

United Nations



Nations Unies

New York Office of Sport for Development and Peace  
Bureau de New York pour le Sport au service du Développement et de la Paix



## 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 4, 15 June 2005

**Olympic Day Run for millions to promote IYSPE 2005 spirit** -- Affirming that the United Nations and the International Olympic Committee “share fundamental ideals such as tolerance, fair play and equal rights,” IOC President Jacques Rogge and UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan have issued a joint message for this year’s Olympic Day Run and IYSPE 2005. During IYSPE 2005, sports entities are working together to “harness the great power of sport to change peoples’ lives for the better,” they say, noting that well-designed sport programs can be “catalysts for economic growth, and cost-effective ways to improve health and education – for young people in particular.” The message concludes that on this Olympic Day, when millions will take the traditional run to mark the birth of the modern Olympics, “We call on the sporting community to re-dedicate itself to the goals of service to the community, the advancement of humankind and universal peace.” National Olympic Committees worldwide traditionally hold the run on the first weekend before or after 23 June, when the IOC was created in 1894. Contact Richard Leonard: [richard.leonard@undp.org](mailto:richard.leonard@undp.org)

**Sport for environment and peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina** -- More than 7,200 college students from 10 cities took part in the Think and Move Campaign to promote reconciliation and environmental awareness among Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian communities that began in January and culminated in a closing ceremony in Sarajevo on 11 June. The young men and women competed in football and basketball, held Internet interviews on environmental issues, and collected old newspapers for recycling. Responding to strong enthusiasm for the initiative, Ambassador Walter Fust, Director of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), which sponsored the event, pledged to continued support for such activities. Adolf Ogi, Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace, congratulated participants and told them: “You shall never lose your joy and your enthusiasm.” Contact David Winiger: [dwiniger@unog.ch](mailto:dwiniger@unog.ch)

**Pakistan mini-marathon overcomes obstacles facing women** -- About five hundred mostly middle-aged men and women jogged through a police-lined street of Lahore in a symbolic mini-marathon on 21 May. Some of the women ran in high heels and the event was over after barely fifteen minutes, with no winner declared because the greater victory was that the race was staged successfully. The week before, police used force to halt the first attempt at a mixed-gender race. Asma Jahangir, UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, and Hina Jilani, UN Special Representative on Human Rights Defenders, were among 40 participants dragged into police vans and temporarily detained. The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, founded by Ms. Jahangir, and the Joint Action Committee for People’s Rights organized the event to challenge arbitrary curbs by religious extremists on women’s public participation in sports and to highlight rising violence against women. Contact Nadia Samadani: [nadia.samadani@undp.org](mailto:nadia.samadani@undp.org)

**Play Soccer promotes children's development in Africa** -- Play Soccer, a nonprofit organization that has received funding from FIFA to bolster its volunteer-based efforts, offers a recreational program that promotes health and social development of children and youth in disadvantaged communities. Soccer is the foundation of the program, providing a low cost, fun activity for girls and boys ages 5 to 14. Play Soccer began its first program in Ghana in 2001 and is collaborating with the Government, UN Volunteers and other partners to expand activities to a national scale. Other projects are underway in Senegal and Zambia, and Play Soccer is also beginning new programs in Cameroon, Malawi and South Africa in cooperation with SOS Children's Villages. There are plans to introduce the first Asian program in China in 2006. For more information visit [www.playsoccer-nonprofit.org](http://www.playsoccer-nonprofit.org)

**'26 Hours of Athletics' in Colombia** -- More than 2,000 athletes, including 1,000 youth, gathered for a series of athletic events extending around the clock in Medellín, Colombia, on 28-29 May to celebrate sport's social contributions in offering alternatives for young people to risks such as violence, drugs, alcohol. This second annual event was dedicated to IYSPE 2005 and drew participants from more than two dozen athletic clubs in the region and world-class Colombian athletes. Activities included track and field competitions, as well as festivals for children and women. The organizers hope that the long duration will win a listing in the Guinness Book of Records. Contact Mauricio Quiroz Hoyos: [maquiros@universia.net.co](mailto:maquiros@universia.net.co)

**"Sauna Bus" warms up Finnish Summer Campaign** -- A team organized by the Finnish UN Association, other NGOs and the UNDP Nordic Office is traveling to 35 sports and cultural events in a refurbished bus designed by students at the University of Art and Design in Helsinki that features an exhibition on IYSPE 2005, the MDGs, and the UN 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration – and a sauna. The tour began at the World Village Festival in Helsinki on 28-29 May, which had 80,000 visitors, and culminates at World Athletics Championships (Helsinki 2005) on 6-13 August. Contact Susanna Inkinen: [Susanna.Inkinen@undp.dk](mailto:Susanna.Inkinen@undp.dk)

**Activities in Morocco spotlight IYSPE 2005** -- UN Special Adviser Adolf Ogi's visit to Marrakech last month put the spotlight on Morocco's activities to mark IYSPE 2005, including a UNDP pilot project in partnership with the Fondation M.J.I.D. to open two Sport, Listening and Awareness Centres offering job training, HIV/AIDS awareness, and other life skills for disadvantaged youth in Casablanca. At a press conference with Mustapha Zekri, Secretary-General of Morocco's National Olympic Committee, Abderrahmane Zidouh, National Director of Sport, and other officials, Mr. Ogi called sport "the best school of life" that inculcates youth with the values of peace and tolerance. Morocco's National Committee for IYSPE 2005 is publicizing the Year at sports events and aims to introduce "sport for all" activities at centers for youth and women, work with the Education Ministry to consolidate physical education in the national curriculum, and identify two UN programmes that could benefit from inclusion of a sport for development component. Contact Leïla Barakat: [leila.barakat@undp.org](mailto:leila.barakat@undp.org)

**Fireside talk with German Interior Minister advances IYSPE 2005** – Adolf Ogi, Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace, took part in a public 'fireside talk' with German Interior Minister Otto Schily in Berlin on 17 May. Organized by the UN Association of Berlin Brandenburg and the Dresdner Bank, the event took place on the occasion of the presentation of a series of projects that Germany will implement within the framework of IYSPE 2005. Mr. Ogi and Mr. Schily also discussed opportunities for future collaboration, such as the 2006 Football World Cup, which will take place in 12 German cities. Contact Michael Kleiner: [mkleiner@unog.ch](mailto:mkleiner@unog.ch)

**UNESCO seminar on the quality of physical education and sport in Africa** -- Among the key outcomes of the event in Porto Novo, Benin, 16-19 May, experts plan to establish international quality benchmarks for physical education in educational systems, from training to teaching, and set up an international training network to share experiences. Contact Marcellin Dally: [M.Dally@unesco.org](mailto:M.Dally@unesco.org)

**FAO tsunami reconstruction t-shirt for sale** -- FAO, which is actively involved in the tsunami relief efforts, has produced tank tops and t-shirts for men and women on the theme of tsunami reconstruction, which are excellent for sporting events. They are available for 15 Euros. Contact: [Harold.Angel@fao.org](mailto:Harold.Angel@fao.org) or [MMP-Sales@fao.org](mailto:MMP-Sales@fao.org).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Global Peace Games for Children and Youth** -- Held annually on or about 21 September, the Games are a civil society initiative at the grassroots level held in communities worldwide. Activities are locally planned and financed, featuring friendly soccer matches and/or other sporting events, educational presentations, music, art, dance or poetry. The 2005 Games are part of commemorations of IYSPE 2005. Visit: [www.playsoccer-nonprofit.org/international.html](http://www.playsoccer-nonprofit.org/international.html).

**International Children's Festival** – Organized by the International Rainbow Week Movement (MIJAEC) and the Tunisian Sports for All Association, the Festival takes place in Hammamet, Tunisia, on 23-30 August with the theme “Play by the rules: Sporting values for a Culture of Peace.” Registration deadline 4 July: visit [www.mijaec.org](http://www.mijaec.org)

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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, World Food Programme, and the World Bank. Contacts: Djibril Diallo, Director, UN New York Office of Sport for Development and Peace ([djibril.diallo@undp.org](mailto:djibril.diallo@undp.org)); Richard Leonard, Bulletin Editor ([richard.leonard@undp.org](mailto:richard.leonard@undp.org)); Michael Kleiner, Head of the Office for the International Year of Sport and Physical Education 2005 ([mkleiner@unog.ch](mailto:mkleiner@unog.ch)). Visit IYSPE 2005 at [www.un.org/sport2005](http://www.un.org/sport2005)