THEME 16
GROWING WATER POLO

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GROWING WATER POLO

- The years to come hold an **important and exciting milestone** in the history of water polo & FINA.

- The **pressure** on water polo (as per any sport), in terms of expansion, innovation and need to reach new markets, is obvious.

- With a valuable **experience gained over this long period of time**, the first team sport within the Olympic program, prepares its future, share ideas with all, doing a great step forward.
THE PATH TO GROWTH: STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

DEVELOP WATER POLO GLOBALLY

• DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW COUNTRIES, EMERGING NFS & GRASSROOTS
  (IOC RECOMMENDATION AGENDA 2020, UNIVERSALITY)

FOSTER GENDER EQUALITY

• TO ASSIST NATIONAL FEDERATIONS BUILDING WOMEN’S WP PROGRAMMES AND STIMULATE WOMEN’S PARTICIPATION
  (IOC RECOMMENDATION AGENDA 2020)
LEVELS & PARAMETERS OF DEVELOPMENT

DIFFERENT LEVELS — DIFFERENT NEEDS
• TOP LEVEL NFS
• EMERGING LEVEL NFS
• LOW LEVEL OR NO WATER POLO NATIONAL FEDERATIONS
• GRASSROOTS

PARAMETERS RELATED TO DEVELOPMENT
• SPORT CULTURE & TRADITION FOR AQUATICS & WP
• RESOURCES (PEOPLE, EQUIPMENT, FUNDS)
• KNOWLEDGE (COACHES, REFEREES, ADMINISTRATORS)
• STRUCTURE & COMPETITION
IOC EVALUATION CRITERIA

UNIVERSALITY

NUMBER OF NATIONAL FEDERATIONS (NFs) PARTICIPATIONS — LAST TWO YEARS (MEN & WOMEN):

1. NFs WITH NATIONAL CHAMPS
2. NFs PARTICIPATING AT CONTINENTAL CHAMPS
3. NFs AT WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPS
4. NFs AT WORLD SENIOR CHAMPs
5. NFs AT QUALIFYING EVENTS FOR OLYMPIC GAMES
GLOBAL PARTICIPATION

PARTICIPATION AT CONTINENTAL, WORLD CHAMPS/CUPS & OLYMPICS

1. RECENT WATER POLO GLOBAL PARTICIPATION FOR MEN & WOMEN

2. COMPARISON OF (RECENT) GLOBAL PARTICIPATION BETWEEN WATER POLO & OTHER MAJOR TEAM SPORTS
NFs participation at continental competitions

- **Europe**: Men (24), Women (18)
- **Americas**: Men (20), Women (14)
- **Asia**: Men (18), Women (11)
- **Africa**: Men (2), Women (2)
- **Oceania**: Men (2), Women (2)
TEAM SPORTS — NFs PARTICIPATION / MEN

- Football: 210 (Continental 32, World Champ/Cup 16, Olympic Games 12)
- Basketball: 194 (Continental 32, World Champ/Cup 12, Olympic Games 12)
- Volleyball: 130 (Continental 24, World Champ/Cup 12, Olympic Games 12)
- Handball: 52 (Continental 24, World Champ/Cup 12, Olympic Games 12)
- Rugby sevens: 53 (Continental 24, World Champ/Cup 12, Olympic Games 12)
- Water Polo: 66 (Continental 16, World Champ/Cup 12, Olympic Games 12)
TEAM SPORTS – NFs PARTICIPATION / WOMEN

- Football: 144 (Continental), 24 (World Champ/Cup), 12 (Olympic Games)
- Basketball: 70 (Continental), 16 (World Champ/Cup), 12 (Olympic Games)
- Volleyball: 117 (Continental), 24 (World Champ/Cup), 12 (Olympic Games)
- Handball: 43 (Continental), 24 (World Champ/Cup), 12 (Olympic Games)
- Rugby sevens: 49 (Continental), 16 (World Champ/Cup), 12 (Olympic Games)
- Water Polo: 47 (Continental), 16 (World Champ/Cup), 10 (Olympic Games)
CASE STUDY 1: INDIA
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• 2 OLYMPIC PARTICIPATIONS (1948, 1952)

• NO PARTICIPATION AT FINA WORLD CHAMPS

• 1 PARTICIPATION @ FINA JUN. U18 CHAMPS: 2012 (WOMEN)

• NATIONAL CHAMPS: YES (10 X MEN & 7 X WOMEN)

• NATIONAL AGE GROUP CHAMPS: YES - U19

• NATIONAL TEAMS: JUNIOR WOMEN OCASIONALLY

• WP @ 4 OUT OF 26 States (Bengal, Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab, Karnata)

• NATIONAL SCHOOL GAMES INCLUDE WP

• TEAMS TRAIN IN NATURAL PONDS (lack of swimming pools) / NO WINTER ACTIVITY
CASE STUDY 1: INDIA (REPORT)

- More swimming pools available for WP
- Coaches education program to be established
- Referees clinic should be organized
- To establish national teams and plan continental participation
- The club activity to expand over longer period
- Clubs to work on grassroots - lower the kids starting age for WP
- To introduce various age-group national competitions
- Women should play in 25 m. field & with small ball
- Official games to be conducted with proper timing (30 sec & scoreboard)
- More international contact needed
CASE STUDY 2: EGYPT
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• 2 PARTICIPATION @ FINA MEN WORLD CHAMPS: 1982, 1991
• 12 PARTICIPATION @ FINA JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPS (BEST PLACE 12°, 2015)
• NATIONAL CHAMPS: 10 MEN TEAMS
• NO WOMEN
• NATIONAL AGE GROUP CHAMPS/CUPS: 15 TEAMS - U11, U12, U13, U14, U16, U18, U20
• NATIONAL TEAMS: JUNIOR MEN, SENIORS OCCASIONALLY
• SINCE ATHENS 2004
• WP @ 16 CLUBS (CAIRO, ALEXANDRIA, ISMAILIA)
• ALL CLUBS HAVE POOLS (50M, 25M)
• APPROX. 100 COACHES & 20 REFS
CASE STUDY 2: EGYPT (REPORT)

- GREAT POTENTIAL FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT
- TRADITION & PASSION FOR WATER POLO
- GOOD LEVEL OF COACHES, REFEREES & ADMINISTRATION WITH ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT
- RE-ORGANIZATION OF NATIONAL COMPETITIONS WILL HAVE GREAT IMPACT
- ESTABLISHING NATIONAL TEAMS IN VARIOUS LEVELS WILL BE A GREAT STEP FORWARD
- WOMEN WATER POLO COULD BE DEVELOPED
- INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS AT CLUB AND NATIONAL TEAMS LEVEL WOULD HELP
- SPORT TOURISM OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES TO ORGANIZE INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION
- A MODEL OF DEVELOPMENT WORTH TO EXPORT TO EMERGING NFS - COULD BE OF ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOP WP IN NORTH AFRICA
THE PATH TO GROWTH: TO DO

• INCREASE THE NUMBERS OF COMPETITIVE NATIONAL TEAMS & OVERALL REGISTERED ATHLETES

• PROMOTE & SUPPORT WOMEN’S WATER POLO

• REVIEW COMPETITION SYSTEM TO OFFER MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR EMERGING COUNTRIES TO PARTICIPATE

• PROMOTE & SUPPORT THE ORGANIZATION AT GRASSROOTS EVENTS

• TRANSFER BEST COACHING PRACTICES FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

• SUPPORT HELDING REFEREE’S SCHOOLS AT NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

• ASSIST NF’S TO IMPROVE THEIR MANAGEMENT KNOW-HOW
SWIM & PLAY WITH THE BALL
IN EVERY POOL OF THE WORLD