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# SPORT AND THE ENVIRONMENT

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## **Regional Seminar on Sport and the Environment in Oceania**

A regional seminar on sport and the environment was organized by the IOC in Apia (Samoa) on 4 and 5 December 1997 in cooperation with IOC member Seiuli Paul Wallwork and the National Olympic Committee of Samoa. It was attended by the Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture, Leota II. This seminar,

addressed to the NOCs of Oceania, welcomed experts on the environment and decision-makers in the sports movement. During the two-day meeting, presentations were given illustrating the close link between the practice of sport and its impact on the environment. Among the speakers were Simon Balderstone and Peter Ottesen, who are, respectively, the senior executive man-

ager and the environment programme director of SOCOG, the Organizing Committee for the Games of the XXVII Olympiad in Sydney in 2000. They introduced the various projects implemented by SOCOG to limit negative impacts on the environment, particularly at the Olympic venues, to rehabilitate various areas which had suffered serious environmental damage, and to promote a



*The participants in the seminar.*



true policy of nature protection in all areas associated the organization of the Olympic Games. Representatives of the South Pacific Region Environment Programme, the Samoan Environment Ministry and local ecological organizations supplied information on various aspects of the region's ecological situation. They also emphasized the importance of encouraging greater cooperation among the various sectors of society, of which the sports movement is an integral part, in order to attain genuine sustainable development

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## **National Earth Day**

For the fourth successive year, the Olympic Council of Malaysia organized a National Earth Day to raise awareness among the sports community about the importance of protecting the environment. More than 400 volunteers took part in a clean-up effort in several public areas of Lembah Pantai, a village several kilometres from Kuala Lumpur. The event was supported by the parliamentary secretary at the ministry of youth and sports, local authorities, NOC sponsors and the national press. The villagers also contributed to the effort by preparing breakfast for all the participants.



*Volunteers at work.*