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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: Athletes from China, Japan, North and South Korea celebrate eve of 70th Olympic Day together.

Location: Lausanne, Switzerland

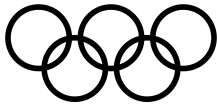
Date: 23rd June 2018

STORY SCRIPT

Athletes from four nations, including North and South Korea, united today in Lausanne to mark the eve of the 70th annual 'Olympic Day'.

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 Day is a global celebration that takes place annually on 23rd June. The activities took place in the Olympic capital Lausanne, Switzerland on the 22nd this year.

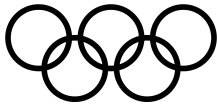


IOC president Thomas Bach said: “Olympic Day is of course an occasion to remind ourselves of the spirit of Olympism. The Olympic Games are where the Olympic values of peace and respect come to life.”

He added: “The Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018 have opened up new horizons in more ways than anyone could have imagined. The best expression of this was the joint march of the athletes of the NOCs of the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea at the opening ceremony.”

Olympic and other top players from each of the four nations showed off their skills during a friendly mixed table tennis exhibition match. The athletes then presented Thomas Bach with a table tennis bat signed by all the players bearing the dedication: “Thank you IOC for paving the way through sport to the peace process on the Korean peninsula, the region and the world.”

China’s Long Ma, winner of a Men’s Team table tennis gold medal at London 2012 and winner of a Men’s Singles gold medal at Rio 2016 said: “There are still two more years before attending the Olympic



Games Tokyo 2020.. During this limited time I will work hard to prepare, both physically and technically.”

China’s Ning Ding, winner of a Women’s Team gold medal and Women’s Singles silver medal in table tennis at London 2012 and winner of the Women’s Singles gold medal at Rio 2016, added: “We should not only play the role of an athlete competing in the field, we also hope that everyone can interact and communicate more with each other, to promote the spirit of the Olympics.”

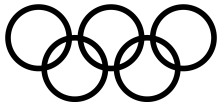
Other athletes who took part in the exhibition match included:

Ms Kyungah Kim - South Korean Olympic bronze medallist in Athens 2004 and Beijing 2008.

Mr Seung Min Ryu - Olympic gold medallist in Athens 2004 and IOC Member.

Ms Ai Fukuhara - Japanese Olympic silver medallist in London 2012.

Mr Tomokazu Harimoto - youngest ever winner of an ITTF World Tour men’s singles title at just 14.



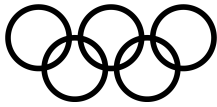
Ms Song I Kim - North Korean Olympic bronze medallist in Rio 2016

Mr Sin Hyok Pak - ITTF tour athlete

Additional activities included an Olympic Day run organised by the city of Lausanne, a tango demonstration, live music with Swiss Olympic snowboarder and artist Pat Burgener and a live broadcast of the Switzerland versus Serbia FIFA World Cup match.

In 2014 the IOC first began to engage with both Koreas in anticipation of the Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018 and initiated a programme to support athletes from the DPRK in the qualification process for the Olympic Winter Games 2018.

In the new year came a pledge to participate in the Games from the Leader of the DPRK, and efforts to build unified participation by the two Koreas began in earnest, culminating in the two teams marching into the opening ceremony of the Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018 under the same flag. That spirit was exemplified in the joint Korean women's ice hockey team which competed as one nation.



“The IOC is committed to continuing to support the peace process on the Korean Peninsula also after the Olympic flame from PyeongChang has been extinguished,” said Thomas Bach. “Sport must continue to build bridges and show what it can do to bring people together.”

After the Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018, President Moon Jae-in of South Korea and Chairman Kim Jong-un of North Korea both asked the IOC to continue to support the peace talks through actions in sport. The next two editions of the Olympic Games are to take place in the neighbouring countries of Japan and China and, in this way, the IOC’s efforts are extended to the entire region.

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