

Press release / Invitation to a media conference

Berne, 2 December 2005

2nd Magglingen Conference on Sport and Development: The other side of sport

With around 400 participants from almost 70 countries, the 2nd Magglingen Conference is now fully booked. It will be the most important event worldwide yet on the subject of sport and development. From 4th to 6th December, high-ranking representatives from the areas of sport and politics, international organisations, industry and the scientific community will meet to discuss the ways and means of using sport to contribute to global development. The conference will be opened on Sunday by the Swiss Federal President Samuel Schmid. Musical accompaniment to the opening ceremony will be provided by an internationally renowned Swiss duo "stimmhorn".

The 2nd Magglingen Conference on Sport and Development marks the culmination and end of the International Year of Sport and Physical Education 2005. It illustrates how the great social power of sport can be used positively for peace and development. The aim of the conference is to take stock of experiences to date, present examples of pioneering projects and to establish an action-orientated agenda for the future. The event should contribute to ensuring that the enormous momentum in the area of sport and development continues and grows beyond 2005.

One of the special features of the conference is that it will bring together players from all relevant social areas. For example, there will be representatives from the area of sport as well as from politics, multilateral organisations, development agencies, industry, the scientific arena and the media. "We all must pool our efforts if sport is to fully unfold its colossal potential to do good" said Adolf Ogi, Special Adviser to the UN Secretary General on Sport for Development and Peace. The international conference will be hosted by the former Swiss Federal President, Adolf Ogi, together with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Swiss Federal Office of Sport (FOSPO).

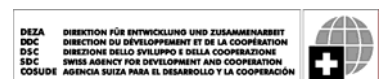
The conference will be attended by an array of prominent persons. Alongside sports stars such as the tennis champion Boris Becker, the Kenyan long distance runner Tegla Loroupe, the four-time Olympic gold medallist in speed skating Johann Olav Koss, and the hurdler and first African Olympic medallist Nawal El-Moutawakel, an array of ministers will be taking part, including the Russian Minister for Sport and former ice hockey star Vyacheslav Fetisov. High-ranking representatives from important international sporting organisations, the European Union and the UN will also be present. There will also be representatives from the scientific community and the media as well numerous representatives from non-governmental organisations active in the field of sport and development.



SPECIAL ADVISER
TO THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL
ON SPORT FOR
DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE



BASPO Bundesamt für Sport Magglingen
OFSP Office fédéral du sport Macolin
UFSP Ufficio federale dello sport Macolin
UFSP Ufficio federal de sport Magglingen



Workshops with leading experts and concrete project examples

In addition to the keynote speeches and plenary discussions, workshops will also be held during the conference on central themes, such as on 'sport and peace', 'sport and trauma management', 'sport and social integration' and 'sport and gender equality'. The workshops will be staged by selected experts and practitioners from the field.

Throughout the conference, around 40 organisations will present concrete projects from around the world in which sport is successfully being used for development. The initiatives range from the reintegration of street children and child soldiers and psychosocial care for disaster victims, to the promotion of the intercultural dialogue following conflicts as well as projects in which sport makes an important contribution to the promotion of health and the prevention of HIV/Aids.

With the 'Magglingen Call to Action 2005' and the 'Roadmap 2006+', two future-oriented documents will be elaborated during the conference. Among other things, the intention is to incorporate these into the report on the International Year of Sport and Physical Education 2005. Special Adviser Adolf Ogi will submit this to the UN General Assembly in Spring 2006.

Closing Media conference

Media representatives may still register for the conference via the internet.
<http://www.magglingen2005.org/index.cfm?id=62>

At the end of the 2nd Magglingen Conference a media event will also be taking place. The sponsors of the conference – UN Special Adviser Adolf Ogi, SDC Director-General Walter Fust and FOSPO Director Matthias Remund – will personally be providing information about the results of the conference.

You are cordially invited to attend the media conference:

6 December 2005, 13:00–13:45

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