

TSG NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2022



01

International Day of Traditional Sports and Games celebrated around the world on 14 August to highlight and showcase the importance and value that traditional sports and games hold in every society.

02

Messages from Heads of States, Ambassadors and Ministers prove to be a source of motivation for all traditional sports and games stakeholders working globally.

03

Traditional sports and games competitions and festivals held in many countries under the auspices of the International Council of Traditional Sports and Games and its affiliated organizations.

NEWSLETTER CONTAINS

- Celebrations and festivities held on the International Day of Traditional Sports and Games on 14 August
- Messages of President of Pakistan, President ICTSG, President Peace and Sport and European Commissioner
- Traditional sports events, championships and conferences held during the years 2021-2022
- Special article on the value and importance of traditional sports and games along with its historical background
- Initiatives and projects by the International Council of Traditional Sports and Games for the revival of TSG



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF TRADITIONAL SPORTS AND GAMES CELEBRATED ON 14 AUGUST

14 August has been declared as the International Day of Traditional Sports and Games and has been celebrated worldwide as events and festivals are held annually in every country under the umbrella of the Council to highlight and promote their local traditional sports and games and historical culture which will be portrayed globally through the platform of the International Council of Traditional Sports and Games. The International Day of TSG provides a platform for all stakeholders to unite and work towards the agenda of bringing back our cultures and traditions for our upcoming generations.

We have witnessed that this year the International Day was celebrated around the world with full zeal and enthusiasm where festivals and competitions were organized by Members. Last year, due to the widespread of COVID-19 pandemic, the International Day was celebrated virtually through the First Virtual Ministerial Conference on Traditional Sports and Games which was attended by more than 15 Ministers, 300 participants and representatives from United Nations, UNESCO, ILO and many other international organizations.



MESSAGE OF EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER

"Traditional sports and games constitute an essential part in the identity of a society. The European Commission funds projects supporting traditional sports and games each year. These projects create occasions to continue to transmit the immense cultural heritage to new generations, while promoting an active and healthy lifestyle for all," said Her Excellency Mariya Gabriel, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth in her Official Message on the International Day of Traditional Sports and Games.



A YEAR OF MASSIVE SUCCESS FOR TSG

Despite the widespread of the global pandemic of COVID-19, many activities have been organized for the promotion of traditional sports and games under the auspices of ICTSG. Many new international traditional sports organizations have also joined the Council as Members whereas various governments have finalized bilateral agreements for the promotion and safeguarding of traditional sports and games under the umbrella of the Council. Likewise, national TSG Councils have also been established under their respective governments and ICTSG.

<https://traditionalsportsgames.org>



MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT OF PAKISTAN

"Traditional Sports and Games (TSG) embrace playful physical competition as well as noncompetitive forms of exercises. The role of sports is enormous in teaching positive value, forming bonds, and building bridges within and between our societies. TSG can offer a sense of belonging and partnership and has the power to reach marginalized groups and individuals. A physically active society finally appears an important factor for creating cultural, social and economic development which contributes to developing ideals and general goals of the United Nations and UNESCO.

Traditional sports and games form a significant part of the cultural heritage and are essential pillar of the intangible world heritage of societies. Many traditional sports and games have disappeared or are under threat of extinguish. This is really encouraging that Member States have established the International Platform to preserve and develop the traditional sports and games globally under ICTSG having headquarters in Pakistan" said His Excellency Dr. Arif Alvi, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in his Official Message on the International Day of TSG.



MESSAGE OF MR KHALIL AHMED KHAN PRESIDENT ICTSG

"Traditional sports and games contribute to a life of mutual understanding and peaceful behaviour among different cultural and social groups, communities and nations. They are means of their identity. Therefore, the significance of traditional sports and games must be strengthened and the opportunity for practising them must be held open for all. The International Council of Traditional Sports and Games has to ensure priority towards advocacy and raising awareness about the challenges and plights that demand decisions, actions and tangible measures in different geographical, cultural, and educational contexts."



FESTIVALS, EVENTS HELD ON 14 AUGUST

International Day of Traditional Sports and Games, 14 August 2022, was celebrated with much enthusiasm and spark by TSG stakeholders as festivities were held in many countries including United States of America, Romania, Qatar, Iran, Pakistan, India, United Arab Emirates, The Gambia, Benin and Sierra Leone as well. International sports championships were also organized on this occasion. Government representatives also joined the celebrations through social media campaigns and ensured their support for TSG.

Traditional wrestling, archery, bull racing, and horseback archery were among the many traditional sports that were shown to the world through events held on the International Day. Cake-cutting ceremonies as well as educational seminars were also conducted by Members in honor of the International Day thus highlighting the spirit and values attached to the practice and promotion of traditional and indigenous games. This was the second-consecutive year when the International Day has been celebrated.

WORLD ZURKHANEH CHAMPIONSHIP HELD ON 14 AUGUST

The International Zirkhaneh and Koshti Pehalvani Federation (IZSF) organized the 3rd International Online Zirkhaneh Championship 2022 on 14 August 2022 on the occasion of the International Day of Traditional Sports and Games with participation from all their Member Federations. The event was held in hybrid format where participants could also join physically as well as virtually. IZSF has been a Member of the Council since two years now.

SJJIF AIMS FOR PROMOTING TSG

On 14 August 2022, the President of the Sport Jiu Jitsu International Federation, Mr Joao Silva on behalf of the SJJIF family said, "The SJJIF is a proud member of the TSG as we believe in the importance of preserving our history, culture and lineage for the continued development and growth of our sport." He further urged all the BJJ community to join hands to celebrate this auspicious occasion of the International Day of Traditional Sports and Games and assured of their continued support towards ICTSG's mission.



WFKa CELEBRATES TSG DAY

The World Federation of Kowat Alrami under the leadership of its President Mr. Walid Al Kassas celebrated the International Day of Traditional Sports and Games. WFKa called upon its National Member Federations to organize events and competitions in order to honor the celebrations of the International Day thus also emphasizing the importance of the preservation of traditional martial arts such as Kowat Alrami which was originated in the Arabian Peninsula.



MESSAGE OF MR JOEL BOUZOU, AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE ICTSG

"Traditional Sports and Games are an intangible cultural heritage and a symbol of cultural diversity. In numerous countries, they have become diplomatic solutions which promote unity, social cohesion and contribute to the protection of the environment. Because they are close to the local and regional practices and culture, they have more diplomatic impact than sports that are well known. As such, they are low-cost and high-impact tools to achieve peace and development. Peace and Sport fully supports the implementation of policies that preserve and promote traditional sports and games, so they can play their full potential towards achieving more inclusive and peaceful societies", said Mr. Joel Bouzou, Founder and President of Peace and Sport and Ambassador-at-large ICTSG.



MONGOLIAN CULTURAL FESTIVAL 2022 HELD IN ULAANBAATAR

The 7th National Mongolian Sports and Cultural Festival was held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia from 11 to 14 August 2022 under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture of the Government of Mongolia and the Committee of Mongolian National Sports (CMNS). The cultural festival hosted more than 2500 participants from all around Mongolia who took part in traditional sports activities held in the Festival to celebrate the International Day of Traditional Sports and Games on 14 August.

Many traditional sports including traditional archery, traditional horse racing, horseback archery, wrestling and others were included in this humongous festival hosted in the capital city of Mongolia. The four-day festival hosted teams from 21 provinces and 9 districts who competed in 561 traditional sports events held in the grand Festival. Orkhon Team was in lead by winning the highest number of Gold Medals.



During the Festival, the President of the Committee of Mongolian National Sports Mr. Tserendashdorj Magaljav was also present. Many national federations including the Mongolian National Horse Race Association, Mongolian National Wrestling Association, Mongolian Traditional Archery Federation, Mongolian Martial Arts Association and Mongolian Shagaan Sports Association took part in the Festival. The national wrestling competition was won by Uvurkhangai whereas 30 teams took part in this event.

Traditional Archery is also one of the affiliated sports of the ICTSG. Since the 1940s, traditional archery holds a special place in the hearts of the Mongols and the year 2022 marks the 82nd anniversary of the establishment of the Mongolian Traditional Archery Federation which organizes more than 25 national competitions annually including National Grand Prix Archery and The Ogre Archery. The Government of Mongolia has been very keen for the development of its national archery as part of traditional sports and games.

Similarly, horseracing and wrestling are also one of the oldest practiced traditional sports in Mongolia and are included in the annually held Nadaam Festival which is mainly based on eriin gurban naadam which means the three games of men. It is a national holiday for all Mongolians and spectators come in large numbers to see the Festival. The first official Naadam was held in 1206, the Year of the Tiger, when Temujin, also known as Genghis Khan, inaugurated the largest celebration that had ever taken place on the Mongolian steppes.

PENCAK SILAT CHAMPIONSHIP HELD

Singapore won the South-east Asian Pencak Silat Championships 2022 with 11 gold, 9 silver and 4 bronze medals whereas Vietnam remained runner-up followed by Indonesia. The SEA Pencak Silat Championships were held in the OCBC Arena, Singapore where more than three hundred participants took part in the competitions. This was the first competition of Silat after the global pandemic and the new rules of the sport were also implemented during this regional event.



30 YEARS OF KAZAKH INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATED BY IQKF

The Qazak Kuresi Federation organized the World Championship for Juniors (U23) of Qazak Kuresi which was held in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan. The Championship was dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Qazak Kuresi is also inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO and has been a Member of the ICTSG since 2019.



TRADITIONAL SPORTS AND CULTURAL "MELA" HELD IN LAHORE

Traditional sports and cultural festival was held at Meadows Resort in Lahore, Pakistan during the month of January 2022 under the auspices of ICTSG and Pakistan Council for TSG. The event included competitions of different Pakistani traditional sports including Kabaddi, Ludo, Bander Killa and Cocla Chipaki. President ICTSG Mr Khalil Ahmed Khan, Director Sports and Games Baber Raaja, Director General of Khana Farhang of Islamic Republic of Iran Mr. Jafer Ronas, Vice Consul of Islamic Republic of Iran Mr. Morteza Firaati

were present. This annual festival holds a big place in the hearts of Pakistani citizens especially Lahoris as these sports are mainly found the mainland areas of Punjab, which is the most populated province of Pakistan. During the festival, demonstrations of different sports will displayed to the Iranian guests who said that these sports are also found in many parts of Islamic Republic of Iran but with different names. The six-day Festival was attended by thousands of spectators who witnessed the culture and traditions of Lahori

people and enjoyed playing traditional sports. Speaking at the occasion, President Khan said that different cultures of the world can be united through TSG. He said that such sports do not require massive infrastructure or technical support but can be played very easily. Mr. Khan further stated that the Council will continue to work with national governments to promote indigenous and traditional sports which are very close to the locals. Director Sports and Games Baber Raaja said that our next step is to take this Mela to an international level and we have started to work on this.



DAKAR HOSTED THE 9TH EDITION OF AFRICAN WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

The Ninth Edition of the African Wrestling Tournament 2021 was successfully held from 4th to 6th November 2021 at Dakar, Senegal under the auspices of Ministry of Sports of Senegal, Comite National de Gestion de la Lutte (CNGL) and Youth and Sports Development Centre of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Thousands of spectators witnessed the humongous event held at the Arene National de Lutte, Dakar, Senegal aimed at the promotion of African Traditional Wrestling/Lutte.

The event was attended by Ministers of Youth and Sports from many countries whereas Mr. Yahya Al Matarr Jobe, Vice President ICTSG and President of the Union of African Traditional Sports and Games also attended the event on the invitation of the Government of Senegal and ECOWAS. Mr. Michael Shamsu Mustapha, General Secretary UATSG was also present at the occasion. Participants from all 15 Member States of ECOWAS took part in the Tournament which is held annually.

The International Council of Traditional Sports and Games in fulfilment of its mission has been working on the development and preservation of traditional sports and games (TSG) including African traditional wrestling as this sport is really close to the hearts and culture of the African community. The Council also appreciates the efforts of ECOWAS and governments of West African countries for contributing to its mission in safeguarding and promoting TSG. Traditional African wrestling will also be included as a main sport in the upcoming African TSG Games.

OCEANIA TSG COORDINATOR APPOINTED

President ICTSG Mr. Khalil Ahmed Khan appointed Mr. Harko H Brown as the Official Coordinator for the Oceania Region of the ICTSG. Mr. Brown is an expert on Traditional Maori games and has been involved in the field of traditional sports and games since more than two decades. He is also the author of several books on indigenous cultural heritage and traditional sports and has been appointed by the New Zealand government to lead the country in the World Indigenous Games.



PRINCE MALIK ATA FESTIVAL HELD

Prince Malik Atta Memorial Festival and Tent Pegging Cup 2021 was held at Kot Fateh Khan from 26 February 2021. The event was organised in the memory of the late Prince Malik Atta Muhammad Khan, chief of Kot Fateh Khan and a legend in the world of tent pegging and bull racing. The event was attended by ICTSG President Mr. Khalil Ahmed Khan, British High Commissioner to Pakistan Dr Christian Turner CMG and Federal Minister Mr Ali Amin Khan Gandapur who is also a tent pegger.



WHAT ARE TRADITIONAL SPORTS AND GAMES? TSG CONTRIBUTE TO THE WORLD HERITAGE OF SPORTS CULTURE

Every sport represents the aspirations and emotions of particular people. It has a deep attachment to the traditional sentiments of the residents. Traditional games and sports are the signature entities of the social fabric. Abandoning this genre is indeed the death knell for the well-being of the whole society. Since many years, promotion of sports as a powerful instrument for peace and development and the recognition of the importance of traditional sports and games (TSG) for their intrinsic cultural values and their ability to foster intercultural dialogue and learning values essential for both individuals and collective fulfilment has been seen. As per the definition given by UNESCO during the Second Collective Consultation Meeting on TSG held in Tehran, "Traditional games are motor activities of leisure and recreation which can have a ritual character. They are part of the universal heritage diversity. They are practiced in an individual or collective manner, deriving from regional or local identity; they are based on rules accepted by a group that organizes competitive or non-competitive activities. Traditional games dispose of a popular character in their practice

and their organization, yet if turned into sport tend to be uniform and institutionalized. The practice of traditional games promotes global health." TSG is part of the tangible cultural heritage for all nations; it should be promoted and preserved. Many traditional sports and games are already lost and those that have survived are in danger of disappearing. Traditional sports and games could be an effective tool for the promotion of tolerance, mutual understanding, respect, and peace in a culturally diverse society. The fundamental right of movement, sport, and games as a constituent of the quality of life and development of a whole personality must be guaranteed both within the educational system and in other aspects of social life. The role, that traditional sports and games can play in the realization of this fundamental right had to be carried out and must be increasingly used. The different native cultures in the world have brought out a diversity of traditional sports and games. They are expressions of the richness of a nation's culture. It is a serious star to preserve and promote the practicing of this diversity. A lot of traditional sports and games belong to the

national, regional, or worldwide cultural heritage. It is necessary to strengthen the acknowledgment of traditional sports and games. The recognition of the potential capacity of physical activity and sport specifically traditional sports to effectively contribute to the amelioration of health, education, culture, civic harmony, social welfare, human, social and economic development, international cooperation and lasting peace is undeniable. The International Council of Traditional Sports and Games acts as an international organization aiming to serve as the international platform for the preservation, promotion and development of traditional sport and games at the global level. Its core objectives are, inter alia, to help all concerned and interested governmental and non-governmental national, regional and international organizations in the harmonization and coordination of efforts and capacity in view of providing guidance, counselling and to sustain initiatives and programmes that pertain to traditional sports and games for policy-makers, stakeholders and other concerned parties.



EUROPEAN TSG PROJECTS INITIATED

President ICTSG has appointed Mr. Finn Berggren as the Official Coordinator of the Council to work together with the European governments and organizations such as the European Commission for the promotion of TSG in Europe. Mr. Berggren has vast experience in the field of traditional sports and has been working with different international organizations since many years.





MESSAGE OF MR YAHYA AL MATARR JOBE, PRESIDENT UATSG

Mr. Yahya Al Matarr Jobe, President of the Union of African Traditional Sports and Games and Regional Vice President of the International Council of Traditional Sports and Games said, "We are committed to fulfill the mission of the International Council of Traditional Sports and Games which has also been signified by the celebrations on the International Day of Traditional Sports and Games. UATSG will continue working in close cooperation with the Council towards our mutual agenda of reviving our cultures and traditions in the African continent."

ICTSG WORLD MINISTERIAL VIRTUAL CONFERENCE ON TRADITIONAL SPORTS AND GAMES

The World Ministerial Virtual Conference on Traditional Sports and Games 2021 was held on the occasion of International Day of Traditional Sports and Games on 14 and 15 August 2021 under the umbrella of the ICTSG with more than 600 registered participants from 90 countries including Ministers of Sports, Culture, Tourism and Youth from Member States, UNESCO, UNOCT and ILO officials and Presidents of International federations. The Conference was held for two days and resulted in many fruitful discussions.

It covered many agendas including the importance of promoting TSG, empowering women through traditional sports and games and revival and development of TSG at national level. Panel discussions were also held on the importance of diffusion of knowledge of TSG and necessity of creating awareness in the society about TSG. Ambassadors and UNESCO National Commissions officials also participated. As outcome, participants resolved that International Day of TSG will be celebrated annually on 14 August.



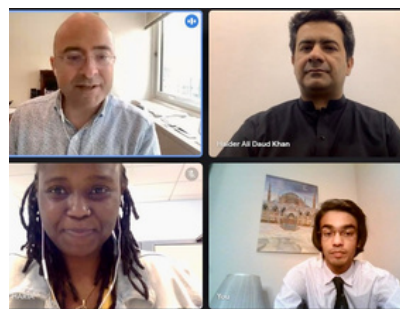
UNESCO MINISTERIAL WEBINAR ON TSG IN AFRICA

Ministerial Webinar on the Safeguarding and Promotion of Traditional Sports and Games (TSG) in Africa was held from 15 June 2021 till 17 June 2021 and was jointly organized by the UATSG and UNESCO Multi-sectoral Regional Offices for Western Africa in Abuja and Eastern Africa in Nairobi. The webinar was aimed to gather Sports Ministers and Professional Heads of Sports Ministries in Africa to discuss and follow-up on commitments that have been made towards the safeguarding and promotion of traditional sports and games.

The webinar was held in Virtual Format and was opened by a speech from Mrs. Gabriela Ramos, Assistant Director-General, Social and Human Sciences of UNESCO who welcomed all the participants and highlighted UNESCO's work for the promotion of traditional sports and games and told that Africa is one of the most important stakeholder not only in traditional sports and games but also due to its extensive culture. She also appreciated the work done by the current management of the International Council of Traditional Sports and Games.

ICTSG COOPERATES WITH GOVERNMENTS

ICTSG held various meetings with Ministers of Sports and Culture of different governments which resulted in bilateral agreements for cooperation in the field of traditional sports and games. Online MoUs were also signed between the Ministries and ICTSG and many international events were also allocated to the respective countries by the President ICTSG. The cooperation and support of governments makes the ICTSG much stronger and enables to reach closer to the fulfillment of its aims and policies.



ICTSG R & P COMMISSION MET VIRTUALLY

The ICTSG Research and Publication Commission met under the chairmanship of the President ICTSG Mr. Khalil Ahmed Khan and Mr. Ravi Sahu, Secretary of the Commission virtually to look forward upon the agenda given to them by the Executive Board to enhance the data collection of traditional sports and games and exhibit it on the internet to be available for all. The Meeting also considered the suggestions from its Members who are appointed in the Commission based on geographical representation.

VIRTUAL MEETING WITH STAKEHOLDERS

Many international organizations, including subsidiary bodies of the United Nations met with the ICTSG Secretariat virtually to discuss the agenda of revival of traditional sports and games under the Council's platform. The Council plans to cooperate with all existing organizations working towards to the achievement of the Council's mission to promote TSG globally. The virtual meetings have highlighted the strong connection of our cultural heritage and traditional sports to the modern-day technology.



JOIN ICTSG BY BECOMING A MEMBER

Become part of the growing TSG family by applying to be an official Member of the International Council of Traditional Sports and Games under any of the five applicable Membership Groups after fulfilling the Eligibility Criteria and Requirements which can be found on the official website of the International Council of Traditional Sports and Games.



PRESIDENT OF MONGOLIA CHAIRS INAUGURAL MEETING OF COMMITTEE OF MONGOLIAN NATIONAL SPORTS

His Excellency Ukhnaa Khurelsukh, the President of Mongolia opened the Inaugural Meeting of the Committee of Mongolian National Sports (CMNS) which is the official body to promote and control traditional sports and games in Mongolia. On this occasion, His Excellency said he wished to make Mongolia the center of the world nomadic culture. He further said that Mongolia will organize the international cultural and sports activities for the promotion of national sports.

The Meeting which was held in the Presidential State Palace was attended by Ministers of Sports and Culture, as well as the Mayor of the City of Ulaanbaatar and representatives of the State Committee for Sports of Mongolia as well. The Committee will work closely with the Mongolian Parliament and the Government to develop unique patterns of Mongolian culture and to provide a platform for sustainable development in the country.



During his address to the participants, His Excellency Mr Khalil Ahmed Khan, President of the International Council of Traditional Sports and Games said, "Mongolia's great historical-cultural heritage and the Nadaam Festival are also inscribed into the UNESCO's world cultural heritage list, whereas the Ministry of Education, Sports, and Culture had already signed an MOU of Cooperation with ICTSG in 2019." He further appreciated the efforts of the Mongolian government by saying, "Mongolia is all set to leverage her take leadership of traditional sports and games in Asia by hosting flagship games under the banner of ICTSG.

This will be an excellent opportunity for Mongolia to showcase her wonderful culture and heritage to the world through these events." Mr. Khan expressed his special thanks to His Excellency President of Mongolia, Ukhnaa Khurelsukh for his kind support towards the promotion of traditional sports in Mongolia. Mr. Khan also congratulated the President of the Committee of Mongolian National Sports, Mr. Magaljav for his new assignment and wished the best of luck to the Committee for its future endeavours under the umbrella and decor of the ICTSG.

It was decided during the Meeting that Mongolia will host international traditional sports event under the umbrella of the ICTSG. The Committee of Mongolian National Sports is an official member of the ICTSG and acts as the National Council for TSG in Mongolia. Recently, CMNS has organized the National Sports and Cultural Festival in liaison with the Ministry of Sports and Ministry of Culture of Mongolia. The Government of Mongolia is also considering the hosting of the World Traditional Games and Ministerial Conferences of the ICTSG in the upcoming year.

AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS MEET UATSG

UATSG Secretary General Chief Michael Shamsu Mustapha and the Legal Adviser Mr Francis Udukhomoi Orbih Esq met state officials in South Africa and Zambia to engage them on the project of safeguarding and promotion of TSG in Africa. They held different meetings with President of NOC South Africa Mr Barry Hendricks, and Chairman of the National Sports Council of Zambia Ing Patrick Mutimushi who appreciated the efforts of the Union and ensured their full cooperation.



TSG ON RISE IN AMERICAN CONTINENT

Traditional sports and games are vastly being promoted in the American continent as many countries have established national bodies for the governance of local sports. Mr. Shammi Rana, ICTSG General Secretary has also met with various governmental officials in the region to finalize future strategies. Regional bodies such as the CECC/SICA have also initiated projects that support the development of the traditional and indigenous sports in the continent.



International Council of Traditional Sports and Games