

## **The IAPESGW Regional Symposium Report**

The IAPESGW Regional Symposium: International Gender Issues and Sport held at Hacettepe University, Beytepe Campus in Ankara, Turkey between 4- 5, September 2014, in collaboration with Hacettepe University Faculty of Sport Sciences, Hacettepe University Women’s Research and Implementation Center (HUWRIC), Turkish Association of Sport and Physical Activity for Women (KASFAD) and The International Association of Physical Education and Sport for Girls and Women (IAPESGW).

The IAPESGW Regional Symposium aims to advance the international dialogue around women and sport; to improve the dialogue around women and sport internationally with a special focus on the Middle East and Europe and to reinforce the collaboration between researchers and practitioners working on women and sport in World. The IAPESGW Regional Symposium which came to success with the participation of around 200 participants from 16 countries is the first international symposium held in Turkey on gender issues in physical activity, exercise and sport.

One hundred sixty proposals were submitted for The IAPESGW Regional Symposium and 141 proposals were accepted for the symposium after the reviewing process. 59 of the accepted proposals are oral presentation and of 82 are poster presentations. Four different invited sessions were held by the 15 invited speakers during the symposium.

The IAPESGW Regional Symposium welcomed academicians, undergraduate and graduate student from 16 countries such as Albania, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Egypt, Greece, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Palestine, Spain, Turkey, U.K., U.S.A, and Venezuela. Participants from Afghanistan, Morocco, Oman and Pakistan, were registered but could not attend. Symposium was enriched by the diversity of participants from various institutions and fields. In this sense, it is crucial for the symposium to bring the academicians and students and reinforce the knowledge sharing from diverse fields as sport sciences, communication, anthropology, archaeology and medicine from all around Turkey.

The symposium participants shared their academic studies and focused on the barriers excluding women and girls from participating in physical activity and sport and policies and further scientific researches and goals. Regarding final statement was released to the public:

1. To reaffirm the right of all girls and women to health and wellbeing through participation in Physical Education, Sport, Physical Activity and Dance.
2. To encourage further scientific research at the forefront of our fields.
3. To continue striving to ‘Accept and Respect the voices and choices of girls and women’ in our fields.
4. To celebrate the first regional IAPESGW symposium valuing our international community of women and men working together to advance gender and sport studies.