

## 14-YEAR-OLD HUANG WINS ANNIKA INVITATIONAL AT MISSION HILLS IN CHINA

**[Shenzhen, China – 1st March 2019]** Huang Ting-Hsuan of Chinese Taipei was crowned queen of the 2019 ANNIKA Invitational at Mission Hills in China following a final-round 71 and a two-shot victory over defending champion Nanako Inagaki of Japan.

14-year-old Huang from Taoyuan City received the trophy from tournament host Annika Sorenstam together with exemptions into the EFG Hong Kong Ladies Open at the Hong Kong Golf Club on May 10-12 and the CLPGA's Zhangjiagang Shuangshan Challenge on June 6-8, both professional events.

Huang started with the overnight lead thanks to a stunning 64 in round two and held her nerve at only 14 years of age to shoot one under par on the final day and finish 12 under for the tournament on 204.

Last year's winner, 18-year-old Inagaki put up a brave title defense, finishing runner up on 206, with China's Yin Ruo-Ning, 16, who led after round one with a 67, finishing third on 208. Other age-group winners were Hong Kong's Sophie Han (233) in the girls' 10-12 category and Liu Yu-Jie (235) of China in the 8-9 age group.

The top three finishers overall, Huang, Inagaki and Yin earn exemptions into the prestigious 2020 ANNIKA Invitational USA presented by Rolex at the World Golf Village in St. Augustine, Florida.

"I was really nervous today, especially on the last three holes with Annika watching, but I'm so happy now," said a smiling Huang, who was playing in her third ANNIKA Invitational at Mission Hills and won her age group in last year's IMG Junior World Championship.

More than 80 girls from eight different countries and territories competed over 54 holes of stroke play on the par-72 Annika Course, one of 22 courses across two locations at Mission Hills. Players can now look forward to the tenth ANNIKA Invitational at Mission Hills in 2020 following this week's announcement that the annual event will return to the world's largest golf facility in southern China until at least 2023.

The first all-girls international event in China, the ANNIKA Invitational at Mission Hills was launched in 2011 and has established itself as the pre-eminent 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 several have succeeded at the professional level.

The ANNIKA Invitational is a highlight of the Mission Hills Junior Golf Program, which provides access to golf for tens of thousands of juniors each year – from beginners through to elite amateurs – through more than 50 junior tournaments, coaching, camps and clinics, a schools' initiative, a golf scholarship programme with The R&A, free access for juniors to three of its courses, and free entry

into the Dr. David Chu Golf Museum at Mission Hills, the first in China.

Since 2005, Mission Hills has invested more than six million US dollars into its junior program; 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 unveiled this week 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.

**Leading final scores: Girls' 13-18:** 204 – Huang Ting-Hsuan (TPE) 69 64 71; 206 – Nanako Inagaki (JPN) 69 66 71; 208 – Yin Ruo-Ning (CHN) 67 71 70. **Girls' 10-12:** 233 – Sophie Han (HKG) 80 75 78; 244 – Chen Pin-Hsi (TPE) 87 79 78, Wang Xin-Yu (CHN) 79 81 84. **Girls' 8-9:** 235 – Liu Yu-Jie (CHN) 79 78 78; 245 – Leung Hei-Tung (HKG) 83 82 80; 257 – Wang Xi Zi Lin (HKG) 84 89 84

Photos:

Photo 1 – 2019 ANNIKA Invitational at Mission Hills Champion, Huang Ting-Hsuan of Chinese Taipei at Mission Hills Resort in Shenzhen, China

Photo 2 – Huang Ting-Hsuan of Chinese Taipei receives an exemption into the 2019 EFG Hong Kong Ladies Open from golfing legend Annika Sorenstam and Tenniel Chu, Group Vice-Chairman of Mission Hills China

Photo 3 – Winners and officials at the 2019 ANNIKA Invitational at Mission Hills, held at Mission Hills Resort in Shenzhen, China

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### **About the ANNIKA Foundation**

Annika created the ANNIKA Foundation 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 across two locations – making it the world's largest golf facility – plus 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.