Call to Action: How You Can Help as Individuals or Corporations

Special Olympics is honored to be an important part of making the world a more inclusive and unified place for all and giving more people with intellectual disabilities a chance to live up to their potential.

There are many ways for you to get involved and support Special Olympics, if you have suggestion or questions, please feel free to reach us at soea@specialolympics.org
OUR MISSION

Special Olympics provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympics-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

Content

- Message from an Athlete Leader
- Message from Leadership
- Regional Growth
- Fact and Figures of Special Olympics 2018
- 2016-2020 Global Strategic Plan
- Improve SPORT QUALITY
- UNIFIED SPORTS
- Youth Engagement and Youth Athletes Expansion
- Strengthening LEADERSHIP
- Improve ATHLETE HEALTH
- Raise AWARENESS
- Generate more Resources
- Letter from RLC Chairman
- Regional Leadership Contacts
My name is Kurtis Siu and I am from Hong Kong. I am studying at Savannah College of Art and Design, majoring in graphic design. Special Olympics has taken a very important role in my life for 15 years, in which I have participated in sports such as figure skating, swimming and golf. I joined the World Games as an athlete for five times and as a volunteer in the Games once. When I participated in competitions, I did not give up but practiced hard, and put lots of efforts to overcome difficulties and gain self-confidence.

Since 2010, I have been involved in Athlete Leadership in Hong Kong and joined the athlete leadership training in Macau and China mainland. I was elected as a Special Olympics East Asia Regional Messenger in 2014-2015 and a member of Special Olympics Global Athlete Health Advisory Committee in 2015-2016. I also participated in other organizations where I played supporting roles to advocate inclusion of intellectual disability in the communities. In the fall of 2018, I was excited because I was selected as a Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger. This extended my horizon and let me acquire wonderful experiences when attending different events and delivering speeches in the 2019 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Abu Dhabi. Those experiences can help me foster self-confidence and gain a sense of achievement, which are essential for me to become a designer. In my role as an International Global Messenger, I would love to share with the world about what Special Olympics has always meant to me and the hopes and dreams it brings.

Special Olympics is a life-changer for many individuals who have intellectual disability. As an International Global Messenger, I hope people understand the mission and meaning of Special Olympics. In addition, I am passionate about bringing the message of inclusion to different communities in different forms, encouraging them to listen to our voice and keep their minds open. I believe working together can transform the world’s perception of persons with intellectual disability and their talents.

Lastly, on behalf of the athletes, I would like to express my greatest gratitude to the governments, schools, sponsors and institutions around the world for their strong support to the families and Athletes of Special Olympics. With their support, I trust that all of our athletes can demonstrate tremendous courage when overcoming any hardship in their life. With bravery, all of us can be winners in our life journey and brighten up the life of others. “Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.”

Kurtis Siu
International Global Messenger
FACT AND FIGURES OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS 2018

ATHLETES

Regional Reach in 2018 1,423,581
Regional Reach in 2017 1,342,072
Regional Reach in 2016 1,315,460

Regional Reach in 2018 66,617
Regional Reach in 2017 65,956
Regional Reach in 2016 74,471

ATHLETES VOLUNTEERS

UNIFIED PARTNERS

920,581

TOTAL

6,388,914

2008

5.4M

2006

3.1M

2002

1.2M

2018

2008

2006

2002

UNIFIED PARTNERS

ATHLETES

ATHLETES

76K

52K

38K

5.4M

3.1M

1.2M

2017-2018 CHANGE

+138,176

+9%

+72,656

+13%

+72,656

+13%

ATHLETE LEADERSHIP

ATHLETE LEADERS

47,192

YOUTH LEADERS (AGE 8-25)

74,964

ATHLETE GENDER

FEMALE 51%

MALE 49%

ATHLETE AGE

6-15 years 28%

16-21 years 33%

22+ years 39%
2016-2020 GLOBAL STRATEGIC PLAN

GLOBAL VISION

SPORT WILL OPEN HEARTS AND MINDS TOWARDS PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES AND CREATE INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES ALL OVER THE WORLD

IMPROVE SPORT QUALITY

IMPROVE ATHLETE PERFORMANCE

IMPROVE ATHLETE HEALTH

EXPAND UNIFIED SPORTS AND YOUNG ATHLETES

BUILD POSITIVE ATTITUDES

RAISE AWARENESS

CONNECT THE MOVEMENT

INCREASE EXTERNAL IMPACT OF SPORTS EVENTS

BUILD CAPACITY BY GENERATING MORE RESOURCES AND STRENGTHENING LEADERSHIP
To provide theoretical and practical guidance to unified schools that is intended to develop unified football and support on the Unified Football Team’s selection and high-quality training according to the principle of Unified Sports, a Unified Football Coach Seminar was held from March 11-14, 2018, in Shanghai. A total number of 29 coaches participated in the seminar, including 12 coaches from football league delegations and 17 PE teachers from unified schools.

2018 Special Olympics East Asia Unified Schools Football League Coach Seminar
March 11 - 14, 2018

2018 Special Olympics East Asia Floorball Coach Seminar
June 19 - 23, 2018

2018 Special Olympics East Asia Regional Floorball Coach Seminar took place from June 19-23 in Gangneung, Korea. 21 floor hockey coaches participated in the seminar, which was well organized by Special Olympics Korea. Special Olympics global strategy, sports injury prevention, FIT 5, theory and practical courses of floorball were introduced by experienced trainers. The group discussion in particular of knowledge exchange was very insightful, all coaches contributed their ideas about floorball promotion in East Asia. At the end of the seminar, a unified floorball mini-game was organized with dozens of athletes and unified partners participating.
The Unified Schools project has been developed and carried out sustainably in East Asia region. As of now, more than 200 schools have been included in this project. Meanwhile, 2 Unified Schools Technical Teams, Shanghai University of Sport and Fujian Normal University, have provided expert guidance regarding unified event planning and execution. 14 unified schools events were conducted smoothly this year. A total of 921 Special Olympics athletes, 934 unified partners and 474 volunteers were involved.

2018 Special Olympics East Asia Unified Camp
July 1-6, 2018

2018 Special Olympics East Asia Unified Camp was held in Fuzhou, Fujian, China from July 1-6. This year’s Camp provided table tennis and floorball training to over 100 athletes and unified partners. Meanwhile, Unified Camp provided a Special Olympics Unified Sports recreational activity for young people with and without intellectual disabilities to learn new sports, get physically fit, and have fun together while striving to achieve their full potential. It’s an excellent social inclusion experience that focused on the development of lasting positive friendships.
From October 12 to 16, 2018, Special Olympics East Asia Regional Athletics Competition was held in the National Taiwan Sport University. This event involved approximately 500 athletes, family members, unified partners, volunteers, and staff. With the company of nearly 90 Taiwan law enforcement officers, two Special Olympics athletes ignited the flame and kicked off the competition. SOEA athletes stood out in the highly competitive East Asia region and gave a speech at the opening ceremony.

2018 Special Olympics East Asia Regional Bocce Competition
May 5 - 8, 2018

2018 Special Olympics East Asia Regional Bocce has successfully concluded in Yuen Chau Kok Sports Centre in Hong Kong from May 5 to 8, 2018. The tournament featured singles, unified doubles, and mixed unified team competitions. There were 7 teams, comprised of 60 athletes, 16 unified partners, 23 coaches and HODs, 139 volunteers from Special Olympics China, Special Olympics Chinese Taipei, Special Olympics Hong Kong, Special Olympics Mongolia, Special Olympics Macau, and Special Olympics Korea, as well as Malaysia from Special Olympics Asia Pacific Region.

There were 12 teams, including 72 athletes, 48 unified partners, 36 coaches and HODs, 50 volunteers from Special Olympics China, Special Olympics Chinese Taipei, Special Olympics Hong Kong, Special Olympics Mongolia, and Special Olympics Korea.

2018 Special Olympics East Asia Unified Schools Football League
May 31 - June 4, 2018

2018 Special Olympics East Asia Unified Schools Football League was successfully conducted in the Shanghai University of Sports from May 31 to June 4, 2018. Primary objective of this event is to increase access to Unified Sports in Unified Schools to promote inclusion in their respective Programs or areas with the given year-round training and competition opportunity, aiming to promote the development of unified football in East Asia. The competition and training provided a harmonious environment for persons with and without intellectual disabilities to interact with each other. They can learn sports skills, enhance physical fitness and improve leadership abilities together, as well as develop friendship. This event encouraged them to be advocates to change the perception of discriminating against people with intellectual disabilities and exert their maximum potential.

2018 Regional Messenger and athlete, Zeng Yixuan, who stood out in the highly competitive East Asia region and gave a speech at the opening ceremony.
With the great support of City Football Group, Unified Schools in Beijing and Guangzhou have conducted an all-year-round football training program, including coach education, routine players training, and competition. In June, 5 coaches from this program were selected to participate in the Cityzens Giving Young Leaders Summit in Manchester, UK. 23 unified teams with over 500 athletes and unified partners can be trained with high quality with the guidance of these young leaders. In September and November, 2 unified football tournaments were held in Beijing and Guangzhou.
Unified Schools’ impact continuously expanded by member schools reaching to 203 across the region. The mechanism of Soccer League, City Football program, youth exchange program and annual Unified School Leadership Forum fostered regular interaction amongst existing schools while generating enthusiasm and interest of participation from more schools. The power of youth leadership remarkably featured in the Regional Youth Summit in Shanghai during which young delegates from East Asia, Asia Pacific and North America fully displayed their passion, action and creativity as well as strong faith in building an inclusive world.

The 4th SOEA Unified Schools Leadership Forum was held on December 7, 2018 in Shanghai, China. This is an annual gathering of school leaders, educators, educational sector representatives and NGO partners for the SOEA Youth program. It shares the new dynamics of the youth lifestyle, best practices across the Region, sample survey of inclusive education, pathway to community via SO inclusive activities etc. Panel discussion is utilized as an important way to promote in-depth learning and thinking amongst participants. Chairman Tim Shriver made remarks at the Forum and encouraged all participants to rapidly respond to the need of the times for creating an inclusive society.
Young Athletes continued to roll out throughout the region by reaching 100% implementation at Program level. The Regional Young Athlete Technical Support team initiated its role in China by investigating early childhood institutes, introducing and facilitating to launch Young Athletes at 7 new sites. From June 5-7, 2018, SO Mongolia held its first ever National Young Athletes Train-the-Trainer Workshop with more than 40 coaches from both urban and remote rural areas being trained and committed to spread Young Athletes to their schools and communities.
As one of the signature events of the movement’s 50th anniversary, the 2018 Special Olympics Global Youth Leadership Forum was held from September 24-28 in Baku, Azerbaijan. Focused on the creation of the Unified Generation, 120 youth leaders with and without intellectual disabilities from 45 countries participated. A total of 21 athletes, unified partners, mentors, educators and regional and Program staff joined in the forum as “game changers” to develop and expand their understanding of how they can drive social inclusion in their countries, cities, schools and communities.

From November 11-17, 60 athlete leaders around the world came to meet at the Global Athlete Congress in the Dominican Republic. 7 athlete delegates representing East Asia joined the amazing leadership group to show the world the truth that people with intellectual disabilities leading the way as Special Olympics continues to build respect and unity in this world.

Leadership Council members from all six Programs as well as guest speakers from SOI participated in the 2018 East Asia Leadership Council meeting held in Hong Kong on March 20-22. In addition to the updates of latest Special Olympics East Asia regional development, extensive sharing and discussion around strategic plan implementation, 2018 action plan, social media, fundraising, 50th anniversary celebration, health and fitness as well as Program Quality Standards adoption updates occurred during the meeting. For the first time ever, our athlete leader led a session in briefing Global Input Council and consulting advice on Global Athlete Congress topics at the RLC meeting. Meeting participants were also able to participate in the 42nd SOHK badminton competition and had a great time along with our athletes.
Healthy Athletes 2018

- 83 Healthy Athletes Events
- 10,473 complimentary screenings
- 1,730 new healthcare professionals and students trained
- 1,640 athletes, families, coaches educated on health needs of people with ID

Healthy Communities

- 3 Programs received Healthy Community recognition
  - China
  - Chinese Taipei
  - Mongolia

- 3 Programs in progress
  - Hong Kong
  - Korea
  - Macau

Huadong Hospital/SO medical team from SO China received Golisano Global Health Leadership Award
2018 marks the 50th anniversary of Special Olympics as well as the beginning of an era of inclusion. The Special Olympics 50th Anniversary Retrospective Exhibit, hosted by Special Olympics East Asia, was launched on November 28, 2018 at Hopson One Wujiachang Mall in Shanghai. The opening was attended by Ms. Freda M. Fung, President of SOEA; Mr. Zou Shiming, new SOEA Ambassador; Ms. Ran Yingying, Chairwoman of WBC Greater China; Dr. Liao Mei, Editor-in-Chief of the book “Oral History of Special Olympics”. Coca-Cola, as the founding partner of Special Olympics, launched a limited edition commemorative tin can combined with its CSR theme “We Care” to celebrate Special Olympics’ 50th anniversary.

The Exhibition was comprised of 8 divisions including Historical Review, World Games, 50th Anniversary Celebration in Chicago, Unified Sports, Organizational Development, Healthy Athletes, Ambassadors and Partners with numerous photos and videos displayed to the public for 12 days. Unified Floorball and Bocce experiences were provided for the public to interact with SO athletes.
50th Anniversary Chicago Celebration
July 20, 2018

As the birthplace of Special Olympics, there is no city more fitting than Chicago to serve as the global stage for launching Special Olympics’ 50th anniversary year. In July 2018, a series of exciting, historic events positioned Special Olympics for a future of inclusion.

To mark the 50th Anniversary of Special Olympics, the Eternal Flame of Hope—a permanent, 23-foot monument honoring the birth of Special Olympics at Soldier Field in 1968—lit at a dedication ceremony on July 20 in Chicago. Special Olympics Global board member and ambassador Lan Yang and athlete representative Chuang Xu were invited to attend and lit the Torch of Hope. As an added surprise, it was also announced that the road by Soldier Field will be renamed Special Olympics Drive!

Special Olympics' first ever global Unified Cup presented by Toyota was held during the celebration period. One male and another female football delegation respectively from China and Korea were invited to compete.

Manchester City Centurions Trophy Tour In Shanghai
August 5, 2018

To celebrate Manchester City’s Premier League and Carabao Cup victories last season, the Club took the trophies for the Centurions Trophy Tour, presented by Etihad Airways. On August 5, the trophies were exhibited at the Atrium of South Block, Shanghai Xintiandi. Fans had the chance to have their photographs taken as if they were in the Etihad Stadium home changing rooms with special digital activation!

The Club legend, Paul Dickov, attended the event to meet fans as well as conducted media interview. After the interview, eight special guests arrived at the scene, they were Special Olympics athletes and coaches from our Shanghai Special Olympics unified football team. This team entered the quarter finals of the first-ever Special Olympics Unified Cup presented by Toyota from July 17-20 in Chicago. After the photo session, Paul presented championship shirts to the athletes and coaches as gifts on behalf of the Club.

Light Up Red For Inclusion
July 20, 2018

From Sydney to London and from Niagara Falls to Abu Dhabi, on July 20 more than 225 landmarks across the world Lit Up Red for Inclusion to celebrate Special Olympics 50th Anniversary! In the East Asia region, the Water Cube in China, Lotte Tower in Korea and Embassy Building & TV Tower in Mongolia lit up red.

The initiative demonstrated the deep solidarity felt in every corner of the globe for the Special Olympics movement and marked the beginning of the Special Olympics Inclusion Revolution—our mission to end discrimination against people with intellectual disabilities (ID) and create inclusive communities worldwide.
On January 31, former NBA star, Jason Williams, visited Shanghai NBA Playzone and greeted the 39 Special Olympics athletes who were invited to the NBA Chinese Spring Festival Celebration. On October 4, NBA Dallas Mavericks invited 30 Special Olympics athletes to interact at Shanghai Oriental Sports Center. Special Olympics Global Ambassador Dikembe Mutombo came to encourage the athletes and cheer for their score. A basketball signed by the whole Dallas Mavericks team was given to SOEA as a special gift.

SO Athletes Become Ambassadors of WWE Live China
September 1, 2018

2018 WWE® Live China wrapped up on Saturday, September 1, 2018, at the Mercedes-Benz Arena leaving fans in awe of the robust lineup of WWE talent. WWE superstar Seth Rollins fulfilled his promise that he would reunite with Chinese fans with his continental champion belt and brought them an exciting and fascinating family entertainment night with other WWE superstars.

Sharing the common belief with Special Olympics, WWE has always believed in the life-changing power of sports and supported to promote Special Olympics worldwide. Everyone was surprised with the opening performance of “The Shield” WWE Superstar Seth Rollins and Dean Ambrose introducing two athletes from Special Olympics: Shiyao Fan and Suxing Zheng as WWE Live China 2018 Ambassadors. This special moment was captured in a fist-bump between the two athletes and “The Shield” to together cheer for the upcoming victory.

A Very Special Christmas Party
December 7, 2018

The Special Olympics “A Very Special Christmas Party 2018” was held on December 7 at the Hyatt Regency Shanghai Wujiaochang and was attended by more than 200 guests including Dr. Timothy P Shriver, Chairman of Special Olympics International and his wife Ms. Linda Potter, and son Mr. Sam Shriver; Mr. Sean Stein, U.S. Consul General in Shanghai; Dr. Shi Derong, board member of Special Olympics International; Ms. Michelle Kwan, Global Ambassador & board member of Special Olympics International and a dozen of Special Olympics athletes who would be competing in the Abu Dhabi World Summer Games 2019. Also in attendance were unified schools leaders, volunteers and sponsor representatives and other long-term supporters. This celebration drew 2018 to a successful conclusion for SOEA and we express deepest appreciation for every supporter.
Coca-Cola China celebrates Special Olympics 50th
November 26 - 30, 2018

Coca-Cola China partnered with Chinese food delivery platform Eleme to bring awareness, advocacy and action to Special Olympics and individuals with intellectual disabilities through a creative and integrated digital campaign named “A Special Takeout”. From Nov 26-30, a limited edition commemorative Coca-Cola tin can was available through Eleme’s on-and-offline “future restaurants”. Eleme also offered 100,000 packs of napkins with the packaging artwork created by Yizhou Qian, a student at Shanghai Jingan Qihui Special School.

Sponsor & Donor

Rockcheck Group
Rockcheck Group supported Special Olympics East Asia in various key projects.

SOHO China
This is the third year of SOHO China’s five-year support to Special Olympics Unified Schools project.

Sun Future Foundation
The Foundation donated to support SOEA’s marketing development to better promote its 50th anniversary.

Papa John’s and Dairy Queen
After conducting 42 city-level unified competitions, the 2 brands continue to donate from 2018 to 2020.

City Football Group
The group is supporting Special Olympics Unified Schools Football Training project in Beijing and Guangzhou.

Coca-Cola China
Coca-Cola launched a limited edition commemorative tin can to celebrate Special Olympics’ 50th Anniversary in addition to regular year-round support.

Laureus Sport for Good Foundation
The Foundation has been supporting coach training and unified sports over a decade.

A Very Special Christmas (AVSC)
AVSC, the single most successful benefit album in musical history for the past decades, funds SOEA to hold an annual AVSC Party to appreciate supporters.

ESPN
As a global partner, ESPN leverages its resources to help with the development of Special Olympics Unified Sports in the East Asia region.

Lions Club
As a Special Olympics Champion Partner globally, Lions Clubs International has always been supporting the SO Opening Eyes program.

Also, we would like to express our deepest appreciation to the following corporations, organizations and individual donors:

China Friendship Foundation for Peace and Development
Shanghai Charity Foundation
Shanghai Special Care Foundation
U.S. Consulate General Shanghai
WWE
NBA China
Hopson One Wujiaochang
Hyatt Regency Shanghai Wujiaochang
Shanghai Disney Resort

Zhang Junting
Li Ping
Liao Mei
Yang Lan
Li Ruigang
Robert Shi
Shi Derong
Mont Gu
Mary Gu
Zou Shimin
Ran Yingying
Dear Special Olympics Fans,

I am very glad and excited that you have chance to read the story of what we did and achieved in 2018 in this annual report. Special Olympics East Asia has been continuously making impact of creating positive attitudes and bringing about permanent change towards inclusion of people with ID.

On behalf of Special Olympics East Asia Regional Leadership Council, I want to thank you so much for the support and help you offer to the Special Olympics movement. Credit should also be given to all the advisors, board members, staff and volunteers for the efforts they have made in 2018, creating opportunities for the people with intellectual disabilities to be treated equally and making the world a better place.

Together, we will achieve greater success.

Sincerely yours,

Kim Byeong Deok
Chairman, Special Olympics East Asia
Regional Leadership Council