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[Preparation for the 16th FINA World Championships 2015 in Kazan discussed in Lausanne, Switzerland](#)

16 May 2014

Working meeting concerning preparation to the 16th FINA World Championships 2015 was held on May 15 in International Swimming Federation (FINA) headquarters. The event was attended by FINA Executive Director Cornel Marculescu, FINA chief architect Joaquin Pujol Simón, Director General of the Kazan 2013 Executive Directorate – the Official Organiser of the 2015 FINA World Championships Azat Kadyrov, Secretary General the Kazan 2013 Executive Directorate Ranko Tepavcevic, representatives of FINA partners, personnel of State Unitary Enterprise 'Tatinvestgrazhdanproekt'. During the meeting preparation of the 16th FINA World Championships 2015, including temporary facilities for high-diving.

On May, 16 FINA conference 'Swimming for All' kicked off in Lausanne. The key topic of the conference was discussion of the same name program, which was started FINA through the offices of President of the FINA Julio César Maglione, FINA Executive Director Cornel Marculescu, IOC Medical Commission representative and FINA Bureau Member Dr. Margo Mountjoy.

The president of IOC Tomas Bakh, Members of UNICEF, WHO, UNOSDP, representatives of Qatar, UAE, Egypt and Indonesia swimming federations took part in the conference. Kazan 2015 was represented by Director General of the Kazan 2013 Executive Directorate Azat Kadyrov, Secretary General the Kazan 2013 Executive Directorate Ranko Tepavcevic.

Dr. Maglione during his opening speech has expressed determination of FINA to promote and encourage the development of swimming and aquatics throughout the world. Speaking about the importance of 'Swimming for All' program he has underlined that 380,000 people is drowning annually and most of them are children. Among FINA objectives is the development of healthy fair and drug free sport as well as to promote and encourage the development of international relations.

Mr. Tepavcevic has presented Kazan 2015 readiness to promote swimming and aquatics through the promotional activities organized for the forthcoming FINA World Championship and underlined readiness of Kazan and Tatarstan to work furthermore to support FINA endeavors and goals of 'swimming for all' program.

One of the world leading companies in food market, Italian Ferrero has been introduced as a potential future partner of FINA for this program, and Mr. Giovanni Bariviera, Ferrero Director had expressed his willingness to visit Kazan and Republic of Tatarstan government representatives, and discuss how to promote and share the values of sport and health among young population throughout their worldwide program "Children+Sport".

Press Department of Organising Committee for 16th FINA World Championships 2015

[Day 2, Aquatics Convention Doha 2014: Combining elite and development programmes](#)

1 December 2014

FINA World Swimming Championships (25m)

Camillo Cametti, FINA Media Committee Chairman

The morning opened with a panel titled “Swimming for All, Swimming for Life Programme: adding social responsibility to FINA activities”. FINA President Dr. Julio Maglione, also Honorary President of the Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport of UNESCO, delivered the introductory speech.

After reminding the audience that thanks to the efforts of the Athletes, the Coaches, the Officials, the National Federations and FINA itself, for the first time is in the Tier A of the IOC, he said: “Every year in the world 372,000 persons drown. Water is fatal especially to children in the poor countries. For this reason, we have developed the programme “Swim for All, Swim for Life”.

The aim is to offer to all the possibility of taking swimming lessons. FINA will spearhead this programme with the co-operation of the National Federations members but also with the indispensable co-operation of respected international bodies such as UNOSOP, UNESCO, CIGEPS, WHO and UNICEF, and, of course, of the IOC. The successive speakers all praised FINA for such a meritorious initiative and assured the co-operation of their organisation to the programme. They were: Wilfried Lemke, special advisor to UN Secretary General on Sport; Khaleed Al Jabir, President of the Qatar Swimming Association; Arnaldo Fuxa, Chairman of the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Committee for PE and Sports (CIGEPS); Alexander Schisclik, Chief of Section for the Youth and Sport team of UNESCO; Anton Subowo, Brantwood International Limited.

[FINA launches 'Swimming for all – Swimming for Life' at Doha Convention](#)

1 December 2014

Gulf Times

By Sports Reporter/Doha

The third FINA World Aquatics Convention concluded here yesterday, with world body president Dr Julio C Maglione launching 'Swimming for All – Swimming for Life' programme.

FINA's ambitious project aims to teach children how to swim and to promote physical activity through swimming and will offer standard criteria to teach swimming across the globe. In the third and final day of the convention, FINA and some of its partners presented the delegates with the strategy for the years to come. The convention, which was held on the eve of the FINA World Swimming Championships (25m) which will begin from tomorrow at the Hamad Aquatic Centre.

Maglione, who was the moderator and main speaker, said he was worried by 372,000 annual deaths by drowning for the last 10 years and wants to see swimming lessons for school children become compulsory everywhere. Maglione, an International Olympic Committee member who has led world swimming since 2009, expressed "great concern" over a "dramatic problem".

The statistics come from a new report by the World Health Organization which found 372,000 people have drowned each year for the past 10 years. That computes to 40 people every hour.

"The challenge of swimming is dramatic because most people can run or play football or basketball even in the street but for swimming you need swimming pools or similar conditions in still water and you need someone to teach you. Through this initiative, FINA's aim is to provide easy access to pools. We also want to encourage the involvement of youth," he said.

Maglione said the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace (UNOSDP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organisation (WHO) and other bodies have already come on-board.

Maglione said the low-income populations of poorer countries were the most affected. He added: "It's a major public health problem: swimming as a sport offers people a healthier and happier lifestyle; swimming and other aquatic activities improve people's quality of life."

FINA's goal was to introduce swimming lessons in every school around the world. Maglione added: "The main objective is to offer this possibility to individuals from all different capacities and backgrounds."

Wilfried Lemke, sports adviser to the secretary-general of the United Nations, pointed out that the danger was even greater for women than for men. "Around 70 per cent of the victims are female.

We have to fight for the rights of girls and women. We will do everything to teach our children how to swim. This message must come into the heads of all the head of states and sport ministers.”

In the afternoon session called ‘Beyond the Pool Deck’, participants gained insights from prominent athletes in all disciplines across Aquatics. Drawing on their unique experiences, this athletes gave their view on how aquatics can continue to stay at the top of the Olympic sporting programme.

The highlight of the session was the presence of Hungary’s Katinka Hosszu, the three-time World Champion. Hosszu, known as ‘Iron Lady’ for her ability to take part in maximum events and also come on top, is the star attraction at the World Swimming Championships.

Among others who spoke at the convention were: Brenda Villa four-time Olympic medallist and world champion in water polo, Petar Stoychev, world champion in open water swimming, Orlando Duque world Champion in high diving and Britta Kamrau, the European and world swimming champion and member of the FINA Athletes Commission/Athletes Committee.

The convention concluded with a session focused on strategies for prolonging success in aquatics. Named ‘A Strategy for Continued Success’, the panel comprising: President of the International Sport Press Association Gianni Merlo, Shane Tusup, Hosszu’s coach and founder of Toos Sports Agency and Michael Scott, performance director of Australian Swimming Federation shared their wisdom on the subject.

Now from today, the focus will shift to the Hamad Aquatic Centre, where the world’s fastest swimmers are gathering for a five-day, top-level showdown in 25-metre pool.

This year, about 900 swimmers coming from all continents will compete in the 12th World Swimming Championships (25m). The swimmers will battle it out in a total of 46 events (34 individual and 12 relays), for 138 medals.

On the sidelines of the championship, FINA, in cooperation with the Qatar Olympic Committee and Doha 2014 Organising Committee will also organise the first-ever Youth Programme. More than 230 athletes and 120 coaches from 130 countries will attend the programme

Internationally renowned swimming coach Todd Schmitz from USA will run the programme. Schmitz will share his passion and also inspire young hopefuls to shape the future of swimming. The programme will include education topics, pool training and attendance of all evening’s finals.

[Maglione calls on world to back swimming's cause](#)

1 December 2014

Dominick Czakilew, AIPS/FINA Young Reporter, Australia

FINA's president spoke for 15 minutes at the federation's World Aquatics Convention. In that time more than 10 people lost their lives, drowned.

The statistics come from a new report by the World Health Organisation which found 372,000 people have drowned each year for the past 10 years. That computes to 40 people every hour.

A new FINA initiative is set to change these figures.

FINA president Julio Maglione said the victims were mostly children and this was not even the totality. He added: "This does not include intentional drowning such as suicide or homicide and also doesn't include drowning resulting from flood disasters and water transport accidents.

"The problem is dramatic and some even call it a hidden childhood killer."

The report found the highest rates for drowning were among children under five year.

Maglione, urging support for FINA's Swimming for All, Swimming for Life initiative, said the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace (UNOSDP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organisation (WHO) and other bodies have already come on-board.

Wilfried Lemke, sports adviser to the secretary-general of the United Nations, pointed out that the danger was even greater for women than for men.

He said: "Around 70pc of the victims are female. We have to fight for the rights of girls and women. We will do everything to teach our children how to swim. This message must come into the heads of all the head of states and sport ministers."

Maglione said the low-income populations of poorer countries were the most affected. He added: "It's a major public health problem: swimming as a sport offers people a healthier and happier lifestyle; swimming and other aquatic activities improve people's quality of life."

FINA's goal was to introduce swimming lessons in every school around the world. Maglione added: "The main objective is to offer this possibility to individuals from all different capacities and backgrounds."

[The Special Adviser attends FINA World Aquatics Convention in Doha](#)

5 December 2014

Mr. Wilfried Lemke delivers his speech at the FINA World Aquatics Convention ©Peter Jacob | Spomedis

Doha, Qatar (UNOSDP) – The Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace, Mr. Wilfried Lemke travelled this week to Doha as a distinguished guest of the third edition of FINA World Aquatics Convention.

On Monday, Mr. Lemke took part in the presentation of “Swimming for All – Swimming for Life” programme, initiated by FINA in conjunction with the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace (UNOSDP), UNESCO, the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, and the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Stressing the potential of swimming to promote healthier communities and reduce drowning mortality rates on a global level, the programme sets a practical aim of teaching children of the world how to swim and introduces them to water safety guidelines.

Mr. Lemke addressed the audience explaining the UNOSDP’s role in the initiative and outlining its effectiveness in reaching the UN’s goals, particularly the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) #4 which aims to “Reduce child mortality by two thirds”.

“According to the World Health Organization, drowning is the third leading cause of unintentional injury death worldwide, accounted for an estimated 359.000 deaths each year. The “Swimming for All – Swimming for Life” programme is a very good start in lowering these tragic numbers.” said Mr. Lemke.

In partnership with FINA, the UNOSDP has been regularly including swimming into the agenda of its Youth Leadership Programme (YLP), which trains youth volunteers to become role models within their society.

“Swimming has been integrated into all Youth Leadership Camps so far. Most of our participants, and future leaders, did not know how to swim before they attended the camp”, mentioned Mr. Lemke in his speech.

Taking the opportunity, the Special Adviser also called for cooperation between the international sporting community, governments and the private sector to work together to ensure that programmes such as “Swimming for All” are a success.

PR 5 - FINA appointed member of the Permanent Consultative Council (PCC) of CIGEPS

4 February 2015

Lausanne (SUI), February 4, 2015 - FINA has been officially accepted as member of the Permanent Consultative Council (PCC) of the Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport (CIGEPS). The request for membership has been done during the Extraordinary Session held between January 29-30, 2015 at the International Olympic Committee headquarters in Lausanne (SUI), devoted to the revision of the International Charter of Physical Education and Sport of 1978.

As the world governing body for the six aquatic disciplines, FINA will cooperate with CIGEPS-UNESCO to promote and support the development of physical education and aquatic sports across the globe, regardless of age, gender or race.

The cooperation between FINA and CIGEPS-UNESCO opens up new possibilities in the attainment and awareness of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), especially the 4th MDG which aims to "Reduce child mortality by two thirds, considering swimming as a tool to protect people's lives from the dangers of drowning.

FINA President Dr. Julio C. Maglione commented on the importance and perspectives of this collaboration: "We hope this partnership and this recognition of FINA will bring a significant contribution to our programme 'Swimming for All, Swimming for Life'. This project is a real need to fight the dramatic statistics of drowning around the world, where a person dies every minute just because he/she lacks basic swimming skills. Therefore, our involvement with CIGEPS-UNESCO will provide new tools to the successful implementation of this programme".

CIGEPS was established in 1978 to promote the role and value of sport and its inclusion in public policy. CIGEPS is comprised of expert representatives in the field of physical education and sport, each elected for a four year term. The Permanent Consultative Council (PCC), comprising key sport federations, UN agencies and NGOs, provides technical support and advice to the Committee.

[PR 103 - FINA welcomes UNESCO Charter](#)

20 November 2015

INTERNATIONAL CHARTER OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION, PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND SPORT

FINA is very pleased to announce the adoption by UNESCO – the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation – of the revised version of the “International Charter of Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport”. Originally adopted in 1978, the document’s main objective was to declare that “the practice of physical education and sport is a fundamental right for all”. On its point 2.2., the Charter also clearly specifies that “the ability to swim is a vital skill for every person”. The recent approval of this document occurred during UNESCO 38th General Conference, organised in Paris (FRA) from November 3-18, 2015.

After receiving support and feedback from governmental authorities, sport organisations, academic researchers and experts from the civil society, the revised Charter considers “sport as catalyst for peace and development” and highlights the importance of strategies aimed at “preserving the integrity of sport and favouring grassroots activities”. Throughout its 12 articles, this document also recognises physical education as a “driver for promoting gender equality, social inclusion, non-discrimination and sustained dialogue in our societies”.

The FINA President Dr. Julio C. Maglione expressed his satisfaction with this decision: “I’ve been working for many years now on these matters – Sport for All – and the adoption of this revised Charter represents a great milestone in promotion of physical education in the five continents. FINA is also committed to this essential effort and has recently launched its ‘Swimming for All, Swimming for Life’ programme, aimed at reducing the alarming rates of drowning worldwide by getting more and more children acquainted with the practice of Swimming”.

Irina Bokova, UNESCO’s Director-General said: “The adoption of the revised Charter should mark a shift away from words towards action, from policy intent to implementation. It sets the tone for a new international sport policy debate, which should now focus on the exchange of good practice, education and training programmes, capacity development, and advocacy”.

[UN Special Adviser on Sport for Development and Peace speaks at the FINA World Aquatics Gala](#)

1 February 2016

Budapest, Hungary (UNOSDP) – The Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace, Mr. Wilfried Lemke, attended and spoke at the FINA World Aquatics Gala held in Budapest on Sunday, January 31st.

Mr. Lemke's presentation was part of a panel on the "Swimming for All – Swimming for Life" programme that has been initiated by FINA together with the UNOSDP, as well as other international organisations.

Having previously spoken about the programme at its launch at the FINA World Aquatics Convention in Doha in December 2014, Mr. Lemke took the opportunity to give further insight on the programme and its developments and how they contribute to community and sustainable development.

Reaffirming the importance of swimming as a fundamental life skill that all people, especially children, should have the right and opportunity to learn, the Special Adviser reminded that many children around the world face difficult situations and barriers that prevent them from participating in sport and learning such basic skills. Unintentional drowning causes 372,000 deaths per year according to the World Health Organisation.

To emphasise the role that swimming can play in community development, Mr. Lemke identified the recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as specific areas that swimming can make a significant contribution towards.

"As part of our Development strategy, the United Nations is paying a lot of attention to Sport. As said by the UN Secretary General, 'Sport is not a luxury'; in the case of Swimming, it's not only a vital skill, but it is also a funny and healthy physical activity", Mr. Lemke said.

The UNOSDP has been running its Youth Leadership Programme since 2012, with the aim of empowering young leaders in the field of sport for development and peace, in which swimming has featured consistently and prominently thanks to the support of FINA.

The Special Adviser also encouraged governments, the international sporting community and the private sector to continue their investment and cooperation in swimming lessons, drowning prevention and awareness.

Mr. Lemke expressed his enthusiasm for the Swimming for All – Swimming for Life programme, and reiterated his continued commitment to advocate for its implementation worldwide.

“Swimming for All, Swimming for Life” – All together against drowning

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Teaching children how to swim will raise their physical activity practice and will make them better prepared for life.

During the Budapest rendezvous, where the 2015 FINA Best Athletes were recognised, FINA gathered its national federations for a conference on the international federation's activities for the months to come. In the last panel of the day, the emphasis was on the importance of the "Swimming for All, Swimming for Life" programme, aimed at reducing the alarming rates of drowning, which claims 380,000 lives a year.

"In general, our international federation is perhaps more known for the memorable events it organises and for the great stars of our six disciplines. But as a world governing body, we think that we also have a social responsibility towards the ones still not acquainted with our magnificent and natural element, water. Our responsibility includes children, teenagers, adults, seniors, and people with disabilities, who can be victims of this unfortunate situation - drowning," FINA President Dr. Julio C. Maglione said.

Enjoying water as a real pleasure

"FINA likes to promote its motto - 'Water is Our World' - which is true, but water is the world of the whole mankind, constituting 75% of our planet (with its great qualities and dangers). Therefore, it is the responsibility of the national governments, to whom we will provide our best cooperation, to create the conditions so that in-stead of having the misfortune of dying by drowning, their citizens can enjoy water as a real pleasure, thus contributing to a hap-pier, safer and healthier life," he added.

"FINA's 207 national member federations also have a special role in this strategy. All of them are naturally aware of the importance of swimming. We count on all of you, those who constitute FINA and supervise its activities. Without you, it will be extremely difficult to achieve the goals of this programme: let's convince the govern-ments about its importance and, all together, we will achieve success."

Other guests on the panel included Wilfried Lemke, United Nations Secre-tary General Special Adviser on Sport for the Development and Peace; Arnaldo Fuxa, President of UNESCO-CIGEPS, the inter-governmental body in charge of sports matters; and Osvaldo Arsenio, Chairman of the FINA Coaches Commit-tee.

"As part of our development strategy, the United Nations is paying a lot of attention to sport. As the UN Secretary General said: 'Sport is not a luxury'; in the case of swimming, it's not only a vital skill but also a fun and healthy physical activity," Mr. Lemke said.

Four main pillars

From the UNESCO-CIGEPS side, Mr. Fuxa underlined the importance of creating, at national level, programmes for the teaching of swimming at school level.

Important lectures: FINA President Dr. Julio C. Maglione hands over a commemorative plaque to Arnaldo Rivero Fuxa, Chairman of UNESCO CIGEPS - at the back Wilfried Lemke, UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Sport

Following the heroes: all-time great Michael Phelps and other legends play an important role in drawing the kids' (and their parents') attention to swimming

"This skill is a fundamental one and is the best possible way to prevent drowning. Moreover, teaching children how to swim will raise their physical activity practice and will make them better prepared for life," said Mr. Fuxa.

Mr. Fuxa, who is from Cuba, gave some examples on how this programme is being implemented in his Caribbean country. There are already over 7,700 students involved in the initiative, which also comprises 350 adults. Both categories are receiving proper teaching of swimming and their evolution and capabilities are being constantly evaluated. "This has proven very useful and efficient and we continue extending this programme to more schools and more people involved," Mr. Fuxa said.

FINA Coaches Committee Chairman Osvaldo Arsenio also underlined the importance of this programme. "There are many ways and many programmes in place in several countries of the world. The goal of 'Swimming for All, Swimming for Life' is to bring some common objectives and procedures to all that is currently done on a global scale," Mr. Arsenio explained. "There are, however, four main pillars in this strategy: 1. To get used to the water; 2. To learn to float; 3. To learn to breathe correctly; 4. To move in the water with a proper technique."

Mr. Arsenio recalled that FINA had distributed in Kazan (RUS), on the occasion of the 2015 FINA World Championships, a technical manual with some basic procedures on how to teach children to swim. This document has been distributed to all FINA national federations and will serve as a reference for the implementation of these kinds of programmes on a national basis.