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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

**Special
Olympics**



2019 East Asia Annual Report



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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.



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Special Olympics Encouragements

I am Baldanhainyam from Mongolia. I am a Special Olympics Athlete. I am an Athlete Leader.

Just a few years ago I could not imagine that people like me could participate and compete in competitions and games. Since I was little, I thought that I was nobody, I could do nothing and I was a helpless person.

An entire world has fallen down when I lost my dad a few years ago, who was the only person taught me how to chuck the wood, carry water from the well and look after my mom, who was sick most of the time.

He sent me to school, but soon I was behind my classmates and I was letting down my class records, my teacher. I was transferred to different class, people call it a special class. It is where I met my new teacher, future mentor, friend and shoulder to cry on. Her name is Mrs. Purevsuren. She introduced me to Special Olympics and encouraged me to train in different sports. My favorite sport was Judo. My first international competition was in Hong Kong, it was the first time I flew by plane, and the first time I left my mom.

When I got back from Hong Kong with my first medal, my mom was over the moon and I was the happiest person in the world to make my mom proud of me for the first time.

Since then I have never stopped training and competing. SO has changed my life so much. I started to feel more confident around other people and they treated me with more respect.

When I was given the chance to participate in the World Summer Games in Abu Dhabi in 2019, I thought I was dreaming. I wanted so much to tell my mom, unfortunately, she passed away 3 years ago.

I was so happy to learn when SOMGL informed me that I would be supported by a Solidarity Grant from SOI along with other athletes. I promised to myself that I would do my best, and SO would be proud of me and my parents would be very proud of me in heaven.

All these things would not happen if it was not for my mentor Mrs. Purevsuren. She is the one who did not let me go to an orphanage, when I was just by myself after my mom died. She let me stay with her family, until I was allowed to stay in the dorm, where I stay with other kids. I live with 2 younger students and I



MESSAGE FROM AN ATHLETE LEADER

take care of them. I help them to start doing exercises, have trainings and compete in competitions.

As an Athlete Leader I try to be not only a role model, but a coach and leader for other SO Athletes as well.

After the Summer Games in Abu Dhabi I became a star in my community (province). Everybody knew about me, about my interview given to Humans of New York reporter Brandon. The World Vision in our province provided me with a place to live (small apartment), the Governor of my province offered me help with my daily expenses like food, clothing and school items.

I know for certain, that all these good things happen to me because of Special Olympics, because of support from the SOI Solidarity Fund and because of my dearest mentor, coach and friend Mrs. Purevsuren.

I am happy that I am a Special Olympics Athlete.

Baldanhainyam
Special Olympics Athlete Leader

MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

Dear Friends:

What an exciting year 2019 was for our entire Special Olympics movement! I am pleased to share with you highlights of our work in SOEA for 2019. As always, we are most grateful for all your support and contributions to enable us to best serve our athletes and Unified partners in our Region.

The most major event of the year has to be the 15th Special Olympics World Summer Games, held in the United Arab Emirates in March. Over 7500 athletes attended this first-ever World Games in the Middle East from almost 200 nations/programs. A record number of new programs were added as well as the most number of female athletes ever attended. From SOEA, we are pleased that over 400 athletes, Unified partners, Program leaders and supporters participated in this memorable global event. For the gracious and generous hosting by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and government of the UAE, we are most grateful.

Under the new Foreign NGO Law enacted in the People's Republic of China, our Regional Office successfully received registration under the Public Security Bureau. This effort allows us to work even closer with our government partner, the Chinese Disabled Persons' Federation, to further enhance the lives of our Special Olympics athletes through sports and non-sports activities. We also added a new foundation partner, China Friendship Foundation for Peace and Development, which is affiliated with The Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, with whom we have established close collaboration to support the Special Olympics movement.

SOEA continues to stay true to our worldwide mission of providing year-round sports training and competition by organizing regional and local competitions to enhance the capabilities of and to benefit all our athletes. In 2019 we developed a new sport, Unified tennis, by training regional coaches to train our athletes and Unified partners to compete in our Regional Tennis Competition for the very first time in November, much to the enjoyment of our athletes, Unified partners as well as Program and Regional leadership. Above and beyond our efforts with sports events, we continue to build upon the power of our athlete and youth leaders through our Unified Schools Programs, Youth Summits and Youth Input Council work. Our Youth Summits now include athletes and Unified partners from our 6 Programs as well as from other Regions such as SO Asia Pacific, SO North America and SO Latin America. At the end of 2019, we are proud to claim we have over 7000 youth leaders across our Region and we continue to build on the focus of creating a more inclusive society by furthering the influence of inclusive education as an integral part of our Revolution is Inclusion.

For our athletes to maintain a healthy and fit lifestyle, we thrive to increase the number of Healthy Athletes screenings every year and this year we have worked closely with Programs to secure more local funding to conduct more HA screenings. In addition, we are grateful to our Programs who have worked hard to achieve Global Healthy Community recognition from Special Olympics, by collaborating with medical professionals to improve follow-up care for our athletes. It is very important that we do our best to protect the health and wellness of our Special Olympics athletes and our community as a whole, and we very much appreciate our medical volunteers.

Complying with SOI's marketing communications and development mandates, our SOEA team has increased the usage of social media to further spread awareness for the Special Olympics Movement across the Region. Building the brand through CSR relations with partners such as NBA, CFG, CBA, WWE, WTA, BWF as well as cultivating relations with corporate and individual sponsors is always a focus.

Without the generous support and contributions of you ... our supporters, donors and partners, we would not be able to achieve our goals and targets for our Movement in our Region this year. On behalf of our SOEA team, our athletes and families, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your great support to us throughout the year.

We are exceptionally grateful for the leadership and guidance of Mr. Byeong-Deok Kim, who has completed his two 3-year



MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP



terms as Chairperson of our SOEA Regional Leadership Council (RLC). Mr. Kim's dedication and passion for our Special Olympics Movement has been a source of wisdom and support for our entire East Asia Region. We trust that Mr. Kim will continue to bless us with his expert guidance as a valued member of our Senior Advisory Council. We are honored with the election of Ms. Sujing Zhao to be the next Chairperson of our SOEA RLC and look forward to her leadership and guidance. Ms. Zhao is a valued asset as she has been working with sports for the disabled since 1993 and is the Executive Vice Chairperson of Special Olympics China and Director of the Sports Department for China Disabled Persons' Federation. With her devotion and love for the disabled, we will together continue to advocate strongly for our Special Olympics athletes and community.

Thank you and we look forward to continuing to work with you to make this world one of more acceptance and inclusion. Please enjoy the following highlights of our key endeavors in 2019!

Thank you and sincerely,

Freda M. Fung
Regional President & Managing Director
Special Olympics East Asia

REGIONAL GROWTH

ATHLETES



VOLUNTEERS



COACHES



COMPETITIONS



FACT AND FIGURES OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS 2019

SPORT

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS
(ATHLETES & UNIFIED PARTNERS)

6,724,012

2018-2019 CHANGE **+5%**

ATHLETES

5,755,056

2018-2019 CHANGE **+5%**

(PEOPLE WITH ID)

ATHLETE GENDER

40.7%

FEMALE

59.2%

MALE

0.1%

OTHER

UNIFIED SPORTS

UNIFIED ATHLETES
(PEOPLE WITH ID)

909,142

2018-2019 CHANGE **+7%**

YOUTH UNIFIED ATHLETES
(PEOPLE WITH ID AGE 8-25)

384,285

2018-2019 CHANGE **+13%**

UNIFIED PARTNERS
(PEOPLE WITHOUT ID)

968,956

2018-2019 CHANGE **+5%**

YOUTH UNIFIED PARTNERS
(PEOPLE WITHOUT ID AGE 8-25)

305,744

2018-2019 CHANGE **+12%**

COMPETITIONS

114,888

2018-2019 CHANGE **+8%**

315 / DAY

UNIFIED **31,367**

2018-2019 CHANGE **+19%**

13 / HOUR

COACHES

524,506

2018-2019 CHANGE **+3%**

CERTIFIED **379,874**

2018-2019 CHANGE **+4%**

CERTIFIED COACH TO ATHLETE RATIO **1:15**

PARTNERSHIPS

SPORTS PARTNERSHIPS **747**

HEALTH

Health data were reported on an April 2019 - April 2020 cycle.



HEALTHY ATHLETES SCREENINGS

157,319

2018-2019 CHANGE **-11%**

INCLUSIVE HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS

747

2018-2019 CHANGE **+4%**

FAMILIES, CAREGIVERS & ATHLETE LEADERS ACTIVATED AS HEALTH ADVOCATES

7,107

2018-2019 CHANGE **+206%**

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

45

2018-2019 CHANGE **+32%**

HEALTHY PROFESSIONALS TRAINED ON ID

36,258

2018-2019 CHANGE **-12%**

LEADERSHIP



ATHLETE LEADERS

58,725

2018-2019 CHANGE **+24%**

YOUTH LEADERS
(AGES 8-25)

99,747

2018-2019 CHANGE **+33%**



VOLUNTEERS

1,194,337

2018-2019 CHANGE **+4%**

YOUTH (AGES 8-25)

427,689

2018-2019 CHANGE **+7%**

REGISTERED FAMILY MEMBERS

866,798

2018-2019 CHANGE **+3%**

PROGRAMS WITH PAID LEADERSHIP

143

2018-2019 CHANGE **+3%**

PAID STAFF WITH ID

235

2018-2019 CHANGE **+7%**

EDUCATION



UNIFIED SCHOOLS

108,585

2018-2019 CHANGE **+2%**

UNIFIED SCHOOLS

10,162

2018-2019 CHANGE **+19%**



YOUNG ATHLETES

582,674

2018-2019 CHANGE **+32%**

2016-2020 GLOBAL STRATEGIC PLAN





IMPROVE SPORT QUALITY



2019 Motor Activity Training Program (MATP) Coach Training

The Motor Activity Training Program Coach Training was successfully held from June 1 to 4, 2019, whereby the first such MATP coach training was conducted in Kaohsiung, attracting a total of 29 coaches from the teams of all six SOEA programs. Special Olympics invited Dr. Niamh-Elizabeth Mourton, a lecturer from Ireland, to lead this training. Ms. Freda M. Fung, Regional President & Managing Director of Special Olympics East Asia, also wished all the athletes to become brave and determined in the future, striving for pride and victory for themselves and their families.





UNIFIED SPORTS

2019 Special Olympics East Asia Tennis Coach Seminar

July 16 – 18, 2019

Hosted by SOEA and organized by Shanghai University of Sport, the Special Olympics East Asia Tennis Coach Seminar 2019 was held at Shanghai University of Sport from July 16 to 18. A total of 13 coaches from SOC, SOCT, SOHK and SOM participated in the seminar. The three-day seminar consisted of the sharing of Special Olympics basic knowledge and case studies, the teaching of Special Olympics tennis basic theory and practice, as well as the design of training curriculum. This seminar made adequate preparations for the Regional Unified Tennis Competition in November.



2019 Special Olympics East Asia Unified Camp

July 8 – 12, 2019

The 2019 Special Olympics East Asia Unified Camp was hosted at Xiamen Special Education School from July 8 to 12. A total of 115 participants, mainly comprised of Special Olympics athletes with moderate and severe multiple intellectual disabilities, and their Unified partners took part in the Camp. The sport disciplines included floorball and MATP (Motor Activities Training Program). This was the first time that MATP has been developed in Mainland China. The Camp was well received by participants and their families as it improved the physical function of people with and without intellectual disabilities, and fostered a good relationship between SO athletes and their Unified partners.



2019 Special Olympics East Asia Unified Schools Football League Competition

August 5 – 8, 2019

The 2019 Special Olympics East Asia Unified Schools Football League Competition was held in Kunming, China from August 5 to 9. A total of 12 teams signed up from SOC, SOCT, SOHK, SOK and SOMGL including 71 Special Olympics athletes, 47 Unified partners, 36 coaches and team leaders. In order to encourage more players to take an active part in the competition, the teams groups were divided into elder age groups and younger age groups, providing an opportunity to promote students' active participation in social activities. Through the Special Olympics football match and farewell dinner, our Special Olympics athletes & Unified partners experienced a harmonious environment, allowing them to better integrate and enhance friendship with each other.



2019 SOK International Unified Sports Games

September 27 – 29, 2019

Special Olympics Korea held the 2019 International Unified Sports Games in Inje, Gangwon-do from September 27 to 29. More than 500 athletes and partners from over 40 teams participated by competing in 4 sports: basketball, volleyball, soccer and floorball.



2019 Special Olympics East Asia Unified Basketball Competition

October 11 – 15, 2019

The 2019 Special Olympics East Asia Unified Basketball Competition was held in Xi'an, China from October 11 to 15. Teams from SOC, SOCT, SOHK, SOK, SOM and SOMGL registered with a total of 17 teams including 85 Special Olympics athletes, 54 Unified partners, 44 coaches and team leaders. There were two formats involved in this competition: Unified Sports Half-Court Competition (3-on-3) and Unified Sports Team Competition (5-on-5). This was the first time the competition adopted a 3-on-3 format. Compared with 5-on-5 format, this competition was more intense and confrontational and provided our athletes with a better chance to show their potential.



2019 Special Olympics East Asia Unified Tennis Competition

November 22 – 25, 2019

The 2019 Special Olympics East Asia Unified Tennis Competition was held in Shanghai, China from November 22 to 25.

Teams from SOC, SOCT and SOM participated with a total of 4 teams including 15 Special Olympics athletes, 6 Unified partners, 8 coaches and team leaders. This was the first time our SOEA Region hosted a Unified Tennis Competition. There were three formats involved in this competition: individual skills competition (level 1), singles (level 2) and Unified doubles (level 2). The individual skills competition is designed for players who have just learned tennis. This allows for more and more athletes with different capability levels to join the tennis competition and enjoy playing this game.



2019 Citizen Football Giving Unified School Football Training Program - Beijing and Guangzhou

All year round

With the great support of City Football Group, Beijing and Guangzhou Unified Schools have conducted an all-year-round football training program, including coach education, routine players training, and competition. In June, 6 coaches from this program were selected to participate in the Citizens Giving Young Leaders Summit in Manchester, UK. 46 Unified teams with over 1500 athletes and Unified partners received high quality training under the guidance of CFG. In September and December, 2 Unified football tournaments were held in Beijing and Guangzhou.



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND YOUNG ATHLETES EXPANSION



Lead To Include

Supported by partners and sponsors from various industries, such as Lane Global Youth Leadership, Kantar, Microsoft, SOHO China, China Friendship Foundation for Peace and Development, FWD, Lions Clubs International Foundation along with many others, youth leadership under the Lead to Include Project within Special Olympics East Asia Region has been strengthened on all levels. Youth with and without intellectual disabilities are more empowered and motivated to lead social changes in their communities by being involved in Youth Leadership Summits, Innovation Grant projects, inclusive leadership workshops and trainings.

Youth-led Projects supported by Innovation Grant

All year round

23 Innovation Grant Projects were or are being implemented by the passionate youth leaders with and without intellectual disabilities across the East Asia Region.

They pull together to directly drive favorable social changes by bringing in Special Olympics Unified Sports and inclusive leadership under the framework of Unified Champion Schools in their own schools and communities in order to promote the vision of inclusion. SOMGL Youth Leaders Zaya and Bulgan offered life skills courses, “Life Hackers”, to graduates with intellectual disabilities and recruited youth without intellectual disabilities to generate connections between them.



2019 SOEA Regional Youth Leadership Summit

November 13 – 17, 2019



The Special Olympics East Asia Regional Youth Leadership Summit expanded into its 5th year of SOEA and SONA Youth Exchange with youths from 6 SOEA Programs, 5 North American Programs and an additional two Programs from Asia Pacific and Latin America. The Summit trained 49 youth leaders with and without intellectual disabilities and 18 adult mentors from a total of 13 Special Olympics Programs with skills needed to create inclusive communities through the power of innovation. The Summit was the most successful one yet especially with the outcomes from the “Walk n’ Talk on the Great Wall” and the support from local partners such as Orion. These accomplishments enable the participants to lead the next 50 years of the Special Olympics Movement and drive initiatives for respect and inclusion in their home countries and locations.



2019 Unified Schools Leadership Forum

November 15 -16, 2019

Special Olympics East Asia joined efforts with Beijing Sports University to host the 5th Regional Unified Schools Leadership Forum in November. The Forum aggregated a collective strength of a total of 130 educators, educational sector representatives, NGO partners as well as youth leaders from East Asia region. The theme of the Forum, "We Are Better Together", brought out a vision of an inclusive society for all, which Special Olympics has been making every endeavor to pursue. Participants proposed suggestions on deepening the leading and innovative roles of existing Unified Schools, using quality Unified Sports and Youth Leadership as catalysts to expand the scope of Unified Schools, and emphasize the importance of self-monitoring.



SNF Play Unified, Learn Unified

All year round

As part of a three-year grant and landmark collaboration between the Stavros Niarchos Foundation and Special Olympics International, Special Olympics China and Special Olympics Chinese Taipei both piloted partnerships in East Asia to amplify the global impact of Unified Sports, youth and school engagement. Taking advantage of the strategy of developing Western China, SO China supported by the Chinese Government, first rolled out Unified Schools orientation trainings and programming in less developed areas in Shanxi, Sichuan and Chongqing where 48 new special and mainstream schools enrolled. Special Olympics Chinese Taipei expanded its Unified Sports programming to 25 new Unified Schools by utilizing a Train-the-Trainer model, engaging local government partners along with conducting a series of youth leadership trainings and Unified Sports. The SNF Play Unified, Learn Unified project looks forward to ongoing strategic collaboration with local Unified Schools to magnify the impact of inclusion regionally and even globally.

Young Athletes

All year round



The impact of Young Athletes has had a ripple effect that extended benefits beyond the participants in the program to their families and community.

In 2019, approximately 15,800 kids with and without intellectual disabilities along with an equivalent number of families took part in sports played at classroom settings. The program was carried out regularly at public and private pre-schools and community-based recreational centers across East Asia. Notably, the program sites outreached to some rural and underdeveloped areas in Mongolia and mainland China with teachers and families trained to emphasize early intervention through sports as well as spreading message of inclusion throughout early childhood stage.



STRENGTHENING LEADERSHIP



2019 Regional Leadership Council Meeting

June 20 - 22, 2019

The Special Olympics East Asia Regional Leadership Council (RLC) meeting was convened and held in Macau. The meeting was moderated by RLC Chairman Mr. Kim-Byeong Deok who then completed his term as RLC Chairperson after the meeting and handed over the Chairmanship to Ms. Sujing Zhao, Executive Vice Chairperson of SO China through an official election procedure. Meaningful discussions were exchanged during the meeting especially on Unified leadership, Healthy Communities and the upcoming new 5-year strategic plan. Meeting participants also happily experienced a local Unified table tennis activity.



2019 Special Olympics East Asia Family Leadership Forum

August 24 - 27, 2019

The SOEA Family Forum was successfully held during the 7th China National Games and convened family leaders from 37 provinces and areas from Mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau as well as Mongolia. The Forum took on a new trend of family leaders influencing not only individual family units but also a larger scale community. The family leaders voluntarily assembled to form a coalition of parent organizations who serve and speak out for the needs of people with intellectual disabilities so as to actuate policy change.



Regional Athlete Input Council

All year round



To further empower our athletes as true leaders and to equip them with leadership knowledge and skills, SOEA officially established the first ever Regional Athlete Input Council on May 31, 2019, and started giving full play to its significant functions based on the existing Regional Messenger Program. The current Council is comprised of 9 athletes and 9 adult mentors as well as 4 regional staff members.

This RAIC platform has created more diverse and demanding roles to fulfill athlete's leadership functions but not limited to opinion leaders, messenger bearers, role models of inclusive leadership, etc.



IMPROVE ATHLETE HEALTH



Healthy Communities

3 Programs received Healthy Community recognition

- SO Chinese Taipei
- SO Macau
- SO Mongolia

Health Activities

46 Healthy Athletes Screening events

12,210 Screenings

978 New health care professionals and students trained

1,747 Athletes, families, coaches educated on health needs of people with intellectual disability





RAISE AWARENESS



2019 Meet the Determined

March 14 - 21, 2019

On March 14, 2019, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan announced the start of Special Olympics World Games 2019 at a spectacular Opening Ceremony at the Zayed Sports City.

The Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE's Armed Forces officially welcomed more than 7,500 athletes and 3,000 coaches, representing almost 200 nations, for 7 days of incredible Olympic-style sports and a celebration of the human spirit.

Around 400 athletes and Unified Partners from Special Olympics East Asia participated in the Opening Ceremony.

SOEA Regional Ambassador as well as Olympic Boxing champion Zou Shiming, and Olympic Gymnastic champion Li Xiaopeng made a surprise appearance at the opening ceremony. During the World Games period, Zou Shiming and Li Xiaopeng became Unified partners of our athletes and cheered them on.

Special Olympics World Games Abu Dhabi 2019 was one of the largest, most inclusive, most unified, most diverse and most successful World Games in the history of Special Olympics. Coaches, families and fans came together to not only celebrate successes on the field of play, but to also look forward to exciting future achievements by our determined athletes.



Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Hong Kong

April 28, 2019



To celebrate the 30th Anniversary of SOHK's Law Enforcement Torch Run, nearly 3,800 participants from 7 disciplinary departments and special schools started the 3.5 kilometers runathon after Mr. John LEE Ka-chiu, Secretary for Security, the Honorary Patron and Officiating Guest of the event, beat a gong in the Opening Ceremony. This run raised funding of over 2.6 million HK dollars, creating a new record high.

The New Outdoor Badminton by BWF

May 13, 2019

As a Global Partner of Special Olympics International, Badminton World Federation (BWF) launched outdoor badminton (AirBadminton) in Guangzhou, China.

BWF and HSBC jointly hosted a global press conference at the Guangzhou Tianhe Sports Center on May 13, pushing forth a brand new outdoor sports: AirBadminton, as well as its designated shuttlecock: the Air Shuttle.

In addition to co-hosting with China Badminton Association and Guangzhou Sports Bureau, the press conference also included a Unified Sports Experience event whereby Special Olympics athletes from the Guangzhou Yuexiu District Special School came to play Unified with partners without intellectual disabilities on the sand, grass, and concrete badminton courts. Leaders from the Guangzhou Disabled Persons' Federation were also present and enjoyed the Unified Sports Experience with our athletes.

BWF believes that through enhancing sports experiences and encouraging more participation in badminton related activities, the positive impact of this sport will be displayed both in community and in health.



Cheer for Special Olympics Athletes

May 27, 2019



In recognition of the outstanding performance at the 2019 Special Olympics World Summer Games Abu Dhabi, Special Olympics Hong Kong (SOHK) and Hong Kong Disneyland Resort (HKDL) jointly held a Welcome Home Ceremony for the SOHK athletes at HKDL on May 27, 2019. About 150 athletes, along with their family and friends, were invited to this memorable ceremony and a magical day in the Park.

Li Xiaopeng, Olympic gold medal gymnast and long-time supporter of Special Olympics, made a special appearance at the ceremony to greet the delegation. In 2017, he and his wife attended the SOEA Unity Fundraising Gala Dinner as well as this year's World Games in Abu Dhabi to support our athletes.

NBA Cares

May 30, 2019

As a global partner of Special Olympics, NBA invited more than 50 children from Shanghai LuWan Special School to its Shanghai NBA Play Zone to celebrate Children's Day! Accompanied by volunteers from NBA's Shanghai office, the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves in the drawing, building blocks, mini games and other activities.

Under the guidance of basketball coaches, all the children received physical exercise and emotional joy through basic basketball training. At the end of the event, the children received surprise gifts and were feasted with a big cake which they shared with their parents and volunteers.



Cityzen Giving Shanghai, a Unified Football Festival

April 28, 2019

The four-time champion Manchester City Football Club came to Yangpu Yang Fan School to showcase their 4 trophies at this Festival on July 15, 2019.

Cityzen Giving, which is part of the parent company City Football Group, has been working with SOEA for nearly three years to promote the Unified Schools football training program in Beijing and Guangzhou and has benefited thousands of people with and without intellectual disabilities.

This Shanghai event is a public benefit activity of Manchester City Club during its Asian tour. The Club hopes to help players, citizens and many others to learn about Special Olympics, support the public well and make the world a better place through the power of football.



Special Music & Arts Festival

July 15 - 18, 2019



The International Special Music & Art Festival by Special Olympics Korea was held from July 15 to 18, 2019 at Alpensia Resort, Pyeongchang, Gangwon Province. During this four-day event, daily music concerts and various master class sessions were held for young musicians with intellectual disabilities. Well known classical and pop music professionals participated in a master class session to teach young musicians and cultivate their talent for music.

Besides arts and cultural programs, a digital photography exhibition by Seihon Cho and mini-Special Olympics games were held for all participants.

WWE joined in a Unified Floorball Competition with Special Olympics athletes

July 15 - 18, 2019



As the Global Partner of Special Olympics, WWE (World Wrestling Entertainment) superstars Cesaro and Xavier Woods visited Shanghai Pudong Special School to join in a Unified Floorball Competition with Special Olympians athletes on August 23, aiming to promote Special Olympics Unified Sports in China. After playing as Unified partners and captains on the court, the WWE superstars had a great time at the Dream Workshop Cafe, which was unique because almost all the employees are graduates of this special school and were with intellectual disabilities. Cesaro and Xavier Woods not only learned to make coffee but also received positive attitudes from the athletes. In return, they invited the athletes to watch the WWE China Game at the Shanghai Mercedes-Benz Arena on September 21.





CBA Cares

August 23, 2019

The 2019 China International Men's China VS. Brazil warm-up match was held in Guangzhou on August 23.

Before the match, Chinese Men's Basketball Team welcomed the Special Olympics athletes from YueXiu Special School. Facing the idols whom they could only watch on TV, the SO athletes were so nervous during the friendly drill. With the patience and encouragement of these big brothers, they gradually relaxed their nerves and showcased their personal best on the court!

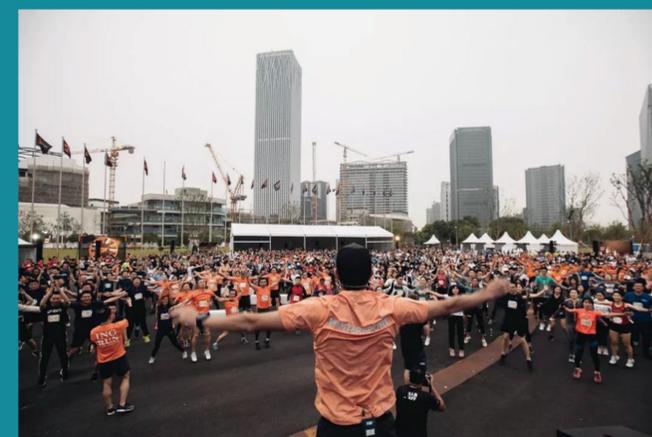
At the opening ceremony of the official match, the China Men's Basketball Team sang the national anthem together with the 13 SO athletes.

At half-time, Kuang Lubin, leader of the national team, awarded certificates to the athletes. And Bai Xilin, VP and secretary-general of China Basketball Association, exchanged a letter of appreciation with Freda Fung, Regional President & Managing Director of SOEA.

The Bloomberg One Extra-mile Relay Race in Shanghai

October 25, 2019

The Bloomberg Extra Mile Relay Race Shanghai was successfully held at the Shanghai Oriental Sports Center on October 25, 2019. Charity is a traditional feature of the Bloomberg Extra Mile Relay Race and is participated by members of Bloomberg's clients and partners. This year's donation will help provide Special Olympics athletes with a platform for self-expression and to make more friends from different countries and cultures. The Shanghai race is the first time Bloomberg has collaborated with Special Olympics in China and has come to a successful conclusion.



Unity Fundraising Gala Dinner

December 5, 2019

The Annual Unity Gala Dinner was successfully held on December 5 at the Waldorf Astoria Shanghai on the Bund. Hosted by the China Friendship Foundation for Peace and Development (CFFPD), the Gala aimed to raise funds for Special Olympics projects in the East Asia region to support the development of people with intellectual disabilities and to create a community of more inclusion, equity and acceptance. Representatives from Special Olympics China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, Korea, Macau, and Mongolia gathered with celebrities and supporters from different social sectors at this grand event. With the support of generous and philanthropic donors, the fundraising auction was an inspiring success.

During the Unified Sports Experience that morning, Special Olympics athletes from Pudong Special School demonstrated floorball and taught their Unified partners how to play. Amongst the Unified partners who played were Dr. Timothy P. Shriver, Chairman of Special Olympics International, SOEA Senior Advisory Council members as well as other honored guests.



GENERATE MORE RESOURCES

Sponsors & Donors

Rockcheck Group

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

SOHO China

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

Sun Future Foundation

The Foundation donated to support SOEA's strategic development in marketing.

Papa John's and Dairy Queen

After conducting 42 city-level Unified competitions, the 2 brands continue to donate since 2018.

City Football Group

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

Coca-Cola China

Founding partner, Coca-Cola sponsored SOEA Unity Gala Dinner in addition to regular year-round support.

Laureus Sport for Good Foundation

The Foundation is supporting Unified tennis development in recent years.

CMC China

CMC donated and helped Special Olympics to raise public awareness through various activities.

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 following corporates, organizations and individual donors (by alphabetical order):

CBA
China Friendship Foundation for Peace and Development
Jerilyn Holdings Company
Lazard
NBA China
Pearl Studio
Shanghai Care Foundation
Shanghai Charity Foundation
Shanghai Disney Resort
U.S. Consulate General Shanghai
WWE
WTA

Cao Juping
Cao Kefan
Chen Weide
Chen Yong
Di Sun
Fang Zheng
Guan Shumin
Ji Xueping
Jiang Kai
Li Na
Li Ning
Li Ping
Li Ruigang
Liao Mei
Liu Heung Shing
Mary Gu
Mont Gu
Pan Shiyi
Ran Yingying
Rob Pepper
Robert Shi
Shi Derong
Thomas Leung
Vicky Xie
Xu Chenhao
Yan Lan
Yang Lan
Yao Ming
Yeung Man Ying
Zhang Junting
Zhang Mengyuan
Zhou Xun
Zhou Yu
Zou Shimin

LETTER FROM RLC CHAIRMAN



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

Dear Special Olympics Fans,

2019 is the year of Special Olympics movement attracting worldwide attention. We held the 15th Special Olympics World Summer Games, in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, which is one of the biggest Special Olympics World Games yet with the most female athletes participated. For the first time, the Special Olympics World Games came into the Middle East. As a committed fan of the Special Olympics, I was once again honored to participate in this grand sports event, where I witnessed and experienced the power of inclusion being widely spread and publicized through the world stage. The 2019 Special Olympics Games will surely go down in the history of the Special Olympics movement as a key turning point.

2019 has been such a special year for me personally as well. After six consecutive years as Chairman of the Special Olympics East Asia Regional Leadership Council and Special Olympics International Board member, I came to the end of my term. Since 2002, when I started my journey with Special Olympics as a volunteer, I have been deeply involved in the development of the Special Olympics East Asia region and witnessed the growth and prosperity of Special Olympics in this region. Although gratitude is not enough to express what I am feeling at this moment, I still want to once again sincerely thank you, the Special Olympics participants, the supporters, the volunteers and the sponsors, for generously giving your care and help to the movement. Your desperate pursuing an inclusive world let me, as a member of this big family, feel honored and inspired.

Also in 2019, I have a new role. I have joined the Special Olympics East Asia Senior Advisory Council and will continue to make my humble effort in growing the Special Olympics in East Asia region. I hope you also continuously give your trust and support to the Special Olympics. I firmly believe, together, we can make a change.

Sincerely Yours,

Kim Byeong Deok

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