


WL NEWS

ISSUE 47

**REGISTER NOW FOR WL CONGRESS
2023 IN NEW ZEALAND!**

APRIL 2023

**WORLD
LEISURE
ORGANIZATION**



**Are you a
WLO Premium
member?
Submit your
news here!**



Editorial

Dear members, dear colleagues,

We start this new issue with the announcement that the registration for the 17th World Leisure Congress “Leisure: Learn Well, Live Well” (New Zealand, 11-15 December) is now open and Call for Abstracts has been extended until the 18 April! We also include some information about amazing tours around Dunedin and New Zealand prepared by our local hosting team.

We are also extremely happy with the celebration of the third edition of the World Leisure Day (WL Day) on 16 April 2023. An official launch event took place a few days ago, about which you can find more information in this issue.

In this issue we also announce the launch of the call for applications for our WL Thomas & Ruth Rivers International Scholarship (TRRIS), which can provide you with the opportunity to attend and present a scholarly paper at the 17th World Leisure Congress in New Zealand.

In addition to these important announces, the issue comes packed with news from our members and partners. We hope that these news and opportunities are of your interest and that we can meet you soon at a WLO event!

Yours truly,

Dr. Cristina Ortega Nuere
WLO Chief Operating Officer



WLO News



Source: *Unsplash*

Call for Abstracts for the World Leisure Congress 2023 in New Zealand (Deadline extended: 18 April)

The 17th World Leisure Congress Call for Abstracts has been extended until 18 April! The organizing committee welcomes you to join us in New Zealand in 2023 and invites you to submit abstracts for presentation at the Congress. Abstracts for contributions are welcome to a) General Congress sessions – oral presentations (20 minute presentation and 10 minutes Q&A), or b) Special topic sessions. Abstracts must be clearly written in English and be a maximum of 300 words excluding the title and authors. The call for abstracts has been extended until the 18 April 2023.

[READ MORE...](#)

17th World Leisure Congress “Leisure: Learn Well, Live Well” registration is now open

We are pleased to announce that the registration for the 17th World Leisure Congress to take place in Dunedin, New Zealand, from 11 to 15 December is already open. Do not miss out on early bird and [register here!](#) WL Premium members will receive a promo code from the WLO Secretariat to get a discounted rate. If you have not received the promo code and you are a WL Premium member, please e-mail WLO Secretariat to get yours at secretariat@worldleisure.org. If you wish to become a WL Premium member and benefit from the discounted rate, become a [WL Premium member here](#). There are different premium categories available!

[READ MORE...](#)



Building Urban, Low-Income Community Capacity Through a Sport-For-Development Youth Empowerment Program in Malaysia – A WLO supported project

By Lee Kwan Meng, Steven Krauss, Mariam Tobias and Linda Caldwell, 2021 SPG recipients

The 'Building Urban, Low-income Community through a Sport-for-Development Youth Empowerment Program' project aimed to develop a pilot program initiated through the WLO Strategic Priorities Grants (SPGs) program 2021. It was undertaken in the period from January 2022 to February 2023 and facilitated by the Institute for Social Science Studies (IPSAS), University Putra Malaysia (UPM). For this program, youth from the Seri Cempaka Youth Association (PBSC), located in a low-income, underserved, urban community in Kuala Lumpur were recruited to be recipients of a leisure-based sports for development (SFD) program that was designed to promote development of life skills.

The project began with a community needs assessment with youth and adult leaders from the Seri Cempaka community. A series of engagements were then held with the PBSC youth leaders (called SFD leaders) from where four life skills were identified for the project: *Courage, Confidence, Communication, and Responsibility*. Once these life skills were identified, the SFD leaders attended a Training-of-Trainers (ToT) program at IPSAS-UPM.

After the training, the SFD leaders were empowered to determine which sport activities were to be organized

for the youth from the Seri Cempaka community, targeting the four life skills identified. From there, the SFD leaders group presented their draft proposals with content, timeline, structure, and logistics of the programs. Subsequent meetings followed with additional feedback and ultimately finalization of the proposals. The SFD programs were held in January 2023. The first program was a half-day event held at a local football field. It comprised two activities – football and handball – with 20 participants (10 boys/10 girls). The two programs had a motivational tagline of "G.R.E.A.T." (*GREAT GENERATION*).

In the first program, two SFD leaders facilitated the groups through a series of games and drills that were designed to enhance participants' interest in the two sport activities and to emphasize the importance of communication – verbal, non-verbal, and group— with their teammates. In the football activity, the participants had to dribble the ball from one point to another zigzagging between cones that were lined up in a straight line while blindfolded with a teammate providing support. A second football-related activity required the participants to work in pairs where they were given a long thin cloth to lift the ball and move it from one end of the pitch to the other. If the team dropped the ball, they had to start over.

The second activity was handball, where participants formed two lines facing each other. Participants were asked to pass the handball from one person to another until the ball reached the end of the line. They started with one ball which then increased to four balls. As the ball passed up and down the respective lines, the participants had to communicate with one another to avoid dropping the balls. If a player dropped the ball, he/she had to leave the game. This is where the participants learned different ways of communication when faced with challenges while under pressure. They were forced to think on their feet while communicating in a directive manner. After the sessions, a reflection session was facilitated with the participants by the SFD leaders to assess what they learnt about communication and how it contributed to the success of the activity.

The second program consisted of two days of outdoor based 'extreme sports' activities. This program was held outside of Kuala Lumpur in a neighboring state of Perak, which is around three hours by bus. This program comprised three activities: *waterfall abseiling*, *Flying Fox* on a zip line, and *whitewater rafting*. Waterfall abseiling entails descending down a rocky cliff over cascading waters running from the top of a hill while

holding on to a secured rope with belayers at the top. *Flying Fox* entailed sliding on a steel wire cable over a lake secured by harness and carabiners. These two activities on the first day promoted the life skill of self-confidence.

The second day's activity was the most challenging and included a two-hour, seven-kilometer *whitewater rafting* adventure over fast-flowing river rapid waters, challenging rock obstacles, and steep drops. The group was divided into seven rafting teams with 4 to 5 members to each raft guided by a professional guide/instructor. Groups were briefed on safety procedures, including wearing life jackets and helmet, and while on the river, how to balance, shift the body, capsize procedures, and overcome rocks. These activities promoted confronting and overcoming fear, promoting self-confidence, being positive, and the critical importance of teamwork and mutual trust when confronted with dangerous situations and challenges. Teamwork was also very important to navigate the raft, as well as caring for the team members in the raft. In the end, the rafting was a success with everyone taking the challenges positively and, in their stride, happily. It was a memorable experience for everyone. The young participants had no complaints about the two-day adventurous sport activities.

Following the programs, a survey evaluation was carried out with the program participants. The youth were asked to respond to each item from a pre- and post-program perspective to determine whether they perceived an increase in the targeted life skills as a result of their participation in the programs. They were also asked whether they would be interested in future sports-based leisure programs. The results indicated increases in all four life skills. Nearly 80% expressed a strong desire to join future leisure-based programs. Qualitative interviews were also conducted with two of the lead SFD program leaders, Mr. Syed Bukhari, the Assistant Secretary of PBSC, and Mr. Sharifudin Mohamy, the Deputy Director of PBSC. Both SFD leaders perceived the program as a positive experience for the participants. As a low-resource, urban population, PBSC youth members are rarely afforded opportunities to experience youth programs outside of the city. The two leaders commented that being able to experience leisure sports outside in the natural environment opened the participant's eyes to a new reality and helped take them out of their comfort zones. While the programs were short in duration, both participants felt that the programs were a success and should be continued in the future. They further commented, however, that the challenges of being responsible for the participants' safety, given

the high-risk levels of the activities selected, made the program a challenge to facilitate. But in observing the participants acquire new skills such as increased self-confidence and communication, the two leaders felt that the risks taken were worth the effort. They further expressed their satisfaction collaborating with UPM and felt that the UPM project team helped the two grow as facilitators as it was their first time attempting a life skills program using sports as a focal point and vehicle.

The findings indicated that sport for development (SFD) activities can help youth from low-resource urban communities develop life skills by learning through a G.E.A.R.S. (Guided, Experiential, Activity-based, Reflection, Self-understanding/Self-realisation) approach, where skill development takes place through guided reflection. The UPM project team facilitated the process by giving the SFD leaders support, then empowered them to design and run the programs. In this way, the leaders developed a sense of belonging and ownership of the programs implemented.

[READ MORE...](#)



World Leisure Day 2023 “Leisure for Social Transformation” countdown is already on!

The third edition of the World Leisure Day (WL Day) is just around the corner! As in previous editions, WL Day will be celebrated all around the globe on 16 April 2023, to reinforce the role of leisure at the center of the society, with the main theme “Leisure for Social Transformation”. But the full calendar of activities in the framework of that date has already started on 28 March. The launch event of the WL Day 2023 took place at the WLCE University of Sao Paulo and counted on the participation of WLO representatives, SESC, WLCE University of Sao Paulo, and young researchers who shared their views in the transforming role of leisure within the society. The session also featured pre-recorded videos and a debate with those present! You could watch the recording [here](#). Will you join us this 16 April? Please do not miss any detail about the planned activities and event that will be updated at the [WL Day 2023 official website](#) and the [WL Day Instagram account](#). Also, we kindly invite you to tag us at @worldleisureday Instagram as well as through the official hashtags of this edition #worldleisureday #WLDAY2023 #LeisureForSocialTransformation. Are you planning to organize any event or activity? Please check our Events section at the WL Day website [here](#).

[READ MORE...](#)

Research



Jose Manuel Alvarez Seara: josmanu3@gmail.com;
Thaís Costa da Silva: thais_unirio@yahoo.com.br;
Driselda Patricia Sánchez Aguirre: drispaty@gmail.com;
Sreetheran Maruthaveeran: sreetheran@upm.edu.my

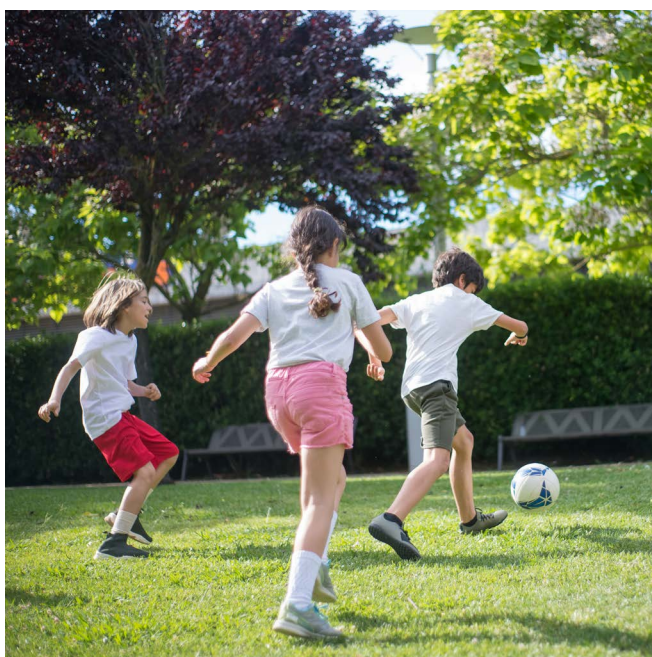
[READ MORE...](#)

World Leisure Journal Call for Commentaries: Global South Leisure Perspectives

This section of the *World Leisure Journal* will welcome commentaries of up to 3000 words from scholars based in the Global South. It will aim to evidence the diversity related to leisure practices and concepts beyond the Eurocentric, Anglophonic and Global North world. We know that colonial narratives in leisure studies have been privileged, and we want to open spaces to decentralise and decolonise academic thinking.

We hope to publish one Commentary per Issue. However, depending on the quality of the submissions more commentaries can feature in each issue. Drafts of the papers should be initially submitted to one of the following Editorial Board Members:

Industry



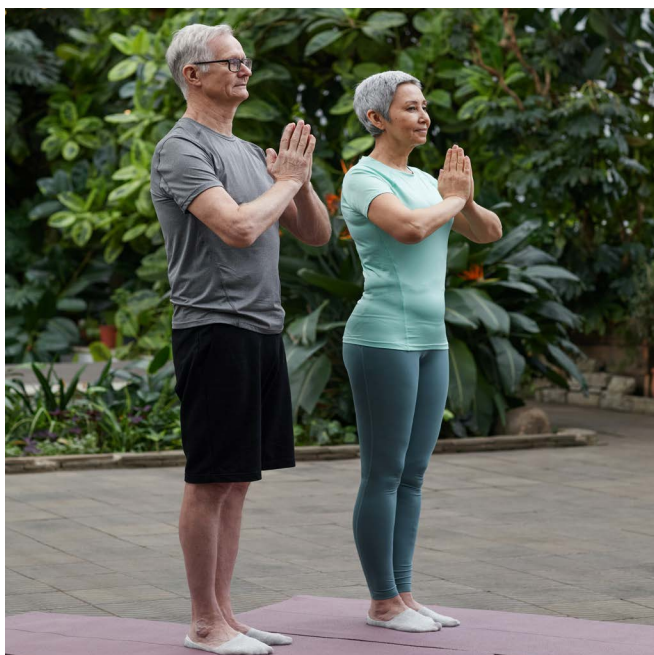
Equal access to sport in schools ends centuries of sex discrimination

The UK government has declared that boys and girls should have equal access to sports in schools and is asking schools to dedicate at least two hours of curriculum time to PE per week. A £600m package will also be channeled into improving PE and sports in primary schools. Those providing parity of provision will be rewarded through the kitemark scheme, called the [School Games Mark](#). The announcement comes in response to an [open letter sent by the Lionesses women's football team](#) last year, following their win at the UEFA European Women's Football Championship and the success of the Football Association's [#LetGirlsPlay campaign](#), which was launched on International Day of the Girl in October 2021.

[READ MORE...](#)

From *Sports Management*
© Cybertrek 2023
Courtesy of Leisure Media
Find out more at www.leisuremedia.com
Sign up for free magazines and ezines at
<http://leisuremedia.com/signup>

Policies



Recent developments and challenges for Recreational Therapy in Australia

By *Charlise Bennett, Australian Recreational Therapy Association (ARTA) Executive Officer*

In Australia, the Australian Recreational Therapy Association (ARTA) is the peak professional body for people working in health and utilizing recreation, and leisure to support client outcomes. In September 2022, the association changed names from Diversional and Recreation Therapy Australia to give clarity, as a profession about who we are and what we do.

Recreational therapy, is also known as therapeutic recreation, is a type of healthcare that uses leisure and recreation to support individuals. This can be done through community inclusion, recreation participation, and leisure awareness, assisting people

with health conditions, disabilities, illnesses, or other medical conditions to improve their physical, cognitive, emotional, psychological, and social functioning. Recreational therapy can be a powerful tool in contributing to the quality of life of individuals of all ages and backgrounds.

The association has four core values that form the foundation of ARTA. These values guide and drive our strategies and actions towards excellence as a profession, and higher standards of practise both nationally and internationally. These are promotion, collaboration, knowledge and integrity. This includes to promote and advocate for the profession in various arenas and settings. Collaborate with other health professions and members within the profession. Providing opportunities for education and ongoing professional development with lifelong learning. As a self-regulating body, the association ensures members uphold best practice standards and professional services.

Our members work in a variety of health care settings, and this includes residential aged care facilities, hospitals, rehabilitation, disability services, corrections, youth work, palliative care and drug and alcohol services and community services, such as respite and home care. ARTA supports members in all of these areas through lobbying and advocating for our members, resulting in better outcomes for the clients they work with. In the last six months we have been collaborating with different government organisations such as the Aged Care Skills industry Council, The Australian Bureau of Statistics

Australian Aged Care services, both community and residential are funded significantly through the federal government. The funding includes provision for direct care staff. At the end of 2022 the government made an application (to the fair work commission) for direct care staff to be entitled to a 15% pay rise, beginning

on July 1, 2023, of this year. However, when seeking clarification in what constituted a 'direct care worker' it only appeared to include personal care workers or assistants in nursing care.

ARTA lobbied government to be included in the pay rise for our workforce. As an association we have just been advised that the federal government has since changed their stance on our workforce and they are now being included in the 15% pay rise.

In residential aged care, the recreational therapy teams support the emotional wellbeing of residents in the pursuit of meaningful engagement in leisure and lifestyle programs. During covid, residents were unable to have visitors, socialise, or engage in leisure or recreation activities outside the walls of the residential care facility. The aged care sector is currently experiencing a workforce exodus from positions in leisure and lifestyle. We applaud the Australian government's recent decision to reverse their decision and include recreation and lifestyle staff as direct care workers.

These are exciting times as a profession, with changing the name of the association appearing to minimise ambiguity for the profession, with more to come. As an association the next step is being recognised as an allied health profession across Australia.

[READ MORE...](#)

Network



UNESCO launches the global campaign Wiki Loves Living Heritage on 17 March

Source: *UNESCO*

To celebrate living heritage and mark the twentieth anniversary of the UNESCO 203 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, the global campaign 'Wiki Loves Living Heritage' was launched on Friday, 17 March. 'Wiki Loves Living Heritage' is a participatory, community-driven initiative calling on heritage practitioners, Wikimedia volunteers and cultural institutions around the world to document and celebrate their living heritage. It seeks to combine awareness raising and documenting activities – online and on the ground – to enhance the safeguarding of living heritage worldwide. The campaign includes an important component of skills sharing, allowing anyone interested to learn how to share materials on Wikimedia

projects and engage. 'Wiki Loves Living Heritage' makes a strong commitment to ethical sharing while it promotes open access to cultural heritage. The materials will be produced in collaboration with the heritage communities or by themselves.

[READ MORE...](#)

Upcoming events

10 Fr

11 Sa

12 So

13 Mo



**LEISURE
MANAGEMENT
WEBINARS
SERIES**

Produced by the WLO Special Interest Group (SIG) on Leisure Management



**Public Leisure Management for Social Transformation:
Commercial vs Communal Outcomes – A World Leisure
Day Event**



**A Conversation with Dr Katie McDonald (Australia) and Carlos
Alberto Rico (Columbia)**



Become a member of WLO here: <https://www.worldleisure.org/become-a-member/>

(5pm American Eastern Time Zone, 6pm Brazil, 11pm Spain) or 20 April (7am Eastern Australian Time Zone). The session will be recorded so those who cannot attend will be able to view the YouTube recording. The webinar is designed to be of interest to leisure managers, programmers, scholars and students.

Registration link: <https://bit.ly/3LXrSUa>

[READ MORE...](#)

New Leisure Management Webinar: Public Leisure Management for Social Transformation: Commercial vs Communal Outcomes – A World Leisure Day Event (19-20 April, depending on time zone)

We know public leisure can be an agent for social transformation, but it is not always achieved because organisations may be unclear about the outcomes being pursued. This webinar will explore how management principles that underpin leisure experience delivery influence the experience's capacity to contribute to communities' capacity for social transformation. The webinar will take place as a conversation with Dr Katie McDonald, Adjunct Research Fellow Victoria University, and Carlos Alberto Rico, Public Administrator, Business Manager, Specialist in Social Management, and member of WLO Board, to explore their experience in how management principles impact community social transformation. The conversation will also explore the options for further research about public leisure management's capacity to address social transformation outcomes. It will take place on 19 April



Source: Unsplash

17th World Leisure Congress invites you to discover Dunedin and New Zealand!

The 17th World Leisure Congress will be celebrated from 11 to 15 December in Dunedin, New Zealand, one of the world's great small cities. A remarkably educated, creative and innovative city, Dunedin delivers on its promise that visitors will experience a unique and authentic stay. The city is renowned for its striking landscape and proximity to the incredible wildlife of the magnificent Otago Peninsula, located in the South Island of New Zealand. If you wish to discover more about the local attractions of Dunedin, as well as its outdoor activities, beaches and wildlife, you should not miss the opportunity to visit the World Leisure Congress site [by clicking here!](#) Are you willing to explore the natural wonders and unique culture from New Zealand? You won't find it anywhere in the world! If you are planning a trip through the 17th World Leisure Congress host country, you should visit the dedicated website about New Zealand [here](#). And last but not least, to ensure that you have an experience to remember make sure you have everything sorted before you leave and check all the visa and travel requirements [here](#).

[READ MORE...](#)



5th UCLG Culture Summit to be celebrated in Dublin in 2023

Source: UCLG

On 12 October 2022, in the framework of the 7th UCLG World Congress held in Daejeon, Republic of Korea, the UCLG Executive Bureau announced that Dublin, Ireland, had been chosen as the host city of the next UCLG Culture Summit, to be held in 2023 from 28 November to 1 December 2023. The Summit will discuss the "Culture Goal" proposal, championed by the #culture2030goal global campaign, and included in the final declaration of UNESCO's Mondiacult 2022 Conference held in Mexico City in September 2022. The Summit will also emphasize that culture is an integral part of sustainable cities and promote the sharing of experiences and innovations from cities across the world. The programme of the Summit will ensure that special attention will be paid to the relation between cultural policies and the climate emergency, the connection between culture and gender equality; as well as the role that cultural rights play in addressing the growing inequalities in our societies.

[READ MORE...](#)

Opportunities



WL Thomas & Ruth Rivers International Scholarship applications open

Are you a final year graduate or undergraduate student in recreation, leisure studies, leisure services, leisure resources or tourism studies? This is for you! We invite you to apply for the Thomas & Ruth Rivers International Scholarship (TRRIS) that will provide you with the opportunity to attend and present a scholarly paper at the 17th World Leisure Congress in New Zealand! Submit your abstract to the WLC 2023 by the 18 April and apply to the TRRIS by the 21 April!

[READ MORE...](#)

Encounter

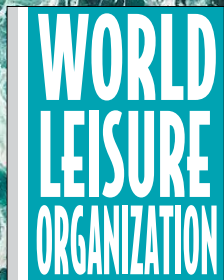


Encounter with Dr. Miklos Bánhidi from Hungarian University of Sport Science, former WLO Board member, Chair of the World Leisure Youth Ambassadors Program

Dr. Bánhidi works as an associate professor full time at the University of Physical Education and Sport Science in Budapest, and part time at the Szechenyi University in Győr and at World Leisure Center of Excellence at University of Pecs, Hungary. He has written numerous books and articles on Recreation, Geography of Sport, Health and Tourism. He is a member of the Editorial Board of World Leisure Journal. Currently, he is the president of the Sport Tourism Association within the Hungarian Sport Science Federation and the chair of World Leisure Youth Ambassadors's Network within the World Leisure Organization. At the occasion of the 2022 WLO Board of Directors Annual Meeting and the Forum "Talking About Leisure" in the state of Pernambuco, Brazil, we had the opportunity to interview him and talk about youth people and how they connect and contribute to international organizations and what are the benefits they experience. He shared with us his personal and professional insights regarding the youth generations and the expectations and motivations they have when it comes to getting involved in an international organization like WLO, as well as what are the main challenges and barriers they face.

[Click to watch!](#)





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.

Scientific and Technical Office -
Arenal 1. Segunda Planta 48005
Bilbao, Spain - www.worldleisure.org