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Story script

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Story headline: Ning Ding and Long Ma celebrating Olympic Day in Lausanne and looking forward to gold medals in Tokyo

Location: Lausanne, Switzerland.

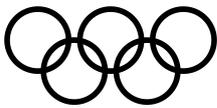
Date: 23rd June 2018

STORY SCRIPT

Chinese two-time Olympic table tennis gold-medal winner Ning Ding hailed the Olympic Games “the ultimate honour” while taking part in the 70th annual Olympic Day in Lausanne, Switzerland.

There the International Olympic Committee (IOC) hosted top-level athletes and officials from the National Olympic Committees (NOCs) of the Republic of Korea (KOR), the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the hosts of the upcoming Olympic and Olympic Winter Games, Japan (JPN) and the People’s Republic of China (CHN), respectively. Olympic and elite table-tennis players from each of the four nations showed off their skills during friendly mixed exhibition matches.

“The Olympic Games are the ultimate honour,” said Ding, winner of a Women’s Team gold medal at London 2012 and a Women’s Singles gold at Rio 2016. “But we’re not just athletes who compete, we also need to interact and communicate to promote the Olympic spirit.”



Compatriot Long Ma, winner of a Men's Team gold medal in Table Tennis at London 2012 and Men's Singles gold in Rio four years later echoed her sentiments.

"On a special day like this, being an athlete is about communicating and promoting the Olympic spirit," said Ma, before outlining his ambitions for Tokyo 2020. "There are only two years to go, so I'm working hard to prepare, on both the physical and the technical side, in order to be in the best shape possible."

"Olympic Day is, of course, an occasion to remind ourselves of the spirit of Olympism," said IOC President Thomas Bach. "The Olympic Games are where the Olympic values of peace and respect come to life."

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