



News and Resource Update December 2015: Your guide to what's happening around the world

We want to hear about what you and your related organisations are doing and the information you are producing. You can send your information and news to any member of the executive board for inclusion in the 'Update' each month – [view their contacts details](#)

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It has been a very productive year for IAPESGW - our sincere gratitude to all those involved in our projects and activities.

Season's Greetings and best wishes for a healthy, active and happy New Year.

IAPESGW 18th World Congress, Barry University, Florida, USA 17 – 21 May 2017

There is now a website for our event being hosted by Barry University at:

www.barry.edu/iapesgw

Joining IAPESGW – Special membership offer extended

We are pleased to advise colleagues of the special rate of \$50 Canadian for a membership covering 2016 to 31 March 2017 – please encourage your contacts to take up this offer.

[Visit 'Joining IAPESGW' to take advantage of the offer](#)



Final Report on the 2nd IAPESGW Regional Symposium: Women's Empowerment in Sport, held in Tehran 14 -15 December 2015

The 2nd IAPESGW Regional Symposium was attended by 300 delegates from 15 countries – Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Germany, Iran, Iraq, Macau-China, Malaysia, Qatar, Slovakia, Spain, Taiwan, Turkey, United Kingdom and Venezuela; organized by the Sport and Youth Ministry of Islamic Republic of IRAN, from 14 to 15 December 2015 in Tehran.

Special experts and professors from different countries and organizations were present at this event, including:

- Professor Rosa Lopez de D'Amico (Venezuela): President of IAPESGW and member of ICSP
- Professor Branislav Antala (Slovakia): Chair of ICSP, FIEP Europe President and FIEP World International Vice-President
- Professor Detlef Dumon (Germany): Executive Director of ICSSPE and member of ICSP
- Professor Marc Cloes (Belgium): President of AIESEP and member of ICSP
- Professor Walter King Yan Ho (Macau): ICSSPE Vice-President of Education and
- Professor Tansin Benn (United Kingdom): IAPESGW chair of committee of consultants
- Mr Martin Holzweg (Germany): ICSP Co-Chair, Vice-President of DSLV and executive office member of ICSSPE
- Professor Rosa Diketmuller (Austria): IAPESGW Communications Coordinator and member of ICSP
- Professor Maria Beatriz Rocha Ferreira (Brazil): IAPESGW Co-opted member
- Professor Keh Nyit Chin (Taiwan): IAPESGW Co-opted member
- Professor Maria Dolores Gonzalez Rivera (Spain): Researcher of Alcala University
- Mrs. Siham Alawami (Qatar): Director of Sport Special Projects in "Save the Dream" and member of ICSS

On 13th of December, an official meeting for these experts was organized in the Ministry of Sport and Youth with the Excellency Dr. Mahmoud Goodarzi, esteemed Minister. Chairpersons of different deputies of the ministry were also invited to have the opportunity to negotiate on the role of IAPESGW for removing discriminations against Muslim women's presence in international sport arenas.

Besides the symposium, other exclusive programs were organized for these specialists including: their meeting with Dr. Ensiyeh Khazali – esteemed President of Alzahra University (a Women-Only University) and visiting different faculties; visiting Enghelab Sport Complex with its emphasis on the Fitness road, Fitness gyms, Bowling and Billiard Halls and the National Olympic Academy; a meeting with Dr. Reza Rajabi - esteemed President of Physical Education and Sport Sciences faculty for the University of Tehran and visiting their facilities; a tour of the Azadi Sport complex and excellent training facilities with meetings of the Iranian National Women's Teams in Canoeing, Wushu, Shooting and Motor Sport Racing; visiting historical museums and having a Gala dinner at the Milad Tower with the hospitality of Tehran Municipality's Sport Organization.

The Symposium, 14th – 15th December, was generously hosted by the Alzahra University with 30 scientific articles from Iranian and International keynote speakers and 80 poster presentations during two consequent days. Six professional workshops were also organized and the concluding ceremony ended with the following *closing statement*:

The Iran IAPESGW Symposium was attended by 300 delegates from 15 countries – Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Germany, Iran, Iraq, Macau-China, Malaysia, Qatar, Slovakia, Spain, Taiwan, Turkey, United Kingdom and Venezuela.

The International Association of Physical Education and Sport for Girls and Women (IAPESGW) supports all efforts to reject discrimination of Muslim Women's right to participate in physical activity and sport at every level, including all major international sport events.

In recent years the Association has been active on this topic internationally. A major event was the International Seminar held in Oman in 2008 with delegates from 14 countries – Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Denmark, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Malaysia, Morocco, Oman, South Africa, Syria, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom. One outcome was the "Accept and Respect-Declaration". Three statements are highlighted here:

- 1. Islam is an enabling religion that endorses women's participation in physical activity.**
- 2. We recommend that people working in the sport and education systems accept and respect the diverse ways in which Muslim women and girls practise their religion and participate in sport and physical activity, for example, choices of activity, dress and gender grouping.**
- 3. We urge international sport federations to show their commitment to inclusion by ensuring that their dress codes for competition embrace Islamic requirements, taking into account the principles of propriety, safety and integrity.**

In the recent past, the International Association has also written to Sports Governing Bodies in support of all Muslim women's right to honour the preference for Islamic dress; for example to FIFA, the Weight-Lifting and Badminton International Federations.

Regarding this event in Tehran, it was clear that the opportunity of having a separate Department for Women's Sport in the Ministry or any Sport Organization can be an important step for empowering women in Islamic countries.

Finally we express our appreciation to the Islamic Republic of IRAN for supporting the participation of Iranian women in physical activity, physical education and sports.

It is necessary to mention that in 2014, Professor Maryam Koushki Jahromi, Shiraz University, as the only Iranian member of the Executive Board of IAPESGW, proposed the hosting of this

esteemed International Regional Symposium event in the Islamic Republic of Iran for the first time by consulting with Prof. Abdolhamid Ahmadi as the Chairperson of Research, Education and Cultural Deputy in the Ministry of Sport and Youth. This collaboration was successful and finally an official letter of acceptance was received from IAPESGW as the first step to move forward for this successful venture.

We appreciate the great trust of IAPESGW and wish good memories from the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Note: We will hopefully be able to share more information and some photographs from the event in the next edition of this 'Update'

International

UNESCO International Charter of Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport

We have recently updated the website dedicated to the Sport Charter, and added a Spanish version.

View it here:

Spanish - es.unesco.org/SportCharter

The revised Sport Charter is now available online in 6 languages:

[English](#) | [Français](#) | [Español](#) | [Русский](#) | [العربية](#) | [中文](#)

If you'd like to see the Charter translated in another language, do not hesitate to contact us. You can even participate to its translation.

UNESCO International Charter of Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport – media kit

Kathryn Ludwig (Chair, Department of Sport and Exercise Sciences, Barry University) represented IAPESGW in the development work for the media kit for the adoption of the International Charter of Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport.

Kathryn said:

I am very proud to have represented IAPESGW in this endeavour. Thank you very much for the opportunity of a lifetime!

Sincerely,

Kathy

Access the media kit – [in English](#), [in French](#) and [in Spanish](#)

Global Observatory for Physical Activity (December 2015)

Global State of physical activity

The Global Observatory for Physical Activity has released country report cards for 131 countries covering 67% of the world.

Country cards collate the existing information on demographic factors, deaths related to physical inactivity, the current surveillance process and policy status, prevalence of physical activity and research metrics.

[Access the cards that are currently available here](#)

European Commission – Sport (17 December 2015)

High-Level Group on Sport Diplomacy – Report from the first meeting now available

The first meeting of the High-Level Group on Sport Diplomacy took place on 8 October 2015 in Brussels. The [report of that meeting \(242 kB\)](#) is now available.

The main discussion focused on how can the EU promote sport at international level and in which way can sport help promoting EU policies and values at international level.

The members underlined the importance to promote EU values through sport, the cooperation between public authorities and sports organisations and the use of major sport events as a part of sport diplomacy concept.

[Source of information](#)

Anita White Foundation (AWF – based in the UK) – [Newsletter 12, winter 2015](#)

The winter newsletter containing a short report on the recent University graduation ceremony in which the AWF had a significant presence, an introduction to two scholars who have just started PhDs at the University of Chichester, and updates on the AWF Tanzania programme and the Women's Sport Leadership Academy (WSLA).

Laureus Sport for Good Magazine, Edition 2, 2015

A changing world for women – by Nawal El Moutawakel

'The world today looks very different to how it did some years ago. Women around the world have gained more control over their destinies. It is my hope that the pace of change continues to happen so that one day the IOC can be chaired by a woman.'

Nawal El Moutawakel - Laureus Academy Member

Laureus World Sports Academy Member Nawal El Moutawakel was the first Moroccan, African and Muslim woman to win an Olympic gold medal, in the 400 metres hurdles in Los

Angeles in 1984. She is a Vice-President of the International Olympic Committee and is Chairman of the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympic Games Co-ordination Committee. She is a passionate campaigner for women's rights.

Women have participated in the Olympic Games since 1900, often in defiance of gender norms. All of them became powerful role models for the next generation. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) is committed to gender equality and encourages the promotion of women in sport at all levels and in all structures. Today, women account for more than 40% of Games participants, and the IOC is committed to achieving parity. With the addition of women's boxing to the Olympic Programme at the 2012 London Games, women now compete in every sport at the Summer Games. The London Games also saw the first participation by women from Saudi Arabia, Brunei and Qatar, ensuring that all 204 National Olympic Committees have included women in their delegations. Olympic Agenda 2020 includes a commitment by the IOC to work with International Sports Federations to achieve 50% female participation in the Olympic Games.....

[Read the full news item pages 6-7](#)

Inside the game reports (7 December 2015)

Court of Arbitration for Sport introduces gender equality for Rio 2016

The Court of Arbitration for Sport's (CAS) ad-hoc division at next year's Rio Olympics will feature an equal number of male and female arbitrators for the first time.

Six men and six women have been appointed to serve in the Brazilian city, with American Michael Lenard set to preside over the temporary court which will resolve disputes which may arise during next summer's Games.

Lenard will be assisted by the host nation's Justice Ellen Gracie Northfleet, who will serve as co-President, while six men and six women have been named as arbitrators.

The women are Australian Annabelle Bennett, Canadian/Slovakian Andrea Carska-Sheppard, Papua New Guinea's Catherine Davani, Costa Rica's Margarita Echeverria, Carol Roberts of Canada and South Korean Jinwon Park.

Meanwhile, the male arbitrators are Germany's Ulrich Haas, Britain's Mark Howell, Francisco Mussnich of Brazil, Spain's José Juan Pinto, Mohamed Abdel Raouf of Egypt and Rabab Yasseen of Iraq/Switzerland.

A CAS statement said that gender equality had been taken into account for the first time as 50 per cent of athletes in Rio are expected to be female.

All of those appointed have been selected by the International Council of Arbitration for Sport (ICAS), an independent body under the aegis of which the CAS operates, and every region of the world has been considered.

In addition, the selected arbitrators are all either lawyers, judges or professors who have specialised in sports law and arbitration.....

[View the full news item](#)

Inside the games reports (23 December 2015)

IBSA launch network to boost numbers of girls ahead taking part in football

International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) has launched a scheme aimed at boosting and promoting their number of girls participating in the sport.

A network has been established to target all women involved in blind football, from players and coaches, to guides, medical staff and administrators.

Set up, as part of the IBSA Blind Football Development Project Europe, the network will be co-ordinated by 18-year-old Hungarian player Dorottya Velegi, who took part in a youth training camp held in Hamburg last summer.

Part of the aim of the network is to drive enough interest in the sport to establish a blind football event for women in 2017.

To raise awareness Velegi has sent a message encouraging girls to get in touch to join the network and start playing football, citing her own experiences.....

[View the full news item](#)

Inside the games reports (22 December 2015)

Pierce and Woodforde appointed to International Tennis Federation Board of Directors

France's two-time Grand Slam singles champion **Mary Pierce** and Australia's Olympic doubles gold medallist Mark Woodforde have been appointed to the International Tennis Federation (ITF) Board of Directors, it has been announced.

Pierce, winner of the Australian Open in 1995 and the French Open five years later, and Woodforde, who claimed 12 Grand Slam doubles titles during his career, will join the other 13 members on the Board along with ITF President David Haggerty.

Their appointments are subject to confirmation by the ITF Annual General Meeting in Zagreb next June and both will serve four-year terms.

They will also lead the ITF's Athlete Commission and be members of the ITF's Olympic Committee.....

[View the full news item](#)

Specific countries

ARGENTINA

Inside the game reports (7 December 2015)

Hockey legend Aymar appointed as Buenos Aires 2018 ambassador

Argentinian hockey legend Luciana Aymar has been named as an official ambassador for the 2018 Summer Youth Olympic Games (YOG) in Buenos Aires.

The eight-time International Hockey Federation (FIH) player of the year will be tasked with inspiring and educating youngsters around the world, including the thousands of athletes who will compete in her country's capital between October 1 and 12.

Aymar, who has won four Olympic medals - two silvers and two bronzes - has already brought hockey to the people of Buenos Aires through a number of activities.

This includes a coaching session and skills clinic which featured 300 school children at the Pope Francis Club - a venue in an area the local government has targeted for urban regeneration.....

[View the full news item](#)

AUSTRALIA

Inside the games reports (2 December 2015)

Beach volleyball legend appointed to Australian Olympic Committee team for Rio 2016

Sydney 2000 gold medallist Natalie Cook has been handed a role by the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) ahead of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

The beach volleyball star is set to work in the AOC's Athlete Services Team throughout the duration of the Games, where she will be based in the Athletes Village and tasked with providing a performance focused, respectful and caring environment for members of the squad.

The 40-year-old is set to bring vast experience to the team, having become the first Australian woman to compete at five Olympic Games at London 2012.....

[View the full news item](#)

AZERBAIJAN

Inside the games reports (30 December 2015)

Azerbaijan's First Lady re-elected as President of country's Gymnastics Federation

Azerbaijan's First Lady has been unanimously re-elected as President of the country's Gymnastics Federation.

Mehriban Aliyeva, the wife of Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev, will serve another five-year term after a meeting was held by the national governing body.

In addition, deputy head of the Azerbaijani President's protocol service Altay Hasanov was re-elected as vice-president while the coach of the country's rhythmic gymnastics squad Rauf Aliyev was re-elected to the Executive Committee.

Aliyev was elected for the fourth time, along with Rafiq Behbudov, while Mariana Vasileva was elected to the Committee for the first time.

Issues discussed by the Federation included an action plan to further develop gymnastics in Azerbaijan.

Fifty-one-year old Aliyeva was named as Sports Personality of the Year by the Azerbaijan Sports Journalists Association this month.

She led the organising committee for the first European Games which were held in capital Baku in June, and will take on the same role for the Islamic Solidarity Games which will take place in the city in 2017.

[Source of information](#)

BRAZIL

Inside the games reports (26 December 2015)

Marcela Cunha and Quieroz named Best Brazilian Athletes of 2015 at COB award ceremony

Swimming marathon world champion **Ana Marcela Cunha** and Isaquias Queiroz, gold medallist at the Canoe Sprint World Championships, have been named Best Brazilian Athletes in 2015 at the Brazilian Olympic Committee (COB) awards ceremony.....

Cunha claimed gold in the 25 kilometres competition at the International Swimming Federation World Aquatics Championships in Kazan, Russia in July and August, her second world title in the event.....

[View the full news item](#)

UK

sports coach UK (1 December 2015)

Gillian Wilmot announced as new Chair of sports coach UK

The Board of sports coach UK is pleased to welcome Gillian Wilmot as the new Chair. Gillian takes over from Chris Baillieu MBE. She has strong experience of leadership in both large and small organisations across the private and public sectors.

Gillian is an experienced Chairman & Non-Executive Director and was recognised for governance excellence in the 2014 Sunday Times NED Awards. She runs Board Mentoring which works with CEOs and directors of leading UK and international companies.....

[View the full news item](#)

Sports Marketing Network (1 December 2015)

LIKEaGIRL conference investigates how to attract and retain more girls in sport and physical activity - 140+ people attend the UK's biggest event on how to get girls more

This event was organised by Women's Sport Network, Sports Marketing Network and Herts Sport Partnership on 24th November at University of Hertfordshire.

The conference considered that if we are serious about the well-being and achievement of all women and girls in later life, then we must create a culture where girls' active participation in PE and sport is the norm. An understanding of why this disconnect occurs and how it can be avoided is essential - not just for girls in sport - but for girls throughout life.....

[View the overview of what was discussed at the conference](#)

Inside the games reports (3 December 2015)

Denise Lewis appointed President of Commonwealth Games England

Denise Lewis has replaced fellow Olympic gold medallist Dame Kelly Holmes as President of Commonwealth Games England (CGE), it has been announced.....

Lewis' role will include helping develop England's young athletes in the build-up to Gold Coast 2018, as well as providing leadership and guidance to CGE.....

[View the full news item](#)

Department of Health (11 December 2015)

Chief Medical Officer calls for action on women's health

Report by Professor Dame Sally Davies targets obesity and ovarian cancer and encourages women to talk about 'taboos' such as incontinence.

In her latest annual report, '[Health of the 51%: women](#)', the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Professor Dame Sally Davies makes recommendations on a wide range of health issues, most notably obesity, ovarian cancer and 'taboo problems' such as incontinence and the menopause.

Obesity

The report highlights obesity as one of the biggest risks to women's health, affecting all aspects of a woman's life from birth, family planning, pregnancy and right through to menopause and later life.

In England, 56% of women aged 35 to 44 and 62% of women aged 45 to 54 were classified as overweight or obese in 2013. Dame Sally says that the growing obesity problem is so serious that the government needs to make tackling obesity in the whole population a national priority.....

[View the full press release](#)

British Universities and Colleges Sport (10 December 2015)

A review of This BUCS Girl Can Week

Between 30th November and 6th December, universities across the country organised a fantastic range of female-focused activity to raise awareness of the diversity of activity that exists across Higher Education and to engage more female students in sport and physical activity across the Week.

Across the Week, at least 45 universities got involved, organising a great variety of events, exercise classes, sport sessions and challenges.....

[View the full news item](#)

Sport England (10 December 2015)

Active People Survey 9 results - Latest figures reveal more women getting active

Our latest Active People Survey results reveal the number of people playing sport regularly has increased.

More women are getting active, but there's more to be done for disabled people and those on lower incomes.

Less than a year into the [This Girl Can](#) behaviour change campaign, the number of women playing sport and getting active once a week, every week, has increased by 148,700.....

The results support the need to think about target audiences as individual consumers, understanding the things that get in the way of their taking part in sport and their motivations.

The increase in the number of women playing sport has driven an overall increase in the number of people regularly playing sport. This stands at 15.74 million in the 12 months to the end of September, up by 245,000 compared to the previous figures published in June.....

[View the full news item](#)

Department for Culture, Media and Sport (17 December 2015)

New strategy to strengthen sport from the grassroots to the elite

Government announces new strategy to strengthen sport from the grassroots to the elite.

Public investment into community sport is to reach children as young as five as part of a ground-breaking new [strategy on sport](#) announced by Sports Minister Tracey Crouch today.

The move will see Sport England's remit changed from investing in sport for those aged 14 and over to supporting people from five years old right through to pensioners, in a bid to create a more active nation.

Investment will be targeted at sport projects that have a meaningful, measurable impact on how they are improving people's lives – from helping young people gain skills to get into work, to tackling social inclusion and improving physical and mental health.

Funding will also be targeted at groups who have low participation rates to encourage those who do not take part in sport and physical activity to get involved. **This includes supporting women**, disabled people, those in lower socio-economic groups and older people. Sport England will set up a new fund in 2016 to get inactive people physically active and will support and measure participation in sport and wider physical activity going forward.

At the elite end of sport, government is supporting our Olympic and Paralympic athletes beyond Rio 2016 through to Tokyo 2020 with increased exchequer funding.....

[View the full press release](#)

Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation. HM Government, 17 December 2015 (84 pages)

This cross-government strategy will tackle head on the flatlining levels of sport participation and high levels of inactivity in this country. Through this strategy, government is redefining what success in sport means, with a new focus on five key outcomes: physical wellbeing, mental wellbeing, individual development, social and community development and economic development. In future, funding decisions will be made on the basis of the outcomes that sport and physical activity can deliver.

It is government's ambition that all relevant departments work closer together to create a more physically active nation, where our children and young people enjoy the best sporting opportunities available and people of all ages and backgrounds can enjoy the many benefits that sport and physical activity bring, at every stage in their lives.

[Download a copy](#)

British Rowing (15 December 2015) Update to Henley Women's Regatta 2016

Henley Women's Regatta continues to grow from strength to strength after another record entry in 2015 which saw an increase from 374 in 2014 to 427 entries in 2015. The overseas entry was the highest recorded and British entries show a steady increase, especially Junior which has almost doubled in six years. This overall growth means that the current regatta format is reaching capacity. As a result the Committee has been reviewing the events offered and race programme to facilitate further growth whilst maintaining the key objective of promoting women's rowing at the highest level.....

[View the full news item](#)

England Athletics (18 December 2015) Role models for women coaches - Deborah's story

Are you passionate about being involved in coaching athletics? Because now is the time to make it happen.

England Athletics are working with local women in local clubs to tell you how they become involved in coaching, what support was given, how they juggle family commitments, and work life.

Deborah Bray is a L3 Performance Coach for Combined Events with a particular interest in High Jump - become inspired by reading her coaching story.

Deborah Bray Lavington Athletics Level 3 (Performance) coach and Head Coach

Deborah says:

I first qualified as an athletics coach in 2001 and am now a Level 3 (Performance) coach and Head Coach of Lavington Athletics. I coach Combined Events with a particular interest in High Jump.

After spending several years coaching at the Bath University Athletics Track I got fed up of the travelling and decided to start my own club in the rural area I live and where I am responsible for around 10 other coaches.....

[View the full article](#)

[Click here to read more stories of role models for women coaches](#)

Women in Sport – Insight Series 2016

We are pleased to announce the confirmed speakers include:

[Manchester](#) – 2 February 2016, Chancellors Hotel, Fallowfield

[Stacey Copeland](#) – 2015 Nation's Cup Boxing Gold Medallist

Vicky Foster-Lloyd – Head of Sport and Active Lifestyles at University of Manchester

Francis Leng – Research and Insight Adviser, English Federation of Disability Sport

(further speaker TBC)

London – 5 February 2016, De Vere West One, London

[Pamela Coockey](#) – former England Netball captain

[Naomi Riches](#) – Paralympic Rowing gold medallist and six time world champion

Jas Hothi – Sports Development Officer at London Youth

Dr Abbe Brady – University of Gloucestershire, course Leader for Professional Doctorate in Sport and Exercise and MSc Sports Coaching

Francis Leng – Research and Insight Adviser, English Federation of Disability Sport

Attending will also allow you to uncover local insights from a variety of case studies, including presentations from ClubWorks at the London event and the I Will if You Will project from Bury at Manchester. There will be plenty of time to network throughout the day too.

[View the full details](#)

Some publications of possible interest...

Active beyond Education: A report exploring young disabled people's experiences of sport and physical activity, during the transition from education to adulthood. The National Disability Sports Organisations, December 2015 (36 pages)

This research consulted with young disabled people to explore their experience of sport and physical activity, during the transition from education to adulthood.

The findings highlighted a range of reasons why disabled people do and do not engage in sport and physical activity as they move on from education. These cover internal factors – having the motivation as well as the physical and psychological capability to take part. As well as external factors – having available opportunities.

[Download a copy](#)

The School Environment and Adolescent Physical Activity: An exploration of UK-based non-academic literature of interventions that promote physical activity via changes to the secondary school environment. The Creating Active School Environments (CASE) project. Centre for Diet and Activity Research, November 2015 (13 pages)

The Creating Active School Environments (CASE) project aims to find ways to help adolescents be more active and sit less within the school environment. CASE is a 3-year project, funded by the Department of Health Policy Research Program. This report provides examples of interventions and programmes from across the UK that target features of the secondary school environment that do not form published journal articles. It presents examples of various interventions and programmes and also key recommendations for creating active school environments.

[Download a copy](#)

US

Beyond Sport (3 December 2015)

Women from Mexico, Indonesia complete global sports mentoring with ESPN

The U.S. Department of State's Empowering Women and Girls through Sports Initiative aims to increase the number of women and girls involved in sports around the world.

Building on its long-term commitment to female-focused sports exchanges, the U.S. Department of State officially launched the initiative in 2012 in a boosted effort to empower the world's women and girls through sports opportunities.

[The Global Sports Mentoring Program](#) — a collaboration between espnW and the U.S. Department of State that pairs emerging leaders from around the world with top American female executives in a four-week mentorship — recently marked its fourth edition. ESPN's Vice President, Visual Technology, Marina Escobar and Vice President, Affiliate Marketing account management, Kimberly Wilson, served as mentors for two participants.

The participants are selected by the U.S. Embassies overseas based on their prior accomplishments and drive to make an even greater impact in the sports sector of their countries. These individuals demonstrate an ability to reach exceptional success in their profession as well as share lessons with others in their home country—particularly girls—so that they may benefit from sports.

Carla Bustamante from Mexico and Hanna Fauzie from Indonesia spent the month working with Escobar and Wilson on developing action plans for programs to create sporting opportunities for girls and women in their home countries. They share their perspectives on working together in this video.

[Access the video](#)

Inside the games reports (4 December 2015)

Christopherson appointed Los Angeles 2024 associate director of athlete relations

Olympic kayaker Tamara Christopherson has been appointed associate director of athlete relations of Los Angeles 2024, it has been announced.

Christopherson, a silver medallist at the 1999 Pan American Games in Winnipeg, will work closely alongside Bid Committee vice-chair and four-times Olympic swimming champion Janet Evans in ensuring athletes have a voice in their attempt at bringing the Summer Games back to the United States for the first time since Atlanta 1996.

She represented her country at the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney and is currently President of the Southern California Olympians and Paralympians, which has a membership of around 800 athletes.....

[View the full news item](#)