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Japan strengthen the Olympic values of Nordic Skiing

The Nordic ski world is international, but is it global? The disciplines are Cross country skiing, Ski jumping and Nordic combined and they are mostly practiced in Europe. The international body is the international Ski federation (FIS), placed in Switzerland. Some Nordic skiing centres are situated in other parts of the world, but often out of sight of the eye of the media. One of the values of the Olympic movement is friendship. *“This value refers to building a peaceful and better world through solidarity, team spirit, joy and optimism in sport. The Olympic Games inspire people to overcome political, economic, gender, racial or religious differences and forge friendships in spite of those differences.”* To be able to fulfill the value the sport has to be heterogeneous to have differences to overcome. The Nordic ski world has been highly homogenous in the perspective of economic, racial, gender and religious differences. For example, first 2014 both genders are accepted in Ski jumping for the Olympics. One country where Nordic skiing exists and has success is, out of the perspective of the Olympic values, more important than others for the globalization of Nordic skiing. It is Japan. Japan has over the years made the Nordic Ski world more heterogeneous by tying the western and the eastern world together in their participation in the disciplines of Nordic Skiing and their success in Nordic Combined and Ski Jumping and by putting effort in to the development of Ski Jumping they have overcome the gender differences and the effort was crowned in the world championships 2013, where the team of Japan became historical by winning the first ever mix competition in Ski jumping. A competition where a team consists out of two men and two women.