



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

Story script

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) OFFERS THE FOLLOWING VIDEO NEWS RELEASE TO ALL NEWS AGENCIES, BROADCASTERS AND ALL ONLINE PLATFORMS FREE OF CHARGE.

Story Headline: **IOC President Thomas Bach says he is “excited” for the sporting competition ahead after the Opening Ceremony for the Lillehammer 2016 Youth Winter Olympic Games.**

Download link:

http://iocnewsroom.com/video/vnr_yog_20160212_opening-ceremony

Event: Lillehammer 2016 Winter Youth Olympic Games

Date: 12 February

Place: Lillehammer, Norway

STORY SCRIPT

The Winter Youth Olympic Games have officially started in Lillehammer Norway after 13,000 people attended the Opening Ceremony.

IOC President Thomas Bach says he is “excited” for the sporting competition to start.

Mr Bach, who attended the event, said: “It was a beautiful ceremony; a great blend of classical art, sport and modern technology.

Now the sport starts and this is what the Youth Olympic Games are all about. I’m really excited to watch some great competitions tomorrow.”

The occasion marks exactly 22 years since the Olympic flame was last lit above the city for the 1994 Winter Olympic Games in the famous Lysgårdsbakkene Ski Jumping Arena.

Princess Ingrid Alexandra of Norway lit the flame after it entered the Arena with Marit Bjørgen, the Norwegian six-time cross-country Olympic champion.

In total, 1100 athletes from 71 nations will compete at the Winter Youth Olympic Games (YOG) for a total of 70 Gold medals.



It's only the second ever Winter Youth Olympic Games, following on from Innsbruck in 2012.

The 2nd Winter YOG will take place between Friday 12th & Sunday 21st of February 2016.

What are the YOG?

The Youth Olympic Games are essentially about competing, learning and sharing. They are a celebration of sport, youth diversity and the Olympic values of excellence, friendship and respect. They also exemplify the Fundamental Principles of Olympism, blending sport with culture and education. The vision of the Youth Olympic Games is to inspire young people around the world to participate in sport and live by the Olympic values.

YOG Key Facts

- Hosted from 12 to 21 February 2016 in Lillehammer, Hamar, Gjøvik, Øyer and Oslo — demonstrating the use of a fantastic legacy of Olympic venues and the flexibility of the YOG.
 - 71 NOCs and 1,100 athletes aged 15 to 18 will compete in 70 medal events at Lillehammer 2016.
 - Lillehammer 2016 is the second winter edition of the YOG following Innsbruck 2012. The first summer edition took place in Singapore in 2010, followed by Nanjing in 2014.
 - The YOG have been used as an incubator for innovation in sport and education. Lillehammer 2016 will feature Olympic debuts for a number of disciplines, including cross-country cross, snowboard cross, ski slopestyle, biathlon super sprint and monobob.
 - With regard to education, the Coaches' Corner will be a pioneering YOG first in Lillehammer, featuring dedicated workshops and talks by experts and Virtual Reality (VR) technology to explore and explain how new advances in technology can be applied to the science of coaching.
 - The YOG have acted as a springboard to further Olympic glory for many alumni. Some 64 YOG athletes from Innsbruck 2012, for example, went on to compete at the Olympic Winter Games Sochi 2014, winning 6 medals in total. In addition, 200 YOG alumni from Singapore 2010 competed at London 2012, of whom 25 medalled.
- End