

# CRYSTAL CLEAR AT TAIPEI SUMMER GAMES



**Clear-Com's expertise came to the fore when a production intercom system was required for the Summer Universiade Games in Taipei.**

**T**he **Universiade**, also known as the **World University Games**, is a biennial international multi-sport and cultural event organised for university student athletes by the **International University Sports Federation (FISU)**.

Inaugurated in 1959, it is the only summer multi-sport event in the world that connects students at both academic and athletic levels, with 12 days of sports competitions.

The event hosts more than 9,000 student-athletes and officials from over 170 countries, and is broadcast by more than 100 TV channels around the world.

The 29th Summer Universiade took place in Taipei, Taiwan, in August 2017, and the Taipei-based system integrator and rental company **Winly Group** was

contracted to supply, install and operate the production and broadcast equipment for the opening and closing ceremonies.

*"Many countries were doing live broadcasting of the event and the organiser – the Taipei City Government – required a very high standard on the production intercom system,"* says Andy Chen, President, Winly. *"Since 1980 we have used Clear-Com as our preferred production intercom system. For our recent major system update, based on our decades of experience, we selected Clear-Com again as we believe Clear-Com is the most reliable and the best tool for the job."*

Certainly for a job as large and as prestigious as this, reliable and flexible communication was key.

## **SEAMLESS SETUP**

Supported by **The P.A. People**, a Clear-Com Global Rental Group partner, the Winly team installed an integrated Clear-Com intercom system with an Eclipse HX digital matrix at the heart of the solution.

The system also featured V-Series keypanels, the HelixNet digital partyline intercom and more than 45 FreeSpeak II wireless belt packs connecting all stationed and mobile production users, who were positioned all over the huge **B-01 Taipei Stadium**, which seats over 21,000 people.

Andre Lai, Engineering Manager at Winly, was pleasantly surprised by the simplicity of the system. *"Initially, we thought it would be very complex to set*

it up," he says. "However, after receiving the equipment at the stadium, we found that setup was very easy, and the configuring of the system was fast and simple on the PC."

Linus Hu, Sound Engineer at Wingly, explains further: "We used an interface (For-22) to link up the walkie to the Eclipse HX Matrix intercom system. We were able to use a standard analogue mic cable to link up the HelixNet digital partyline beltpacks. We then deployed the FreeSpeak II antennas at various locations in the stadium, which gave us complete wireless intercom coverage across the entire stadium."

### PROBLEM SOLVED

Covering such a large arena, with thousands of people in the audience potentially using their mobile phones, could have made wireless communication problematic – but the award-winning FreeSpeak II system proved its worth yet again.

"Our matrix and controls were located in the West side of the stadium, and we had to route the antenna signal cables to the East side of the stadium. The total distance was approximately 300 meters," says Lai. "Most analogue signal cables would have had significant loss with that kind of cable distance. The

FreeSpeak II antennas splitter offered fibre connectivity and that allowed us to deploy longer cable runs, so there were no signal loss issues."

Hu concurs: "We had 12,000 audience members during one of the rehearsals and that did not affect the wireless intercom coverage. The audio quality of the intercom system was very good, and none of the wireless intercom users experiences any kind of interference."

Lai also highlights the cable flexibility that the Clear-Com system offers. "The HelixNet beltpacks allowed both RJ45 and 3-Pin XLR cable connections, so we can use our standard CAT5 cables and our analog mic cables with the HelixNet beltpacks.

"We are not restricted to only certain types of cables and we don't have to spend more money to buy more cables."

Taipei City officials have noted that the Universiade was the largest sporting event ever held there, and the world was watching - live. The opening and closing ceremonies were highly complex, featuring hundreds of performers, incredible floor projections, light shows and fireworks, as well as the 110+ competing teams, flag bearers, torch ceremonies and official speeches.

The Clear-Com system performed flawlessly throughout, enabling the production teams to keep things on schedule, to handle last minute requests from the stage manager with ease – and to have one less element of a critical production to worry about. ■

