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As we begin yet another busy and eventful year, let us take a moment to reflect and appreciate the success we have achieved in 2018. I am delighted with the strides we have taken this past year and cannot thank you all enough for the passion and dedication displayed in helping the ISF develop and grow. Nonetheless, I am happy to say that for 2019 we are not content with just sitting back and admiring our past successes, with the new year bringing about a very important transitional period.

With the close of 2018, our Executive Committee meeting hosted in Sochi, Russian Federation was able to decide upon the progression of the ISF secretariat and Committee. This outcome was greatly needed and will help in strengthening and broadening the ISF’s ability to develop school sport and expand our reach. This will be partly thanks to the new structure involving a higher degree, member countries, helping expand and improve our ability to provide youth with professionally run sport events.

Alongside this progress, I would like to welcome to appointment of the new Secretary General/CEO, Hrvoje Čustonja earlier this year. This is a clear example of the professionalism the ISF wishes to retain, whilst ensuring its continued development in implementing the ISF vision 2030 of which we wish him all the best.

Speaking of expanding our ability to run events, 2019 will see the addition of six inaugural events taking place, with World Schools Championships being held for Chess, Dance, Climbing, Flying Disc and Volleyball U15, along with the newly created ISF Inclusive Games. The ISF Beach Games were added to the 2020 calendar, whilst Armenia, Azerbaijan and Ukraine have officially joined the list of ISF host countries. In framework of the ISF Gymnasiade 2020, I would like to welcome our four new sponsors namely: Anta, Panpan, Shuhua and Lilang. We are excited to launch our cooperation beginning with the 2019 events.

A total of 17 events make up the ISF calendar for 2019, with 13 of them being World School Championships. One of these events is the landmark project “She Runs, Active Girls’ Lead”, paving the way for future generations of empowered women. We look forward to welcoming 500 girls of the future from over 35 different nations from around the world to come together for a mixture of educational, cultural and entrepreneurial activities combined with a 3km non-competitive run in this first edition of the “She Runs” project.

Looking further ahead, to 2022 and specifically the Gymnasiade – ISF School Summer Games taking place that year. Three candidates; France, Russia and Serbia have put forward their intentions to organise the event. The strong commitment shown by each of these countries is a great example of how significant this event has become in the school sport calendar, demonstrating the clear development and expansion of ISF on a global scale.

To our ever growing ISF family, I would like to once again take this opportunity to thank you; each of the 118 members, for the work and dedication you have given to ISF in serving the development of school sport.

Laurent Petrynka
Asian School Sport Federation’s 14th General Assembly, Executive Committee meeting and the 7th edition of the ASSF Forum

Between the 11th and the 14th December 2018 the ASSF, now comprised of 21 members, gathered representatives from all over Asia to review and discuss the upcoming championships as well as the development of school sport in Asia. The Qatar School Sports Association (QSSA) Secretary General Mr Ali Ahmad Al Hilal and Executive Director and ISF Executive Committee member Mr Abdulrahman Hasan Al-Mayhar, welcomed participants to the event held in Doha, Qatar alongside the president of the ASSF, Mr Al-Houdgi and ASSF’s Secretary General, Mr Jason Dong Xiaohua who both travelled from China. The special guest of the event was ISF continental president of Europe Mr Nicolaos Melagemos.

ASSF Forum was a great opportunity to address three important topics; strategic cooperation with ISF, school sports and its medical follow up as well doping control and similar issues related to school sport. To conclude the talks, Mr Planja Harikumar, the ISF continental president of Asia confirmed that Thailand would be hosting the next ASSF General Assembly, Executive Committee meeting and Forum.

The Ivorian Office of School and University Sports launched the season 2018/19

On December 11th, 2018, the Ivorian Office of School and University Sports (OISSU) launched their 2018-2019 season with the hosting of a cross country race in the Cote D’Ivoire, inviting delegations from Morocco, Senegal, Benin and France to participate. The event was held under the patronage of the President of the Republic, Mr Alassane Ouattara and the Prime Minister, Mr Daniel Kablan Duncan. Opened by ISF continental president of Africa Mr Youssef Belqasmi and ISF Executive Committee member Mr Roman Greba, the President of the School Sport Federation of Ukraine, replicated these positive messages to the nation’s young athletes. Following up by confirming the participation of the Ukraine in the ISF Combat Games, the “She Runs” event in Paris and the ‘ISF Educational Games’ on the international school sports front for 2019.

Participation of Madagascar at Confemen/Confejes conference

The ISF was fortunate to have the school sport federation of Madagascar present at the International Conference on the re-launch of physical education and sport in the different levels of education in the member states and governments of Francophonie, taking place in Cotonou, Benin on the 27th November 2018. Njaka Rasoloarison, President of the Fédération Omnisports Scolaire Madagascar was able to inform us of the progressive talks occurring in Benin. The Conference of Ministers for Youth and Sport in Francophonie (CONFEMEN) collaborated with the Minister of Tourism, Sport and Culture of Benin in organising this event. The goal of this gathering was to review and discuss policy makers, an academic structure and partners in the hope of producing an official plan of action to re-launch the teaching of physical education. The structure of the Conference was composed of 3 Workshops to best focus on different areas of physical education whilst also presenting positive examples in order to put together this plan of action to push the teaching of physical education in Francophonie.

School Sport Federation of Ukraine held its General Assembly

With the Ukraine’s impressive performance at the Gymnasiade event held in Morocco in the summer of 2018, achieving the first team place and taking a total of 112 medals (39 gold, 39 silver and 34 bronze). It’s of no surprise to see school sport take a more important role in the country with the School Sport Federation of Ukraine’s General Assembly being held on December 7, 2018 in Kiev. Vice Prime Minister, Mr Iacheslav Kyrylenko opened the assembly by recognising both the positive strides taken by the government in pushing the student sport cause and the recent success achieved by the nation’s young athletes along with the pride generated from it. Mr Roman Greba, the President of the School Sport Federation of Ukraine, replicated these positive messages to the nation’s young athletes. Following up by confirming the participation of the Ukraine in the ISF Combat Games, the “She Runs” event in Paris and the ‘ISF Educational Games’ on the international school sports front for 2019.

Silver medallist from ISF Gymnasiade Münevver Hancı, Turkey, won bronze at YOG 2018 in Buenos Aires

The collaboration of sport and education is of course the primary aim for ISF throughout all organised events. Being able to present positive results of this keeps reinforcing this message and the goals accompanying it. One such example is that of Münevver Hancı of Turkey and her journey in the javelin throw event. Following her silver medal success at the 2018 Gymnasiade held in Morocco, Münevver carried on her winning ways by taking the bronze medal at the 2018 Youth Olympics in Buenos Aires. This is very much a proud moment for the Turkish School Sport Federation, Okul Sporları Federasyonu having supported such a high achieving young athlete who is a perfect demonstration to the possibilities surrounding school sports.

The full article can be read in the February-March issue of ISF Magazine.
“I want to show the power of sport to girls. The dropout rate in sports among teenage girls is scary. Especially because there are studies that show [...] how beneficial sport is for girls.”

NATASHA HASTINGS
Olympic, World, and US National Champion in track and field, USA

Photo source: SPIKES (IAAF)

Today more than ever, in order to reach gender equality, it is crucial to prepare the ground for girls as early as possible, to become the women confident enough to achieve their goals.

She Runs is a new project, developed by the International Sport School Federation (ISF), with the support of the European Commission (Erasmus + Sport) and in collaboration with the French School Sport Federation (UNSS), awaiting 500 girls to join the girls’ empowerment initiative using School Sport as a tool to develop leadership skills, gain knowledge on the importance of physical activity and later, take action within their own home communities.

The disparity of access to sports practices is particularly marked in the 15-24 age group, with considerably more young men tending to exercise or play sport on a regular basis than young women. Only 15% of men aged 15-24 never exercise or play sport, compared to 33% of women in the same age group*.

* Special Eurobarometer 472 – Wave EBBB4 – TNS opinion & social
INSIDE EVERY YOUNG WOMAN THROUGH SHE RUNS IS A TRANSFORMATIONAL

THE PROJECT WILL START IN PARIS, FRANCE FROM MARCH 11TH TO 16TH, 2019 WITH SEVERAL OTHER ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED ALL ALONG 2019.

Beyond the benefits of physical activity or competitive sport, She Runs will gather 500 sportswomen coming from more than 35 countries and aged between 15 to 18 years old. The participants will take part in several activities (cultural, sport, educative, entrepreneurial), experiencing the educational values of sport and being introduced to concrete means to empower people around them through sport.

SHE RUNS IS A TRANSFORMATIONAL JOURNEY TO REVEAL THE LEADER INSIDE EVERY YOUNG WOMAN THROUGH SPORT!

We are convinced that school can be a safe and inspiring environment that facilitates youth development equally. We consider sport as a soft and dynamic tool that allows young people to discover themselves and their abilities.

DIVIDED IN SEVERAL SPORT, EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, SHE RUNS WILL GATHER 500 GIRLS STUDENTS COMING FROM MORE THAN 35 COUNTRIES.

Throughout this unique project the girls’ students will:

• Engage in physical activities and promote it
• Get knowledge and acquire new competences
• Voice their experience and take action in their local communities
• Strengthen their involvement with National School Sport organisation

She Runs “The Cultural Scavenger Hunt”

500 participants discover Paris through a scavenger hunt mixing elements perspectives from the history of the city, of sport, and symbolic women.

March 12th 2019

“The Race & Village”

500 young women from 35 countries and 1500 young women of UNSS will run together to celebrate intercultural friendship and the benefits of sport for health.

March 13th 2019

She Runs - Active Girls’ Lead 2019 sponsor.

She Runs “The Talk”

3 women share their story with 500 participants and invite them to make a difference through sport.

March 14th 2019

She Runs “The Design Sprint”

60 participants design and shape projects to promote woman leadership and physical activities in their local community.

March 15th - 16th 2019

She Runs programme was developed by the International Sport School Federation (ISF), with the support of the European Commission (Erasmus + Sport programme) and in collaboration with the French School Sport Federation (UNSS).

ISF talked to the Mr Yves Le Lostecque, Head of the Sport Unit at the European Commission, Mr Sebastian Coe, president of IAAF, Mr Laurent Petrynska, president of ISF, and IOC education commission member and Ms Nathalie Costantini, National Director of UNSS (French School Sport Federation) to find out more about the reasons behind the organisation of this innovative project promoting health, physical activity and leadership among young women.

WHY SHE RUNS?

She Runs is a groundbreaking new sport project tackling health, girls empowerment and gender equality in and through sport, developed by the International Sport School Federation (ISF), with the support of the European Commission (Erasmus + Sport programme) and in collaboration with the French School Sport Federation (UNSS).

WHAT IS THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION PLAN OR POLICY FOR FEMALE SPORT AND ENCOURAGING GIRLS TO DO SPORTS?

Gender Equality is a principle underpinning all EU activities, including sport. If we look at physical activity as one of the main solutions to fight obesity and unhealthy lifestyles in Europe, we need to face some really troubling statistics, showing that girls and women are even less likely to be active than boys and men. We therefore need to be particularly active in finding ways, if possible creative ways, to encourage girls from a young age to practice sport. Schools with the support of organisations such as ISF are privileged places for this. We all, at different levels, have a role to play in securing a good and safe sports environment for our young

500 young women from 35 countries and 1500 young women of UNSS will run together to celebrate intercultural friendship and the benefits of sport for health.

March 13th 2019

3 women share their story with 500 participants and invite them to make a difference through sport.

March 14th 2019

60 participants design and shape projects to promote woman leadership and physical activities in their local community.

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She Runs programme was developed by the International Sport School Federation (ISF), with the support of the European Commission (Erasmus + Sport) and in collaboration with the French School Sport Federation (UNSS).

Mr Yves Le Lostecque, Head of the Sport Unit at the European Commission.

3 women share their story with 500 participants and invite them to make a difference through sport.

March 14th 2019

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WHY DID THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION DECIDE TO SUPPORT THE SHE RUNS PROJECT?

The «She Runs» project showed a great potential adding a lot of assets: a good concept, strong partners and the objective of promoting values which are shared by the Commission. In particular it is more than just a single sport event: it is underpinned by a sport and education program aiming to empower girls in and through sport which is one of the priorities of our sport policy at EU level. We also believe that the flagship event, a symbolic run in Paris on March 13th 2019, can have a strong communication impact and could positively amplify the reach of such an important message: that sport is not only key for our health and wellbeing but also that it can be a tool to promote equality, skills and values in everyone’s life, in this case empowering women.

Studies show that in order to promote healthy lifestyles among adults, we need to intervene at a young age, for example in schools. We need to instil good habits early and this is particularly true for girls who tend to drop out of sport once they reach teenage years. Schools are central in this approach, not only because children spend a big proportion of their day there, but also because they provide a safe and trusted environment, conducive to learning, to influence behaviours and to promote important values such as integration and gender equality, going well beyond sport itself. This is why, for example, the education environment is also a focus theme in one of our main initiatives at EU level, the European Week of Sport and the #BeActive campaign.

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Gender equality is one of the core values of the ISF. All ISF World Schools Championships always include both boy and girl participants. Unfortunately, in many cases, the number of girls’ teams or athletes is still lower compared to the number of boys.

To reach gender equality, it’s crucial to prepare the ground for girls as early as possible, to allow them to develop into ambitious women who will join men in taking over the leadership roles and jobs which have traditionally been ‘dominated’ by males.

We consider sport as a soft and dynamic tool which allows young people to find themselves and their talents, building self-confidence and learning leadership skills.

However, in the 15–24 age group, considerably more young men exercise or play sport on a regular basis, with 33% of young girls, not physically active compared to 15% of young men.

She Runs; using sport as a practice, will provide participants with the necessary skills and tools needed to make young women more aware of the benefits of sport and physical activity, and transfer that newly-gained knowledge into their communities, among their family and friends. In the long run, we hope to see She Runs will encourage more girls to be involved in sport, not only at a school sport level, but in all other areas of physical activity and the sport sector.

We must thank the European Commission and the Erasmus+ Sport programme which have selected our project She Runs for a grant in the non-profit sport event category, therefore enabling hundreds of girls to take part in this great project.

WHAT ARE THE LONG-TERM PLANS WITH SHE RUNS?

The long-term plan is to make She Runs a recurring event which will take place in various cities and include girls from different countries. We would also love to see more young women being involved with sport; not only as professional athletes but as leaders, as well as policy and decision makers.

In a few years of time, the young women which will have taken part in the inaugural event could make a return and participate in future She Runs events, as role models and leaders to the following generation of girls.

WITH THIS EVENT, THE PARTICIPANTS ARE COMING FROM COUNTRIES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD, HOW IMPORTANT IS THE CULTURAL VARIETY FOR ISF?

This project is supported by the European Commission through the Erasmus+ Sport programme. It is therefore logical for the mobilisation of the European Union members to be activated within this framework. However, it was crucial for the ISF Executive Committee to open the opportunity for the participation to all ISF members. We have also developed a special grant program for specific countries from other continents to enable wider participation.

It could be said that for ISF, the cultural variety of participants is at the top of the list of importance. At every event, ISF provides youth with opportunities for intercultural exchanges and teaches values such as inclusion, tolerance, peace and equality.

One of our priorities is to give a maximum number of secondary school students the opportunity to engage in ISF events, to enable them to get an ISF experience at least once in their lifetime. Thanks to school sport, youth mobility and intercultural exchanges, young women and men have a chance to empower themselves and become active citizens who will continue to fight for values such as gender equality, inclusion and tolerance.

In order to stay healthy and strong, girls and young women from all backgrounds need to be active and involved with school sport. All around the World, sport and physical activity are essential parts of education.

WHAT IS YOUR VIEW ON SHE RUNS AND GENDER EQUALITY IN SPORT, PARTICULARLY IN ATHLETICS?

Gender equality is one of the guiding principles of the IAAF and as such we support any initiatives that help women and girls to overcome the historical barriers to their full participation in sport. For this reason, I am delighted to support the International School Sport Federation’s She Runs Active Girls Lead campaign. My own experience as an athlete and then a sports leader tells me that sport, and athletics in particular, develops many of the skills that a leader requires, including confidence, capability, integrity and work ethic.

The IAAF now has equality on the field of play and we are actively working to bring more female leaders in to all areas of our sport. We set up a gender taskforce last year to identify opportunities and clear barriers to women rising through the administration ranks, and this year we will have a female vice-president and a female athlete as voting members of our council for the first time. This drive for inclusiveness is necessary if our sport is to represent the world we live in and appeal to future generations.

I would urge all girls to embrace the opportunities offered by this programme to explore and expand their physical abilities and use the confidence that brings to become leaders of the future.

We consider sport as a soft and dynamic tool which allows young people to find themselves and their talents, building self-confidence and learning leadership skills.

players and we need to make sport more attractive to girls and women where are we female role models? Why are there so few female coaches? What can we do to give more visibility to female sport? How can we best fight gender stereotypes in the media? And, last but not least, we need to look at the sport environment and its governance, and work with sport organisations and EU member states to ensure equality in leadership position. To do this, we count on great projects such as “She Runs” to translate all these policies into practice.
2019 ISF Events

**FACTS & FIGURES**

Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union.

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### ‘She Runs’ Active Girls Lead

**DATE**
11th March – 16th March

**City**
Paris

**Country**
France

**Host**
Union Nationale du Sport Scolaire (UNSS)

**Facebook**
www.facebook.com/sherunsISF

**ISF Website**
www.sheruns.eu

**Inaugural Event**
This is the first event of its kind

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### ISF Educational Games

**DATE**
27th March – 2nd April

**City**
Athens and Olympia

**Country**
Greece

**Host**
The Panhellenic Union of the Graduates of Physical Education (PEPPA), Central Union of Municipalities of Greece (KEDDE), International Olympic Academy, Municipalities of Athens, Cities of Ancient Olympia, Athens, Ilia, Symi and Nauplia and the Region of Western Greece

**Facebook**
www.facebook.com/ISFWSS.EducationalGames

**ISF Website**
www.isfsports.org/educational-games

**Inaugural Event**
2014 in Athens and Olympia

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### WSC Volleyball – U15

**DATE**
30th March – 6th April

**City**
Poreč

**Country**
Croatia

**Host**
Croatian School Sport Federation (K.S.S.F.)

**Facebook**
www.facebook.com/ISFWSCvolleyball

**ISF Website**
www.isfsports.org/volleyball

**Inaugural Event**
This is the first U15 WSC for Volleyball

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### WSC Football

**DATE**
6th April – 14th April

**City**
Belgrade

**Country**
Serbia

**Host**
Serbian School Sports Federation

**Facebook**
www.facebook.com/ISFWSCfootball

**ISF Website**
www.isfsports.org/football

**Inaugural Event**
1972 in Herentals, Belgium

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### WSC Basketball

**DATE**
12th April – 20th April

**City**
Heraklion

**Country**
Greece

**Host**
Greek Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs

**Facebook**
www.facebook.com/ISFWSCbasket

**ISF Website**
www.isfsports.org/basketball

**Inaugural Event**
1973 in both Ankara, Turkey (♂) and Tampere, Finland (♀)

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WSC Orienteering

DATE 29th April – 5th May
City Otepää
Country Estonia
Host Estonian School Sport Union
Facebook www.facebook.com/ISFWSCorienteering
ISF Website www.isfsports.org/orienteering
Inaugural Event 1987 in Jönköping, Sweden
# Previous Events 17

WSC Athletics

DATE 13th May – 19th May
City Split
Country Croatia
Host Croatian School Sport Federation (C.S.S.F.)
Facebook www.facebook.com/ISFWSCAthleticsCup
ISF Website www.isfsports.org/athletics
Inaugural Event 1973 in Athens, Greece
# Previous Events 22

WSC Swimming

DATE 16th May – 23rd May
City Rio Do Janeiro
Country Brazil
Host Confederação Brasileira do Desporto Escolar (C.B.D.E.)
Facebook www.facebook.com/ISFWSCSwimming
ISF Website www.isfsports.org/swimming
Inaugural Event 1997 in Antwerp, Belgium
# Previous Events 11

WSC Climbing

DATE 18th May – 24th May
City Aubenas
Country France
Host Union Nationale du Sport Scolaire (UNSS)
Facebook www.facebook.com/ISFWSCclimbing
ISF Website www.isfsports.org/climbing
Inaugural Event This is the first WSC for climbing
# Previous Events 0

WSC Tennis

DATE 2nd June – 9th June
City Castel Di Sangro
Country Italy
Host Ministero dell’Istruzione, dell’Università e della Ricerca
Facebook www.facebook.com/ISFWSTennis
ISF Website www.isfsports.org/tennis
Inaugural Event 1995 in Duisburg, Germany
# Previous Events 9

WSC Triathlon

DATE 3rd June – 7th June
City Castelnaudary
Country France
Host Union Nationale du Sport Scolaire (UNSS)
Facebook www.facebook.com/ISFWSTriathlon
ISF Website www.isfsports.org/triathlon
Inaugural Event 2013 in San Juan, Puerto Rico
# Previous Events 3
**Combat Games**

**DATE**  
16 June – 21st June

**City**  
Budapest

**Country**  
Hungary

**Host**  
Hungarian School Sport Federation

**Facebook**  
www.facebook.com/ISFCombatGames

**ISF Website**  
www.isfsports.org/combat-sports

**Inaugural Event**  
2017 in Agra, India

**# Previous Events**  
1

**WSC Flying Disc/Ultimate**

**DATE**  
24th June – 29th June

**City**  
Le Mans

**Country**  
France

**Host**  
Union Nationale du Sport Scolaire (UNSS)

**Facebook**  
www.facebook.com/ISFUltimate

**ISF Website**  
www.isfsports.org/flying-disc

**Inaugural Event**  
This is the first WSC for Flying Disc

**# Previous Events**  
0

**WSC Beach Volleyball**

**DATE**  
3rd October – 10 October

**City**  
San Vito Lo Capo

**Country**  
Italy

**Host**  
Ministero dell’Istruzione, dell’Università e della Ricerca

**Facebook**  
www.facebook.com/ISFWSCvolleyball

**ISF Website**  
www.isfsports.org/beach-volleyball

**Inaugural Event**  
2011 in Anasco, Puerto Rico

**# Previous Events**  
4

**ISF Inclusive Games**

**DATE**  
7th July – 12th July

**City**  
Póvoa de Varzim

**Country**  
Portugal

**Host**  
Divisão do Desporto Escolar (DGE)

**Facebook**  
www.facebook.com/ISFinclusivegames

**ISF Website**  
www.isfsports.org/inclusive-games

**Inaugural Event**  
This is the first organised Inclusive games by the ISF

**# Previous Events**  
0

**WSC Dance**

**DATE**  
6th October – 12th October

**City**  
WSC Dance

**Country**  
Russia

**Host**  
Russian Socio-State Society of Physical Training Junost Rossi “The Youth of Russia”

**ISF Website**  
www.isfsports.org/dance

**Inaugural Event**  
This is the first WSC for Dance

**# Previous Events**  
0

**WSC Chess**

**DATE**  
TBD

**City**  
TBD

**Country**  
Armenia

**Host**  
The Republican Sports Federation of School Boys (RSFS)

**ISF Website**  
www.isfsports.org/chess

**Inaugural Event**  
This is the first WSC for Chess, being previously part of the Gymnasiade.

**# Previous Events**  
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Inside ISF

IIl ISF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AND SEMINAR HOSTED BY SOCHI, RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Between the 15th and 20th of November 2018, the 3rd ISF Executive Committee in 2018 (EC) meeting and seminar was held in Sochi, Russian Federation. The event was organised by ISF in cooperation with ‘The Youth of Russia’ and led by EC Member and president of Russian School Sport Federation, Mr Alan Abaev.

Participants of the five-day seminar included ISF EC members and representatives from various national school sport federations. Amongst those present were special guests, Deputy Mayor of Sochi, Ms Marina Vartazaryan and Director of ‘South Sport’ and representative of the Russian Federation’s Ministry of Education, Mr Mikhail Dryomov. This inclusive gathering enabled the current and future development of the federation and as well as the attribution and presentation of future ISF events to be discussed and assessed in depth.

Further discussions with the Technical Commission also included the ISF Sport Committee in order to specifically assess the 2018 season whilst outlining the direction for the upcoming ISF sport policy and the desired goals. In addition, the level of progress in the preparations for the ISF World School Championships (WSCs) scheduled for 2019 and 2020 were reported. With the conversation involving the upcoming WSC’s, it was officially announced that Armenia would be hosting the newly created 2019 WSC for chess. With the country already set to host the 2020 WSC for Sambo it was fantastic news to witness the continued growth of Armenia’s involvement with ISF. Continuing on with the creation of new WSCs, the inaugural ISF Beach Games shall be hosted by Ukraine in 2020.

With events from 2020 in mind, prior to the gathering in Sochi, an ISF delegation made its first official visit to the host of the Gymnasiade 2020, Jinjiang, China. During the time in Sochi, the representatives of Jinjiang which included the Mayor of the city, Mr Zhang Wenxian, presented the official report on the visit and the progress of the event.

This expanding school sport and education network is highlighted by the five new countries that have recently become ISF members. The addition of Afghanistan, Libya, Malawi, The Philippines and Sierra Leone has brought the number of ISF members up to 118 showing the strong size of network present but with the goal to continue to expand and strengthen it. The III Executive Committee meeting and ISF seminar greatly contributed to reinforcing the development of ISF Vision 2030 whilst confirming that ISF is taking significant and positive steps forward in becoming global leader in the unison of sport and education.
Mr Hrvoje Čustonja has taken up the role of ISF Secretary General/Chief Executive Officer, bringing with him a vast array of knowledge and experience gained from over 10 years in the field of education and sport.

Throughout his life, Hrvoje Čustonja has always had a love for sport. From participating in numerous sports, to graduating as a Physical Education teacher at the University of Zagreb, Croatia. From there, Mr Čustonja began his involvement with the Ministry of Science, Education and Sport in Croatia, taking on several advisor positions from 2006. The following year he then joined the Croatian School Sports Federation, initially as a Senior Advisor, then later becoming the federation’s Secretary General, position that he occupied until December 2018.

At the international level, it was in 2012 when Hrvoje Čustonja first became an active part of the ISF family, joining as a member of the ISF Executive Committee (EC). In 2018, following 6 years with the EC, the General Assembly elected Mr Čustonja as treasurer of the ISF.

Mr Čustonja statements: “I am extremely honoured to have been appointed as Secretary General/CEO of the ISF. I am looking forward to further building upon the legacy that ISF has built since 1972, continuing to develop and strengthen its foundations. Taking care of ISF members whilst recognizing the great history of the ISF is the basis of going further and continuing our growth. I really believe in the school sport movement of which ISF has become one of the most important sports federations in the world. My intention is to continue the process of expanding the ISF family, helping to promote school sport around the world.”

ISF member, Argentina, has already made plans to become a far more significant feature in future ISF events. Their school sport federation, FADE; Federacion Argentina de Deporte Escolar has already been a key player in representing school sport and education at the 2018 Youth Olympic Games.

During an interview with the president of School Sport Federation of Argentina Mr Leo Troncoso the following strategy on development and improvement of the federation was explained:

“We are developing our strategic plan over the next 5 years. With this plan, we work with different commissions to develop and drive the federation at the national level. We are integrating the FADE within the agenda of the educative system. We work strongly with the two essential pillars of education and sport, and towards their fusion. There is still a long way to go but we have just started; our staff is young, full of energy, motivation and enthusiasm, and we try to bring the FADE at the highest level.”

FADE’s future plans in increasing their involvement within the ISF in the next couple of years also include the possibility of taking on the organisation of the ISF World School Championships as well as other events.
Ana Marija and Idora, 17 year old Volunteering in School Sport (V2S) participants from Croatia, talk about the upcoming event She Runs, girls’ empowerment and the benefits of projects using sport as a tool for education.

**Ana Marija:** Projects like She Runs are important because they help young people develop and gain skills through fun and interesting activities related to sport. In my opinion, young women should get involved with She Runs also because it can help them to express and find themselves.

**Idora:** Projects like these are very important because they use education through sport to tackle major social issues, such as inclusion and gender equality. All young women should get involved with these projects because by participating, they help raise awareness on an important issue. They are also a great opportunity to make some new friends, improve your English and get in touch with others’ culture.

**Ana Marija:** I think most of the girls today don’t participate in any sport activities, and that should change. We often have prejudices that girls are weak which is totally wrong. We (girls) should swim, run, ski and take more responsibilities, I am more skilled in using media technology, more creative, more motivated to volunteer, and my favourite ones - I met a lot of new friends from all over Europe and learned a lot about their cultures.

**Idora:** Actually, that was the best part. When I first arrived I was worried because before I had never been in a room full of people who don’t speak my language. And I was very surprised because we ended up like a big happy family. We are still in contact, sending each other birthday wishes and holidays cards.

**Ana Marija:** Projects like She Runs are important because by participating, they help raise awareness on the fact that women need to do sports.

**Idora:** School Sport benefited me very much and thanks to them, I gained (and I am still gaining) a lot of experiences and skills. For example, I can express my thoughts and feelings easier, I plan things better and take more responsibilities, I am more confident when it comes to speaking English and I would say I am also a better team player. School Sport really did change my life for the better and still continues to do so.

**Ana Marija:** I think most of the girls today don’t participate in any sport activities, and that should change. We often have prejudices that girls are weak which is totally wrong. We (girls) should swim, run, ski and play any sport we want and show the world that we can be as good as boys, if not even better. I would like to see more projects like this in future because I think that through them we can raise awareness on the fact that women need to do sports.

**Idora:** These projects help in increasing female participation in sport and I’m glad they are being organised. As a big believer in gender equality, I hope there will be more and more similar projects in the future, until they are no longer needed.

**Ana Marija:** I think that V2S has shaped me into a better person, I have also improved my English, communication with people of different nationalities, learning skills and learnt to have a critical opinion. I am more confident when it comes to speaking English and I would say I am also a better team player. School Sport really did change my life for the better and still continues to do so.

**Idora:** Both V2S project and School Sport benefited me very much and thanks to them, I gained (and I am still gaining) a lot of experiences and skills. For example, I speak English better, I can express my thoughts and feelings easier, I plan things better and take more responsibilities, I am more skilled in using media technology, more creative, more motivated to volunteer, and my favourite ones - I met a lot of new friends from all over Europe and learned a lot about their cultures.

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Interview with ISF Continental President of Asia

Dr. Panya Hanlumyung

Dr. Panya Hanlumyung is the Director General of Thailand’s Department of Physical Education, and also the ISF Continental President of Asia and the Vice President of Asian School Sport Federation (ASSF). Over the past few decades, Dr. Hanlumyung gained valuable experience in sport and beyond, as a FIFA coach and referee, technical committee member for football at the 24th Universiade in Bangkok, and a member of a subcommittee at the 24th Sea Games, held in Nakhon Ratchasima.

As a Director General of Thailand’s Department of Physical Education and also the ISF Continental President of Asia, how are you satisfied with the recent Asian School Sport Federation’s General Assembly and what are some of the outcomes of the meeting and the forum?

According to the recent ISFF General Assembly in Qatar in December 2018, as ISF Vice-President of Asia, Vice-President of ASSF and DG of Thailand’s Department of Physical Education, I was highly satisfied with the number of ASSF members presented in this General Assembly. There were a total of 27 delegates from 12 member countries (but of 18ember). Also, we welcomed three new members from Lebanon, Nepal and the Philippines. Therefore, ASSF has a total number of 21 member countries. Specifically, we had ISF Continental President of Europe Mr. Nicos Megalomatis and ISF Strategic Cooperation Director Mr. Kole Gjeloshaj as invited guests for such General Assembly and kindly presented the way forward to extend the cooperation between ISF and ASSF.

Various significant outcomes of this ASSF General Assembly included three new member countries as mentioned above, the election of ASSF EC and TC members, the launch of ASSF Website in 2019, the confirmation of host country of ASSF Championships, and Meeting and various management issues of ASSF.

The ASSF has a total number of 21 member countries, approximately a little bit more than half of those members are actively participating in Asian School Championships. Some countries do not have enough students who are interested in participating in our Championships, while some are not being able to send teams because of budget constraints. These problems need to be solved and it needs different approaches in different countries. Therefore, ASSF delegates are more likely to focus on these issues and how to convince and closely work with related agencies in their respective countries.

However, ASSF has been tremendously developed compared with previous years. And we will never stop developing our school sports in our region. For instance, since we recognized that archery was not popular and we did not have enough athletes in our region, we started replacing it with squash. And next year squash will be organized for the first time in our Asian School Championship in Hong Kong. You can see that ASSF put our utmost efforts and commitments for our young athletes.

I strongly believe that all Asian countries perceive sport as a significant part of school life and is crucial in the development of students in both physically and mentally aspects. Many Asian countries have organized various sporting activities and events not only at international level but also international level. However, the participation rate of international championships may not be that high due to budget constraint.

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In August 2019, ASSF will organize two Championships including the 7th Asian School Table Tennis Championship in India and the 1st Asian School Squash Championship in Hong Kong, China. We have another two Championships for candidate next year which are the 3rd Asian School Rugby Sevens Championship and the 6th Asian School Swimming Championship. Also, Thailand will be hosting ASSF General Assembly and the 18th ISF Forum in December 2019. In addition, under the Asian School Football Federation, Thailand will be hosting the 1st Asian School Futsal Under-18 Championships and Asian School Football Federation General Assembly in August in Bangkok.

According to you in what aspects do you think the Asian School Sport Federation can grow and improve itself?

The ASSF can grow faster if ASSF receives technical assistance or sponsorships from related organizations. We can improve our standards, for instance, in how to organize our Championships in more professional ways from international federations. Our sports personnel such as coaches and referees can gain more knowledge and experiences from other sport professionals at higher level as well. Therefore, we need to work collaboratively with other school sport organizations because ASSF is not alone. In this respect, if we look more closely at school sport organizations, becoming the ISF member can bring learning from ISF experiences to improve our standards in both competition and management aspects. Another respect that the ASSF can grow and improve itself is related to supports from their governments. The ASSF aims to convince our governments and other stakeholders to support school sport activities and to strengthen unity and enhance international friendship among Asian students through our activities. Unfortunately, policy always change when the government change. Therefore, we need to convince our government to pay more attentions to school sports, not just elite sports. Sometimes, these incidents would finally result in not sending teams to important meetings and events.

In this regard, the ASSF’s objectives cannot be pursued and achieved. Our talented students should be able to participate in various WSC and ISF Championships and related meetings every year. We always participate in most Asian School Championships hosted by our friends in Asia. So, we are strongly confident that Thailand is one of the active members of all Federations.

In terms of ISF, Thailand has become a member of International School Sport Federation in 2018 by saving year 2018 which is the first year that we are involved in ISF World School Championships gradually as the selected teams have been invited to ISF Events. However, we participated in ISF General Assembly from the very beginning of our membership. In 2018 ISF General Assembly in Rio de Janeiro, I felt that it was an excellent opportunity for me to serve school sports in another different platform. Therefore, I led the ASSF delegates to the new chapter for Thailand as ISF Continental President of Asia.

According to my experiences in school sports in both national and international levels, I believe that school sports in Asia can grow even stronger and bigger. Even we have many countries with high sport performance and great sport facilities and infrastructures, we will not stop learning from other friends from other regions in order to improve ourselves. Lastly, before my retirement, I just want to do the best I can do, with all my efforts and commitments, to improve school sports not only for students in my country but also in Asia and worldwide.

What are some of the lessons you have learnt throughout your sport career which you would like to transfer on, or teach to young ISF athletes?

As a former PE teacher, from the very beginning, we should teach our students to play sport for fun and for their healthy lifestyle, not only for winning. When our students can improve their sports skills at certain levels that can play in international events, we need to teach them to take such opportunities to exchange skills and experiences with other friends from different countries. Just stop worrying about language barrier. Sport, we like music, is a language that everyone can understand and enjoy no matter how different we are. It will not only improve their performance but also learn and understand people from different cultures.

My post career mostly involved football. Football is a team sport of which the final result comes from the entire team, not from specific players. On the other hand, individual sports, such as golf and tennis, the final result comes entirely from you. From my point of view, team sports can teach our students to communicate with others to reach their common goals. Team sports can also teach our students to assist ISF by understanding their friends and other players. I am not saying that playing team sports is better than individual sports. But I believe that team sports help our young athletes to develop their life skills when they grow older in bigger world.

For all sports, you can practice and train as much as you want. In real competitions, it depends on the competition itself.

Generally, mental preparation is also crucial for all athletes. They have to stay focused on the games and try not to let themselves be distracted surrounding environments. Sometimes, the competitors who try to upset you. Young athletes should learn how to control their emotions and situations and release their anger; otherwise it will affect their entire games.

Lastly, sportsmanship and sport etiquette are also crucial for young athletes. You have to respect your competitors, your team and officials. If you think that the consideration made by official may not correct, talk with him and announce the problem. And don’t forget to ask your opponents start.

What are some of the basic sportsmanship rules that young athletes should know and are able to do.

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CALENDAR
LAST UPDATED FEBRUARY 15, 2019

2019

She Runs - Active irls'Lead
11/03 - 16/03 Paris, France

1. Executive Committee
22/03 - 25/03 Larnaca, Cyprus

Educational Games
27/03 - 02/04 Athens - Olympia, Greece

ISF WSC Volleyball - U15
30/03 - 06/04 Poreč, Croatia

ISF WSC Football
06/04 - 14/04 Belgrade, Serbia

ISF WSC Basketball
12/04 - 20/04 Heraklion - Creta, Greece

ISF WSC Orienteering
29/04 - 05/05 Otepää, Estonia

ISF WSC Athletics
13/05 - 19/05 Split, Croatia

ISF WSC Climbing
18/05 - 24/05 Aubenas, France

ISF WSC Swimming
18/05 - 23/05 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

ISF WSC Tennis
02/06 - 09/06 Castel di Sangro, Italy

ISF WSC Triathlon
03/06 - 08/06 Castelsauraury, France

Combat Games
16/06 - 21/06 Budapest, Hungary

ISF WSC Flying Disc
24/06 - 29/06 Le Mans, France

Inclusive Games
07/07 - 12/07 Póvoa de Varzim, Portugal

ISF WSC Beach Volleyball
03/10 - 10/10 San Vito Lo Capo, Italy

ISF WSC Dance
06/10 - 12/10 Oryol, Russian Federation

2. Executive Committee
TBC

Remark: between brackets = application / not yet decided/confirmed
TBC = To be confirmed

2020

ISF WSC Sambo
TBC TBD Armenia

ISF WSC Basketball 3x3
TBC Rajnandgaon, India

ISF WSC Handball
TBC Belgrade, Serbia

ISF WSC Futsal
TBC Lyon, France

ISF WSC Volleyball
TBC Foz do Iguacu, Brazil

ISF WSC Beach Volleyball
TBC TBD Ukraine

ISF WSC Badminton
TBC Olympiakos, Greece

ISF WSC Cross-Country
TBC Šamorín – Čilisto, Slovakia

ISF WSC Table Tennis
17/10 - 24/10 Jinjiang, China

Summer Gymnasiade
17/10 - 24/10 Jinjiang, China

2021

ISF WSC Beach Volleyball
TBC TBD Israel

ISF WSC Dance
TBC Beijing, China

Combat Games
TBC Baku, Azerbaijan

ISF WSC Athletics
TBC Trabzon, Turkey

ISF WSC Tennis
TBC Bayamon, Puerto Rico

ISF WSC Swimming
TBC Vichy, France

ISF WSC Orienteering
TBC Belgrade, Serbia

ISF WSC Basketball
TBC TBD

ISF WSC Football
TBC TBD

ISF WSC Triathlon
TBC TBD

ISF WSC Climbing
TBC TBD

ISF WSC Flying Disc/Ultimate
TBC TBD

Inclusive Games
TBC TBD
MAGAZINE

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