AFC GRASSROOTS

Review 2016



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Football
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AFC GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL DAY 2016

MAY 15

ONE ASIA ONE GOAL



MESSAGE *from the* AFC PRESIDENT

Grassroots football represents the foundation stone on which the future of our game is built.

Across the world, the greatest players, both past and present, began their journey at the grassroots level. Above all, the movement forms the basis to ignite a lifelong passion for football in our great the continent.

The investment in grassroots football will play a pivotal role in ensuring the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) achieves its aspiration, under the banner of One Asia, One Goal, to establish football as the most popular sport in the continent.

More importantly, it exemplifies how the joys of the beautiful game can create positive values in our children and young people and bring out the best in communities.

Anchored by the principles of equality and inclusion, it unites people regardless of race, culture, age, gender, social background and ability. For our young people, it instils teamwork, confidence and a winning spirit. It builds resilience, inspires hope and can help prepare communities for future challenges.

As part of the efforts to strengthen our grassroots strategy, the AFC introduced the Grassroots Charter to encourage our Member Associations (MA) to further develop their programmes. We have also formed the AFC Grassroots Panel to enhance the quality of the movement throughout the continent.

Grassroots football thrives on the commitment of dedicated volunteers. I would like to thank all our MAs, partners, coaches and volunteers who inspire change, create lifelong pathways, bring people together and inject joy, fun and passion for the game.

I am pleased to note the unity and solidarity of MAs who have been working tirelessly to implement progressive and inclusive grassroots activities. Last year, we witnessed a record 37 MAs celebrating the AFC Grassroots Football Day – with the number of participants increasing by more than 60% from 2015.

It is vital that we continue to build on this momentum. Our success relies significantly on the spirit of unity, under the banner of One Asia, One Goal, in forging a brighter future for tomorrow's generation of fans and players.

I hope you all benefit from engaging and vibrant grassroots programmes in the coming year.



Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa
President

WATERING the **GRASSROOTS**

From a grassroots perspective, 2016 was an important year for the AFC.

The first grassroots conference took place last March and during this inaugural event in Kuala Lumpur, the Member Associations heard about the latest developments in Asia and Europe. This was also the occasion when the AFC defined the meaning of grassroots football and the aims of football at the foundation level. 'All football which is non-professional, non- elite' was declared as part of the grassroots game while football for children, youths, amateurs, veterans, those with learning or physical disabilities, the socially disadvantaged, was considered part of the grassroots remit. Encouraging mass participation, stimulating greater interest in the game, providing more opportunities for social inclusion, supporting healthy lifestyles and the development of young people, both the sporting and educational aspects, were highlighted as the main objectives in grassroots football.

Also of great significance in 2016 was the establishment of the AFC Grassroots Panel. The members, representing a cross-section of Asia and specialists in grassroots development, concentrated on the creation and implementation of a Grassroots Charter, a grassroots endorsement programme to support the MAs. The key criteria for inclusion in the project were agreed and plans were drawn up to start the approval process in 2017.

Everyone in football has the responsibility to promote the game and encourage the next generation of players, referees, coaches and fans. We all have the responsibility of 'watering the grassroots'. And throughout last year, the AFC showed its commitment to grassroots football and its desire to work hand-in-hand with the MAs in building a grassroots environment which is safe, dynamic, sustainable and stimulating. A place where our slogan: 'Carry the ball close to your heart', is a rallying call for further investment and involvement in the heart and soul of football. Indeed, 2016 was good, and 2017 will be even better.

Editorial by Andy Roxburgh
AFC Technical Director



AFC **GRASSROOTS** *CHARTER*

An AFC Grassroots Charter is a development tool which aims to stimulate and encourage further development in grassroots football throughout Asia.

The charter, which recognises grassroots as non-professional and non-elite football, represents the benchmark for MAs to aspire towards and will play an invaluable role to raise the quality of grassroots programmes throughout the continent.

Anchored on the principles of continuity and excellence, 20 performance categories such as leadership, competitions, education and participation have been structured progressively in three grading levels to facilitate the evolution of the AFC's grassroots endorsement programme.

At the entry level (bronze), the emphasis has been placed on building the foundations for participation, before being elevated to focus on development (silver). Moving on to the highest echelon (gold), MAs will need to satisfy more robust set of criteria and show commitment towards developing a vibrant ecosystem through wideranging programmes, lifelong pathways and retention of players.

AFC **GRASSROOTS** *PANEL*



The AFC Grassroots Panel, which comprises grassroots specialists from across the continent, convened for the first time in February 2016 after the AFC Executive and Technical Committees approved its formation in 2015.

The main responsibilities of the panel include examining the current state and challenges facing grassroots football in Asia and charting the strategic direction to further develop and strengthen grassroots throughout the continent.

Since its formation, the panel has been working on the finer details of the AFC Grassroots Charter, which was introduced to MAs at the inaugural AFC Grassroots Conference in March 2016.

When fully implemented, the new Charter will enhance the landscape of the grassroots game in Asia by establishing a grading system to ensure MAs develop their programmes and activities both systematically and progressively.

AFC **GRASSROOTS** *CONFERENCE 2016*



The AFC's commitment to develop grassroots football in Asia was underlined as more than 100 Grassroots Development Officers gathered for the first-ever AFC Grassroots Conference in Kuala Lumpur on March 1-3 2016.

The theme of the conference – Grassroots Football in Asia: The Way Forward – was designed to equip Asia's grassroots managers with the industry's best practices and widen their capabilities to implement robust grassroots systems in their respective countries.

Participants were also provided case studies, highlighting the benefits of the grassroots game as a powerful platform to promote positive values, education, health, community and social development through football.





AFC **GRASSROOTS** *FOOTBALL DAY 2016*

In 2016, a record-breaking 37 MAs celebrated the AFC Grassroots Football Day on May 15, setting a new benchmark from the 31 MAs who participated the previous year.

In total, more than 60,000 football enthusiasts of all ages and abilities from across the continent participated in grassroots activities organised by MAs, an increase of more than 60% from 2015.

The new record indicates the significant strides and growth of grassroots football in recent years: the inaugural AFC Grassroots Football Day in 2013 was celebrated in 13 MAs.

AFC President Recognition Award for **Grassroots Football 2016**

The Football Federation Australia (FFA, Inspiring), Philippine Football Federation (PFF, Developing) and National Football Association of Brunei Darussalam (NFABD, Aspiring) won the AFC President Recognition Award for Grassroots Football in 2016.

Throughout the year, the FFA organised a variety of programmes under its comprehensive strategic development plan, while the PFF's activities involved participants from all over the country, attributed to the close partnerships forged with the regional football associations as well as government agencies and ministries.

The NFABD, meanwhile, ran regular technical and promotional activities while maintaining several areas of cooperation with both governmental and non-governmental partners.

The nominations for the award are based on a points system which takes into account several criteria such as the structure and management of grassroots football as well as the philosophy and policy of Member Associations.

In addition, MAs' grassroots partnerships with various external organisations are also assessed, as are technical programmes such as courses, workshops and talent identification.

Other criteria include exchange programmes such as those with schools, administrative sub-regional football associations, communities and clubs as well as grassroots activities, for example promotional, educational and social responsibility events.



GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL ACTIVITIES

by the Member Associations in 2016

AFGHANISTAN

More than 200 girls and boys participated in the grassroots festival organised by the Afghanistan Football Federation (AFF) in Kabul to celebrate the AFC Grassroots Football Day on May 15.

The festival was conducted by 30 young and aspiring coaches who were also benefactors of the AFF's development efforts, having completed a training course specifically for grassroots and youth football coaching in the lead up to the festival.

The AFF Grassroots Committee also marked the International Women's Day by organising a festival for more than 150 U-12 girls led by 32 male and female coaches on March 8, 2016.

The overall organisation of the festival, including the training sessions, was delivered by the Head of the AFF Grassroots Committee.





AUSTRALIA

The Football Federation of Australia (FFA) initiated the MiniRoos Half-Time experience where more than 6,000 boys and girls enjoyed the thrill of playing in front of sell-out crowds during Hyundai A-League and Westfield W-League games in 2016.

The FFA also conducted the Female Football Week in March to celebrate the immense growth of women's football at all levels of the game, as well as to acknowledge and promote the important role women play in developing football.

Furthermore, the FFA also implemented a corporate social responsibility programme in partnership with the Mondelez International Foundation, called the Play Project. It is a free primary school programme designed to increase knowledge of the benefits of regular participation in physical activity and to affect positive change in physical activity adoption behaviours. The programme has completed 250 workshops engaging 65,000 students in 2016.

BHUTAN

The Bhutan Football Federation (BFF) organised several technical programmes and activities in 2016, including 21 grassroots courses and festivals in various districts nationwide. A total of 423 school sport instructors and teachers were involved in the courses and will continue to implement football activities in their respective schools and districts.

Under the BFF's initiative, 20 districts also celebrated the Women's Football Day and AFC Grassroots Football Day by organising a football festival.

Furthermore, 97 women coaches and teachers were trained and 1,360 girls participated in football festivals in 2016.





CAMBODIA

More than 125 children from ten to 16 years of age participated in the Football Federation of Cambodia's (FFC) grassroots day celebrations at the National Olympic Stadium.

Under the guidance of five FFC youth coaches, players were divided between four small-sided pitches, participating in seven-a-side and eight-a-side matches. Players were also given the opportunity to hone their technical skills in the later stages before concluding the eventful festival with a prize-giving ceremony.

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM



The National Football Association of Brunei Darussalam (NFABD) organised a nationwide grassroots festival in partnership with DST, the country's leading telecommunications provider.

Following the success of the festival, the campaign continued at the Arena Sports Complex, Seria in the Belait district. The festival was open to children between the ages of six and 12 and provided all participants with a free jersey as part of efforts to ignite their passion for the beautiful game.

The NFABD also partnered with the Ministry of Education to engage with school students to participate in the festival, which concluded at the Batu Apoi Sports Complex in Temburong on May 29.

The first-ever grassroots football festival for girls was also successfully conducted at the International School Brunei in June 2016 and more than 180 girls participated in the event.

CHINA PR

More than 22,000 players of all ages and playing levels in China PR took part in the 'Enjoy the Game' National Amateur Championship and grassroots training camps for children and veterans to celebrate the AFC Grassroots Football Day.

The new "Long March of Campus Football" programme, which encompassed the use of video technology and a football skills demonstration class, involved participants from selected special education schools and four Red Army schools.

The programme also included organising forums in the selected city, where parents, principals, students and experts shared their knowledge on football coaching, training and match preparation.



DPR KOREA



DPR Korea Football Association (DPR Korea FA) conducted three courses to educate grassroots instructors and coaches at P'yŏngsŏng City Stadium and P'yŏngsŏng International Football School in May and August. More than 80 coaches were equipped with the tools to organise basic technical and physical development courses.

DPR Korea FA organised the AFC Grassroots Football Day Festival on 30 May which included the participation of more than 750 youth, retired players, coaches and parents. The FA also organised the Korean Children's Union Day Football Festival on June 6 for 370 participants, including 160 (U-9-U-15) players as well as football fans, retired players, coaches and parents.

GUAM

Spider-Man made an appearance at the Guam Football Association (GFA) Grassroots Jamboree ceremony at the GFA National Training Centre in Harman in May. Leveraging on the powerful platform of the beautiful game, GFA took the opportunity to spread the message of anti-bullying to schools, teachers and parents.

The GFA also organised the highly-anticipated annual 3v3 Grassroots Tournament on May 28 for all youth players between the ages of eight and 12 years old.





INDIA

Grassroots football festivals in more than 100 districts in India were organised by the All India Football Federation (AIFF), reaching out to more than 10,000 participants nationwide. From Manipur to Punjab, New Delhi to Anantapur, the joys of grassroots football were reverberated in all corners of the world's second most populous nation.

Clubs from the I-League and the Indian Super League, State Associations, Grassroots Centres as well as over 70 private academies held several exciting activities, ranging from festivals, camps, clinics to grassroots courses, with a specific focus on creating more opportunities for children.

The advanced Grassroots Leaders Course was also organised at the AIFF Headquarters from June 29 to July 1. Some 27 members including the Technical Officers from six states and coaches were involved in the FIFA/AIFF State Development Programme. Also Grassroots Development Officers from each of the AIFF grassroots states attended the course, which aimed to align tutor and grassroots leaders with the AFC and AIFF's grassroots philosophy.

HONG KONG

In partnership with the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, the Hong Kong Football Association (HKFA) organised the Nike Cup Hong Kong Five 2016 futsal tournament. The highly-successful futsal and grassroots tournament is part of the city's strategy to cultivate a football culture.

A total of 476 matches took place in this territory-wide competition held in nine age groups, from the U-8s to the Men's and Women's Open, with some 3,480 amateur players and youngsters participating.

The HKFA also held several activities to promote grassroots football including the 2015-2016 Jockey Club Futsal Cup (School Division), where 203 teams, representing 135 schools from all over Hong Kong competed in a total of 484 matches.

The Jockey Club Youth Football Development Programme – Summer Scheme 2016 School Visit was also held, an annual programme that provides a platform and opportunities for nearly 11,000 local young football lovers – boys and girls aged from four to 17.



ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

The Football Federation Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI) held its first-ever National Grassroots Conference, which drew over 800 coaches, on May 12.

The inaugural National Grassroots Conference was also boosted by an expansive nine festivals held in all corners of the country, bringing together close to 2,000 participants. Additionally, some 400 coaches also participated in a grassroots course, aimed at widening their application of the philosophies, principles and technical functions of the game.



At one of the festivals, the FFIRI organised a first-of-its-kind bilateral football festival for Afghan girls from the ages of nine to 12 in the southern Khorasan region, which shares a 465 km border with neighbouring Afghanistan.

Anchored on the principles of friendship, social development and the joys of the beautiful game, close to 50 girls participated in eight-a-side matches and workshops conducted by female coaches from the province.

The festival was also aimed at strengthening the ties between the two countries, with plans to expand the programme to include more Afghan participants in the future.

IRAQ



The Iraqi Football Association (IFA) organised various activities for grassroots coaches and children in 2016 including eight workshops, an annual grassroots festival, a women's football festival, six friendly group matches and two annual Sport Day events.

Some 150 players from 46 football schools and academies in 18 provinces in the country also celebrated the momentous occasion with fun-filled and engaging activities.

JAPAN

The AFC Grassroots Football Day was especially significant for Japan this year as it coincided with the 23rd anniversary of the J.League.

Incidentally, the introduction of the J.League in 1993 served as the impetus for the establishment of the Japan Football Association's (JFA) Declaration on Grassroots football.

In Tokachi, Hokkaido, some 115 passionate women and girls of all ages - the oldest aged 64 - participated in the JFA Women's Football Festival. A referee's introductory course was also conducted by one of the continent's most respected officials, Teshirogi Naomi. The Hokkaido native, who officiated at last year's Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, stressed on the importance for all players to understand the laws of the game.



Importantly, the JFA started a 'JFA Grassroots Promotion Partner System' to ensure local teams and clubs share the same vision of the JFA's grassroots concept, aiming to forge 1,000 partnerships all over Japan.

JORDAN

The Jordan Football Association (JFA) regularly held workshops for the Prince Ali Grassroots Centre (PAGC) male and female coaches as part of efforts to and demonstrate the JFA's grassroots vision, strategy and training methods. In the workshops, the technical director of the grassroots centres provided coaches with the training manual for the season and engaged with them through practical and theoretical sessions.

The JFA celebrated the AFC Grassroots Football Day together with 400 boys aged from 10 to 12, who were invited to the festival to raise their interest in football through fun-filled activities on May 14, 2016.

Furthermore, the JFA also held the first-ever girls school tournament across Jordan in May. Some participating schools came from remote areas



with little access to women's football. The tournament made progressive strides in spreading the joys of football across Jordan, with many players experiencing the game for the first time. Some 44 schools, 480 female players and 44 female teachers were involved in the process.

KYRGYZSTAN

Close to 500 children gathered at the Football Federation of Kyrgyz Republic (FFKR) Technical Centre and the Dordoi Sports Centre in the capital Bishkek as the FFKR organised two grassroots festivals this year.

The festivals were conducted under the supervision of FFKR instructors for players from the U-16 football academy. The success of this year's grassroots events has been built on the progressive partnerships between the FFKR and school teachers, paving the way for two additional grassroots festivals, which were held in April 2016.

FFKR also partnered with the Korean Football Association under the banner of The Korean Football Love Sharing Foundation to conduct a Youth Football Festival, which included the participation of 18 teams and more than 300 children (both boys and girls) from all the regions of the country.



LAOS



The northern province of Xayaboury was the main stage of the Laos Football Federation's (LFF) AFC Grassroots Football Day celebrations. A total of 200 boys and girls from various primary schools gathered to hone their skills and cultivate good sporting habits.

As part of this year's celebrations, the LFF also partnered with schools to highlight the harmful effects of substance abuse and to stress the importance of health and fitness.

The LFF partnered with sponsors RHB bank to organise the RHB Lao Junior Football Cup 2016 in Vientiane on August 20 reaching a total of 256 children from the age of eight to 12 years old.

LEBANON



Small-sided games and technical drills were the key features of the AFC Grassroots Football Day organised by the Lebanese Football Association (LFA). In total, 220 players, ages 10 to 12 from different regions of the country gathered to participate in four small-sided matches and technical exercises.

The Lebanon FA also worked with the Ministry of Education to enhance the development of the grassroots game in the country by leveraging on the support of sports teachers in public schools and arranging festivals in the various cities of Lebanon, culminating with the fun-filled festival in capital city, Beirut.

In 2016, the LFA conducted a total of nine grassroots coaching courses to educate 225 local grassroots coaches.



MACAU

The Macau Football Association (MFA) created history as they joined fellow Member Associations in commemorating the momentous AFC Grassroots Football Day for the first time.

A youth tournament, bringing together 60 young players from ages 12 to 18 was successfully concluded, seeding opportunities for growth of the grassroots movement in the country. In the following months, the MFA also organised a fun-filled celebration for children and a festival for women's football as part of efforts to further develop one of the most popular sports in the country.

More than 400 boys and girls also participated in the grassroots festival held by the MFA in August.

Boys and girls aged 12 to 18, as well as women, football veterans and football lovers attended the Macau Football Fun Day which included organised friendly games, drills and, mini-games to name but a few.

MALAYSIA



The Football Association of Malaysia (FAM) organised a grassroots festival which attracted 100 boys and girls in the capital of Kuala Lumpur.

Participants were given the opportunity to embark on a lifelong appreciation for the beautiful game at the FAM headquarters in Kelana Jaya.

The festival was designed for children from ages four to 12, including those with special needs.

MALDIVES

The Football Association of Maldives (FAM) organised a grassroots festival for 432 boys and girls, which was well-received by participants, parents and teachers alike.

As part of the celebrations, the FAM also conducted a two-day seminar for 37 volunteer coaches, who were put through their paces in both theory and practical sessions to enhance their capabilities and aptitude for grassroots and youth football coaching.

Much to the delight of aspiring footballers, the mega grassroots festival saw also a special appearance by national team midfielder Ahmed Nashid, who was pleased to lend his support to inspire and share his experience with budding talents and the future generations of Maldives footballers.



MONGOLIA



A grassroots and International Children's Day festival was organised in line with the AFC Grassroots Football Day 2016. During the festival, Mongolian Football Federation (MFF) member clubs and more than 500 children enjoyed the joys of the beautiful game.

MFF applied the official rules adopted by the FIFA Grassroots guidelines, engaging children between six to 12 years of age in 2011. In 2016, the programme was expanded to include five provinces.

MYANMAR

The Thuwunna YTC Stadium in Yangon hosted 250 schoolchildren and teachers as part of Myanmar Football Federation's (MFF) celebrations on the AFC's Grassroots Football Day.

The MFF has been working with the Ministry of Education to identify and train selected school teachers to expand the pool of the country's football coaches. In the longer term, the MFF plans to step up the development of grassroots football through the establishment of township associations by the end of 2016.

The MFF also organised a grassroots football festival at the Padaythar Stadium in Yangon on September 9, 2016, where a total of 520 boys and girls participated under the supervision of 40 school PE teachers.



NEPAL



Some 160 children from 16 different schools participated in the grassroots programme organised by the All Nepal Football Association (ANFA) at the Sano Timi ground in Bhaktapur.

The ANFA has been conducting grassroots football training every Saturday. More than 900 children have been attending the programme, with plans in the pipeline to include more school children and districts.

OMAN

Oman marked their first-ever AFC Grassroots Football Day celebration at the Seeb Stadium with close to 100 children from the nine to 13 age groups. The young participants were put through various exercises under the supervision of the Oman Football Association (OFA) grassroots staff and coaches.

Grassroots football represents one of the key areas as the OFA seeks to achieve its strategic development goals for 2018 and Vision 2022.



NORTHERN MARIANA ISLAND

Small-sided matches were the key theme of the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's (NMIFA) celebration of this year's AFC Grassroots Football Day. Held once a year at the Oleai Sports Complex Field, the highly anticipated NMIFA 3 versus 3 (3V3) Grassroots Football Day tournament attracted 200 players from across the Pacific Island nation, which has a population of just below 55,000.

Comprising three age group categories, the tournament was dominated by Tan Holdings Football Club, who captured both the U-8 and U-10 division crowns. Meanwhile, Matansa Football Club and surprise package, Kanoa Football Club, emerged as joint champions of the U-12 division.





PAKISTAN

The Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) celebrated the AFC Grassroots Football Day 2016 by organising football activities throughout Pakistan on May 15. Non-professional and non-elite football players, male and female, from different age groups took part in the events reflecting the grassroots football philosophy of the AFC. The grassroots day was celebrated in all four provinces and 31 cities. Football lovers and more than 1,000 enthusiasts participated in short-duration matches.

PALESTINE

Some 150 players from the six to 12 age groups, representing a myriad of local clubs across the country participated in the AFC Grassroots Football Day organised by the Palestine Football Association (PFA) at the Majed Asa'ad Stadium in Al-Bireh.

Each player was given the opportunity to enhance various aspects of their technical abilities, during a football skills clinic on dribbling, passing, ball-control, shooting, coordination and small-sided matches. The PFA also organised a Women's day festival with the cooperation of the AFC in Majed Asaad Stadium in Albireh on March 6, 2016,





QATAR

The Qatar Football Association (QFA) celebrated the AFC Grassroots Day on May 14, 2016. More than 650 boys aged between six and 11 as well as veterans participated in the event. The boys and veterans enjoyed the programme which included football matches, fun games and small-sided games.

The QFA also organised a tournament for the Palestinian community within Qatar, known as the "Palestine Community Tournament." The tournament comprised 16 teams and has been running successfully for several years with the support of the QFA. The QFA facilitates the tournament by providing the venue, referees, and managing the competition database.

PHILIPPINES



Some 250 children participated in the AFC Grassroots Day in three venues in the Davao Region. All 33 members of the Philippine Football Federation (PFF) including 11 in Mindanao conducted separate football clinics simultaneously.

The PFF conducted about 20 Grassroots Course and Festivals (GCF's) involving more than 6,000 children under the age of 12 and 1,000 school teachers.

Organised in partnership with the Department of Education and local government agencies, the GCF is a three-day festival where public schools students, teachers, coaches and community volunteers train together.

SAUDI ARABIA



The Saudi Arabian Football Federation (SAFF) organised three football Festivals in August in the Al Ahsa district as part of efforts to bring joy to young footballers and provide opportunities to young players to develop their game.

True to the spirit of the grassroots game, the event was organised to focus on the fun elements of football development, with little emphasis on competitions and rankings.

SINGAPORE



Grassroots football development continued to take centre stage in Singapore as more than 350 school children from various primary schools in the city-state gathered for the Singapore Primary Schools Sports Council (SPSSC)/Football Association of Singapore (FAS) U-10 Football Fiesta in March.

Later in the day, young aspirants from the FAS Cubs Centres were accompanied by parents as they participated in the Inter-Cubs Centres Games. Going beyond learning to play the beautiful game, the mini tournament also provided the children with the opportunity to learn life skills, the importance of a healthy lifestyle and positive character building values while promoting family and community bonding.

The FAS celebrated the AFC Grassroots Football Day with an activity-filled weekend at the Serangoon Stadium, with the highlight being the minigames involving children from the FAS Cubs Centres.

The Singapore Cerebral Palsy (CP) National Team then played an exhibition match against the Cubs' coaches and parents at the fun-filled event, which underlined the FAS's commitment towards developing football in Singapore at all levels. The festivities continued, with more children from the FAS Cubs programme taking part in mini-games at the Cubs Centre at Sembawang Primary School.

SRI LANKA



The Football Federation of Sri Lanka (FFSL) organised a football festival for a total of 200 players in the Dunbar Ground in the Hatton area on May 15 in line with the AFC Grassroots Football Day. The FFSL also organised two more football festivals in Ambalangoda and Biyagama in June and July, engaging more than 600 children in both events.

TAJIKISTAN



More than 100 children gathered at the Central Republican Stadium in Dushanbe to celebrate the AFC Grassroots Football Day. Organised by the Tajikistan Football Federation (TFF), children from the ages of six to 12 participated in a series of relays and games to promote the importance of leading a healthy lifestyle through sport.

In a fun-filled affair, the Tajikistan Football Federation (TFF) also presented footballs and prizes to the participating children who left the event with a positive experience of the beautiful game.

TURKMENISTAN



Turkmenistan Football Federation (TFF) partnered with the State Sport Committee as well as volunteers from the World Health Organisation (WHO), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to promote the importance of cultivating a healthy lifestyle and fitness through football.

The grassroots festival presented participants with an opportunity to undertake health and fitness tests. Football-themed temporary tattoos were a huge hit amongst children who were also educated on the harmful effects of smoking.

The National Football Championship for disabled sportsmen was also organised in August 23-28, 2016. Five teams took part in the tournament. Within the framework of the event, a football festival for disabled people was jointly organised with National Sport Club of Disabled people (a local NGO).

UAE



In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, the United Arab Emirates Football Association's (UAEFA) outreach efforts amassed an impressive 7,000 children, with the aim of registering all participants to the amateur clubs in their respective regions. The UAEFA's strategy is anchored on strengthening the connections between schools and amateur clubs, which are also supported by seven grassroots academies across the country.

As part of their advanced grassroots programme, the UAEFA also organised festivals for U-11 and U-12 children, with the best players eventually progressing to the five technical centres that serve as development platforms for the country's most promising talents.

Building on the grassroots' principles of inclusivity, the UAEFA also introduced its first-ever grassroots football programme for people with disabilities.



VIETNAM

The Vietnam Football Federation (VFF) and Football for All Vietnam (FFAV) celebrated the AFC Grassroots Football Day by organising enriching activities for children in two cities – Hanoi and Hue.

In the capital Hanoi, the VFF collaborated with the Societas Socialis (SOS) Children's Village to organise a football friendly match for orphanage children as part of the VFF's efforts to provide more inspiring opportunities for underprivileged children.

Simultaneously in Hue, the capital of Thua Thien Hue province, the VFF and FFAV organised a fun-filled grassroots festival, which included also a session to promote the development of life skills and character development.

In addition, the fourth edition of the FFAV (Football for All in Vietnam) Cup 2016, a grassroots festival, was held in Hue City.



A total of 3,490 children took the opportunity to play football as well as to get exposed to life and football skills at the two-day event held in eight venues. Some 1,140 matches were organised on the pitches, as well as activities with messages about protecting the environment and traffic safety.

UZBEKISTAN

The Uzbekistan Football Federation (UFF) partnered with the Ministry of Education and Children's Sports Development Foundation to organise a grassroots festival for 220 boys and girls from various schools in Tashkent, capital of the central Asian nation.

Unfazed by inclement weather, participants were provided the opportunity to hone their skills through the various technical stations, under the expert guidance of the UFF grassroots coaches. The festival concluded with a prize giving ceremony, with awards given to every participant as part of efforts to embody the essence of grassroots football.



“Carry the ball close to your heart!”

Andy Roxburgh
AFC Technical Director

Acknowledgement

The AFC would like to thank all Member Associations for organising activities that have provided everyone an opportunity to play football, and offering an opportuinity to develop a life-long passion for the beautiful game.

The AFC would also like to acknowledge the contribution of photographs to the following Member Associations:

Afghanistan Football Federation, Football Federation Australia, Bhutan Football Federation, National Football Association of Brunei Darussalam, Football Federation of Cambodia, Chinese Football Association, DPR Korea Football Association, Guam Football Association, The Hong Kong Football Association, All India Football Federation, Islamic Republic ofIran Football Federation, Iraqi Football Association, Japan Football Association, Jordan Football Association, Football Federation of Kyrgyz Republic, Lao Football Federation, Lebanese Football Association, Macau Football Association, Football Association of Malaysia, Football Association of Maldives, Mongolian Football Federation, Myanmar Football Federation, All Nepal Football Association, Northern Mariana Island Football Association, Oman Football Association, Pakistan Football Federation, Palestine Football Association, Philippine Football Federation, Qatar Football Association, Saudi Arabian Football Federation, Football Association of Singapore, Football Federation of Sri Lanka, Tajikistan Football Federation, Football Federation of Turkmenistan, UAE Football Association, Uzbekistan Football Federation and Vietnam Football Federation.

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