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Latin American Benefits from Partnership with University of Leipzig

By: Ian Marshall, ITTF Publications Editor

9/4/2009

The more I visit Latin America, the more I am convinced that table tennis has an increasingly important humanitarian role to play and in the ranking list of sports it can be very high on the agenda.

It is unrealistic to suggest that in the foreseeable future the sport can compete with football for global media coverage but then no sport can compete with the so-called "beautiful game"; a phrase I often doubt. Is a two footed tackled from an agricultural defender who breaks a player's leg really beautiful?

I suggest table tennis has a greater claim to the phrase.

Vital Role

Undoubtedly in third world countries, table tennis can play a vital role; at grass roots level it is relatively cheap to play and of course "every table is a table tennis table".

Furthermore, the developed countries can help the developing countries; it can be argued that the fastest developing country in the world is China but if they need help in developing table tennis, then the moon is made of green cheese.

However, if we consider Europe and Latin America then the development analogy is pertinent and in Leipzig, Germany is helping Latin America.

Attendees

A group of 12 coaches from Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Honduras, Peru, Colombia and Uruguay are present in Leipzig for a five months course.

"The ITTF Development Department is proud to continue the partnership with the University of Leipzig and German Table Tennis Association; this time for the benefit of the Latin American coaches", said Leandro Olvech, the ITTF Co-ordinator of Development Programmes. "The courses started as a pilot project last year and are now regularly established among the sports offered in the University and will be presented in a rotation system."

The course is also closely linked with the ITTF Coach Accreditation system. Attending coaches must be ITTF Level 1 coaches and will become ITTF Level 2 Coaches as a result of the course.

Course leader, Marco Fehl, attended ITTF Level 2 Course Conductor training in Sweden in 2008 to formalise this co-operation.

Second Course

Undoubtedly, the Latin American coaches are delighted to be present in Leipzig; a visit to Europe is a visit to a different society.

"Last year first course was held, being in English, this year in Spanish and in 2012 in French", continued Leandro Olvech. "It is an example for the world about how the developed countries can offer support in an objective manner."

It is another example of the German Table Tennis Association offering assistance.

Outstanding Support

"The German Table Tennis Association continues to provide support to the ITTF Development Programme by donating equipment packages for Africa and Latin America", concluded Leandro Olvech. "It has done this since 2007."

Great credit is due to the German Table Tennis Association, one of the most powerful countries in the world in the sport of table tennis offering assistance for the benefit of table tennis globally is to be applauded. It is an example to all.

Ready for action *Photo By: Courtesy of Marco Fehl*[Click here to Open](#)

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Course members: Devadip Tito Avendano Arciénega (Bolivia), Jorge Luis Palma Morales (Chile), Paúl Esteban Calle (Ecuador), Javier Arturo Piguave García (Ecuador), Henry Javier Avila Rodriguez (Honduras), Freddy Giovanni Aguilar Lozano (Colombia), John Jairo Cruz Hernandez (Colombia), Dario Alexander Figueroa (Colombia), Luis Valdés Paniagua (Mexico), Luis Alberto Gallardo Pereyra (Peru), Marcio Hernan Beloqui Vanzini (Uruguay), Mateo Gastón Weitzner Cianciulli (Uruguay)

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ITTF Pro Tour