



UNITED NATIONS SPORT BULLETIN

Updates on UN sport-related activities supporting efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and promote peace

Published by the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace on behalf of the United Nations Communications Group (UNCG) Working Group on Sport for Development and Peace

Number 22, 16 August 2006 / www.un.org/sport2005

Soccer star Ronaldinho appointed UN Spokesperson – Ronaldo Assis de Moreira, the Brazilian soccer great known as “Ronaldinho” of the FC Barcelona team, was appointed United Nations Spokesperson for Sport for Development and Peace on 11 August at the UN in New York. “I have devoted my life to helping youth realize their dreams, and with the United Nations, I will be ready to help through events, messages and any other means, to relieve the difficulties youth face, no matter which side they are on,” said Ronaldinho, replying to a question about the impact of the Lebanon crisis on youth. The appointment was made by Dr. Djibril Diallo, Director of the UN New York Office of Sport for Development and Peace, on behalf of Special Adviser Adolf Ogi. Ambassador Heraldo Muñoz, Permanent Representative of Chile to the UN, said: “What we need is more sport and less war, more soccer balls and less bullets. This is what Ronaldinho embodies, not only because of his career as a brilliant footballer, but also because he supports the values of development, non-discrimination and the fight against hunger and poverty.” FC Barcelona President Xavier Sala-i-Martin said that his team encourages its players to embrace humanitarian causes and donates 0.7% of its income to such activities. Ronaldinho has twice received the FIFA World Player of the Year award, in 2004 and 2005, as well as the European Footballer of the Year and the FIFPro World Player of the Year awards in 2005. He also serves as a United Nations World Food Programme Ambassador Against Hunger. Contact Nadia Samadani Kathwari: nadia.samadani@undp.org or Karima Zerrou: karima.zerrou@undp.org

UN peacekeepers and IOC hold DR Congo Peace Games – The Games are the first in a new joint initiative by Adolf Ogi, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace, the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Similar events are planned in other cities in the DRC prior to the second phase of elections in October, and for Liberia and Côte d’Ivoire, all using sport as a tool for peace-building, reconciliation and community dialogue. Thousands are joining in sports events in Kinshasa during 6-20 August, organized to promote peace and participation in the country’s first elections in decades. The games are organized by the UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC) and the IOC. Participants from the city’s 24 municipalities are participating in soccer, basketball, cycling and other events. On the first day, Peace Marathons of 4 km, 8 km and 12 km attracted more than 2,500 participants, including 250 international peacekeepers, and thousands of spectators. Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Chief of MONUC Ambassador William Swing said, “We are proud to host the first of a series of initiatives using sport for peacekeeping goals, in a common effort with new partners from the world of sport.” In a message on behalf of Mr. Ogi, his Special Assistant David Winiger expressed hope that the event will spread a message of peace across the country and beyond the DRC. Contact David Winiger: dwiniger@unog.ch

World University Presidents and University Sports Forum discuss sport for peace – The World University Presidents Summit joined the International University Sports Federation (FISU) Rectors’ Forum in concurrent events in Bangkok, Thailand, on July 19-22, in partnership with the Thai Ministry of Education. Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra gave the opening address to 1,000 participants. FISU President George E. Killian told a joint session that shared beliefs can be developed through sport activities in academic environments, promoting peace and understanding. Mr. Ogi’s Special Assistant David Winiger spoke on the potential of university sport to help promote the objectives of the United Nations. FISU adopted the Bangkok University Sport Declaration, agreeing to advance sport in higher education institutions as a contribution to sustainable human development and global peace and understanding. Contact David Winiger: dwiniger@unog.ch

Israeli – Palestinian Peace Team sets example at 4th International Swiss U16 Cup – While conflict flares in the Middle East, the Peace Team showed how sport can promote friendship, cooperation and respect. “Once again we saw that football can bring people together regardless of their cultural, ethnic, religious and political background,” said Adolf Ogi, patron of the tournament, held in Bad Ragaz, Switzerland, on 3-6 August. Despite the history of conflict in the region, “sport can open new ways to live together more peacefully,” he said. The Peres Center for Peace in Tel Aviv helped bring the 18 players and four

coaches of the Peace Team to the tournament with the financial support of the Government of Liechtenstein. Twelve top teams of youth under age 16 competed, with RSC Anderlecht of Belgium winning the cup. Hanspeter Rothmund, President of the organizing committee, plans to arrange follow-up training for coaches and players in Israel and the Palestinian territory when the situation allows. Contact David Winiger: dwinger@unog.ch

ILO book examines sport's role in youth employment -- *Beyond the Scoreboard: Youth employment opportunities and skills development in the sports sector*, edited by Giovanni di Cola, coordinator of the ILO Universitas Program, focuses on the vital role of sport in skills development for young people. Case studies from Europe, the U.S., East Africa, Latin America and Asia reveal how the sports sector often acts as a link between local and global labor markets. The book also examines policy issues such as women's empowerment, athletes with disabilities, and sport's role in HIV/AIDS prevention. Contact Giovanni di Cola: dicola@ilo.org ; order information at www.ilo.org/publns

FC Barcelona holds football coaching camps in Kosovo – Julio Alberto, former player with FC Barcelona, Atletico Madrid and the Spanish national team, trained more than 350 youth and 120 coaches in four municipalities on 25 June – 5 July. The camps also helped evaluate potential cooperation between FC Barcelona, UNMIK, and the Kosovo Provisional Institutions of Self-Government, including the Kosovo Football Federation. Contact Marc Buchwalder: buchwalder@un.org

UN honors winners of Kabul Girls' Football Competition in Afghanistan – UN Deputy Special Representative Ameerah Haq presented a trophy to the winning team at the event on 3 August, noting that, “Five years ago, the young girls in Afghanistan were not allowed to attend school, let alone play sports.” Kabul now has 15 football teams for young women age 13 to 20, and the winners will play teams from regional competitions in the finals, under the auspices of the Afghanistan Football Federation. Participants received footballs made for the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan by disabled Afghans, paid for by staff donations. More than 1,000 footballs will be delivered to schools, orphanages and prisons through the initiative. Contact Nadia Samadani Kathwari: nadia.samadani@undp.org

Goodwill Camp for Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan youth promotes peace – Forty young people from border communities in the Fergana valley participated in the Third International Youth Camp of Goodwill on 20-29 July in Jalalabat, Kyrgyzstan, organized by the UNDP Kyrgyzstan Conflict Prevention Program and UNDP Tajikistan. They participated in cultural activities and sports events with mixed teams, as well as training in conflict resolution designed to promote peace and harmony in the region, which has experienced tensions among ethnic groups and outbreaks of violence. Contact Ainura Umetalieva: ainura.umetalieva@undp.org ; visit www.pdppundp.kg

Project offers Moroccan youth sport and job training – Hundreds of youth from Sidi Moumen and Nassim, poor areas in Casablanca, joined in soccer games, martial arts and hip-hop dancing on 15 June to celebrate the *Espaces Tadamoune* project, a joint initiative by UNDP and the MJID Foundation. The project has provided 45 youth with a six-month course of sports, counseling and job training as electricians and plumbers. Local companies offered jobs for those completing training. Olympic champion Nawal El Moutawakel, President of the Moroccan Association for Sport and Development, participated with government officials and UNDP Resident Representative Mourad Wahba, who awarded 16 young adults with certificates for completing a two-month Sport for Development training course. Contact Leïla Barakat: leila.barakat@undp.org

Rwanda conference promotes sport to advance MDGs – The event held by UNDP and the Government of Rwanda in Kigali on 14 July focused on the role of sport in achieving the MDGs, with participants from government, sports organizations, civil society, and other sectors. UNDP is proposing a scholarship fund using sport activities as an incentive for students to study science and technology. UNDP Resident Representative Dr. John Kakonge urged that sport be integrated in plans to help children affected by poverty, disease and conflict. Contact Jean de Dieu Kayiranga: jean.kayiranga@undp.org

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 Campaign, UN Millennium Project, UNODC, 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); David Winiger, Special Assistant to the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace (dwinger@unog.ch). Visit www.un.org/sport2005