance, kaleidoskate, etc so be adventurous and try something new!



Along with these there will also be many regular competitions hosted around Asia, the dates for which are not yet confirmed, but we hope this year we will be able to enjoy :

“SUMMER SKATE MANILA” 16 - 19 May

“SKATE MALAYSIA” in June

“SKATE JAPAN” last weekend of June

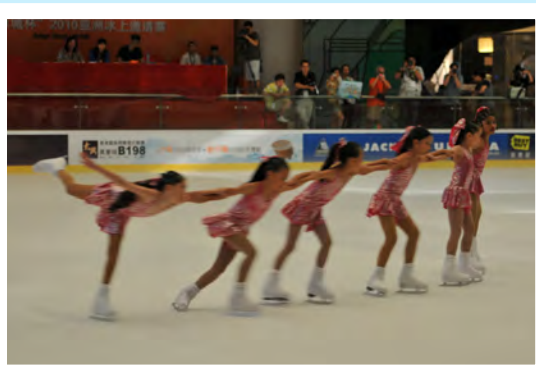
“SKATE MANILA” 3 - 6 October

“SKATE JAKARTA” end of October

“SKATE HONG KONG” in November

“SKATE SHENZHEN” in December

+ we hope a new “WINTER CLASSIC” competition, offering many events to be held in Shenyang, China, around next Christmas.



## Recreational Skating competition at it's Best

*The high spot I remember both from Hangzhou last Skate Asia, and again in the packed arena at Festival Walk last November at Skate Hong Kong was the electrifying atmosphere on the afternoon of the team events.*

*I got such a buzz, watching the different groups of excited young skaters in their team costumes, warming up together, (well, jumping around a lot), being put through their paces by their coach, and then being organized for hair and makeup by the wonderful team of supportive mums. Skating with your friends is always a great contrast to the nerves of solo competition, and being part of a team is a good way to make new friends and learn to enjoy skating in front of the judges and audience.*

*For the coach it can be a lot of hard work, and the parents must be dedicated to sit through long hours of rehearsals, but the cheers at the competition and the smiling faces on the team photos, usually whatever the colour of the medal, though of course we hope its blue, show me that taking part in a team event is great fun and always a rewarding experience.*

*For me as a coach, the best part is when your kids want to practice their group routine, sometimes even when the competition has long since passed!*

*So go on, get involved, talk to your friends and try to join a team!*

On a more serious note, these competitions are only fun and fair, when all the skaters in each group are of similar skating ability, each one feeling that they have a chance of winning, and the result will be the skater who really does their best on the day.

Entering a skater in a competition at the correct level is not always an easy decision for a coach, who is often under pressure by the parents or skater to push a student higher, or hold a student back, but the ISI Asia testing standards committee will be bringing in some new rules and guidelines to try and create a more level playing field throughout Asia.

- \* Adhering strictly to the passing standard rules in the handbook, is the fairest way to keep judging standards and the reputation of ISI skaters high.
- \* Coaches are encouraged to prepare freestyle programs, and test and register their students levels on a regular basis throughout the year, not just before a competition entry deadline.
- \* Low level tests, may be taken during a lesson, but wherever possible, coaches are encouraged to work with their colleagues, and find another coach to be the judge.
- \* For freestyle tests level 5 and above, the name of the coach and the judge will be registered along with the student. Armed with this information, if a skater is deemed by the referee to be skating in a competition at the wrong freestyle level, the coach or judge will be addressed by the ISI Asia testing standards committee and their student's levels will be monitored in future competitions.
- \* A series of 5 judging seminars will be held in Asia in 2011, and more coaches are encouraged to take their judging tests. More information about these will be posted shortly.
- \* Coaches are encouraged to attend seminars and competitions.

Our Association is changing all the time as new ice rinks from other Asian areas join us. As our membership grows, it is important that our testing standards remain high and coaches are encouraged to keep themselves educated and use their experience to make these competitions in the full spirit of the ISI, a fun, challenging and rewarding experience for all the competitors.

So, hopefully I have inspired you to accept the challenge, and take part in some fun and exciting skating trips this year!

**Wishing you Happy Skating in the Year of the Rabbit !**

