



# International Children's Games





# HOSTING THE WORLD

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello!

It is my honor to serve as President of the Committee for the International Children's Games (ICG). We are a volunteer body of members from around the globe that serves to advance the cause of peace and understanding for youth through sport. Recognized and supported by the International Olympic Committee, ICG has a long and illustrious history and continues to grow, providing a unique life-changing opportunity for thousands of children.

From its beginnings, ICG has been a movement of cities. Wonderful cities large and small have participated in ICG by sending delegations and, more importantly, hosting the Games. Host cities from around the globe have been infused with global exposure, tremendous pride, economic impact, and cultural interactions.

I invite you to consider joining the ICG movement and possibly hosting a future Games. It is an amazing opportunity that changes lives.

**Best regards,**

**Torsten Rasch**  
**President, ICG Committee**



## ABOUT INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S GAMES

Since 1968, the International Children's Games (ICG) has provided a unique sporting and cultural gathering for tens of thousands of the world's youth. An alliance of cities and individuals who pursue the common goal of forming friendship and peace through sport, ICG relies on the vision and generosity of cities around the globe to host its annual summer and bi-annual winter Games. Hosting ICG provides a city with the opportunity to welcome international visitors, showcase itself as a destination location and major event host, and provide its citizens a chance to witness peace-building in action.



First organized in 1968 by Metod Klemenc, ICG had humble beginnings as an athletic competition in Celje, Slovenia (then Yugoslavia) involving nine Eastern European cities. Klemenc wanted to "create a better world based on friendship, and sport seemed to be one of the best means to bring together young people from different countries." That dream mushroomed into an annual event recognized by the International Olympic Committee, in which more than 50,000 youth ages 12-15 years, from more than 500 cities from over 110 countries have participated.



ICG is headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland and governed by a dedicated volunteer General Assembly, Committee, Executive Committee and several active commissions and task forces.

ICG is internationally recognized organization of the International Olympic Committee.

[webicg.org](http://webicg.org)

Organisation  
recognised by the



INTERNATIONAL  
OLYMPIC  
COMMITTEE



## HOSTING INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S GAMES

Cities from around the world have eagerly taken on the privilege and responsibility of hosting the International Children's Games since 1968. A survey of some of our most recent host cities provided insight into the value and positive impact the Games have had for hosting cities.



The following quotes are from International Children's Game organizers:

## ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL IMPACT

"Hosting ICG not only infused significant dollars into our economy but, more importantly, served as a great source of pride in hosting the world to our community."

"Economic spend of \$5 million into the economy based on visitor numbers and average spend."

"We know there were pre- and post-tourism and economic development benefits. However, there were also many social and community impact benefits to the city."

"ICG provided great experiences to more than three thousand local school student volunteers and a wonderful chance for local young athletes."

## CAPACITY BUILDING

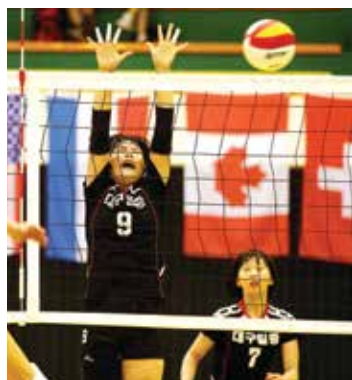
"We increased capacity to deliver international events and showcased our city on an international stage."

"Local and national recognition for hosting an international event provided the knowledge that the city was able to host an event of this nature – encompassing so many different nationalities and cultures – thus giving the confidence to bid for other major sporting events."

"Based on the experience of hosting ICG, a multi sport event was started in the city and has been held every year since, bringing thousands of participants from abroad to take part."

"For big cities that are interested in hosting bigger IOC events later, ICG would be a good "training" or an indication that the city can host such events. Also for smaller cities who will never get to host the biggest events, ICG is big enough for them and is a very positive experience for the inhabitants and also the for the local sport movement."

"Even a little city can organize a huge international event."





## CITY PROMOTION

“Worldwide awareness. Thousands of children know our city from the Games.”

“YES!!! – ICG lets the world know about your city, its people and culture in its own way. Let your children meet with friends from all over the world.”

“We know that participants from the Ukraine, Poland, USA and Germany came special to Alkmaar after the 2015 Games.”

“Children from different parts of the world had the opportunity to get acquainted with the richness of Russian and Bashkir cultures.”

## MEETING EXPECTATIONS OF HOSTING

“My experience with hosting ICG was more than what I had expected. ICG looks like a simple sports competition for children, but it also can be an international cultural festival.”

“The spirit of the Games was amazing, the participants thankful and happy, and this gave everyone working around the Games and those coming to watch a great feeling of success and happiness.”

## UNIQUE STORIES THAT ONLY HOSTING A GAMES PROVIDES

“The team of Nairobi (Kenya) arrived one week before the games in order to learn skiing. They had never seen snow before taking part in the games!”

“The priceless moments experienced formed memories and legacies that will last a lifetime for all involved.”

“The theme of our games was connecting lives and we have so many stories of visiting athletes and coaches that have stayed connected with members of our community they met during the games – even five years after we hosted. We have friends now all over the world that we visit, travel and correspond with. Those that came to the games know they will always have friends here in Kelowna.”

## RECOMMENDATIONS

“Hosting ICG is very special. Its benefits go beyond those of hosting other events with rare opportunities for engaging and eliciting tremendous community pride.”

“Of course we would recommend other cities host ICG. It could have a real economic impact and has great values – a good reason to rally local people in order to host people from around the world.”

“Being a host city is an awesome, unforgettable, rewarding, satisfying experience.”

# HOST CITIES

## ICG Summer Games

- 1968 – Celje, Slovenia
- 1970 – Udine, Italy
- 1972 – Graz, Austria
- 1974 – Murska Sobota, Slovenia
- 1974 – Darmstadt, Germany
- 1976 – Murska Sobota, Slovenia
- 1976 – Geneva, Switzerland
- 1978 – Ravne na Koroskem, Slovenia
- 1980 – Lausanne, Switzerland
- 1982 – Darmstadt, Germany
- 1983 – Troyes, France
- 1983 – Murska Sobota, Slovenia
- 1984 – Geneva, Switzerland
- 1985 – Granolleres, Spain
- 1986 – Lausanne, Switzerland
- 1987 – Graz, Austria
- 1988 – Szombathely, Hungary
- 1989 – Andorra, Andorra
- 1990 – Uzhgorod, Ukraine
- 1991 – Bratislava, Slovakia
- 1992 – Geneva, Switzerland
- 1993 – Darmstadt, Germany
- 1994 – Hamilton, Canada
- 1994 – Slovenj Gradec, Slovenia
- 1995 – Celje, Slovenia
- 1996 – Sopron, Hungary
- 1997 – Sparta, Greece
- 1998 – Logroño, Spain
- 1999 – Medias, Romania
- 1999 – Cesky Krumlov, Czech Republic
- 1999 – Velenje, Slovenia
- 2000 – Hamilton, Canada
- 2001 – Szombathely, Hungary
- 2002 – Plock, Poland
- 2002 – Taipei, Taiwan
- 2003 – Graz, Austria
- 2003 – Patras, Greece
- 2004 – Cleveland, United States
- 2005 – Coventry, England
- 2006 – Bangkok, Thailand
- 2007 – Reykjavik, Iceland
- 2008 – San Francisco, United States

- 2009 – Athens, Greece
- 2010 – Manama, Bahrain
- 2011 – Lanarkshire, Scotland
- 2012 – Daegu, Republic of Korea
- 2013 – Windsor, Canada
- 2014 – Lake Macquarie, Australia
- 2015 – Alkmaar, Netherlands
- 2016 – New Teipei City, Taiwan
- 2017 – Kaunas, Lithuania
- 2018 – Jerusalem, Israel
- 2019 – Ufa, Russia

## ICG Winter Games

- 1994 – Ravne na Koroskem, Slovenia
- 1995 – Prakovce -Helcmanovce, Slovakia
- 1999 – Maribor, Slovenia
- 2009 – Montreux-Vevey, Switzerland
- 2011 – Kelowna, Canada
- 2013 – Ufa, Russia
- 2016 – Innsbruck, Austria
- 2019 - Lake Placid, United States

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CZECH REPUBLIC  
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ITALY  
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NETHERLANDS  
POLAND  
ROMANIA  
RUSSIA

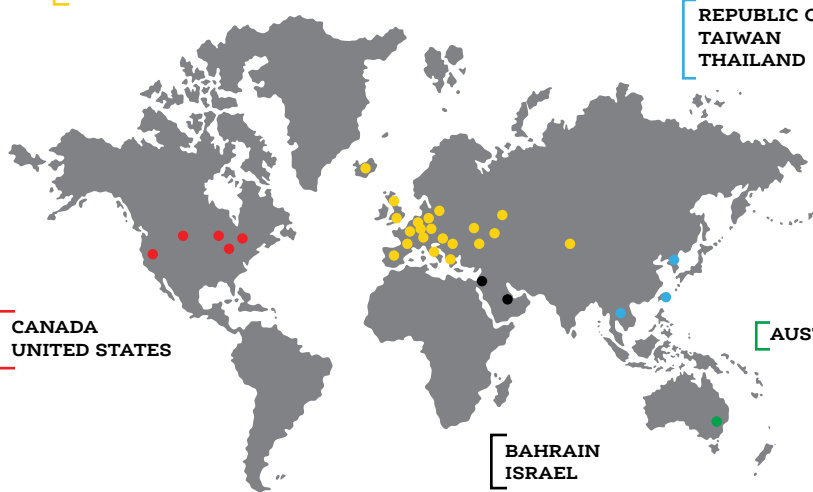
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ISRAEL

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For information on hosting or attending ICG,  
please e-mail [office@webicg.org](mailto:office@webicg.org)

[webicg.org](http://webicg.org)