



INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION Development Program

ITK 50 Years – Message on behalf of the ITTF

It is a great pleasure to share this moment of happiness with the University of Leipzig and especially with the Sports Science Faculty.

International cooperation can be perfectly done through sport, half a century promoting sport ideals as the ITK has been doing is a beautiful example.

Table Tennis has been included in the program in 2008, so far 5 courses successfully held while considering the current one in Arabic makes the full round of languages.

Since the beginning of the cooperation between the ITK and the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF), the conditions have been improving due to a strong partnership based on aligned aims on both sides which can be synthesized in two: academic excellence and legacy on the participants' communities.

A concrete result of this partnership is that the ITTF officially recognizes the ITK course on its Coach Accreditation System. The successful coaches are able to receive an ITTF Level 2 Certificate BUT not in Leipzig, after the course, they must do a 50 hours practical work in their countries under the supervision of the National Table Tennis Federation.

In that way we promote the legacy back home while they are linked to the national bodies.

We don't see the participants only as coaches, we also see them as potential coaches multipliers therefore in 2013, the University of Leipzig and ITTF hosted a Course Conductors Training which allowed some of them to conduct Coaching Courses in their countries and also internationally. In 2014 one of

them already led a course in Argentina while the second will be done in Honduras. In that way the legacy is empowered through the formal channels.

As ITTF Development Director and from the professional perspective, I am proud of this partnership and its outcomes but personally, the ITK has a significant space on my heart as alumni of the 2003 Sport for the Disabled course. I can tell about the impact this education can have as a result and I am proud to be an ITK alumni.

After my ITK experience, I have coordinated the publication of the first ever Para Table Tennis Coaching Manual which is currently used worldwide in more than 50 courses per year so far in more than 150 countries.

Besides the academic learning, probably the most important I have learned at the University of Leipzig is the spirit of cooperation towards the global development. On behalf of the ITTF, Congratulations on this 50th jubileum to the University authorities and the lovely staff! Keep spreading that spirit!

25th of February 2014

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Olvech', written over a light blue rectangular background.

Leandro Olvech
ITTF Development Director