International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach has revealed that the IOC remains a central part of the peace process between North and South Korea with talks between the IOC and the two national Olympic Committees due to continue in the next few days.

The two nations famously marched together into the opening ceremony of the Olympic Winter Games in Pyeongchang a year ago, and both nations are anxious to keep sport at the heart of the new spirit between them, as highlighted by the combined Korean women’s ice hockey team that took part in Pyeongchang 2018.

President Bach said: “We have seen that the Olympic Winter Games Pyeongchang 2018 were opening the doors for political talks, and since then different summits have been taking place. And in fact, also the two leaders from South Korea President Moon and from North Korea Chairman Kim have asked us to continue to support their talks of rapprochement through actions in sport, and this is what we are doing. So, just in a couple of days, we will meet the two governments and the two National Olympic Committees to see how the IOC can contribute to peace on the Korean peninsula and in the world.”

A year on from the opening ceremony in Pyeongchang, President Bach still marvels at the moment the two Korean nations marched into the ceremony together, a move that was only confirmed at the last minute.

He said: “Thinking of this gives me goosebumps until this very moment. It was a great mixture of joy and relief, because the negotiations about the joint march were finalised only four hours before the opening ceremony.”
As well as the historic scenes of the combined Korean team entrance and Ice Hockey team, Pyeongchang is a blueprint for the modern Games, making a budget surplus and also leaving a great legacy for the people of the region. Apartments at the two Olympic Villages in Pyeongchang and Gangneung were available to the general public to live in after the Games and they sold out before the Games began.

President Bach said: “The legacy of these Olympic Games is many fold. First of all, you have an organising committee which was working extremely well in the end and had even a significant surplus in all their activities. You could see the hard legacy with much better infrastructure for the Gangneung province with the two Olympic Villages, which were sold out even before the Games. You have the new high speed train and you have many world class sports facilities of which we hope the legacy plans will now come into fruition, so that all the people from the province and the future generations in the province can benefit from the outstanding success of this Olympic Winter Games Pyeongchang 2018.”

A year on from the Games, President Bach looked back fondly on some of the incredible moments of Pyeongchang 2018, including the performance of his German compatriots Aljona Savchenko and Bruno Massot in the Figure Skating Pairs.

He said: “There were so many great moments. Seeing the unification flag coming into the stadium, the joint ice hockey team, there were great performances in all the sports. Maybe, if I’m allowed for once to leave my national neutrality a little bit, I think outstanding was the gold medal in the Figure Skating Pairs with a world record in marks by the German pair.”

Pyeongchang 2018 saw the most amount of women to ever participate in an Olympic Winter Games and saw more nations represented than ever before.

The 2022 Olympic Winter Games will take place in Beijing, from February 4-20.

SHOTLIST:

00:01 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English language)
Q. Peace was a central theme of the Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018. Did you expect such a lasting and global success?
“*We have seen that the Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018 were opening the doors for political talks and since then different summits have been taking place and in fact also the two leaders from South Korea President Moon and from North Korea Chairman Kim have asked us to continue to support their talks of rapprochement more through actions in sport and this is what we are doing; so just in a couple of days we will meet the two Governments and the two National Olympic Committees to see how the IOC can contribute to peace on the Korean Peninsula and in the world.*”

00:49 Inside IOC Headquarters Lausanne meeting room 2018, Thomas Bach speaks.
00:53 Republic of Korea Olympic Committee delegation seated at the meeting table 2018.
00:57 DPRK Olympic Committee delegation seated at the meeting table 2018.
01:00 Close up of handshake between Kim Il-guk, Sports Minister and President of the Olympic Committee of the Democratic People’s 2018.
01:09 Wide shot of photographs being taken of the two delegations at IOC Headquarters in Lausanne 2018.
01:13 IOC delegation arriving in Pyongyang Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) 2018
01:17 Footage of meeting between Kim Il-guk, Sports Minister and President of the National Olympic Committee of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), Thomas Bach, President of the IOC and various DPRK and IOC representatives 2018.

Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018 Opening Ceremony: Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) and Republic of Korea (ROK) unified teams enter stadium together - February 2018
[Rights free video for news access]
01:28 Korean Olympic athletes march into stadium together under a joint flag
01:38 Detail shot of joint flag bearers from Korea
01:43 IOC President Thomas Bach salutes athletes of joint Korean delegation
01:47 Aerial Shot of the arena.

01:50 SOUND BITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English language)
Q. How did you feel when you saw the joint DPRK and Republic of Korea team coming into the stadium?
“Thinking of this gives me ‘goosebumps’ until this very moment. It was a great mixture of joy and relief; because the negotiations about this joint march were finalized only four hours before the opening ceremony; so when I finally saw this flag in the tunnel of the stadium, it was really, I think it was a tonne of stones which were falling from my heart.”

02:23 Shots of joint torchbearers from Korea during Opening Ceremony 2018.
02:32 Representatives of Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) and Republic of Korea (ROK) shake hands during joint march 2018.
02:44 Various shots of supporters of Team Korea during the Winter Olympic Games PyeongChang 2018.
02:58 Footage of the joint women ice hockey team entering the arena 2018
03:05 Group shot of the Joint women ice hockey team.

03:10 SOUND BITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English language)
Q. What examples of tangible legacy has PyeongChang 2018 left behind?
“The legacy of these Olympic games is manyfold. First of all you have an organizing committee which was working extremely well in the end and had even a significant surplus in all of their activities. You could see the heart of the legacy with the much better infrastructure for the Gangwon Province with the two Olympic Villages which have been sold out even before The Games. You have the new high speed train; and you have many world class sports facilities of which we hope that the legacy plans will now come into fruition; so that all the people from the province and all the future generations in the province can benefit from the outstanding success of these Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018.”

04:07 High speed train approaching platform at PyeongChang new station.
04:19 Architect’s model of proposed PyeongChang 2018 Olympic Village.
04:23 Aerial view of PyeongChang 2018 Olympic Village.
04:28 Pan of living room inside an apartment unit of PyeongChang 2018 Olympic Village.
04:33 Pan of bathroom inside an apartment unit of PyeongChang 2018 Olympic Village.
04:38 Aerial shots of various PyeongChang 2018 Olympic venues.
04:57 Promotional video for PyeongChang 2018 Olympic dream campaign.

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