

Press release

06 April 2018

#WhiteCard

#IDSDP2018

International Day of Sport for Development and Peace

April 6 is the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace and the ISU is proud to be a part of the celebration. The ISU President Mr. Jan Dijkema and Ms. Katarina Henriksson, President of Swedish Figure Skating, show their commitment to Sport for Development and Peace by using a [#WhiteCard](#) as a strong symbol.

Sport is about passion and ISU has brought the passion and skating community together since 1892 when the International Skating Union was founded. Today the ISU has 93 Members from around the world.

Figure Skating, Synchronized Skating, Speed Skating and Short Track Speed Skating have greatly evolved and developed across the globe in the last decades.

Skaters from tropical countries such as [Michael Christian Martinez](#) from the Philippines and [Julian Zhi Jie Yee](#) from Malaysia have inspired many young skaters to take up Figure Skating. Yee made history as the first athlete to represent Malaysia at an Olympic Winter Games when he qualified and competed in PyeongChang 2018. Another inspiring Figure Skater who has pushed all boundaries is [Zahra Lari](#). She is the first Figure Skater to compete at an international level from the United Arab Emirates.

All differences are set aside in the face of sport and during those moments, peace prevails. This season, skaters from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea made headlines at the PyeongChang 2018 Olympic Winter Games. Pair Skaters [Ryom Tae-ok and Kim Ju-sik](#) qualified for the Olympic Winter Games at the Nebelhorn Trophy 2017 in Germany, where they placed 6th. They went on to become bronze medallists at the ISU Four Continents Figure Skating Championships 2018 and finished 13th in PyeongChang 2018. In Short Track Speed Skating, [Choe Un Song](#), who has been competing in ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating events since 2015 also represented the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at PyeongChang 2018, alongside first-timer [Jong Kwang-Bom](#).

The ISU has an extensive Development Program which was started in 1996, with a goal to improve the skating activities of ISU Members in a sustainable way. The ISU provides frameworks, funding and facilitation to ensure that Figure Skating and Speed Skating sports are meaningful for current and future generations worldwide.

Most recently, an ISU Development Transition program was designed to help athletes from skating sports such as Inline Speed Skating, hockey and Figure Skating transition to Speed Skating. The program provides the best training environment available and resulted in five athletes from the program qualifying for PyeongChang 2018.

The #WhiteCard is a Peace and Sport digital campaign that promotes the positive and constructive values of sport. In contrast with the red card, which signifies the most serious offense in sport, the #WhiteCard is a gesture of inclusion, tolerance and peace. To find out more information on the [#WhiteCard](#) campaign and how you can also participate please visit their [website](#).

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About the International Skating Union

Founded in 1892, the International Skating Union (ISU) is the oldest governing international winter sport federation and the exclusive international sport federation recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) administering sports in the Branches of Figure Skating (Single & Pair Skating and Ice Dance and Synchronized Skating) and Speed Skating (Long Track and Short Track) throughout the world.