INTRODUCTION

Sports and physical education play a vital role at all levels of society. For the individual, sport enhances skills, general health and self knowledge on the national level, sport and physical education contribute to economic and social growth, improve public health and bring different communities together on the global level, sport and physical education can have a long lasting positive impact on the development, public health, peace and environment. The united nation office focuses on the importance of sport in society and on how sport and physical education programmes can be used as tolls to help combat current social and public health challenges.

Sport can be a priceless gift to humanity offering a path to emotional fulfillment, health fitness, happiness and peace. In each community, people from all parts of society are drawn together to play on local teams. On certain occasions, whole communities will stop all business, drop all barriers and join in the celebrating their favorite team's victory. For those of us who yearn for peace and norms of good sportsmanship.

Channeling the power and youthful dynamic within sports is critical. Sports provides youth around the world with opportunities to play sports, experience the norms of sportsmanship and develop the bonds so essential for trust and friendship. The interreligious peace sports festival is a unique model of sports, culture and religious celebration in 2007, the UPF worked'in Guatemala with the ministry of peace to promote cross-cultural cooperation and sportsmanship in school across the nation and in isreal to offer a celebration of life sports program in caramal that drew together students from each of isreal is diverse communities.

The practice of sport is a recognized instrument for promoting peace, as it disregards both geographical borders and social classes. It also plays a significant role as a promoter of social integration and economics development in different geographical, cultural and political contexts.
Sport is powerful tools to strengthen social ties and networks, and to promote ideals of peace, fraternity, solidarity, non-violence, tolerance and justice. The United Nations educational, scientific and cultural organization (UNESCO) was founded on 16 November 1945 with the mission to "Build peace in the minds of men". As the United Nations, lead agency for physical education and sports (PES), UNESCO provides assistance, guidance and services to Government, NGOs and Experts to consolidate and develop the increasingly diverse issues relating to sport. Tackling problem in post conflict situations can be eared as sport has the ability to bring people together in this effort to use sports a catalyst for peace and social development, UNESCO has supported several initiatives in the past years.

SPORT FOR PEACE IN CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES

Initiated in El Salvador, this regional Programme was designed to promote physical education and the practice of sport, as means to prevent violence, delinquency and drug consumption.

SPORT FOR PEACE IN ECOWAS COUNTRIES

The project aimed at using sport to forge greater cohesion and cooperation in the West Africa region.

EFFECTIVE SPORTS PROGRAMS FOR PEACE

PLAYING FOOTBALL FOR PEACE

Playing football provides opportunities for underserved youth to play in football (soccer) competitions. In addition to skills training, participants receive education aimed at developing and strengthening each player's character through the values that make for good sportsmanship in an exciting program called "The way to the Champion." Participants include coaches, officials and athletes. In Jordan Estonia and the Ukraine it has made a significant impact on how sports - football in particular - are presented to the youth of their country. This year's focus is on training coaches to strengthen the character-building and teamwork aspects of the sports.

INTERRELIGIOUS PEACE SPORT FESTIVAL

The interreligious Peace Sports Festival (IPSF) draws young athletes from many nations and religious traditions into an environment where they can live together, play and compete, while experiencing friendship and cultural sharing. This unique sports program creates a model of interreligious cooperation at a time of widespread tensions and misunderstandings among people of different religions. There is vigorous competition in seven popular sports, complemented with other activities including morning reflection time and evening international cultural performances, all designed to create experiences of living together as a global family. For many participants, it is a turning point in their life.

SPORTS FOR PEACE

A new project is reaching out to youth in four target groups: underserved populations, new immigrants and refugees, people living in or near conflict areas, and indigenous peoples. The
Sportsmanship education utilizes an experiential learning model. Initial programs took place in India and Sri Lanka. In the mountainous area of Wayand, in India's southern Kerala state, tribal youth with few opportunities to play in tournaments participated in a tournament and seminar.

In Sri Lanka, a nation that has suffered nearly two decades of civil strife, a Basketball Camps was offered for its national women's basketball team and the junior national women's basketball team. Players from various parts of the country worked together to improve their athletic skills, with many attending a seminar led by Diesa Siedel, a former professional basketball player, and John Gehring. Both the camps and seminar received support from the Sri Lanka Ministry of Sports and the Ministry of Education. The contents of the seminar were of special interest to the Minister of Peace, since his department is developing sports programs between the militry and civilian population in conflict areas.

PEACE KING CUP

An international competition among professional men's football clubs, the Peace King Cup has been held in Korea every two years since 2003. This event has grown in prestige, and the 2009 games will be hosted by Spain in Andalusia. This is a major step into one of the heartlands of professional football. Enthusiasts will be able to view the games on television from around the world.

Peace King Cup draws public attention to the needs and challenges of creating a culture of peace, and the proceeds are used to support worthy projects in many countries. The first and second place winners in the 2007 competition, the Olympique Lyonnais (France) and the Bolton Wonderers (Liverpool, UK), each donated $50,000 for sports projects.

PEACE QUEEN CUP

The Peace Queen Cup draws top national teams in women's football. The 2008 tournament takes place in Suwon, Korea, from June 14 to 21. This is the second Peace Queen Cup event since its start in 2006. Many strong teams are participating in the event, including the U.S., Brazilian, Canadian teams, which are ranked first, fourth, and ninth, respectively by FIFA. The other five teams are Argentina, Australia, Italy, Republic of Korea, and New Zealand. Many Korean football fans are excited at the prospect of watching these teams play.

The competition is preceded by a fashion show and pop music concert. A Forum on Asian Women's Sports at Gyeong-gi University features participants from 13 Asian nations discussing the status of Asian women's sports, especially women's football, and prospects for further development.

THE STAR CUP

The Star Cup offers well-known actors, journalists, and media celebrities an opportunity to play football competitively for a public purpose. Fans are responding to this Korean-based tournament, which is more widely watched than many FIFA matches. Audiences are eager to see their favorite 'stars' play. Proceeds help support football programs in conflict-torn nations such as Liberia.
The "Nine Million Campaign" of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (www.ninemillion.org) was created in 2006 in partnership with corporate sponsors Nike and Microsoft, with the noble goal of giving more than nine million children around the world better access to education, sports, and technology.

In short, the athletic initiatives are creating models for peace by building bridges across cultural differences through sports. They link the marketing of global sporting events to the everyday needs of youth struggling to find positive expression in life through sports. By promoting constructive and healthy lifestyles among the youth, the path to peace is broadened.

SPORT OF DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP

The sport for development and peace international Working Group (SDP IWG) was created in 2004 to engage and work with national governments on policy recommendationis to supoorts the integration of soport and physical activity into their national and internaltional development strategies and programs. The group persented its first restult in June 2006.

UNITED NATIONS - SPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

A number of the United Nations' agencies have programmes relating to sport for development and peace. They promote sports contribution to economics and social development, to the millennium development Goasls and to improveing health and personal growht in people to all ages, particularly those of young people. The aim also to boost sport-related activities, which can generate employment and economic activity at many levels and to help build a culture of peace and tolerance.

INTERNATIONAL YEARS OF SPORT AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION 2005

The Interinoal Year of Sport and Physical Education (IYSPE 2005) provided, according to the UN, "a unique opportunity to focus the worlds's attention on the importance of sport in society and on who sport and physical -education programmes can be used as tools to help combat challenges such as extreme poverty, conflict and HIV/AIDS". The aim of IYSPE 2005 was to promote around the world through a series of conferences, events and research publictions, the valus of sport and phycial education for educaiton, health, develoOpment and peace.

WORLD HEART FEDERATION PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UN OFFICE FOR SPORT DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

The un office for Sport Development and Peace and the World Heart Federation share the common view that sports & physical activity are crucial for life long healthy living. Sports play improve health and well-being, extend life expectancy and reduce the likelihood of serveral non-communicable diseases including heart disease. The UN office for Sport Development and Peace thus collaborates with the Federation to promote physical eactivity, notably through support for World Heart Day.
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