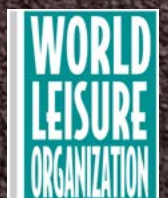


WL NEWS

ISSUE 29

■ READY FOR A GREAT
START OF 2021!

DECEMBER 2020





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member?
Submit your
news here!**

Editorial

Dear members, dear colleagues,

As we approach the end of 2020, we tell you about some of our latest activity and the things to come for early 2021. Among the latter, I would like to highlight the continuation of our Global Leisure Debates webinar series, which consolidated in the last months as a space providing highly enriching educational opportunities for different target groups. Some of these webinars are available for you to watch them at any moment on our [website](#).

I would also like to remind you that there are still a few days, until 18th. December, for you to submit your abstract for the 16th World Leisure Hybrid Congress, which would offer the possibility of (free) online participation. Check below, submit your proposal and register today!

Finally, another spotlight in this issue is the *World Leisure Journal* volume 62, issue 4, featured in the Research section, which includes observations and initial reflections on the impact of COVID-19 on leisure by 12 WLO Board members and their colleagues. A perfect holiday reading!

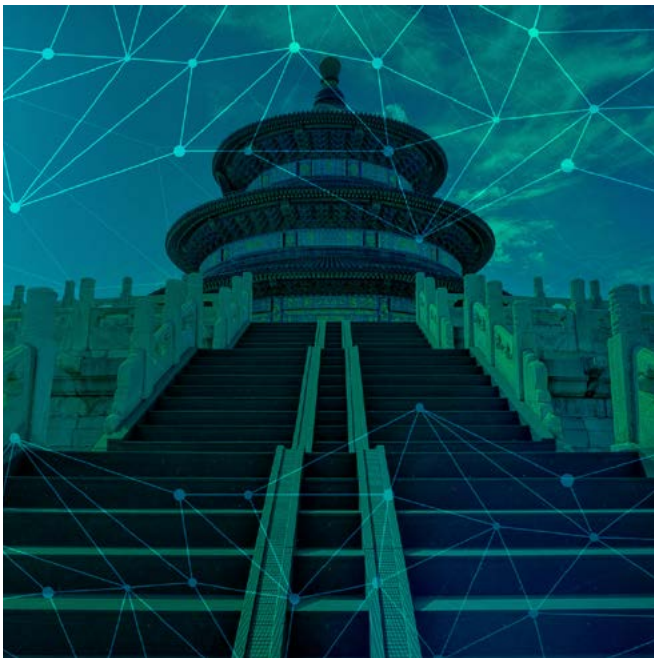
We wish you the best for the end of this unusual year, and hope to meet you very soon in upcoming WLO activities.

Yours truly,



Dr. Cristina Ortega Nuere
WLO Chief Operating Officer

WLO News



LAST CALL! 16th World Leisure Hybrid Congress: submit your abstract and benefit from free registration to present online

The 16th World Leisure Hybrid Congress "Leisure Makes Life Better" will be hosted in a hybrid mode giving the opportunity for a face-to-face and an online experience, no matter where you are. The abstract submission deadline is Friday, 18th. December 2020. Registration is now open and we are offering free registration for online participation.

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WLO "Knowledge-sharing & networking experiences about leisure": 1st. level completed!

WLO initiative "Knowledge-sharing & networking experiences about leisure" aim to build a space where action and change are catalyzed through ideas and networks. A space for brokering ideas, stimulating debate, and offering creative solutions to the leisure field. The first two sessions of this initiative were celebrated in an online format on the 22nd. October and 16th. November, and combined counted with the participation of people from all over the world, including Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland, México, Nigeria, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, United Kingdom and United States. With these two sessions, the 1st. level of the "Knowledge-sharing & networking experiences about leisure" initiative is now complete. A 2nd. level will be launched in 2021, to delve deeper into some of the main topics raised during the 1st. level discussions.

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Global Leisure Debates: two new webinars organized in November within the South Africa webinar series

By Dr. Marié Young, Department Sport, Recreation and Exercise Science, University of the Western Cape; member of the WLO Board of Directors

In collaboration with the WLO and the Western Cape Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport (WCDCAS), the last two webinars for 2020 were hosted on the 13th. and 27th. November, respectively. The topics were very relevant and highlighted the need for further research and discussions to take place on a global scale.

The first webinar was titled *"Measurement and Evaluation of Recreation Programmes"*. Prof. Christo De Coning (Freelance academic and consultant as M&E Specialist), WLO Board member Maria Luiza de Souza Dias (Manager of Physical and Sportive Development of SESC São Paulo, Brazil) and WLO SIG chair Dr. John R Tower (Victoria University, Melbourne, Australia) spearheaded the presentations and discussions with 43 participants present in the session. The presentations were very complementary to one another. Prof. De Coning started by presenting the relevance of measurement and evaluation (M&E) in the field of leisure and recreation in the context of South Africa and what was needed. He provided contextual meaning to the concepts and shared a research study conducted in the Western Cape, South Africa in sport "and recreation" (mass participation sport). He further raised the concern that it is difficult to determine the

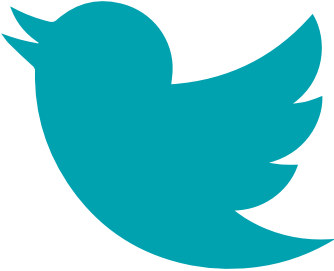
impact of leisure and recreation as there were little to no indicators developed that could be used for M&E. It was noted that there is a need for standard definitions and indicators to be developed for the field. Ms. Dias presented the management and evaluation practices of the SESC centres. SESC prides on their management and evaluation actions at their centres. Ms. Dias noted that the SESC aims to provide quality of life and well-being to workers in the Commerce, Goods, Services and Tourism segments, their families and the whole society. Their values lie in contributing to the socio-economic and cultural development in Brazil through social and educational actions and a wide variety of services that encourage the exercise of citizenship. Services are presented in a democratic and equal manner to a multicultural society. They make use of multiple tools to evaluate their outputs and have good processes in place to monitor those. Dr. Tower provided a more academic understanding of what M&E entail following a very pragmatic approach. He echoed the need for South Africa to develop indicators and informed the platform that some international indicators do exist and could be adapted. He highlighted the challenges that the recreation services in South Africa. These lies in people skills, adequate resources and commitment to the evaluation process. Together these presentations provided a good sense of the current situation and the need to develop global indicators for practitioners to use to evaluate their programmes.

The second and last of the 2020 webinar series addressed a much undervalued topic, *"Leisure and the Aging population during the COVID-19 Pandemic"*. In preparation for this webinar, it was discovered that this is a population that is undervalued and leaves a gap in research and engagement for practitioners. The webinar was also a very good fit after the previous webinar on M&E, as programmes for the elderly would be regarded as one of the outputs that would need to be measured. The webinar took on a different form, as two of the three presenters were not able to present in person. They shared their presentations in video format and as such, it required participants to be more active in the discussion session.

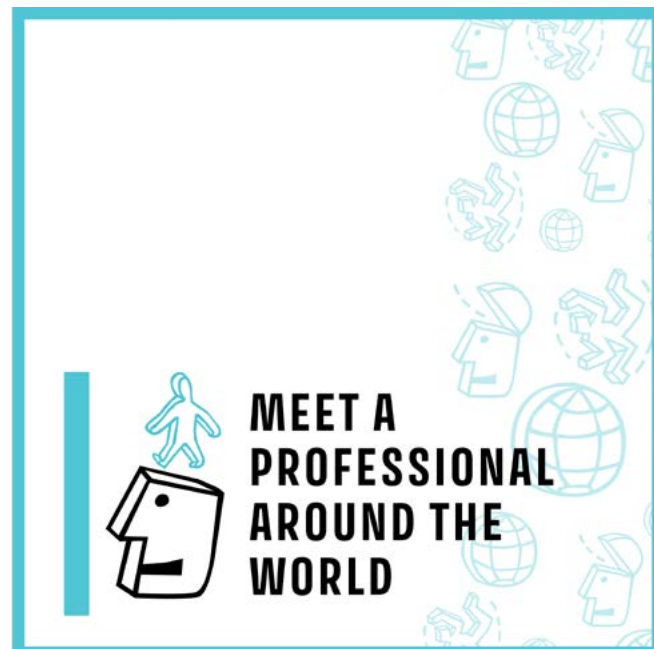
The speakers in the webinar were Prof. Julie Stanford Son (Professor and Coordinator of Recreation, Sport and Tourism, Department Movement Sciences, University of Idaho, USA), Michel Beauregard (Director General of Recreotourisme Repentigny.com, Montreal, Québec, Canada) & Mrs. Claudia Andrews (Occupational Therapist, Livewell Centre, Somerset West, Cape Town, South Africa) with 20 participants in the session. Mr. Beauregard shared innovative leisure activities that were

followed in Canada during the pandemic. Especially when the elderly were isolated and not able to move out of their residences. These lessons stimulated further discussions on how innovative practices must be explored and implemented not just during times of crisis but in general as this population is under served. Mrs. Andrews shared her heartfelt experiences as a practitioner in a centre for seniors with dementia. She highlighted that although activities are important, more important was the social contact that the elderly need. For them, just holding ones had as a leisure past time was most valued. Also, integrating technology into interventions were found very useful. All presenters agreed that the most important aspect dealing with the elderly during critical times such as this pandemic is clear communication and keeping contact with them. Participant discussions provided some more innovative activities that they were involved with in their communities before the pandemic and emphasised the need to see how activities can be adapted in times of crisis.

The SA Webinar series will continue in 2021 with a webinar hosted every once a month starting February 2021.



The World Leisure Journal is now on Twitter. Follow @WorldLeisureJ and stay updated!



Meet a Professional Around the World: access past webinars online!

"Meet a professional around the world" is an initiative launched by the World Leisure Organization (WLO) Youth Ambassadors Committee. This initiative offers online forums on leisure related matters (theories & practices) for interested young people, with invited leading scholars and professionals from around the world. Organized every Wednesday since mid-October 2020, past webinars covered the topics of: Sport and leisure biology; Benefits of leisure and recreation; Using Technology Enhanced Education and Positive Leisure to Empower Youth Thriving through Crisis; Using technology enhanced education to empower youths in thriving through the COVID-19 pandemic crisis for their 'positive leisure'; Extreme sport – Mountaineering; How Does Physical Activity Affect Cognitive Functions, Academic Performance and Positive Attitude; Helping young people in cooking and video projects, and Youth leisure around the world (a student session devoted to the presentation of research results of young researchers). The online forums are free and scheduled for about one hour (45 min. of presentation + 15 min. of Q&A). The WLO sincerely thanks the experts that took place in this webinar series so far. We invite you to check the past webinars – which are available online in an open format, as well as to stay tuned for more webinars to be coming in early 2021!

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industry”, counted with the participation of WLO Board member Lawal Marafa as a speaker. The working group leading this webinar series are already designing the program for 2021, stay tuned for new webinars to be announced soon!

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“New Leisure Studies: International Perspectives” webinar series to continue in 2021!

The “New Leisure Studies: International Perspectives” initiative is a series of webinars focused on contemporary issues in leisure and co-organized by the Australian and New Zealand Association for Leisure Studies (ANZALS), the Canadian Association for Leisure Studies (CALS), the China-International Leisure Research Association (CILRA), the Leisure Studies Association (LSA), Sociology of Leisure (RC13), The Academy of Leisure Sciences (TALS), and the World Leisure Organization (WLO). The goal of this series is to bring together scholars from around the world to discuss practical solutions to the most pressing issues in leisure. Four webinars were organized so far. On the 4th. September, Marco van Leeuwen from the World Leisure Center of Excellence (WLCE) at Breda University of Applied Sciences, in the Netherlands, represented the WLO in the webinar on “Trends in the development of leisure sciences across the world”. SIG chair Teresa Freire from the Universidade do Minho in Portugal participated as a speaker in the webinar devoted to “Wellbeing through leisure in times of pandemic”, organized on the 2nd. October. WLO Board member Marie Young, from Western Cape University in South Africa, contributed to the topic of “Racial inequalities across the world”, on the 6th. November. Finally, the most recent webinar, organized on the 4th. December on “Climate change and leisure

Research



Observations and initial reflections on the impact of COVID-19 on leisure in the *World Leisure Journal*

Volume 62, issue 4 of the *World Leisure Journal* (WLJ) includes a series of special contributions on the topic of leisure during the COVID-19 pandemic. Quoting WLJ's editor-in-chief Atara Sivan's introductory piece, "twelve board members of the World Leisure Organization and their colleagues have shared their observations and initial reflections on the impact of COVID-19 on leisure in eleven places across five continents. Analysis of the different contributions has brought to light seven significant emerging issues, which deserve special attention during these globally affected times. These are: shift to home-based activities, proliferation of online offering and use, growing need for connectivity, accentuated inequality, survival of the leisure industry, increased demand for psychological support, and enhanced acts of helping hands and voluntarism". Most of these articles are available for free access consultation.

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Industry



Independent assessment to measure COVID-19 risk in gyms across Europe

By Tom Walker

A new, Europe-wide initiative will look to chart the level of risk of COVID-19 infection at gyms, health clubs and leisure centres across the continent. Conducted in partnership by the Advanced Wellbeing Research Centre (AWRC) at Sheffield Hallam University in the UK and the King Juan Carlos University in Spain, the SafeACTIVE Study will assess the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in fitness facilities and compare them to the number of visits to facilities. Commissioned by EuropeActive, the study aims to draw an accurate picture of the real risk of infection and address concerns by the public, who might still be reluctant to go to a fitness club due to a perceived risk.

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Policies



Advocating for a future proof era for events post-COVID

The events industry has been one of the most profoundly affected ones following the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. For this month's newsletter edition we reflect on the future of events and look into three advocacy and knowledge sharing initiatives taken by various groups internationally.

We start with ICCA, the International Congress and Convention Association, to which WLO recently became a member. The questioning of the future of events has been at the heart of this organisation from the very beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. To support this reflection they have issued a publication, the [Good Practice Guide: Addressing COVID-19 Requirements for Re-Opening Business Events – Version 2](#) produced jointly by AIPC, the International Association of Convention Centres, ICCA, the International Convention

and Congress Association and UFI, the Global Association of the Exhibition Industry.

Back in July this year, the Joint Meetings Industry Council has released a [manifesto](#) that sets out arguments as to why business events (meetings, conventions and exhibitions) can and should be utilized to drive economic recovery and renewal in the post-COVID-19 era. The manifesto describes 15 ways business events create strategic advantages (including multi-sector impacts, relationship & trust, community legacies among others). While the industry and many meetings are themselves global, the decision processes around reopening events are often made locally, and can be tied to local economic recovery strategies. The manifesto is indented to help industry professionals in different parts of the world to articulate the impact of their work and strengthen the role of the industry towards policy makers.

In September of this year, over 2.000 buildings were lit up in red across the US as part of the #RedAlert campaign led by Live Event Industry organisations, including [WeMakeEvents](#) and [ExtendPUA.org](#) which have joined forces to urge Congress to pass the RESTART Act, which benefits all small businesses. Buildings included iconic structures, theaters, production houses, hotels, casinos, opera houses, arenas etc. and were engaged to "literally shine a light on how many have been affected".

For an industry very much affected by the COVID-19, those are steps of bringing major stakeholders together at various levels and at different geographies to raise their voice and to provide evidence towards the need for ongoing support for the sector. Could this be an opportunity for better events and experiences in the future?



“ ”



“It is with great satisfaction that I write this short note to congratulate WLO on their vast contributions to leisure activities for all ages. We joined your organization as we are closely related to leisure sports... Bodybuilding and Physique sports is indeed a leisure game and it helps to maintain health and fitness for all ages and gender. We have always admired the diligent, conscientious way in which the WLO conducts its objectives in tackling leisure for all. We are proud to be a member of this esteemed organization”.

Datuk Paul Chua, President, World Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Federation (WBPF)

Network



International tourism down 70% as travel restrictions impact all regions

Source: [UNWTO](#)

Restrictions on travel introduced in response to the COVID-19 pandemic continue to hit global tourism hard, with the latest data from the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) showing a 70% fall in international arrivals for the first eight months of 2020. According to the newest UNWTO World Tourism Barometer, international arrivals plunged 81% in July and 79% in August, traditionally the two busiest months of the year and the peak of the Northern Hemisphere summer season. The drop until August represents 700 million fewer arrivals compared to the same period in 2019 and translates into a loss of US\$ 730 billion in export revenues from international tourism. This is more than eight times the loss experienced on the back of the 2009 global economic and financial crisis.

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UNESCO produces urban rehabilitation guidelines for Yemeni world heritage sites

Source: [UNESCO](#)

As part of its EU-funded project "Cash for Work: Promoting Livelihoods Opportunities for Urban Youth in Yemen", UNESCO produced urban rehabilitation guidelines for local architects, master builders and cultural heritage local stakeholders. The guidelines are fully contextualized for each city covered by the Project including the World Heritage Sites of Sana'a, Shibam and Zabid, as well as the historic city of Aden. They aim at helping local stakeholders conducting necessary planning, surveying, maintenance, rehabilitation and monitoring, in compliance with recognized conservation standards and principles. The overall aim is to ensure the preservation of historic structures and their use as a living environment with the highest possible level

of authenticity and safeguarding. The guidelines also acknowledge that modernization demands, and technical and social developments lead transformations necessary for the historic cities to stay alive. These guidelines help to identify appropriate ways to integrate and balance modernization and preservation. The guidelines were developed in consideration of recent guidelines developed by UNESCO, namely of Pingyao (China) and Timbuktu (Mali) and included contribution from Yemeni experts and counterparts such as the Social Fund for Development (SFD) and the General Organization for the Preservation of Historic Cities in Yemen (GOPHCY).

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Publications



The Department of Recreation and Tourism Management, in conjunction with WLCE at VIU, shares their work in the field of Leisure in times of the COVID-19 pandemic

The Department of Recreation and Tourism Management, in conjunction with the World Leisure Center of Excellence (WLCE) at Vancouver Island University (VIU) has published throughout the COVID-19 pandemic two articles and one research project. Regarding the two first, one of the articles has been published in the *Journal of Tourism Geographies*, it is titled "[Reset redux: possible evolutionary pathways towards the transformation of tourism in a COVID-19 world](#)", and signed by Patrick Brouder; while the second article, "[Thinking about leisure during a global pandemic](#)", by Suzanne de la Barre, Garret Stone, Janet McKeown and Joanne Schroeder, has been published in the *World Leisure Journal*. Finally, the research

project has been conducted by Dr. Aggie Weighill, under the title of "Leisure as a Mechanism for Coping with Stress Related to Public Health Interventions due to COVID-19". Dr. Aggie Weighill has been interviewed about the research project, and the full conversation can be listened to [here](#).



Newly published chapter on "International research and postgraduate scenarios in leisure studies" by Ricardo Uvinha from WLCE at USP (Brazil)

Based on the programming of the I Brazilian Congress of Leisure Studies – one of the main events promoted by the 2013-founded Brazilian Association for Research and Postgraduate Studies in Leisure (Anpel), the publication *Research and Graduate in Leisure Studies* (published in Portuguese by Editora UFMG, *Pesquisa e pós-graduação em estudos do lazer*) presents an international outlook of knowledge production in this

area, globally represented by Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. It provides unpublished data on the characteristics of the master's and doctoral programs, trends and international and national research groups. In particular, this volume promotes important reflections on leisure and the environment, leisure and education, leisure and psychology, among others, as well as it presents theoretical assumptions for ethnography-oriented research. Thanks to its thematic diversity, originality, international scope and to the academic-scientific notoriety of the authors, the book is regarded as a benchmark for undergraduate, master's and doctorate courses which dialogue directly or indirectly with leisure. The book includes a chapter on "International research and postgraduate scenarios in leisure studies" (original title: "Cenários internacionais de pesquisa e de pós-graduação em estudos do lazer") by Ricardo Uvinha, representative of the World Leisure Center of Excellence (WLCE) at the University of Sao Paulo (USP).

[READ MORE...](#) (in Portuguese)



New international code to provide greater legal protection for tourists

Source: [UNWTO](#)

Tourists are to be given greater legal protection as consumers under new plans being advanced by the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). With restoring confidence a key priority for the sector, the International Code for the Protection of Tourists advanced by UNWTO with the support of almost 100 Member States so far, will make the support available to tourists affected by emergency situations clearer and more consistent globally. In its first meeting, the Committee for the Development of an International Code for the Protection of Tourists has featured the active participation of 92 UNWTO Member States. Together, they adopted a concrete plan of action to restore tourists' confidence through a common and harmonized framework. Within the next weeks, international organizations, the European Commission as well as private stakeholders will be called upon to join this unprecedented initiative to achieve a more fair and balanced share of responsibilities among all tourism stakeholders in the post COVID-19 world.

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Opportunities



CALL FOR CASE STUDY SUBMISSIONS on *Innovative Leisure Practices* – Student Authorship Focus (Deadline: January 8th., 2020)

The World Leisure Center of Excellence (WLCE) at Vancouver Island University (VIU) is inviting case study proposals to be included in the fifth annual volume of *Innovative Leisure Practices*. The intent of this volume is to showcase the innovative applied work of students – Undergraduate, Graduate, PhD and Post Doc – providing a forum for the exchange of innovative practices in leisure. Innovative practices are defined as any unique, modern or promising approaches, strategies or techniques that have been used to address current issues, opportunities or trends in leisure. These can be practices conducted at a societal, community, or organizational level in either the field of practice or in leisure research. The first of two intended audiences for these case studies include

the faculty and students in leisure related academic programs that can benefit from having current examples of how researchers and practitioners are approaching common issues, opportunities and trends. The second audience will be practitioners who will benefit from having a platform to either share their own innovative practices or gain insight from new research or other practitioner contexts. This is a peer reviewed publication opportunity that will be published by VIU Press as an open access publication. The deadline for expression of interest submission by author(s) is January 8th., 2020. Submissions can be sent to the editor [Joanne Schroeder](#), Professor, Faculty of Management.

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WLO Youth Ambassadors Program – A contest, an award and more opportunities for the youth!

The World Leisure Youth Ambassadors program provides college and university students with opportunities to connect on a local-to-global basis while gaining a broader perspective of trends, issues, strategies and advancing leisure worldwide. Different opportunities are open at the moment, from the “Meet a professional around the world” webinar series, to an international short film contest or a project about introducing successful online teaching methods on sports, music, dancing and handicraft by young people for young people, among others. Go on reading to learn more and benefit from these opportunities!

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Job Opportunity – UNWTO Academy Guest Professors

Source: [UNWTO](#)

UNWTO Academy is looking for GUEST PROFESSORS for the following courses at Master's level: Destination and Attractions Management (delivered online in February and March 2021) & Trends and Issues in Tourism and Leisure (delivered online in March and April 2021). Each course runs for 3 hours per day from 19:30 to 22:35 Macao time (11:30 to 14:35 GMT). The guest professors will share half of the teaching, i.e. 1.5 hours per day. The courses are part of the following programmes: Master of Science in International Tourism Management, Master of Science in Hospitality and Tourism Management and Postgraduate Diploma in Tourism Management offered by the Macao Institute for Tourism Studies (IFTM).

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2020 WL HYBRID CONGRESS
PINGGU-BEIJING
**LAST CALL FOR
ABSTRACTS!**

Deadline: 18th. December

Upcoming events



The WLO Global Leisure Debates webinar series to re-start in early 2021!

The WLO Global Leisure Debates (GLD) “Lessons learned and lessons to be learned” are organized in a series of webinar “projects”, each of them with specific objectives and targeting different audiences, but all of them connected by the overarching aim of providing online education and networking opportunities to the global leisure community. More specifically, the following webinar series – some of which have been already described in this issue of the newsletter – are included within the WLO GLD: Human Rights and Leisure – The WLO Charter for Leisure; Meet a Professional Around the World; Knowledge Sharing and Networking Experiences; South Africa webinars, and New Leisure Studies – International Perspectives (organized in collaboration with other national, regional and international leisure

associations). As part of our commitment with leisure education, some of the past GLD webinars are available online for free access consultation, constituting a rich educational archive at the service of the leisure community worldwide. This initiative will be continued in 2021. Stay tuned for educational opportunities to be coming soon!

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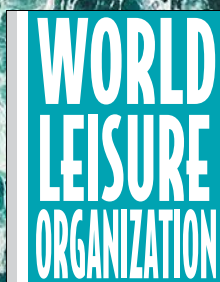
Encounter



A look back at this year 2020!

This video is a tour through the Encounters we have published in the year 2020. Little we knew back in January about the “surprises” this year had for us! Yet, this video reminds us of the wonderful companions we had to navigate through this difficult year, and extracts some of the ideas they shared with us in this video-interviews series.





WORLD LEISURE ORGANIZATION (WLO)

World Leisure Organization is a non-profit organization registered in the State of New York in Special Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council since 1990.

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