Anja Gengo, debater

- Olympic Games -

Arguments: <u>CONS</u>

1. Hosting the Olympics is very expensive. In recent times host cities have never made a direct profit. The bidding process alone for 2012 cost each bidding city around $35 million and London is expected to spend over $8 billion on the games. The cost of security has also increased dramatically. Athens spent $1,5 billion on se security out of a total $12 billion on the 2004 games. The burden of these costs falls on government. If cities need to redevelop, they should spend money directly on those projects rather trough subsidizing a sporting event.

2. Hosting the Olympics does not create long-term benefits for the host city. The demands of the Olympics are very particular (e.g. pools, horse tracks, sand volleyball courts), and much of this infrastructure will never be used again. In Australia, underused stadia in Sydney cost taxpayers $32 million a year in maintenance. In the long term, the money spent on affordable housing and transportation infrastructure for local residents rather than with the intention of impressing IOC members.

3. The bidding process itself is heavily political, and so it is very possible that a city will spend over $35 million on a bid only to lose to a weaker candidate. Each IOC member decides for which city he or she wishes to vote, which means that personal relationships and international politics can outweigh the quality of the bid. For example, American foreign policy is rumoured to have disadvantaged New York in the 2012 bidding process. Also, given that Olympics are rotated among continents, a city is only eligible every 12 years.

4. Hosting affects only one city. In large countries like the USA or China, the benefits of the Olympics are almost entirely focused on the host city. For example, after failed bids from Birmingham in 1992 and Manchester in 1996 and 2000, the OIC told the UK that only a bid from London was likely to win. Favouring capital cities only concentrates growth and development where it is least needed.

5. The Olympic host-city bidding process takes too long. Bidding officially takes only two years, but most cities spend nearly a decade working on their bids.