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**11 July, 2011**

**WTBA SIGNS PROCLAMATION OF MUTUAL SUPPORT WITH SPECIAL OLYMPICS**

ARLINGTON, Texas – The World Tenpin Bowling Association has become the first international federation to sign a proclamation of mutual support with Special Olympics International.

The agreement includes a Special Olympics event to be held in conjunction with the 2011 World Tenpin Bowling Association World Women’s Championships in late August in Hong Kong. In addition, the proclamation sets the stage for helping recruit coaches to train Special Olympics athletes.

“WTBA is proud to be the first international federation of Special Olympics International to sign the proclamation of mutual support,” said Kevin Dornberger, WTBA President. “It’s my hope that all of our future world championship events shall include a Special Olympics competition as well. The synergies of the combination of two organizations’ volunteers, spectators, media coverage and sponsors will improve both Special Olympics and WTBA.”

Dornberger recently attended a press conference announcing the proclamation at the Special Olympics World Summer Games in Athens, Greece. Also attending the press conference were representatives from the International Olympic Committee, the United Nations, UNICEF, SportAccord, FIFA and several famous athletes.

“Special Olympics is pleased to have the support of the World Tenpin Bowling Association as we strive to share the physical and social benefits of tenpin bowling with more athletes, more coaches and more sport officials through expanded competition opportunities,” said Brady Lum, President and COO of Special Olympics International. “In partnership with the WTBA, Special Olympics will use the sport of tenpin bowling as a platform for demonstrating the skills and capabilities of person’s with an intellectual disability, fostering a community of acceptance which celebrates the effort to be one’s best rather than a singular focus on the best.”

The World Tenpin Bowling Association, which is made up of more than 100 bowling federations, governs the sport throughout the world. For more information on WTBA and the World Bowling Tour, visit [WorldTenpinBowling.com](http://WorldTenpinBowling.com).

**ENDS**

For further information, please contact:

**World Tenpin Bowling Association**

Kevin Dornberger, President

Tel: +1 800 514 2695

[president@worldtenpinbowling.com](mailto:president@worldtenpinbowling.com)

[www.worldtenpinbowling.com](http://www.worldtenpinbowling.com)