

News flash

Switzerland

Since 1941, the Swiss Ski Federation (FSS) has organized a youth ski camp (Juskila) to promote cultural, ethnic and linguistic solidarity through sport. In order to celebrate the new millennium and enable a number of young people to become better acquainted with the Olympic Movement and its values, the FSS placed Juskila edition under the patronage of the IOC. As a result, from 2 to 9 January in the Swiss ski resort of Lenk, 580 adolescents aged between 13 and 14 came from all five continents to enjoy downhill skiing, snowboarding, cross-country skiing and ski jumping. Invited by the IOC through their

NOCs, 30 youngsters from America, Armenia, Argentina, Australia, Belarus, Cyprus, Georgia, Greece, India, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Morocco, Pakistan, Romania, Turkey and Ukraine met up with 550 Swiss friends and criss-crossed the snowy slopes of the Swiss Alps. The programme also included exhibitions on Olympism and a special Olympiad for the ski instructors. Finally, the entire village of Lenk embraced the Olympic spirit: a path linked the centre of the village to the Olympic flame in the middle of the camp and shop windows displayed the five rings for the occasion.



On the slopes at Lenk.

Development



Brazilian footballer Ronaldo was appointed Goodwill Ambassador for the fight against poverty by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in a ceremony held on 1 February at the Palais des Nations in Geneva (Switzerland) before an audience of a thousand children. These schoolchildren from the Geneva region and nearby France had been studying the problem of poverty for several weeks. They took it in turns to present to the assembly some of the projects already undertaken to aid

the world's least privileged. Ronaldo, who knows what poverty is from his own childhood experience, has firmly committed himself to helping deprived children in Brazil and funds projects to assist the children living in the favelas of Rio de Janeiro. As a roving ambassador, Ronaldo can take advantage of public events to spread the message that everyone can contribute to eradicating poverty. Ronaldo was in Kosovo in September 1999 to launch the UNDP's global mobilization campaign "Teams to end poverty".

Argentina

The NOC awarded a number of distinctions to Argentinean sports personalities at an official ceremony. Francisco Mangialardi, former Argentinean rowing champion and current President of the South American Rowing Federation, received the Olympic

Order from the NOC President and IOC member Antonio Rodriguez. Also, the IOC 1998 "Sports Ethics" and 1999 "Sport and Education" trophies were awarded to Bernardo R. Soules (sailing) and to the Sports Journalism School respectively.



Antonio Rodriguez (left) and Bernardo R. Soules.