

Ethiopia

The United Nations Conference Centre in Addis Ababa hosted a ceremony honouring Ethiopian athlete Haile Gebreselassie in April. He was honoured not for his athletic feats, but for his unwavering support in the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) race to eradicate poverty.

On this occasion, a poster showing Gebreselassie and bearing the UNDP logo with the inscription "Race against Poverty" was unveiled, in order to raise public awareness about poverty in developing countries. He was also named as the UNDP-Ethiopia Goodwill Ambassador for poverty eradication. Honouring Haile Gebreselassie,

UNDP resident representative Samuel Nyambi said that he has taken the aspirations of Africa to great heights and to a longer distance than anybody in recent times.

The event also helped to emphasize the plight of Ethiopian disabled athletes. At a fund-raising event that day, a total of 53,998 Ethiopian Birr was raised in pledges and from the sale of the portrait of Haile Gebreselassie and the late Ethiopian long-distance runner Abebe Bikila. The proceeds will go toward financing the participation of the Ethiopian disabled team at the All Africa Games in Johannesburg next September and the Games of the XXVII Olympiad in Sydney in 2000.



Haile Gebreselassie named UNDP Goodwill Ambassador.

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

During a visit by a delegation of the Chinese Taipei NOC, a sports and technical cooperation agreement was signed by Vasil Tupurkovski, president of the Macedonian NOC, and Thomas Ta-Chu Huang, president of the Chinese Taipei NOC. The agreement includes an exchange of scientific, technical and

educational experience through sports camps and friendly competitions. The two NOCs will encourage bilateral participation in international sport and cooperation between national sports associations, will jointly contribute to the promotion of the Olympic Movement and sports activities in both

countries and will ensure the necessary assistance for international and regional programmes related to Olympic education and sports events. The five-member delegation also met with Macedonian Prime Minister Ljubco Georgievski, several ministers, sports association officials and athletes. Moreover, the

Olympic workers of Chinese Taipei donated 700 handball balls to the Macedonian Olympic Committee. The president of the Chinese Taipei NOC asked to have one Macedonian handball expert to work in his country. In return a tennis table expert from Chinese Taipei will teach this popular sport in Macedonia.