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## Rio Olympic Games to Start with Many Anxieties

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On August 5, the 2016 Olympic Games, which will be held for the first time in Southern Hemisphere, will ring up the curtain in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The construction of the Stadiums and Olympic village seems to have been completed at the eleventh hour helped by the underlying strength exerted in a Latin way or South American way under which people manage to accomplish the projects eventually in time even if there were delays in preparations. Also it seems that the feared infectious diseases like Zika fever have been controlled from spreading as the winter has started.

However, the construction of the subway, which was expected to provide a main transport to access the Olympic sites, was much delayed and it was forced to start on a limited running. Also there is a concern over the impact on the players health of the quality of the water in the sailing venues as the purification of the water has not progressed as desired. Further uncertainties remain in the operation of Olympic village as the interior work in the village has not been finished and Australian delegates rejected to use of it.

Currently, the biggest factor for concern is the security management against terrorism. The Brazilian government has announced that they would mobilize total number of 94 thousands including 47 thousand policemen, 38 thousand army forces, and 9 thousands of national security forces to maintain security, but it is already reported that within the Brazilian territory there exist groups of extremists under the influence of the Islamic State (IS).

In addition, problems have emerged that adequate meals and accommodations are not available to the mobilized soldiers and policemen due to the fiscal crisis of the Rio de Janeiro State which is to play an important part of the security management. Another concern is the possible lax of security in other cities and regions other than the Olympic sites because of the concentration of security in Olympic related areas.

The economic recovery has been in sight albeit temporarily because of the progress of

inventory adjustment. Industrial production is likely to mark a positive year-on-year increase in the April-June quarter for the first time in the past two years. However, the unemployment rate hit 11.2% (whole nation) in May, which is 3.15 points higher than the rate recorded a year earlier. Retail sales (including cars) decreased in May by 0.4% from the previous month, decreasing by 10.2% on a year-on-year basis. It will take some time more before the household consumption starts to recover.

Dissatisfactions of the citizens have been rising due to the prolonged stagnant economy. According to the local media, the ratio of the citizens of “Against the Olympics” reached 50% in a survey made in the whole nation, doubling from the ratio of 25% recorded in the previous survey (June, 2013). In a survey made exclusively to the Rio de Janeiro city, the positive answers that the Olympic games will benefit them remained at 45%, lower than the 47% that answered the Olympic games will penalize them. Although this time there have been no opposing movements like those seen before the Soccer World Cup event in 2014, the people’s attitude to the Olympic Games is quite cool with one thirds of the tickets still unsold. It will be impossible to expect for the Olympic Games to enhance the national prestige as well to encourage consumer spending.

Facing a host of challenges still to make, Brazil is going to celebrate the opening of the 2016 Olympic Games.



(Average of April and May for the latest. Compiled by the author based on the data of Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística)