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**GOLF KAZAN**

## Kazan: The rise of a new Russian sporting capital

On 31st May 2008, FISU overlooked South Korea's Gwangju and Spain's Vigo to award the 2013 summer Universiade to the Russian city of Kazan. As one of Russia's top university cities, with around 40 per cent of its population under the age of 30, and home to some of the country's best performing sports teams, including two-time Russian soccer champions Rubin Kazan and former European ice hockey champions Ak Bars Kazan, the city can consider itself a worthy candidate to host such a large-scale international multi-sport event.

Indeed, the scale of the Universiade will be far bigger than any Kazan has staged before. 64 venues around the city will host competition, 36 of which are being constructed especially for the Games. In addition, a Universiade village will house over 13,000 participants and delegates during the Games, which will attract many thousands of spectators, if this year's event in Shenzhen is anything to go by.

But the Universiade is not the only major event the capital of Tatarstan will be hosting in the coming years. Two-and-a-half years after FISU's announcement, having been voted the sports capital of Russia ahead of Moscow and St Petersburg in an online poll, the 1.2 million inhabitants of Kazan rejoiced as world soccer's governing body Fifa awarded Russia the 2018 World Cup in December 2010. The city will host several matches in soccer's top competition and will be one of four cities hosting the tournament's prelude, the 2017 Fifa Confederations Cup. The stadium used for 2018, to be situated on a waterfront venue located amidst 24.6 hectares of land on the Volga river, will have a 45,000 capacity and be built to host the football tournament at the 2013 Universiade.

Just months after Fifa's announcement, the International Swimming Federation (Fina) awarded the 2015 Fina World Aquatics Championships to the city, cementing Kazan's status as one of Russia's new sporting hubs.