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Story Headline: IOC Member Ryu “honoured” to attend Olympic Day

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STORY SCRIPT

Olympic table tennis gold medallist and International Olympic Committee (IOC) Member Seung Min Ryu of Republic of Korea expressed pride at attending the 70th annual Olympic Day in Lausanne, as well as hope that “sport can contribute towards world peace.”

Ryu was part of a friendly mixed table tennis exhibition match at the annual Swiss event where the 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.

“I’m very honoured to be attending this special event and proud that it involves table tennis, out of so many kinds of Olympic sports,” said compatriot Kyungah Kim, an Olympic bronze medal winner at Athens 2004 and Beijing 2008.

Kim also praised the historic Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018, where a unified Korea team competed in women’s ice hockey.
“South and North Korea have also competed as a unified team in the Table Tennis World Championships, which was very impressive too” she added. “As an athlete, I’d love there to be more opportunities to play alongside North Korea.”

“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. The IOC is committed to continuing to support the peace process on the Korean Peninsula. Sport must continue to build bridges.”

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