

Local company provides IT services to Special Olympics

Local IT start-up, Betterhealth Global South Africa (BHG), provided IT services to the 2007 Special Olympic Games held in Shanghai earlier this month.

Special Olympics is the world's largest amateur sports organisation, and provides year-round training and competition in 26 Olympic-type summer and winter sports for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

One of the activities that makes Special Olympics unique is providing free healthcare screenings at the largest of its 600 sports events worldwide each year. The programme, Healthy Athletes, uses software called HEALTHone to screen the approximately 8000 participating athletes and securely store their records.

Over the seven days of the 2007 Special Olympic Games, HEALTHone recorded 18 536 screening sessions on 4879 athletes - a world record for Special Olympics. In addition, 2000 medical encounters were recorded in Chinese by Chinese doctors.

BHG is the SA-based provider of HEALTHone, a global software company, however, SA skills were used in the development and implementation of the system for the 2007 Special Olympic Games. In addition, the servers storing the athletes' medical records are based at BHG's offices in the Bandwidth Barn in Cape Town.

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