



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

Thomas Bach
President

Closing Ceremony of the Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018

PyeongChang, 25 February 2018

FINAL ENGLISH

Congratulations, PyeongChang!

Dear Olympic friends around the world,

Your Excellency, Moon Jae-in, President of the Republic of Korea,

Dear President of POCOG, Lee Heebeom,

Excellencies,

Dear athletes,

Dear members of the Olympic family,

Ladies and gentlemen.

Over the past 17 days, we have experienced Olympic Games rooted in tradition and showing the way to the future.

They have proved true the words of our founder, Pierre de Coubertin, when he said the Olympic Games are a homage to the past and an act of faith in the future.

A true homage to the past was the respect of the Olympic Truce, just as it was three thousand years ago in ancient Olympia.

Dear athletes from the NOCs of the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, with your joint march, you have shared your faith in a peaceful future with all of us.

You have shown how sport brings people together in our fragile world; you have shown how sport builds bridges. The IOC will continue this Olympic dialogue, even after we extinguish the Olympic flame.

In this, we are driven by our faith in the future.

These Olympic Winter Games have introduced new events that appeal to new generations.



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Digital technology has enabled more people in more countries to see winter sports in more ways.

We have brought together a record number of National Olympic Committees to participate in Olympic Winter Games.

Therefore I can truly say: the Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018 are the Games of New Horizons.

We are embracing these new horizons. We offer our hand to everybody to join forces in this faith in the future.

Dear athletes, you are the best ambassadors of our optimism. Thank you for sharing it with us. Thank you for your competitive spirit. Thank you for your fair play.

To the organisers of the Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018, I say: thank you from the bottom of my heart. I congratulate you for showing us new horizons.

For your contributions, I thank the International Winter Sports Federations, the participating National Olympic Committees, our sponsors, and the television rights holders.

To the President of the Republic of Korea, Your Excellency Moon Jae-in, I say thank you for your personal commitment and determination to make these Games so successful in every way.

To the volunteers, I say a special thank you for warming our hearts even in the coldest temperatures.

Volunteers, Thank you for your dedication.

To our gracious hosts, the people of Korea, I say: thank you.

Athletes from the five continents of the world and future host countries of the Olympic Games would like to join in this thanks.

Martin Fourcade, Nao Kodaira, Seun Adigun, Yun Sungbin, Ryom Tae-ok, Lindsey Vonn, Liu Jiayu, Pita Taufatofua



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Welcome... Together we would like to express our gratitude, with the typical Korean gesture of a heart, which we have appreciated so much during these Games.

And now it is my obligation to declare the Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018 closed.

In accordance with tradition, I call upon the youth of the world to assemble four years from now in Beijing, People's Republic of China, to celebrate with all of us, the 24th Olympic Winter Games.