



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

Thomas Bach
President

Winter Youth Olympic Games Lillehammer 2016

Opening Ceremony

Thank you, Siri. Thank you, Sajandan.

Your Majesties,

Dear Friends,

Dear Athletes,

Welcome to your Games.

Today marks the start of ten incredible days for you. Ten incredible days, when all of us will celebrate the joy that only sport can bring.

These Games will be about your love for sport. They will also be about learning and sharing – and about making friends.

This is what the Youth Olympic Games are all about: bringing young athletes together from all around the world to enjoy competition and friendship.

We are coming together to celebrate the Olympic Values of excellence, friendship and respect.

We all should share this celebration with the world.

So please use the hashtag “I Love YOG” and tell everybody about your unforgettable experience.

As you may have noticed in the meantime, I am just a little bit too old to compete in the YOG. That is why I have asked my five young friends here to help me get things started. They will tell us what makes YOG so special for them.



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Thank you friends! Now enjoy every moment of your Games together with all your friends here in Lillehammer.

This is only possible because of the excellent work of our hosts. Therefore, please join me to thank the King and Queen of Norway and everybody who has contributed to the success of these Games.

Thank you to the wonderful people of the Organising Committee for their work under the great leadership of President Siri Hatlen and CEO Thomas Holmestad.

Thank you to the National Olympic Committee of Norway and their President Tom Tvedt and Secretary-General Inge Andersen for their great contribution. A very special thank you goes of course to the wonderful volunteers, who have welcomed us so warmly.

Thank you to all the people of Lillehammer for your wonderful hospitality.

Takk Lillehammer. Thank you. Merci beaucoup.

Nous voulons et nous allons célébrer les valeurs olympiques une fois de plus avec vous dans cette splendide ville olympique.

Maintenant, j'ai l'honneur d'inviter sa Majesté le Roi Harald de Norvège à proclamer l'ouverture des deuxièmes Jeux Olympiques de la Jeunesse d'hiver.