

FINAL DECLARATION

'Education Through Sport' Forum
Wiesbaden, Germany, 24 August 2002

The world Forum on 'Education Through Sport' organised by the Commission for Culture and Olympic Education of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), together with the National Olympic Committee of Germany and the city of Wiesbaden, was held on 24 August 2002 in Wiesbaden, Germany.

The aim of this Forum was to emphasise that sport is and must remain a means of educating all people. Sport practised within the rules of ethics and fair play develops both moral and physical strength.

The founder of the IOC, Baron Pierre de Coubertin, revived the Olympic Games of Antiquity to spread the sporting ideal and Olympic values, which were a new vision of youth education. He sought in sport a means of developing a new type of person, healthy in body and mind, sociable and free.

Aware of the importance of education associated with culture in developing awareness of the unity and richness of humanity, the IOC endeavours to convey this concept to all members of the Olympic Movement in order to increase awareness among young people, athletes, media and the public in general.

Just as the Olympic Family has itself restated a belief in the educational role of Olympism, so too, all National Olympic Committees should now develop initiatives which will take this message to those involved in sporting pursuits.

In particular, the educational role of sport can be promoted through:

- Regular participation in physical activity, either individually or as a team;
- 'Sport for All' initiatives at local and national levels;

- School-based sport structures which encourage life-long participation in physical activity, with teachers adding value to the curriculum through Olympic related topics;
- Community-based programmes involving local sport clubs which address issues such as drug abuse, fair play, etc.;
- Athletes sharing their Olympic experiences;
- Olympic Academies conducted by the National Olympic Committee and the International Olympic Academy.

As a result of the Forum, which was ably supported by the presence of more than 150 NOCs, it is the desire of the IOC Commission for Culture and Olympic Education that all NOCs are encouraged to initiate programmes within their current structures which implement the fundamental principles of the Olympic Charter, and develop self-esteem and confidence of individuals who share a national pride in their sporting achievements. To this end the International Olympic Committee has officially designated the year 2003 as the 'Year of Culture and Education'.

Thus, on behalf of the International Olympic Committee and this Commission, I encourage all members of the Olympic Family, that is, the International sports Federation and the NOCs around the world, to become partners in these endeavours. It is through such relationships that the objective of 'building a peaceful and better world' can be achieved in the spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play.