



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 suggestions or questions, please feel free to reach us at

soea@specialolympics.org

2022 EAST ASIA ANNUAL REPORT





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

Hello everyone,

I am Sin Ieng Sou from Macau. I specialize in painting, and while I pursue my passion, I also work part-time as a waiter at a restaurant in Studio City, Macau. My job has taught me valuable interpersonal and communication skills that have helped me in every aspect of my life. However, what I am prouder of is to be a part of the Special Olympics community. I am writing to share with you my incredible journey and to inspire you to join us in our mission to create a world of inclusion, acceptance, and respect for everyone.

Special Olympics has been like a second home to me, providing me with numerous opportunities to participate in various activities. I recently took part in the inclusive badminton competition and was thrilled to win first place. It was an unforgettable moment for me, and it has taught me that with determination and hard work, we can overcome any obstacle.

More importantly, as a Special Olympics athlete leader, I have had the privilege of being a part of the Athlete Leadership Council in Special Olympics Macau. As a team member, I have been working with young leaders with and without intellectual disabilities to raise awareness about disability and inclusion in our community.

My journey has taken me beyond Macau, and I am now a member of the Special Olympics East Asia Athlete Leadership Council. In this role, I have had the opportunity to lead a Youth Innovation project and take on responsibilities at the Regional Youth Leadership Summit and Athlete Leadership Training. These experiences have helped me develop my leadership skills, and I have learned to work collaboratively with others towards a common goal.

In 2023, I will have the incredible opportunity to represent my fellow athletes in East Asia at the Global Athlete Leadership Congress in Berlin. I will share with others the achievements that we, the athletes, and our organization have accomplished in the past years and inspire others to join us in our mission.

Being a part of Special Olympics has taught me that we all have the potential to achieve greatness, regardless of our abilities. Special Olympics has provided me with a supportive community that has helped me develop my skills and become a better person. I invite you to join us in this journey of empowerment, inclusion, and acceptance.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I hope it has inspired you to become a part of the Special Olympics community.

Sincerely,
Sin Ieng Sou



MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

Dear Friends:

2022 started off as another challenging year with COVID continuing to threaten our SO East Asia Programs. However, fortunately Programs started to slowly open up in the second half of the year and conducted limited return to activities, mainly at the local level. In the meantime, we continued to engage and train coaches via on-line Coach Workshops for popular sports such as football and badminton. We also encouraged Programs to extend Fitness and health education virtually to reach more athletes and families at community levels.

In order to actively promote the wider adoption of Unified Leadership in the region, we established a Unified Leadership Task Force led by Special Olympics athlete and rotated our athlete leader staff across departments in the East Asia Office, collaborating with other colleagues to lead the implementation of work assignments and projects. We believe that adopting Unified Leadership approach requires educating and influencing employees firstly within our own organization, turning theory into action. Then, with the regional office as a model, we gradually promote the adoption of Unified Leadership to Programs and to external corporations, organizations and other entities, to expand the practice and yield results of Unified Leadership to affect the wider community.

During the pandemic, our Healthy Athletes efforts were shifted to encourage Programs to extend Fitness and health education virtually to reach more athletes and families at the community to continuously encourage athletes to stay fit and well.

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 are looking forward to a full recovery from COVID in 2023, fully returning to activities and working with you to continue making this world one of more acceptance and inclusion.



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

Thank you and sincerely,

REGIONAL GROWTH

ATHLETES

Regional Reach in 2022

1,407,937

Regional Reach in 2021

1,396,626

Regional Reach in 2020

1,382,693



COACHES

Regional Reach in 2022

88,472

Regional Reach in 2021

87,613

Regional Reach in 2020

76,301



VOLUNTEERS

Regional Reach in 2022

57,730

Regional Reach in 2021

57,748

Regional Reach in 2020

58,323



COMPETITIONS

Regional Reach in 2022

7,690

Regional Reach in 2021

7,610

Regional Reach in 2020

7,558



FACT AND FIGURES OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS 2022

Despite the continuous impact of COVID-19, Special Olympics continued to grow and expand in various aspects in 2022, including but not limited to increased number of athletes, competitions, and Unified Schools. These achievements demonstrate the organization's resilience and commitment to promoting inclusion and providing opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities.



SPORTS



3,914,758

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS
ATHLETES & UNIFIED PARTNERS

2021-2022 CHANGE +5% ↑

ATHLETES

3,332,038 +10% ↑

PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES (ID)

ATHLETE GENDER
43% FEMALE 48% MALE 9% OTHER

UNIFIED SPORTS

UNIFIED ATHLETES
(PEOPLE WITH ID)

569,580

2021-2022 CHANGE +8% ↑

UNIFIED PARTNERS
(PEOPLE WITHOUT ID)

582,720

2021-2022 CHANGE -0.5% ↓

MATP MOTOR ACTIVITY
TRAINING PROGRAM 50,188 +7% ↑

COMPETITIONS



46,028

2021-2022 CHANGE +56% ↑

UNIFIED
15,949

2021-2022 CHANGE +81% ↑

COACHES

330,898

2021-2022 CHANGE +13% ↑

COACH GENDER
46% FEMALE 52% MALE 2% OTHER

CERTIFIED 201,610

2021-2022 CHANGE +11% ↑

CERTIFIED COACH TO
ATHLETE RATIO 1:17

SPORTS
PARTNERSHIPS

1,134

2021-2022 CHANGE +8% ↑

GLOBAL FOOTPRINT

NATIONAL & STATE PROGRAMS

220 2021-2022 CHANGE -12% ↓

COUNTRIES & JURISDICTIONS

169 2021-2022 CHANGE -16% ↓

LOCAL CLUBS / LOCAL PROGRAMS

22,123 2021-2022 CHANGE +12% ↑

LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY



ATHLETE LEADERS

45,226

REGISTERED
FAMILY MEMBERS

539,071 +2% ↑



VOLUNTEERS

672,114

2021-2022 CHANGE +31% ↑

PROGRAMS WITH
PAID LEADERSHIP

151 +2% ↑

NUMBER OF PAID
STAFF WITH ID

235 +16% ↑

HEALTH



ATHLETES
PARTICIPATING
IN FITNESS

395,353

2021-2022 CHANGE -13% ↓

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

132 +36% ↑

HEALTHY ATHLETES
SCREENINGS

41,666

2021-2022 CHANGE +125% ↑

HEALTH CARE
WORKERS TRAINED

37,824 +80% ↑

YOUNG ATHLETES



228,835

2021-2022 CHANGE +25% ↑

EDUCATION & YOUTH



UNIFIED
SCHOOLS

18,350

2021-2022 CHANGE +27% ↑

UNIFIED CHAMPION
SCHOOLS

10,484

2021-2022 CHANGE +44% ↑

YOUTH
LEADERS

93,053

2021-2022 CHANGE +23% ↑

GLOBAL FOOTPRINT



NATIONAL & STATE PROGRAMS

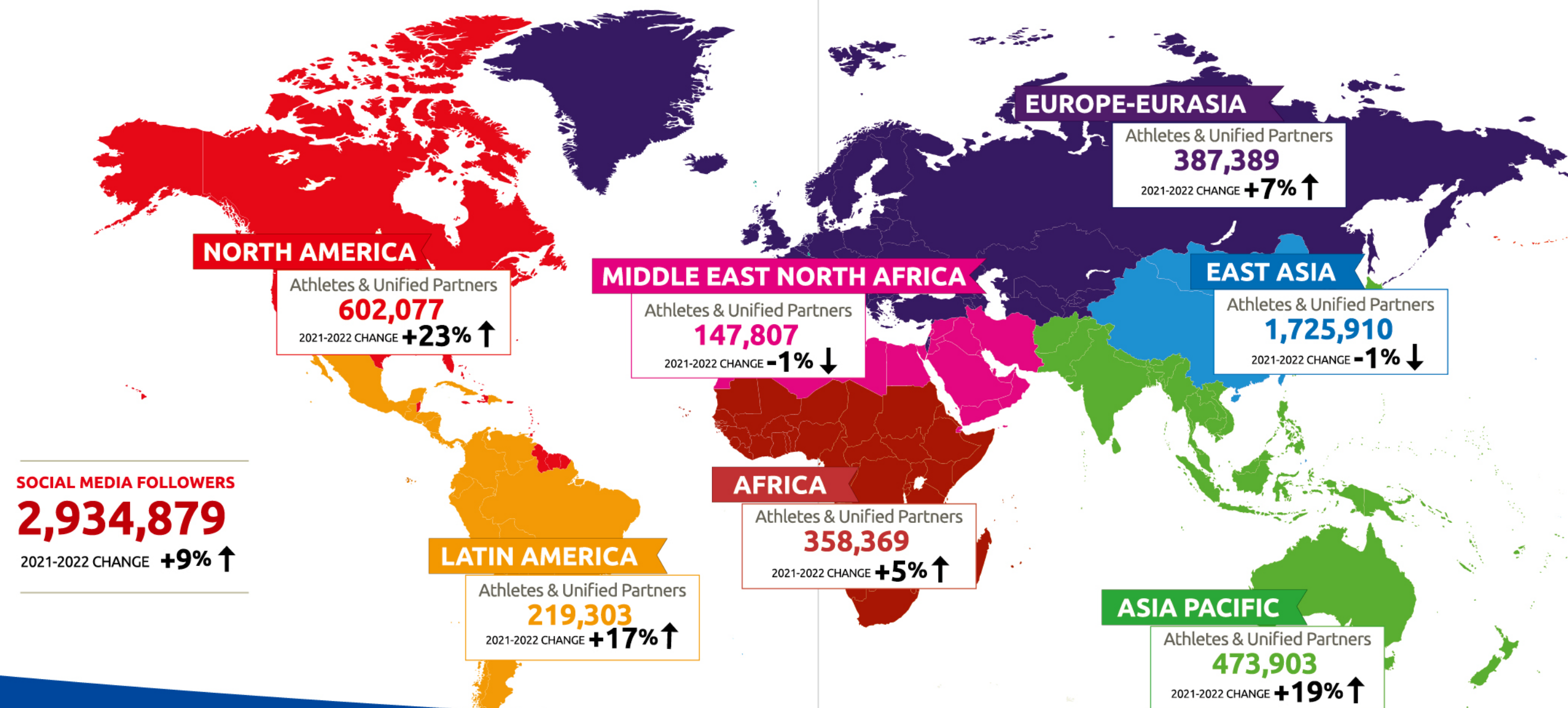
220 2021-2022 CHANGE **-12% ↓**

COUNTRIES & JURISDICTIONS

169 2021-2022 CHANGE **-16% ↓**

LOCAL CLUBS / LOCAL PROGRAM

22,123 2021-2022 CHANGE **+12% ↑**



SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS

2,934,879 2021-2022 CHANGE **+9% ↑**

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): is 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.

www.SpecialOlympics.org

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



Diversify
Revenue

Build The
Brand

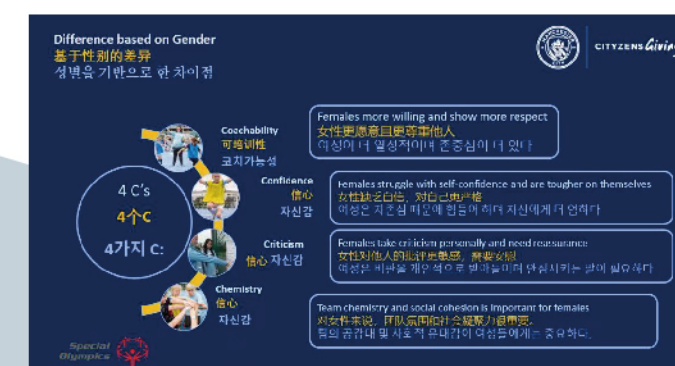
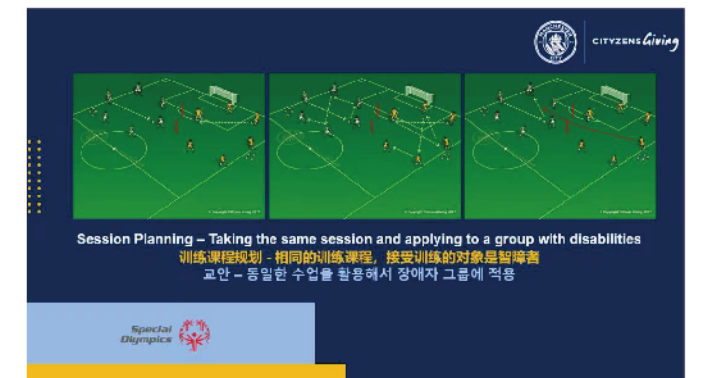
Drive
Excellence

IMPROVE SPORT QUALITY

2022 Special Olympics East Asia Virtual Football Coaches Workshop

April 2022

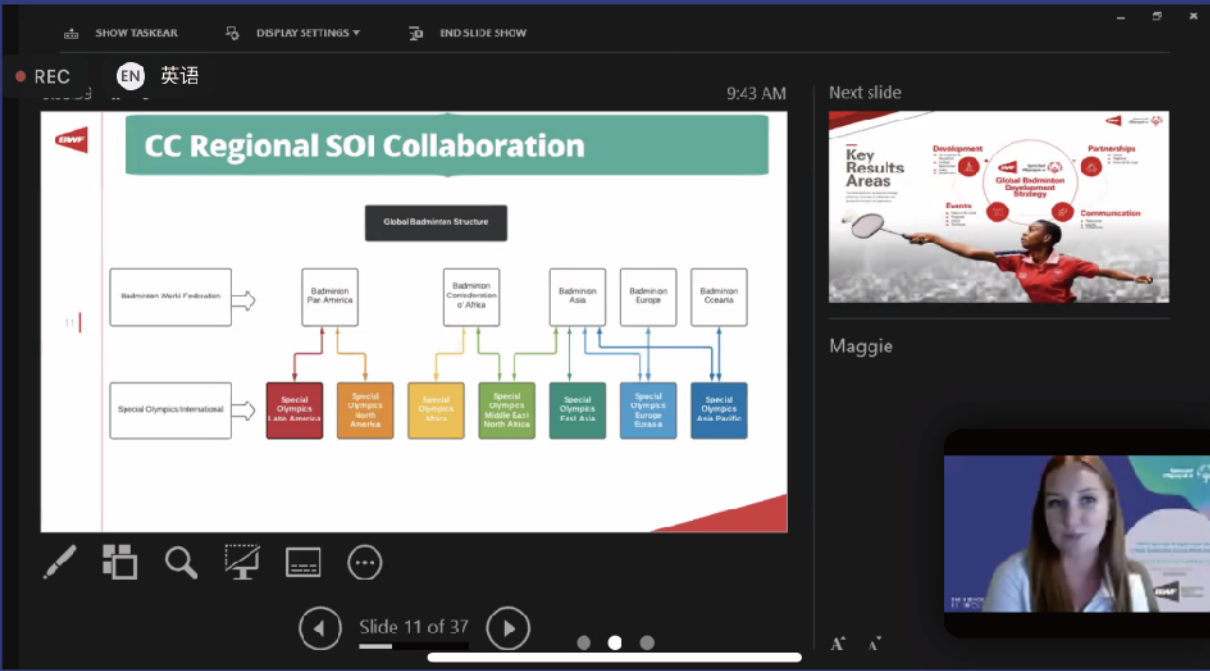
The Special Olympics 2022 East Asia Virtual Football Coaching Workshop was successfully held over 5 days, from April 19-20 and 26-28. Due to the pandemic situation, the workshop was held online to ensure the safety of all participants. Lecturers from one of the world's top soccer club - Manchester City Football Club, also a partner of SOEA Unified Schools Football Training program, were invited. The course included Safety & Fun, Social Impact, Coaching Skills, Coaching Stories and Female Football Engagement, and etc. Participants came from Special Olympics China (SOC), Special Olympics Chinese Taipei (SOCT), Special Olympics Hong Kong (SOHK), Special Olympics Korea (SOK), Special Olympics Macau (SOM), Special Olympics Mongolia (SOMGL), Special Olympics East Asia Unified Schools and other sports associations with a total of 1,059 participants. At the workshop, participants shared notes with each other and took photos while listening to the lecture. After the workshop, we received much feedback that the course was very practical and applicable.



Special Olympics East Asia Badminton Coaches Virtual Workshop

July 2022

The Special Olympics East Asia Badminton Coaches Virtual Workshop was successfully held on July 26-27. The two-day course attracted nearly 300 badminton coaches from various programs in Special Olympics East Asia to participate. The workshop featured professional lecturers, including John Shearer, Erica Khoo, Kaitlyn Hall from the Badminton World Federation (BWF), Special Olympics Developmental Sports Manager Maggie Brennan, as well as Badminton World Champion and brand supporter WANG Yihan as the guest lecturer. Through two days of virtual training with BWF, the coaches learned a great deal of badminton expertise and how to teach Special Olympics badminton athletes. In the future, Special Olympics East Asia will collaborate with BWF to create technical assistance for tournaments and other angles in addition to coach training. In the meantime, we look forward to seeing you all in person soon to experience the unification and joy of badminton and sports together!



2023 Special Olympics East Asia Motor Activity Training Program (MATP)

All year round



Special Olympics East Asia Motor Activity Training Program (MATP) coach workshop was held on May 24-26. The workshop attracted more than 200 coaches around China and mainly enhanced the professional knowledge and ability of special education teachers in the motor activity training of individuals with moderate, severe, and extremely severe physical and mental disabilities and multiple disabilities.

Meanwhile, Special Olympics East Asia Motor Activity Training Program was further developed at Fuzhou Kaizhi School and Chengdu Qingyang Special School in 2022. Daily training and practice were carried out throughout the year under the guidance of professors from Fujian Normal University. The MATP program cultivated the ability of curriculum design in these areas and integrated rehabilitation training to strengthen physical and mental disabilities, in order to exercise and develop specialties. A total of 57 daily trainings and 9 MATP events were delivered to 2,068 people in Fuzhou, while 48 daily trainings and 1 MATP event for 658 people that were held in Chengdu.



Unified Schools 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 players training, and group training. Although the training was suspended for a period of time during the pandemic, daily training was carried out as long as conditions allowed. A unified football competition was supposed to be scheduled at the end of the year, however, it was rescheduled to 2023 due to the pandemic. On the premises of meeting local epidemic prevention requirements, the program has benefited about 1800 Special Olympics athletes and Unified partners, 760 families, 435 communities, and 400 volunteers.



LEADERSHIP EMPOWERMENT

Youth Leadership Summits

October 2022

Over the course of four evenings, more than 280 participants, including individuals with and without intellectual disabilities from SO China, SO Chinese Taipei, SO Hong Kong, SO Korea, SO Macau, and SO Mongolia, took part in the Special Olympics East Asia Regional Youth Leadership Summit.

In addition to Special Olympics' sponsors and staff, the Summit received support from several partnering organizations and individuals, including the UN Resident Coordinator Office in China, UNICEF China, UNFPA Asia Pacific, UNDP Asia Pacific, One Plus One Disability Group, SOEA Regional Ambassador and Snowboarding Olympic Champion SU Yiming, Dr. Michelle Yin from Northwestern University, and Dr. CUI Fengming from Harvard University.

Throughout the Summit's presentations, panel discussions, and breakout groups, attendees explored topics such as Inclusive Youth Leadership, Gender Equality and Safeguarding, Quality Education, and Special Olympics in the post-COVID Era, as well as Growing Networks.

Besides the Regional Summit, SO Mongolia and SO Korea also hosted their respective National Youth Leadership Summit where Youth Leaders with and without intellectual disabilities learned about and discussed Inclusive Youth Leadership, Unified Leadership, Project Management, etc., and secured new partnerships with external stakeholders, including governments, sports federations, other OPDs, and enterprises.



Youth Innovation Project

All year round



In the East Asia Region, 11 Youth Innovation Projects have been initiated and implemented in 2022, covering a range of focuses including technology, Unified Sports, Advocacy/Community Engagement, Arts and Creativity, and Health and Fitness.

The Scaling Project led by Youth Leaders from SO China and SO Macau put an emphasis on how new media helped break the stigma. Interviews were conducted in Macau and Shanghai, which contributed to the data collection and analysis to

raise awareness for people with IDD. Interviewees included pedestrians, SO athletes, family members, educators, and volunteers.

Through the regular innovation projects and the scaling project, Youth Leaders are taking the lead in driving social changes in their local communities. The results are also valuable for SOEA to explore possibilities to empower young people with and without IDD to use their innovation, leadership, and entrepreneurship skills to bridge disability rights with other local and global dialogues for development.

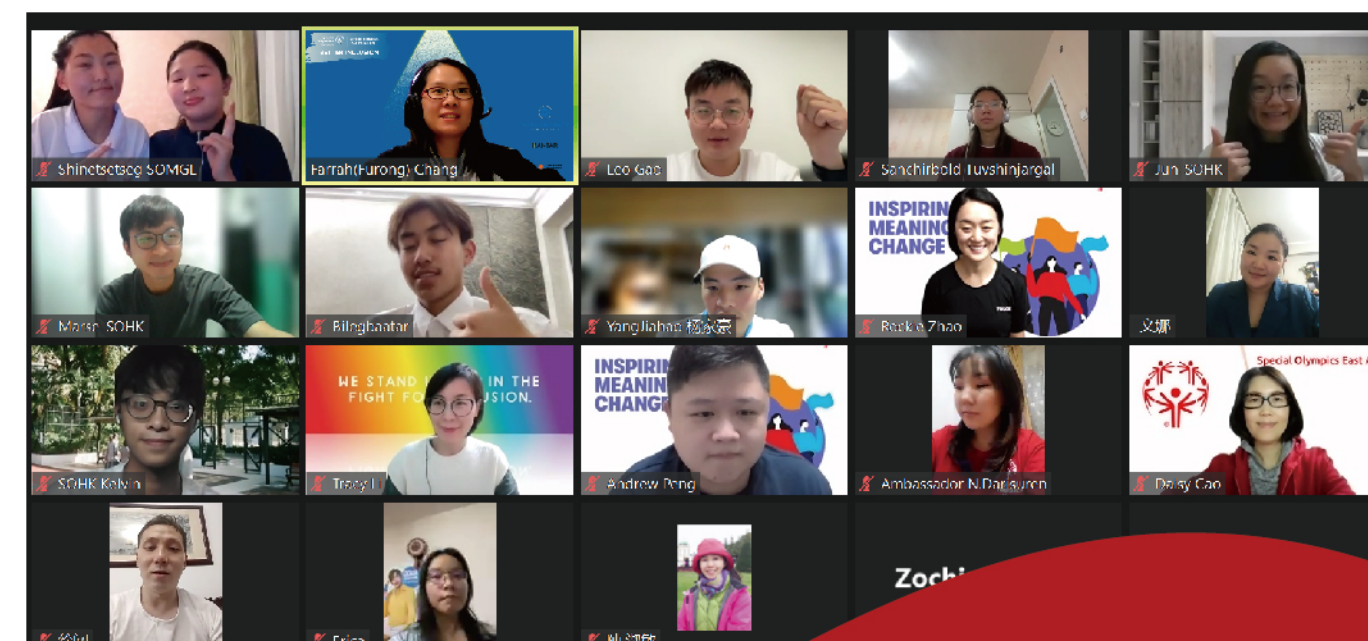
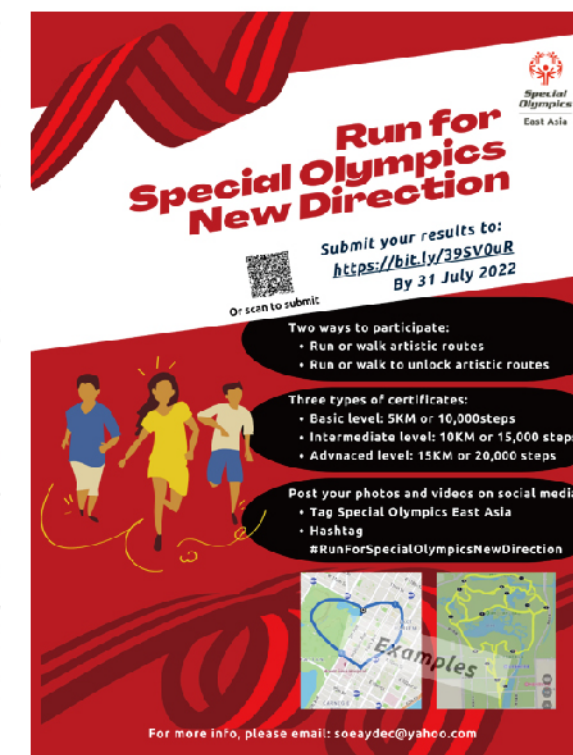


SOEA Youth Digital Engagement Committee

All year round

Despite having to rely on online tools for the third year in a row, the YDEC remained committed to engaging young people with and without intellectual disabilities. They led three successful activations, including Run for Special Olympics' New Direction, Special Gallery, and Light up For Children's Future. These events attracted about 2,000 participants and generated thousands of views on social media. The Run for Special Olympics' New Direction was even recommended by the China's Disabled Persons' Federation (CDPF) to provincial and municipal branches as part of their local celebration for China's National Special Olympics Day.

In addition to these major events, SOEA is partnering with local youth organizations like the Conarium Research Institute to provide learning and volunteer opportunities for university students. This marks a new attempt and exploration, that is by joining hands with youth organizations, both Special Olympics and the youth community achieve a two-way engagement. Not only enhancing the students' vision and their understanding of leadership but also helping spread the message of inclusion with Special Olympics.





Athlete Leadership

All year round

In 2022, SOEA organized a virtual Athlete Leadership Training that engaged more than 90 Special Olympics athletes and their mentors, both with and without IDD. This year's advanced training series was built upon the previous year's training and covered topics such as safeguarding, emotions, leading discussions, and storytelling. Special thanks were extended to Dora Giusti, Chief of Child Protection at UNICEF China, Christo Velkov from Special Olympics Europe Eurasia, and XIE Yan from One Plus One Disability Group for their support.

Additionally, the Regional Athlete Leadership Council met quarterly to share updates from their respective programs and to provide input on topics, such as leadership roles, engagement of more athletes as leaders and advocates for inclusion, and Health Messengers.

To showcase the storytelling component of athlete leadership and make the voice of athletes heard, we continued publishing our story column, Our Time to Shine. As of the end of 2022, 23 stories have been published across our social channels.

Unified Leadership

All year round

Unified Leadership has been implemented throughout all six SOEA Programs in the region since its global rollout. In 2022, the regional office took further steps to embed Unified Leadership in regional events and launched a pilot experience led by JIA Tina, a staff member with IDD. Tina rotated through various departments, including Organizational Development, Sports, Health, and Marketing & Development, to co-plan, co-lead, and gain hands-on working experience alongside her primary responsibilities in the Admin team. This provided the athlete staff with the opportunity to learn about other departments' work and provided valuable feedback on how to meaningfully engage more athletes as core drivers of all SOEA actions. Everyone engaged in this project reflected that it was a mutual learning process and by working together we explored the sustainability and expansion of the Unified Leadership approach.



UNIFIED SCHOOLS

SNF Play Unified Learn Unified Project

All year round



2022 entered its year of second phase activation for Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF) Play Unified Learn Unified program. Throughout the year, the SNF funding enabled the expansion of the network of inclusion to 217 Unified Schools in SO China, SO Chinese Taipei and SO Mongolia. Up to 25,800 students of all abilities engaged in Play Unified: Learn Unified program through Unified physical education courses, Unified Sports workshops, Interschool Unified events, Youth Leadership Summit, youth-led projects and many other Unified programming.

Special Olympics China continued to take advantage of the Virtual Unified Schools Training as a means of education and motivation, which served as a warm-up and prelude to at least 13 large-scale Unified events at the campus to be organized across the country.

More than 30 news outlets covered the events in helping spread the message about inclusion and unity.

Special Olympics Chinese Taipei never stopped exploring the creative approach of piloting Unified Schools. In 2022, each of their Unified Schools conducted an eight-week-long Unified physical education courses and brought together students with and without ID in both sports and arts activities, in this way building a regular and lasting interaction amongst schools meanwhile cultivating the commitment of students and teachers.

Special Olympics Mongolia focused on the next generation of inclusion advocates at its national Youth Leadership Summit and Mini Forum. In order to promote Special Olympics World Games sports, the first-ever Unified Volleyball Tournament was held in December in Ulaanbaatar within the SNF Unified Schools project.



Unified Schools Leadership Forum

All year round

The Special Olympics East Asia Unified Schools Leadership Forum was successfully held on October 14, 2022. The first online Regional Unified Schools Leadership Forum was held after the in-person Forum was suspended for two years due to COVID-19. 280+ Unified Schools leaders, Youth Leaders, staff and honored guests from SO China, SO Chinese Taipei, SO Hong Kong, SO Korea, SO Macau and SO Mongolia attended the Forum.

Besides Special Olympics' sponsors and staff, the Forum also gained support from various partner organizations and individuals, including the UN system, the United States Consulate General Shanghai, and organizations for people with disabilities, etc. as well as scholars from universities with prestigious international reputation.

Through presentations and panel discussions, the Forum condensed topics ranging from a global overview and impact of Unified Schools, local practices sharing, to Gender Equality and Safeguarding, Reasonable Accommodation and Accessibility that were closely relevant to all the young people and educators.



Education Life With Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

- Half of the 65 million children out of school have disabilities
- More than 85% of disabled primary-age children who are out of school have never attended school
- Less than 5% complete school
- Only 40% of low- and middle-income countries allocate funds



Special Olympics East Asia
Unified Schools Leadership Forum

Jackie Jodl



2022 Special Olympics East Asia Unified Schools Leadership Forum

特殊奥林匹克东亚
融合学校领导论坛



Special Olympics East Asia
Unified Schools Leadership Forum

Freda Fung



FAMILY YOUNG ATHLETES



Family Leadership Training Resource

All year round

Our Family Leadership Online Training Camps continued into its second year. The camps lasted 5 months and were designed for the beginners who are family members of people with intellectual disabilities, to learn about the Special Olympics movement and UN CRPD. And it also left the door wide open to other disability groups and their families as well as people devoted to disability equality and social inclusion. 538 campers signed up and 367 completed the online learning course and were awarded with certificates.



As part of the learning resource paralleled to Beginner Family Leadership Training Course being carried out, two new modules for Advanced Family Leadership Training were firstly rolled out through a series of online workshops in December 2022. The newly developed modules focused on Understanding disabilities, and Awareness and Inclusion. 25 family leaders from SO China, SO Chinese Taipei and SO Macau participated in the training. Through 8 sessions of 15 hours of collective learning and after-class practicing, family leaders gained a

deeper understanding on leadership and the linkage between disability and inclusion. The knowledge and skills learning as well as engagement in co-creating the course content boosted the process of witnessing themselves to the role transition from a family member to an "ambassador to teach inclusion".

Unlock More Leadership Roles

All year round

The Family Leadership Webinar with the theme "Empowering Families to Build Inclusive and Healthy Community" was held on May 16-17, 2022. The event was designed in response to family members' desire to learn more about Special Olympics, thus enabling them to take on more diverse and meaningful roles to promote the movement. In addition to getting to know Special Olympics official sports events, Unified Sports, and Health and Fitness programs, the principles of organizing community-based activities and case studies on roles that families could assume as leaders gave a more instrumental guidance for families to put them into practice.

YOUNG ATHLETES

All year round

By welcoming children with intellectual disabilities and their families and people from the community to the world of Special Olympics, the Young Athletes program is always a good entry point for all to celebrate fun and inclusion together. Throughout the year, Young Athletes continued its impact throughout East Asia in various aspects.

Community outreach – 500 new young athletes and families from 10 mainland China sites were enrolled in Young Athletes at schools and community-based early childhood development centers. With the support of our Young Athletes Technical Support Team, the structured frame of YA curriculums and implementation was built up to support the grassroots organizations in carrying out sustainable activities.

SO Mongolia held a 16-week Young Athletes training with a focus on tennis, which was carried out outdoors by engaging 10-12 young athletes every week. On top of that, Young Athletes brought about vitality and hope to families in the countryside of Eastern and Southern regions in Mongolia with the trainings and demonstration activities being initiated.



Play and fun – By hosting a unique ‘Unified Young Athletes Games’, SO Chinese Taipei offered an opportunity to kids, both with and without ID, to experience joy and build feelings of connection through playing sports. The Games was held in Chiayi and attracted up to 188 young athletes and teachers from both special and regular pre-schools. Young Athletes passed through 8 activity booths in turns and completed all challenges successfully.



YA Coach Cultivation – To support local implementation of Young Athletes, the Professional Leaders for Children with Developmental Disabilities Seminars were held nationwide, which are based on the ‘Children’s Physical Education Program Manual’ developed by Special Olympics Korea. These efforts enabled Young Athletes programming to be provided in the sports clubs across the nation.



ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Partnerships and Engagements with Regional and International Organizations UN Partnerships

All year round

In 2022, SOEA leveraged the partnerships with several UN agencies to advance our shared goal of promoting inclusion and disability rights. Specifically, we collaborated with the UN Resident Coordinator Office in China (RCO), UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, and UNESCO on various successful initiatives and events.

UNRCO

Mr. Siddharth Chatterjee, the UN Resident Coordinator in China, has been instrumental in supporting our mission. His opening remark at the Regional Virtual Unified Schools Leadership Forum and Youth Leadership Summit inspired all participants and reaffirmed the UN's commitment to our cause. As a leader in the UN's efforts to promote inclusion, Mr. Chatterjee's articulation has been invaluable to our work.



UNICEF



In collaboration with UNICEF China, we have taken several actions to advance our shared mission of promoting inclusion. Ms. Dora Giusti, Chief of Child Protection, and Mr. Sanaullah Panezai, Chief of Education, provided crucial support and guidance to their teams to engage, attend, and co-lead several successful events. Ms. Giusti joined the virtual Youth Leadership Summit as a panelist, where she shared UNICEF China's efforts to promote gender equality and safeguard children's rights.

Meanwhile, Mr. Panezai gave remarks at the Unified Schools Leadership Forum, highlighting how UNICEF's work closely aligned with SOEA's actions on inclusive education. Together with the Beijing Fire and Rescue Bureau and Shanghai Haichang Ocean Park, we co-hosted two one-day Unified events respectively in Beijing and Shanghai to celebrate World Children's Day, supporting the UNICEF global activation themed "Inclusion, For Every Child", with one of the events sponsored by Lions Clubs International. Lions Clubs' volunteers provided the support to the event in Beijing as well. SOEA athletes were also invited to and engaged in some other UNICEF's World Children's Day serial celebration activities with livestreaming that attracted millions of views.



UNDP



Building off the successful collaboration between SOEA and UNDP in 2021, 2022 was a year that we leveraged the relationship and paved the way for more possibilities. Two of the Movers Disability-Friendly Version modules on the SDGs were finalized, including Intros to the SDGs and SDG 4 – Quality Education. The modules were reviewed and piloted by youths with and without IDD, educators, disability experts, Program staff, external partners and staff from UNDP. Once it was completed, representatives from UNDP and SOEA co-represented it at the

Regional Youth Leadership Summit by facilitating a session on Quality Education and Lifelong Learning in the context of the SDGs and Special Olympics. UNDP was also invited by SOEA to the virtual Global Youth Leadership Summit to present on the SDGs and engaged 1,500+ participants with and without IDD during the session.

UNFPA

We maintain close communication with the UNFPA Asia Pacific Regional Hub Office and have been exploring common interests and concrete actions for disability awareness. This year in 2022, a UNFPA staff member was invited to be on a panel on Gender Equality and introduced the importance of Comprehensive Sexuality Education for people with disabilities. Additionally, our teams in Mongolia held both virtual and on-site meetings to discuss potential joint work in the country. We plan to continue these conversations at both the national and regional levels, including China and Mongolia, throughout this year.



UNESCO



On August 26, 2022, Ms. Freda M. Fung, Regional President and Managing Director of Special Olympics East Asia (SOEA), visited Professor Shahbaz Khan, Director of UNESCO Beijing Cluster Office and UNESCO Representative to China, DPRK, Japan, Mongolia, and ROK. They discussed cooperation on promoting disability inclusion amongst children and youth in China and explored future collaboration opportunities. Prof. Khan emphasized the importance of inclusive education, comprehensive sexuality education (CSE), and invited SOEA to join forces with the UN in various future opportunities to advocate for and advance the rights of persons with disabilities in China and beyond.

2022 SOEA Regional Leadership Council Meeting

All year round

Delegation Relationship Coordinators

Delegation Relationship Coordinator concept will be introduced starting from September 2022

- Serves as the primary point of communication between the LOC and the Delegations
- Also responsible for 15 to 30 Delegations
- Speaks the official SO language of the Delegation, to help overcome language barriers with Delegations
- Possess multicultural understanding or are familiar with their assigned region and culture
- Work closely with the relevant Delegation & Regional Staff



On June 13, 2022, the first meeting of the year for our SOEA Regional Leadership Council (RLC) was successfully held online. Sustaining and improving the quality of sports training and events was the primary topic of the meeting. The meeting also emphasized utility of PQS and relevant tools became a requirement for Program Accreditation and would

effectively support the development and growth of Programs. Besides, it was stressed that as an NGO, the it is important to the best relationship with governments, and one of win-win cooperation. The organization should respect the norms of the government as well as understand its operational rules and characteristics. Communication is an important means for us to maintain friendly, harmonious and collaborative development with the government.

Representatives of the six Programs shared their efforts to bring athletes, coaches, and volunteers back to training, competitions and other activities after the COVID pandemic. Safeguarding was brought up as one of the important topics that reminded each Programs to self-review and improve their charter and regulations to increase awareness and efforts on avoiding bullying anywhere within Special Olympics. In all circumstances, we must insist on accountability to ensure that we provide a safe and healthy environment for all participants. Last but not least, the colleagues from the Berlin World Summer Games Organizing Committee shared their views on the preparations for the 2023 Berlin Games.

The second virtual SOEA Regional Leadership Council meeting was hosted on December 19, 2022. The meeting brought together over 30 attendees from all six SOEA Programs as well as Regional Office staff and featured the Special Olympics General Rules amendments facilitated by Ms. Arnedia Wallace, Staff Attorney from Special Olympics International Legal Department. Special Olympics is governed by General Rules which provide the rules and guidelines for all our activities and bind us to our purpose, mission, and goals. The SOI Legal Team and General Rules Advisory Committee have been working diligently since 2019 to collect proposals for revisions and amendments to the General Rules. The Regional Leadership Council meeting came at the right time to inform our Programs of the amendments on the General Rules which were about to be officially released and rolled out across the region. In addition, with the unanimous agreement of all SOEA Programs, the position of "Senior Adviser" was newly created in the Council, so as to promote the Council working towards more diverse and closer communication.



IMPROVE ATHLETE HEALTH

Inclusive Health 2022



Ongoing Prevention and Fitness

3,712 family members and caregivers received health education

38 athletes received the Health Messenger training.

221 athletes participated in the constrictive fitness program.

Early Detection & Care Coordination

3,623 screenings offered, **90%** of urgent referrals addressed, and **100%** of non-urgent referrals engaged in SO programs or follow-up care.



Training the Health Workforce

177 students and 65 medical professionals received training during HA events.

Transforming Health Systems

1 Healthy Community Global Leadership Award (SO Macau)



RAISE AWARENESS

The Everlasting Pulse of City Art Exhibition

To support the development of the Special Olympics and showcase the painting talents as well as the optimistic and tenacious spirit of SO athletes, Hang Lung Development Corp. specially held a painting competition from May to July with the theme of "Everlasting Pulse of City" during the exclusive season for its members to call for more understanding and care for the groups with intellectual disabilities. Hundreds of entries were received from special education schools throughout the SOEA Unified Schools network in Mainland China. 120 artworks were selected and exhibited in Hang Lung Plazas in Shenyang, Kunming, Dalian, and Tianjin. They inspired customers with their creativity and beauty.



Partnership with NBA Cares



NBA Cares joined hands with Special Olympics to hold a basketball uniform design contest from June 24 to July 20. Excellent paintings from SO athletes in more than 20 provinces and cities were collected in the contest, which made their debut during the Chengdu Charity Week. By integrating art creation into sports and being accessible to everyone, more people with intellectual disabilities enjoyed the pleasure, strengthened physical fitness and exercised will in physical exercise and art creation.

Thanks to NBA Cares for the ongoing support and empowering more people to get a close-up look at the artwork created by special children.

Special Olympics East Asia Announced New Regional Ambassador

Chinese snowboarder SU Yiming was named Special Olympics East Asia Regional Ambassador on August 13 at a press conference held at Joya Hotel in Shanghai. Both parties committed to working together to promote the development of the Special Olympics movement and create an inclusive, equal, and respectful community for people with intellectual disabilities.

LI Na, two-time Grand Slam champion Chinese tennis star and Special Olympics Global Ambassador, remarked, "I am glad to be here today to witness SU Yiming becoming an ambassador of Special Olympics East Asia. Let's carry the torch of eternal hope for Special Olympics and create a better and more inclusive world."



Frisbee Challenge Event



The first frisbee challenge event of the Challenge Accepted Campaign was successfully concluded on August 21 at an outdoor sports facility in Shanghai amidst much laughter and action. The star coach from Hillside Club led Special Olympics athlete LI Xiang, families and friends from WWE China and Special Olympics to start a Frisbee Inclusion Challenge, feeling the excitement of competition and teamwork.



UFC's Journey with Special Olympics

On November 12, Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC), the world's premier Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) organization and the UFC Foundation, announced a collaboration to support Special Olympics and donated RMB100,000 to the Shanghai Charity Foundation to support the Special Olympics Movement.

UFC also invited some Special Olympics athletes to the UFC Performance Institute Experience Day and conducted a tour and a training experience session. The athletes were enthusiastic about the UFC training experience, following the coaches starting from warm-up exercises to agility ladders and S-steps around obstacles to improve their flexibility and coordination, then tug of war for strength training, and finally to a set of stretch movements to help relax the body.



At the same time, Shanghai Haichang Ocean Park hosted a unique Special Olympics Unified football event. This Unified football event was themed around "protecting the marine environment" and "purifying water sources". Children also exchanged gifts with their Unified partners and received souvenirs from the park. On the evenings of November 19 and 20, Haichang Ocean Park and other theme parks under Haichang Ocean Group held activities to light up blue for 2022 World Children's Day.

2022 World Children's Day

To celebrate the World Children's Day, Special Olympics East Asia partnered with UNICEF China, Beijing Fire and Rescue Bureau and the Lions Clubs International Foundation, to co-host an event ("Friendly Blue") inviting children with and without intellectual disabilities across Beijing to attend. On November 19, with the assistance of the firefighters, the children not only completed a small sports session but also had an interesting experience by being "little firefighters". Afterwards, children started to paint their version for an inclusive world on the canvas, and "lit up" blue on their palms.



2022 Special Olympics Unity Gala Fundraising Gala Dinner



On December 12, 2022, the Special Olympics Unity Gala Fundraising Gala Dinner came to the Grand Lisboa Palace Resort Macau after the COVID 3 years' hiatus. The event was organized by Special Olympics East Asia and presented by Coca-Cola, with the great support of Macau Special Olympics and SJM Resorts, S.A. The year 2022 marks the 35th anniversary of Special Olympics Macau, and involved many honored guests, including but not limited to Special Olympics Board Member Dr. SHI Derong, Special Olympics Global Ambassador Mr. ZOU Shiming, and President of the Sports Bureau of Macau SAR, Mr. PUN Weng-Kun. The Fundraising Gala aimed to raise social awareness of Special Olympics and work together with all parties to provide a platform for the development of people with intellectual disabilities and help them share freedom, dignity, health and happiness.



GENERATE MORE RESOURCES

Sponsor & Donors

Rockcheck Group

Rockcheck Group has been supporting Special Olympics East Asia in various key projects.

Sun Future Foundation

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

ShiDa Foundation

The Foundation has been supporting SOEA since 2021.

City Football Group

Supporting Special Olympics Unified Schools Football Training projects in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou, the group used football as a platform to do good to local communities.

Coca-Cola China

Coca-Cola is the presenting sponsor of SOEA Unity Gala Dinner, in addition to regular year-round support.

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:

CBA

China Friendship Foundation for Peace and Development

Shanghai Charity Foundation

NBA China

WWE

Shanghai Disney Resort

SJM Resorts, S.A

Endeavor China

SKINCEUTICALS

Ling Ding Auction

Colorfull

Betty Cao

Hui Ruoqi

Li Na

Li Ping

Li Ruigang

Liao Mei

Monica Guo

Ran Yingying

Robert Shi

Sharon Kwan

Shi Derong

Yang Lan

Yan Lan

Yao Ming

Yeung Man Ying

Zhang Junting

Zhou Xun

Zou Shimin

LETTER FROM RLC CHAIRPERSON



SOH Chang-Woo
Chairman of Special Olympics
East Asia Regional
Leadership Council

The year 2023 has crept up on us before we have time to worry about the passage of time. On behalf of the Special Olympics East Asia Regional Leadership Council, I would like to extend our warmest greetings and gratitude to all of you who have contributed to the development and progress of Special Olympics in East Asia over the past year.

In 2022, although the epidemic still occurs from time to time, thanks to the joint efforts of all of us, many athletes, Unified partners, coaches and volunteers have returned to the Special Olympics training, competitions and various activities. Our diligence, success and setbacks in the field of Special Olympics are the footprints of the development of Special Olympics. Our hard work has left many commendable stories for Special Olympics and our community. The achievements of 2022 are the result of our joint efforts.

2023 is a new year and a new starting point for us. We have new tasks and new challenges. I hope and I firmly believe that you will continue to support, serve and contribute to the Special Olympics with your full enthusiasm and professionals. Let's join hands and work together for a better future in 2023.

Yours Sincerely,

REGIONAL LEADERSHIP CONTACTS

Special Olympics East Asia

Ms. Freda M. Fung

Regional President & Managing Director
ffung@specialolympics.org

Ms. Daisy Cao

Vice President
Organizational Development
dcao@specialolympics.org

Mr. Allan Cheng

Director
Sports
acheng@specialolympics.org

Ms. Rebecca Liu

Senior Director
Finance & Administration
rlui@specialolympics.org

Ms. Cherry Ye

Senior Director
Marketing & Development
cye@specialolympics.org

Mr. Jason Zhan

Director
Healthy Athletes
jzhan@specialolympics.org

Special Olympics China

Mr. Zhou Changkui

Chairman
55167425@qq.com

Mr. Yong Zhijun

National Director
yongzhijun@cdpf.org.cn

Special Olympics Chinese Taipei

Mr. Lee Shi-Jin

Chairperson
shijin042537@gmail.com

Mr. Lin Jui-Yen

National Director
rain5611@yahoo.com.tw

Special Olympics Hong Kong

Dr. Evelyn Lam

Chairperson
adm@hkso.org.hk

Dr. Allison Wong

National Director
allisonwong@hkso.org.hk

Special Olympics Korea

Mr. Lee Yong-Hoon

President
together@sokorea.or.kr

Special Olympics Macau

Dr. Sze Tat Ming

Chairperson
tmsze@umac.mo

Mr. Hetzer Siu

National Director
msomacau@macau.ctm.net

Special Olympics Mongolia

Ms. Oyun Sanjaasuren

Chairperson
oyun@zorigfoundation.org

Ms. Altantsetseg Baldandorj

National Director
altanbaldan@gmail.com