



International
Olympic
Committee

The President

Opening Ceremony of the Winter Youth Olympic Games Gangwon 2024
Gangneung, 19 January 2024

Dear President of the Republic of Korea, Your Excellency, Yoon Suk-yeol,
Dear Presidents of the Gangwon 2024 Organising Committee,
Dear President of the Korean Sport and Olympic Committee, Lee Kee-heung,
Dear athletes,
Dear Olympic friends,

Good evening and welcome!

Welcome to the Winter Youth Olympic Games Gangwon 2024!

Dear young athletes: this is your moment.

You are following in the footsteps of sporting icons who made Olympic history right here at the Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018.

Now it is your turn.

Give it your best at your first Olympic competition. Make new friends. Live the Olympic values. Respect yourself. Respect your competitors. Respect the rules. Enjoy your Olympic experience!

This is your time – to grow together – and to shine forever!

And to mark this special moment, let us take a photo together.

Let us all thank our wonderful Korean hosts. Thank you, Korea, for giving this new generation of young athletes the stage to live their Olympic dream. This is a true Olympic legacy.

Dear volunteers, this is also your moment to shine.

Thank you, Korea!

All of us – athletes, IOC Members, volunteers, members of the Organising Committee, officials, authorities, spectators – all of us will live the Olympic motto: Faster, Higher, Stronger – Together.

It is now my great honour to invite the President of the Republic of Korea, His Excellency Yoon Suk-yeol, to declare open these Winter Youth Olympic Games Gangwon 2024.