



**Special
Olympics
Bharat**



**REPORT
YOUTH FOR INCLUSION
5-11 June 2024
Singapore**

Executive Summary

Special Olympics- Asia Pacific organised two back- to- back summits from 5-11 June 2024 at the Hotel Changi Village, Singapore, bringing together 82 participants from 15 countries. Overall, the academy witnessed participation of Special Olympics Program Athlete Leaders, youth leaders without IDD, Program National Directors, Mentors, and Special Olympics Asia Pacific regional staff

Unified Leadership Academy: Leader II, was held from 5-8 June 2024. Kalash Kaushal, Manager, Communications & Youth Initiatives participated in the academy. Rithik Hukku,



Athlete leader and a member of the SOAP Regional Athlete Leadership Council, his Mentor Dr DC Gupta, Shrey Kadian, Athlete leader SO Bharat, his mentor, Mr Jignesh Thakkar, Mahi Dheri, Simran Sahni Youth leaders SO Bharat and members of the SOAP Youth Leadership Council participated in the Academy. The academy witnessed participation from Australia, Bharat (India), Fiji, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Vietnam

The Regional Youth Summit & Unified School Forum was held from 8-11 June 2024. Ms Raman Rekhi, Director Communications & Youth Initiatives was joined by a team from Assam that included Ms Parishmita Baishya, Youth leader with Intellectual Disabilities, Ms Loni Kalita,

Youth leader without Intellectual Disabilities and Ms Priyanka Goswami, Adult Mentor



Unified Leadership Academy: Leader II | 6-8 June 2024

The Special Olympics Leadership Academy established in 2014, is a program dedicated to developing inclusive future-ready leaders of the movement. Leadership Academy forms part of the Special Olympics Learning and Development Strategy Pillar “Advancing” and directly supports Special Olympics Strategic Plan 2021 – 2030 Enabler 4 “Drive Excellence.” The Unified Leadership Academy Is a development opportunity for Special Olympics individuals with and without IDD to learn about leading oneself, others, their organizations and communities.

The 4- Module leadership Academy Structure

LEADER 1	LEADER II	LEADER III	LEADER IV:
Leading Yourself	Leading Others	Leading Organization	Leading Community (In Development)



Day 1, 6th June 2024

Topic	Key Takeaways
<p>RECAP LEADER 1 This session was about all the previous leadership academy – growth mindset, accountability, leadership style, growth mindset, grit and personal productivity</p>	<p>Recap through role play</p>
<p>UNIT 1: Team Building: Unboxing your leadership</p>	<p>-This session challenged the participants to explore thoughts within the mind's comfort zone. -The box activity helped us reflect on our points, overcoming our fears and focusing on our action points.</p>
<p>UNIT 2: EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION WITH CATAPULT <i>Catapult is the first leadership learning hub in Southeast Asia backed by leading real estate developer CapitaLand, designed to groom Asia's next generation</i></p>	<p>-Speakers shared tips and tricks on how to be effective and good in communication/presentation skills. -The session had group discussion activities that encouraged everyone to speak and share their thoughts.</p>



Day 2, 7th June 2024

Topic	Key Takeaways
<p>UNIT 3: VULNERABILITY & COURAGE: Ms Caroline Callow - <i>Senior DEI Consultant and Organisational Development Facilitator at Catalyse</i> & Mr Roman Matla - <i>Director, APAC - Diversity, Equity & Inclusion at Google</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Speakers shared the difference between vulnerable and vulnerability leadership -Role play on how to tackle various scenarios, application of courage in such situations. - Understanding about vulnerability is different for leaders and team members
<p>UNIT 4: DIALOGUE CAFÉ: Panel Discussion & Breakout <i>Roman Matla , Caroline Callow</i> <i>Sandy Dang – Innovation and implementation lead at AON;</i> <i>Pankaj Bharadwaj – VP Marketing Asia Pacific at Avery Dennison;</i> <i>Chaitanya Nangia – Director Compliance & Operational Risk at Bank of America;</i> <i>Elle Cheng ,Diversity & Inclusion Leader Asia Pacific at Avery Dennison</i> <i>Florence Hui – Athlete Leader SO Singapore (Moderator)</i></p>	<p>Discussed about how can we partner with corporations - influencing them with courage</p>
<p>UNIT 5: COMMUNICATION THROUGH AWARENESS: Ms Jolie Michelle Ow - <i>Founder, Director, Mindfulness-based Movement and Art Facilitator and Consultant</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mindfulness workshop, focused on erasing unwanted thoughts through sound therapy. mind exercises and stretching exercise were taught



Day 3, 8th June

S No.	Topic / Discussion	Key Takeaways
1	UNIT 6: RECAP DAY 1 & 2	- Group Discussion Activity for the recap
2	UNIT 7: INFLUENCING OTHERS & GETTING OTHERS TO FOLLOW: Mr Raju Venkataraman	-Understand key points on how we can influence others by pitching on WHAT IS IN IT FROM THEM. - Building trust is the most important and first step while influencing others.
3	UNIT 8: Action Planning	

Plan Ahead:

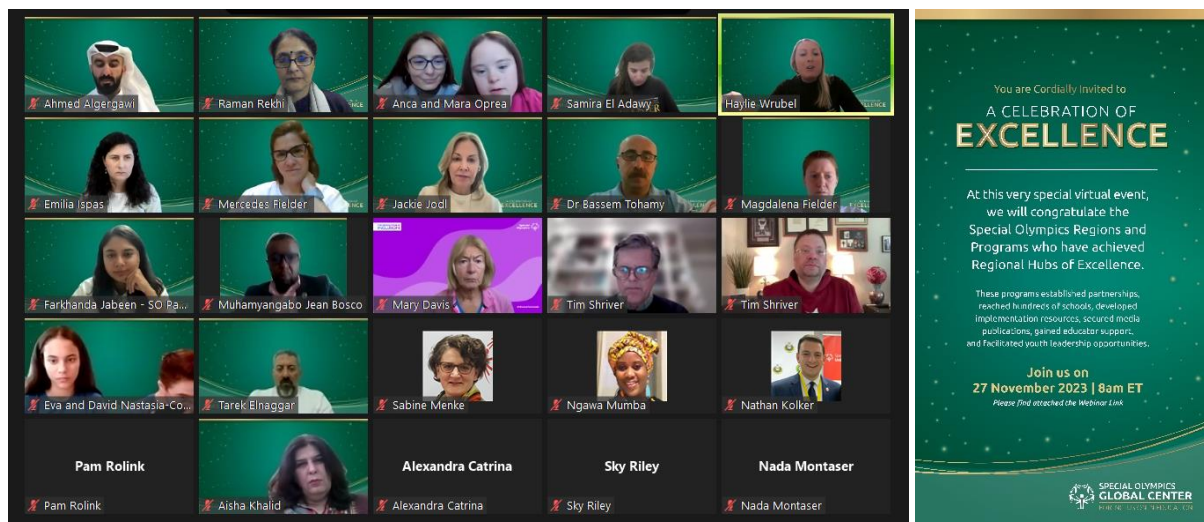
1. Discussed with Ms Svetana (SOI) conducting a similar training programme in India taking inspiration from the Leadership Academy.
2. Developing the Athlete leadership module (soft skills / leadership qualities) for Pan India Athlete's- building more leaders by the end of 2024, including Mentor training. Similarly, ideating and executing the State Youth Activation Plan in SO Bharat, curating state youth teams, reaching out to sponsors/partners. Engage the youth inclusively while maintaining an environment of equity.
3. Utilise leadership academy resources, key learning and tools to effectively implement youth activations in existing and new schools in Delhi.
4. Inculcate the skills and learnings I've gained from the leadership academy in every activity/workshop/project I plan for Special Olympics in future.
5. Developing new partnerships and strengthening existing ones with long-term sustainable plans.

Kalash Kaushal, Manager, Communications & Youth Initiatives said, *"It is so important to conduct a pan India Athlete leadership training on the one hand and tap partnerships to engage them in diverse ways to directly and indirectly connect them with the Athletes"*

Regional Youth Summit & Unified School Forum

From the 8-11 June 2024 'Youth for Inclusion 2024: Expanding Unified Champion Schools' Summit was held, designed to utilize the experiences of Special Olympics Bharat and Pakistan to teach new programs about the Unified Champion School (UCS) programming. Over the past four years, the two national programs have expanded UCS programming within their countries, achieving impressive results and reaching "Regional Hub of Excellence" status, a recognition reserved for programs with the highest level of programming.

Context



SO- Bharat has expanded the UCS programming to 12 states of India through the MBZ grant, since 2020, bringing on board 203* schools (UCS). For a successful outcome of the program through the active participation of the states, SO Bharat was announced as 'Regional Hub of Excellence' on 27 November 2023 at a virtual event convened by Dr Tim Shriver, Chairman and Ms Mary Davis, CEO, SOI.

**Until 30 April 2024*

SO Bharat co-led three sessions with the SOI Global Unified Champion School team during the course of the Summit. The representatives from SO Bharat on the regional youth and athlete leadership council played a major role in the organization of the YFI 2024. The sessions were interactive and planned with frequent group discussion, activities and fireside chats. The summit deep dived into the three board aspects of UCS, namely, Inclusive youth leadership, UCS components and Sustainability

Day 1- 9 June 2024

The first day focused on Inclusive education and the role of Special Olympics in driving it through sports. A panel discussion kicked off the summit, bringing together officials from diverse backgrounds sharing their opinion on importance of inclusion in communities.

Moderated by Grace Payne Athlete Leader SO New Zealand and Mahi Dheri, Youth Leader SO Bharat, the panelists included SO Bharat Humaira Kazim, Youth Leader with ID from SO Pakistan; Jacqueline Jodl, Chief Global Youth and Education at SOI; Dinh-Long Pham Youth Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation Coordinator at UNDP; Nate Low, Senior Director, Inclusive Impact & Sustainability Asia Pacific at Visa

Inclusive Youth Leadership



3 / Youth For Inclusion Summit 2024 / Expanding Unified Champion Schools



Three Steps to Start Inclusive Youth Leadership



Educate . Motivate . Activate

4 / Youth For Inclusion Summit 2024 / Expanding Unified Champion Schools



YOUTH FOR INCLUSION

Special Olympics
Unified Champion Schools

DAY 1: HIGHLIGHTS

9 JUNE 2024, SINGAPORE

Youth for Inclusion: Expanding Unified Champion Schools aims to introduce and expand Unified Champion Schools (UCS) programming by uniting leaders, mentors, educators, and young people with and without intellectual disabilities to strategize and plan for UCS expansion.

Global corporations such as Visa are promoting and implementing inclusive policies similar to those championed by Special Olympics. **Businesses and organizations like Visa, UNDP and Special Olympics are being influenced and guided by the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).** When inclusive practices are adopted in corporate and educational settings, they transform the lives of people with intellectual disabilities (ID) in schools and in their future professional endeavors.

“ Creating change within our schools and communities requires the combined efforts of both youth and adult leaders. Together, we can achieve what none of us can do alone. ”

Jackie Jodl
Chief, Global Youth and Education
Special Olympics International

When 14 Special Olympics Programs were tasked with drawing their vision of an inclusive world, the similarities were striking. Each drawing depicted a **world where everyone is valued** and appreciated, and where **inclusion is the standard.**

Over **2/3 of the worlds youth population resides in Asia Pacific.** That is why incorporating young people in the strategy to expand UCS is key. Youth and adult leaders must work together to share the message of impact.

“ We want to create spaces within schools where biases are challenged and everyone is accepted ”

Simran Sahni
Youth Leader
Special Olympics Bharat

The discussions were held to enable the participants to think of the first few steps to take to establish Inclusive Youth Leadership in their respective countries. The day wrapped with a bowling experience for the participants.

Day 2- 10 June 2024

The second day highlighted what the two programs (SO Bharat & Pakistan) did to begin with the Unified Champion schools and steer its expansion. The youth leaders had a separate session on the UNSDGs and advocacy and storytelling. Later, another session on Govt engagement and Partnerships was presented by SO Bharat and SO Pakistan respectively. The day provided a 'Market Place' experience that had Australia, Pilipinas, Singapore and Thailand showcase their resources and exclusive experiences with the participants.

Five Steps to Build Unified Champion Schools

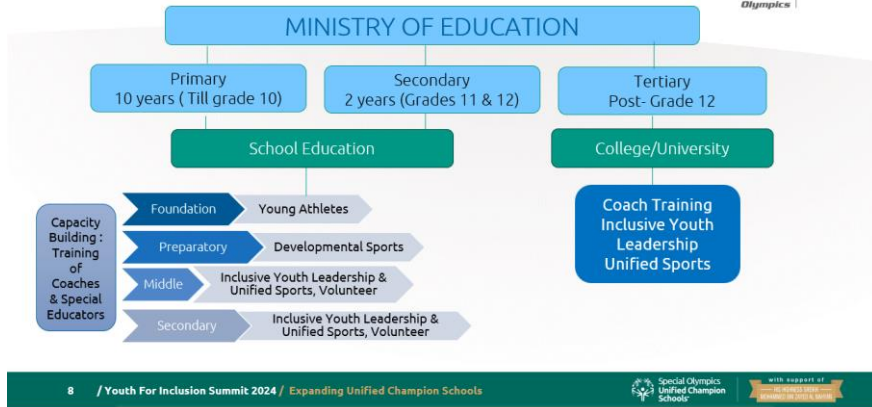


Step 2: Create a Strategy to Engage Schools



4 / Youth For Inclusion Summit 2024 / Expanding Unified Champion Schools

Structure & Synchronization



“ It was inspiring to see Athletes from different countries interacting with each other and assuming leadership roles throughout the summit. The Summit clearly demonstrated how well Inclusion would shape if the youth are offered opportunities to work and have fun together. While the youth engaged, the adult mentors and officials engaged in dialogues and discussions around sustainability; and that completed the circle perfectly”- **Raman Rekhi, Director Communications & Youth Initiatives, SO Bharat**

The second day concluded with a Singapore river walking tour.



YOUTH FOR INCLUSION Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools

DAY 2: HIGHLIGHTS

10 JUNE 2024, SINGAPORE

Youth for Inclusion: Expanding Unified Champion Schools aims to introduce and expand Unified Champion Schools (UCS) programming by uniting leaders, mentors, educators, and young people with and without intellectual disabilities to strategize and plan for UCS expansion.

To drive sustainable change and development at the local level, youth must continue to prioritize projects and everyday actions in their schools and communities that support the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Special Olympics must position ourselves as an implementation partner for governments; allowing governments to see us as key partners in moving their policies to practice.

Youth are the storytellers and ambassadors of the inclusion movement. By sharing their personal stories and the growth they've experienced through Special Olympics, they can significantly advance awareness and impact of UCS in their Programs.

“ Before coming here I was afraid, now I know I do not have to be afraid anymore. ”

Talha Asif
Youth Leader, SO Pakistan

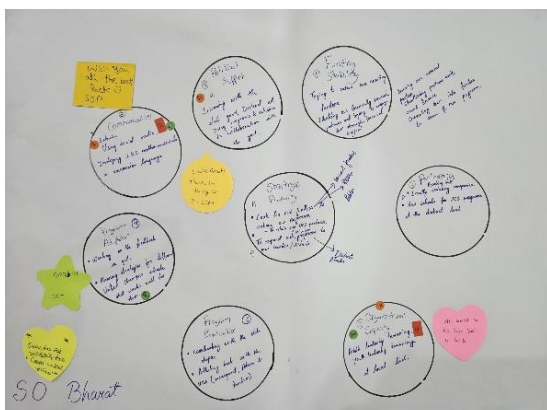
Building mutually beneficial partnerships with youth and sport organizations, NGOs and corporations is vital in the launch and sustainability of UCS.

Special Olympics ASIA PACIFIC
SPECIAL OLYMPICS GLOBAL CENTER FOR INCLUSION IN EDUCATION
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MOHAMMED BIN ZAYED AL NAHAYL

Day 3- 11 June 2024

The third day was assimilating the learnings of the summit into an action plan that was under discussion within different national teams. The team from Assam designed a plan to drive the unified champion school growth and sustainability, for the rest of the year. The same were pasted and discussions were held around the same.

The Summit concluded with felicitation of SO Bharat and SO Pakistan as Regional Hubs of Excellence.



Getting to know the best practices carried out by the other countries gave me an insight on the importance of identifying & engaging the locally available potentials: local youths, unified partners / community partner. The action plan at the end also gave my team some clarity about our future path - Priyanka Goswami, Adult Mentor, Assam



The 3-day summit was very interesting and fun. I met so many people and made friends and learned about inclusion. I enjoyed the activities and the roll call dance that we learned there. I learned about the UNSDGs and its importance. I enjoyed the marketplace and learned from them. The overall experience was very good and enjoyable- **Parishmita, Youth leader with IDD, Assam**



I learned in depth about the tools and strategies needed to expand UCS programming. I understood the importance of inclusion in communities and the role everyone has to play. Learning about the UNSDGs and how and why it relates to the work we do was very interesting and knowledgeable. The marketplace & storytelling sessions was something new and exciting. The overall experience was fun

and informative. Meeting people from so many different places but, with similar mindsets made the whole program more meaningful- **Loni, Youth leader without IDD, Assam**

A sincere thanks to **Haylie Wrubel, Senior Director & Brenden Scully Manager, from the Global Unified Champion Schools team, SOI** for helping in planning and building great sessions together