

# Innsbruck 2012 Winter Youth Olympic Games

## Closing Ceremony

Innsbruck, 22 January 2012

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We are nearing the end of ten glorious days of competition, education and cultural exchange.

By all measures, the first Winter Youth Olympic Games exceeded expectations and established a solid foundation for future youth games.

We are indebted to the Games organisers and to the many volunteers who worked so hard to ensure the success of this inaugural event.

I also want to thank the authorities and citizens of Innsbruck for their support and warm hospitality.

Your collective efforts have added another great achievement to Innsbruck's Olympic legacy.

We have seen some remarkable athletic performances during the high-level competition at these Games.

These were superbly refreshing Games.

Dear athletes,

We have been inspired by your conduct – not only on the snow and ice, but also during the Culture and Education Programme.

You embody the Olympic values of excellence, respect and friendship.

More than anyone, you are responsible for the success of these Games.

Now it is up to you to take the spirit of Innsbruck back to your countries.

By earning the title Young Olympian, you are role models for your generation.

You have started something special in Innsbruck.

And no matter what happens in your sports career from this point, all of you are equipped to become future leaders.

The legacy of the first Winter Youth Olympic Games lives in you, and in all of the people, of all ages, who have been touched by your good example.

I wish all of you all the best in your future endeavors.

I now declare the inaugural Winter Youth Olympic Games in Innsbruck closed, and, in accordance with tradition, I call upon the Youth of the World to assemble in four years' time in Lillehammer, Norway, for the second Winter Youth Olympic Games.

Thank you.