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**ANNIKA Invitational and Mission Hills China Extend Agreement to 2023**

***The Mission Hills Group and ANNIKA Foundation Agree to Five-year Contract Extension to Continue Partnership in Hosting ANNIKA Invitational in China***

**(ORLANDO, Fla.)** – [The ANNIKA Foundation](http://TheANNIKAFoundation.com) – golf Hall-of-Famer Annika Sorenstam’s charitable organization – and the Mission Hills Group are proud to announce a five-year extension to host the ANNIKA Invitational at Mission Hills through 2023.

The first all-girls international event to come to China, the ANNIKA Invitational at Mission Hills was first hosted in 2011 and has established itself as the preeminent female junior event in Asia.

Since its inception, the event has hosted over 1,000 players, many of whom have gone on to play Division I collegiate golf in the United States, and succeeded at the professional level.

“The ANNIKA Invitational is one of the highlights of our annual junior golf program at Mission Hills, which features more than 50 tournaments for tens of thousands of young Chinese golfers each year,” says Tenniel Chu, Group Vice-Chairman of Mission Hills. “We look forward to continuing our mission together with Annika to grow girls’ golf in China and across the region for many more years to come.”

“I’m so proud of what this event has become over the years and I’m always so inspired by the talent that we see each year,” adds Annika, who designed the host Annika Course and annually attends the tournament. “The ANNIKA Foundation is proud of its partnership with Mission Hills and looks forward to a bright future with this event.”

The Mission Hills Junior Golf Program provides access to golf for tens of thousands of juniors each year, from beginners through to elite amateurs, through 50+ junior tournaments plus coaching, camps & clinics, schools’ initiative, free access for juniors to three courses and free entry into China’s first golf museum.

Since 2005, Mission Hills has invested more than \$6 million into its junior programming; and more than 100,000 competitive rounds have been played by juniors at Mission Hills. It was voted Best Youth Development Program in Asia in 2018 and EFG Bank was recently unveiled as an Official Partner.

Each year, the ANNIKA Foundation conducts five other major golf events for juniors: the ANNIKA Invitational USA presented by Rolex, ANNIKA Invitational Europe, ANNIKA Cup, ANNIKA Invitational Latin America and ANNIKA Invitational Australasia. They are complemented by the ANNIKA Intercollegiate presented by 3M and the ANNIKA Award presented by 3M, which is annually bestowed to the most outstanding female Division I golfer.

Since the inaugural Foundation tournament – the 2009 ANNIKA Invitational USA – 45 ANNIKA event alumnae have earned LPGA cards, with more than 600 playing golf at the collegiate level.

For more information, please visit [www.annikafoundation.org](http://www.annikafoundation.org)

Photo 1: Tenniel Chu (left), Group Vice Chairman of Mission Hills and golfing legend Annika Sorenstam (right) announce a five-year extension to the ANNIKA Invitational at Mission Hills in China

Photos 2-4: Annika Sorenstam gives one of her famous ‘Share My Passion’ clinics to competitors at the 2019 ANNIKA Invitational at Mission Hills in China

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### **About the ANNIKA Foundation**

Annika created the [ANNIKA Foundation](http://www.annikafoundation.org) to provide opportunities in women’s golf at the junior, collegiate and professional levels while teaching young people the importance of living a healthy, active lifestyle through fitness and nutrition. The Foundation has partnered with key organizations to promote healthy, active lifestyles for children, including SPARK, Florida Hospital for Children in support of its *Healthy 100 Kids* initiative and The First Tee in development of the *Nine Healthy Habits* curriculum for children.

It annually conducts six major golf events for aspiring junior girls: the ANNIKA Invitational USA presented by Rolex at the World Golf Village in St. Augustine, Florida; ANNIKA Invitational at Mission Hills in China; ANNIKA Invitational Europe and ANNIKA Cup in Sweden; and, in association with the R&A, the ANNIKA Invitational Latin America and ANNIKA Invitational Australasia. In 2013, the Foundation’s reach extended to the collegiate ranks with the ANNIKA Award presented by 3M (awarded to most outstanding female NCAA Division I golfer) and ANNIKA Intercollegiate presented by 3M (12 team, 54-hole event in Minnesota). SPARK grants to schools, financial support of *Healthy 100 Kids*, endowing an AJGA ACE Grant, and the “Share My Passion” Golf Clinics are other areas of emphasis.

### **About Mission Hills**

The Mission Hills Group – owner and operator of world-class resorts in the heart of the Pearl River Delta and on the tropical island of Hainan – is a pioneer in China’s hospitality, sports and leisure industry.

The fully-integrated Mission Hills resorts sprawl over 40 square kilometres, including 22 championship golf courses, five-star hotels, award-winning spas and volcanic mineral springs, international convention centers, state-of-the-art golf academies, a 20-pitch soccer training base, Asia’s largest basketball school and Asia’s biggest tennis facility.

Other significant projects at Mission Hills include shopping and entertainment at Mission Hills Centreville, Bromsgrove School Mission Hills in collaboration with the 550-year-old British boarding school, co-operations with world-renowned hotel brands Hard Rock, Renaissance and Ritz-Carlton, Mission Hills Movie Town, China’s first Wet’n’Wild water park and ground-breaking partnerships with FC Barcelona, NBA and PGA of America.

For more information visit [www.missionhillschina.com](http://www.missionhillschina.com) or follow Mission Hills China on social media.