



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

Foreword

PyeongChang 2018 Debrief

Dear Friends,

The Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018 have opened up “New Horizons” in more ways than anyone could have imagined. Now PyeongChang has the privilege and responsibility to carry the impressive legacy of the Games into the future.

One of the most powerful legacies of these Olympic Winter Games is still unfolding at this moment. As the ongoing peace talks at the political level demonstrate, the Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018 have opened the door for a peaceful dialogue between the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. It was the Olympic athletes that showed the world that it is possible for humankind to live together in the Olympic spirit of peace, respect and understanding. In PyeongChang, 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. In this way, the Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018 have opened the door for peace talks. Building on their shared Olympic experience, the politicians have taken the first steps to walk through this door, to sit down together at the same table and discuss a peaceful future for the Korean Peninsula. It is our hope for the Korean people, and indeed for the whole world, that this dialogue will continue for a brighter future on the Korean Peninsula.

PyeongChang 2018 can also point to more immediate legacies, that have raised the bar for future Organising Committees of Olympic Games. A record number of National Olympic Committees took part in PyeongChang, with six NOCs making their debut at the Olympic Winter Games. New events were introduced to appeal to a new generation. Digital technology enabled more people in more countries to follow these Olympic Winter Games in more ways. PyeongChang also set new records in terms of broadcast coverage, with an estimated quarter of the world’s population watching coverage from the Games. There is an important infrastructure legacy, for example with a high-speed rail link now connecting Seoul with Gangneung province, improved highways and sold-out apartments of the Olympic Villages, all benefiting the region for decades to come. PyeongChang 2018 also kicked off an unprecedented series of three Olympic Games in succession in Asia, with Tokyo 2020 and Beijing 2022 following soon.

Many of these legacies and their lessons for the future will be discussed during the PyeongChang 2018 debrief. This meeting is an important opportunity for all future Host Cities to learn from the experience of PyeongChang 2018, while

benefiting from the many advantages resulting from Olympic Agenda 2020. A key to the great success of PyeongChang 2018 was the close cooperation between the IOC, the Organising Committee, the International Federations and the National Olympic Committees. This is just one of the many lessons from PyeongChang 2018 that the Organising Committees of the next Host Cities can build on for the future editions of the Olympic Games. Indeed, this debrief is itself a reflection of how the Olympic Movement is working together to enhance the Games experience.

This debrief gives us the opportunity to thank the PyeongChang 2018 Organising Committee under the able leadership of President Lee Hee-beom. Their incredible passion connected and inspired all stakeholders and was another crucial factor in the success story of the Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018.

In many ways, to run Olympic Games successfully is like conducting an orchestra: every instrument needs to play together in harmony with all the others. The debrief is a defining moment when the conductor’s baton passes from PyeongChang 2018 to the future Organising Committees. In this spirit of inspiration and harmony, let me wish everyone much success in this debrief. I can assure you that the IOC is on the side of all the future Organising Committees as they take up the baton and build upon the “New Horizons” opened by PyeongChang 2018.

Thomas Bach
President
International Olympic Committee

