



UNITED NATIONS SPORT BULLETIN



Updates on UN sport-related initiatives supporting the MDGs and activities for the International Year of Sport and Physical Education 2005 (IYSPE 2005)

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2nd Magglingen Conference on Sport for Development: Moving to the Next Stage

Swiss President Samuel Schmid welcomed more than 400 participants from 70 countries, including high-ranking decision makers and top athletes, at the opening of the conference, the culmination of IYSPE 2005, at the Federal Office of Sport and the Swiss Sport School in Magglingen on 4 December. The conference will issue a Call to Action, aiming to ensure that the progress for sport for development and peace generated during the International Year continues and grows, with a focus on practical initiatives. "The International Year of Sport and Physical Education is perfect for raising awareness of the role sport can play for society," said Mr. Schmid. "But awareness is not enough -- action is called for."

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said in a video message: "I salute the governments, sports organizations, the private sector and community groups that have helped make the Year a success. You have helped build momentum for mainstreaming the power of sport in the global development agenda."

The conference is hosted by former Swiss President Adolf Ogi, Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, and the Swiss Federal Office of Sport. "One of our main ambitions in the program that we launched during 2005 is that the fire that has been lit thanks to the International Year will keep burning in the years to come," said Matthias Remund, Executive Director of the Federal Office of Sport. "I think this is an ambition we share equally for sport and development, and I am convinced that this conference will be a milestone in that respect."

Looking towards the future -- Welcoming the participants, Mr. Ogi said: "The time has come to look at what we have achieved and what still lies ahead. From today on we are entering a new phase, a phase of implementation and of active involvement with partners in the field." Abdallah Kaabi, Minister of Youth, Sport and Physical Education of Tunisia, which introduced the UN resolution proclaiming IYSPE 2005, thanked the organizers and participants for helping make the Year a success. Four time Olympic gold medallist Johann Olav Koss, President and CEO of Right to Play, noted that 500,000 children worldwide, many in refugee camps, participate in his organization's activities each week, and thanked governments for their support for sport for development and peace. Walter Fust, Director-General of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, reported that sport is a component in 60 of the agency's projects and called for building a global partnership multi-stakeholder partnership for sport for development to carry the momentum of the Year into 2006 and beyond.

The 1st Magglingen Conference on Sport and Development in 2003 affirmed that access to sport and play is a basic human right and called on all stakeholders to promote development, peace, education and health through sport. Since then, the new initiatives have been launched worldwide, and the UN General Assembly recognized the power of sport to contribute to efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The 2nd Magglingen Conference is taking stock of achievements in Sport for Development and Peace, exchange experiences, present examples of path-breaking ideas, and issue a Call to Action that will encourage a common global framework for policy and action.

Achievements during IYSPE 2005 -- Michael Kleiner, Head of the IYSPE 2005 Office, will review the Year on Day 2. Almost 60 countries from all continents have designated National Focal Points to coordinate and publicize commemoration of the Year. Hundreds of organizations, from the International Olympic Committee to community groups, have commemorated or publicized IYSPE 2005 through sports events and other activities. To strengthen the role of sport and physical education as an integral part of development and cooperation strategies, 10 international conferences were organized during the Year dealing with key themes relating to sport, including development, health, culture, environment, peace, gender and education. Governments, the UN, sports organizations and other groups have launched more than 100 projects using sport as a tool for promoting development and peace during the Year.

The private sector, including sports organizations and sporting goods suppliers, has embraced the multi-stakeholder approach advocated during IYSPE 2005. Through the Sporting Goods to Go project, a coalition of NGOs, UN agencies and sports institutions targeted \$2 million worth of sports equipment to be delivered to developing countries as part commemorations of the Year.

The Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group was initiated by Right to Play and launched at the United Nations in New York to prepare a report on the evidence supporting the use of sport as a powerful tool for development, including the achievement of the MDGs. This will include recommendations to foster integration of Sport for Development into national development agendas and international development strategies. The final report is to be presented during the Beijing Olympics in 2008.

A platform for all players -- The conference brings together participants from governments, the UN, sports organizations, NGOs, the private sector, media and academia to forge new commitments and foster new partnerships. The main themes include: sport as a tool for development and peace; achieving the MDGs through sport; scaling up: towards a global partnership for sport and development; using sport in humanitarian emergencies: one year after the tsunami disaster; and ; champions with a cause: athletes' commitment to a better world. Sports stars participating in the event include former German tennis ace Boris Becker, four-time UN Olympic gold medalist and Right to Play President and CEO Johann Olav Koss, long distance runner Tegla Loroupe of Kenya, and hurdler Nawal El Moutawakel of Morocco.

Breakout sessions will cover a number of issues, including evaluation methods and instruments, overcoming trauma through sport, education and capacity-building, sport as a means for social integration, peace-building and conciliation, promoting gender equity through sport, sport and economic development, and building effective partnerships. Ministers of sport scheduled to participate include Dr. Dennis Bright of Sierra Leone, George Chulumanda of Zambia, Ahmad Fatfat of Lebanon, Viacheslav Fetisov of the Russian Federation, Abdallah Kaabi of Tunisia, and Dr. Agnelo Queiroz of Brazil.

Marketplace showcases innovative projects -- Exhibits by 35 organizations at the conference Marketplace are present ing initiatives that use sport to tackle pressing social and environmental issues. Among the exhibitors are LiiKe ry in Tanzania with a project that uses sport to promote basic education; Play for Peace of the US with a Global Peace Games for Children and Youth project; Sports Sans Frontieres with a project using sport to help children in Bolivia and Afghanistan; streetfootballworld, a global network using street football to promote social development; and Espaces Tadamoune , a UNDP Morocco project using sport to help at-risk urban youth. Among major organizations exhibiting are: the Australian Sports Commission; the Federal Office of Sport, Switzerland; the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA); Handicap International; the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Physical Education of Tunisia; the Ministry of Youth and Sport of Turkey; the Swiss Agency for Development; the Swiss Academy for Development; and the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA)

The United Nations Communications Group (UNCG) Working Group on Sport for Development and Peace includes participants from: FAO, ILO, UNAIDS, UN/DESA, UNDP, UN/DPI, UNESCO, UNEP, UNFIP, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIFEM, UN Millennium Development Goals Campaign, UN Millennium Project, UNODC, UN Office for IYSPE 2005, UNOHR-LLS, UNOPS, UN Volunteers, WFP, WHO, and the World Bank. Contacts: Djibril Diallo, Director, UN New York Office of Sport for Development and Peace (djibril.diallo@undp.org); Richard Leonard, Bulletin Editor (richard.leonard@undp.org); Michael Kleiner, Head of the Office for the International Year of Sport and Physical Education 2005 (mkleiner@unog.ch). Visit IYSPE 2005 at www.un.org/sport2005