

W O R L D

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12TH INTERNATIONAL MARMI FESTIVAL HELD IN DOHA

The 12th International Hunting and Falconry (Marmi) Festival, which took place in Doha, Qatar, was attended by the President of the World Ethnosport Confederation (WEC) Necmeddin Bilal Erdogan.

In his speech, during the closing award ceremony of the festival, WEC President expressed his gratitude to the Qatari Society of Al Gannas, an esteemed member of WEC, for its contributions in raising the awareness of traditional sports.

WEC President also underlined the relevant role the Qatari Society of Al Gannas plays by stating, "The Qatari Society of Al Gannas is one of the first WEC's members and continues to provide its international support for the revival of traditional sports." Referring to the human and social aspects of traditional sports, WEC President emphasized the value of the Marmi Festival by affirming, "Traditional sports are an opportunity for human beings to forge friendship with animals: sometimes with horses, sometimes with camels, and in this case with birds." In this regard, renewing his thanks to the Qatari Society of Al Gannas for having organized this special event, WEC President concluded his speech by extending his wishes for success.



ANKARA TRADITIONAL SPORTS ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN INAUGURATED

The Traditional Sports Youth and Sports Club was brought to life through the initiative of the Traditional Sport Branches Federation of Turkey, a corporative member of the World Ethnosport Confederation (WEC). The opening ceremony was attended both by His High Excellency the President of the Republic of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan and WEC President Necmeddin Bilal Erdogan. The association aims to create an environment where families can have an enjoyable time using social reinforcement areas along with indoor and outdoor archery ranges, equestrian centers, and 20-horse capacity stables.

His Excellency the President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, in his opening speech, emphasized the importance of traditional sports by stating, "We strive to build a strong bridge between the past and the future by preserving our history and culture. We aim to transmit these values to next generations by reviving our ancestral sports. We invite youth to preserve its cultural and civilizational heritages. We cannot look to our future with confidence without raising committed, ethical, and virtuous youth. We support every effort to introduce our ancestral sports to our people and encourage our children to protect their history."

Drawing attention to activities of the association, WEC Necmeddin Bilal Erdogan affirmed, "Efforts made for protecting an endangered cultural heritage are just as important as the efforts made for averting animals and plants' extinction to guarantee the diversity of the world we live in. Keeping our cultural heritage alive just in encyclopedias and museums is not sufficient. We need to have this heritage be present in our lives. The Ankara Traditional Sports Association, established with this purpose, is an important step."



MEXICAN TRADITIONAL AND AUTOCHTHONOUS GAMES AND SPORTS FEDERATION'S VISIT TO WEC

Ana Claudia Collado Garcia, President of the Mexican Traditional and Autochthonous Games and Sports Federation, an esteemed WEC's corporate member, paid a visit to the WEC headquarters and the Ethnosport Experience Center in Istanbul. At the meeting possible collaborations and joint action within the framework of promoting and increasing the awareness of traditional sports and games worldwide were discussed.



WEC PHD *Scholarship* APPLICATIONS **OPEN**

APPLICATION:

worldethnosport.org/scholarships



THE WEC PHD SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAM

Maintaining its support for academic studies in the field of traditional sports and games, the World Ethnosport Confederation is continuing the WEC PhD Scholarships program initiated last year. Applications for the WEC PhD Scholarships, created for PhD students from all over the world who are currently writing their doctoral thesis about traditional sports and games, can be submitted at www.worldethnosport.org/scholarships.

WEC PhD Scholarships provide not only financial support to research on ethnosports, but also an opportunity for internationalizing it and expanding and consolidating the network of academicians in the related field by encouraging aspiring experts.



WEC CENTRAL ASIAN ETHNOSPORT COMMITTEE (CAEC) CONTINUES ITS EFFORTS

The WEC Central Asian Committee, the first of the Regional Ethnosport Committees to be established, is holding online meetings periodically and maintaining active and constant communication among its members. During the meetings, different experiences in ethnosports promotion and development and recommendations on how to organize activities in 2021 have been shared. One of the objectives of the Committee for this year is to outline strategies for the development of traditional sports and games in the Central Asian region by realizing various initiatives such as the increase of physical and methodical preparation of sportsmen, the arrangement of online traditional sports and games competitions, and the implementation of traditional sports in schools' education programs.

In this regard, the WEC Central Asian Committee's efforts are in line with WEC's main objectives of safeguarding, promoting, and transmitting it to next generations the ethnosports heritage.



ONLINE MEETING OF THE NATIONAL SPORTS AND GAMES ASSOCIATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SAKHA WAS HELD

The meeting organized by the National Sports and Games Association of the Republic of Sakha 'Sakhaada-Sport', one of the esteemed corporate members of the World Ethnosport Confederation (WEC), was held online. The President of 'Sakhaada-Sport' Alexander Kim-Kimen expressed his gratitude to WEC for its significant contributions in rising the popularity of Mas-wrestling globally.

The meeting was held with the participation of more than 50 representatives of traditional sports and games federations and associations of Yakutia and partnering countries and started off with message of compliments from the Minister of Physical Culture and Sports of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) Innokenty Grigoryev to 'Sakhaada-Sport' for its successful work implemented for the development of traditional sports and games in Yakutia.

Alexander Kim-Kimen, the President of 'Sakhaada-Sport', stated that Mas-wrestling has become popular in Azerbaijan, Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Chile, India, Kazakhstan, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Poland, and the USA and that it is being planned to increase the recognition of other traditional Yakut sports in the future.

WEC Director of Sports and Corporate Relations Levent Akici, after having conveyed the greetings of the WEC President Necmeddin Bilal Erdogan, expressed his gratitude to 'Sakhaada-Sport' for its efforts and stated that the interest and concern the people of Sakha have for traditional sports and games can set an example for other countries. The meeting was concluded with approvment of the new strategies for the development and popularization of Yakut traditional sports and games and the election of the new board members of the Association.

4th ETHNOSPORT FORUM

April 10, 2021

"REVIVING TRADITIONAL SPORTS"

THE 4TH ETHNOSPORT FORUM WILL BE HELD ONLINE ON APRIL 10, 2021

Continuing its activities for increasing the awareness and popularizing of traditional sports and games, the World Ethnosport Confederation (WEC) will organize the 4th Ethnosport Forum with the title of "Reviving Traditional Sports." The Forum will take place online on April 10, 2021 with the participation of distinguished representatives of the ethnosport community from different geographies.

Since its establishment, WEC has been maintaining its efforts to safeguard and spread traditional sports and games all over the world. Thanks to the activities organized around the four universal principles of tradition, respect, solidarity, and peace, cultural and sportive heritages that are about to fall into the oblivion are being revived and promoted.

At the Forum, strategies will be determined by setting the short-, medium-, and long-term goals of traditional sports and games. Ministers, State officials, high-ranking officials, NGOs and federations representatives, experts, and academicians from over 60 countries will participate alongside the 19 WEC corporate member representatives.

The President of the Republic of Turkey His Excellency Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and the President of the World Ethnosport Confederation Necmeddin Bilal Erdoğan will deliver a speech to the participants at the Ethnosport Forum.

The Ethnosport Forum will last one day and be among the world's most pioneering events in terms of participants diversity. The event will be broadcasted live on the official Youtube channel of the World Ethnosport Confederation and simultaneous translation will be available in 6 different languages with digital scenes prepared specifically for the participants.

