

Press Release

Magglingen, 6 December 2005

2nd Magglingen Conference: Call for greater commitment from all players

Over 400 participants from 70 countries at the 2nd Magglingen Conference on Sport and Development in Magglingen, Switzerland, adopted a Call to Action today, resolving to use sport to improve the quality of education and health, eradicate poverty, and foster peace and tolerance.

The Magglingen Call to Action is targeted at sports organisation, athletes, governments, development agencies, the private sector, the media and other social stakeholders. It calls upon them to use and actively promote sport as a tool for development in their respective fields.

“The Magglingen Call is an obligation to act. We must use the substantial dynamic generated by the Year of Sport to anchor sport firmly in the global development agenda,” said Adolf Ogi, the former president of the Swiss Confederation and United Nations Special Adviser on sport for development.

“The fire is burning - it must never die out!” he added.

Ogi was the host of this year’s conference, together with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Switzerland’s Federal Office of Sport (FOSPO).

SDC Director-General Walter Fust said: “The conference is one more milestone on the path to a worldwide partnership of sport and development. We are going in the right direction but we are not doing enough.”

Fust named ten important challenges and suggested different lines of action to overcome them. Amongst others, he pleaded for political will to be strengthened, new innovative forms of partnerships and networks as well as a significant increase in practice-orientated initiatives and projects.

Matthias Remund, Executive Director of FOSPO, where the event took place, said: “Each country and every region is confronted with particular challenges but sport can contribute to finding a solution. Regardless of whether in the areas of personal or social development, sport is an ideal means in all four corners of the globe.”

The 2nd Magglingen Conference marked the high point and the climax of the International Year of Sport and Physical Education and presented “sport for development” initiatives from the entire world.



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



BASPO Bundesamt für Sport Magglingen
OFSP Office fédéral du sport Maccolin
UFSPD Ufficio federale dello sport Macolin
UFSPD Ufficio federale dello sport Magglingen

DEZA DIREKTION FÜR ENTWICKLUNG UND ZUSAMMENARBEIT
DDC DIRECTION DU DÉVELOPPEMENT ET DE LA COOPÉRATION
DSC DIREZIONE DELLO SVILUPPO E DELLA COOPERAZIONE
SDC SWISS AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION
COSUDE AGENCIA SUIZA PARA EL DESARROLLO Y LA COOPERACION



Ogi will carry on – 3rd Magglingen Conference in Autumn 2008

Adolf Ogi announced that he would continue his mission.

“I will visit projects with strong roots in the culture of their territory. I will give visibility to those projects in order to motivate people, organisations and governments to support them.”

He promised that he would continue to advocate the power of sport for development in the strongest way to UN agencies, governments, development organisations and NGOs. At the same time, he called on large sports' organisations to make a stronger financial commitment to sport for development.

During the closing ceremony, Ogi, Fust and Remund announced that the 3rd Magglingen Conference would take place in autumn 2008 with the theme: “Sharing Results and Validating Impacts”.

Multitude of topics and concrete measures

The conference documented the ways that sport is improving the lives of the disadvantaged in poverty-stricken areas and refugee camps around the world, from Afghanistan and Angola to Colombia and Kosovo. Sport is increasingly recognized as a vital component of education and health programmes by governments and civil society organisations, and star athletes are mobilising support for campaigns against HIV/AIDS, polio, malaria and other causes.

The 1st Magglingen Conference in 2003 affirmed that access to sport and play is a basic human right and called on all stakeholders to promote development, peace, education and health through sport. Since then, new initiatives have been launched worldwide, and the UN General Assembly has recognized the power of sport to contribute to efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The 2nd Magglingen Conference took stock of achievements, exchanged experiences, presented examples of ground-breaking ideas, and shaped a framework for policy and action.

Russian Sports Minister Vyacheslav Fetisov announced that his country will build more than 4,000 sports centres in the coming decade. Other ministers of sport participating included Dr. Dennis Bright of Sierra Leone, George Chulumanda of Zambia, Ahmad Fatfat of Lebanon, Abdallah Kaabi of Tunisia, and Dr. Agnelo Queiroz of Brazil.

Four-time Olympic gold medallist Johann Olav Koss, President and CEO of the NGO Right to Play, noted that 500,000 children worldwide, many in refugee camps, participate in his organization's activities each week, and thanked governments for their support for sport for development and peace. Other sport stars participating included former German tennis ace Boris Becker, long distance runner Tegla Loroupe of Kenya, and hurdler Nawal El Moutawakel of Morocco.

The main themes included: sport as a tool for development and peace; achieving the MDGs through sport; using sport in humanitarian emergencies; and athletes' commitment to a better world.

Breakout sessions covered a number of issues, including evaluation methods and instruments, overcoming trauma through sport, education and capacity-building, sport as a means for social integration, peace-building and conciliation, promoting gender equity, and building effective partnerships.

Thirty-five organisations showcased their work at the conference's Marketplace, highlighting initiatives that use sport to tackle pressing social and environmental issues.

Among the exhibitors were LiiKe ry in Tanzania with a project that uses sport to promote basic education; Play for Peace from the United States with a "Global Peace Games for Children and Youth project"; Sports Sans Frontières with a project using sport to help children in Bolivia and Afghanistan; streetfootballworld, a global network using street football to promote social development; and Espaces Tadamoune, a UNDP Morocco project which helps at-risk urban youth.

Among major organisations exhibiting were: the Australian Sports Commission; FOSPO; the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA); Handicap International; the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Physical Education of Tunisia; the Ministry of Youth and Sport of Turkey; the Swiss Agency for Development; the Swiss Academy for Development; and the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA).

Media contact and further information:

Daniele Waldburger

Tel. +41 444 48 20, Fax +41 (43) 444 48 29, E-mail: media@magglingen2005.org

Website: www.magglingen2005.org