The International Olympic Committee or IOC has given the go-ahead for the Youth Olympic Village or YOV to be located at the Nanyang Technological University, instead of at the National University of Singapore as originally planned.

The YOV will house the athletes for the Singapore Youth Olympic Games to be held in 2010. NUS' University Town had initially been selected as the primary site for the Village in October last year. But to host the athletes at U-Town, it would have been necessary to speed up the construction of the facilities there.

And as Brigadier General Goh Kee Nuan, chief executive officer of the organizing committee explains, doing so would have meant considerable added costs:

"It's really something that we've considered quite carefully. What we saw was that there was an increase in the construction industry and therefore the cost of completing the NUS U-Town by August 2010 would also increase in a large way."

BG Goh says they've decided to use NTU since it was listed as an alternative site in the first place.

Given NTU's existing facilities, the amount of construction work to be done there will be minimal.

For example, the facilities at the National Institute of Education or NIE will be part of the village square, while NTU residential halls will be used to house the athletes.

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