**FAILED FORWARD REPORT (GLOBAL PEACE GAMES)**

One of the major programmes organized by Play Soccer under the auspices of the Play Soccer Non-profit International and the United Nations Office on Sports for Development and Peace, is the Global Peace Games. The main theme is to foster an atmosphere for children and youth to express their solidarity in support of a culture of peace, nonviolence and global friendship, and for their commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals. By this, children and youth are able to demonstrate their capacity to learn peaceful solutions, respect for one another and leadership for peace.

The preliminary event in 2001 was an opportunity for young people all over the world to demonstrate their central role in using sports to make the world a better place.

However, this yearly programme calls for planning and proper co-ordination of roles and resources combined to achieve success but this was not the case at the maiden event of September, 2001.

The programme was characterized with a lot of challenges which compromised the success of the programme.

**The following challenges were encountered at the preliminary event that was held:**

* Preparation was made by one person who didn’t seek others’ opinions
* No media publicity
* Peace messages were not read
* Manifesto for peace is the main reason for the event was not signed
* Due to improper planning, reservations were not made for food. There were no canopies too to accommodate onlookers under the scorching sun. Water was made available for only the participants which was not even enough.
* Transport allowances were not made for participating schools who came from far
* Last minute improvisation of activities
* There were supposed to be assorted games but only football was played
* Sponsors were not acknowledged

Instead of apportioning blames, the team admitted responsibility for poor preparation and we identified the above factors as the reasons for the failure/non-success of the Global Peace Games event in 2001.

Having identified these failure factors, the organizers decided to address the challenges with the under listed solutions:

* Proper planning that includes all stakeholders who are to play a role towards the success of the event.
* We gave a lot of publicity to the event to encourage greater participation
* We now ensured the manifesto for peace which is the hallmark of the event was signed
* Enough accountable impress were given to take care of the provision of enough snacks and water for the participants of the events
* We ensured that the major sponsors who supported the programme were acknowledged.

With all these corrective measures taken, the programme from 2002 till date has been a huge success and we anticipate the 2016 event which will be held this weekend the 29th October will even be better. We realized the importance of synergy and giving everybody a chance in decision making. By this, we have been fully recognized by FIFA whiles other governmental and NGOs have also signed on to the GPG which they mark every year between 21st September – 15th November.

As we keep learning from these yearly experiences and improving on the quality of our programs, we have also gained trust from our sponsors who are gradually increasing in number latest being Cityzens *Giving.*

It is our hope that we will continue to offer excellent services to the communities in which we operate and the country as a whole.

Thank You

Gertrude Amoh

Play Soccer Ghana

***Programmes Manager***