

FFWPU International: Segye Times Drone Soccer Championship at CES 2024

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The Segye Times Drone Soccer Championship in Las Vegas (Photo credit: Federation of International Drone Soccer Association (FIDA))

The Segye Times Drone Soccer Championship at CES 2024 significantly enhanced the global recognition of drone soccer, attracting the largest crowds to its booth among all exhibits. The world's largest consumer electronics and information technology (IT) exhibition, CES 2024, hosted the Segye Times Drone Soccer Championship at the Venetian Expo in Las Vegas, USA, from January 9 to 12. This event marked its debut on the prestigious CES stage in Las Vegas, known for showcasing current trends and visions in information technology.



Teams from South Korea, the United States, and other nations visiting CES participated in the championship, with a total of six teams competing in friendly matches. For this event, a specialized drone soccer stadium measuring 17 meters in length, 8 meters in width, and 5 meters in height was set up for the first time inside the main exhibition hall of CES. The USA's Consumer Technology Association (CTA), the organizer of CES, approved the installation of this stadium and the conduct of the tournament, recognizing the technical prowess, innovation, and educational impact of drone soccer as a fusion of IT coding and the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

The opening ceremony's kick-off was conducted by the founder of Segye Times, True Mother, along with Segye Times President Jung Hee-tae, and Thomas McDevitt, Chairman of the Washington Times. A drone bearing flags with the inscriptions "Coexistence," "Co-prosperity," "Co-righteousness," and Segye Times' three principles "Love Heaven, Love People, Love Country" soared high, officially initiating the tournament.



Segye Times President Jung Hee-tae stated in his speech, "Drones represent the convergence of cutting-edge IT and aviation technology, forming a key component and innovative platform for future mobility, a popular theme at CES." He explained that Segye Times, celebrating its 35th anniversary this year, has been a pioneer in organizing drone soccer and fishing tournaments, continuously showing interest in enhancing the competitiveness of the domestic drone industry. He expressed hope that the Segye Times Drone Soccer Championship at CES would catalyze a new chapter in the Korean drone industry, similar to the global success of Spy's "Gangnam Style" and BTS's "Dynamite."



Opening Ceremony of the Drone Soccer Championship (Photo credit: The Segye Times Newspaper)

The opening ceremony saw an attendance of over 200 people, including notable figures like Ham Young-joo, Chairman of Hana Financial Group; Park Seung-hee, President of Samsung Electronics; Lee Hyung-hee, Communications Chairman of the SK Super Council; Oh Se-chun, Executive Director of LG Electronics; and Kwak Young-gil, Chairman of Aju News Corporation. Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon and Kim Hyun-woo, CEO of the Seoul Business Agency (SBA), also visited to show their support.

Previously, Jung Hee-tae hosted the first Federation of International Drone Soccer Association (FIDA) World Drone Soccer Tournament in Incheon's Songdo, South Korea, last May. In August, a business partnership agreement was signed with Noh Sang-heup, Chairman of the Korean Drone Soccer Association, for the CES 2024 drone soccer exhibition.