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Story Headline: Table tennis star Pak backs unified Korea team

Location: Lausanne, Switzerland.

Date: 23rd June 2018

STORY SCRIPT

Democratic People’s Republic of Korea table tennis star Sin Hyok Pak has backed a unified Korea team as “an opportunity to bring peace, prosperity, and unification to Korea which is all Koreans want.”

Pak was participating in events to mark the 70th annual ‘Olympic Day’ in Lausanne.

At this annual 23 June event 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).

Olympic and other top table tennis players from the four nations showed off their skills during a friendly mixed exhibition match, also featuring Pak’s compatriot and Rio 2016 bronze medalist Song I Kim.
“We appreciate that the IOC has invited us on this special day,” continued Pak, who competes in the ITTF Tour. “Events like this show the world can make peace without any discrimination and regardless of race.”

“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.”

“During my recent visit to North Korea I received the full commitment of leader Kim Jong-un that athletes from his country would participate at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022 and the next editions of the Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires [2018] and Lausanne 2020.”

Olympic Games Tokyo 2020

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