



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)

Published by the UN New York Office of Sport for Development and Peace on behalf of the United Nations Communications Group (UNCG) Working Group on Sport for Development and Peace

Number 9, 17 October 2005 / www.un.org/sport2005

National cricket teams of Pakistan and India appointed IYSPE 2005 Spokespersons – The appointment “recognizes the outstanding example both teams have set in overcoming regional tension and encouraging peaceful relations,” said Adolf Ogi, the UN Secretary-General’s Special Adviser on Sport for Development and Peace. The teams served as catalysts of peace in early 2004, when the India team traveled to Pakistan for the first time in over 14 years to compete amidst thawing relations between the two countries. Reciprocating earlier this year, Pakistan’s went to India for a competition, and Pakistan’s President Pervez Musharraf used the opportunity to visit India to engage in dialogue with India’s Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. The teams have pledged to cooperate with the UN to use the power of sport to bridge cultural and ethnic divides and promote peace. Contact nadia.samadani@undp.org

International Conference on Sport and Peace held in Moscow – Participants from 40 countries, including 25 heads of ministries responsible for sport, attended the conference on 3-4 October, hosted by the Russian Federal Agency for Physical Culture and Sport under the aegis of the UN, with the backing of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). The conference declaration proclaims that “sport can play an active constructive role in bolstering the physical, intellectual and moral health of mankind in the 21st century.” Special Adviser Adolf Ogi cited examples of UN sport activities and initiatives by leading athletes that promote peace and told participants: “Sport, as a universal language, offers powerful ways to promote tolerance and understanding, bringing people together across boundaries, ethnic groups and regions.” The conference is one of a series commemorating IYSPE 2005. Visit www.rossport.ru

Secretary-General calls for wider use of sport for development and peace – In a new report to the General Assembly, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan calls it “imperative” that initiatives that advance Sport for Development and Peace during IYSPE 2005 “lead to sustained long-term efforts within the United Nations and among Government, private sector and civil society partners.” The Year is highlighting the significant role that sport can play in accelerating progress towards achieving the MDGs, the report says, and adding a strong impetus to better integrate sport into the development agenda. The report also calls for stronger UN partnerships with governments, sports organizations and the private sector. Visit www.un.org/sport2005

UNDP Chile and partners hold Social Integration Games – More than 1,000 young participants from different social and economic strata, as well as disabled youth, joined in the Games on 28-29 September in the national stadium in Santiago. Soccer star Sergio “Superman” Vargas demonstrated kicking techniques, and joined six other top players in a friendly game with disabled youth. Participants also watched exhibitions of parachuting, capoeira, karate, and gymnastics, and launched balloons bearing messages of goodwill. The UN system and UNDP Chile’s Sport for Development and Peace Program organized the Games with the Chilean Olympic Committee and the Ministry of Sport. The program has held seminars, clinics and other events commemorating IYSPE 2005. Contact Cristóbal Aldunate Jory: cristobal.aldunate@undp.org

Cameroon youth promote MDGs at World Cup qualifying match – Youth volunteers distributed over 42,000 pocket calendars outlining the MDGs at the soccer match between Cameroon and Egypt in Yaounde on 8 October, and two MDG banners were displayed in the stadium. The initiative was organized by the UN with the Ministry of Sport and the Cameroon Football Federation. Eugene Ngalim and Marie Tamoifo, delegates to the Second Pan-African Youth Leadership Summit in August, helped mobilize the young volunteers. Contact Denise Nomssi Nobiac: denise.nomssi@undp.org

Sport for the Environment Summit in Japan pledges action – The declaration adopted at the Summit, held in Nagoya and Aichi on 30-31 July pledges to reduce pollution and enrich the natural environment so that future generations can enjoy sports as it is enjoyed today. Participants included representatives of the UN, UNEP, UNESCO, sports organizations, the Olympic movement and the organizers of the Aichi World Exposition 2005. "Environmental considerations are a major component of the development of facilities and the organization of major sports events," pointed out UNEP Executive Director Klaus Toepfer. The declaration will be presented at the 2nd Sport and Development Conference in Magglingen, Switzerland, in December 2005. Visit www.gsa.or.jp/en/news/g050708.html

Cypriot youth sail on Voyage of Understanding – Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot youth joined other young Europeans on a ten-day voyage from Italy in July aboard the 60-meter ship Stavros S. Niarchos. The 34-member crew worked together as a team, fostering understanding between young people from different cultures. The UK-based Tall Ships Youth Trust organized the voyage, and Cypriot participants were assisted by a grant from the Bi-communal Development Programme, funded by the US Agency for International Development and UNDP and executed by UNOPS in Nicosia, Cyprus. Contact Marina Vasilara: marina.vasilara@undp.org

Peace Match held by Peres Center for Peace and FC Bayern Munich -- Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and Israeli Vice Prime Minister Shimon Peres opened the event with Bavarian Prime Minister Dr. Edmund Stoiber in the new Munich Allianz Arena on 25 July. More than 40,000 Bavarian school children attended and the match was broadcast on German TV. Two "Peace Teams" of players from Israeli and Palestinian youth teams competed against two FC Bayern Munich youth teams. The event conveyed a strong message of tolerance and demonstrated the potential of sport as an example of peaceful co-existence. Contact Alon Beer, Peres Center for Peace: a.beer@peres-center.org ; visit www.peres-center.org

Cleven-Becker Foundation launches 'Fit For Future' initiative -- At the Allianz Swiss Tennis Open in Gstaad, Switzerland, tennis legend Boris Becker and his business partner Hans-Dieter Cleven launched the initiative to combat a trend towards obesity and lack of physical activity among Swiss students ages 6 to12. The Cleven-Becker Foundation initiated the project in commemoration of IYSPE 2005 to reach over 200 schools with 100,000 children in the German-speaking area of Switzerland, and another 500 schools with 250,000 students throughout the country by 2007. The aim is to help improve diet, physical activity and health. Contact info@cleven-becker-stiftung.ch

UPCOMING EVENTS

Seminar on Rehabilitation through Physical Activity and Sport in the Tsunami Affected Area of Southeast Asia -- The International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education, in cooperation with Germany's Interior Ministry and support from Thailand's Ministry of Tourism and Sport, is hosting the seminar in Bangkok, 28-30 October, for sport, physical education, physiotherapy practitioners, as well social workers, teachers, administrative staff, and researchers, in the Tsunami affected region in Southeast Asia. Visit www.icsspe.org

The Olympic Truce - Torino 2006 – For the Torino 2006 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the Committee for the Organization of the Games and the City of Torino, together with the Regione Piemonte, the Provincia di Torino and the Italian National Olympic Committee, are staging a number of events to promote the Olympic Truce, or "Ekecheiria" in Greek. Besides the actions undertaken to encourage the adoption of a resolution on the truce by the UN General Assembly, these local bodies are staging a number of events at national and international level focusing on peace, cooperation and justice during the run-up to the Games. Visit www.un.org/sport2005/resources/olympic_truce.pdf

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