

THE STORIES

MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA

SPECIAL OLYMPICS KUWAIT

By: Hamad Abdulla, athlete & Sayed Hashem, partner
Special Olympics Bahrain

محمد غازي الهاجري لاعب في الأولمبياد الخاص الكويتي. يبلغ من العمر 25 سنة وقد شارك في هذه البطولة في سباق ال 100 و ال 200 م جري على الجليد. كان غازي في الأساس يشارك في مباريات ألعاب القوى ومباريات الجري. دخل غازي الأولمبياد الخاص عام 2002م عن طريق مدربه الذي اختاره للمشاركة في بطولة الخليج العربية لألعاب القوى التي تعتبر البطولة الأولى التي شارك فيها غازي. شارك غازي في هذه البطولة في سباقات ال 100 و ال 200 م و أحرز ميداليتين برونزيتين، وبعد ذلك شارك في العديد من البطولات العربية والإقليمية.

هذه البطولة هي الأولى لغازي على المستوى العالمي وأحرز فيها ميداليتين ذهبيتين في سباق ال 100 و ال 200 م. يقول غازي أن عائلته تشجعه كثيرا على الاستفادة من التدريب الذي يوفره الأولمبياد الخاص وعلى المشاركة في البطولات التي يقيمها. وعن الرحلة يقول غازي أنها كانت طويلة ومتعبة وقد استغرق الوصول إلى ناغانو يومين كاملين. وعن هواياته قال أنه يحب الرياضة والتسوق في المجمعات ومشاهدة التلفزيون. وفي نهاية حديثه شكر جميع العاملين في الأولمبياد الخاص وقال أنه ينصح جميع إخوانه اللاعبين بالمشاركة في بطولات الأولمبياد الخاص.

Traslation

Mohammad Ghazi Al Hajiri is an SO Kuwait athlete. He is 25 years old and he's participating in these World Winter Games in ice skating.

Before joining SO, Ghazi used to participate in many track and field games. He joined Special Olympics in 2002 when his coach encouraged him to participate in the athletics Gulf championship where he won 2 bronze medals in the 100m run and 200m run. This was his first participation in a championship. Later on, Ghazi had the chance to compete in many Arab and regional championships.

He competed today on the global level for the first time and he won 2 gold medals in the 100m and 200m ice skating. Ghazi said that his family encourages him a lot to benefit from the sports training provided by SO and to participate in all SO competitions. Ghazi said that his trip to Nagano was long and exhausting because it took him 2 days to get there. His hobbies are sports and shopping and watching T.V. At the end he would like to thank SO staff members and he advises all SO athletes to participate in all sports competitions.

MORE TAXES COULD HELP SPECIAL OLYMPICS ATHLETES

By: Ibrahim Squali Houssaini, athlete & Fikri Ikari, partner
Special Olympics Morocco

He is still young, but his 10 years of athletic competition can inspire the whole world. Self-confident Polish athlete Ireneusz Piniec discovered Special Olympics thanks to TV and, later on, his coach. He is 17 years old and has already competed in a number of different Special Olympics events.

When asked what he would do if he were the President of Poland, Ireneusz provided a very enlightening answer: "I would impose more taxes and raise more money to improve the lives of Special Olympics athletes," Ireneusz said.

Ireneusz says that Special Olympics athletes expect a lot from their communities and those around them. Much of their success is due in part to the support they receive from families, friends and people in the community.



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MEETING WORLD FAMOUS CELEBRITIES SPECIAL OLYMPICS MOROCCO

By: Ibrahim Squali Houssaini, athlete & Fikri Ikari, partner

The trip to Japan was long and tiring, but it was worth making as we saw another world, and came back home with a wealth of wonderful memories.

Meeting other youth from different countries and continents was so exciting. Together, we spent more than ten days full of interesting activities. Together we visited historical monuments, competition venues, made unforgettable interviews with brilliant and valient champions and wrote stories.

That was not all, we were so lucky as to meet very important people, people we used to see only on TV. It was a great moment when US. Former President Bill Clinton joined participants in the Summit for a great afternoon during which athletes, partners and chaperons were all spontaneously jubilant. President Clinton's "I See You" was adopted by participants and organizers since it summed up the true spirit of the Summit, that is: seeing the difference and accepting the difference.

Our luck seemed to persist for the rest of our stay in Japan. We had the Honnor of meeting Her Royal Highness Princess Lalla Amina, Chairperson of Special Olympics Morocco, who came to take part in the Forum for the Change of Attitudes. Both the athlete and his partner were asking if they would really meet the Princess. They could not believe it until it really occurred.

Our stay in Japan was synonymous with joy and sharing. We shared the dreams and ambitions of participants in both the Global Youth Summit and the World Winter Games.



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