

**2005, INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SPORT  
AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION  
UNIVERSITY SPORT, A UNIQUE BRIDGE BETWEEN  
EDUCATION, HEALTH, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE**

*Address of M Adolf OGI: by representative, Claude-Louis GALLIEN,  
First Vice-President of FISU, President of CESU*

Mister President, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, dear friends,

1. 2005 has been proclaimed «International Year of Sport and Physical Education», by the General Assembly of the United Nations.
2. It is a very special pleasure to celebrate sport and education here in Turkey, which is altogether a birth place and a cross-road for some of the greatest human cultures and civilisations, and a bridge between Europe, Asia and Africa.
3. Ege University, in Izmir, is really an ideal place for the FISU conference to demonstrate that University sport is a unique tool to link education, health, development and peace.
4. Education and sport are not antagonistic.
5. Etymologically, “educate” derives from the Latin “educare” which means “carry through a successful conclusion”. “sport” derives from the Greek “poros” which means “passage” - by extension “make occur”, and from the Latin “portare” which means “carry through” - extended to “accomplishment”.
6. Sport is fully a part of educational project leading to promote harmonious development of personality.
7. Competition is part of sport and part of education. The word comes from the Latin “petere” which means “dash forward an aim” and the Latin “com” which means “together”. “Competition” lays down a social settlement and associate match and alliance. Finally it is the action of progressing together toward the same goal in the frame of rules.

- 8.** When we speak of “Sport”, we refer to the universal language of modern olympism, founded in 1894 by Pierre de Coubertin, mainly as an educational project that brings people together for common goals in a playful and relaxed way.
- 9.** Sport is a school for individual development, self control, self esteem, structuration of the personality.
- 10.** Sport is a school for citizenship based on a social contract, generating integration and dialogue, respect to opponents, respect of the rules, respect to the referees and their decisions, respect for cultural diversity, valorisation of the differences.
- 11.** Sport is a school for healthy life. Regular and well balanced physical activity has favourable effects on individual health conditions, providing physical (functional and organic) and mental direct health benefits. It impacts positively on diet improvement, and should be considered as an effective method of disease prevention; in that sense sports is also a cost-effective way to improve public health.
- 12.** Sport is a school for decision makers, teaching life skills to overcome defeat, to deal with victory, to anticipate risks, and also being a constructive outlet for energy and emotions.
- 13.** Sport is a school for economic development, improving the productivity of the workforce, increasing economic output and adding positive global and cross-cutting capacities.
- 14.** Modern olympism project was also founded on an ethic.
- 15.** This ethical aspect of sport is essential. The greatest challenge the XXI<sup>st</sup> century will have to face is to manage with a new highly technical society, and preserve the fundamental ethical values of humanity. Ethic, education and sport are closely linked together.
- 16.** Ethic should not be still, if so it might be a risk for it to become a moral or an ideology. Each model of society defines the educational project corresponding to its own vision of ethic, which sometimes is not truly an ethic but eventually a moral or an ideology.

- 17.** The essential goal of an education based on a moral or an ideology may be moulding young people to the dominant politico-socio-cultural system.
- 18.** Such an educational model is representative of conservative (autocratic, aristocratic, theocratic or plutocratic) systems.
- 19.** Another educational model, really founded on ethical values, proposes that young people should be given the knowledge and the ability to understand and emancipate, which would make them able to preserve – or eventually transform – the political system, and even to invent or develop a completely different societal model.
- 20.** Such a progressive and creative educational model is representative of democratic systems (power by and for the people).
- 21.** Education today goes far beyond the framework of family groups, schools and universities. The action of modern media (television, internet, cellular phones) is more and more important. Sport programs weight decisively on the reflections, attitudes and choices of many young people throughout the world.
- 22.** Champions are publicised by the media, their image is widely disseminated. The credibility of the message conveyed by sport is based to a large extent on the example offered by top level athletes.
- 23.** Sometimes the example is good.
- 24.** But sometimes not so good...
- 25.** Going back to health, it is true that the sedentary lifestyle always means poor healthy condition.
- 26.** But we have to admit that sport does not always mean healthy life.
- 27.** Inadequate sport exercises, over training, excess of competitions, hypermedicalisation bring undesirable, harmful or dramatic consequences.
- 28.** Doping in sports kills, either in the short or the long term.
- 29.** Sport, considered as an economic force, might contribute to bridge riche and poor countries and people by providing jobs and development opportunities all over the world. But sport, considered as a mean to develop huge profits for a small minority would contribute to increase the gap between poor and rich countries and people.

- 30.** Economic development should not mean profit over all. Profit should not be considered as part of the Olympic ethic!
- 31.** Olympic spirit sometimes fades away. You believe you will approach the sun, but you only burn your wings.
- 32.** University sport – In this regard we must be careful to ensure that certain of the “by-products” that have sullied “prolympic” sport:  
Ideology, individualism, arrogance,  
Dishonourable behaviour,  
Cheating, violence, doping,  
Profit for profit’s sake,  
Will not pollute the sporting practices of the students.
- 33.** One of the fundamental tasks of University today should be to teach young people to choose a system of society, to mould it and not just put up with it. University sport can serve as an effective tool for giving a broader and more concrete dimension to this task.
- 34.** Here in Izmir, the University sport family will support the action of the United Nations in its effort to bridge education, health, development and peace in the world.