



# Dwellers give post office stamp of approval

By CHEN XIAO  
CHINA DAILY

SHENZHEN — Nobody writes letters in the digital age but snail mail remains the medium of choice for the postcard — making the post office one of the Universiade Village's most popular places.

Volunteer Lu Yu said hundreds of people, from foreign athletes to local visitors, come to the Village's post office every day.

"Postcards are our best-selling items," Lu said.

The post office offers 10 kinds of postcards. They are printed with such scenes as local landscapes, Universiade sports venues and the 24 sports-represented by the event's mascot, UU.

German swimmer Johannes Neumann bought a box set of 12 "color-them-yourself" UU postcards and a pack of colored pencils.

"I can color them the way I want to — such a cool idea," Neumann said.

Sending postcards while traveling is a must-do, Neumann said.

"Postcards tell stories about the place or about a certain event," he said.

"My family and friends would feel special, although I might arrive home before the postcards."

Those who send postcards also get free commemorative postmarks.

There is a big fan base for postage stamps, too, volunteer Zhang Qijun, who runs the stamps counter, said.

"While young people may be more interested in buying and sending postcards, older ones, especially middle-aged Chinese visitors, prefer to buy stamps for their collections," Zhang said.

There are discounts for box sets of postcards, stamps and other Universiade items. The sets cost 100 yuan, 200 yuan or 300 yuan.

Singaporean chess player Nathanael Ong bought a Universiade passport, which can only be obtained by buying one of the sets.

"The passport has 24 pages — one for every sports event — and every day I can get two postmarks," Ong said.

Ong got a Shanghai Expo passport when he came to China last year, he said.

"Of course I send postcards, too," Ong said.

"But I think the passport is really more special. If I could get all the postmarks, it would make the memory of participating at the Universiade more complete."



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German swimmer Johannes Neumann shows what he picked up from the post office in the Universiade Village.

## Embracing different delicacies

By USHER KOMUGISHA  
YOUNG REPORTER (UGANDA)

SHENZHEN — Like many of his teammates, Mexico's Gabriel Giron knew he would miss his favorite home foods like enchiladas, tacos, tamales, menudo, pozole and burritos the minute he got onto the plane to fly to Shenzhen.

Traveling an incredible journey of 13,398.22 kilometers to represent his country in basketball, Giron thought he was going to have a pretty uncomfortable tournament, but he was in for a surprise!

From the diverse Chinese dishes to Asian to European, Muslim and Mediterranean food, all athletes are being catered for at the Universiade.

The Shenzhen Organizing Committee made sure that an astonishing 415 different food dishes are available at the Athletes' Village courtesy of Shenzhen Jin Gu Yuan Industry Developed Company Ltd for the almost 12,000 athletes, officials, judges and referees from 152 countries and from six continents.

On arrival at the Athletes' Village, Giron did the rounds and was amazed at the variety of foods.

"It is really cool that I can have French fries here and a delicious chicken burger and that makes me feel at home," said an excited Giron.

The different foodstuffs range from 60 Chinese dishes, 47 from Asia, a variety of 57 European-style meals, 52 dishes for the Muslims and 100 Mediterranean meals.

Chinese noodles, boiled dumplings, steamed rice, jerk pork, aubergine and potato curry with steamed rice, halal Lebanese chicken and rice, rotisserie chicken and roast garlic mashed potato are among the favorites.

"I like it. I love it. I definitely want to try out as many different dishes as possible," said an excited Natasha Campos from Costa Rica.

### Q & A >> Christiane Klopsch, 21, German, women's 400m hurdles.



#### How do you feel about the Village?

It's a great place. There are lots of people from different nations ... so it's a great opportunity to meet people and — maybe after the competition — to have parties with them and have fun.

#### One impressive thing about

#### the Village?

The food here is excellent. The two dining halls offer many choices — all the international cuisine — and we also have fast food like McDonald's.

#### What do you do in your spare time?

Play cards, watch movies — basi-

cally what I would do in my home. I also go out and visit the city.

#### Have you had any chances to travel around the city yet?

Yes. But Shenzhen is such a big place that it takes hours to even get to a mall from here. Maybe I'll visit more after the competition.