

18th FINA World Championships – Gwangju 2019

The 18th FINA World Championships was staged in the City of Gwangju (South Korea) across multiple venues, with the exception of the Open Water Swimming (Yeosu).

Gwangju is the sixth-largest city in South Korea, known as the “City of Peace”, its name is composed of the words Gwang meaning “light” and Ju meaning “province”. As a city rich in culture and arts, Gwangju has given birth to numerous forms of art. Gwangju is widely recognized as “Artists’ Town” as it has nurtured well-known figures in Korean traditional painting, folk music, poetry, western painting and Chinese modern music. As a result, the national government completed the hub city of Asian culture project to build cultural ties and establish a forum of exchange with various countries of Asia.

6 FINA disciplines were included in the FINA World Championships which was held over 2 weeks, from July 12-28. Swimming and Diving events were held in the Nambu University Municipal Aquatics Centre. This permanent venue complex features two Olympic-size pools as well as diving pool 34m x 25m. By involving temporary, indoor stands, the seating capacity increased and the total capacity was 11’000.

Opposite the Nambu University Municipal Aquatics Centre, in the parking area 2 temporary 35-metre pools with a total temporary seating of 5’000.

Artistic Swimming was staged in a permanent venue where a temporary 30m x 35m pool was installed for the period of the competition.

Around the university area of Chosun, the temporary structure, bleachers and pool (15m wide & 6m deep) was installed. Men divers were jumping from 27m while women from 20m. It was another iconic location within the City of Gwangju that offered a unique and picturesque views of the city while showcasing the world’s best High Divers.

Facts & Figures

332’025 Fans in the stands	2’500 Volunteers
17 New Championships records	26 Different nations represented on the podium
5 World Junior records	10 New World Records
2’518 Athletes	USD 6’153’800 Combined Prize Money
194 National Federations	Total
172 Broadcast countries	

The 18th FINA Masters Championships was held immediately after the World Championships, from August 7-20. The Championships was a global festival of swimming enthusiasts, full of harmony, friendship and touching moments.

The swimming events featured over 3,000 athletes and showcased the drama and strength of the human spirit.

Toshiko Amano, born in 1926, was the oldest participant in the Championships taking part in the women’s 100-meter freestyle event.

CHO Eun Young (81, female), the oldest Korean participant, participated in seven events starting with the 50m freestyle.

Another participant, 29-year-old LEE Dong Hyun, who has autistic disorder, claimed a personal victory by competing in the 100m freestyle, 50m backstroke and 100m backstroke.

In summary, there were 8’740 swimming race entries, 410 diving competition entries, 44 artistic swimming competition entries, 534 open water swimming race entries.