



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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Athletic stars unite with FAO, WFP and UNICEF to help those in need -- The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) has joined with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP), and UNICEF to launch Athletics for a Better World -- the IAAF Stars' Donation Fund. The fund will encourage top athletes to increase awareness of and raise funds for humanitarian initiatives by inviting them to donate a significant item from their most memorable competitions which will then be auctioned off on the IAAF website. The proceeds will be equally divided among the three agencies. Visit: <http://www.iaaf.org/news/newsId=29990,printer.html>

Top European soccer coaches train Kosovo youth -- The UN Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), along with Swiss partners and local authorities, organized the innovative training camp in Pristina and Mitrovica, Kosovo, on 18-23 June. In all, 25 football coaches and referees from Germany, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the UK trained 300 young people from different regions and taught 50 local coaches new methods for teaching youth. The event, part of IYSPE 2005 activities, was endorsed by Adolf Ogi, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace. "Although we don't speak the same language, I was able to communicate with the children using the universal language of sport." said Martin Andermatt, national coach of Liechtenstein. "This visit has been a very enriching experience." Plans are now underway for a new football training school for boys and girls in Kosovo. Contact David Winiger: dwiniger@unog.ch

Report highlights business role in sports for development -- The International Business Leaders Forum (IBLF) and UK Sport released a report entitled "Shared Goals – Sport and Business in Partnerships for Development" in London on 30 June to commemorate IYSPE 2005. It examines the role of sport in building partnerships between companies and communities to promote good community relations and development, highlights opportunities, and presents a policy framework for partnerships based on best practices by BP, Nike, Deloitte, UN agencies and the French government. Visit: www.uk sport.gov.uk/template.asp?id=2099

UNDP sports initiatives in Bulgaria support IYSPE 2005 -- UNDP and the Bulgarian Special Olympics Team are implementing Get Involved, a project to promote sport activities for people with intellectual disabilities to widen opportunities for social integration. Support comes from Special Olympics Europe, Coca Cola Bulgaria, the Johan Kreuf Foundation, the Union of European Football Associations, the Amateur Football League, and the Prosport Foundation. In another initiative, I Want to Be, UNDP and the Ministry of Youth and Sport, supported by the Bulgarian Football Union, have used sport to promote ethnic tolerance. Nine children's football teams in the north participated in 2004, and this year six soccer teams in the south were involved. Bulgarian soccer stars, Olympic champions, artists and public figures helped publicize the project. The School Basketball League, launched in April by UNDP and the Ministry of Youth and Sport, the Sofia Municipality and the Bulgarian Basketball Federation, is reviving school sports and encouraging youth participation in achieving the MDGs. Spalding, AND 1, Samsung, Nintendo and Virgin Records contributed awards for the championship series. Contact Maya Nyagolova: maya.nyagolova@undp.org

IYSPE 2005 commemorated in Egypt -- The Ministry of Youth and Sports and the UN Association-Egypt joined with the UN Information Centre-Cairo and national and regional youth NGOs in marking IYSPE 2005 in Cairo on 12 June. At the event, UN Under-Secretary-General Shashi Tharoor called sport a universal language that can "bring people together,

no matter what their origin, background, religious beliefs or economic status.” He emphasized that sport is a “wonderful tool” to promote health, education, development and peace. Contact Dysane Dorani: a.Dorani@unic-eg.org

Handball camp promotes peace -- UN Special Adviser Adolf Ogi inaugurated Play Handball for Development and Peace, an innovative summer sports camp for young players from Asia and the Middle East at the Swiss Sports School at Magglingen on 21 June. The two-week session organized by former Swiss international handball players aimed to break down barriers between youth from areas of tense relations or conflict, and among the 21 players participating were Israelis, Palestinians, Chinese, Japanese, and Koreans. "I tried to talk to the Palestinians, but they don't understand English very well," said Lior Barak from Tel Aviv. "But handball is an international language and we try to talk through handball. As long as we play together it will make us better friends." Mr. Ogi told the players: "When you introduce sport it gives life another value, an added value, and hope for a better future." Contact Michael Kleiner: mkleiner@unog.ch

Sports events spotlight IYSPE 2005 in Italy -- Thanks to the Regional UN Information Centre for Western Europe / Italy, organizers of a number sports events in Italy have endorsed IYSPE 2005, including: the Rome Marathon on 13 May; the 73th International Horse Show, Rome, 26-29 May; the Brindisi-Corfu Regatta, 8-11; the European Modern Pentathlon Championship, Montepulciano and Chianciano Terme, 10 June-1 July; the Golden Gala, a major international athletics competition in Rome, 8 July; the FEI European Jumping Championships, hosted by the Italian Federation of Equestrian Sports and San Patrignano, a drug rehabilitation center near Ravenna, 21-24 July; I Swim Italy 2005 – the Strait of Messina Swim, 29 July; and Assonautica in Taurquinia, which conducts a variety of water sports, including sailing for the disabled, throughout the summer. Contact: Fabio Graziosi: graziosi@runiceurope.org

Swiss students and Swisscom mark IYSPE 2005 -- More than 3,000 Swiss college students competed in events for the Swiss School Sport Day in a national celebration of IYSPE 2005 in Liestal on 8 June. UN Special Adviser Adolf Ogi urged the students to use sport as a training for life: “Accept defeats, respect the adversary, don't give up in difficult moments and resist being seduced by success.” On 10 June, the staff of Swisscom, the country's top telecommunication company, participated in a pentathlon for IYSPE 2005, led by CEO Jens Alder. UN Special Adviser Adolf Ogi addressed the dinner that followed, and Mr. Alder announced a new sport initiative for sport for development and peace. Contact: Robert Ruoff: robert.ruoff@hispeed.ch

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sports Summit for the Environment – UNEP and the Japan-based Global Sports Alliance (GSA), along with the Japan Association for the 2005 World Exposition, and the newspaper Chunichi Shimbun are organizing the Sport Summit for the Environment at EXPO 2005, Aichi, Japan on 30-31 July. World-class athletes and representatives of international sports associations and international organizations will discuss the issues relating to sport and the environment, and environmental messages from sports leaders worldwide will be a resource for environmental protection activities in the world of sports. Visit: www.g-forse.com/event/sse2005/index_e.html

Run4Unity Marathon -- The Focolare Movement, an Italian based NGO, is organizing a world sports marathon called run4unity, on 9 October 2005. The marathon will take place from 11am to 12am in all the different time zones. Youngster from different ethnic groups, cultures and religions will run together to show their commitment to building peace and unity. Visit: www.run4unity.net

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, UNOHRLLS, 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