

YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES: SINGAPORE 2010

OLYMPIC FLAME WILL FLY



Greek torch bearer Apostolos Koutavas (right) handing over the Olympic flame to Singapore's Amanda Lim during the ceremony in Ancient Olympia yesterday. The torch will pass through five continents before arriving in Singapore. PHOTO: REUTERS

To avoid disruption, torch will be taken to cities for celebrations



BY LEONARD LIM

ANCIENT OLYMPIA: The Youth Olympic flame, which was lit in Greece yesterday, will not be carried in a relay during its international leg. So, do not expect runners to carry the YOG torch and cover long distances, like in previous Olympic Games, before the Singapore leg.

This is to minimise the risk of disruption to the torch run, and a repeat of the farcical scenes that accompanied the Beijing 2008 Olympics torch relay when occasionally-violent demonstrations against China's human rights record marred the torch's visit to cities such as London and Paris.

Instead, the YOG flame will be taken to iconic sights in each city – such as Berlin's Brandenburg Gate, Dakar's Goree Island, a World Heritage Site, and Mexico City's Plaza de la Constitucion and Angel of Independence.

The flame will also pass through Auckland and Seoul. At each city, there will be celebrations organised by the host coun-

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