

[www.SpecialOlympics.org](http://www.SpecialOlympics.org)



## 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](mailto:soea@specialolympics.org)

# 2021 EAST ASIA

Annual Report



 WeChat: Special Olympics  
 Sina Weibo: <http://weibo.com/soea>  
 Newsletter: Drop an email to [soea@specialolympics.org](mailto:soea@specialolympics.org) for subscription





# 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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# Message from An Athlete Leader

Greetings!

I am Yang Le, a 21 year old athlete and Youth Leader from Special Olympics China. I was a SOEA Regional Messenger and a member of SOEA Regional Athlete Leadership Council from 2018 to 2020.

The year 2021 was extremely memorable, for I was very busy, learnt a lot and gained great insight on so many things. I was running two bubble tea shops, kept up with regular Special Olympics trainings, organized and participated in local athlete leadership activities, and active participated in various social activities. I felt so fulfilled and happy!

The 14th National Games of the People's Republic of China, the 11th Paralympics National Games and the 8th Special Olympics China National Games were held in my hometown, Shaanxi Province. As the only torchbearer representing Special Olympics athletes, I carried the 'Flame of Hope' in the torch relay and proudly walked on-stage during the opening and closing ceremonies. What an honor standing as an ambassador for Special Olympics!

At a Special Olympics Global All-staff Webinar, I spoke on behalf of Special Olympics athletes to share how a spectacular National Games was successfully organized by Special Olympics China despite the severe pandemic. The excitement of the athletes returning to the competitions was so real!

In addition, whether participating in National Special Olympics Day activity, or in the 'Take a Snail for a Walk', a signature project hosted by China Association of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities and Families, or in the social public welfare activities in Baoji, I seized every possible opportunity speaking to the public to advocate for inclusion and acceptance towards people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and led other athletes to get involved.

The leadership role has not only enhanced my confidence and courage, but also exercised my ability to organize, coordinate and communicate with others. It has granted me the vision and will of a leader, which I have applied to managing my bubble tea shops. Despite the challenges brought by the epidemic, I was still able to face it optimistically and calmly, which helped me gain a lot of customers who were touched by my sincere heart. I won their admiration and respect.

I hope the pandemic recedes as soon as possible. I want to expand my bubble tea business so I can offer employment opportunities to more people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Surely, I will continue my favorite Special Olympics sport trainings and programs, and get more athletes involved. The 8th Special Olympics National Games hosted in my hometown Baoji enabled more people to know what Special Olympics is about, and it reminds me of my mission as a leader at the same time. I want to take this opportunity to engage into communities and schools to organize a variety of Unified activities so that the public can come to understand us, accept us and join us!

Thank you,

Yang Le,  
Special Olympics China



# Message from Leadership

Dear Friends:

As COVID continued to persist in our Region, 2021 remained a challenging year where our regional in-person activities were forced to be postponed. However, as much as we could, Special Olympics East Asia transformed our events to virtual events to enable our athletes, their families, coaches and Unified partner to remain connected and active on-line.

From a sports angle, most of our efforts were spent on conducting online training workshops to enable coaches to gain skills to instruct our athletes. Our Virtual Coach Academy consists of multiple sports training delivered by experienced lecturers and SOI experts. Attended by coaches from all our six Programs, the overall response was unanimously well-received. We look forward to being able to conduct on-ground competitions soon so that our coaches and athletes can realize what they had been trained on to enhance their capabilities.

Leadership and empowerment of our youths remains critical to our work in East Asia. Our first ever virtual Regional Youth Leadership Summit which included youths from all 7 Special Olympics Regions. This summit enabled a truly international platform for our participants, with and without intellectual disabilities, to engage and interact with a common goal of advocating for true inclusion. Key discussions, including topics focused on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, allowed the participants to create Unified projects which they could take back to their schools and communities.

To promote the Unified Schools concept at the Program level, together with a professional editorial team, we developed a Special Olympics Unified Schools Development Guide which will provide sound practical reference to help expand the quantity as well as quality of Unified Schools across the Region and beyond.

In order to commit to and maintain our athletes' healthy conditions, we strive for more local funding to offer more health screenings at the local level and encourage Programs to seek engage local funding, now and in the future. Due to the pandemic restricting on-ground competitions and out-of-home exercise, we continue to encourage athletes to engage in on-line fitness training. Every SOEA Program has provided online Fitness program through respective social media channels to engage athletes and families on health promotion even during the pandemic.



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



In order to continue engaging our SOEA athletes and community as well as spreading awareness for the Special Olympics Movement across the Region, our marketing team has considerably increased the usage of social media. Building the brand through CSR relations with partners such as the NBA, CFG, WWE, Fred, X Games, etc. as well as cultivating relations with corporate and individual sponsors is always a priority.

Since COVID affected the world, we saw a large decline in athlete and Unified partner participation in global Special Olympics activities due to the inability to conduct events during the pandemic. Our SOI leadership and Board has launched a Program Emergency Relief Fund to come to the rescue of Programs which need subsidy to reactivate their Special Olympics events. As Programs started to apply for this grant, we certainly hope that our athletes can soon return to the competition field and on-ground activities so that SOEA can continue to stay true to our worldwide mission of providing year-round sports training and competition, as well as youth leadership activities, to enhance the capabilities of and to benefit all our athletes.

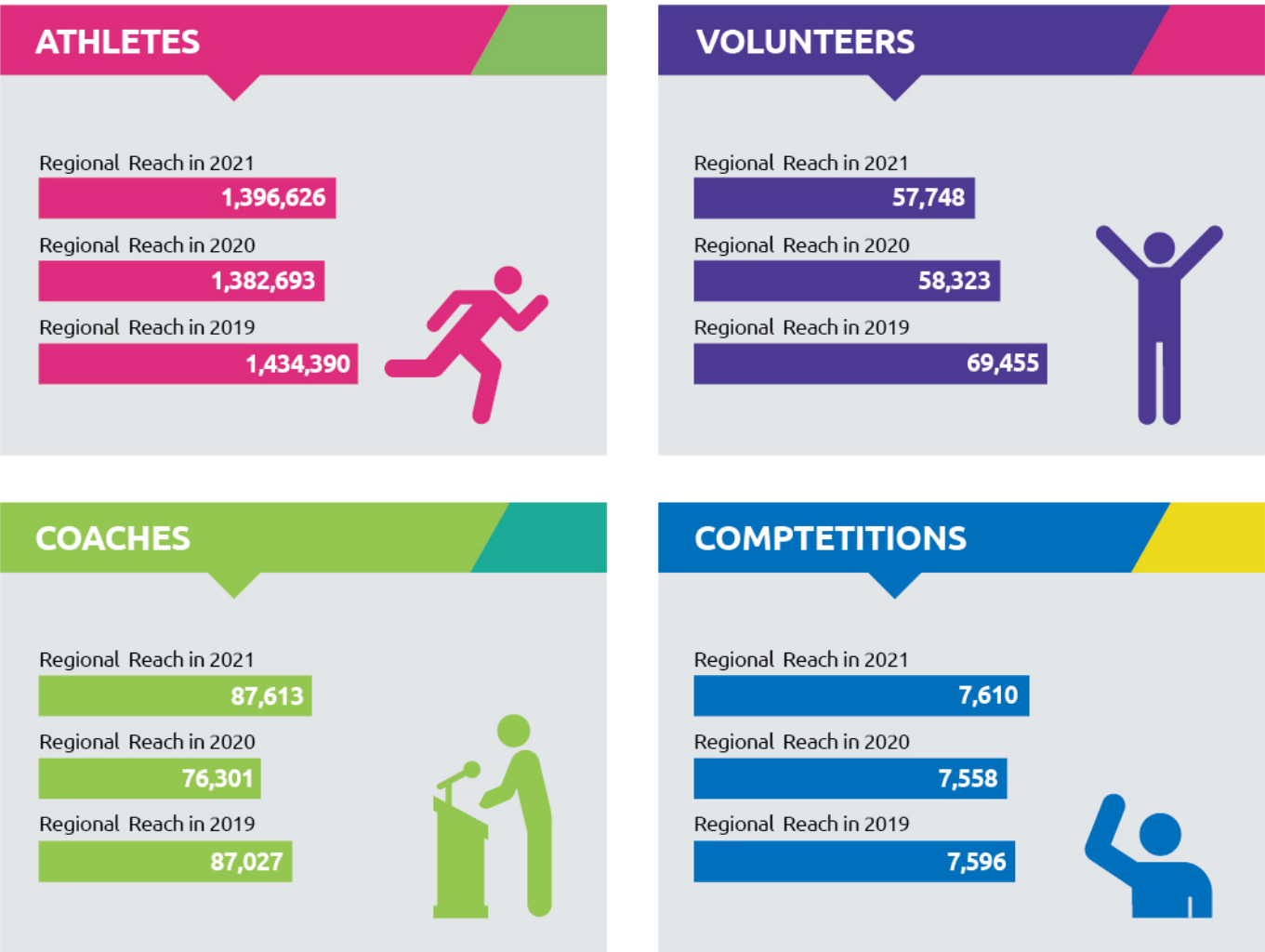
Without the generous support and contributions of you ... our supporters, donors and partners, we would not be able to achieve our goals and targets for our Movement in our Region. On behalf of our SOEA team, our athletes and families, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your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

Thank you and we look forward to continuing to work with you to make this world one of more acceptance and inclusion. We hope to see you in person soon, until then, please take very good care to stay healthy and well!

Thank you and sincerely,



# Regional Growth





# Fact and Figures of Special Olympics 2021

Any decline in numbers compared to 2020 data highlights the devastating impact of COVID-19 on our athletes and our global Programs. 2021 data also showcases the resilience of the global movement. Special Olympics worked to redirect programming and develop solutions to adapt to a virtual environment.



## SPORT

### TOTAL PARTICIPANTS (ATHLETES & UNIFIED PARTNERS)

**3,724,760** 2020-2021 CHANGE **-4% ↓**

### ATHLETES

**3,131,611** **-5% ↓**

PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES (ID)

ATHLETE GENDER: 40.5% FEMALE, 59.3% MALE, 0.1% OTHER



### UNIFIED SPORTS

#### UNIFIED ATHLETES (PEOPLE WITH ID)

**535,223**

2020-2021 CHANGE **-9% ↓**

#### UNIFIED PARTNERS (PEOPLE WITHOUT ID)

**593,149**

2020-2021 CHANGE **-2% ↓**



### MATP MOTOR ACTIVITY TRAINING PROGRAM

**52,117** 2020-2021 CHANGE **-14% ↓**

### COMPETITIONS

**33,742** 2020-2021 CHANGE **+12% ↑**

#### UNIFIED

**10,154**

2020-2021 CHANGE **+15% ↑**



### COACHES

**297,995** 2020-2021 CHANGE **+2% ↑**

#### CERTIFIED

**184,672**

2020-2021 CHANGE **-3% ↓**

#### CERTIFIED COACH TO ATHLETE RATIO

**1:17**

#### COACH GENDER

44% FEMALE, 56% MALE

### PARTNERSHIPS

SPORTS PARTNERSHIPS **1,050** 2020-2021 CHANGE **-14% ↓**

## LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY



#### ATHLETE LEADERS

**47,997**

2020-2021 CHANGE **-6% ↓**



#### VOLUNTEERS

**527,001**

2020-2021 CHANGE **-13% ↓**

#### PROGRAMS WITH PAID LEADERSHIP

**148**

2020-2021 CHANGE **+2% ↑**

#### NUMBER OF PAID STAFF WITH ID

**203**

2020-2021 CHANGE **+13% ↑**

## HEALTH



#### ATHLETES PARTICIPATING IN FITNESS

**453,337**

2020-2021 CHANGE **+6% ↑**

#### HEALTHY ATHLETES SCREENINGS

**18,496**

2020-2021 CHANGE **+22% ↑**

#### INCLUSIVE HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS

**1,030**

#### HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

**97**



#### YOUNG ATHLETES

**189,626**

2020-2021 CHANGE **-14% ↓**

## EDUCATION & YOUTH



#### UNIFIED SCHOOLS

**15,008**

2020-2021 CHANGE **-67% ↓**

#### UNIFIED CHAMPION SCHOOLS

**7,539**

2020-2021 CHANGE **-5% ↓**

#### YOUTH LEADERS

**80,951**

2020-2021 CHANGE **+9% ↑**

### NATIONAL & STATE PROGRAMS

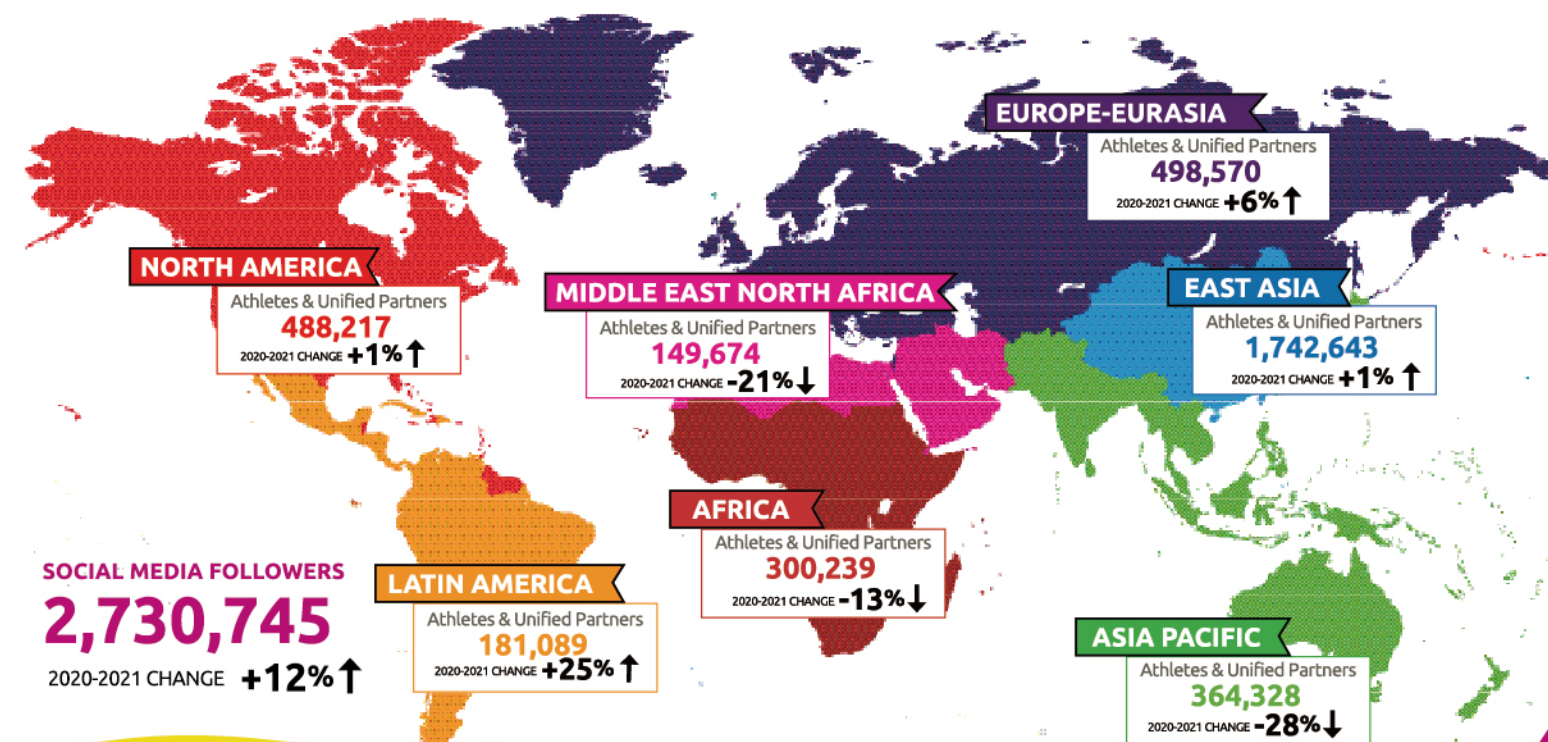
**251** 2020-2021 CHANGE **+0%**

### COUNTRIES & JURISDICTIONS

**201** 2020-2021 CHANGE **+1% ↑**

### LOCAL CLUBS / SUB-PROGRAMS

**19,991** 2020-2021 CHANGE **-7% ↓**



### DEFINITIONS:

**UNIFIED SPORTS:** Special Olympics Sports programming in which people with ID (Unified Athletes) and without ID (Unified Partners) train and compete together as teammates.

**UNIFIED SCHOOLS:** a school or university that conducts Unified Sports opportunities at least 2 times within a calendar year.

**UNIFIED CHAMPION SCHOOLS®:** a program for schools Pre-K through university that promotes meaningful social inclusion utilizing 3 interconnected components: Unified Sports®, inclusive youth leadership, and whole school engagement.

**YOUNG ATHLETES:** a sport and play program for children with and without intellectual disabilities (ID), ages 2 to 7 years old.

**HEALTHY COMMUNITIES:** a Special Olympics recognition program working to increase access to quality health care and effective prevention programming to improve the health of people with intellectual disabilities through activating public and private sector partners to adopt more inclusive practices, training and empowering athletes and caregivers to become vocal advocates.

**PROGRAM:** qualified entity licensed and accredited by Special Olympics International to operate Special Olympics programming within their respective geographic territory (country, jurisdiction or U.S. state).

**LOCAL CLUB / SUB-PROGRAM:** an organized local unit / branch conducting Special Olympics activities in a community outside of a school setting.

**MOTOR ACTIVITY TRAINING PROGRAM (MATP):** a program designed for individuals with intellectual disabilities with severe limitations who do not yet possess the physical and/or behavioral skills necessary to participate in official Special Olympics sports.

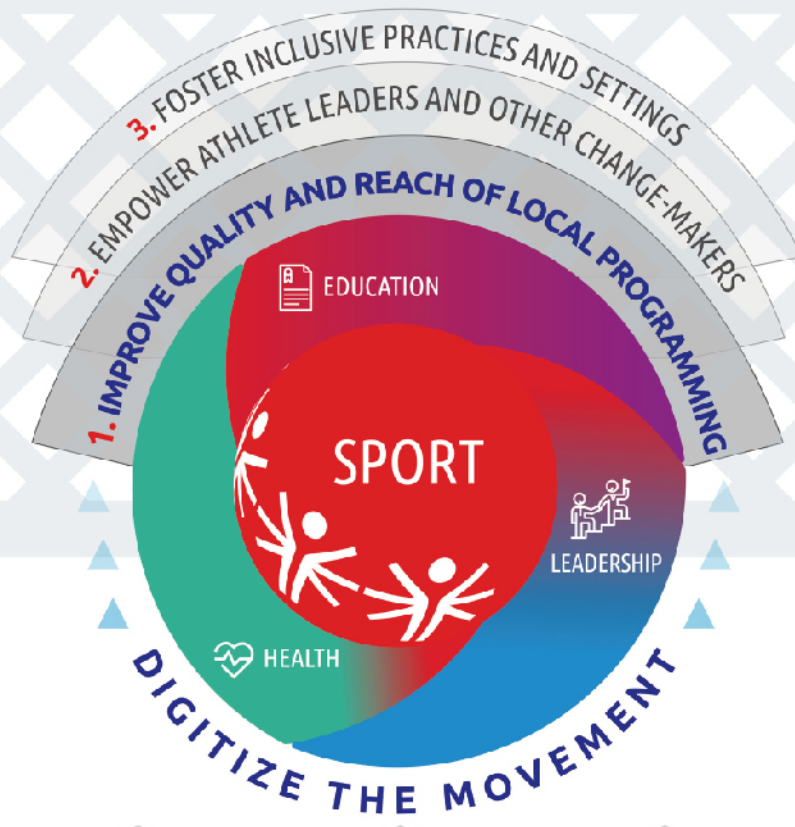
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# 2021-2024 Global Strategic Plan

OUR **VISION** IS AN INCLUSIVE WORLD FOR ALL, DRIVEN BY THE POWER OF SPORT, THROUGH WHICH PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES LIVE AN ACTIVE HEALTHY AND FULFILLING LIFE.

- GOAL A** INCREASE LOCAL SPORTS PARTICIPATION AND WELL-BEING TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITIES
- GOAL B** REMOVE BARRIERS TO INCLUSION AND EXPAND REACH THROUGH DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY



# Improve Sport Quality

## 2021 Special Olympics East Asia Virtual Coach Academy

March to May 2021

The Special Olympics East Asia Virtual Coach Academy was successfully held from March to May, 2021. The academy offered 3 sessions including floorball, tennis, football, basketball, female team sports and also athletes leadership and fitness. The academy was delivered by experienced lecturers and sports experts from SOI. The participants joined from Special Olympics China, Special Olympics Chinese Taipei, Special Olympics Hong Kong, Special Olympics Korea, Special Olympics Macau, Special Olympics Mongolia, Special Olympics East Asia Unified Schools and other sports associations. There were 1,076 participants in the first session, 812 in the second session, 968 in the third session, a total of 2,856 participants in all three sessions. It is worth mentioning that the virtual academy received blessings from Li Na, twice Grand Slam winner and Special Olympics Global Ambassador, and Shao Ting, captain of China Women's Basketball Team. They sent video greetings to encourage attendees to study hard and actively lead Special Olympics athletes to enjoy the fun of sports.



### LECTURERS



**Athlete Leader Sharing: XU Chuang**  
运动员领袖分享：徐闯



**Football**

Annabel Finch

Niamh Nolan

- Manchester City Football Club coaches
- Annabel Finch: Community Outreach Lead Coach
- Niamh Nolan: Community Outreach Officer

**Basketball**

Chen Dechun

- Honorary Coach of Chinese Basketball Team
- Deputy Director of Youth Committee of Chinese Basketball Association
- Vice president of Shanghai Basketball Association

**Floorball**

Yuan Yong

- Asia Personal Rules and Development Committee of International Floorball Federation (IFF)
- Vice President of China Floorball Union
- China National Floorball Team Coach

**Tennis**

Maria Teresa Krahenbuhl Leitao

- Member of Special Olympics SRAG and SRT
- Organized tennis tournament in Special Olympics World Games

**Fitness**

Ma Zhenming

- Honorary Director of Chinese Health Promotion International Charitable and Foundation Center for People with Disability
- Member of Chinese Association of Rehabilitation Medicine
- Member of Biophysical Society of China



## 2021 Special Olympics Unified Tennis Carnival

July 9, 2021



To celebrate the centenary of Mrs. Eunice Kennedy Shriver, the founder of the Special Olympics Movement, various activities took place around the world to commemorate our great founder. Special Olympics East Asia joined hands with Shanghai Xuhui District Disabled Persons' Federation, District Education Bureau and Sports Bureau to organize a Special Olympics Tennis Carnival on July 9.

On the spacious indoor tennis court, 40 athletes from the Xuhui District Special Olympics tennis team and students from the Sunshine Home of Xujiachui Community conducted a variety of activities such as tennis demo matches and tennis-themed fun games under the guidance and company of professional coaches and Unified partners. The courts were filled with laughter, both the players who had received systematic training and had a certain technical base, and the Sunshine Home partners who thoroughly enjoyed the fun of the game, all had a great time at the carnival. The event further promoted the Special Olympics movement and showed the participants a sampling of the development of Special Olympics tennis in China in recent years.



## The Motor Activity Training Program - Shanghai

All year round

The Motor Activity Training Program, organized by Shanghai University of Sport, is dedicated to build community sports and rehabilitation service centers for people with intellectual disabilities based in the communities. Through appropriate sports intervention technology and curriculum system, the disabled people can improve their sports abilities, speech problems, self-care and social adaptabilities. In accordance with the local epidemic prevention requirements of 2021, we have guaranteed two training sessions per week for them, and each training site has served 10 people per class, benefiting about 1,440 Special Olympics athletes, Unified Partners and volunteers.

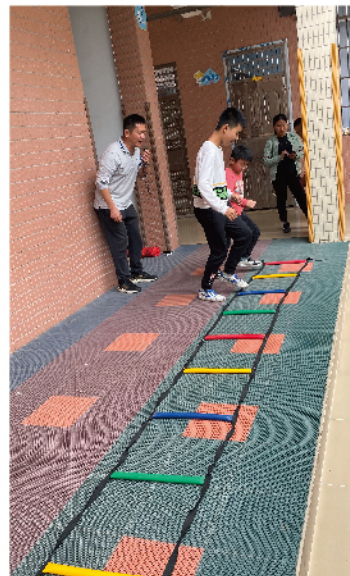




# Citizen Football Giving Unified School Football Training Program-Guangzhou

All year round

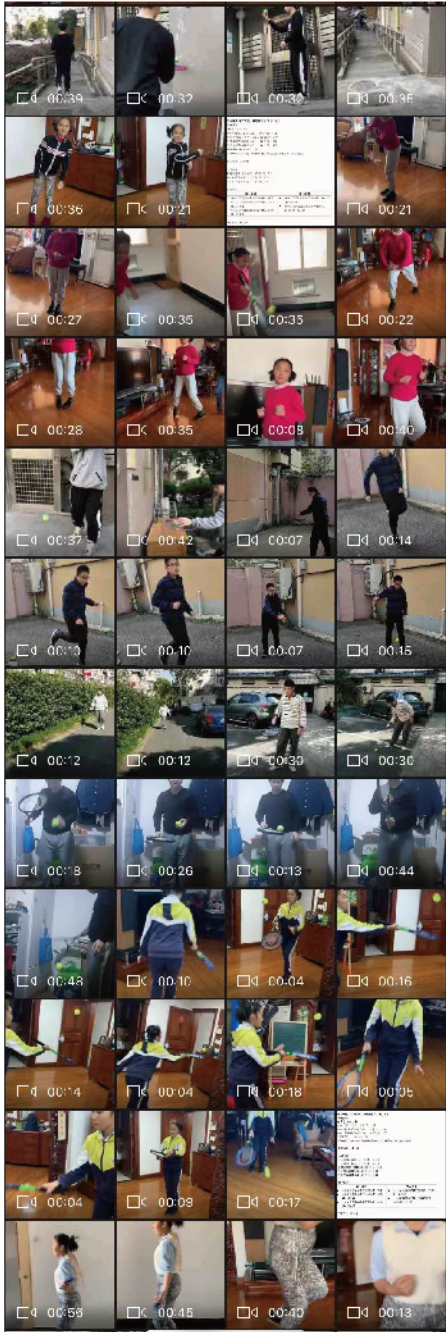
With the great support of City Football Group, Guangzhou Unified Schools have conducted an all-year-round football training program, including coach education, routine training, and group training. A unified football competition was scheduled for the end of the year, but was postponed to 2022 due to the pandemic. On the premise of meeting local epidemic prevention requirements, the program has benefited about 2,300 Special Olympics athletes and Unified Partners, 1,000 families, 400 communities and 200 volunteers.



# 2021 Special Olympics East Asia Laureus Tennis Training

All year round

Due to the impact of the epidemic, offline tennis training was suspended in October and switched to online training. At the beginning of the year, the epidemic situation in Shanghai was stable and offline training could be carried out. One offline session and one online session were set up per week. Professional tennis coaches have created online tennis learning courses according to the Special Olympics Tennis Coaching Guide. Athletes can follow the videos and practice at home. It ensured that every player has at least 3 hours of tennis training per week. It is worth mentioning that the team was refreshed in September, and a new batch of Special Olympics athletes joined the team.





# Leadership & Empowerment

## Regional Youth Leadership Summit

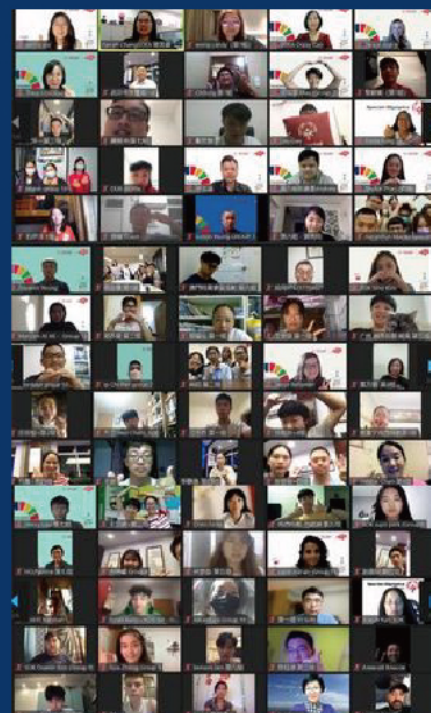
September 13 to 16, 2021

The 2021 Special Olympics East Asia Regional Youth Leadership Summit was a remarkable achievement from many dimensions. During this 4-day event, SOEA tapped into 4 of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals:

- Goal 3: Good Health and Wellness
- Goal 4: Quality Education
- Goal 5: Gender Equality
- Goal 17: Partnerships for Global Goals

Over 180 participants with and without intellectual disabilities from 20 Special Olympics Programs covering all 7 Special Olympics Regions were involved in the Summit. They learned about what the SDGs are, went deep into the four Global Goals, discussed what True Inclusion meant to them and created Unified projects that they could potentially implement in their own school and community.

Dr. Tim Shriver, Chairman of the Board of Directors for Special Olympics International; Professor Shahbaz Khan, Director of the UNESCO Office in Beijing; His Excellency Briunny Garabito Segura, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Dominican Republic in the People's Republic of China; Ms. Yang Lan, Special Olympics Global Ambassador and Board Member; Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake, UN Youth Envoy and many other honored guests and speakers demonstrated their support to the Summit.



Based on the post-event survey, 99% of the respondents expressed that they were satisfied with the summit experience and 98% of youth participants felt they learned skills that they would use in other areas of their life.

What is True Inclusion to you? 对你来说什么是真正的融合?

nothing is special Nice  
together 内心深处的认可, 接纳并正视, 互补共进  
peace and love 共同参与 尊重 理解 都能获得发展自己的环境 互相协作共同进步  
caring 尊重平等包容 하나가 되는 respect love 责任 尊重  
平等参与, 共同学习 배려 Acceptance 이해 没有什么 人权 Понимание heart  
natural 帮助 接纳 快乐 男女平等, 不容忽視! 互相了解尊重包容  
understanding, sharing 互相尊重和互相平等 unity PLUR  
equality for all

## Youth Innovation Project

All year round

In 2021, 19 Youth Innovation Projects were implemented in the East Asia Region. These projects are focused on advocacy, community engagement, Unified Schools expansion, arts and creativity, technology, and Unified Sports.

By far, the projects have helped to establish 17 new Unified Schools, 18 new Unified Sports clubs, gain 179,426 social media impressions, engage 309 new Youth Leaders and 1,714 Special Olympics athletes.

One of the highlighted projects is a joint project led by Youth Leaders from SO China and SO Macau. It is focused on the impact of new media on increasing social attention of Special Olympics. The project includes three parts – research, microfilm, and seminar. The goal is to dig into the effect of the current media broadcast of Special Olympics and the dilemma as well as ways to improve.





## SOEA Youth Digital Engagement Committee

All year round

One digital connector that united the East Asia Region was the SOEA Youth Digital Engagement Committee. This committee, founded in 2020, continued activation by spearheading digital activities through 2021.

In 2021, the SOEA Youth Digital Engagement Committee amplified youth voices digitally by initiating virtual campaigns that encouraged youth engagement. Some project activations included a Mask Design Competition, Clean Plate Clean Earth, and Exercise Without Borders. In the Mask Design Competition, the Youth Digital Engagement Committee sent out a call to Unified pairs for mask designs from each Special Olympics Program in the East Asia Region. The most-liked design voted by public were printed on masks and given as souvenirs for Special Olympics Programs to share with Youth Leaders and the other stakeholders locally.

Through the different activities, young people with and without intellectual disabilities were able to learn about health, sports, and the power of meaningful inclusion.

### Mask Design Competition

Special Olympics East Asia  
Youth Digital Engagement Committee



- ✓ Participants: Individuals with intellectual disabilities or Unified pairs
- ✓ Deadline: July 19, 2021 by midnight
- ✓ A template is ready to download
- ✓ Please make sure to indicate your name and region
- ✓ Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions (e-mail: soeaydec@yahoo.com)

### How to Participate

1. Design your masks.
2. Send your work to the youth representative(s) of each Program.
3. We will post the designed to our event page.
4. The designs that get the most "likes" on our event page will be the winners.

**Special Olympics East Asia** Special Olympics East Asia Youth Digital Engagement Committee

## Exercise Without Borders

**Activity date**  
August 23— September 30

**Activity content**

1. Make daily exercise routines.
2. Exercise times ≥ 3 times a week.
3. Take photos/videos of you doing exercise following your own routines or following the routines created by your Program.
4. You can post the exercise routine and the photos or videos on your social channels, such as WeChat, Weibo, Tik Tok, Facebook, Instagram, etc.; or you can send them to your Program's youth representative.
5. Add hashtag #ExerciseWithoutBorders.

Merry Christmas

**Special Olympics Christmas Celebration**

**Project Introduction:**  
As we are walking close to the end of 2021, let us write down sincere wishes to our dearest Santa Claus!

**Project Date:**  
From now till Dec. 26th, 2021

**Participants:**  
Special Olympics athletes, Unified Partners and EVERYONE!

**Project Description:**

1. Download the "wish letter" (see the attachment).
2. Write your wishes on the wish letter.
3. Scan your letter and send it to **Special Olympics Chinese Taipei E-mail: soct@soct.com.tw** Please indicate your Special Olympics organization and name in the E-mail.
4. Your work will then be posted on "Special Olympics Chinese Taipei" Facebook Page.
5. After the project ends, we will randomly select 2 letters from each Program. These selected letters, together with the letters from each Program that have top 3 likes on Facebook Page, will be sent to the Santa Claus in Sweden and Finland!

**Special Olympics East Asia**

## Regional Athlete Leadership Training

June 2021

In June 2021, Special Olympics East Asia successfully hosted the Regional Athlete Leadership Training. Over 130 athletes, mentors and external partners attended. The training was a great opportunity to introduce the new leadership and skills curriculum developed by SOI HQ as well as to localize the content in order to better meet the needs of athletes in the East Asia Region by observing participants' responses.

The training covered the definition of Athlete Leadership, helped athletes and mentors have a better understanding of leadership, practiced skills such as communications, public speaking, adaptability skills, etc. through workshops, interactive activities, and group discussions. Unified Leadership was also a major topic where five external organizations were invited to learn about Unified Leadership. Besides promoting the adoption of Unified Leadership as life and work approaches internally, Special Olympics East Asia is also facilitating the Unified Leadership education externally.

**ATHLETE LEADERSHIP**

Who can see your viewing activity?

**Special Olympics**

# SHOWING THE WAY

Special Olympics East Asia  
Athlete Leadership Training

June 9-11, 2021

Kurtis Siu



## Regional Athlete Leadership Council

All year round

The SOEA Regional Athlete Leadership Council, formerly Regional Athlete Input Council, began to take on more roles since 2020 in addition to providing input on different subjects. The members, 9 Special Olympics athlete leaders from 6 SOEA Programs, including 7 regional messengers, 1 Global Athlete Leadership Council member and 1 Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger and their mentors expanded their leadership impact on advocacy, local and regional community engagement, knowledge sharing and so on.

Led by Chair, Won Jae Choi from SO Korea, the Council has worked closely with the Youth Digital Engagement Committee to digitize the movement and amplify its reach, to not only youths with and without intellectual disabilities but also wider audience groups. They also helped with behind-the-scenes work of Our Time to Shine - the story collection written by athlete leaders.



ISSUE 9

## OUR TIME TO SHINE

Build a work-family balanced life

AUTHOR:  
Elbegzaya Purev  
Nomin-Erdene Altantsog

MENTOR:  
Bulgan Bayarsaikhan

SPECIAL OLYMPICS MONGOLIA



## Unified Leadership

All year round



ATHLETE LEADERSHIP

### What is Unified Leadership? 什么是融合领导力

Unified Leadership is a two-way process.

It means mutual support

and learning at all times.

This makes communities inclusive

and benefits everyone.

融合领导力是一种双向过程

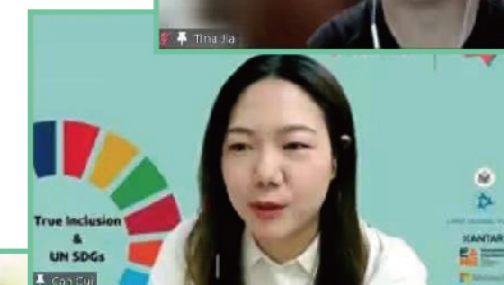
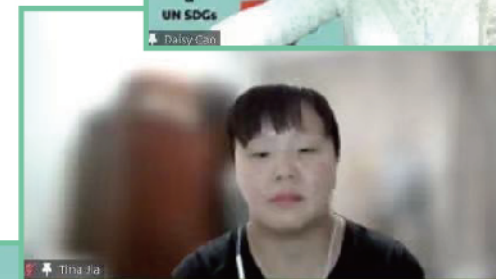
这意味着大家会

相互支持，相互学习

这将打造出更包容的社区

并造福每个人

By introducing Unified Leadership at SO East Asia Regional Youth Leadership Summit, Athlete Leadership training, Regional Leadership Council Meetings and other possible occasions of advocacy, the awareness of Unified Leadership working approach is taking shape within the workplace of the East Asia Regional office and amongst Special Olympics Programs. And a consensus is gradually reached with external NGOs and corporate partners, who are trying to create opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities and non-intellectual disabilities to work together and learn from each other through respective resource and platforms.





# Unified Schools

## SNF Play Unified Learn Unified Project

All year round



In 2021, the existing Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF) Play Unified: Learn Unified program entered its second phase. Across the Region, SO China, SO Chinese Taipei and SO Mongolia are part of this global project and have boosted their engagement with Unified Schools and increased their numbers of local partnerships.

- SO Chinses Taipei and SO Mongolia were endorsed by their local Education Departments to assist in the recruitment of Unified Schools and the implementation of Unified activities. School recruitment and educational trainings in mainland China was implemented in collaboration with the China Association of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities and their Relatives (CAPIDR) through its network of school alliances.

- The virtual trainings were held in mainland China and Mongolia to welcome and guide the new schools which were starting Unified Sports programming. SO Chinese Taipei expanded Unified Schools by utilizing a Train-the-Trainer model by conducting a series of youth leadership trainings. By the end of the year, 193 Unified Schools were recruited, 16,087 Unified partners and athletes, 54,608 youth engaged as well as 1,993 teachers and coaches trained.



## Special Olympics Unified Schools Development Guide

All year round

As one of the means to promote Unified Schools at the Program level and locally as well, to offer impetus in advancing inclusive education, the Chinese version of the Special Olympics Unified Schools Development Guide was developed by a professional editorial team convened by Special Olympics East Asia and Beijing Sport University, and then officially published by a Chinese domestic publishing house in 2021.

The Guide consists of four sections: Knowledge, Method, Strategy, and Resource, combined with the sorting and introspection of the progress of the Special Olympics Unified Schools program in the current phase, provides all schools with instrumental reference that reflects the latest developments in Special Olympics, and is based on theoretical support from the disciplines, but is also exemplary, operational and practical. With an English version being completed in 2022, the guide will provide practical reference for Unified Schools in more Regions.





## Special Olympics Unified Schools Research in China

2020 - 2021

From 2020 to 2021, as part of a global research initiative on the impact of Special Olympics Unified Schools between SOI and the American Institute of Research, China Fujian Normal University as the implementation team conducted research on 36 new Unified schools across mainland China. A total of 657 Unified partners, 578 Special Olympics athletes and 297 educators participated in the research via survey questionnaire and onsite interviews. The findings from the research show that Unified Schools program improves many aspects significantly such as attitude change, social emotional learning skills for educators, students with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities and parents, which is significant evidence of inclusive school climate being formed.



## Family & Young Athletes

### Family

All year round

Special Olympics East Asia Family Leadership e-Learning resources continued to be a major source of family education and empowerment during the pandemic by joining hands with Shanghai Youren Foundation and One Plus One Disability Foundation.

The online learning cycle lasted 5 months and was guided and managed in the form of WeChat training camps. A total of 570 learners have participated in the camps, who came from a wide range of fields and industries, including family members of people with intellectual disabilities from mainland China, Macau and Taiwan, as well as learners with visual, hearing and physical disabilities, executive staff of disability service institutions, and teachers from special schools.



During the sessions, there was no lack of exchange of ideas, debate of views and in-depth exploration of social issues between learners and lecturers. Despite of different understanding and resonance, the same harvest for all learners was that in the learning process, they constantly reflected on the past, shifted perspectives, purified their hearts, and gave more positive identity and social value interpretation to themselves and the groups with disabilities. Full and meaningful integration into society require the efforts of whole community, while the core of change is that people with disabilities can stand up for themselves, define themselves, and speak for themselves.





## Young Athletes

All year round

In the case of the pandemic's repeated fluctuations, Young Athletes programs synchronized through both online and offline means in the Region. In Mainland China, with a global partnership and support of MetLife Foundation, the families enrollment and online trainings, on-going guidance by Special Olympics East Asia Young Athletes Technical Support Team were carried out across the country. The Young Athletes Kit Backpacks were distributed to a total of 900 families of young kids with ID through 43 early childhood rehabilitation institutions and family organizations in 32 cities. This enabled children with special needs to continue to exercise in their home environment and play parent-child interactive sports games with family members.

In the meantime, December 3 to 21, 2021 Special Olympics Chinese Taipei opened up a rare opportunity for in-person meets by hosting Young Athletes Coach Training and Unified Young Athletes Games in Chiayi, Taiwan in December. More than 210 young athletes with and without ID, teachers and coaches were participating in the events. The combination of classroom- study and practical sessions not only enabled coaches and teachers to enhance their understanding of the theoretical basis of Young Athletes program, but also further experienced how to apply it to practice through interaction and drills with the young kids.



## Organizational Excellency

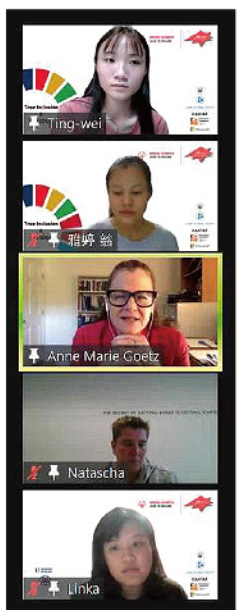
### Partnerships and Engagements with Regional and International Organizations

All year round

During the past year, SOEA exerted every effort to engage and build up relationships with regional and international organizations. Since 2020 till 2021, SOEA introduced the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals to youths with and without intellectual disabilities and supported youth initiatives around the Goals. Since then, SOEA has been working with the United Nations Development Programme in China on SDGs education, including facilitating workshops around sustainable development goals prioritized in the Special Olympics Strategic Plan. After several trainings to the youth groups as well as Program leaders, SOEA and UNDP China agreed to co-develop a disability version of the existing Movers Programme (<https://www.youthcolab.org/movers>)

In the UN system, UNICEF plays a very important role for children and youths with and without disabilities, which is well aligned with Special Olympics' mission and vision. SOEA had several conversations with UNICEF in China to explore potential collaborative opportunities, especially in the areas of Young Athletes, Unified Schools, and Inclusive Youth Leadership. SOEA also keeps in contact with UNESCO, UNRCO and UNFPA in China as well as the Youth Envoy's Office to brainstorm sustainable and meaningful partnerships to benefit individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

In terms of regional organizations, SOEA was invited to the Asia Pacific Youth Symposium organized by Asian Development Bank Youth for Asia Initiative for the second time. Athlete Leader Feifei Chen, spoke at the closing session on behalf of youths with disabilities to highlight the importance of this group's involvement and made recommendations on the ways to collaborate between individuals with and without disabilities.





## 2021 SOEA Regional Leadership Council Meeting

June 17 to June 18, 2021



The annual Special Olympics East Asia Regional Leadership Council meeting was successfully held virtually on June 17-18, 2021. The Meeting convened about 50 participants, including leaders, staff, athlete leaders and youth leaders from all six Programs, as well as speakers from Special Olympics International, Special Olympics Netherlands and UNDP.

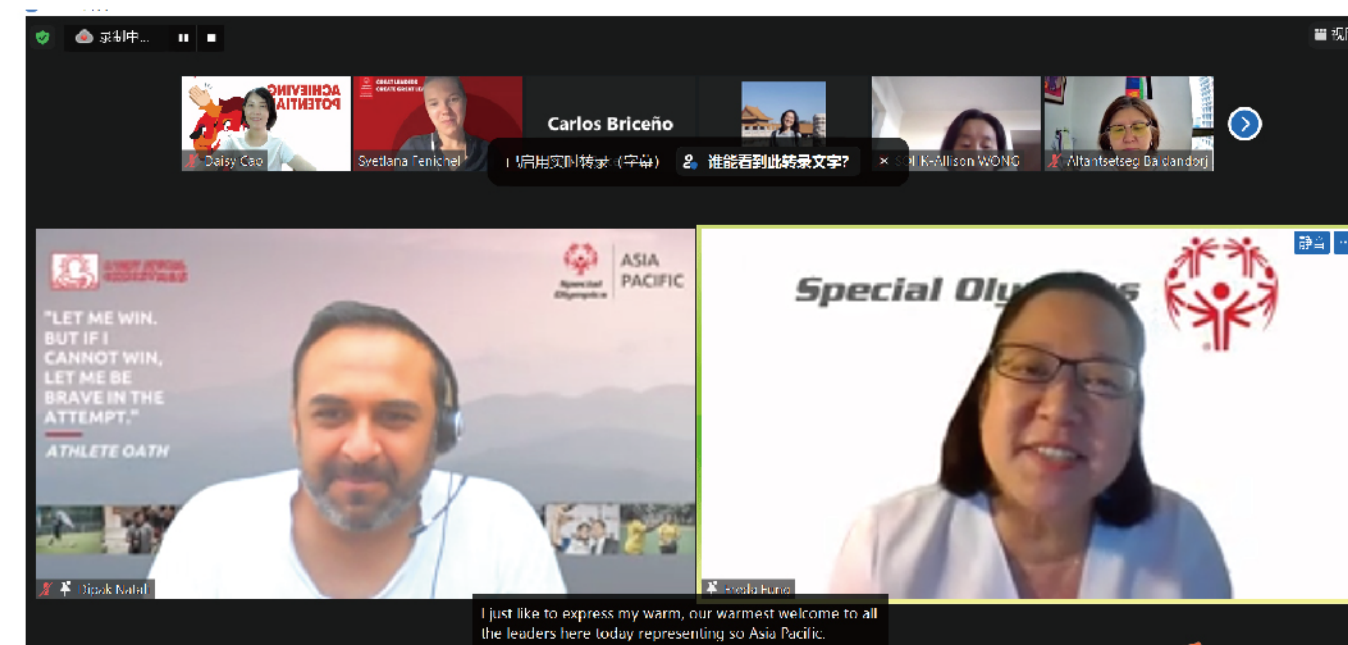
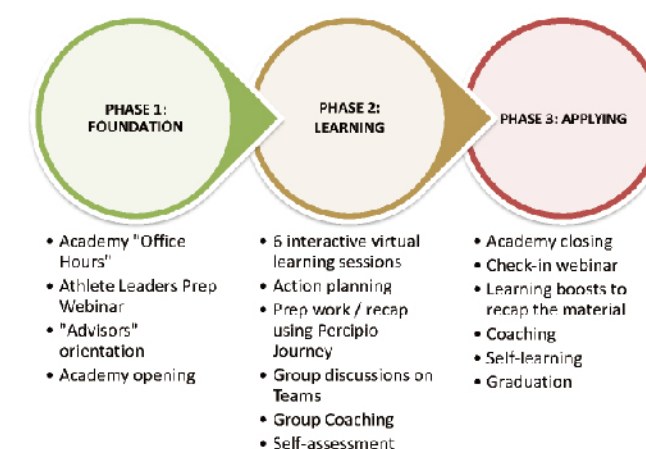
Ms. Mary Davis, CEO of SOI, thanked all SOEA Programs for their courageous and positive response to the challenges and efforts to overcome difficulties during the COVID-19 pandemic and create interaction and activity opportunities for athletes and other participants. At the same time, she encouraged all people in the region to work more closely together at this special and tough time to play our roles in helping to bring about a new, open and inclusive world after the COVID-19 pandemic, guided by the Special Olympics Strategic Plan which confirms Special Olympics' commitment to creating sustainable sports and opportunities for inclusion. Sustainability means acting in a way that achieves long-term results. For the first time, Special Olympics has emphasized in its strategic plan that it will support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Therefore, the UNDP staff was invited to deliver the training of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The group discussions were developed on how Special Olympics would support the SDGs through local efforts.

As one of the highlights of the meeting, Suzanne van den Einden-Brok, athlete leader from Special Olympics Netherlands, expressed her desire to create more training and competition opportunities for women athletes from an athlete's perspective and from her own experience in women's team soccer. In addition, all six Programs shared various important activities held in their respective territory during the past one year. Whether it was hosted virtually or physically, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, all SOEA Programs have been trying their best to create opportunities to promote emotional interaction between people, facilitate the exchange and dissemination of information, and inspire people to be creative and to change through experience. Furthermore, led by Jason Teitler, SOI Senior Vice President of Global Communications and Brand Lead, three colleagues from SOI HQ engaged in a dialogue on public relations, social media and communication opportunities to educate attendees on effective approaches to marketing and communications from a professional and innovative perspective. The last part of the meeting focused on the development of an online health education platform, advocating the opening of a new model of online health education in the new social environment, promoting the popularization of health knowledge and improving the health literacy level of the audience.

## Leadership Academy III

September to October 2021

After the Leader I and Leader II of the Leadership Academy held in Shanghai, China in 2016 and 2018 respectively, leaders from regional office and Programs at Special Olympics East Asia and Special Olympics Asia Pacific completed the joint learning of Leader III through virtual meetings in September-October 2021. Under the guidance and facilitation of the organizer and experts, 16 leaders including three Special Olympics athletes not only have learned about the cutting-edge content of leadership, but also discussed sustainable development through interactive exchanges, and created sustainable development projects through grouping team work, which will be implemented in the coming months. In addition, One-on-one coaching is offered to each trainee through the collaboration between Special Olympics and International Coach Federation, helping trainees build up their capacity and resilience to respond to challenges with growth mindsets, thus to promote effective personal and professional development and advancement.





# Improve Athlete Health

## Inclusive Health 2021



### Ongoing Prevention and Fitness

3,112 individuals and families in routine fitness exercises  
23,521 athletes, families and unified partners received health education  
Combining virtual and in person activities to reach more athletes

### Early Detection & Care Coordination

6,733 Healthy Athletes Screenings offered, over 75% received follow up care after referral  
Reducing preventable health conditions



### Training the Health Workforce

726 professionals and students trained to provide services to athletes  
Creating quality networks of care

### Transforming Health Systems

1 Healthy Community Global Leadership Award



# Raise Awareness

## NBA Cares

March 21 to 30, 2021

As a global partner of Special Olympics, NBA Cares has been providing support for charity activities from education, youth growth, family development and other aspects, bringing help and warmth to schools, communities, and vulnerable groups.

To celebrate the 10th World Down's Syndrome Day as well as the 14th World Autism Day, SOEA joined hands with NBA China to respectively hold a Special Olympics Family Day at the Shanghai NBA Play Zone, and a Special Olympics Unified Basketball Day at Shanghai KC Basketball Park. The aim was to lead our athletes to experience the fun of basketball, enrich their lives, and promote the public's attention and support for vulnerable people.

On March 21, more than 50 special Olympic families attended the Special Olympics Family Day at the Shanghai NBA Play Zone. A variety of activities immersed the children in a cheerful atmosphere while bonding them with NBA staff volunteers.

On March 30, 115 Special Olympics athletes and their unified partners from a dozen of Unified Schools throughout Shanghai were invited to the Special Olympics Unified Basketball Day at Shanghai KC Basketball Park. Various activities including icebreaker and regular basketball training, enjoyed by all the participants.





# City Football Group launched the Water Heroes Academy

March 22,2021

On March 22 World Water Day 2021, City Football Group launched the Water Heroes Academy with the support of its partner Xylem, a leading company developing innovative technology solutions to the world's water challenges. It aimed to educate and inspire young leaders to tackle water challenges in their communities using the power of football, building a network of youth water heroes!

As one of the first 5 pilot cities, Shanghai initiated the “Love Football and Treasure Water” project, aiming to deal with local water issues and engaged a dozen of young leaders from Unified schools to lead the project.



# China X Games City Tour

April 14 to June 20, 2021

From April to June, China X Games City Tour left its footprint in a total 5 of cities, including Shanghai, Xi An, Chengdu, Beijing and Shenyang in China, collaborating with local Joy City Malls. SO athletes of the 5 cities were invited to join the special skateboarding experience with XGAMES players and enjoyed watching the competitions as well.



# #Challenge Accepted

May 16, 2021

3 SO athletes joined the #ChallengeAccepted and the poster was released out on the Disabled People’s Day. One featured the Latte Art, while the other two rode unicycles as their challenge.



# SOEA Virtual Year-end Party

December 17, 2021

In 2021, challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic still continued. As most off-line activities were still very limited, our Programs were only able to conduct a very restricted number of on-ground Special Olympics activities, and health is still one of the most important topics. To thank all Special Olympics athletes and their families, volunteers, Unified partners, Special Olympics coaches, doctors, as well as active donors and enterprises, partners, Special Olympics ambassadors and friends who have always been supporting the movement, SOEA held the 2021 Virtual Year-end Party (A Very Special Christmas Party) on December 17, to bring each other closer through online communications. During the party, everyone exchanged greetings and blessings. The atmosphere was warm and harmonious, fully embodying the Special Olympics spirit of inclusion.





# Generate more Resources

## Sponsor & Donor

### Rockcheck Group

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

### Sun Future Foundation

The Foundation donated to support SOEA's strategic development mainly 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

In addition to supporting Special Olympics Unified Schools Football Training project in Beijing and Guangzhou, the group has offered a hand to Shanghai to tackle water issues through the power of football.

### Coca-Cola China

Coca-Cola is the presenting sponsor of 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 continued to help 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  
NBA China  
Shanghai Disney Resort  
Shanghai Charity Foundation  
U.S. Consulate General Shanghai  
WWE  
Huili School Shanghai

Li Na  
Li Ning  
Li Ping  
Li Ruigang  
Li Xiaopeng  
Liao Mei  
Ran Yingying  
Robert Shi  
Shi Derong  
Wang Yihan  
Yang Lan  
Yang Shiyuan  
Yao Ming  
Zhang Jun  
Zhang Junting  
Zhou Xun  
Zou Shimin



# Letter from RLC Chairperson



**Sujing Zhao**

Chairperson,  
Special Olympics East Asia  
Regional Leadership Council

Dear Special Olympics Fans,

On behalf of Special Olympics East Asia Regional Leadership Council, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to your support and dedication to Special Olympics development in East Asia region in 2021. 2021 is the first year of our 2021-2024 four-year Strategic Plan phase. While the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect many aspects of our lives and work, the Special Olympics East Asia Regional Office and our six Programs in the region remain positive in their efforts to create the conditions for the implementation of the strategic plan. You will see in the present report all the progress and achievements made in the past one year as a result.

Credits should also be given to all the advisors, board members, staff and volunteers for the efforts they have made in 2021, creating opportunities for the people with intellectual and developmental disabilities being understood, included and treated equally.

Let us continue to work together towards a healthy and inclusive society for all.

Thank you again!  
Sincerely yours,

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