

Magic Bus hosts 2nd PASCH tournament

After South Africa, India was the second country to host a PASCH football tournament on January 28th and 29th, 2011. The **Magic Bus Centre for Learning & Development** organized the event, inviting pupils from PASCH schools in the region to meet and play with youth regularly participating in their programmes. The project was funded by the **German Federal Foreign Office** as part of its Sport and Foreign Policy initiative and implemented in cooperation with **streetfootballworld**.



The PASCH tournaments are funded by the German Federal Foreign Office and implemented by streetfootballworld network members around the world – in the case of India by Magic Bus.

The 22-acre outdoor experiential learning centre located in the wooded area of Aasrewadi Village near Mumbai was the ideal venue as, not only does it have one of the best football fields in the region but it also gave children from the participating schools an opportunity to play and network in nature.



Eight mixed-gender street football teams came together at the centre with players, aged 14-18, to share the fun and thrills of competing in a tournament together. Six teams of players were drawn from schools in Delhi (**Delhi Public School Vasant Kunj, Bluebells International School**), Mumbai (**Bombay International School, Garodia International Centre for Learning**) and Pune (**Mercedes Benz International School, Fergusson College**) belonging to the PASCH network. The "Schools: Partners for the Future" (PASCH) initiative was launched by the **German Federal Foreign Office** in 2008 and links 1500 partner schools worldwide. Its aim is to stimulate young people's interest in the German language and life in contemporary Germany.



80 boys and girls came together to participate in a football3 tournament.

The host NGO, **Magic Bus**, also sent two teams to participate in the tournament. As an organisation working in the field of Development through Sport, **Magic Bus** wants young people to understand how sport can affect their holistic development and, ultimately, their lives. **Magic Bus** has been running for 10 years and operates in Mumbai, rural Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and New Delhi working with 140.000 children and youth a year.

In 2008 **Magic Bus** joined the **streetfootballworld network** which links relevant actors in the field of Development through Football, creating platforms for knowledge exchange, cooperation and capacity development. Currently over 80 network members in more than 50 countries worldwide are overcoming local social challenges with sustainable programmes that use football to address issues such as peace building, children's rights and education, anti-discrimination, environmental protection and health promotion.



The participants could take part in a whole range of outdoor activities before the tournament.

Before the tournament the teams were split up for different ice-breaking activities, allowing the kids to get to know each other. The Centre Outdoor Team organised games for the children on their ropes courses to help them understand how technique, insight and communication can give them an advantage on the playfield. The youth also had the opportunity to participate in workshops on German language and culture. Rumen Zidarov from the **Mercedes Benz International School** conducted the workshop in an innovative and playful manner with fun activities and an audio quiz which the children enjoyed very much.



The tournament matches were played using a unique methodology called "football3" which fosters dialogue around social skills amongst players. Every match had a session before the match where certain rules of the game were mutually decided by the teams through discussion. There were no referees for any of these matches and yet the game was played keeping in mind the importance and relevance of fair play. At the end of every match similar dialogue sessions were held where the teams reflected on how the matches were played, what issues were faced, the strengths of every team and what they could do better to improve the performance of their next match. The **Magic Bus** mediators, who consisted of staff who had played matches using this methodology earlier, facilitated these pre- and post-match sessions.



Post-match discussions were facilitated by football3 experienced youth from Magic Bus.

PASCH school pupils and teachers, to whom the special football methodology was new, were rapidly convinced of its educational added value and determined to bring this new kind of football back to their establishments. At the end of the day, the **Delhi Public School Vasant Kunj** Team won the finals by scoring two goals to one against the **Magic Bus A Team**. In the third place match **Mercedes Benz International School** from Pune triumphed over **Bluebells International School** from Mumbai.



During the award ceremony all teams were handed out certificates of participation. The winning team was thrilled to find out that they had won a trip to Germany during the Women's World Cup in June 2011! During their stay in the German capital they will come together with the winning teams from the other five PASCH tournaments for cultural and educational activities and a final international tournament. The six PASCH tournaments organized in South Africa, India, Cameroon/Gabon, Israel/Palestinian Authority, Bosnia and Herzegovina/Serbia and Brazil as well as the final tournament in Berlin are funded by the **German Federal Foreign Office**.



The four boys and three girls from Delhi Public School won the tournament and a trip to Germany.

More information here:

www.magicbusindia.org

www.streetfootballworld.org

www.pasch-net.de

www.sport.diplo.de