



**Special Olympics**



# Special Olympics Youth Fan Club

Global Youth Summit Report  
Forum Mondial de la Jeunesse  
VISHW YOUVA MANCH  
Kongamano la Dunia kwa vijana  
Foro Global de Jovenes  
المؤتمر العالمي للشباب  
全球青少年论坛  
ΠΑΓΚΟΣΜΙΟ ΣΥΝΕΔΡΙΟ ΝΕΟΛΑΙΑΣ

October 2007  
Shanghai, China



## Table of Contents

<b>Join Special Olympics Youth Fan Club, Background and Goals</b>	<b>2</b>
Introduction	2
2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games	3
<b>2007 Special Olympics Global Youth Summit, Vision and Background</b>	<b>4</b>
Youth Summit Leaders' Goals	4
2008-2011 Special Olympics Global Youth Summit Activities	6
<b>The Context for Action</b>	<b>7</b>
School Enrichment Program in Shanghai	7
Special Olympics Youth Fan Club Broadcast	8
Global Youth Forum Leaves Lasting Impression On Chinese Youth	9
Global Youth Participants and Local School Exchanges	10
Youth Leaders Support Work of the United Nations	11
Special Olympics Young Athletes™ Program Debuts at World Games	12
<b>Interviews and Stories, Developed by Special Olympics Global Youth Summit participants</b>	<b>13</b>
Global Youth Summit Closing Editorial	37
<b>Appendices</b>	<b>38</b>
Appendix I - Selection Process for the Global Youth Summit	38
Appendix II - Global Youth Summit Participants	38
Appendix III - Web Sites of Youth Leaders Supporting Their Calls to Action	40
Sponsor Recognition and Special Olympics Contact Information	Back Cover

## Join the Special Olympics Youth Fan Club, Background and Goals



### Introduction

Presented in this booklet are the calls to action, shared practices and stories of the Special Olympics Global Youth Summit Fan Club who gathered at the 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Shanghai, China, from 2–11 October. These 58 youth leaders with and without intellectual disability from 16 countries represent young people from each of the Special Olympics movement's seven regions around the world. Each leader has committed to two years as ambassadors for Special Olympics in order to spread their calls to action.

These youth leaders' goal was to launch the Special Olympics Youth Fan Club, a global network of young people who are committed to making a difference in their schools and communities through Special Olympics.

Youth leaders received training during the summit from Special Olympics staff and other global youth leaders in the major calls to action of the Special Olympics Youth Fan Club:

- Join: Campaign to ban the "R" word (retard) so everyone understands the problems with name calling.
- Volunteer: Get into the game. Play. Coach at a local Special Olympics event.
- Share: Tell your story about being a fan for Special Olympics.
- Give: Donate to or raise funds for your local Special Olympics Program or Needy Nations' Special Olympics Programs.

In addition to the training sessions, other experiences and activities rounded out the Global Youth Summit:

- Meeting with the Special Olympics International Board of Directors
- Meeting with representatives from the United Nations to craft child-friendly wording on the UN Convention on the Rights for Persons with Disabilities
- Conducting interviews/writing/publishing stories about athletes competing at the World Games
- Hosting interactive real-time Webinars with other youth around the world
- Visiting local Shanghai schools for cultural exchanges
- Being the stars of a televised youth forum



### **2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games**

The 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games were held in Shanghai, People's Republic of China, from 2–11 October 2007.

The event marks the first time the World Summer Games were held in Asia, and only the second time they were held outside the United States. In addition to almost 7,500 athletes, the 2007 World Summer Games drew 40,000 volunteers, 3,500 event officials and thousands of families, volunteers, spectators and journalists from every continent.

Special Olympics athletes of all ability levels took part in competition in 25 different Olympic-type and demonstration sports: Aquatics, Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Bocce, Bowling, Cricket, Cycling, Dragon Boat Racing, Equestrian, Football (Soccer), Golf, Gymnastics, Judo, Kayaking, Lion Dancing, Powerlifting, Roller Skating, Sailing, Softball, Table Tennis, Team Handball, Tennis and Volleyball, as well as Motor Activities Training Program. Special Olympics athletes not competing in the World Games played a crucial leadership role off the sports field as officials, assistant coaches, reporters and spokespeople.



China, which also will host the 2008 Olympic Games, will become the first country in history to host the Special Olympics World Games, Olympic Games and Paralympic Games — all within the span of just 12 months. The eyes of the world will be on China as it celebrates the true power of sport and the belief that sport can foster the development of a better and more peaceful world.

“China is our movement’s future,” said Timothy Shriver, Chairman of Special Olympics. “This pioneering effort to bring the Special Olympics message to the largest nation on earth opens the chance for change, for with sports achievement comes achievement in family, in school, on the job and in life.”

## 2007 Special Olympics Global Youth Summit: Vision and Background

### Youth Summit Vision

- Special Olympics believes that through sports youth can make a difference in friendships, schools and communities;
- Special Olympics recognizes that through sports training and competition, people with intellectual disability inspire hope, dignity and courage;
- Special Olympics invites youth through sports to understand and to value their peers with intellectual disabilities and empowers youth to create opportunities for and with them in sport and friendship.

### Background

- The 2007 Global Youth Summit, held in concert with the Special Olympics World Summer Games, was the fourth such event hosted by Special Olympics. The inaugural Youth Summit took place in 2001 at the Special Olympics World Winter Games in Alaska, followed by Global Youth Summits at the 2003 World Summer Games in Ireland and the 2005 World Winter Games in Japan.
- Youth participants are ages 12–18, in middle/intermediate school or high/secondary schools. Students are paired together one Special Olympics athlete and a peer partner without an intellectual disability from the same school or community.
- Participants also participate as journalists, publishing their stories and photos daily on the Special Olympics and 2007 World Games Web sites and social network sites.
- Worldwide, Special Olympics reaches more than 4 million youth in 130 Programs in 75 countries in approximately 15,000 schools, utilizing the Special Olympics Get Into It® materials and through local and global Youth Summits.
- Youth Leaders will lead and recruit youth around the world to join the Special Olympics Youth Fan Club leading up to the 2009 World Winter Games in Boise, Idaho, USA.

### Youth Summit Leaders' Goals

Young people play an important role in supporting the Special Olympics movement in achieving its global goals over the next several years. As of the end of 2006, Special Olympics is the world's largest sports movement for people with intellectual disabilities, serving more than 2.5 million athletes, millions of family members, hundreds of thousands of volunteers and coaches, and over 200 accredited Programs.

However, there are many people with intellectual disabilities that are still neglected, socially isolated, overlooked and perceived as less capable than they actually are. Therefore, the strategic goals described below are designed to provide a common focus for the global Special Olympics movement.

To realize success in the next five years, it will be vital that we work together with similar goals and a commitment to our core constituents — athletes, families, volunteers and supporters.

Presented below are the goals that youth leaders developed and agreed to complete during their tenure, directly impacting 16 national/state Special Olympics Programs around the globe. We encourage all young people and youth leaders at the local, national/state and regional levels to join participants of the 2007 Global Youth Summit in pursuing these worthwhile goals. Special Olympics intends to monitor all the activities undertaken by young people worldwide in support of Special Olympics Strategic Goals and will publish a Progress Report before the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Boise, Idaho.

### **Special Olympics Strategic Goal 1 — Growth: Grow to at least 3 million athletes**

To support athlete recruitment and retention worldwide, Global Youth Summit Leaders will:

- Promote replication of the “School Enrichment Program” models and best practices that resulted from the Special Olympics and Shanghai Municipal Education Commission activities;
- Promote Special Olympics priority to expand football (soccer) in traditional and Unified Sports;
- Invite mainstream schools to join Special Olympics sports days;
- Promote the Special Olympics Young Athletes™ program among pre–nursery schools and play schools;
- Invite Family Leaders representing Special Olympics Family Support Networks to join youth activities and speak to different schools and to other parents of children with intellectual disabilities whose children are not yet involved with Special Olympics.

### **Special Olympics Strategic Goal 2 — Quality: Enhance the quality of the athlete experience**

To promote quality training and competition experiences for Special Olympics athletes, Global Youth Summit Leaders will:

- Facilitate establishment of Youth Fan Clubs and launch of Unified Sports activities in schools and communities where Global Youth Summit Leaders live, work and study;
- Conduct mini-Youth Summits to engage community sports programs and/or schools.

### **Special Olympics Strategic Goal 3 — Communication: Expand and engage key audiences with a clear, compelling and consistent message**

To share the transformational message of Special Olympics, Global Youth Summit Leaders will:

- Make presentations to educator groups informing teachers about the new video resources from 2007 Global Youth Forum in the Special Olympics Get Into It materials;
- Draw attention to the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities and discuss work done by the Global Youth Summit Leaders to support UNICEF;
- Launch local campaigns in each of the schools where Global Youth Summit leaders study to spread awareness about banning the use of the “R” word (retard) and its negative impact;
- Conduct presentations to peer groups in schools/community to illustrate what Special Olympics is, share stories and experiences (including athlete pictures, posters, advertisements on TV, and articles in newspapers); .
- Develop and post Web pages on Special Olympics Program Web sites, social network blogs, etc.;
- Create and place static displays that feature fliers or posters in schools, malls or other community/public locations featuring information and website links;
- Create post-Youth Summit news stories to reach the media and gain coverage for the Youth Fan Club call to action: Join, Volunteer, Share, Give;
- Organizing screenings/presentations featuring The Ringer movie to friends, classmates and others. Lead discussions along with athletes following the film.

**Special Olympics Strategic Goal 4 — Revenue: Build a movement-wide, diversified and sustainable revenue stream of US \$300 million per year by 2010**

To support revenue generation for Special Olympics activities around the world, Global Youth Summit Leaders will:

- Conduct fundraising events that include school-level Unified Sports activities, band concerts, merchandise sales, etc.
- Organize presentations targeting local companies, business groups, community clubs, school leaders and others; provide information about Special Olympics and present specific financial needs of the local Special Olympics Programs;
- Implement fundraising projects aimed at raising funds for Special Olympics Programs that operate in some of the least developed nations to provide sports equipment, uniforms, transportation, opportunities for participation in Special Olympics World Games, etc.

**2008–2011 Special Olympics Global Youth Summit Activities**

From 6-13 February 2009, Boise, Idaho (USA) will be the host site for the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games, which will attract more than 2,000 athletes from 100 nations. They will compete in seven Olympic-type sports: Alpine Skiing, Cross-Country Skiing, Figure Skating, Floor Hockey, Snowboarding, Snowshoe Racing and Speed Skating.



For more information on the 2009 Special Olympics World Games visit [www.2009worldgames.org](http://www.2009worldgames.org)

Youth leaders from around the world will again be selected to represent their respective regions and national Programs at the 2009 Special Olympics Global Youth Summit. As part of their call to action in Idaho, youth around the world will be invited to join the Special Olympics Youth Fan Club through a series of live, interactive Webinar forums. More information about the 2009 Global Youth Summit can be found at [www.specialolympics.org](http://www.specialolympics.org).

The next Special Olympics World Summer Games will be in 2011 in Athens, Greece. Some 7,000 athletes from around the world are expected to gather in Athens on this occasion. The games will be the largest sporting event for individuals with intellectual disabilities that year.



## The Context for Action

### Shanghai School Enrichment Program for the Special Olympics World Games

World Games present an opportunity not only to showcase Special Olympics athletes' accomplishments, but also to educate an entire population about people with intellectual disabilities. A well-coordinated effort among the Games Organizing Committee (GOC), the host national Program and Special Olympics, Inc., within the nation's schools before, during and after Games time will result in more young people with and without intellectual disabilities being involved with Special Olympics. This initiative is known as the Special Olympics School Enrichment Program (SEP).



A publication, *Common Participation to Share Together*, is the product of the 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games School Enrichment Program implemented by the Shanghai Municipal Education Commission and the Games Organizing Committee. Special Olympics provides this information as an example of how one host city engaged young people for approximately one year leading up to the 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games as well as during the two weeks of the Games and as a legacy following the Games. Following are a few highlights from the School Enrichment Program:

- 1.6 million youth involved throughout all 19 Districts in Shanghai, including 3,800 students with intellectual disability,
- 2,500 schools from primary, intermediate and secondary levels,
- 50,000 trained teachers in Special Olympics Get Into It® and other supplementary World Games and Special Olympics China materials,
- 250,000 school children participated in city-wide “knowledge competitions,”
- 50,000 paintings and works of art submitted for inclusion in this booklet,
- 200,000 students participating in “Fans in the Stands” and “Cheer Teams” during the World Games and
- Thousands of students from mainstream schools partnering with students from special schools in sports, arts and social activities.



### Special Olympics Youth Fan Club Broadcast



As part of the Global Youth Summit, youth leaders become the stars of their own broadcast on Friday, 5 October to a live studio audience as well as a television audience of millions of viewers throughout China and surrounding region for weeks on Dragon TV following the World Games. This 4th Global Youth Forum continued the Special Olympics tradition of expanding interactive youth discussion to motivate and to activate the next generation of leadership. Beginning with the first Global Youth Forum organized during the 2001 World Games, Youth Forums were primarily positioned as venues for spirited and passionate discussions around themes of understanding, tolerance and acceptance. In the 2003 and 2005 World Games, the inclusion of world leaders, former Presidents Mandela and Clinton, inspired and empowered our youth. The development of youth calls to action include the new Youth Fan Club, expansion of Special Olympics Get Into It® and Unified Sports to provide opportunities for increased youth impact on the movement and communities around the world.

The live studio audience at the Shanghai Media Group and Channel V included over 300 local Shanghai school children with and without intellectual disability who had demonstrated their commitment to Special Olympics during the past year as part of the World Games School Enrichment Program. More than 1.6 million Shanghai youth, including 3,800 students with intellectual disability in 2,500 schools and over 50,000 educators throughout all 19 Shanghai Districts have taken part in classroom and community activities involving Special Olympics.



Schools in the studio audience include:

- Shanghai Min Li Middle School
- Shanghai Chu Neng Middle School
- Shanghai Aurora Middle Vocational School
- Shanghai Mi Yun School, Hongkou District
- Shanghai Qi Xing School, Putuo District
- Shanghai Qi Hui School, Zhabei District
- Shanghai Sunshine School, Huangpu District

To view the Special Olympics Youth Forum broadcast online visit [www.specialolympics.org](http://www.specialolympics.org)  
[http://www.specialolympics.org/Special+Olympics+Public+Website/English/Initiatives/Schools\\_and\\_Youth/default.htm](http://www.specialolympics.org/Special+Olympics+Public+Website/English/Initiatives/Schools_and_Youth/default.htm)

## Global Youth Forum Leaves Lasting Impression on Chinese Youth

*By George Srour, Special Olympics International Volunteer for the Global Youth Summit*



Shanghai, China (5 October 2007) — While accustomed to telling the stories of the 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games, Global Youth Summit delegates switched roles and took center stage Friday at the fourth Global Youth Forum, poignantly leaving no question about the legacy that will be left behind after the world's largest sporting event staged this year. "If you're intellectually disabled, don't mind what other people say or think negatively about you," Special Olympics Lebanon athlete and Global Youth Summit delegate Marwa Warde said. "It is time for us moving forward to see ourselves as enabled."

In the three-hour, game show-style program filled with emotion, Summit delegates officially launched the Youth Fan Club, a new, interactive online initiative leveraging several types of media to engage young people in the Special Olympics movement. A live audience of more than 500 school children, celebrities and volunteers attended the taping at the Shanghai Media Group studios. With guest appearances by Special Olympics Global Spokesperson Colin Farrell, former Minnesota Vikings star Matt Blair, human rights activist Bianca Jagger and Special Olympics Chairman Timothy Shriver, the star-studded cast highlighted the accomplishments of Special Olympics China while urging greater awareness and inclusion for people with intellectual disabilities.

"The Chinese always put out an incredible welcome to the entire Special Olympics family," Farrell said. "It is exciting to see what Special Olympics China has accomplished in a short while, and there's much more to be done. Wherever Special Olympics goes in the world, it brings out the best in people."

The Forum, designed to raise awareness about the Special Olympics movement among young people throughout China was broadcast to over 1 billion people throughout the country on 9 October 2007 on Dragon TV channel.

Co-hosts of the program, SuperBoy winner Sung Xiao Bor and Chinese dancer Dodo gave GYS delegates the opportunity to speak at length about the importance of banning the use of the "R word" (retard) globally. "I don't like being called the R-word," Summit delegate and Special Olympics South Carolina (USA) athlete Rashad Richardson said. "I just want to be included, not made fun of."

At one point, Farrell asked delegates Rubing Piao and Zhao Xiaoyue of Harbin, China, to speak to the strengths of the Unified Sports program. "I have learned respect, honesty and optimism," Piao, a Unified Partner in multiple sports said. "Most of all I have learned to hope, knowing that I am important to Zhao."

Shriver hopes the Youth Fan Club will be just one way in which young people worldwide can join, share, volunteer and support the athletes of Special Olympics. "The Youth Fan Club is a place for people to express their feelings and help us in promoting this movement — one of different abilities, not disabilities," Shriver said.

### **Global Youth Summit Participants Take Part in Local School Exchanges**

Furthering the connection between local Shanghai schools and participants in the Global Youth Summit, a series of visits to meet students, teachers and administrators from selected schools was one of the highlights during the Summit. Students from host schools presented to the youth summit participants sports activities, entertainment and other examples from their school years involvement with Special Olympics in Shanghai.



### **Global Youth Summit Takes to the Classroom**

*By George Srour, Special Olympics International Volunteer for the Global Youth Summit*

Shanghai, China (10 October 2007) — To the beat of the Zhongshan School marching band, delegates of the Global Youth Summit were welcomed into schools throughout Shanghai in visits aimed to continue the dialogue about what the legacy of these Special Olympics World Games will be long after they have come to a close.

Delegates visiting Zhongshan School were introduced to several Chinese traditions ranging from ceramics to model building throughout their visit, receiving official welcomes from students and teachers alike. “The purpose of education is to further our understanding of the world,” senior teacher and principal of Zhongshan School Ma Yuangen said. “We must continue teaching about Special Olympics so students realize the importance of extending friendship with the intellectually disabled.”

The Zhongshan School, with a student body of over 1,100 in grades 1–9, has several students with intellectual disabilities who take all their courses with non-disabled children. This inclusion-friendly atmosphere has helped improve the views other student have about the intellectually disabled. “We don’t use the R-word here because we believe we are all the same,” Zhongshan student Monica Tu said. “We believe with effort, everyone can succeed and all can be done well. No one is different, we are all the same.”

Following visits to area elementary schools, Global Youth Summit delegates also visited three Sunshine Homes catering to adults aged 16–35 with intellectual disabilities. Sunshine Homes, a private nonprofit organization administered by the Shanghai Guidance Center, provide a number of rehabilitation, education and vocational training programs for more than 11,500 individuals throughout the city. With the help of Sunshine Home clients, Summit delegates commemorated their visits by making beaded animals, hand-painted plates and silk flowers — crafts typically made and sold by Sunshine Home clients.

## Youth Leaders Support Work of the United Nations — Global Youth Summit Delegates Leave UNICEF “Speechless”

*By George Srou, Special Olympics International Volunteer for the Global Youth Summit*



Shanghai, China (3 October 2007) — At first glance, the Special Olympics Global Youth Summit’s consultation session with UNICEF representatives looked like a party littered with markers and coloring books. But in reality, the Summit’s 30 delegations were hard at work assisting the UN organization by offering their well-received suggestions for a child-friendly version of the new Convention on the Rights of the Disabled.

“These are the hands of all of us,” Special Olympics China Unified Partner and Global Youth Summit delegate Yongqian Li said while explaining a drawing made by one of six subgroups to complement the Convention’s text. “And they overlap one another to show that we are all one, our hearts are always connected with each other’s.”

Li and his counterparts from 15 other countries didn’t fail to impress.

“I’m speechless,” UNICEF Associate Program Officer Helen Schulte said following an hour’s worth of presentations. “Your recommendations are outstanding and we hope to continue working with you as we move closer to finalizing the child-friendly version of the text.”

The session came on the heels of a groundbreaking partnership announcement made by UNICEF and Special Olympics at the Global Policy Summit on the Well-being of People with Intellectual Disabilities. Bolstered by the Convention on the Rights of the Disabled released earlier this year, the two organizations have pledged to jointly advocate for health care, education, recreational sports and employment policies that will benefit children with intellectual disabilities.

“I am happy when I can study,” Special Olympics Korea athlete and Summit delegate Yoonah Kim said in a poem written for the occasion. “I am happy when I know I have rights and I will be treated well.”

Earlier this week, UNICEF Executive Director Ann M. Veneman visited with the Youth Summit, taking the time to discuss the Convention and hear what delegates had to say about issues facing children with intellectual disabilities.

UNICEF anticipates the final version of the child-friendly text of the Convention to be released in 2008 following another round of revisions and the addition of several creative elements, many of which were suggested today by Summit delegates.

### **Special Olympics Young Athletes™ Program Debuts at World Games**



The Young Athletes™ program introduces children with intellectual disabilities and their families to the world of Special Olympics.

Young Athletes is an innovative sports play program for children with intellectual disabilities. The program was designed to address the physical and developmental needs of children ages 2 through 7 in the areas of physical activity and play, focusing on sports skills development. The Young Athletes program seeks to promote physical development and self-esteem for children by building skills for future sports participation and socialization.

Young Athletes is a versatile program that can work in various learning situations. The program was designed to be easy for families to use in their homes while also appropriate for preschools, schools, playgroups, etc. Young Athletes offers children with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to share their potential with their family members and the world.

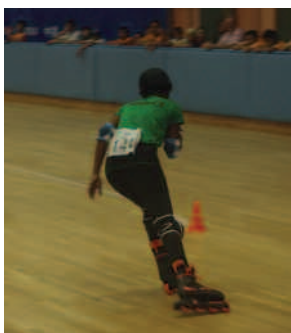
The Special Olympics Young Athletes Program made its official international debut at the 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games. Children with and without intellectual disabilities from a local inclusive kindergarten in Shanghai participated in the demonstration with their families. The children showcased the Young Athletes activities in front of an intimate audience attended by leaders from Special Olympics China and Special Olympics headquarters, volunteers and parents and family members and media.

## Interviews and Stories

Developed by Special Olympics Global Youth Summit participants

### Africa Region

#### Namibia



#### **Young, Talented Roller Skater Excited to Compete**

*By: Priscilla Uiras and Michael Field, Delegates from Namibia*

The Namibian Global Youth Summit delegation had the honor of interviewing a young Special Olympics Jamaica athlete by the name of Monique Brown. This remarkable young talent grasped our attention while winning her heat in the 100m roller skating race at Huangpu Roller Skating Hall.

We caught up with her after her event and she was willing to share her thoughts and feelings on her event, as well as Special Olympics as a whole.

This astonishing 14 year-old athlete has been involved in Special Olympics Jamaica for approximately three years. Her preferred sporting events are roller skating and running, which she takes part in back home.

Here in Shanghai, Monique has chosen to focus her abilities on roller skating, and it seems to be paying off, judging by her performance. She is one of four skaters from Jamaica taking part in the World Games and this is her first-ever World Summer Games. Monique is very excited and enthusiastic about her entire Games experience.

The Special Olympics Jamaica roller skating team practiced two hours a day from Monday through Saturday in preparation for World Games. Practicing in a local parking lot, the team started with warm-ups, moving on to talks about the relevant training sessions and finally some friendly races.

Monique is a remarkable athlete who enjoys and benefits from Special Olympics and she is an excellent ambassador for the organization.



### **Team USA Athlete Remains Optimistic Despite Loss**

*By: Priscilla Uiras and Michael Field, Delegates from Namibia*

A dynamic display of skill and determination on the volleyball court at the Putuo Guyuelongshan Gymnasium glued hundreds of fans to their seats for the duration of an exciting volleyball game between Special Olympics Team USA and Special Olympics Finland, which Special Olympics Finland narrowly won.

Ross Steele, 26, a Team USA athlete, has been involved in Special Olympics since he was 8. During these 18 years of involvement Steele has played bocce, soccer, baseball and has also swam. This time around, Steele was selected to come to the Summer Games for his skills on the volleyball court.

“Coming to China is my dream come true,” Steele said.

Steele plays the position of Libero, and he stays on the back line and handles the hard spiking. Unfortunately, he had to leave his restaurant job to compete in Shanghai, but Steele remains hopeful that he will find employment upon his return.

Deborah Steele, Doug’s mother, has traveled to Shanghai to watch her son’s matches.

“He’s the most personable young man you’ll ever meet!” she said.

Doug has dreams of joining the military. He was the first ever person with intellectual disability to be accepted into the ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Core) course at his school and he excels in what he does.

Ross has endless support from his parents and his friends on the team.

“Our team is very family oriented,” Deborah said. “Everyone is supported and encouraged and everyone inspires each other to achieve greatness.”



## **South Africa**

### **Pride and Enjoyment for Coach**

*By: Asanda Stofile and Alessio Giuricich, Delegates from South Africa*

“Special Olympics has taught me that if you put your mind to it, you can do it.”

Those are the words of Claire Hefferman, a 2007 Special Olympics World Games women’s basketball coach with Special Olympics Ireland who first got involved with Special Olympics six years ago, before the 2003 World Games were held in her home country.

Leading up to the Games, Clare taught basketball to her team through a number of different drills and exercises. Her team practiced in the school gymnasium about three days a week prior to coming to Shanghai.

The highlight of Clare’s time in Shanghai is that she feels they improved markedly throughout the tournament, receiving a bronze medal. As Clare has told her players, winning is important, but enjoyment is even more important.

Clare’s ambition for the 2009 World Winter Games in Boise, Idaho, is to recruit more people for Special Olympics Ireland. The experience thus far has been delightful.

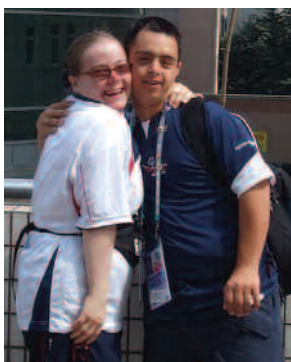
“It is a lifetime experience,” said Claire,” Words can’t describe it!”

Clare said that the Opening Ceremony was fantastic and also very different from the 2003 Games because she was seeing it for the first time from a coach’s point of view.

**Asia Pacific  
Australia**

**Special Olympics Great Britain Duo Enjoying World Games**

*By: Hannah Sandeman and Marilena DeMayo, Delegates from Australia*



Two old friends united by their love for the sport of gymnastics have travelled together to compete in the 2007 Special Olympics Summer World Games. Penelope Watson and John Hutchinson are competing in rhythmic gymnastics and artistic gymnastics, respectively, in their first World Games appearance.

John, 25, has been involved in Special Olympics for more than half his life. The 15-year veteran began as just a way to stay in shape, but today finds himself competing in an international event while counting rings as his favorite event.

Penelope, 26, began her involvement after being invited by John to a gymnastics event just three years ago. Penelope favors the ribbon and the hoop in competition.

Both Penelope and John really appreciate the opportunities Special Olympics has given them. Travelling to the World Games has been a fun experience for them and being in China, not to mention enjoying several movies en route, have helped them to enjoy their time as Special Olympics Great Britain team members.

**Great Britain Twirling in Shanghai**

*By: Hannah Sandeman and Marilena DeMayo, Delegates from Australia*

Alex Hitchings is a 15 year old from Chester, England, in Great Britain. He is participating in the 2007 World Summer Games in Shanghai, China. He is an artistic gymnast and was practicing today up for his preliminary competition at the Shanghai International Gymnastics Center on 5 October. Artistic gymnastics involves routines with different apparatuses. There are sections on the floor, rings, pommel horse, vault and horizontal and parallel bars. Participants compete in individual events, and can win individual events, as well as the overall competition. Each apparatus is judged by a panel of judges giving a score, and then their scores are added up at the end, to decide the winner of the overall competition and of each section.

About five years ago Alex got involved with Special Olympics and gymnastics through the special needs class at his school. By being involved with Special Olympics he helps spread the message of those with an intellectual disability as he can tell friends and family as well as gaining publicity for representing his country. There are also all the friends he has met through Special Olympics! His enjoyment is the reason that he plans to continue to participate and compete in Special Olympics.

## India

### Team British Powerlifter Thrives in Special Olympics

*By: Ragini Rao and Deeksha Lal, Delegates from India*



Thanks to the Bradford Sports Association (BSA), Special Olympics Great Britain athlete Simon Waggett has been involved with Special Olympics for the past seven years and this year is competing at the 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games in powerlifting. Having been introduced to Special Olympics through BSA for the first time in late 1999, Simon, in the eyes of his mother, has grown to become a confident and empowered young man.

Chosen as one of 10 athletes across England that compete for Special Olympics Great Britain in powerlifting, Krystina counts her son's opportunity to come to Shanghai as a blessing.

"People say that he is very happy now," Krystina said. "He is more independent and loves new things. He even doesn't like us to go places with him; he likes to do things on his own and without us."

In training for the World Games, Simon has won the support of an unlikely fan club. Training with prison officers in nearby Leeds, Simon has used the jail's equipment to prepare for the Games. Back home, Krystina knows there are hundreds of fans looking forward to hearing of Simon's success.

Among Simon's greatest accomplishments, Krystina says, is the way he has overcome adversity all throughout his life.

"People's attitude towards Simon has changed for the better since he was born," Krystina said. "When he was born, and he was just a small baby, one of the nurses told us to put him in an institution. But one of the other nurses told us to take him home, love him always, and make him a part of the family.

"We have done what the latter said, and never regretted it."

## Malaysia

### Hat Trick for Russian Powerlifter

*By Ian Hon Vhui Wong and James Johanis, Delegates from Malaysia*



Today we paid a visit to the 2007 Special Olympics World Games powerlifting venue at the Shanghai Zubei Gymnasium to watch several of the events taking place. While there, we met Special Olympics Russia athlete Oleg Novik competing in the 75–81.5 Kg event. He has had a great time here in Shanghai.

We were impressed by the fantastic event of powerlifting and seeing some athletes lift more than 100 Kg objects. Oleg was watching his female teammates from Special Olympics Russia compete when we sat down to have an interview with him.

Through a translator, we were able to ask several questions of Oleg.

Oleg lives in Smolenks, Russia, and this was his first World Games, although he has competed twice before in his National Games and in the Special Olympics European Games. His goal in coming to Shanghai was to have a great time while doing well in his events.

He has done just that.

“I have won three gold medals here in World Games,” Oleg said. “I think I can even do better.”

Oleg has only been powerlifting for two years but has enjoyed many successes in other Special Olympics sports. He is most excited about continuing his involvement in the sport of powerlifting and looks forward to many more years of competitions.

“My coach wants me to compete in this event because he knows that I can continue to go up further in power lifting,” Oleg said.

## East Asia

### China (Stories are summarized in the English translation with several representative stories in the Mandarin text)

今天，我们很棒！**Today, We are Great!**

*Yeming Gu* 顾业明 and *Mingfei Gao* 高鸣飞 *Delegates from Beijing*

2007年十月五日，来自全球的青少年峰会代表在上海东方卫视的《闪电星感动》栏目录播了2007年上海夏季世界特奥会的全球青少年高峰论坛。

因为录节目的需要，我们很早就起来了，27组融合伙伴全部作为嘉宾参加了此次节目。到了那里，策划、导演们还在为节目的忙碌着，我们则把写有我们名字的心形图案粘在了自己的身上。我很兴奋，因为我的伙伴顾业明会在节目中独唱一首歌，好期待他的表现啊！

一会儿，节目录播正式开始。首先，我们融合伙伴要用工作人员提前发的眼罩罩住运动员的眼睛，然后我们伙伴去搀扶着运动员走上舞台，这样的出场体现着我们之间的互帮互助。开始我的伙伴顾业明很害怕，害怕摔倒。我使用充满鼓励的语气来告诉他“不要怕，有我在”。他很信任我，这是一般人难以做到的信任，保证了我俩顺利地走到指定地点。在安全坐下后，主持人程程便请一位神秘嘉宾入场，他是谁呢？我心中打着一个巨大的问号。当得知此人是与巩俐一起主演《迈阿密风云》的男主角时，全场观众和我们爆发出热烈的掌声和欢呼声，来欢迎这位著名的好莱坞演员。

在于这位著名演员的互动中，我们的中国的哈尔滨峰会代表向在场的每一个观众讲述了他们两个人在五年的认识过程中是如何交往的。两个人五年的友谊是坚不可摧、纯真的。我很受感动，我也要向融合伙伴赵小越姐姐学习这种无私地关爱他人，尤其是智障人士的精神，因为他们更需要关爱和温暖。虽然我也正开始学习做这些，但是还没有她那样的坚持。

接下来，就是我的好伙伴顾业明，他为大家带来一首《奔跑》。我知道，他为了此可没少付出时间和汗水，每天放学后都练习，所以我对他很有信心。果然，舞台上那帅气的身影，连贯的歌词，清晰的吐字，落落大方的舞台感，时不时与现场观众的互动，简直是一个大明星，酷酷的。让我不禁想跑上去献花，紧紧地拥抱他一下。等他刚唱完，我就迫不及待地跑上去用充满关爱的眼神看着他，并说出了发自肺腑的一句话：“顾业明，你真棒！”两个人紧紧地拥抱着。我的好伙伴顾业明实在是太可爱了，这样一个可爱的孩子，怎能不让人喜欢呢？能认识他，太好了！我总有一种想哭的感觉，感动而哭，因为他总是给我带来意外的收获。

就在这个时候，主持人对感情如铁我们产生了明显的兴趣，问了我俩和顾业明几个问题，因为我们两个人默契的配合，所以对答如流。我和顾业明有一个共同的爱好：就是篮球。我们因篮球相识，因篮球而增进了友谊。在下面的“小球进筐”游戏中，我们对篮球的热爱证明了篮球是我们的共同的财富。我和顾业明一个人背着竹筐、一个人投，参加游戏的有三组，另外两组来自南非和阿尔及利亚。随着主持人的一声令下，比赛开始了。我背筐，顾业明投。这个游戏需要一定的技巧和默契，我相信顾业明，我还相信：只要有默契，就有取胜的机会。果然，顾业明不负重望，投得很准。技巧加默契，使我们总共投进去31个球，远远超出其他的2组且拿到第一名，并赢得了一位橄榄球明星亲笔签名篮球。为中国，为北京争得了荣誉。

在整个节目的录播过程中，我们两个人的默契配合、良好表现，加深了我俩和顾业明之间的情感。我想说：谁说智障人士不行，他们可以流畅的唱好一首歌曲，他们可以在协助下完成一项任务，只要给他们机会，只要多给他们一些关注和帮助，他们一样可以做得很好，不是吗？

节目结束后，我和顾业明开心地拥抱着，因为我们是好朋友！永远的好朋友！



Gu and his partner Gao participated in TV taping for Special Olympics 2007 Shanghai World Summer Game Global Youth Summit. They performed very well during the recording. Gao Mingfei said, "While the show was recording, our close cooperation and excellent performance deepened the friendship between us." Gao goes on to say, "People always take for granted that people with intellectual disabilities are unable to do anything. See, they can sing a song fluently; they can also fulfill a task with assistance. As long as you give them opportunities and more concern and help, they can also do very well jobs, can't they?"

### The lovely people, volunteers of Special Olympics

*Yeming Gu and Mingfei Gao, Delegates from Beijing*



Beijing Delegate Gao Mingfei has been yearning towards being a volunteer. While he worked as the GYS reporter, he interviewed the delegate of volunteers. After the interview he said freely, "I think, teacher Cao is just a miniature of 40 thousand volunteers. They are publicizing Special Olympics by their own ways, they are serving Special Olympics with their passion, they are always keeping their eyes on the Special Olympics Athletes. They are a group of adorable people."

勇于拼搏，争取胜利 **Be brave in the attempt — I know I can**

*Ying An 安颖 and Xiaoxu Gong 宫晓旭 Delegates from Dalian*

下午三点，伴着太阳的西下，看着夕阳染红所有生灵时，我们来到了上海嘉定体育场，欣赏着滚球比赛。我的心里一阵澎湃与激动，出于那浓浓的母爱。哈尔滨的带队老师王老师，看到了她儿子在比赛中优秀的样子，在她脸上浮现出一种欣慰的表情。

她的儿子很乐观，很听话，并且很懂礼貌。让我油然而升起敬意之情。他说：“妈妈，明天决赛，我会努力夺得金牌的。”老师高兴的对他说：“相信你成功，我等你的好消息。”回来的路上，老师的脸上，有着从未看见过的欣喜若狂。她说：“她今天很高兴。”我问：“是见到儿子吗？”“是的，他很优秀。”

我们期盼着2007年世界特殊奥林匹克运动会-----智障人士展示自我的舞台，期盼着世界各国的特奥运动员汇集上海，不同肤色，新手相连，不同语言，一同放歌；你行我也行！



The delegate from Dalian had interviewed the bocce athlete and his parent. Through the interview he saw the confidence and mind of athletes. He said, "We are expecting the 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games, the stage for people with intellectual disabilities to show themselves. We are expecting the athletes from different countries to gather together in Shanghai. Here the people with different colors will be hand in hand singing together in different languages: I know I can!"

### **The sweat of Guang Dong Athlete in the weight lifting field**

*Boaxin Liang and Xiyun Huang Delegates from Guangzhou*



The delegate of Guangzhou Boaxin Liang and Xiyun Huang interviewed the power lifting athlete from their school during the World Summer Games. They shared the enjoyment of competitions with the athletes. Through the interview, they were told the athlete had practiced power lifting for around five years. He never gained such a good result in the world-level competition until now. When he was asked what he felt for winning so many medals, he showed his simple and honest smile and said, "I'm very happy! I will continue to practice, and get more and more medals!"

### **Story of Special Olympics Track and Field**

*Boaxin Liang and Xiyun Huang, Delegates from Guangzhou*



The delegate of Guangzhou interviewed a coach from Chinese Taipei when he was watching the Track and Field competition. The coach Huiqiong Wu introduced the reporter about Special Olympics Athlete Rong Shang. Wu said, Rong Shang participated and passed the qualification competition in June of last year and then he went to the pre-games training. She was usually willing to show her ability and offer her help to others. She always participated actively into the training and never slacked off. Although her movement was slow, she still tried to follow the training schedule of her team. In addition, she was such an optimistic person, which helped her progressed rapidly. Rong Shang had competed in the final games and got a very good result.

### **Volunteers from Shanghai University Contributed to the Badminton Competition**

*Chunfang Xu and Yating Lu, Delegates from Hangzhou*



The volunteers were deeply impressed the GYS delegates during the Games. The delegate Chunfang Xu and Yating Lu from Hangzhou had a talk with the volunteer. Yang Shuang is a student of Shanghai University. Yang said, "The badminton athletes she led were from Jordan and were all outstanding." Sometimes she just had dinner as one-day meal since she always had no time taking care of the breakfast and lunch. But it seemed she never took a thing. Working as the volunteer was a not an easy job full of difficulties and challenges. She also said the competition would start from 5th or 6th and end on 9th or 10th. Chunfang and Yating hope Yang continues to be an excellent volunteer and contribute more to Special Olympics in the future!



### **Sweat Medal**

*Chunfang Xu and Yating Lu, Delegates from Hangzhou*



On October 10th, an on-the-spot record for a female 400 meters final took place at Shanghai Stadium during Special Olympics World Summer Games.

### **Those Miracles**

*Rubing Piao and Xiaoyue Zha, Delegates from Harbin*



Delegates from Harbin, Rubing Piao and Xiayue Zhao found many miracles when they gathered news from athletes, parents and coaches during the World Summer Games. After the interviews they wrote in their report, "I learned from them a belief in life. Never escape and hide behind the difficulties you met. You should stand before those difficulties and believe you can overcome. If you believe, then you will live a happier life."

### **Story from Hei Long Jiang Province**

*Ying Zhang and Bo Wang, Delegates from Nanjing*



GYS delegates from Nanjing, Ying Zhang and Bo Wang had a report on the bocce athletes and their parents. One of the parents said, "The participation in Special Olympics will help their children become confident and enlarge their horizon and encourage their braveness to attempt and challenge." She also learned a lot from their children for the spirit of "never give up." It is a stimulant for him to bring the spirit to his own work. From the conversation with that parent, I deeply felt he is very proud of his excellent child.

### **Hard-earned Gold Medal**

*Ying Zhang and Bo Wang, Delegates from Nanjing*

GYS Delegates from Nanjing, Ying Zhang and Bo Wang watched the competition of track and field.

### **The sense of accomplishment for the Indian Coach results from the effort of athletes**

*Meili Qiao and Ziun Qian, Delegates from Shanghai*

GYS delegates from Shanghai, Meili Qiao and Ziun Qian had a report on a gymnastic coach. The coach Li told us that as a coach he must have three traits: goodness, patience and perseverance. To be with the athletes, the coach also needs to speak more, look more and practice more. Always be alert to avoid the athletes from stumbling during the training. He always had a sense of accomplishment when he saw the athletes getting ahead. We think that's the reason why more and more people come to join the big Special Olympics Family!

### **Their names are not “Retard”**

*Meili Qiao and Ziun Qian, Delegates from Shanghai*



GYS Delegates from Shanghai, Meili Qiao and Ziun Qian had their own thoughts and feeling for the Summit topic: “do not use discriminatory word in any situation.” They appealed to others by saying, “Dear friends, let’s join the Special Olympics Youth Fan Club! Let’s reject using the discriminated words to insult the people with intellectual disabilities because their names are not “retard.”

### **Left no trace of wings in the sky, but I am glad I have had my fly**

*Ziqin Lu and Chaoyi Ge, Delegates from Suzhou*



GYS Delegates from Suzhou, Ziqin Lu and Chaoyi Ge watched the badminton competition. They had an interview with a coach from Bulgaria, Alexandrau. The coach said: every time when the game ends, the athletes always comfort him with their eyes, looking at him concernedly and tenderly. He likes this feeling of their looks. He hoped his athletes get the gold medals in this World Summer Games. The medals were not only the commemoration for them, but also a return to their efforts. Even if they didn’t get gold medals, he would not feel disappointed. The participation was more important, and they would support Special Olympics forever.

### **Woo, accompanying with the scream of audience, two teams finished the wonderful game with the score of ten to nil**

*Ziqin Lu and Chaoyi Ge, Delegates from Suzhou*



GYS delegates from Suzhou, Ziqin Lu and Chaoyi Ge had a report on the football coach—Xiaofeng Ge.

### **To make the utmost efforts in the swimming pool**

*Yejung Jin and Yongqian Li, Delegates from Wenzhou*

GYS Delegates from Wenzhou, Yejung Jin and Yongqian Li interviewed the athlete Yan Yang. She said, “Anything, even the result is not more important than your health. I would feel satisfied as long as I make my best and utmost efforts.”

### **The referee thinks people are in one mind in the Special Olympics Family**

*Yejung Jin and Yongqian Li, Delegates from Wenzhou*



GYS Delegates from Wenzhou, Yejung Jin and Yongqian Li interviewed a senior referee, Xiuqin Wu.

### **Hope in the eyes**

*Jun Jiang and Zhuoyun Wei, Delegates from Wuxi*

Jiang Jun and Zhuoyun had a talk with an athlete from Ireland. The athlete said, "I will surely win the gold!" She looked very confident and smiled cheerily when she said this. At the same time, I noted that from the eyes of the other athletes around her, they were full of hope and confidence. We sincerely bless these athletes to do well in the following competitions.

### **To help with sincerity, to care with love**

*Jun Jiang and Zhuoyun Wei, Delegates from Wuxi*



Jiang Jun and Wei Zhuoyun, the delegates from Wuxi, observed the different athletes when they were in the competition. Jiang and Zhuoyun found what the athletes needed most was not only the support and help in their life and sports skills, they needed more understanding, encouragement and support from the people around them. Jiang and Zhuoyun believed as long as people would open their heart to concern and encourage these children with their love; the children will have a more confident and happier life.

### **We got a win!**

*Fang Dong and Zhuoyun Shang, Delegates from Xi'an*



Dong Fang and Zhuying were in the audience watching the roller skating competition. The athletes gained outstanding results which deeply touched Dong and Zhuying. They said in the report, "Though the Special Olympics athletes are nothing extraordinary in the society, they live and sometime are even mocked by some people around them. "They never give up to pursue their dream. They make their effort to overcome the pressure from the society and are marching to the peak of the success. Their behaviors convince people and proved, I know, I can!"

### **Special Olympics provided athletes with the experience of success**

*Fang Dong and Zhuoyun Shang, Delegates from Xi'an*



Dong Fang and Zhuying learned in their reports that we need to learn from the Special Olympics athletes. Some rarely care as much about their results as the normal people do. Any chance we provided them to show themselves, they would always behave by exceeding our expectation. The substantial things might cheer them up, but the opportunities they were provided would bring them a real feeling of happiness and success.

### **Hong Kong**

#### **Shanghai High School Students Cheered for Special Olympics Athletes**

*Tse Yuk Sim and Tse Ching Lee, Delegates from Hong Kong*



Yuk Sim and Tse ching were deeply impressed by the enthusiastic audiences in the competition. They were so fond of the audiences.

#### **Knowing and involving Special Olympics Special Olympics, Nan Xiang primary school**

*Tse Yuk Sim and Tse Ching Lee, Delegates from Hong Kong*



GYS Delegates from Hong Kong, Tse Yuk Sim and Tse Ching Lee visited Nan Xiang primary school. As soon as stepping into the school, they heard the warm applauses and sound of drumbeats from the school. Many children stood in line singing and clapping to welcome the delegate. They smiled cheerily at every delegate and looked really sweet. The following activities were even more wonderful including playing Chinese and Western musical instruments, dancing and singing. The school also prepared interactive activities like the students teaching the delegates to play musical instruments and learned drawing and writing calligraphy. Although the delegates come from different countries and they speak the different languages, they were all very interested in the activities. There were not any difficulties in communication between the delegates and the school children. It was indeed a scene full of laughter and joy.

## Macau

### **Result is not important. I must persist to the end!**

*In Ao leong and Ka Man Lo, Delegates from Macau*



GYS Delegates from Macau, In Ao leong and Ka Man Lo met Lo's brother today. Lo said: when we visited swimming competition today, I finally saw my brother in the competition. Although he was the last one, he is always number one in my heart. He came to ask me when he just finished his competition. "How's my brother doing today, sister?" I said, "Very good." He told me this time was his best record in his life and he had tried his best. I said, "It doesn't matter. You are a winner since you had made your efforts." Soon he returned to the practices again. After the interview, leong and Lo

said, "I have understood the spirit of Special Olympics. It is not the competition results or the medal, but the participation, the perseverance, the efforts and the sensation!"

## Chinese Taipei

### **2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games Gives Global Youth Summit leaders a Chance to Play Some Volleyball**

*Hsu-Chieh Chiang and Shih-Hsun Yuen, Delegates from Chinese Taipei*



Hsu-chieh and Shih-Hsun watched and also participated in the volleyball competition. They said excitedly, "We came to watch the volleyball competition this afternoon. GYS delegates from different countries soon gathered and started an informal volleyball competition. They played meanwhile exchanged with one another their views on skills for playing better. We believe every participant must

felt happy at this moment. We also can not help ourselves cheering for them. We believe the activities reflect the spirit of Special Olympics since their confidence was enhanced and their social and athletic capability were improved."

### **MATP reflects the spirit of Special Olympics**

*Hsu-Chieh Chiang and Shih-Hsun Yuen, Delegates from Chinese Taipei*



Hsu-Chieh and Shih-Hsun visited the competition of MATP. They said in the report, "Most of the MATP athletes are either with low athletic capability or of young age. It seems like they must have experienced more hardship than other athletes when they were are training and practicing because of their physical challenges. But all in attendance have seen from them the spirit of Special Olympics, which is their firm belief in brave attempt and challenging for the victory. Their braveness is worthy of being respected and encouraged by all the people."

## Korea

### **“I would like to be in competition again”**

*by Yoona Kim and Sohee Pyo, Delegates from Korea*



We met a beautiful lady who was sitting in a tidy manner with a uniform. We heard from her coach that she was a typical person with autism, nearly without speech, and wouldn't follow a rule if she disliked it. But we didn't see and feel that she had trouble communicating. She looked cheerful and was willing to be interviewed. Her name is Sang Mi Kim, aged 19, who is in the 3rd grade of high school. Kim lives in a group home.

From early childhood, she learned to swim because her institution was located near a gym. Kim won a championship in a Special Olympics Korea swimming competition last year and this qualified her for the World Games.

To attend the 2007 World Summer Games, Kim has trained two times each week, and followed the rules set by her coach. To join a team training, she had to travel far from her group home. It meant another chance and was really important for her. Special Olympics helped her to leave a familiar nest and invite other people into her world.

Therefore, she could speak out, “I would like to be in competition at the next Special Olympics Games. I have good health and enjoyed meeting people all over the world.”

### **Athlete Strives to Compete Again**

*By Yoona Kim and Sohee Pyo, Delegates from Korea*



Good health and the opportunity to compete at the 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games has given 19 year-old Special Olympics Korea athlete Sang Mi Kim much to be thankful for here in Shanghai.

Competing in her first-ever World Games, Sang Mi in the eyes of her coaches has excelled as a result of being given the opportunity to travel and compete with Special Olympics Korea. She has had the chance to make several new friends and though known at home as a typically shy person, she has been extremely outgoing.

“I have made friends,” Sang Mi said. “I have met people from all over the world and I am having fun.”

At home, Sang Mi is preparing to finish up her third year of high school. Early in her life, Sang Mi learned how to swim because her home is very close to a gym. Each year, Sang Mi takes part in the Special Olympics Korea National Swimming Competition where she has won several gold medals.

In preparation for the 2007 Games, Sang Mi has been practicing at least twice a week for the last several months. She hopes to bring home a gold medal as a way of saying thanks to all those who have helped make her trip to Shanghai possible.

**Europe/Eurasia**  
**Kazakhstan**

**Bowler Celebrates Birthday Before World Games Begin**

*By: Andrey Kosikhin and Ruslan Umbin, Delegates from Kazakhstan*



Traveling all the way from Australia, Andrew Aitken has come with nine members of his family to support his son Tom in his first-ever bid for gold as a Special Olympics World Games bowler. The immense support Tom has received from his family has helped him gain self-confidence ahead of his competition, which has him hoping that he will perform well.

A bowler for three years, Tom has been involved in Special Olympics for two years. In his short bowling career, Tom has two gold and one silver medal from the Special Olympics Australia National Games. At first, Andrew expressed concern over Tom's involvement with Special Olympics as he is typically rather shy, but Andrew's fears were unfounded. Tom has adapted very well, making several new friends through Special Olympics.

To kick off the Games, Tom celebrated his 25th birthday in China before the start of the Games with the help of his Host Town. A big surprise party for Tom was arranged and all of his family and friends from Special Olympics Australia were able to come. Andrew is very thankful for the unforgettable celebration of his son's birthday and the opportunity Special Olympics has given him to travel and show off his abilities.

Upon returning home, Andrew hopes to become further involved with the work of Special Olympics Australia. By helping athletes show their power, Andrew sees just how Special Olympics helps families be proud of their children.

"We just have a little bit different abilities," Andrew said. "In the end we are all the same and deserve the same rights and have the same feelings."



### **Old Friends Reconnect in Shanghai**

By: Andrey Kosikhin and Ruslan Umbin, Delegates from Kazakhstan

Today we had the chance to interview a good friend of our Global Youth Summit delegation, 17-year-old Rustam. He has been involved with Special Olympics for three years and is at the 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games representing Special Olympics Kazakhstan in roller-skating.

Our friendship began not in our home country, but in Italy in 2006 when we both attended the Special Olympics Europe/Eurasia Youth Games. Rustam attended as a roller skating athlete and, like myself, had a wonderful time. He shared with me his feelings of feeling very proud and strong when he participates with other guys.

Special Olympics has changed Rustam's life, as it has changed mine. The best thing that we enjoy about Special Olympics, especially at World Games, is to realize how many friends we have from all around the world.

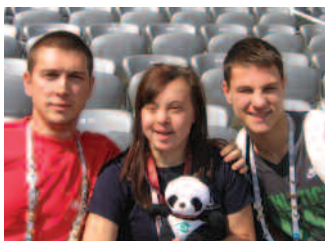
As a fellow athlete, I understand Rustam, because I passed through times in my life when I didn't know what I would do with myself. I know how happy you can be when you understand someone needs you and cares about you.

Though he is nervous about his time in China, Rustam is very happy to be here. He is anxious to compete, and like many athletes, has the hope of winning the gold medal. Rustam is grateful for the time and effort his coaches have put towards helping him succeed. "I love all people that surround me," Rustam said. "I wish only the best to everyone."

## Serbia

### Athlete Shines in Gold Medal Performance

*By: Darko Boskovic and Davor Bisevic, Delegates, Serbia*



While we were watching athletics from the stands at Shanghai Stadium, we met Lidija Vujovic, who is a Special Olympics Serbia athlete. Lidija was with a whole group of teammates cheering for their friend Slavisa who was trying to qualify for the long jump finals.

“I am 32 years old and I was born in Cacak, Serbia,” said Lidija. “I have been training for more than two years now with my coach, Milorad Djondric.”

The 2007 World Summer Games are Lidija’s first competition outside her native Serbia, and they have been very successful. She won 7th place in the 200m race and a gold medal in the 100m race.

“It was the best thing that ever happened in my life, I was so happy and I cried,” said Lidija. “Also my coach was very happy with me and he almost cried too. For this competition we sometimes trained two times per day.”

In the Special Olympics Serbia National Games held in Piro, Lidija won a gold medal, but she feels that this gold medal is much more important to her because of the much stronger competition she faced and the great Shanghai Stadium which impressed her very much.

“I liked Opening Ceremony very much and I like to compete because I want to prove my abilities, to prove I am fastest,” said Lidija.

In her free time Lidija enjoys listening to music. Her favorite singer is native pop artist Zeljko Joksimovic. Besides running, Lidija enjoys other sports such as basketball and tennis.

For Lidija, Special Olympics is something she believes can change people all around the world. She made many new friends from her country while training and because of this, has had a very enjoyable time in Shanghai.

Lidija has two younger sisters and she spends a large amount of time with them.

“I spend a big part of my free time with my sisters talking about life, music, sport and many different things. They inspire me to live and always give me encouragement. They are my biggest supporters.”

Lidija told us that her family is very proud of her and they will be waiting at Belgrade’s airport to welcome her home and bring her back to her hometown of Cacak.

“I want to wish success to all athletes in the world,” Lidija said. “Just don’t give up”

**Latin America**  
**Argentina**

**Proud to Be Here**

*Pablo Calabria and Juan Corrales, Delegates from Argentina*



Competing for the first time at World Games, 15 year-old Valur Freyr Astuson is excited to be in Shanghai representing Special Olympics Iceland in swimming.

“I am very confident,” Valur said. “It makes me feel very excited and proud of myself to be competing here.”

A middle school student, Valur is a multi-sport athlete, competing in basketball, football and swimming. His love for sports makes his gym course his favorite school class, and he hopes to try even more sports after his return home from Shanghai.

Valur attributes much of his success to his entire family which has been very supportive of his endeavors in Special Olympics. In addition to both of his parents, he lives with his younger sister as well.

Valur hopes to return to the next World Games to be held in Athens, Greece in 2011.

**A National Promise**

*Pablo Calabria and Juan Corrales, Delegates from Argentina*



Hoping to return to Peru with a gold medal in powerlifting around his neck, Luis Quezada, 28, is making friends from many Spanish-speaking countries while competing at the 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games.

Thus far, Luis has made friends with athletes from several neighboring countries and even with athletes coming from as far away as Cuba.

“I have many friends,” Luis said. “I even have them from faraway places. This just makes me very happy.”

When he isn't doing any heavy lifting, Luis can be found competing in karate and boxing. He works two jobs in his hometown of Callao at a counseling center and local hotel.

As an ambassador of hospitality, Luis has been very impressed with the gentle reception he and his teammates have received since arriving in Shanghai. Luis hopes this will be the first of many trips for him to China, a country he is enjoying more and more each day.

## Dominican Republic

### Selection of inspirational quotes from participants in the 2007 Special Olympics World Summer games when asked “What do you like most about Special Olympics?”

*Stefany Abreu and Atta German Feliz, Delegates from Dominican Republic*

#### Tom Rousseau, Athlete Canada



“What I like the most about Special Olympics is that I get to meet new people and that I get to do my best in every competition. I have 12 years participating in Special Olympics and I love it. I knew about Special Olympics because I went with a friend to the pool one day and he told me about it. From that day on I kept going. Something I would really like people to do is to give me challenges, and not to limit my strengths.”

#### Kelly Edwards, Coach Canada



“What I enjoy the most about Special Olympics is the connection you have with the people right away, is having a common goal, a common interest. I have been involved in Special Olympics for 21 years now. I started in this because my parents took me to the summer Special Olympics Games in Calgary, Alberta. And from then on I fell in love with the program. I will really like these athletes to have recognition for their amazing effort, because they do as much as much as any Olympic athlete.”

#### Gael Delahausse, Athlete France



“I adore the pool, everything basically. I’ve been coming to Special Olympics for a year and I’ve been enjoying it. It was like a blessing when they told me that they wanted me to compete. I’ve won two medals, one for front stroke and one for back stroke, I would love people to look at my medals and be proud of me, to give me rights all around the world.”

#### Martine Bouchet, Coach France



“What I enjoy the most of Special Olympics is the mixture of all cultures with one same purpose. I’ve been working for Special Olympics for five years and two years ago I became national swimming coach. I was very lucky because the house where I grew up was right beside a school for people with special needs and Special Olympics was always involved with it. I ended up involving myself.”

**Kristen Gibson, Athlete**  
**South Africa**



“I love the feeling of sharing, of participating in this and meeting new people, I’ve been involved in Special Olympics for two years and it’s a great organization to be a part of. I used to swim for fun, but then a friend told me to go to Special Olympics, I tried, and stayed. I wish that someday I can have the same rights as everybody else.”

**Graham Manchest, Coach**  
**South Africa**

“I like the Special Olympics idea, equality no matter what; it’s simply brilliant. I’m a teacher of people with special needs and I’ve been involved in Special Olympics for 14 years due to my job. I enjoy everything about it, the ups and downs. I wish that someday acceptance will be seen between the world and people with special needs, involving them more and more in society.”

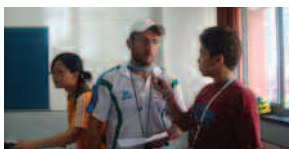
**Middle East/North Africa**  
**Egypt**

**Brazilian Roller Skating Coach Dedicated to Success**

*By: Kareem El Gabri and Tarek El-Etr, Delegates, Egypt*



While many people believe coaching is just about teaching technique, Special Olympics Brazil roller skating coach Fabio is certainly an exception.



Coaching his athlete, Jessica, who is competing internationally for the first time at the 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games, Fabio is extremely enthusiastic about his athlete’s chances for doing well in competition despite having difficulties during the seeding rounds.

Fabio’s passion for Special Olympics began when he was given the opportunity to work with fellow students with intellectual disabilities. Nearly 11 years later, Fabio credits Special Olympics for changing his life and helping him find new friendships.

Jessica and Fabio are just two of the more than 50 delegates from Special Olympics Brazil who are competing at the World Games. Coaches and athletes practiced nearly every day leading up to their travel to Shanghai with hopes of bringing home many medals.

Fabio hopes to continue championing the Special Olympics movement once these Games have come to a close and Jessica hopes to make it to World Games in the future.

### **Coach Hooked on World Games**

*By: Kareem El Gabri and Tarek El-Etr, Delegates, Egypt*

After getting hooked during the 2003 Special Olympics World Summer Games in her country of Ireland, Antrace Mario decided she wanted to do World Games all over again.

A seven-year veteran of Special Olympics, Mario joined the coaching ranks and is now heading up the Special Olympics Ireland women's basketball team.

"I wish to get as many athletes as I can as a coach to compete in Special Olympics," Mario said. "The best thing about our athletes is that they never give up and they are true sports people."

In her day job, Mario is a physical education teacher and has always been involved in sports. She chooses her World Games athletes randomly with the hopes of giving everyone a fair chance.

Mario's team practices every Saturday at her school's basketball court. Special Olympics Ireland's women's basketball team will leave Shanghai later this week with a third place bronze medal.

### **Lebanon**

#### **College Students Travel Far to Broadcast World Games**

*By: Marwa Warde and Joy Jameleddine, Delegates from Lebanon*



Edythe McNamee has left many classmates behind to be in Shanghai for the 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games. After being selected by her university to work with Special Olympics in broadcasting competitions to a global audience, McNamee packed her bags and hasn't looked back.

"I love that everyone is very enthusiastic at the World Games," McNamee said. "When different people from different countries, traditions and ages get together it doesn't matter to them where they are from, all of them just have fun together!"

McNamee's journalism class is working on the Web site, [www.specialolympicslive.org](http://www.specialolympicslive.org), which requires her to take pictures and report on the Games. She hopes that by taking pictures, she will capture the many beautiful moments of Special Olympics.

On the Web site McNamee is working on, each athlete will have a link on the site with their picture and a few news feeds stating their recent activities and accomplishments.

McNamee hopes that her efforts during these Games will help others to enjoy the spirit of Special Olympics as much as she has. By making World Games competitions more accessible online, McNamee hopes her technology knowledge will help to continue spreading the Special Olympics movement.

## Inspired by Special Olympics to Act on the “R Word”

*By: Joy Jameleddine, Delegate from Lebanon*



If you were to hear someone saying the R word (retard), what would you do? Would you go up to them and stop them? The thing is, if you do go and speak to them would anyone listen to what you just said or would they hear you? Every time I hear someone say retard or retarded I go up to them and ask them to apologize and I tell them how offensive that word can be to many people around them.

One can never know if they have a sister or brother of a person with intellectual disability right beside them. Being here in China at the Global Youth Summit for Special Olympics has really touched the bottom of my heart. Spending over a week with many children from all over the world with and without intellectual disability helped me realize even more that we have very few differences when compared with our similarities.

Hearing children speak about their past experiences and hearing them cry just makes your soul ache. You feel something deep there, something you can't express, something that makes you want to go back to your nation and convince everyone to stop using the “R word.”

Unfortunately that's too tall a task for one person. If people don't help, and friends don't help, life for people with intellectual disabilities won't get better.

Many people when told not to say the “R word” don't see the harm they're doing.

“Retard is just another adjective for stupid or dumb,” a classmate of mine recently told me. “It's in the dictionary, and you can't stop me from using it.”

If I had my classmates here with me at the Global Youth Summit and they spent time in our discussions and they went with us to see the interviews we conduct each day, they too would be touched by the pain caused each time the “R word” is used.

The “R word” isn't another adjective for stupid or dumb. It is a word that has no place in our society today.



## North America

### Mother Credits Special Olympics for College-Bound Gymnast

*By: Rashad Richardson and Chris Rhodenbaugh, Delegates from South Carolina (USA)*



Fine-tuning their routines and preparing to perform, Special Olympics gymnasts competing at the 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games aren't easy to pull away from their pre-competition rituals.

But 16 year-old artistic gymnast Mark Hughes and Ricky Blamperd of Special Olympics Great Britain have always enjoyed speaking about their involvement in Special Olympics, and today was no different.

Both Mark and Ricky competed on Friday, 5 October for the first time in the World Games. Supported by their parents who have made the trip, both athletes are excited to be part of a great team that has so far enjoyed a wonderful stay in Shanghai.

"I can be a champion," Mark said. "Representing my country gives me lots of pride."

Special Olympics has brought Mark and many of his friends a renewed opportunity to make new friends and grow his confidence — a trend athletes all over the world have also shared. Mark is now enrolled at a local college in Cheshire, England.

"I don't think Mark would have gone to college if it weren't for Special Olympics," Mark's mother, Liz Hughes said.

Mark's parents have been very impressed with the great facilities both athletes and family members have had the opportunity to enjoy here in Shanghai, especially the number of local Shanghai residents who have come to support the athletes of Special Olympics.

## **Global Youth Summit Closing Editorial**

### **Enough of Just Feeling Good**

*By George Srour, Special Olympics International Volunteer for the Global Youth Summit*

Sports have a way of making us loathe. In the pitting of us versus them, every corner of the world throws itself behind a game that captivates and divides its people along team lines. Europe has soccer. Asia has cricket. America has football. Australasia has rugby.

But 40 years ago, a woman dreamt a dream that her sister and the millions of others who live with intellectual disabilities would unite on a stage of athletic competition. Within the walls of Chicago's Soldier Field, Eunice Kennedy Shriver realized her vision and gave birth to a life-changing hybrid of social movement and sport. Shriver gave the world Special Olympics.

For the last 10 days, almost 7,500 athletes from 165 countries have stepped into the limelight of international competition at the 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games. Shanghai has played host to this year's largest sporting event, welcoming delegations ranging in size from East Timor's one athlete to the home country's more than 1,500 competitors. The city's 20 million residents have witnessed first-hand an unprecedented display of the power of the human spirit amidst the amazing feats of hole-in-one golfers and barefoot runners.

Still, the stories of Special Olympics are typically tucked away in the nooks and crannies of newspapers and magazines, seldom making headlines in the sports section where they belong. The triumphs, the challenges, the defeats and the victories are often tagged as human interest stories, the kind that draw more on feel-good emotion than impressive accomplishment. But try convincing South African athlete Nathan Bass, who ran a half-marathon in one hour and 26 minutes, that his is only a story of human interest. Try convincing Spanish athlete Jonathan Jimenez, an athlete who uses a wheelchair, headlining the first leg of a freestyle swim relay of the same thing. Try telling that to any of the athletes who have trained for years with the hope of one day standing atop a medal stand and raising their arms in victory.

If feeling good is the only thing that comes of their stories, pity us. The more than 2.5 million athletes of Special Olympics are leading a movement. Through sport, they are campaigning for inclusion, for jobs, for healthier lives, for the word 'retard' to be retired and most of all, to prove to the world that above anything else, they are enabled. Never has sport united the world in as overwhelming and prudent a call for equality than the one athletes of Special Olympics are championing on playing fields from Harlem to Johannesburg to Tokyo.

The lights have gone down in Shanghai and the curtain now rises in our backyards. A dream turned reality has given humanity the opportunity to embrace, while long overdue, the achievements of those with intellectual disabilities, on and off the playing field. The legacy of these Games is in our hands to decide, but one thing is for certain — our respect for the athletes of Special Olympics shouldn't wait for yet another encore.

## Appendicies

### Appendix 1 — Selection Process for the 2007 Special Olympics Global Youth Summit



A competitive selection process was put in place beginning in January 2007. Advertisements for Global Youth Summit teams consisting of an athlete, partner and chaperone from the same school or community were placed on the Special Olympics International Web site, in regional newsletters, fliers to the SO Get Into It database and e-mails to Special Olympics regional offices and Programs. Global Youth Summit candidates submitted applications online through the Special Olympics Web site and then Summit applicant information was sent out to national Programs for verification of Special Olympics involvement and for endorsements. The review process included Regional Organizational

Development staff, Special Olympics headquarters staff and a select group of Global Youth Advisory Council members from previous Youth Summits going back to our first in 2001 at the World Winter Games. Additionally, telephone interviews were conducted for all applicants in English and if necessary, native language. Final teams were selected in May 2007.

### Appendix II — 2007 Special Olympics Global Youth Summit Participants

#### Africa Region

##### Namibia

athlete Priscilla Uiras  
partner Michael Field

##### South Africa

athlete Asanda Stofile  
partner Alessio Giuricich

#### Asia-Pacific Region

##### Australia

athlete Hannah Sandeman  
partner Marilena DeMayo

##### India

athlete Ragini Rao  
partner Deeksha Lal

##### Malaysia

athlete Ian Hon Vhui Wong  
partner James Johanis

#### East Asia Region

##### China

athlete Yeming Gu  
partner Mingfei Gao  
athlete Chunfang Xu  
partner Yating Lu  
athlete Ziqin Lu  
partner Chaoyi Ge

athlete Baoxin Liang  
partner Xiyan Huang  
athlete Meili Qiao  
partner Ziun Qian  
athlete Rubing Piao  
partner Xiaoyue Zhao

athlete Ying An  
partner Xiaoxu Gong  
athlete Fang Dong  
partner Zhuying Shang  
athlete Yejun Jin  
partner Yongqian Li

#### **Hong Kong**

athlete Yuk Sim Tse  
partner Tze Ching Lee

#### **Macau**

athlete In Ao leong  
partner Lo Ka Man

#### **Europe/Eurasia Region**

##### **Kazakhstan**

athlete Andrey Kosikhin  
partner Ruslan Umbin

##### **Latin America Region**

##### **Argentina**

athlete Pablo Ezequiel Calabria  
partner Juan Ignacio Corrales

##### **Middle East/North Africa Region**

##### **Egypt**

athlete Kareem El Gabri  
partner Tarek El Etr

##### **North America Region**

##### **Canada**

athlete Stephanie Rowe  
partner Danielle Pritchard

##### **Idaho**

Youth leader Kevin Russell

athlete Jun Jiang  
partner Zhuoyun Wei  
athlete Ying Zhang  
partner Bo Wang

##### **Korea**

athlete Yoona Kim  
partner So-Hee Pyo

##### **Taiwan**

athlete Hsu-Chieh Chiang  
partner Shih-Hsun Yuen

##### **Serbia**

athlete Darko Boskovic  
partner Davor Bisevic

##### **Dominican Republic**

athlete Stefany Abreu Reyes  
partner Attabeira German Feliz

##### **Lebanon**

athlete Marwa Warde  
partner Joy Jamaledine

##### **South Carolina**

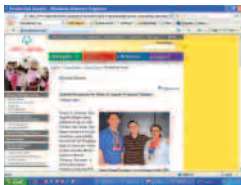
athlete Rashad Richardson  
partner Chris Rhodenbaugh

##### **Illinois**

Youth Leader Soeren Palumbo

**Appendix III — Sample web sites established by youth summit participants promoting the Global Youth Summit Calls to Action:**

**Call to action: Give**



Youth Summit Volunteer Leader: Kevin Russell, Boise High School  
Young person raises funds in support of the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games ([http://www.specialolympics.org/special+olympics+public+web+site/english/press\\_room/global\\_news/prudential+award.htm](http://www.specialolympics.org/special+olympics+public+web+site/english/press_room/global_news/prudential+award.htm))

Tulip the Town Web site: <http://www.tulipthetown.org/>

**Call to action: Share**



A Special Olympics video by Joy Jamaledine, Global Youth Summit Partner from Lebanon

Here is Joy's description of this video:

I did this video for community service in school and for my computer project. I used this video to spread awareness among my friends, and to inform them about Special Olympics and my role in it.

<http://www.youtube.com/jopkib>



Global Youth Summit Team Egypt's effort to raise public awareness about Special Olympics and the Special Olympics Youth Fan Club.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t6CbCRGoR7Y>

**Call to action: Share (blogs)**



[http://wzyboy.blog.hexun.com/12021869\\_d.html](http://wzyboy.blog.hexun.com/12021869_d.html)

A Cause on Facebook for your nonprofit has just been created! If you have a Facebook account, you can view the cause here:

[http://apps.facebook.com/causes/view\\_cause/5725](http://apps.facebook.com/causes/view_cause/5725)

**Call to action: Join**



Soeren Palumbo speaks out against the "R word" (retard) at his high school assembly inspiring a nation-wide campaign seen by thousands on YouTube.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CoqaNG0Ozqc>

Special Olympics thanks our Global Sponsors



**Special Olympics**

[www.specialolympics.org](http://www.specialolympics.org)  
[youth@specialolympics.org](mailto:youth@specialolympics.org)