



**Special
Olympics**

SPECIAL OLYMPICS ASIA PACIFIC ANNUAL REPORT 2018



Watch a clip of Johannes and Shirley waiting to do the march-past



“By their presence, our athletes send a message to every village, every city, every nation. A message of hope. A message of victory. They teach us that what matters is not power or politics, weapons or wealth. What truly counts is the courageous spirit, the generous heart. Play with us, practice with us, coach us, adopt our Special Olympic teams. Compete with us. We want to be part of your sports world. Our Special Olympians want you to be part of theirs, for it is in our caring or failing to care that we inch mankind forward or let it fall back.”

Eunice Kennedy Shriver



Watch Eunice Kennedy Shriver speak at the first Special Olympics World Games at Soldier Field, Chicago in 1968.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Looking back at the broad span of 2018, I am struck by how much we have grown as a region, not only in terms of sheer numbers, but the capability we've built and the partners who have joined us on the journey to inclusion. To all of you – Program Leaders, athletes, family members, corporations both big and small, volunteers and supporters – I offer my sincere thanks for supporting us and being a part of the Special Olympics Asia Pacific family.

We have much to be proud of. In 2018, your work touched the lives of some 2.2 million athletes and Unified Partners; you helped induct an additional 66,156 family members into our existing network; you facilitated 38,769 competitions in a single year; and your voices are now heard in five more National Programs in the region.

2018 was also the year of many firsts. The skies above Sydney, Singapore, Karachi and Karnataka glowed red in celebration of our 50th Anniversary whilst in Kolkata, we conducted a leadership academy to impart skills that would take the movement forward. We joined hands with influential partners like the Asian Football Confederation, Badminton Asia and Badminton Oceania. Amongst them was FOX Network Group whose presenter, John Dykes, helped train our Health Messengers. Our athletes and their Unified Partners were given both a new platform to tell their stories on our Human R.A.C.E. website and advocates in the form of the newly minted Regional Youth Input Council. We then ended the year in style with our inaugural Gala Dinner in support of our athletes attending the World Games. As much as we have achieved, however, there is more that must be done.

By the time this message reaches you, the final medals would have been given out and the curtains drawn on the largest sporting event of year, the Special Olympics World Summer Games in Abu Dhabi. It was a triumph in every sense, but we would do well to remember that for every athlete we sent to the Games, thousands of others were waiting in the wings for their chance to compete.

While we extol and fete our medal winners, let us stay true to our mission of providing year-round sports training and competition by organising local competitions that will benefit all our athletes. My challenge to all of you is to honour the athletes who did not go to Abu Dhabi by embracing the legacy of the Games and using that to extend and expand their opportunities in the coming days. Whether that entails partnering your local sports federations and clubs, activating honoured guests as ambassadors or cultivating local media who know and support our cause, we must move beyond event organisation and into advocacy.

Once more, I would like to thank every member of the Special Olympics Asia Pacific family for your commitment and effort. I look forward to working with you in delivering sustainable success and forging a path to inclusion that our athletes so richly deserve.

Simon Koh

President and Managing Director
Special Olympics Asia Pacific

ASIA PACIFIC REGION IN NUMBERS

2017



1,732,855

2018

1,955,646

Number of Athletes In The Region

We trained and organised competitions for 1,955,646 athletes in the Asia Pacific Region. An all-time high, and every single one of them special.



239,590

306,219

Number of Family Members

A person with intellectual disabilities' most precious, and immediate, resource is their family. Part of Special Olympics Asia Pacific's work is to educate these family members to lend their voices for inclusion.



28

33

Number of Special Olympics Asia Pacific Programs

The number of Programs in the Asia Pacific region grew, notably amongst the Pacific Island nations where the call for inclusion resonated and propagated.

2017



7,765



13,937



576,061



37,744

2018

9,403

Number of Youth Leaders

Youth Leaders act as advocates for inclusion amongst their peers and form an integral component of our push to end discrimination against people with intellectual disabilities.

18,196

Number of Athletes benefitting from Health Screenings

Before sporting achievement, an athlete's health comes first. Special Olympics Asia Pacific facilitated 174 health events that examined and benefitted 18,196 athletes in total.

639,620

Number of Unified Athletes & Partners

The number of athletes with and without intellectual disabilities who are playing together and laying the groundwork for a Unified Generation.

38,769

Number of Competitions

Training brings many benefits like fitness and a sense of community. Competition, however, gives athletes a goal to work towards and an opportunity to prove themselves. In 2018, we organised almost 40,000 competitions, both large and small, for athletes in the Asia Pacific region.

MESSAGE FROM ASIA PACIFIC ADVISORY COUNCIL

Dear friends, colleagues, athletes and supporters of Special Olympics Asia Pacific,

In Samoa, where I am from, it is a tradition for sports teams representing the country to perform a war dance before a match at international competitions. The name of this dance is called Siva Tau, and I feel some of the words from this challenge we issue to an opposing team, ring true for the Special Olympics mission.

There is no other team anywhere

My strength is at its peak

Make way and move aside

Because this team is unique

We are a unique organisation serving unique and powerful individuals. It is something we should celebrate and be proud of.

The role of the Asia Pacific Advisory Committee is to represent Program Leaders in our region; to give them a voice and an opportunity to help shape the development of Special Olympics in the Asia Pacific region. Although we only meet once or twice each year, it is my hope that we remain one family – unbroken – bonded together by a common mission and sense of duty.

2019 is going to be an exciting year for us with the World Games and the culmination of the year-long celebration



for our 50th Anniversary. Alongside the Inclusion Revolution, which is in full swing, our strategic plan and the goals it aims to meet is also reaching a crescendo as we make greater inroads into areas like Healthy Communities, athlete leadership, Unified Sports and coach development.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge and thank our Chairperson, Dr Shamim from Special Olympics Bangladesh and our International Advisory Committee representative Commander Dr Saini from Special Olympics Bharat for their leadership and support.

Thank you.

Leta'a Daniel Devoe
Deputy Chair, Asia Pacific Advisory
Committee



Learn more about Special Olympics Samoa and the other Programs in the Asia Pacific region by following us on Facebook.



MESSAGE FROM ATHLETE INPUT COUNCIL

Athlete Input Council Question & Answer with Ben Haack and Jasmine Sharif

The Special Olympics Asia Pacific Athlete Input Council (AIC) members are key stakeholders in the direction we take as region. Comprising athlete leaders from countries around the region, the AIC is the voice of our athletes in the Asia Pacific and is in many ways the embodiment of the Special Olympics movement and the responsibility it places in athletes' hands.

We speak with joint chairs, Mr Ben Haack and Ms Jasmine Sharif.

What do you see as the role of the Athlete Input Council?

Jasmine: The Council exists to provide guidance and structure to develop Special Olympics as a movement. It does this by encouraging athletes to raise their views and opinions.

Ben: The role of the AIC is to serve as a voice for athletes in the region, to gather feedback about important things for athletes. It's also about us being actively engaged with our countries to help build better opportunities for athletes.

How does the AIC fit into the Inclusion Revolution?

Jasmine: By being a friend! By going out and showing what the possibilities are and then to bring people with and without intellectual disabilities together, such as in Unified Schools.

Ben: The AIC plays a very important part. The Inclusion Revolution is a deliberate change of pitch where change is driven by the athletes, not for them. AIC members are the drivers of this new phase.

The Inclusion Revolution signifies a cutover to an athlete-led movement. Why is this important?

Jasmine: The athletes are the ones who face challenges every day, they know what's best for themselves and can push for the right changes.

Ben: To me, it's one of the key changes we needed to make. People with disabilities are still not feeling empowered, let alone feeling they could lead. We needed to change this.

What are your hopes for the Asia Pacific Region?

Jasmine: I hope that we can work toward spreading more awareness on inclusion and to Play Unified. I also want people with intellectual disabilities to gain the respect and dignity they deserve from their communities.

Ben: I hope that the region one day will have the capacity to install a Program in every country. And then I hope that one day we will no longer need to run these Programs because each community will be truly inclusive where Special Olympics will be an educator and guide.

WHAT IS THE INCLUSION REVOLUTION?

There are up to 200 million people with intellectual disabilities in the world who are routinely denied access to quality healthcare, job opportunities, recreation and in some instances, even basic human contact.

Special Olympics believes that people with intellectual disabilities deserve a seat at the table. And we seek to bring this about in several ways.

- Year-round training in a variety of Olympic-type sports
- Providing a platform for competition
- Facilitating health and fitness
- Fostering a supportive community

We are a movement driven by the very people we seek to support. No longer a mere charity, or a “nice to have”, Special Olympics is launching a revolution to bring people with intellectual disabilities back into the fold where they belong.

And it’s nothing short of an uprising.

Enter the Inclusion Revolution.



THE INCLUSION REVOLUTION MANIFESTO



We are not just athletes.
We are the ambassadors of an uprising –

Peaceful protestors in a rebellion against
anyone who has a fear of difference.

Our demands are equality, dignity, and the recognition of our
shared humanity. We will not stop or accept anything less. We are
deserving.

When we compete, we're fighting for a more inclusive world.
We are champions on the field and for this cause.

Today, our world is more divided than ever, and coming together has
never been more urgent. This is an inclusion revolution. It's going to
take all of us. And it's not optional.

The only choice you need to make is how you will join it.



RAISING THE BAR FOR ATHLETE PERFORMANCE ON AND OFF THE PLAYING FIELD

Special Olympics Asia Pacific's Objectives

- Facilitate athlete growth and mastery in sport
- Engage coaches with a long-term progression plan
- Co-opt partners who will contribute expertise and resources
- Seed inclusion in schools and the young through joint activity



ASIAN FOOTBALL CONFEDERATION C-LICENSE COURSE

An initiative intended to embed committed coaches in the long-term, the C-license course is an internationally recognized coaching credential and a significant milestone in the developmental journey of any soccer coach.

Incorporating input from Special Olympics own experts, AFC trainers spent five days with 15 coaches from the region honing their technical skills, as well as instructing them on how to coax the best out of their own trainees. Our coaches were also taught the finer points of Unified Sports and providing inclusive training.

The C-license course is a two-part programme with the second session slated for 2019. Accredited coaches are expected to play a leading role in their respective Programs in the areas of coach education and resource development.

A memorandum of understanding was signed between AFC and Special Olympics Asia Pacific in March 2018 to drive the development of soccer amongst people with intellectual disabilities.



ASIAN FOOTBALL CONFEDERATION WORKSHOP

In tandem with Special Olympics Asia Pacific, AFC specialists conducted a two-day workshop in Social Responsibility through football and competition management.

The objectives of the workshop were threefold. AFC representatives shared the latest trends, developments and best practices in social responsibility; create an understanding of how the partnership between Special Olympics Asia Pacific and the Asian Football Confederation could elevate football programming at national level; and finally, to develop and launch a communications strategy based on the objectives set out in our memorandum of understanding.



This workshop was delivered to 20 representatives from various Programs in the Asia Pacific region.

Badminton World Federation Shuttle Time

Special Olympics Asia Pacific forged important partnerships in the sport of badminton in 2018, joining hands with the Asian Badminton Confederation and the Oceania Badminton Confederation to raise the technical capability of badminton coaches in the region.



Part of a three-year strategy, these coach development sessions (termed "Shuttle Time") aimed to improve the standards of coaching amongst our coaches but also to increase participation of people with intellectual disabilities in the sport. Shuttle Time was held in August and November 2018.



Have a look at what our coaches did at the Shuttle Time course.

FITNESS & HEALTH/ DANCE FITNESS TRAINING SEMINAR

Programs in the Asia Pacific region conduct thousands of sporting events each year, both big and small. To condition athletes for these events, as well as to maintain their physical fitness during “off-peak” periods away from competition, Special Olympics Asia Pacific provides training for fitness and health to athletes and coaches.

One such session was conducted in October 2018 where athletes, coaches and athlete mentors convened in Singapore to learn how they could help their peers maintain fitness through a consistent training regimen.

Also, they were taught how to keep their diets and lifestyles healthy, and were introduced to a new and fun way to keep hearts pumping – Dance Fitness.



A fun way to fitness, and a proper diet, make for healthy athletes. Have a look at what our athletes did at the seminar.



NETBALL TRAIN-THE-TRAINER CLINIC

In August 2018, Special Olympics Asia Pacific organised and facilitated a three-day coaching and education clinic for 40 netball instructors in India. The aim of the course was to equip coaches with foundational netball skills and court strategies while providing a pathway for progression for those invested in the movement.

The netball clinic was also meant to promote and encourage greater female participation in Special Olympics Asia Pacific's sports programming and to groom female coaches to assume larger roles in the organisation. The clinic's lesson plan covered topics such as Special Olympics' vision and values, our Athlete Development Model and divisioning in addition to netball-specific skills.



MOTOR ACTIVITY TRAINING PROGRAMME (MATP)

The importance of training and competition extends to everyone regardless of their ability level. Special Olympics Motor Activity Training Programme is a physical conditioning regimen designed for people with multiple and profound disabilities. Often performed with the help of therapists and caregivers, competitions are also organised for participants notwithstanding their limited range of motion.

Special Olympics Asia Pacific conducted two MATP training sessions in 2018, first in conjunction with the Red Cross in January and then again in October. The latter session was facilitated by Special Olympics Europe Eurasia trainer, Dr Eleni Rossides.



Watch Dr Eleni Rossides train Special Olympics volunteers.

RAISING CAPABILITY & CAPACITY THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS & TRAINING

Special Olympics Asia Pacific's Objectives

- Enable and energise Program leaders in the region to deliver on our mission
- Seek out and crystallise corporate partnerships
- Amplify the message from athlete leaders
- Expand the Special Olympics Asia Pacific footprint



Watch a video of the work Special Olympics Thailand is doing in the Young Athlete's Programme with a grant from the Ikea Foundation



A Special Olympics Champion Partner globally, the movement's relationship with Lions Clubs International has been a long and fruitful one. The driving force behind our Opening Eyes programme, Lions Clubs International also backs Mission: Inclusion around the world. Closer to home, Special Olympics Bharat received a US\$1 million grant from the Abhey Oswal Trust.



The MMI Group is a holding company whose activities span entertainment, media advertising and gaming. In 2018, Special Olympics Asia Pacific established an MOU with MMI who would provide sponsorship of ad space worth S\$800,000 in their media players installed in Grab cars.

#RICE

RICE Communications is a strategic communications consultancy that helped develop and crystallise our vision for the Human R.A.C.E campaign launched in December 2018.



A stalwart supporter of Special Olympics Asia Pacific and the movement's Official Technology Partner, Microsoft provides software for all accredited Special Olympics Programs and supports us in our efforts to modernize our Games Management System, Connect. A team for Microsoft also facilitated and supported the development our mobile phone fitness application, Sprout.



By contributing to the Special Olympics movement, partners, volunteers and supporters make possible stories like Sahlihin's.



Empire Code was instrumental in the development of Special Olympics Asia Pacific's mobile phone fitness application, Sprout. Founded in 2016 as a coding education centre, Empire Code supported the development and building of the application.



Following the memorandum of understanding we signed with AFC in March 2018, we have jointly conducted Part 1 of the AFC C-license Course as well as a 2-day workshop on social responsibility. Together, we plan to raise the technical competency of football coaches in our region while training them to become our emissaries for inclusion.



Special Olympics Asia Pacific joined forces with the Asian Badminton Confederation and Oceania Badminton Confederation to increase coaching capacity through Shuttle Time Programs. As a result, a 3-year development strategy, focused on coach education and club development was activated, with the first regional Shuttle Time conducted in Singapore in August 2018, followed by a second course in Fiji in November 2018.



User experience experts Palo IT were responsible for creating the fully bespoke user interface for Special Olympics Asia Pacific's home based fitness app. Palo IT staff spent time with Special Olympics athletes before applying their findings to the app design, allowing for a smoother, more engaging experience.



A Special Olympics Global Partner, ESPN is our official media sponsor for Special Olympics Unified Sports. In the Asia Pacific region, ESPN has provided grants to Special Olympics Bharat to increase participation in Unified Sports in India. ESPN will be the official broadcaster for the 2019 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Abu Dhabi.



A Very Special Christmas (AVSC) is the single most successful benefit album in musical history. For the last 32 years, leading artistes in the music industry have lent their efforts to Special Olympics to create this holiday album series. Proceeds from the AVSC series go to the Special Olympics Christmas Record Trust (CRT). The CRT grant has enabled Programs in the Asia Pacific region to serve the needs of people with intellectual disabilities by strengthening capability in competitions, outreach, coaching, staff training and the introduction of new sports.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS SERENDIB UNIFIED BEACH GAMES

Under the auspices of Special Olympics Asia Pacific, our Program in Serendib (Sri Lanka) was the first to host the inaugural beach sports carnival which took place on Panadura Beach in October 2018.

The event featured seven male beach cricket teams, six female beach netball teams and also included a workshop on Special Olympics proprietary FIT5 training programme plus an open water swimming demonstration. The entire event gathered some 150 athletes and over 50 volunteers, coaches, officials and support staff, together with a guest contingent from Special Olympics Pakistan.



A fun day at the beach during the inaugural beach sports carnival.

IKEA FOUNDATION MEETING & YOUNG ATHLETES TRAINING WORKSHOP

The IKEA Foundation has been a partner and sponsor in furthering the work we do with Young Athletes. In December 2018, Special Olympics Asia Pacific hosted a meeting in Bangkok to discuss the progress IKEA grant recipients have made and also to impart new skills that these Programs could employ in promoting Special Olympics Young Athletes programming.

The Special Olympics Young Athletes programme is a sport and play programme for children with and without intellectual disabilities aged two to seven. Aside from basic motor skills, the programme imparts early lessons on sharing, following directions and taking turns.

Over the three day event, participants covered topics such as increasing child and family participation, transitioning children from the Young Athletes programme to becoming a full-fledged Special Olympics athlete, and even how to improvise equipment needed for Young Athletes training.



Find out more about the Young Athletes Programme here.



2018 REGIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

2018's Asia Pacific Regional Leadership Conference saw the largest gathering to-date of delegates, guest speakers, panelists, Youth and athlete leaders over the course of the three-day event in February where the theme – Leading Change: 50 and Beyond – challenged all in attendance to consider how far the movement has come, and where we were headed. Joining us at the conference were guests from six Special Olympics East Asia Programs together with their President and Managing Director Ms Freda Fung.

Before the conference began proper, the various Asia Pacific leadership committees held their annual meetings to get a head start on pressing issues and goal-setting. They made time to attend the launch of Special Olympics' freshly minted partnership with Hong Kong-based insurer FWD.

The speakers at the conference spanned a diverse range of backgrounds from academia and social media to the world's largest entertainment company, Disney. Together, they impressed upon the delegates the importance of performance measurement, examining and if necessary throwing out our paradigms, and the application of creativity.

A highlight at 2018's conference was the introduction of Dance Sports by Dr Pierre Gider. Combining a plenary session lecture with practical dance instruction, many Programs were inspired and eager to include Dance Sports in their offerings to athletes.

PROGRAM TRAINING & INDUCTION (NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S/NATIONAL SPORTS DIRECTOR'S TRAINING)

Training is an integral part of the support we provide to our Programs to equip them with the necessary knowledge and skills to carry out our mission and in any given year we facilitate numerous workshops and seminars for Asia Pacific's Program Leaders.

One such session we conduct annually is the National Director's training. Intended for new leaders or a leader who is up for a refresher, the curriculum of the training covers topics such as organizational structure, best practices, securing of grants, census and branding. Often, these sessions also provide an opportunity for Program National Directors to network with their counterparts in other countries, as well as with regional office staff who they will depend on for assistance in the months to come.



A similar seminar was held for National Sports Directors with a focus on the 2019 World Summer Games, coach education, Young Athletes and well as providing them with updates on Sports Development.

UNIFIED SPORTS & COACH EDUCATION TRAINING

Unified Sport is a key facet of Special Olympics' sports programming and one of our primary tools for promoting social inclusion. Likewise, coaches who are the facilitators and trainers for these events are similarly critical to the success of Unified Sport.

A three-day seminar in Singapore followed by a two-day course in Delhi gathered some 91 coaches and Program staff to instruct them on the finer points of Unified Sports coaching. The intent of this training was to seed the ground with trained, inclusive coaches who go on to train others, both athletes and other coaches, in the same vein.



ATHLETE LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME - HEALTH MESSENGER TRAINING

The Athlete Leadership Programme is a training regimen developed to equip athlete leaders with the skills and tools they would need to assume leadership positions within the movement and their own communities where they would be a driver of change and inclusion. This training programme allows athlete leaders to explore opportunities outside of sports such as public speaking or acting as an advocate for health.

Special Olympics Asia Pacific delivered one such training session to a selection of athlete leaders in September 2018 to prepare them to help highlight the health crisis faced by people with intellectual disabilities, as well as to promote healthy living and inclusive healthcare in their communities.

A highlight over the few days the athletes spent with us was a training session by FOX Network Group that taught them the finer points of crafting their stories and presenting them in a compelling way. Their instructor – no less than Sports Presenter, Mr John Dykes.



“They gave voice to their feelings, shared their stories and proudly listed their successes at tournaments the world over. That almost all of them were doing so for the first time in front of a camera and lights, and they – to a man and woman – absolutely nailed it, speaks volumes for their strength of personality.”

John Dykes



Special Olympics Asia Pacific teamed up with FOX Network Group to train athlete leaders to act as advocates for health.



Over the last few years FWD Group has grown rapidly and established itself as an innovative, dynamic player in the insurance industry across Asia. To complement the company's rapid growth and its own vision of inclusion, FWD selected Special Olympics Asia Pacific to be a regional partner in 2018 working in 6 countries including Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Singapore, Philippines and Hong Kong (East Asia) for a period of 3 years.

FWD SUPPORTS UNIFIED SCHOOLS & ATHLETE LEADERSHIP

A Hong Kong-based insurer, FWD entered into a partnership with Special Olympics Asia Pacific that provides funding of US \$1.25 million over a period of three years to support our work in promoting Unified Schools and Athlete Leadership in six Asia Pacific Programs.

The grant has allowed these Programs in the Asia Pacific region to further their work in these areas by leaps and bounds. The highlights include:

- Successful expansion of athlete leadership to five sub-programs outside Jakarta for Special Olympics Indonesia
- Special Olympics Thailand has successfully introduced athlete leader coursework into the curriculum of 15 schools
- Special Olympics Singapore piloted two successful events – The Play Inclusive Festival and Learn to Play, both of which promote inclusion through Unified Sports
- 500 youths with and without intellectual disability engaged in unified activities due to Special Olympics Vietnam's efforts in engaging special needs and mainstream schools
- Special Olympics Philippines managed to engage and train 19 athlete leaders and recruit 11 new mentors, including individuals from FWD Philippines

SPECIAL OLYMPICS ASIA PACIFIC GALA DINNER



“Inclusion is not an option. It is duty.”

**UAE
ambassador
Dr Mohamed
Omar Abdulla
Balfaqeeh**

Special Olympics Asia Pacific held its inaugural Gala Dinner on the 5th of December to raise funds in support of athletes heading to Abu Dhabi for the World Games. Attended by two hundred guests and themed “The Road to Abu Dhabi”, our guest of honour that evening was the UAE ambassador to Singapore, Dr Mohamed Omar Abdulla Balfaqeeh.



Generous donations from sponsors, both corporates and individuals, as well as Program Leaders enabled us to raise \$234,000 over the course of the evening. This included a matching of donations collected by the Singapore Tote Board. We were also joined by performers, volunteers and organisers who gave generously of their talents and time.

ORIENTATION FOR NEW PROGRAM LEADERS

2018 saw several new Programs join the Special Olympics Asia Pacific family – Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Solomon Islands and Micronesia. To ensure the success of newly minted Programs, the regional office conducts orientation training and provides guidance to the fledgling Programs in the field.

The Pacific Island orientation workshop was conducted in Fiji and involved the Founding Committee Chairs and Sports Directors from each Program. As with every new Program, they needed to understand the finer points of our mission, organizational structure, proper governance as well as our strategic plans moving forward.



LEADERSHIP ACADEMY TRAINING IN KOLKATA

The Special Olympics Leadership Academy provides perspectives and tools that help Special Olympics leaders enhance their personal and organizational performance. Comprising several progressive modules that cater to different levels of experience, the Inaugural Academy was held in December 2017 in India and expanded to other countries namely South Africa, Egypt and Canada before returning to India in May 2018 for the second module.



BUILDING POSITIVE ATTITUDES TOWARD PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES

Special Olympics Asia Pacific Goals:-

- Raise awareness of our work and activities harnessing athletes voices
- Provide the capability and platform for athletes and their families to tell their stories and engage their community
- Showcase games and competitions as our vehicle for inclusion and to allow others to partake in the joy of sports



Watch the awesome athletes of Special Olympics Samoa turn the Athlete Oath into a haka.

CAMP CONFIDANTE & YOUTH ACTIVATION WORKSHOPS

Camp Confidante is a two-day event organised by student volunteers that brings together young people with and without intellectual disabilities to jointly participate in activities. This camp is an outreach programme that seeks to connect with the community at different levels. Student volunteers from various tertiary institutions are given the opportunity to exercise their planning and leadership skills for the greater good with Special Olympics Asia Pacific providing the guidance and funding. It is also an opportunity for young people with and without intellectual disabilities to interact and, in doing so, dispelling any prejudice and fear that many people go on to form in later life.

The overnight camp consisted of activities that encouraged interaction and play amongst the youths where they engaged in pillow and candle making, as well as outdoor games. A buddy system for the camp further enhanced the value of showing the youths that intellectual disability need not be a barrier to friendship.

To prepare the youth leaders to organise and facilitate the camp, workshops were held for all youth leaders and volunteers in the run up to the camp. Providing more than just instructions and guidance for organising such an event, the workshops also inculcated the principles and beliefs of the Special Olympics movement and the need for inclusion.



One of the activities at Camp Confidante was for the participants to plan for a community carnival. This took place four months later in the form of Makanival held in August.



Watch youth with and without intellectual disabilities making candles as part of their Unified activities.



REGIONAL FAMILY INPUT COUNCIL TRAINING

Whilst Special Olympics Asia Pacific works towards a more inclusive society, the strongest pillar of support for a person with intellectual disabilities will come from their own family. In addition to being a natural resource pool for volunteer coaches, sports officials, fundraisers and chaperones for events, families carry the greatest burden of care as well as the most responsibility for shaping an athlete's outlook and transformation. The Family Input Council is the means through which we provide the training and support for these families.

Attended by family members from nine Asia Pacific Programs, participants were trained on topics such as assuming a spokesperson's role for the movement, how to recruit new members, proliferate family support networks and lobby government bodies. During the two-day seminar, there was also a very important sharing of best practices between Programs to exchange information and advice as well as the introduction to Unified Partners Families where families with and without an intellectually disabled member would provide mutual support and care.

INTERNATIONAL DISABILITY DAY & THE LAUNCH OF THE HUMAN R.A.C.E

The International Day of Disability was picked as the launch date for a new Special Olympics Asia Pacific initiative – The Human R.A.C.E.

Standing for respect, acceptance, change and equality, this initiative seeks to provide a first-person insight into the daily lives and unique perspectives of Special Olympics athletes, coaches, family members and volunteers who work with people with intellectual disabilities.

Produced with the help of our partner RICE Communications, the intent of this initiative was to show that people with and without disabilities are more similar than different, and hence, discrimination against people with intellectual disabilities was baseless and misinformed.



"I have a simple wish – to own a mobile phone and a dress in pink, my favorite color. These are possessions that most 16-year-olds in many parts of the world take for granted."

**Special Olympics
Bharat athlete
Neha Kumari Razak**



Find out more about the Human R.A.C.E campaign.

SARGENT SHRIVER INTERNATIONAL GLOBAL MESSENGERS

Special Olympics is an athlete-led movement and at the vanguard are Sargent Shriver International Global Messengers, exceptional sportsmen and sportswomen who have distinguished themselves. Each serving a four-year term, these messengers are chosen from among the world's top athlete leaders and provided with training so they can effectively act as spokespeople for their peers. In 2018, two athletes from the Asia Pacific region were selected to become International Global Messengers – Ms Brina Kei Maxino and Mr Haseeb Abbasi.

Brina was born with Down Syndrome and a congenital heart condition. Defying professionals who said she would not be able to finish school nor even have a normal lifespan, Brina is now 22 and an assistant teacher at a preschool having graduated from University with a history degree. She continues to act as an advocate both in the Philippines where she's based, and globally in her new role.



Haseeb was born in Pakistan where he was diagnosed with autism at age 12. Introduced to sport by a Special Olympics coach, the turning point for him came at a Special Olympics event where he spoke publicly for the first time, he hasn't looked back since. At the age of 17, he gave a TEDx talk where he received a standing ovation, he's published a book chronicling stories of people with intellectual disabilities and visits schools across Pakistan to share their stories and his own.



Learn more about Haseeb.



Learn more about Brina.

CONTACT US

Special Olympics Asia Pacific is the arm of Special Olympics Inc that works in partnership with 34 countries across the Asia Pacific region.

Twitter @soasiapacific
Instagram @soasiapacific
Facebook: facebook.com/soasiapacific
Website: www.specialolympics.org
Phone: +65 6473 7850
Email: fundraising_asiapacific@specialolympics.org

2018 SOAP Program Directory

Special Olympics Afghanistan

Mr. Sayed Hewad Akbari, Program Director
hewad_akbari@yahoo.com

Special Olympics American Samoa

Ms. Ruth Tuatoo, Program Director
artuatoo@gmail.com

Special Olympics Australia

Ms. Corene Strauss, Chief Executive Officer
corenes@specialolympics.com.au

Special Olympics Bangladesh

Mr. Faruqul Islam, Program Director
faruqulislam@yahoo.co.in

Special Olympics Bharat (India)

Air Marshal (Retd) Denzil Keelor,
Chief Executive Officer
dkeelor@specialolympicsbharat.org

Special Olympics Bhutan

Ms. Jigme Wangmo, Program Director
jigmewangmo@hotmail.com

Special Olympics Brunei Darussalam

Ms. Dawn Lee, Program Director
dawn.lavida@outlook.com

Special Olympics Cambodia

Mr Rotana, Chap Program Administrator
rotana_chap@yahoo.com

Special Olympics Fiji

Ms. Illiana Marama, Secretary
specialolympicsfiji@gmail.com

Special Olympics Indonesia

Ms Marianne Samosir,
Program Director
marianne.samosir@gmail.com

Special Olympics Kiribati

Ms. M'aneta Takautu, Program Director
tekautu.maneta@gmail.com

Special Olympics Laos

Ms. Vilayphone Xaysongkham,
Program Director
vilayphone.xaysongkham@gmail.com

Special Olympics Malaysia

Ms. Nurazida Daud, IMC Chair
nurazidadaud@gmail.com

Special Olympics Marshall Islands

Mr. Siosuia Nikua, FC Chair
nikuasiosuia@gmail.com

Special Olympics Micronesia

Mr. Castro Joab, FC Chair
Castro.Joab@national.doe.fm

Special Olympics Myanmar

Mr. Nay Myo Naing, Program Director
Nyamyo.daniel@gmail.com

Special Olympics Nauru

Ms. Emmaline Caleb, FC Chair
sabrina.caleb09@gmail.com

Special Olympics Nepa (Nepal)

Dr Shikshita Shrestha, Board Chair
shikshitas@gmail.com

Special Olympics New Zealand

Ms. Carolyn Young, Chief Executive Officer
carolyny@specialolympics.org.nz

Special Olympics Nippon (Japan)

Mr. Kazumi Kojima, Program Director
kojima@son.or.jp

Special Olympics Pakistan

Ms. Ronak Lakhani, Board Chair
Ronak.lakhani@gmail.com

Special Olympics Palau

Ms. Stephanie Ngirchoimei, FC Chair
punster98@gmail.com

Special Olympics Papua New Guinea

Ms. Sophia G Tuna, Program Director
Sophiagertrude.tuna@gmail.com

Special Olympics Philippines

Ms. Kaye Samson, Program Director
kchastine@gmail.com

Special Olympics Solomon Islands

Ms. Lisa Horiwapu, FC Chair
lisa.horiwapu@gmail.com

Special Olympics Serendib (Sri Lanka)

Dr. Nimal Kariyawasam, Board Chair
nimalkariyawasam@hotmail.com

Special Olympics Samoa

Mr. Leta'a Daniel Devoe, Board Chair
devoed@ipasifika.net

Special Olympics Singapore

Dr. Teo-Koh Sock Miang,
Board Chair (President)
teo-kohsm@specialolympics.org.sg

Special Olympics Thailand

Mrs. Rachaniwan Bulakul (Nui),
Program Director
solympicsthai@gmail.com

Special Olympics Timor Leste

Ms. Juvencia de Lima, Program Director
juvencia.delima@gmail.com

Special Olympics Tonga

Ms. Vanessa Heleta, Program Director
vheleta@gmail.com

Special Olympics Vanuatu

Ms. Marie Jonah, Program Director
Marie.jonah76@gmail.com

Special Olympics Vietnam

Mr. Do Thien Hanh, Program Director
thienhanhdo@yahoo.com



To support Special Olympics Asia Pacific and our work that you've read about in this Annual Report, please consider making a donation.



**Special
Olympics**

The Special Olympics Asia Pacific Annual Report 2018 was prepared by Delhi-based agency Creative Curve Communication Pvt Ltd.

Visit their website at
www.creative-curve.co.in