Chapter 7

Partnering with Special Olympics to help young people across Asia

In February 2018 we announced a three-year partnership with the Special Olympics, the world’s largest sports organisation for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. We’re investing US$1,100,000 over three years into two programmes. And in 2019 we also supported a number of Special Olympics athletes at the Abu Dhabi World Games by providing them with travel insurance coverage - a first in our industry.

Unified Schools

We work with students in schools and organisations across Asia. Using workshops, events and activities, we’re doing what we can to combat inequality, and support young people with disabilities to celebrate their identities. So far, we’ve helped put on 76 events, reaching 3,623 young people in 109 schools.

Athlete Leadership

We’re working with young athletes who have intellectual disabilities, helping them develop the vocational and life skills they need to live independently. So far, we’ve facilitated the training of 2,229 athletes and 242 mentors. We’re also working with the Special Olympics to help young people build relationships with employers and find meaningful, paid work.
Supporting our communities across Asia

In Indonesia in May 2018 we hosted a four-day Bandung Roadshow at our offices. Here we taught financial literacy, and hosted training session to help people stay fit and live more healthily.

In Thailand we’ve connected with four universities. Plans are now underway to set up what the Special Olympics call ‘Youth Activation Committees’ – groups of young people who are standing up for respect and inclusion in their communities.

In Singapore we were part of the very first ‘Play Inclusive Festival’ – from Sport Singapore and the Ministry of Education. This was Singapore’s biggest-ever unified sports competition, pairing athletes with and without special needs.

In Vietnam our staff put on an Athlete Leadership and Unified Schools workshop in Ho Chi Minh City. The plans and ideas that came out of the workshop are now being carried forward by the young people and teachers we recruited.