



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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Joint UN Youth and Sport for Development program a pioneering step in Albania -- The program will involve young people in sports activities to help raise awareness about, and progress towards, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). UN agencies joined with Albania's Ministry of Education, Ministry of Youth and Sports, and the National Olympic Committee to launch the initiative in Tirana on 13 April. UN Resident Coordinator Anna Stjärnerklint said that youth are key players in efforts to achieve the MDGs and need to be at the center of Albania's development work. The initiative will promote healthy lifestyles through physical education, assess school sport facilities, and show how sport is a cost-effective way to help urban youth avoid alcohol and drug abuse. It will also provide life skills training for marginalized Roma youth, entrepreneurship training for young people in poor areas, and training for teachers, health care and social workers who work with youth. UN partners include ILO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Volunteers, and the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator. The program marks the first time that the UN system in Albania and its partners have endorsed a sport for development initiative to help achieve the MDGs, and it will promote cooperation on the UN development assistance framework (UNDAF) for the next five years. Contact Giovanni di Cola, ILO: dicola@ilo.org

UN Special Advisor urges media to highlight 'social values of sport' – Citing the "tremendous" power of the sports media, Adolf Ogi, Special Advisor to the UN Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace, appealed to sports journalists from around the world meeting in Marrakech, Morocco, on 11-15 May to use that influence "to support the activities of those who are engaged in sport for a better world." Mr. Ogi, addressing the 68th Congress of the International Sports Press Association (AIPS), said that social initiatives by athletes such as Ronaldo, Roger Federer, Dikembe Mutombo, and Johann Olav Koss, should be "recognized and multiplied" to help progress towards the MDGs. Contact Michael Kleiner: mkleiner@unog.ch ; visit: www.aips-media.com

Latin American and Caribbean youth mobilize for MDGs -- Youth delegates from throughout Latin America and the Caribbean have convened in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, on 12-15 May for the first regional summit aimed at encouraging young people to initiate efforts to help achieve the MDG. President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of Brazil sent a message welcoming delegates to the Latin America and Caribbean Youth Leadership Summit, jointly organized by the UN New York Office of Sport for Development and Peace on behalf of the UN system, the Government of Brazil, the Global Peace Initiative of Women, the city of Belo Horizonte, and the Citizenship Institute. High-level officials from several government ministries are participating, along with representatives of UN agencies in Brazil and the region. Sport, with its wide appeal among youth, is a focus for the summit, and IYSPE 2005 offers a framework for reaching out to youth on the MDGs. Contact Karima Zerrou: karima.zerrou@undp.org

UNESCO collaborates with Paris Youth Open Tennis Tournament – UNESCO Director-General Koïchiro Matsuura signed an agreement on the Youth Open Tennis Tournament in Paris with Gille Morin, President of Stade Français, and Jacques Laurent, director of the tournament, on 23 April. Mr. Matsuura explained that UNESCO's partnership with Stade Français is in keeping with IYSPE 2005. Its participation will include a non-formal education program to sensitize young people to the values of sport and non-violent conflict resolution. Contact Martin Hadlow: m.hadlow@unesco.org

WHO promotes Move for Health 2005 – For its global annual Move for Health initiative, begun on 10 May, WHO is urging countries, communities and partner organizations to publicize and promote the benefits of physical activity for health throughout the year. Over 60% of the world's population does not achieve the minimum recommended 30 minutes of moderate physical activity each day. This year's theme is "supportive environments" that encourage more people to engage in physical activities, and these efforts support IYSPE 2005. Visit <http://www.who.int/moveforhealth/about/en/>

Teams from Haifa and Pristina participate at Blue Stars/FIFA Youth Cup -- Following a suggestion by UN Special Adviser Adolf Ogi, two special teams were invited to the 67th edition of the Blue Stars/FIFA Youth Cup on 4-5 May in Zurich, Switzerland. As a contribution to IYSPE 2005, the organizers of the tournament, which is traditionally a showcase for the stars of tomorrow, invited FK Flamurtari from UN administrated Kosovo and Maccabi Haifa from Israel. On his visit to the tournament, Mr. Ogi was joined by FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter. Visit: www.youthcup.ch

FIFA supports UNICEF Football for Peace initiative – The Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) helped UNICEF procure some 1,200 Sport-in-a-Box kits with a contribution of \$250,000 in 2004 to assist countries that are using football in post-conflict peace building efforts. An initial FIFA contribution for the kits supported girls' education through participation in sports in 2003. The 11 focus countries in the Football for Peace initiative include: Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Colombia, Guinea, Haiti, Liberia, occupied Palestinian territory, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, and Sudan. In Afghanistan, for example, the kits are used to initiate school sports programmes with the Ministry of Education, with a focus on girls. The UNICEF child protection team also uses the kits in a reintegration programme for out-of-school youth and former child soldiers. Contact Simone Clarke: sclarke@unicef.org

Sports boosts FAO TeleFood campaign against hunger – The FAO TeleFood campaign is drawing on the power of sport to help raise awareness and funds in support of hunger-fighting projects. The annual Partita del Cuore, a charity football game between famous Italian singers and soccer players, has helped to raise funds for TeleFood projects since 1998. FAO Goodwill Ambassador and Real Madrid football captain Raul Gonzales has promoted the TeleFood appeal in Spain. Other international sports celebrities, such as Italian football star Roberto Baggio and Olympic athlete Debbie Ferguson, are also FAO Goodwill Ambassadors, helping to raise awareness about hunger and the role of agricultural development. Contact Alison Small: alison.small@fao.org

Rose d'Or International Entertainment Summit announces "Entertainment and Sport" award -- The International Entertainment Summit is part of the annual Rose d'Or Festival in Lucerne and focuses on the broader issues of social responsibility of the media industry. At a panel on the potential of the media entertainment industry to raise social awareness, UN Special Adviser Adolf Ogi announced that next year's special award for a production would be dedicated to the issue of sport and development. Visit: www.rosedor.com

Beirut marathon and UN promote sport for development and peace -- 80 UN staff competed in the second Beirut International Marathon held last October, and UN Volunteers galvanized over 300 volunteers to help with preparations. This enthusiasm reflected this conviction held by the UN that sports can change peoples' lives for the better. The UN family in Lebanon marked the event as the first initiative there for IYSPE 2005 to make sports a means for promoting education, health, development and peace. Contact Nejib Friji: friji@un.org

"La Route D'Elissa" sailboat race for women retraces Mediterranean links -- The first international sail boat race for women across the Mediterranean, that took off from Lebanon late last August and ended in Tunisia almost two weeks later, was held in line with UN efforts to promote sport for peace and development. The Paris-based Route d'Elissa SARL in partnership with the UN Information Centre in Beirut organized the event, which highlighted links between Mediterranean countries by retracing the mythical route of the Princess Dido, also known as Elissa, who fled her kingdom in Tyre and landed in North Africa. Contact Nejib Friji: friji@un.org or visit <http://en.laroutedelissa.com>

Rallye Aïcha des Gazelles aids Moroccan women and children – The 2005 edition of the women's auto rally, held 23-30 April, helped raise funds for organizations dedicated to health and education for women and children and aiding at-risk adolescents. Syndiély Wade, daughter and advisor to the President of Senegal, participated in the event, which was endorsed by UNESCO and UNICEF. She advocated for IYSPE 2005 to raise awareness about the importance of physical education in school systems. Contact Marcellin Dally: m.dall@unesco.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Football star and UNDP Goodwill Ambassador Ronaldo to visit Palestinian and Israeli projects – Brazilian star Ronaldo de Lima, who plays for Real Madrid, is to visit UNDP Football Workshops for young Palestinians in Ramallah, on 16 May. The Workshops use sport as a way to teach leadership, confidence and discipline, based on principles of tolerance, cooperation and respect. Ronaldo will also inaugurate a new Centre for Disadvantaged Youth, established through a partnership between UNDP and the Palestinian Authority Ministry of Social Affairs. It offers educational and vocational training and plans to set up facilities for football and volleyball. Ronaldo will also visit the Peres Center for Peace's Twinned Peace Soccer Schools project in Herzilya, Israel. The Peres Center project brings young Palestinians and Israelis together through sports. Ronaldo is expected to greet 800 youth from the project, who will play in mixed teams in a tournament in his honour. "I am very eager to visit all these important projects," said Ronaldo. "It has always been a dream for me to go to the region and contribute as much as I can, with a message of peace and hope." Contact Ehaab Shanti, UNDP: ehab.shanty@undp.org, and the Peres Center for Peace: info@peres-center.org

Third World Conference on Sport and Tourism – Organized by the World Tourism Organisation, a specialized agency of the United Nations, with the support of the International Olympic Committee, the conference takes place 13-14 May in Hammamet, Tunisia, at the invitation of the Government of Tunisia. Participants will discuss links between sport and tourism and ways that they can contribute to economic development and build bridges of goodwill, understanding and peace. Contact comm.@world-tourism.org and visit <http://www.world-tourism.org/meetings/eng.html>

Warming-Up Youth4Sport -- Within the framework of IYSPE 2005, Utrecht University, together with the Municipality of Utrecht, is organizing the Warming-Up Youth4Sport Congress, which will be held during the FIFA World Cup Youth Football (for the under 20s) in Utrecht, the Netherlands, 27-28 June. The congress creates the opportunity of linking the knowledge of renowned medical and social scientists and economists with the experience of professional practitioners. In addition to plenary presentations and forum discussions, the emphasis will lie on the intensive exchange of knowledge in workshops. Former and current top sportsmen and women and top coaches will play an important role. Visit: <http://exchange.usg.uu.nl/youth4sport/>

International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking -- UNODC has announced that the theme for the day, 26 June, is "Value Yourself: Make Healthy Choices," and a year-long campaign will be launched then with the focus on sports and health. Austrian swimmer Markus Rogan, 2004 Olympic silver medalist, is the International Spokesman for the international anti-drug campaign. UNODC also plans to issue an updated version of the Coaches' Guide for Using Sport to Teach Healthy Life Skills (CD-ROM) with the IYSPE 2005 logo and UNODC 2005 campaign logo on it. The first version of the guide was launched at a press conference prior to the Athens 2004 Olympics and distributed to Global Youth Network members, as well as via the Edusport project sponsored by the European Director-General for Education and Culture. Visit: http://www.unodc.org/unodc/event_2005-06-26_1.html

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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, 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, Newsletter 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