



Press Release

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Asa Miller and Team Ready to Compete in Beijing

Despite having no winter season, the Philippines will once again look to put on a strong showing in the upcoming Winter Olympic Games. Alpine skier Asa Bisquera Miller will be the lone entry of Team Philippines in the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics, where he will compete in two events: the men's slalom on February 14 and the giant slalom on February 17.

Having competed in the 2018 Olympic games in Pyeongchang, Miller is excited to represent the Philippines once again. "It feels unreal, I'm extremely proud to have qualified for a second time and assure that our country gets representation in 2022," he said.

With more experience under his belt, Miller hopes to improve on his 2018 placements. "Being 17 at the time, I was a young gun among seasoned athletes used to the pressure of such a large event," he said. "I hope to showcase my improved skills and the experience I've gained over the last four years."

Since competing in 2018, Miller's preparations have been extensive. He took two years off school to focus on developing his skiing skills in Aspen, Colorado. "Over there, I took time to focus on refining my technique and mental skills for better performance in competition," he said.

Despite being the country's lone qualifier to the winter games, Miller will not be alone. He will be accompanied by Chef de Mission Bones Floro, Philippine Ski and Snowboard Federation (PSSF) President Jim Palomar Apelar, Covid-19 liaison officer Nikki Cheng, athlete welfare officer Jobert Yu, and Asa's coach Will Gregorak.

A taste of winter in the Philippines

In support of the Philippines' lone qualifier to the Beijing Olympics, Bank of China, the official banking partner of the Beijing Winter Olympics, together with SM Supermalls and the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), organized an exhibition of the best skaters from the Philippine Skating Union in the SM Mall of Asia skating rink.

"It's extremely important that we continue supporting our Filipino athletes, despite the challenges of the pandemic," said PSC Commissioner Celia Kiram. "Because an athlete's success doesn't simply speak about his or her own exceptional capabilities, it also speaks loudly about the support we are all able to give him or her."

Given the rarity of winter-themed events and activities in a tropical nation like the Philippines, organizers hope to not only promote winter sports and the Olympic values of community and hope, but also give people a chance to have fun and celebrate amidst the challenges of the pandemic.



Beyond support for Miller, organizers also look to get more eyes on winter sports, with the hope of developing more Winter Olympians in the future. “It is our hope to give aspiring winter athletes a venue where they can experience ice without needing to leave the country,” said Cheng, who is also President of the Philippine Skating Union and Sports Development Manager for SM Lifestyle.

Miller likewise hopes to inspire the next wave of Filipino winter athletes. “I hope my journey serves as motivation and an example for other Filipino athletes pursuing winter sports,” he said.

“I never would’ve pictured myself in this position six years ago, but a lot of hard work, perseverance, and planning brought success. I want to encourage other athletes, and people in general, to pursue their passions and what they are good at, because you never know what opportunities they might get in the future.”

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About Bank of China

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Bank of China Manila is the official RMB Clearing Bank in the Philippines.