

2008 in Beijing: Aiming for the Gold A Preview of China Glass 2008



by Megan Headley

2008 is set to be a big year for Beijing. The city has been making preparations for some time now in anticipation of a major event: China Glass 2008.

Perhaps most people think first about the fast-approaching 2008 Olympics, to be held August 8-24 in Beijing, but members of the glass industry are preparing their journey to see the latest products and technology launched overseas. China Glass 2008 will be held at the China International Exhibition Center in Beijing, April 10-13, 2008. The exhibition will cover an unprecedented 538,195 square feet and eight exhibit halls in its nineteenth year.

According to show organizers, the Chinese Ceramic Society, last year's exhibition in Shanghai drew 707 exhibitors from 24 countries—235 of those exhibitors being international companies—and 34,392 attendees from more than 100 countries.

Above and right: China Glass drew attendees from more than 100 countries last year.

An Array of Products

Event organizers say the show will feature all types of glass products, from architectural and decorative glass, fenestration and hardware fittings to industrial and specialty glass and hollow glassware. In addition, attendees will be able to find equipment for glass processing and production.



One World, One Dream and Two Big Events

The exhibit is expected to provide information in the following areas:

- Improved glass melting efficiency through Oxy fuel firing, oxygen enrichment firing, electric boosting and bubbling systems;
- Energy savings and low emissions through furnace residual heat applied to power generation, flue gas desulfurizing, NOx and pollutant removing;
- Machines and technology for large safety glass for buildings such as airports, conference centers, exhibition centers, etc.;
- Handling systems and transport vehicles for moving large lites to construction locations;
- Cullet recycling systems and technology;
- Machinery and technology to produce specialty glass, such as insulating, laminated, coated, low-E, fire-resistant, solar and self-cleaning glass; and
- Annealing lehrs and technology.

During last year's event there were 18 accompanying seminars held on the glass industry's developments in technology and goals for future developments.

For more information about the event, visit www.ceram-soc.com.

GPD China Focuses on Climate Change

While in Beijing, many industry professionals also will take in the educational offerings from Glass Performance Days (GPD) China 2008. The conference will be held just before China Glass on April 8-9 at the Hotel Kunlun. Speakers will address the theme of "Climate Change and the Glass Industry."

The conference will offer practical and processing sessions with hands-on presentations and case studies on topics such as production efficiency, handling and processing coated glass and laminating and tempering. For the first time, a float glass session has been introduced due to the increased participation of glass manufacturers seen in the two previous GPD China conferences. The session will address cooling, cutting and quality inspection; float handling, transport and services; material and machinery supplies; melting and simulations; and process control systems. A session on architectural, facade and market trends will ask how new designs or processes can affect the use of glass. It will also address what architects and facade builders want from glass processors and what new glass technology can be offered to architects and facade builders. Other sessions will cover energy efficiency, standards and regulations.

For more information about GPD China, visit www.gpd.fi. ■

Believe it or not, when most people think about 2008 in Beijing, they are probably not thinking about the China Glass show. Most thoughts jump directly to the fast-approaching 2008 Olympics, to be held August 8-24 in Beijing with the theme of "One World, One Dream."

China Glass attendees visiting the city earlier in the year may benefit from arrangements made for the throngs of travelers expected in August. Updates to public transportation are among some of the improvements made to the city in preparation.

Shenzhen Sanxin Special Glass Technology Co. Ltd. installed the glass curtainwall on the new National Indoor Stadium.



Photo courtesy of BOCOG.

Glass industry visitors may also be interested in tacking onto their list of places to visit the National Indoor Stadium. The stadium, built specifically for the games, features a 19,000-square-meter glass curtainwall, according to information from the Olympics organizers. Laminated, low-E glass supplied by Shanghai Yaohua Pilkington Glass Co. Ltd. forms, in parts, the point-support curtainwall. Shenzhen Sanxin Special Glass Technology Co. Ltd. installed the glass.

Behind the curtainwall lies a solar photovoltaic system that uses 1,124 solar panels, each measuring 120 by 50 cm. The solar panels are able to produce 100 kilowatts of energy per day.

The National Indoor Stadium will be the competition venue for the Olympic artistic gymnastics, trampoline and handball competitions and the Paralympic wheelchair basketball competition. Able to seat 18,000 people, the stadium was designed to resemble an unfurled traditional Chinese folding fan. The Chinese say that a folding fan holds a deep level of cultural detail. According to chief project engineer Zhang Guoqiang, the National Indoor Stadium will serve as a top-grade artistic performance venue following the games.