WORLD TABLE TENNIS DAY
Celebrating & Sharing our PASSION for TABLE TENNIS!

2018 REPORT

ITTF FOUNDATION

TT4ALL.com

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April 6, 2018 stood in the sign of solidarity. The ITTF chose World Table Tennis Day to soft-launch its own non-profit Foundation aiming to promote “Solidarity through Table Tennis”. Appropriately, this edition brought many examples of how table tennis is shared with others. All around the world, clubs opened their doors for Come and Try Days and we saw a big commitment of Non-Governmental Organisations who were involved in half of the 597 registered events; in Turkey a granite table tennis table was set up for public play, in areas of conflict, such as Kenya or Afghanistan, table tennis games were organised to promote peace, social barriers were broken down in countries like Argentina or Haiti, and children with no access to table tennis got in touch with the game for the first time in rural Tunisia. All in all, almost 100,000 people enjoyed playing table tennis on April 6 2018!

On World Table Tennis Day we share the love for our sport, but we are also sharing knowledge, healthy and peaceful behaviour, fun, materials, and many more. Throughout the 597 events in 97 countries, we also find a lot of events celebrated in public places such as shopping malls, pedestrian streets, beaches and parks. Surely, table tennis was in the public talk in many cities!

As in previous years and also thanks to the kind contribution of iPong and Butterfly, featured projects received iPong robots and equipment. All organisers sharing a video with us received 2 T-Shirts that were especially created for World Table Tennis Day 2018 and are not purchasable.

My personal thanks go to our sponsors Butterfly and iPong, to our partners from Peace & Sport and UNHCR for the joint celebration in Za’atari, Carolina Rosso for her patience and ideas with graphic design, to Etsuko Enami for her help with the statistics, to Romina Concha Sepúlveda for her Social Media Management and to Wiebke Scheffler for all those little and unseen steps. Further I’d like to thank the ITTF officials and staff for their continuous support.

My biggest congratulations are reserved for each single organiser and participant. It’s thanks to your love for our sport that we develop and make table tennis accessible to everyone everywhere!

And of course, thanks to you, reader of this report, for your interest in World Table Tennis Day and your help to spread the word and make it grow in 2019.

Looking forward to seeing you on April 6, 2019!

Leandro Olvech
ITTF Foundation Director
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2018 WTTD EVENTS MAP

579 EVENTS in 97 COUNTRIES

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
94851 approx.

AVERAGE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
164 approx.
The various types of organisations which organised events:

- Mix of Organisers: 401
- Non-Governmental Organization (NGO): 170
- Club: 72
- National Table Tennis Federation: 37
- Regional Table Tennis Federation: 20
- School - High School - University: 17
- Group of Friends: 10
- Private Company: 4
- Youth Center: 3
- Governmental body: 2

Targeted participants:

- Children: 447
- Public in General: 445
- Youth: 435
- Women and Girls: 372
- Elderly: 363
- People with a Disability: 339
- Members of Our Club / Association: 104
- Workers: 63
- Businessmen: 44
- Tourists: 39
- Immigrants: 27
- Refugees: 22
- Aboriginals: 6
- Other: 1

Activities included:

- Games: 477
- Short exhibitions: 237
- Tournaments mixing genders: 107
- Participants challenging elite players: 101
- Regular table tennis tournament: 93
- Live music: 78
- Generation games (grandparents, parents, children making teams): 59
- Dancing: 49
- Other: 44
- Lottery with table tennis equipment or others: 42
- Celebrities attending: 40
- Tournaments in wheelchairs: 31
- Professional TT matches on screens: 29

Will you establish a "Come 'n' Try prior to the WTTD?"

- Yes: 264
- No: 98

Are you producing banners or any other promotional material?

- Yes: 363
- No: 99

Are you producing t-shirts?

- Yes: 183
- No: 394

Do you have a photographer?

- Yes: 519
- No: 59

Do you have a cameraman?

- Yes: 359
- No: 212

Venues:

- Schools: 338
- Park: 297
- Clubs: 260
- Table Tennis Club - Venue: 197
- Shopping mall: 190
- Pedestrian street: 181
- Stadium: 186
- Universities: 104
- Non Governmental Organization venue: 50
- Non-tradition place for a sport event: 23
- Factories or working environment: 14
- Iconic place: 11
- Beach: 10
- Pubs or bars: 7
- Orphanage: 0
ITTF Main Celebrations

Za’atari is located in the desert. The 4th largest Jordan city is made up of shelters, administration buildings, some hospitals, schools and a market-like structure. For around 80,000 persons, more than the half under 18, their life at home is a past memory. The hopes of a fast return to their homes in Syria are undefined. They are safe from war now, but they can’t leave the camp without a permission. Their future is uncertain, not all children attend school, many parents don’t see the necessary believing in a soon return home, where the ongoing conflicts will have destroyed their economic and social life.

Camp life is tough, and many depends on the charity of others. The memories of traumatic experiences in the past, fear about an uncertain future and boredom are only some of the emotions that can be find among the inhabitants.

Sport is a powerful tool to help. Over 20 NGOs use sport within Za’atari, The ITTF Foundation developed together with UNHCR and Peace & Sport the 2 years project “Nittaku Dream Building with Refugees”, aiming to promote positive individual and social change inside the Syrian Refugee community in Za’atari and to increase cooperation and strengthen social cohesion between Syrian refugees and Jordan people.

In 2017 first trainers were trained, and 6 table tennis trainers are now giving weekly sessions to children in the camp.

Check out the video to learn more about this project:
* celebrate the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace and sign a Memorandum of Understanding about the partnership between Peace & Sport and the ITTF Foundation

* soft-launch the ITTF Foundation, ITTF’s new social responsibility arm to promote solidarity through table tennis

* launch Nittaku Dream Building with Refugees

* celebrate World Table Tennis Day

Peace & Sport International Relations and Field Programs Director Iris Vlachoutsicos and selected table tennis coaches ready to start the project.

ITTF Foundation Ambassador and ITTF expert and project coordinator Sarah Hanfou playing with children.

ITTF Foundation and ITTF President Thomas Weikert and Peace & Sport President and Founder Joël Bouzou after signing the Memorandum of Understanding about the partnership between both organisations.

ITTF & ITTF Foundation President Thomas Weikert and ITTF Foundation Director Leandro Olvech soft-launching the ITTF Foundation.

Project participants with coach Abdulrahman Jadoow.
World Table Tennis Day lives through the contribution of each single event, no matter of small or big, ordinary or extraordinary. Thanks to each participant, our sport reaches more and more people from year to year. Each event organiser deserves a special recognition. Thanks to so many impressive contributions, World Table Tennis Day is what it is - a wonderful and participative Sport for ALL event, including each year more people and more target groups.

The awards aim to feature special 2018 initiatives, our focus is to showcase exemplary and different initiatives each year. It is only a motivational incentive. World Table Tennis clearly shows that it is not about materials, but about the love for our sport and sharing it with others.

1 BUTTERFLY EQUIPMENT PACKAGE

WTTD 2018 showed again the commitment of volunteering. The selected initiative shows the virulent outcome of personal commitment.

Let’s play ping poooooong

141 events

11,776 players

Organiser and Ambassadors:
Alica Grofova - Chladekova, Slovak table tennis legend (2nd on the World Championships, owner of 20 other medals)
Marian Bystrican, international table tennis referee.
The iPong – Robots went to the most popular, most universal, most inclusive and most creative events. The selected initiatives have model character and show great ideas to be repeated on World Table Tennis Day. With 12 iPong – Robots and 3 iPong Kits awarded in 2016 and 2017 we have now a total of 25 different featured initiatives. Congratulations!

2 iPong Robots for the 2 most popular events

This category awards events with a high quantity of participants, both in terms of real numbers and potential.

One of the main indicators was “hard to reach people”, that is to say, how were people addressed that normally don’t play table tennis.

World Table Tennis Day
“Table Tennis for All”
in Bugesera / Rilima, Rwanda

Goal: To promote Table Tennis and attract people who usually don’t know play table tennis
Participants: 70 out of 300
Program: - Games
- Dance
- Testimonials of players about the game
- Speeches by local authorities and authorities of the National Association
Organiser: Rwanda Table Tennis Federation

World Table Tennis Day Celebrations
in Karachi, Pakistan

Goal: To Make Table Tennis More Popular
Participants: > 100
Program: - Invitation to children under 15
- Mixing students from different schools without bigger table tennis knowledge
- Basic lessons
- How to play
- Simple matches
Organiser: Islamia Club
2 iPong Robots for the 2 most universal events

The most universal event has been determined by the location where the event was organized, whether unusual, hard to reach or vast region covered.

**Table Tennis in my School in El Aroussa, Tunisia**

**Goal:**
To bring table tennis to rural schools with socially disadvantaged children and promote the inclusion of the game into daily school activities.

**Participants:** ~ 200

**Program:**
- Encourage poor girls and boys to play tennis table
- Tournaments with club members being umpires
- Music, dancing and prizes
- Shared lunch with traditional “Couscous”
- Create table tennis clubs in schools

**Organiser:** El Aroussa Sport Club

**Every time, Every where and for everyone Table Tennis in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina**

**Goal:**
To present table tennis as a sport with wonderful outcomes, such as health, friendship, peace, fun and many more good things. To create awareness and visibility.

**Participants:** ~ 200

**Program:**
- Set up normal and mini tables in a crowded shopping mall with advertisement about WTTD
- Hand out flyers about World Table Tennis Day to participants
- Give participants the possibility to play in a non-competitive but peaceful and fun way.

**Organiser:** Stk Stens Club
WTTD 2018 AWARDS - OVERVIEW

2 iPong Robots for the 2 most inclusive events
The most inclusive event has been determined by the activities offered to mix up different target groups, target a special target group that might not be reached by mass participation events and this way make everybody participate of World Table Tennis Day.

Bahía Blanca Live Table Tennis in Bahía Blanca, Argentina

**Goal:** To mix different age groups, gender, physical abilities and persons with different social conditions.

**Participants:** > 1000

**Program:**
- Delivery of rackets
- Free registrations to participate in the competence circuit
- Games
- Exhibitions with players recognized in Argentina and South America.

**Organiser:** Asociación Bahiense de Tenis de Mesa

PSF tournament and Solidarity in Gouvieux, France

**Goal:**
To organize a tournament with a focus on Para Table Tennis.
To collect rackets and send them to places where table tennis is not accessible.

**Participants:** ~ 200

**Program:**
- Tournament
- To sensitize the recovery of the material
- To involve the participants in our chain of solidarity

**Organiser:** Ping Sans Frontières
2 iPong Robots for the 2 most creative events

This category is for all those who show creative ideas to make Table Tennis popular, universal and inclusive. Indicators are unusual activities, places, promotional campaigns, etc. The selected events give example about “what else can be done”.

Paradise of Ping Pong in Tahiti, French Polynesia

Goal: To promote table tennis and the beauty of the lagoon.

Participants: ~ 40

Program:
- Great Knowledge Quiz about Table Tennis
- School TT Tournament
- Night Table Tennis Marathon

Organiser: Tahitian Table Tennis Federation

World Table Tennis for All Day 6 April in Kastamonu, Turkey

Goal: To play table tennis on the sea.

Participants: ~ 200

Program:
- To play on a fisher boat

Organiser: Bozkurt Bld. Spor Klubü
WTTD 2018 AWARDS - OVERVIEW

1 iPong Kit and 4 packs of balls for the 2 most popular, universal and inclusive events at once
The events combining the best the 3 pillars of World Table Tennis Day (popular, universal and inclusive, received an iPong – Kit.

1 iPong - Kit for Mpira Wa Meza Kwa Wote in Dar-Es-Salaam, Tanzania

Goal: To create awareness
Participants: ~ 550
Program: - Different sessions:
  - Para Table Tennis
  - Come and Try
  - Kids
  - Elderly
  - How to play
  - Exhibitions matches
  - Challenge the National Team
Organiser: Tanzania Table Tennis Association (TTTA)

4 packs of balls for World Table Tennis Day all over Ethiopia

Goal: To celebrate World Table Tennis Day in the city and the countryside.
Participants: ~ 10,000
Program: - Tournaments mixing genders
  - Games
  - Short exhibitions
  - Participants challenging elite players
  - Celebrities attending
  - Dancing
  - Live Music
  - Lottery
Organiser: Different organisers all over Ethiopia
The effort of every organiser having sent one or more videos was recognized through WTTD T-SHIRTS (limited edition, not purchasable).

A total of 120 T-Shirts went to the following countries:

- Argentina x7
- Azerbaijan
- Belgium
- Bhutan
- Brazil
- Chile
- Colombia
- Ethiopia
- Fiji
- Finland
- France x3
- French Polynesia
- Germany
- Guatemala
- India x8
- Italy x2
- Japan x2
- Lithuania
- Macedonia
- Morocco x2
- Nepal
- Peru x2

- Russia
- Sao Tomé and Principe
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Tanzania
- Tunisia x2
- Turkey x7
- Uganda
- USA
INDIA - Alappuza

INDIA - Pune

BHUTAN - Thimphu

TURKEY - Sivas

GUATEMALA - Guatemala

HAITI - Cayes

NEPAL - Lalitpur

SLOVAK REPUBLIC - 141 events all over the country

SPAIN - Badajoz
LITHUANIA - Akmene
PERU - Chosica
SOMALIA - Mogadishu
INDIA - Bangalore
MACEDONIA - Prilep
ARGENTINA - Bahía Blanca
TURKEY - Sivas
ARGENTINA - Balcarce
ETHIOPIA - Addis Ababa
THAILAND - Bangkok
LITHUANIA - Prienai
PAPUA NEW GUINEA - Port Moresby
ITALY - Ancona
SLOVAK REPUBLIC - Záhorská Bystrica
TANZANIA - Dar Es Salaam
BULGARIA - Sofia
ANGOLA - Luanda
ETHIOPIA - Addis Ababa
TURKEY - Kastamonu
PORTUGAL - Povoacao
INDIA - Palakkad
LITHUANIA - Zujunai
CROATIA - Bjelovar
ARGENTINA - Zarate
PERU - Lurigancho
NEPAL - Gokarneshwar
SWEDEN - Söderhamns