



HRH PRINCE FEISAL IS JOINED BY DELEGATES AT THE SUCCESSFUL FIRST IOC SEMINAR ON SPORT AND PEACE FOR THE MIDDLE EAST HELD IN AQABA

ARAB SPORTS LEADERS HAIL SUCCESS OF IOC SPORT AND PEACE SEMINAR

THE INAUGURAL INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (IOC) SEMINAR ON SPORT AND PEACE FOR THE MIDDLE EAST CONCLUDED WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF A SERIES OF MAJOR REGIONAL POLICIES AND INITIATIVES.

THE EVENT WAS CHAIRED BY HRH PRINCE FEISAL AL HUSSEIN, PRESIDENT OF THE JORDAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (JOC), WHO WAS JOINED BY IOC MEMBERS TONI KHOURY (LEBANON) AND MAJOR GENERAL MUNIR SABET (EGYPT), AS WELL AS DAVID WINIGER, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO ADOLF OGI, SPECIAL ADVISOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL ON SPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE. TOMAS SITHOLE, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT AT THE IOC, ALSO ATTENDED THE THREE-DAY SEMINAR.

HRH PRINCE FEISAL PRESENTED HIS NEW INITIATIVE PEACE THROUGH SPORT

WHICH AIMS TO TRAIN YOUTH LEADERS FROM AREAS OF CONFLICT ON HOW TO USE SPORT AS AN AGENT FOR PEACE WITHIN THEIR OWN DIVIDED COMMUNITIES.

"THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS CONFERENCE MUST NOT BE UNDERESTIMATED AND I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE DECISIONS AND IDEAS DISCUSSED CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE," SAID HRH PRINCE FEISAL. "THIS WEEK HAS UNDERLINED THE NEED FOR GREATER DIALOGUE WHICH MUST BE TURNED INTO REAL ACTIONS FOR SPORT TO MAKE AN IMPACT. TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW."

THE SEMINAR WAS AIMED AT NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES ACROSS THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA WITH DELEGATES ATTENDING FROM ALGERIA, EGYPT, IRAQ, LEBANON, MOROCCO, OMAN, PALESTINE, QATAR, SUDAN, TUNISIA, UAE AND YEMEN. THE THREE-DAY EVENT ATTRACTED A DIVERSE RANGE OF SPEAKERS FROM FOUR CONTINENTS AND HAS BEEN PRAISED BY THE IOC.

KHOURY, WHO WAS REPRESENTING IOC PRESIDENT DR. JACQUES ROGGE, SAID: "RECENT EVENTS, PARTICULARLY IN MY OWN COUNTRY, HAVE HIGHLIGHTED THE NEED FOR ALL OF US TO PLAY WHATEVER ROLE WE CAN TO BRING PEACE TO OUR REGION. I HOPE THAT THIS EVENT WILL ENCOURAGE NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE IOC - BOTH INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY - TO BRING THESE INITIATIVES TO LIFE OVER THE COMING MONTHS AND YEARS IN ORDER TO MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE."

PEACE THROUGH SPORT IS SET TO BECOME THE FIRST SOLID REGIONAL INITIATIVE TO BE LAUNCHED IN JORDAN. THE FIRST TRAINING CAMP FOR YOUTH LEADERS WILL BE HELD IN AMMAN FROM OCTOBER 21-31. DELEGATES AT THE SEMINAR ALSO UNVEILED A NUMBER OF POTENTIAL PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE FUTURE.



DELEGATES HIGHLIGHTED THE NEED FOR SPORT AND PEACE ISSUES TO BE PLACED HIGHER ON THEIR INDIVIDUAL GOVERNMENT'S AGENDA WHILE A CALL WAS MADE FOR JUNE 12TH TO BECOME THE ANNUAL "PEACE THROUGH SPORT DAY" WITH NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES.

THE INAUGURAL IOC SEMINAR ON SPORT AND PEACE FOR THE MIDDLE EAST IS SET TO BECOME AN ANNUAL EVENT.

RECOMMENDATIONS

AFTER THREE DAYS OF ENCOURAGING DEBATE, DELEGATES AT THE IOC SEMINAR ON SPORT AND PEACE FOR THE MIDDLE EAST AGREED ON THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS UNDER THREE SEPARATE CATEGORIES; ONE INCLUDES RECOMMENDATIONS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE IOC, ANOTHER CONCERNS PEACE THROUGH SPORT AND ONE IS RELATED TO THE NOC'S.

THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (IOC)

1. TO CREATE AN OLYMPIC TRUCE DAY
2. TO CREATE MORE SPECIALISED REPORTS - OLYMPIC TRUCE FOUNDATION AND OLYMPIC TRUCE CENTRE INITIATIVES AND MAKE THEM ACCESSIBLE TO ALL
3. TO CREATE A PLATFORM THROUGH EVENTS AND OTHER MEANS TO ENABLE THE EXCHANGE OF KNOWLEDGE/CASE STUDIES IN THE FIELD OF SPORT AND PEACE
4. TO EXPLORE WAYS OF AIDING THE PALESTINIAN NOC TO ENSURE THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF SPORT AND TO HELP BUILD BRIDGES OF COOPERATION
5. TO WORK WITH THE UNITED NATIONS AND DECLARE ALL SPORTING EVENTS TIMES FOR CEASEFIRE/PEACE

6. TO CREATE MORE OPPORTUNITIES OF INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE FOR CHILDREN IN CELEBRATION OF PEACE AT MAJOR SPORTING EVENTS
7. TO SUPPORT THE PRESIDENT IN THE OLYMPIC YOUTH GAMES AND INCLUDE SPORT AND PEACE AMONG THE OLYMPIC VALUES

THE NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES (NOC'S) AND NATIONAL FEDERATIONS (NF'S)

1. TO BE PROACTIVE AND REQUEST FUNDING FROM THE IOC FOR SPORT AND PEACE PROJECTS
2. TO SET UP, IF FEASIBLE, A SPORT AND PEACE COMMISSION AS IN THE OCA (LIKE OTHER COMMISSIONS IN THE NOC) AND INCLUDE IT IN THE NOC'S MISSION AND STATUTES
3. TO COOPERATE WITH OTHER NOC'S AND DEVELOP PUBLICATIONS ON BEST PRACTICE, PROMOTING THE OLYMPIC IDEALS AND MEANS OF SHARING THEM
4. TO WORK WITH THE MEDIA AS PARTNERS TO ENSURE THE PROMOTION OF SPORT AND PEACE PROJECTS AND EVENTS
5. TO ALLOCATE A BUDGET FOR SPORT AND PEACE PROGRAMMES
6. TO INVOLVE ALL STAKEHOLDERS IN NATIONAL SPORTS IN SPORT AND PEACE COMMISSIONS
7. TO WORK WITH RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS TO ENCOURAGE THE USE OF SPORT AS A PEACE-BUILDING TOOL
8. TO COMMIT TO SENDING DELEGATES TO THE PEACE THROUGH SPORT CAMPS

THE JORDAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (JOC) & PEACE THROUGH SPORT (PTS)

1. TO OFFER NOC'S SUPPORT WHEN FEASIBLE TO RUN INITIATIVES IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES

2. TO PARTNER WITH OTHER LIKE-MINDED ORGANISATIONS TO ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF PTS
3. PTS PROGRAMMES WILL REMAIN FLEXIBLE TO ENSURE THEY CAN BE EASILY ADAPTED TO THE NEEDS OF REGIONS AND COUNTRIES IN CONFLICT
4. TO REMAIN IN CLOSE PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MEDIA AND ENSURE CONTINUOUS PUBLICITY FOR ALL ACTIVITIES AND PROGRESS
5. TO USE TRADITIONAL SPORT AND DANCE IN ADDITION TO OLYMPIC SPORTS TO MAKE PTS MORE APPEALING
6. TO CAREFULLY SELECT AND EDUCATE ROLE MODELS TO AVOID MISREPRESENTATION OF PTS
7. TO SEEK OFFICIAL RECOGNITION FROM THE IOC
8. TO CREATE A TASKFORCE FOR THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA BRINGING NOC'S AND LEADERS OF SPORT TOGETHER TO MEET ANNUALLY IN AQABA
9. THE JOC & PTS WILL LAUNCH AN ONLINE FORUM AS A FOLLOW UP TO THIS SEMINAR AND SET UP FUTURE TASKFORCE MEETINGS TO ENSURE THE CONTINUOUS EXCHANGE OF KNOWLEDGE AND IDEAS
10. PTS TO DEVELOP PILOT SCHEMES IN SELECT REGIONS/COUNTRIES TO ENSURE THE SUCCESS AND SUSTAINABILITY OF PTS

OTHER INITIATIVES:

1. THE IOC AND JOC TO DECLARE AQABA THE 'CITY OF PEACE & SPORT IN THE MIDDLE EAST' CELEBRATING THE HOSTING OF THE IOC SEMINAR ON SPORT AND PEACE FOR THE MIDDLE EAST AND FOR THE CONTINUOUS PROMOTION OF SPORT AS A PEACE-BUILDING TOOL
2. THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN TO PROPOSE TO THE UNITED NATIONS A SPECIFIC RESOLUTION THAT WILL FACILITATE SPORTING CONTACTS BETWEEN COUNTRIES IN THE REGION AND TO PROTECT SPORTING FACILITIES IN TIMES OF CONFLICT