

W O R L D

ETHNOSPORT

C O N F E D E R A T I O N

E - B U L L E T I N

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## THE SHALWAR WRESTLING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WAS HELD IN KAHRAMANMARAŞ

400 athletes and 40 countries participated in the championship held at the Central Sports Complex in cooperation with the Turkish Traditional Sports Federation and Kahramanmaraş, with final competitions held in the 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 90, and 130 kg weight classes. İsmail Balaban was the wrestling champion of the Shalwar Wrestling World Championship.

World Ethnosport Confederation (WEC) President Bilal Erdoğan, Turkish Traditional Sports Federation President Hakan Kazancı, and Turkish Wrestling Federation President Şeref Eroğlu watched the championship closely.

WEC President Necmeddin Bilal Erdoğan said in the speech he gave there how preserving a nation's identity is possible by preserving its values and cultural elements, stating:

“Keeping our traditional sports alive is very prominent for us in preserving our identity and culture. In fact, we are living through a world-wide adventure for this. We have entered a struggle, working, making attempts, and giving support so that all the nations of the world can have their traditional sport survive. More than 20 World Ethnosport Confederation members from 15 different countries throughout the world are working in this direction. What was the reason for our Kahramanmaraş's deliverance? It was for our independence. It was to protect the decency of these lands. It was for our honor, our standard, our call to prayer that will never not be heard, our culture, and our beliefs. For this reason, may we attempt to support our children in engaging with these traditional sports so that all traditional sports may survive, revive, and recover once again.”

Explaining how keeping traditional sports alive is essential, Necmeddin Bilal Erdoğan stated, “Let's keep these sports of our alive so that Anatolia may show it has the capability to build its own future using its own values. These branches are our sports. These are the sports of ours that bear the traces of our own lives and our own history and reflect our true identity.”

# ETHNOSPORT FORUM

REVIVING TRADITIONAL SPORTS

MARCH 5-6, 2022 | BAKU, AZERBAIJAN



## 5<sup>TH</sup> ETHNOSPORT FORUM HELD IN BAKU

The 5<sup>th</sup> Ethnosport Forum, organized by the World Ethnosport Confederation (WEC), took place in Azerbaijan. In the forum, 140 participants from 45 countries determined the roadmap of traditional sports. Addressing the participants in the opening speeches of the forum, WEC President Necmeddin Bilal Erdoğan said, "Humanity needs the principles of peace, solidarity, respect, and tradition, which the World Ethnosport Confederation has and built on its fields of activity, more and more with each passing day."

### Excitement of the Ethnosport Forum in Baku

The 5th Ethnosport Forum, which was held in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan on 5-6 March this year, hosted 140 participants from 45 countries with the theme "Reviving Traditional Sports". The forum started with the opening speeches and was carried out with panels, sessions, and various events where the future of traditional sports was discussed.



## **High Level Participation Procured**

The forum was attended by the sports ministers of Azerbaijan, Gambia, Niger, Mexico, Turkey, the deputy ministers of sports of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon and with high-level participation from many countries.

## **Joint Statement Signed**

A joint statement was signed with the participation of the President of the World Ethnosport Confederation Necmeddin Bilal Erdoğan, Minister of Youth and Sports of Azerbaijan Ferid Gayıbov, Minister of Youth and Sports of Turkey Mehmet Muharrem Kasapoğlu, Minister of Sports of Nigeria Adamou Sekou, National Minister of Physical Culture and Sport of Mexico Ana Gabriela Guevara Espinoza, Minister of Sports of Gambia Bakary Y. Badjie, Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Program Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Secretary General of the Organization of Turkish States Baghdad Amreyev.

## **Future of Traditional Sports Were Discussed**

After the opening speeches on the first day of the forum, High-Level Ministerial Panel was held, and was moderated by WEC President Necmeddin Bilal Erdoğan. In the panel, evaluations were made about the present and future of traditional sports. Simultaneously, it was discussed by experts in the field of future projection of traditional sports in 3 different sessions.

## **Communication Panel Occured**

The second day of the 5th Ethnospor Forum started with the communication panel. In the panel, communication strategies of traditional sports were discussed by the participants from 5 countries, and they expressed their views on applicable communication and media strategies for traditional sports.

## **Declaration Announced**

The declaration, which compiled the topics discussed in the panels and sessions of the forum, to which 140 participants from 45 countries contributed for two days, was announced to the whole world on the second day of the Ethnospor Forum.

## **Traditional Sports Awards Found Their Owners**

The 4th of the Traditional Sports Awards, organized by the World Ethnosports Confederation every year to honor the institutions, organizations and athletes that contribute to traditional sports and games around the world, was held in Baku. In the awards covering 7 categories, the Leadership Award was presented this year by WEC President Necmeddin Bilal Erdoğan to President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, the Traditional Sports Organization Award to the International Belt Wrestling Federation, and the Academician Award to Prof. Dr. Pere Levega Burgues, Traditional Athlete Award to Bautista Risso, Young Athlete Award to Ngor Niakh, International Sponsor Award to Ziraat Bank and Communication Award to TRT SPOR Yıldız.

## **Thanks from WEC President Necmeddin Bilal Erdoğan**

WEC President Necmeddin Bilal Erdoğan thanked all the participants who came together for two days and showed great solidarity for the reviving traditional sports and devoted themselves to make the forum productive in his evaluation speech at the end of the forum. The forum ended with the Çevgan show organized for the participants by the Azerbaijan Equestrian Federation, one of the institutional members of the World Ethnosports Confederation. Erdoğan also expressed his gratitude to President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and Minister of Youth and Sports Ferid Gayibov for their hospitality and support in Baku.

# JOINT STATEMENT ON DEVELOPING TRADITIONAL SPORTS AND GAMES



## JOINT MINISTERIAL STATEMENT WAS SIGNED AT THE 5<sup>TH</sup> ETHNOSPORT FORUM

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## SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

**The World Ethnosport Confederation has implemented a special project for children in disaster areas. Events that were organized to motivate children to ordinary life by engaging with traditional sports and games took place in both Antalya's Manavgat, Kepez and in Milas and Bodrum at Muğla.**

### **Activities at 42 Different Schools**

Postponing the 5th Ethnosports Culture Festival to a later date with an emphasis on solidarity, the World Ethnosports Confederation organizes various activities to boost morale for students in the regions where the fire disaster occurred. A series of events were organized in regions that were in a rapid recovery period after the disaster, in order to contribute to the high motivation of students in the new education and training period.



## Areas Established in School Gardens

Continuing its efforts to increase the awareness and spread of traditional sports and games, WEC offers traditional archery training for students in the fields set up in school gardens in fire zones. By doing so, it provided the opportunity to experience games such as mas wrestling, barbecue, arrow fights, stick game and linden printing.

## They Ride Horses and Shoot Arrows

The children, who had fun at the stations in the event area, also held a horse riding event. Those students who discovered arrow shooting, horse riding and traditional children's games, competed fiercely with each other in the arrow wars game. Thousands of children had the opportunity to discover the rich world of traditional sports and games at the events held in 42 different areas in the region. After the events, the World Ethnosport Confederation donated traditional sports and game equipments to the relevant schools in order to make the activities experienced by the students sustainable.



## OFFICIAL VISITS TO WEC

**The Consul General of the Republic of Bulgaria to Istanbul Mr. Atana Atanasov paid a visit to the World Ethnosport Confederation's headquarters in Istanbul.**

Consultations were held at the meeting on possible collaborations between the countries within the framework of promoting and increasing awareness of traditional sports and games. Immediately after, efforts were mentioned that had also been made on the topic of traditional sports and games in the Bulgarian region.



