



ACNOA NEWSLETTER



MONTHLY REVIEW OF AFRICAN OLYMPISM

FEBRUARY 2023



SPECIAL WINTER GAMES

WINTER YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES GANGWON 2024
**AFRICA WILL BE A FORCE
TO RECKON WITH!**



WINTER GAMES: DREAM COME TRUE FOR YOUNG AFRICAN ATHLETES



MUSTAPHA BERRAF

**IOC Member
President of ANOCA**

The Winter Youth Olympic Games Gangwon 2024 afford an opportunity for our young athletes to display their talents in a number of winter sports disciplines. This unprecedented participation

is a life-changing experience for many young Africans. The initiative has been taking shape since we embarked on what appeared to be a challenge for our Olympic and Sports Movement from its inception, but we believed strongly in it. All this is evidenced by the participation of this fine



Thanks to the Horizon Academy Programme, the PyeongChang Winter Sports Training Camp opened in 2022. Activities were held from 30 May to 12 June 2022. 56 young African athletes were trained in winter sports during this exciting training camp



crop of young people from our snowless countries.

This year, 2023, we will be fine-tuning our preparation for an outstanding participation in the Winter Youth Games Gangwon 2024.

We will not go to Gangwon to make up the numbers. Africa is a continent of winners and our youths have the fighting spirit. This is why this competition, which will be in its 4th edition, is special for our continent.

ANOCA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Gangwon Province, Republic of South Korea, on 16 March 2022 in Cairo, Egypt, with the goal to develop winter sports and share the experience of organising the 2024 Winter Youth Olympic Games in Gangwon.

This cooperation seeks to promote the success of these

youth games, encourage young people from snowless countries to participate in the winter sports support project, guide the African Youth Team to participate in the Winter Youth Olympic Games Gangwon 2024, and support the joint organisation of the Games by the two Koreas (South-North) with the goal of organising the "Peace Olympics".

Thanks to the Horizon Academy Programme, the PyeongChang Winter Sports Training Camp opened in 2022. Activities were held from 30 May to 12 June 2022. 56 young African athletes were trained in winter sports during this exciting training camp. This was followed by a tougher youth selection at the end of 2022 and another training camp is planned for this year 2023.

The Horizon Academy programme is thus bringing immense hope to the youth



of the continent.

I hail the parents who supported and encouraged their children in this project; I wish to congratulate the Presidents of the African NOCs who displayed their professionalism and insight by allowing the young athletes and guardians to participate.

I also wish to thank the coaches who guided our young future champions with devoted attention.

The immediate outcome is closer cooperation which, today, is bearing fruit thanks to high profile dignitaries like IOC member William Frederick BLICK, who contributed significantly to the success of this ambitious programme.

We were awed by his managerial skills and his spirit of solidarity in ensuring the success of this initiative. We are grateful to him.

We will always owe the IOC President, Dr Thomas BACH, a debt of gratitude for his personal involvement, which has made the Horizon Academy programme an unprecedented success.

For our young people from snowless countries, this is an extraordinary experience and a breakthrough for African sport. We encourage African National Olympic Committees to avail themselves of this opportunity, which adds to our sports package and broadens our horizons in Olympic and sports performance. Our guiding principle is to give hope to African youths and shape Olympic and sports values in our ongoing quest for well-being.

We are drifting with the universal waves that seek to make sport the crucial platform for fostering peace, love, solidarity and fair play.

GANGWON 2024

IHAD AYED, PRESIDENT OF THE TUNISIA ICE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION WORKING PAINSTAKINGLY WITH ANOCA SUPPORT





He accompanied the delegation of young Tunisian athletes throughout the training camps and courses launched in 2022 as part of the cooperation between

Africa (ANOCA) to scout for young African talents who will take part in the Gangwon 2024 Winter Youth Olympic Games in South Korea.

He is one of the African



Gangwon Province and the Association of National Olympic Committees of

officials who have committed themselves to this project with great enthusiasm. He



began by pointing out that *“the idea came from South Korea. It is part of the legacy of the PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympics. The PyeongChang 2018 Legacy Foundation signed a partnership agreement with the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa. ANOCA then*

It was a very intensive training camp, where the South Koreans subjected all the young people to physical tests at the beginning and end of the camp to assess their progress

requested all National Olympic Committees of the continent to help identify young people who were interested or had little experience in winter sports. NOC Tunisia got in touch with me, in my capacity as

President of the National Ice Hockey Federation, the only entity in the country dedicated to winter sports.”

Commenting on the method used to carry out the activity, I had AYED pointed out that, *“I eventually identified eight young Tunisians, born between 2006 and 2009, to meet South Korea’s demand...We were invited by the Foundation to a two-week summer training camp in PyeongChang from 28 May to 13 June 2022. It brought together more than 80 young Africans from many countries such as Algeria, Ethiopia, Sudan, Lesotho, Sierra Leone and South Africa. It was a very intensive training camp, where the South Koreans subjected all the young people to physical tests at the beginning and end of the camp to assess their progress. They introduced us to a summer version of a winter sports programme such as bobsleigh, alpine*



skiing, Luge, cross-country skiing, etc. Sessions were sometimes very specific, facilitated by national coaches of the relevant South Korean federations.

The evenings were devoted to mostly cultural activities, a discovery of South Korea, anti-doping education sessions, and competition management."



The President of the Tunisia Ice Hockey Federation expressed his satisfaction with the overall management of the training camp, after

which more than forty young people were selected for the second phase of the programme in September 2022. It is against this backdrop that four out of the





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eight Tunisian trainees were dropped. The four athletes selected took part in the second training camp with young people from Comoros, Uganda, Cape Verde and Eswatini. The programme at this juncture became more specific, with each young person focusing on their own sport, supervised by coaches of the South Korean Olympic team.

Young African athletes in this programme will be selected following their participation in international competitions to gain points and meet the quotas required to qualify for the Olympic Games

Paris 2024. These of course depend on International Federations. South Korea's initiative offers youths from snowless countries an opportunity to experience winter sports, and affords them an opportunity to compete in major events. The Winter Youth Olympic Games are an ideal springboard.

ANOCA plays a key role here, explains Ihad AYED:

“ANOCA President, Mustapha Berraf, negotiated the project and its conditions with the PyeongChang 2018 Lagacy Foundation, and then signed the cooperation agreement. The governing body then contacted NOCs, followed up effectively and promoted the project, in the hope that many young Africans would participate in the 2024 Youth Olympic Games.”



WINTER SPORTS

THE GANGWON PROJECT CONJURES UP A NEW VISION FOR AFRICAN SPORT



A report by the Technical Director of ANOCA, Ezera Tshabangu, on the Gangwon Winter Sports Project, indicates that the second winter training camp was organised from

20 to 29 December 2022 in PyeonChang, Gangwon Province, South Korea.

It is a windfall of a Memorandum of Understanding signed



Besides the athletes selected during the summer camp, the PyeonChang 2018 Legacy Foundation invited new athletes for the second camp

between Gangwon Province and ANOCA on 16 March 2022 in Cairo, Egypt.

On 20 April 2022, ANOCA met with NOCs to brief them on the conduct of the Winter Sports Project.

The first batch of athletes and coaches took part in the summer training camp organised from 30 May to 12 June 2022. The training brought together 56 athletes and 13 guardians from 10 NOCs. During the camp,

Korean coaches made a series of assessments with a view to identifying sports disciplines for which to shortlist and invite athletes to participate in the second training camp.

Besides the athletes selected during the summer camp, the PyeonChang 2018 Legacy Foundation invited new athletes for the second camp.

This brought together 36 athletes (12 girls and 24 boys) and 15 officials from 14 NOCs, 10 of them returning: South Africa, Algeria, Cape Verde, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, Lesotho, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sudan and Tunisia, and four first timers: Comoros, Eswatini, Morocco and Uganda.

Five disciplines were selected: Bobsleigh, Skeleton, Alpine Skiing, Cross-Country Skiing and Snowboarding.



Participants were also afforded the opportunity to take part in activities aimed at promoting traditional Korean handicraft

The opening ceremony took place on 20 December 2022, chaired by the Secretary General, Head of Education at the PyeonChang 2018 Legacy Foundation. After receiving suitable gear for the weather conditions, participants started training on 21 December 2022. On the first day, all five disciplines were on schedule at the venues used for the Winter Olympic Games PyeongChang 2018. The said venues will also host the Gangwon Winter Olympic Games in 2024. Training sessions were held on an almost daily basis. Athletes were drilled in sport-

specific physical exercises and equipment handling and safety.

Participants were also afforded the opportunity to take part in activities aimed at promoting traditional Korean handicraft. A raffle was organised during Christmas celebrations, with some athletes winning prizes. They all received gifts. From 29 to 30 December 2022, participants were conveyed to Seoul, capital city of South Korea, where they visited the Gyeongbokgung Palace as part of the cultural and historical learning experience.

The athletes had earlier been assessed on 28 December 2022. This was followed by an award ceremony for outstanding performers. African athletes bagged most of the MVP awards. These included: Roseline-Tayna Uma from Comoros in Alpine



Skiing; Ibrahim Kamara from Sierra Leone in Cross-Country Skiing; Joao Mileno Pereira Carvalho from Cape Verde in Snowboarding; Yassine Ben Chaabane from Tunisia in Alpine Skiing; Abigail Claassen from South Africa in Bobsleigh; Jonaathan Lourimi from Tunisia in Bobsleigh, and Beka Meded from Ethiopia as overall camp MVP.

The camp was also attended by the Technical Director of ANOCA, Ezera Tshabangu who, in her report, underscored that:

«...overall, the camp was a success given the improvements seen in some of the athletes, as compared to the June training camp...» Her report concluded with the following recommendations:

1. That athletes with no winter sport NFs affiliate with

the relevant international federations (IFs). This will allow athletes who are ready to compete to be able to do so at various competitions.

2. That the winter sports programme be factor in in the overall NOC planning, including allocation of budget through the NOC Activities facilitated by ANOCA
3. That other sources of funding be identified through various Olympic Solidarity support programmes and other funders
4. That various NOCs collaborate with winter sports training facilities. Some athletes in this group are already training in Europe and Canada. Zone 6 NOCs have identified areas of collaboration and joint training at the Afri-ski Resort in Lesotho
5. NOCs should support the



education and training and development of coaches already involved in the programme and identify others to further develop winter sports.

6. Other NOCs should

take up winter sports to afford athletes more opportunities in other sports disciplines



LESOTHO ATHLETE IN KOREA FOR TRAINING AND COMPETING



Shobonna DALI, a young winter sport athlete from Lesotho, has been invited back to the Republic of Korea to train and compete in the International Bobsleigh and Skeleton Federation Youth Omega Series in Pyeong Cheng, in a bid to qualify for the 2024 Winter Youth Olympic Games.

Aged 14, Miss Dali is a student at Montessori School in Maseru, and is expected to be in Korea from 19 February to 6 March 2023, funded by the

Pyeong Cheng 2018 Legacy Foundation. This is her 3rd visit to Korea following visits in June and December 2022.

The 2024 Winter Youth Olympic Games will be held in Gangwon, Korea from 19 January and 2 February 2024. Shobonna will be competing at the Monobob bobsleigh discipline, which is an individual winter sport that involves making timed runs down narrow, twisting, banked, iced tracks in a gravity-powered sleigh.



ALPINE SKI WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

THOMAS BACH CONGRATULATES KENYA'S SABRINA SIMADER



Participating in the competition, the Kenyan skier, Sabrina Simader, also known as the «Snow Leopard», was congratulated by Dr

IOC President, Dr Thomas Bach, witnessed first-hand the Alpine Ski World Championships in Courchevel, France, where he was welcomed by the President of the International Ski and



Snowboard Federation, Johan Eliasch.

Participating in the competition, the Kenyan skier, Sabrina Simader, also known as the «Snow Leopard», was congratulated by Dr Thomas Bach. In 2016, she participated in the Lillehammer Winter Youth Olympic Games and in 2018 in the PyeongChang Winter Olympic Games. The IOC President encouraged Sabrina, who is valuably representing Africa in winter sports and inspires young African athletes, who will be participating in the Youth Olympic Games Gangwon 2024.

The Courchevel competition was a high-level event. It brought together the world's elite female alpine skiers.

Swiss Jasmine Flury won the downhill event, followed by Austria's Nina Orlieb, while Swiss Corinne Suter finished third.

Dr Thomas Bach congratulated the champions and commended their sterling performance. He especially hailed Corinne Suter who staged a great comeback after a serious fall barely few weeks earlier.

The curtains were drawn on the Championships on Sunday 19 February 2023.

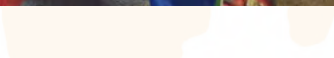




GALERIE PHOTOS













Team Algeria 🇩🇿 ❤️



Team Morocco 🇲🇴 ❤️



Team Tunisia 🇹🇳 ❤️



Team Lesotho 🇱🇸





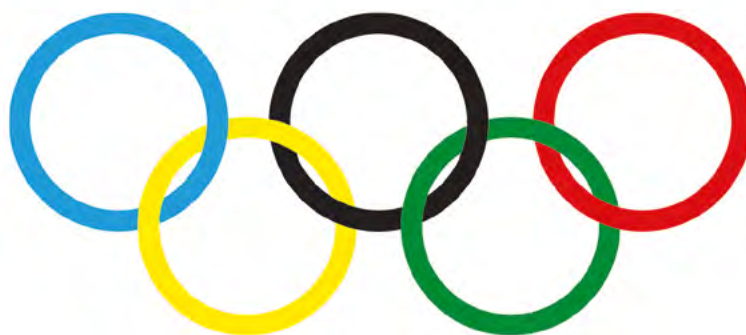








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