



## News and Resource Update January 2017: 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](#)

### Keep right up to date with our news

We have set up social media accounts to share all our latest news with you:



You can now follow us on Twitter - [take a look](#)

**facebook**

We're on Facebook too - [view our page](#)

### IAPESGW 18<sup>th</sup> World Congress - *Women and Girls in Sport: Research to Action* Barry University, Florida, USA 17 – 21 May 2017

Themes:

- Pedagogy of Physical Education, Sport, and Dance
- Lifelong Physical Activity for All
- Global to Local Initiatives and Assessment
- Sport Sciences

**REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN - to book your place on our 18th Congress please [visit the booking website](#) - early bird rates ended on 20 January 2017**

### IAPESGW Website

**Editor** - Work on a new version of the IAPESGW website is well underway now, with more pages added to the site in January - please visit at: <http://www.iapesgw.org/>

We are taking this opportunity to refresh and update the website and I have asked key board members for their input in order to achieve this aim. Over the next few weeks more content will be added and the new website will be your key source of information about the work of IAPESGW.

If you have resources and news that you feel should appear on the website, and in this monthly 'Update', please do channel your information through one of our board members - their email addresses can be found [here](#).

## International

### Comic Relief (January 2017)

#### **Funding: Levelling the Field, International - application open from 5 January to midday 16 March 2017**

The lives of women and girls across the world have improved in many ways over the last 25 years, but there is still much to do. Empowering women and girls so that they are safe and free to lead the lives they choose is a key programme area in Comic Relief's new global strategy.

Sport is a powerful tool for social change, and can be used to address issues affecting women and girls. It can support the development of essential life skills, deliver powerful messages, foster confidence and improve self-esteem. It can also be used to challenge gender roles and propel women and girls toward better lives.

Comic Relief and the Scottish Government have formed a partnership to launch the "Levelling the Field" initiative to use the power of sport to enable and inspire women and girls to reach their full potential.

We will support projects which use sport to contribute to Sustainable Development Goal 5 – achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls – in the following countries.

- Malawi
- Zambia
- Rwanda
- Colombia
- India

#### **Funding available**

This is a £2.2 million initiative funded by Comic Relief and the Scottish Government. Grants made in Malawi, Zambia and Rwanda (partner countries for the Scottish Government's International Development Fund in Sub-Saharan Africa) will be joint funded by Comic Relief and the Scottish Government. Grants made in Colombia and India will be funded by Comic Relief only. We will make the grants under this initiative in two rounds. A second round of funding will be announced later in 2017.

Applications are welcome for up to £150,000 over a period of 36 months. Applicants should have been registered for at least 3 years and have a turnover of at least £100,000.

We are encouraging a variety of different types of projects. This could be a pilot for an innovative piece of work or the continued development of a proven piece of work. Funding is available for project delivery, research or for a campaign.

[View the details](#)

**Note: There is a separate element of this programme for the UK - [view the details](#)**

### European Commission - Sport (16 January 2017)

#### **European Commission reports progress on health-enhancing physical activity**

On 5 December 2016, the European Commission adopted the first [Report on progress in implementing the Council Recommendation on health-enhancing physical activity](#).

Most people in Europe do not reach the minimum levels of physical activity recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO). In particular, people from low socioeconomic backgrounds, minority ethnic groups, and people with disabilities are not active enough.

## **Key findings**

This first report shows several positive developments, including the adoption of many new policies and action plans as well as the strengthening of cross-sector cooperation at national level. The monitoring of health-enhancing physical activity has been improved, and [country factsheets](#) have been released in cooperation with the WHO as part of the process. These country factsheets provide an overview of relevant policies and actions in the EU and serve as a rich source of data for further analysis. The exchange of good practices and cross-border cooperation have also improved.

Monitoring trends and changes in the population's level of physical activity over time is important for developing, evaluating and improving national policies on physical activity. The publication of contradictory data from different survey instruments was identified as a concern for the promotion of physical activity, and as an issue to be addressed.

---

[View the full news item](#)

## ***A report on the European Week of Sport.....***

### **#BeActive: European Week of Sport. 2016 Evaluation Report. European Commission, January 2017 (65 pages)**

During the months of October and November 2016, the European Commission consulted, via an on-line survey, national coordinating bodies, European partners of the Week and Erasmus+: Sport project leaders.

The feedback received represents a unanimous view: the second European Week of Sport was a huge success.

#### **Key findings - In brief, in 2016:**

- the number of events and participants doubled compared to 2015, reaching over 15,000 events with 10 million active participants
- the number of sport organisations committed to supporting the Week (now 35 European partners) increased
- the strong visual branding created in 2015 was developed further with copyright-free photos provided for the use of all key players

[Download a copy](#)

[View the news item on release of the report \(17 January 2017\)](#)

## **Inside the games reports (18 January 2017)**

### **Nations Cup in Serbia first women's boxing competition to adopt new AIBA laws**

The first women's boxing competition to adopt new laws which aim to bring female competition in line with men's has been held in Serbia.

The Nations Cup tournament, held in Vrba, saw women's bouts consist of three rounds of three minutes - just like the men.

A change in the rules was unanimously approved by the International Boxing Association's (AIBA) Executive Committee in December.

It was one of a number of changes introduced in a bid to improve the running of competitions, with women normally competing over four two-minute rounds.

Other new rules include the use of all five judges to determine the winner of each contest - instead of three - and the deployment of the Swiss Timing electronic system to randomly select officials before bouts, along with the removal of the Draw Commission.

---

[View the full news item](#)

### **Inside the games reports (25 January 2017)**

#### **Abu Dhabi formally unveiled as host of 2019 Special Olympics World Games**

Abu Dhabi has been officially unveiled as host of the 2019 Special Olympics World Games during a meeting with Emirati Government officials.

The United Arab Emirates capital had been announced as host of the event in November, but this marked the first time a formal signing ceremony has taken place.

Taking place in the Middle East for the first time, the event is due to be held from March 14 to 21 in 2019.

Around 7,000 athletes spanning 170 countries would be expected to compete across 22 sports.

---

[View the full news item](#)

### **Inside the games reports (23 January 2017)**

#### **FIAS launches gender equity video campaign**

The International Sambo Federation (FIAS) has today launched a video campaign addressing gender equity in the sport.

The video shows examples of women that play important roles in the development of sambo in different parts of the world.

"The campaign is not merely a call for the increase of female participation and space, it is more a reminder that women have been present across different functions for several years and they are also responsible for how sport presents itself nowadays," said a FIAS statement.

"Not because of their gender, but for the individual skills and efforts they brought to the table."

The FIAS Women's Commission has been working closely with sambo athletes and administrators to identify what could be done to enhance the female side of the sport.

In 2016, Commission chair Monique Athanase of Seychelles took part in a conference promoted by the International Working Group on Women and Sport in Botswana's capital Gaborone.

---

[View the full news item and watch the video](#)

**Journal of Physical Activity and Health: The Official Journal of the International Society for Physical Activity and Health. Volume 13, Issue 12, December 2016**

**Editor** - the abstracts from the articles in this current edition to be placed on their website are now available.

[View the abstracts](#)

## Specific countries

### AUSTRALIA

#### ABC News (24 January 2017)

##### **Australian women exercise more than men, report finds**

Australian women are outperforming men when it comes to keeping active, according to data from the Australian Sports Commission (ASC).

Sixty-one per cent of Australian women are exercising at least three times a week, while among men the figure is 57 per cent.

Australia's most popular club sports:

- Golf
- Football
- Tennis
- Cricket
- Netball

The ASC this week released its state-by-state breakdown of its \*AusPlay report, tracking sports participation and physical activity nationwide.

The trend was consistent in every state and territory, with the difference the starkest in Queensland.

---

#### **ACT the most active jurisdiction, NT exercises the least**

The ACT is leading the way in keeping physically active, with 66 per cent of Canberrans exercising three or more times a week.

Western Australia is the second most active at 60 per cent, while the Northern Territory is the least active at 53 per cent.

---

[View the full news item](#)

[\\*Access the AusPlay Report: Data for October 2016 to September 2016](#)

### BRAZIL

Two items of interest from our Board member in Brazil, Beatriz Ferreira:

**VII Seminars on Leisure Studies. VII Sel**

**24 May to 26 May 2017, State University of Maringá. Brazil. Maringá -PR**

<http://gel-uem.wixsite.com/seminariodolazer>

## **Social Network in Brazil - "Dibradoras"**

"Dibradoras" is a communication channel created by Angélica Souza, Nayara Perone, Renata Mendonça and Roberta Nina. They are passionate about sports. They speak of women throughout the sporting universe, from within the field (court, pool or mat) to outside, as managers, coaches, referees, journalists and the like. They give voice to them, who have so little space in the sports media, telling their histories and honouring their conquests. This is a channel not only of discussion, but also of fun and passion for sports culture seen with their eyes and for everyone to hear. It is worth seeing, although it is in Portuguese.

Email - [dibradoras@gmail.com](mailto:dibradoras@gmail.com)

Website: <http://www.dibradoras.com.br/>

<https://www.facebook.com/dibradoras/>

Instagram: dibradoras

Twitter: @dibradoras

## **INDIA**

### **Beyond Sport reports (4 January 2017)**

#### **Sport breaks barriers between girls and boys in Haryana**

As part of the Kadam Badhate Chalo (KBC) programme, Pro Sport Development (PSD), in partnership with the Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA) and the Martha Farrell Foundation (MFF), conducted sports and gender camps with 143 youth, 74 girls and 69 boys, from the rural villages of Sonapat and Panipat in Haryana, notorious for their abysmal track record for crimes against women and girls.

PRIA and MFF's sustained work in Haryana over the past couple of years, in particular with youth groups in rural areas, has found that their communities have faced gender based violence in various forms such as dropouts of girl children from school, child marriages, unwanted/trapped pregnancies due to lack of awareness and honour killings. This comment by a 12-year old girl Anu from Mahra village in Sonapat summed up the state of affairs, "if we girls are not married off at a young age then boys make us pregnant and later we will be killed by our own families".

This context made the sports and gender camp even more relevant to ensure that girls and boys recognise each other as equals, and work together towards seeking a gender just society. The camp utilised a variety of sports and physical activities such as Line Up, Beat the Ball, Dodgeball, Bulldog and Continuous Cricket, to break barriers between the two genders, encourage them to have a dialogue with each other and teach them the essential values of teamwork, leadership and communication to assist them in working together well within a group. Moreover, gender sensitisation activities such as a gender relay, situational analysis, workload analysis, reflections/discussions and skits, helped the girls and boys to increase acceptance towards each other, understand the various gender biases that exist and why, and analyse their community level issues through a gender lens.

The impact of the camp was instrumental in getting girls and boys feeling comfortable being in each other's company as part of the youth group, providing girls with the confidence and self-esteem to freely convey their thoughts and opinions and sensitising the boys to their roles at a personal level in tackling gender based violence. Moreover, it enabled the youth

groups to plan their future activities as part of the collective, which included tackling self-identified village level issues including encouraging girls to be sent to school, curbing child marriages and countering issues related to increasing substance abuse among the village youth.

[Source of information](#)

## **JAPAN**

### **Inside the games reports (18 January 2017)**

#### **Tokyo 2020 golf venue to consider changing female membership restrictions**

Hiroshi Imaizumi, the general manager of the club due to host golf at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, has indicated that they will consider changing a policy limiting female membership.

Women are not currently eligible to become full members of the Ksumigaseki Country Club in Saitama, north of Tokyo

The 220 female part-members are also banned from playing at the club at specific times including Sundays.

This policy was criticised last week by Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike, who said she felt "very uncomfortable that women cannot become full members in the 21st century".

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) are also thought to be concerned given their drive to improve sporting gender equality.

But Imaizumi has now said changes will now be considered if either the IOC or the International Golf Federation request it.

.....  
[View the full news item](#)

### ***Pressure now....***

### **Inside the games reports (25 January 2017)**

#### **Japan Golf Council wants Tokyo 2020 venue changed over sex discrimination row**

A letter has been sent to International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach proposing an alternative golf course is used during Tokyo 2020 because of controversial female membership rules at the current venue.

The Japan Golf Council wants the venue to be moved from Kasumigaseki Country Club to Wakasu Golf Links, a public course on Tokyo Bay located much closer to the Olympic Village.

Women are not currently eligible to become full members of the Ksumigaseki Country Club in Saitama, north of Tokyo.

The 220 female part-members are also banned from playing at the club at specific times, including Sundays.

Eiko Ohya, chairwoman of the Council, which is unaffiliated with the sport's domestic



governing body, the Japan Golf Association, said the club's membership policy is "quite contrary to the spirit of the Olympic Games".

---

[View the full news item](#)

## UK

### **All Party Parliamentary Cycling Group (6 December 2016)**

#### **Women and Cycling event**

We hosted a 'Women and Cycling' event. A packed room heard from 10 speakers in 2 hours.

**Here are 2 reports from the event:**

<http://www.cyclinguk.org/blog/julie-rand/womens-cycling-discussed-party-parliamentary-cycling-group>

and

<https://totalwomenscycling.com/lifestyle/women-cycling-discussed-parliamentary-group-meeting>

**10 presentations from the event:**

[british-cycling](#)

[cycling-embassy-of-great-britain](#)

[cycling-uk](#)

[kensington-and-chelsea](#)

[pedelle](#)

[tfl](#)

[the-adventure-syndicate](#)

[trek-bikes](#)

[university-of-westminster](#)

[york-bike-belles](#)

#### **Source of information**

### **Women in Sport (3 January 2017)**

#### **New Year, New Goals: Let's get sport fit for women and girls**

With 1.5 million fewer women and girls enjoying the physical, social and health benefits of sport and physical exercise than men, make it your New Year's resolution a commitment to support our charitable work and change this.

Women's Sports Wednesdays is our campaign to see every playing field, pitch, pool, track and court filled with people playing sport, having fun and raising vital funds for Women in Sport.

By getting involved with #WomensSportsWeds you can help us to transform sport for thousands of women and girls up and down the UK.

It's easy to get involved, download a fundraising pack to find out all you need to know by [clicking here](#).



### **Check out what's been happened so far**

Since its launch during Women's Sport Week in October, people from across the UK have helped make a difference through bake sales, sports days, fun runs and more!

---

[View the full news item](#)

### **ukactive (3 January 2017)**

#### **ukactive and Premier Sport research shines spotlight on wealth disparity around kids' fitness levels**

Research carried out by ukactive and children's activity provider Premier Sport made national headlines today. In findings reported by The Sun; poorer children's fitness levels fall 18 times faster in the summer holidays than their more affluent counterparts.

The research was carried out using the My Personal Best Challenge developed by Premier Sport. In 14 schools across the northwest of England, 400 children were tracked over a 13-month period as part of the first study of its kind to measure fitness levels both before and after the summer holidays.

The research highlighted a loss of fitness for all children during the summer break, as regular PE and active travel gave way to 'lazy summer holidays'. Nonetheless, children from more deprived backgrounds were disproportionately less fit at the end of the holidays, highlighting fears that poorer children are being "plonked in front of the TV" while more well-off children are given the opportunity to keep active at summer camps.

The findings further strengthen calls by ukactive for the government to spend some of the revenue from the sugar levy outside of school, providing opportunities and incentives for children to be active over the summer, where action is most pivotal.

---

[View the full news item](#)

### **Rugby Football League (4 January 2017)**

#### **Women in Coaching success**

Working in conjunction with Reach, the Rugby Football League (RFL) has launched a 'Women in coaching' project, to get more women coaching rugby league in community clubs – working in the 7-11 age band – and in turn retain more children playing the sport. The project, which is administered through their 'Primary Rugby League' programme, has so far targeted the North West of England and was introduced via adverts on the RFL website and at regional club meetings.

Surveys were subsequently sent out to those women who expressed an interest in the project – helping the RFL to better understand their philosophy and motivations for wanting to get involved.

From the returned surveys, invitations were sent out, inviting those interested to attend 'meet and greet' sessions led by Linda Low, the RFL's 'Women in coaching' project lead. The premise of the sessions was a chance for informal discussions and questions around the project, as well as exploring what the women wanted to get out of coaching.

Attracting over 20 women from different backgrounds, including: students, social workers, primary school teachers and lecturers, most had a connection with local rugby league clubs and recognised the importance of their clubs within their communities.

---

[View the full news item](#)

### **Sport England (12 January 2017)**

#### **This Girl Can to return to nation's TV screens**

It's almost time: This Girl Can will burst back on to TV screens later this month with a whole new ad.

Our second major TV ad is set to premiere on Friday 27 January during the Coronation Street ad break, with a nationwide poster campaign launching days later.

This Girl Can is all about getting women active – swapping fear of judgement with a celebration of cellulite, sweat and jiggle flesh. No Photo-shopping. No lighting tricks. Just the joyous, unfettered reality of women enjoying exercise.

The new ads feature a wide range of women of all ages, abilities and backgrounds. We're now targeting women aged from 14 up to 60 and beyond.

It also responds to what we've learned about what does and doesn't motivate women to get involved in physical activity since the original campaign launched two years ago.

#### **Overcoming barriers**

We know that many women don't have the confidence to get active, so we want to help women build up their confidence and overcome these barriers.

There is also a focus on resilience.

We'll be showing women that it doesn't matter if you become active, stop, and then start again or do something different – it's a normal process and a part of life.

The sense of belonging is also being brought to the fore, showing women that they're part of something bigger when they're getting active.

#### **Become a Supporter**

Since launching, 2.8 million women say they've done some or more activity as a result of seeing the campaign

And 1.6 million have started or got back into being active.

We'll be launching the first of our teaser films tomorrow, so keep your eyes peeled on the [This Girl Can Twitter feed](#).

If you're not already a This Girl Can supporter, you can [register today](#). You'll get key updates, access to assets and be part of our national network of Supporters who are helping to get more women active.

#### ***Information received by email***

## **sports coach UK (9 January 2017)**

### **Animation developed to explain Youth Physical Development Model**

Sports Coach UK and Sport Scotland have developed a short animation detailing the 'Youth Physical Development Model' and what this means for the development of 'Fundamental Movement Skills'.

This model was developed by Dr Rhodri Lloyd and Dr Jon Oliver of Cardiff Metropolitan University; recognised as two world leading experts in the field. This 'Youth Physical Development Model' is based on evidence that shows that youth participants of both genders are responsive to training throughout childhood and adolescence. Coaches really can make a difference at all stages of development.

This video brings to life the 'Youth Physical Development Model' by defining each term used in the model and explaining the differences between the male and female versions.

The Sports Coach UK ['Fundamentals of Movement'](#) workshop gives coaches a full understanding of this model and fundamental skills coaches can include in their coaching sessions.

[Access the animation](#) (12.5 minutes)

## **England Golf (11 January 2017)**

### **Girls Golf Rocks is getting bigger and better**

Girls Golf Rocks – the recruitment campaign which got over 600 girls swinging last year – is going to get bigger and better in 2017.

The number of counties taking part will grow from nine to 15 – all aiming to get more girls playing golf, by offering coaching with PGA professionals and using young ambassadors from county squads to show that it's a fun and sociable game.

The new counties are: Bedfordshire, Cumbria, Kent, Leicestershire, Staffordshire, Wiltshire and Yorkshire. They'll join Buckinghamshire, Cheshire, Dorset, Durham, Essex, Gloucestershire, Norfolk and Nottinghamshire.

Taster sessions will be held by PGA professionals in March and April, when ambassadors will be on hand to encourage the new girls. They will all then be offered five weeks of group coaching, leading to a fun day with the ambassadors featuring multi-skill challenges and chance to play on a golf course.

.....  
[View the full news item](#)

## **Rugby Football Union (11 January 2017)**

### **Women encouraged to meet their 'Inner Warrior'**

- England Rugby launch 'Meet Your Inner Warrior' campaign
- 100 Warrior Camps to take place across the country. [Click here](#) for more details

The RFU has launched the 'Meet Your Inner Warrior' campaign, aimed at encouraging more women and girls to take up contact rugby.

As part of the campaign, 100 'Warrior Camps' will take place in rugby clubs across the country from January 19 – 29, offering fun rugby taster sessions for women who want to try out the sport before joining their local club.

The Warrior Camps will teach participants key introductory skills and drills for rugby, with help on hand every step of the way. All people need to take part are a pair of trainers and their usual workout gear.

You can sign up to attend a Warrior Camp by [clicking here](#). Personal trainer Chloe Madeley will also be attending the Warrior Camp at Rushden and Higham RUFC on January 29.

.....  
[View the full news item](#)

### **Loughborough University (9 January 2017)**

#### **Current sporting policies restrict transgender athletes and must be revised**

Academics have called for a revision of the policies which restrict transgender men and women from competing in professional sporting events.

The research team, which includes Bethany Jones, a PhD student within the School of Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences, at Loughborough University, found that the majority of transgender sporting policies were discriminatory against transgender people, especially transgender males (individuals who were assigned female at birth on the basis of their sex characteristics, but who identify as male).

They looked at the policies from 31 professional national and international organisations including the English Football Association, the Rugby Football Union and the Lawn Tennis Association – as well as some smaller groups such as the UK Roller Derby Association and the International Quidditch Association – and reported their findings in a paper entitled Sport and Transgender People: A Systematic Review of the Literature Relating to Sport Participation and Competitive Sport Policies.

The study highlighted the trend that most policies unfairly alienate transgender competitors based mainly on an unsubstantiated assumption that transgender females possess an unfair sporting advantage.

However, after reviewing all of the associated, available research in this area the researchers found no evidence to suggest that transgender females had any athletic superiority in sport.

.....  
[View the full news item](#)

### ***Sad news that this pioneer of women's cricket died this month....***

#### **England and Wales Cricket Board**

##### **Baroness Rachael Heyhoe-Flint 1939 - 2017**

Baroness Rachael Heyhoe-Flint recalls hilarious attempt to attract a sponsor. Cricket pioneer's efforts show how far women's game has moved on.

[Watch this short video](#) - giving a small glimpse of her amazing personality

[Read the BBC news item paying tribute to her \(18 January 2017\)](#)

[Also a tribute to her on the Women and Sport website](#)

### **Sport England (26 January 2017)**

#### **New Active Lives figures released - New activities added as part of comprehensive national survey**

The survey, which runs 365 days a year, asks people aged 16 and over across England about the sport and physical activities they take part in. Results will be published twice a year. 200,000 people completed the first round of the survey between November 2015 and

November 2016, making Active Lives the biggest and most comprehensive survey of its kind and an important source of detailed and reliable information about what people do and enjoy.

**Key statistics include:**

- The number of adults who do less than 30 minutes of moderate intensity sport and physical activity per week
- The number of adults who do 150 minutes or more of moderate intensity sport and physical activity a week, meeting the guidelines recommended by the Chief Medical Officer
- The most popular types of activity.

.....  
[View the full news item](#) and [access the survey report](#)

**Sported (23 January 2017)**

**Sport NI partner with Sported and Women in Sport to promote female participation**

An innovative new pilot project that aims to encourage greater participation and increase opportunities for women and girls to get involved in grassroots sport is being rolled out across Northern Ireland thanks to funding from the [Department for Communities](#).

As part of the Department's continuing investment in women's sport, Sport NI has partnered with leading Sport for Social Change charity [Sported](#) and [Women in Sport](#) to launch a new joint pilot programme called 'Engage-HER'.

Engage-HER will initially see six community sport organisations in Northern Ireland benefit from the combined expertise of Sported and Women in Sport; receiving tailored training and operational support to grow women and girls' involvement in sport and physical activity.

The programme draws upon Sported's experience of supporting grassroots groups using sport for social change and Women in Sport's 30 years of insight-led expertise helping groups remove barriers to participation and improve their understanding of what women and girls want.

The package of benefits will also see each group receive one-to-one mentoring support from Sported to develop a 'Women and Girls Engagement Plan'. This will help groups put the training and insight from Engage-HER into practice, and foster the development of exciting new sporting opportunities for women and girls across Northern Ireland.

.....  
[View the full news item](#)

**VIETNAM**

**Beyond Sport reports (13 January 2017)**

**Sevens stars support youth in Vietnam**

Two of Australia's top rugby players will head to Vietnam this week to coach and support children from some of the poorest communities in Southeast Asia, as part of an innovative sport for development program managed by ChildFund Australia.

During the three-day visit, Australian Women's Rugby Sevens Olympic gold medallist Nicole Beck and Australian Men's Rugby Sevens Captain Lewis Holland will travel to Kim Boi district in northern Vietnam to run coach and referee clinics, and support a team competition involving more than 160 young players and coaches from remote communities of Laos and Vietnam.

The visit has been arranged under ChildFund's Pass it Back program, which promotes the right to play in communities where children have little or no access to organised sport. Using a fully integrated rugby and life-skills curriculum, Pass it Back not only supports young people's health and wellbeing but provides important learning opportunities around leadership, life skills and gender equality to help them overcome challenges, inspire positive change and 'pass it back' to their communities.

The program is supported by the Australian Government's aid program through its Asia Sports Partnerships (ASP) initiative, which was established to foster links between Australia and Asia that promote community health, disability inclusion, gender equality and social cohesion.

To date, more than 2,500 children and youth in some of the poorest communities in Laos and Vietnam have benefited from participation in the program, with girls making up over 50 per cent of the players and coaches.

.....  
[View the full news item](#)

## USA

### **Inside the games reports (5 January 2017)**

#### **Donna de Varona given USSA 2016 Theodore Roosevelt Meritorious Achievement Award**

Double Olympic Games swimming gold medallist Donna de Varona has been named the winner of the United States Sports Academy's (USSA) 2016 Theodore Roosevelt Meritorious Achievement Award.

The award is presented to an individual in any amateur or professional sport, past or present, who has "excelled as a contributor to both sport and society over at least a decade".

De Varona was presented the award at the US Olympic Committee's New York City offices.

At the 1964 Olympic Games in Tokyo, she won gold medals in the women's 400 metres individual medley and as a member of the US 4x100m freestyle relay team.

Between 1960 and 1964 de Varona broke 18 swimming world records and by age 17 she was voted the Most Outstanding Female Athlete by both the Associated Press and the United Press International.

Despite her success in the pool, de Varona retired from professional swimming following Tokyo 1964 after she was unable to obtain a college scholarship for swimming due to a lack of athletic opportunities for women at the time.

She went on to graduate in political science at the University of California Los Angeles.

De Varona was inducted to the International Swimming Hall of Fame as an "Honour Swimmer" in 1969.

The co-founder of the Women's Sports Foundation and its first President, de Varona has been an influential figure in the world of sport.

She has served five terms on the US President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports and was a pivotal force behind the passage of the "Title IX" legislation, which barred sexual discrimination in any education programme or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

.....  
[View the full news item](#)