

Special Olympics



2011 ANNUAL REPORT ASIA PACIFIC REGION

Revealing the champion in all of us. Special Olympics is a global movement led by athletes with an intellectual disability who use sports to demonstrate the capabilities of all people and to build inclusive, tolerant communities. **Special Olympics believes your courage can change our world.** The Asia Pacific region includes 25 countries with more than 1 million athletes aiming to achieve a personal best in training and competitions every day.



Sports



The Asia Pacific region offers 28 Olympic-style individual and team sports that provide meaningful sporting opportunities for people with an intellectual disability. Beyond just competitions, we offer ongoing regular training sessions to maintain our athletes' fitness and clinics to enhance our coaches' skills and management abilities. In 2011 our programs held more than **11,000 regional, national, and local competitions**. These included Winter National Games in Australia and New Zealand, as well as National Games in Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar.

Our Coaches each have a story about why they work with our athletes. These dedicated men and women attend specifically developed training sessions on their sports and motivate our athletes to achieve their personal best. They must also complete 10 hours of working with Special Olympics athletes under an experienced coach; complete the Special Olympics Application for Sports Training Certification; and complete the training program for Protective Behaviors. In 2011 we conducted **2,350 Coaching Clinics** for nearly **19,000 new coaches**.

Young Athletes™ introduces children ages 2½ to 7 to sport by using fun activities to develop critical motor skills and hand-eye coordination for



enhanced mental and physical growth. According to parents, their children in Young Athletes also develop better social skills and more confidence. In 2011, 11 Asia Pacific Programs held Young Athletes events: Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, Bharat (India), Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand.

Sports Offered in Asia Pacific

- Alpine Skiing
- Aquatics
- Athletics
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Bocce
- Bowling
- Cricket
- Cross Country Skiing
- Cycling
- Equestrian
- Figure Skating
- Floor Hockey
- Football
- Golf
- Gymnastics
- Handball
- Motor Activities Training Program
- Powerlifting
- Roller Skating
- Sailing
- Short Track Speed Skating
- Snowboarding
- Snowshoeing
- Softball
- Table Tennis
- Tennis
- Volleyball

Regional Football Tournaments included

Inaugural ASEAN 5 + 1 Football Tournament with teams from Brunei, Singapore, Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia

5th Borneo Cup with teams from Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia

2nd IndoChina Football Tournament with teams from Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam

The Inaugural Trans-Tasman Football and Basketball Tournament with teams from Australia and New Zealand



Kilimanjaro

Singapore-based long-time Special Olympics supporter **Michael Dee** led two athletes on an expedition to Mount Kilimanjaro in June. After a grueling 10 days, **Singaporean Salihin Bin Sinai** and **Tanzanian Herith Suleiman** reached the summit, becoming the first Special Olympics athletes from Asia and Africa to achieve this feat.



Courtesy of Special Olympics Australia.



"6 months ago, I was introduced to Special Olympics by the coaches from my teacher's university. I now help out on a regular basis and love every moment of it so far."

— Nadira Puteri Kusaeni 16, Youth Leader, Special Olympics Indonesia

"Normal people should not pre-judge people with disabilities. Everyone is the same."

— Yofan Aditia 16, Athlete, Special Olympics Indonesia

"I started volunteering five years ago at a physical therapy centre affiliated with Special Olympics Philippines. It helped me realize that everyone is unique, and that we should always put others first."

— Luigi Moreno 13, Youth Leader, Special Olympics Philippines

Youth Leaders

Our youth leaders bravely take on roles in their communities, setting examples of inclusiveness and tolerance to build communities of acceptance and respect.



World Games

The **World Games** are an exciting part of our movement, offering opportunities for our athletes to compete and achieve their personal bests on a global stage. World Games also offer athletes and their families an opportunity to travel and experience different cultures, act as ambassadors for our movement, and create enduring friendships. In June 2011, **789 athletes from Asia Pacific competed across 21 sports** at the Special Olympics World Summer Games in Athens, Greece, in a concerted demonstration of spirit and bravery.



Health



Healthy Athletes®

Healthy Athletes provides free health screenings, with the help of trained volunteer healthcare workers, to Special Olympics athletes in seven different areas: vision, hearing, oral health, healthy lifestyles, general fitness, podiatry, and sports physicals.



A fun, welcoming environment helps remove the extreme anxiety people with intellectual disabilities often experience when faced with a visit to a doctor or dentist. Healthy Athletes also provides eyeglasses, sunglasses, hearing aids, mouth guards and other free items to athletes. With screenings in more than 100 countries, the program makes Special Olympics the largest global public health organization specifically for people with intellectual disabilities. In 2011, Asia Pacific programs held **74 Healthy Athletes screenings**.



Special Olympics-Lions Clubs International Opening Eyes® is a vision and eye health screening

program in partnership with the Lions Clubs International Foundation. The Asia Pacific region held **15 Opening Eyes programs** in 2011. Led by volunteer vision care professionals and supported by global sponsors – Lions Clubs, the Safilo Group, and Essilor Int'l, Opening Eyes offers free prescription eyewear, sunglasses, and sports goggles to Special Olympics athletes, transforming their lives.

In 2011, The **Hear the World Foundation** partnered with Special Olympics to provide free auditory screening and hearing aids to athletes around the world, including those from Brunei, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, New Zealand, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Samoa, Pakistan, Singapore and Japan. With this incredible gift athletes can now hear the world and their fans cheering them on.

Community Building



Spreading understanding, compassion and acceptance to communities around the globe, Special Olympics brings a vision of global inclusion.

Special Olympics Athlete Leadership Programs (ALPs) help people with intellectual disabilities become leaders of tomorrow by building an inclusive world that goes beyond mere competition, showcasing their talents and empowering them to become National Program Board members, coaches, Healthy Athletes chaperones, competition officials, and spokespeople for the movement.

The Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger (IGM) program is designed for athletes to be the voice of the movement by speaking to community leaders and the public on behalf of Special Olympics, to dispel negative attitudes toward people with intellectual disabilities. In Asia Pacific, we are proud to have current IGMs **Neha Naik (Bharat)** and **Anton Jose Maria Silos (Philippines)**.

In 2011, we held an Asia Pacific region ALPs Congress in Singapore where participating athletes exchanged ideas about how their countries' programs work and discussed initiatives such as the Youth Activation Committee, Global Football, and Project UNIFY®. Thirty other ALPs trainings were held in programs in Indonesia, Thailand,

Australia, Philippines, India, Laos, New Zealand, Pakistan, Japan and Cambodia.

Project UNIFY® is a dynamic collaboration between Special Olympics and school communities to engage young people with and without intellectual disabilities in promoting attitudes of acceptance and inclusion in schools. Project UNIFY integrates Special Olympics' sports programs with ongoing school youth leadership activities, enabling all students to develop intellectual, physical, civic, and emotional competencies.

In 2011, Special Olympics, Inc., in global partnership with the **Ray and Stephanie Lane Foundation**, confirmed the **Stephanie and Ray Lane Project UNIFY International Expansion Grant** to Special Olympics Bharat (India) to support the launch and implementation of Project UNIFY in the cities of Delhi, Bareilly and Padna. The initial Project UNIFY training-of-trainers was held in Delhi from November 19-20, 2011. Project UNIFY program management will be based in Special Olympics Bharat with regional oversight in Singapore.

Fans and Funds are the foundation on which Special Olympics programs are built, providing fanatical support and critical funding for our competitions and trainings. Each of our self-sustaining National



Programs is funded by a variety of sources.

Special Olympics Asia Pacific and the American Chamber of Commerce in Singapore partnered for an evening of fun and fundraising during the **Sports-Fest Gala Dinner** in October, raising S\$70,000.

Accomplished ice skater and volunteer **Anja Chong** launched **Skate to Dream**, introducing Special Olympics athletes in Singapore to short track speed skating and figure skating, aiming for a Singapore skater to compete in the World Winter Games in 2013. Special Olympics Global Ambassador **Michelle Kwan**, an Olympic medalist and world champion, and 60 volunteers supported the launch. A few weeks later, Special



held special sporting events in honor of this remarkable woman.

Corporate Partners support our communities with a variety of in-kind and monetary donations across the region.

Procter & Gamble and Special Olympics Asia Pacific signed an agreement aimed at raising awareness in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. Support includes a media campaign as well as direct program funding for trainings and competitions. To give their employees a firm understanding of Special Olympics ideals, 140 P&G regional employees played bocce, soccer, field hockey, basketball, and badminton with our athletes at two events in Singapore.

Mattel Inc. is a global supporter of Special Olympics. In Asia Pacific the company awarded four Youth Fan/ Youth Activation Grants to support Unified Sports®, Global Football and Get Into It™ to Special Olympics Bharat (India), Indonesia, Pakistan and Philippines; five Team Mattel grants for unified competitions involving Mattel employees and volunteers to Special Olympics Bharat (India), Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, and Thailand; and seven grants for Young Athletes programs to Australia, Bangladesh, Bharat (India), Myanmar, Nepal, Singapore, and Thailand.

ESPN STAR Sports partnership includes air time extension across their Asia-wide network, special programming, talent support, and employee volunteerism for local athletic programs.

BBDO/Proximity's creative partnership with Special Olympics includes branding and messaging development, production of a TV campaign for a corporate social responsibility initiative, a print campaign to raise awareness for Special Olympics in Singapore, and an ongoing social media campaign.

Working Three, an Australia-based social media and digital consultancy, provides ongoing branding, messaging, and digital consulting services to Special Olympics Asia Pacific.

To raise awareness of Special Olympics among potential volunteers, donors, thought leaders, athletes, and their families, we launched **Asia Pacific News**, a bi-monthly e-publication featuring inspiring stories about our athletes and National Programs. We also began to blog regularly about our activities to spread our messages throughout the region. Visit our blog at specialolympicsblog.wordpress.com.

Olympics supporter and Olympic medalist **Apolo Ohno** led another Skate to Dream session locally.

We celebrated the life of Special Olympics founder Eunice Kennedy Shriver on **EKS Day**, September 24. Programs in Thailand, Japan, India, Malaysia, Pakistan, and Myanmar

Special Olympics Asia Pacific Region Team



**Special
Olympics**

In 2011, we officially opened our Singapore region office. And, to support our rapidly growing programs, we added four new staff members:

Pamella Odhner, Director
Organizational Development

Paige Okun, Director Communications
and Development

Jericho Mercado, Manager Finance
and Administration

Karyn Tan, Manager Communications

Staff

Dr. John Dow, Chief Regional Growth
and Interim President & Managing Director,
Special Olympics Asia Pacific

Simon Koh, Director Operations

Pamella Odhner, Director
Organizational Development

Paige Okun, Director Communications
and Development

Jericho Mercado, Manager Finance
and Administration

John Nagarajan, Manager Sports South Asia

Karyn Tan, Manager Communications

Siddhartha Bose, Coordinator
Budget and Finance

Tuan Do, Coordinator Program Development

Yee Saengsavang, Coordinator Program
Development & ALPs

Amran Siregar, Coordinator
Program Development

Avianti Tania, Coordinator Healthy Athletes

Hanako Sawayama, International Global
Messenger and Administrative Assistant

Board of Directors

Brady Lum, Director

Rajan Menon, Director

Ernie Bower, Director

William Boon Ngee Tan, Director

Angela Ciccolo, Director

Dr. John Dow, Chief Regional
Growth and Interim President &
Managing Director, Special
Olympics Asia Pacific

Lee Gillespie-White, SOAP Ltd.
Corporate Representative

Kaylee Kwok, SOAP Ltd.
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Asia Pacific Program Locator



1. AMERICAN SAMOA* 2. BHARAT (REPUBLIC OF INDIA) 3. BRUNEI DARUSSALAM 4. COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA 5. DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE 6. DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA 7. INDEPENDENT STATE OF SAMOA 8. ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN 9. ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN 10. KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA 11. KINGDOM OF NEPAL 12. KINGDOM OF TONGA^ 13. LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC 14. MALAYSIA 15. NEW ZEALAND 16. NIPPON (JAPAN) 17. REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA 18. REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES 19. REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES 20. REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE 21. SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM 22. THE KINGDOM OF BHUTAN 23. THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND 24. THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH 25. UNION OF MYANMAR

New Program: *5 December 2011. ^1 September 2011.