



AFC
GRASSROOTS
Football
Let's Play!

GRASSROOTS
REVIEW 2019



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MESSAGE FROM THE **AFC PRESIDENT**

It is again my privilege to present the AFC Grassroots Football Review Book for 2019, as grassroots football is the start of a wonderful journey for children to play and be part of a football community.

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) is a strong advocate of the grassroots movement and it is gratifying to watch our Member Associations (MAs) promote the sport to everyone in their country regardless of gender and ability.

The AFC's Vision and Mission is clear – we want to ensure that football is the number one sport on the Continent – and grassroots football is important to help us achieve our goal.

We have put in place many initiatives to reach out to more people, and, every year on May 15, we have seen a rise in participation in our AFC Grassroots Football Day since its launch in 2013.

Last year, we continued to break participation records with 43 MAs joining in the celebrations by organising football activities in their own unique and fun way.

But grassroots football is always evolving, and the AFC's Grassroots Charter ensures that our MAs will continue to look for new ways to raise and deliver the grassroots movement to the best of their abilities.

Since the Charter was approved in 2017, we have endorsed 24 Member Associations, and more are expected to follow

in 2020. This is a clear indication of the AFC's efforts and determination to grow the sport.

I must also congratulate the recipients of the AFC President's Recognition Awards for Grassroots Football 2019 – The Chinese Football Association, Football Association of Singapore and National Football Association of Brunei Darussalam – in the Inspiring, Developing and Aspiring categories respectively.

Your contribution to grassroots football has been recognised and we look forward to seeing more Member Associations following in your footsteps in 2020.

I hope all of you enjoy reading the Grassroots Review Book, which beautifully captures the creative grassroots activities by our Member Associations in 2019.

This book is evidence of all your hard work, and I hope it continues to inspire you and the larger Asian football family for many more years to come.

Thank you.



Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa
AFC President

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A GRASSROOTS MILESTONE

In 2019, the AFC Grassroots Charter reached a significant milestone when 24 Member Associations (MAs) were endorsed as members. That represented more than 50% of the MAs in Asia and was the initial target of the AFC Grassroots Panel.

Japan, Australia and Korea Republic were the first to achieve the benchmark level of Gold, while China PR, Jordan, Philippines and Singapore had their sterling efforts recognised in the Silver category (intermediate level). With 17 other associations already accepted for Bronze (the first grade) and another seven part of the evaluation process, the project has gained momentum and has confirmed Asian football's commitment to the base of the game.

Mass participation is the aim and the AFC Grassroots Charter, an endorsement tool, is helping to stimulate interest in football that is non-professional, non-elite - a game available to all, regardless of personal background or ability.

Children know why they play football. But, do adults, those responsible for development, know why the game attracts so many or why it is of value to society? Some say that football

is the cheapest, simplest, most spontaneous sport in the world. It is also, without question, a valuable vehicle for social interaction, health improvement, education and other life lessons and benefits. It is, above all, fun. The game creates an environment where everyone can flourish and the young can dream of emulating their football heroes. Few will reach the top, but many will become the next generation of fans, referees, coaches, administrators and grassroots leaders.

Last year, AFC reached a milestone - it was not a stop sign! Grassroots work will continue unabated because people love to play; to experience through football, co-operation, competition, challenge, commitment, celebrations, commiserations, enjoyment, energy and a certain way of life. Globally, participation numbers in football are unmatched by any other sporting activity, and we have a duty to keep it that way and to protect the game's popularity. AFC and its Member Associations, Asia's governing bodies, are on the frontline of that mission. Together, we will enthusiastically face the grassroots challenge as we aim for the next milestone.

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THE GAME CREATES AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE EVERYONE CAN FLOURISH AND THE YOUNG CAN DREAM OF EMULATING THEIR FOOTBALL HEROES.

Andy Roxburgh
AFC Technical Director

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AFC GRASSROOTS CHARTER

The AFC Grassroots Charter was launched in 2017 and it has been a gamechanger in the landscape of grassroots football on the Continent.

What is the AFC Grassroots Charter?

The AFC Grassroots Charter is an endorsement tool to support MAs in their roles of implementing grassroots programmes and activities.

The Charter outlines 20 performance categories:

Leadership	Planning	Structure
Staffing	Player programmes	Grassroots competitions
Fair play	Finance	Partnerships
Personal development	Results	Women's projects
Social schemes	Specific areas	Promotional activities
MA events	Adult education	Ambassadors
Communications	Facilities	

MAs can apply for membership at the level of Bronze, Silver or Gold and will be approved based on their competencies in each criterion as outlined in the Charter.

What are the benefits of the AFC Grassroots Charter?

The AFC, in its Vision and Mission, recognises the value of grassroots football, and the Charter is a tool for stimulating greater involvement while increasing investment for MAs and their stakeholders.

It also allows MAs to use the AFC Grassroots Charter branding for promotional purposes, and, with the AFC's recognition, it encourages local businesses and political bodies to support the grassroots movement.

Which MAs have been endorsed by the AFC Grassroots Charter?

Since 2017, a total of 24 MAs have been endorsed by the AFC Grassroots Charter, with the number expected to increase in 2020.

The gold standard is the highest level in the Charter, and has been awarded to Football Federation Australia Limited (FFA), Japan Football Association (JFA) and Korea Football Association (KFA), who have set a benchmark for grassroots development.

The Chinese Football Association (CFA) was awarded Silver membership, the second highest level, which focuses on increased level of quality, alongside three other MAs – Jordan Football Association (JFA), Philippine Football Federation (PFF) and Football Association of Singapore (FAS).

Meanwhile, the Afghanistan Football Federation (AFF), Bhutan Football Federation (BFF), Chinese Taipei Football Association (CTFA), Guam Football Association (GFA), The Hong Kong Football Association Ltd. (HKFA), Kuwait Football Association (KFA), Lao Football Federation (LFF), Lebanese Football Association (FLFA), Macau Football Association (AFM), Football Association of Malaysia (FAM), Football Association of Maldives (FAM), Myanmar Football Federation (MFF), Northern Mariana Islands Football Association (NMIFA), Palestine Football Association (PFA), The Football Association of Thailand (FAT), Federacao Futebol Timor-Leste (FFTL) and Vietnam Football Federation (VFF) earned Bronze membership, which emphasises mass participation.

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EXISTING CHARTER MEMBERS

GOLD			SILVER			
 FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA Football Federation Australia Limited	 JFA Japan Football Association	 KFA Korea Football Association	 CFA Chinese Football Association	 JFA Jordan Football Association	 PHILIPPINE FOOTBALL FEDERATION PFF Philippine Football Federation	 FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION SINGAPORE Founded 1892 Football Association of Singapore

BRONZE

 AFGHANISTAN FOOTBALL FEDERATION Afghanistan Football Federation	 BHUTAN FOOTBALL FEDERATION Bhutan Football Federation	 CTFA Chinese Taipei Football Association	 GUAM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION FOUNDED 1975 Guam Football Association	 THE HONG KONG FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION LTD. The Hong Kong Football Association Ltd.	 KUWAIT F.A. Kuwait Football Association	 LAO FOOTBALL FEDERATION Lao Football Federation	 LEBANON F.A. Lebanese Football Association	 ASSOCIAÇÃO DE FUTEBOL DE MACAU 澳門足球總會 Macau Football Association
 PERSATUAN BOLA SEPAK MALAYSIA Football Association of Malaysia	 MALDIVES F.A.M. Football Association of Maldives	 MYANMAR FOOTBALL FEDERATION ESTABLISHED 1947 Myanmar Football Federation	 Northern Mariana Islands Football Association Northern Mariana Islands Football Association	 Palestine Football Association Palestine Football Association	 FA THAILAND The Football Association of Thailand	 FEDERAÇÃO FUTEBOL TIMOR-LESTE Federacao Futebol Timor-Leste	 VFF Vietnam Football Federation	

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AFC GRASSROOTS PANEL

AFC GRASSROOTS PANEL OVERSEES NEW BENCHMARKS IN 2019

The AFC Grassroots Panel continued to contribute significantly to the grassroots game, with its seventh and eighth meetings at the AFC House in Kuala Lumpur in 2019 strengthening the foundations for the progress of the AFC Grassroots Charter across the Continent.

The discussions from the seventh meeting set the stage for a new milestone announced at the next meeting in November 2019 after 51% of the AFC's Member Associations were endorsed by the AFC Grassroots Charter, with the Afghanistan Football Federation's Bronze category approval bringing the total of endorsed MAs to 24.

The members also deliberated on various core issues and obstacles in implementing the Charter, as well as the importance of data collection to facilitate better decision-making and in understanding attrition and success rates of grassroots' programmes.

Several new projects were also discussed, including an online application platform to assist in streamlining the Charter's application process.

Additionally, the panel also highlighted its intentions to release more information on best practices, taking reference from the impressive applicants during the evaluation process, which it hoped will inspire and guide other Member Associations.

All India Football Federation (AIFF) Head of Grassroots Anju Turambekar, who is also a panel member, summarised the remarkable year for grassroots football in Asia, noting: "It has been a beautiful and challenging journey. The panel members have some unbelievable experiences in developing football. I am a keen student of the game and I am learning so much from everyone."



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AFC GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL DAY

MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS SET NEW PARTICIPATION RECORD ON AFC GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL DAY

The AFC Grassroots Football Day reached a new participation record on May 15 2019, when 43 Member Associations celebrated the landmark occasion across the Continent.



While more than 180,000 football enthusiasts had pledged to participate in grassroots activities, the number eventually rose to 374,777 people of all ages and abilities, an increase of 514% from the year before, signalling another record-breaking year for the grassroots movement in Asia.

The 2019 milestone also continued the trend of a new participation record set every year since the inauguration of the AFC Grassroots Day in 2013, and further underlined the AFC's ambitions to confirm football as the most popular sport in the Continent.

In his message to participants, AFC President Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa said: "Developing the grassroots game forms the building blocks to bring the AFC's Vision and Mission to life, and credit must go to all our Member Associations for never failing to answer the clarion call to spread the reach of the game."

The rise and success of AFC Grassroots Football Day 2019 was measured not only by the sheer numbers, led by the All India Football Federation and the Chinese Football Association, but also by the quality and diversity of programmes.

The Kuwait Football Association and Football Association of Singapore expanded the depth of their programmes in 2019 with the introduction of activities targeted at the underprivileged, people with disabilities, people with cerebral palsy and seniors' football.

The 2019 edition also witnessed the return of Bangladesh Football Federation, DPR Korea Football Association, The Kyrgyz Football Union, Saudi Arabian Football Federation and Tajikistan Football Federation.



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UNsung GRASSROOTS HEROES HONOURED

The AFC honoured the advocates of grassroots football for their contributions to the sport at the AFC Special Grassroots Awards 2019, which were held in conjunction with the 2nd AFC Women's Football Conference.

The prestigious awards honoured the game's unsung heroes who dedicate their time and resources to spreading the joys of football, as part of the AFC's continued commitment and mission to promote the sport at the grassroots level.

The Best Grassroots Leader award is presented to an individual or volunteer who has achieved tremendous results through their work with local clubs, non-governmental organisations and schools.

Meanwhile, the Best Grassroots Project is awarded to an outstanding grassroots football project organised by a regional association, amateur club, agency or school. The project must focus on innovation, social responsibility and have an impact on a wide audience regardless of their abilities.

In the Best Grassroots Club, an amateur club with outstanding grassroots work is recognised for their outstanding grassroots work that clearly shows evidence of growth and retention of players. The club must also reach a large number of participants by working with schools or other local organisations.



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BEST GRASSROOTS LEADER 2019

Japan's Eiichiro Matsuki has been involved in grassroots football since 1977 and received the award for his involvement in grassroots activities such as nurturing the turfs in kindergartens, elementary schools and parks through the support of the JFA Green Project.

Matsuki is a strong advocate for grassroots football in Japan and has been coaching children in the Shiga Prefecture under the Kids Instructor project since 2003, where 80 football clinics are staged 80 times a year in selected kindergartens.

Matsuki said: "I'm proud to receive this award but my involvement in grassroots football is from pure passion. A big thank you to the AFC and JFA for their strong support and vision to continue promoting football at the grassroots level. It is important that the sport reaches different communities across Asia."

WINNER

Eiichiro Matsuki (Japan)

RUNNER-UP

Lim Chock Sing (Singapore)

SPECIAL MERIT

Lu Kuei-hua (Chinese Taipei), Hj Omar Hj Jamil (Brunei Darussalam), Alex Chang (Hong Kong) and Intikhab Alam (India)



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BEST GRASSROOTS CLUB 2019

Paro FC reach out to youth in Bhutan through their successful 'Catch Them Young' and 'Keep Them Moving' campaigns. Their projects also focus on different communities, organising football programmes for monks, people with disabilities and parents.

They have also selected 27 orphans and underprivileged children for their scholarship scheme, where these children will be given the opportunity to play the sport with proper attire and football boots.

President of Paro FC, Karma Jigme, said: "At Paro FC, we believe that football is for everyone and it is our goal to ensure that people from different cultures and backgrounds have the opportunity to play the sport. Football is a tool for social change, and we will continue to reach out to more people in our grassroots activities."

WINNER

Paro FC (Bhutan)

RUNNER-UP

Foshan Westin FC (China PR)

SPECIAL MERIT

Soccer Ace FC (Malaysia), FC Ton (Japan) and Kuwait SC (Kuwait)



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BEST GRASSROOTS PROJECT 2019

Through various projects in Cambodia, the ISF Football Programme has touched the lives of blind and hearing-impaired children as well as those who are wheelchair bound and HIV positive.

The programme has grown tremendously over the years – starting with 15 players in 2007 before directly supporting 3,500 children and youth of all abilities from 12 provinces. Additionally, their coach and social impact training also reaches 2,000 children in the country.

Country Manager of ISF Football Programme, Vicheka Chourp, said: "Football can empower communities regardless of their abilities. Our projects target different groups and we can use the sport as a tool for character building and to instill lifelong values. We are honoured to receive this award as it is a result of all the hard work which we have put in."

WINNER

ISF Football Programme (Cambodia)

RUNNER-UP

Street Soccer Hong Kong

SPECIAL MERIT

Free Football Clinic for Youth Level (Thailand), Persian League (IR Iran), DUO League (Japan), Grassroots Development Programme by NOFA (Philippines), Blue Sky Football Academy (Vietnam)



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MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS CELEBRATED FOR ANOTHER REMARKABLE YEAR



INSPIRING CATEGORY CHINESE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

The Chinese Football Association (CFA) was awarded the **AFC President's Recognition Awards for Grassroots Football 2019** in the Inspiring category for the second consecutive year in a grand ceremony at the 2019 AFC Annual Awards Night in Hong Kong.

The CFA's promotion of the game covered 25 cities, targeting vast community groups including youth, schools, women and girl footballers, veterans, employees, farmers and people with disabilities.

More than 32,700 participants were engaged through the CFA's events and another 300,000 people were reached through the CFA's network of partners.



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DEVELOPING CATEGORY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF SINGAPORE

The Football Association of Singapore (FAS) was awarded the **AFC President's Recognition Awards for Grassroots Football 2019 - Developing** for the third consecutive year, firmly establishing its place as one of the most active grassroots advocates in Asia.

The FAS showcased an increase in the number of schools and players engaged through its strong partnerships, bringing commercial, government and non-government organisations together to reach a wider audience.

In 2019, the FAS also introduced programmes for communities with special needs, with members of the National Women's Football Team also joining the celebrations.



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ASPIRING CATEGORY

NATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

The **AFC President's Recognition Awards for Grassroots Football 2019 – Aspiring** was awarded to the National Football Association of Brunei Darussalam (NFABD) for its commitment to developing the game.

The main elements of the NFABD's grassroots movement was to create friendships, increase participation, enhance team spirit, and most importantly, for all participants to have fun.

The NFABD organised football festivals targeted at the under six, eight and 10 age groups.



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ROBIN'S VIEW

The popularity of grassroots football in Asia has improved drastically in the last few years, and Robin Russell, an AFC and UEFA Grassroots Consultant, believes the AFC Grassroots Charter has been instrumental in the rapid growth.

The Charter was launched in 2017 as a development tool for Member Associations to raise the quality of their grassroots programmes by giving them clear guidelines to benchmark their performance and find ways to improve.

Since the Charter's introduction, a total of 24 MAs has been endorsed, resulting in the launch of engaging grassroots programmes across the Continent that have attracted thousands of boys and girls, regardless of their abilities.

Russell said: "A major driver of grassroots football in Asia has been the introduction of the AFC Grassroots Charter. The fact that it encourages, promotes and requires MAs to have a plan - to have a dedicated grassroots manager, to provide programmes for children, adults and girls, to get involved in club development - all of those particular aspects increase the number of players."

He added that the success of grassroots football leans towards three major philosophies – inclusiveness, health and evidence of success. While the number of children playing football at grassroots continues to increase, MAs continue to look at ways of retaining their interest in the sport.

"A major trend in grassroots football is towards the retention of players that are already playing. All MAs around the world would like to do that and they are getting involved with school programmes to retain them over their educational life," Russell said.

To ensure the continued growth and legacy of grassroots programmes in Asia is preserved, Russell believes that MAs should capture data, which is pivotal for future research and planning.

"MAs should start capturing and recording accurate data about their programmes. Data is not everything but the more data you can capture, the more data you can analyse and it allows you to make better and more informed decisions."

"There's a lot more match analysis done these days, there's a lot more player analysis - there's also an increasing amount of participation analysis. So I think it's essential for grassroots football, that MAs have a plan, and in developing that plan, it is critical that they capture and analyse data."

To watch the full interview, please click [here](#).



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A MAJOR DRIVER OF GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL IN ASIA HAS BEEN THE INTRODUCTION OF THE AFC GRASSROOTS CHARTER.

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AFGHANISTAN

Afghanistan Football Federation (AFF) became the 24th MA to be endorsed by the AFC Grassroots Charter when it received Bronze membership in November 2019.

The AFF focused its efforts on three key areas: MA-endorsed grassroots programmes, grassroots competitions and grassroots courses.

To celebrate AFC Grassroots Football Day on May 15, the AFF coordinated a largescale Grassroots Festival in Kabul, which saw the participation of 154 children and 24 coaches.

The main objective was to share the love of football and assist the establishment of the U-12 league as well as the U-12 national team. The children were divided into age groups and were taught the meaning of fair play, while coaches were trained on how to effectively deliver grassroots instructions.

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AUSTRALIA

The Football Federation Australia Limited (FFA) welcomed 140 boys and girls between the ages of seven and 12 to AFC Grassroots Football Day festivities in Sydney and Melbourne on May 15.

Organised by Football New South Wales and Football Victoria, participants engaged in small-sided games at Kissing Point FC and Old Xaverians Soccer Club.



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BAHRAIN

Held in conjunction with the AFC Grassroots Football Day, the Bahrain Football Association (BFA) organised an evening festival for players born in 2008 or later, with more than 120 children participating.

The festival was one of several that the BFA organised to promote youth participation, including a BFA festival held in September and December in celebration of the kingdom's national day.



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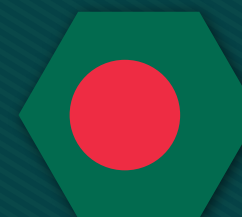
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BANGLADESH

Over 180 boys and girls under the age of 13 participated in mini football matches organised by the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) at BFF House in Dhaka, where they were divided into teams of five.

After playing 10-minute matches, the children were served with refreshments, before receiving certificates of attendance from Mahfuza Akhter Kiron, an AFC Executive Committee Regional Female Member and FIFA Council Member, and other BFF officials.

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BHUTAN

The Bhutan Football Federation (BFF) has seen an increase in participation with every passing celebration of AFC Grassroots Football Day, and 2019 was no different, as the festival took place in 19 districts across the country.

The larger community saw the positive changes and opportunities the festival had to offer, putting their trust in BFF to look after a total of 2,025 boys, girls, children with special needs and volunteers, who all learned important messages of fun, friendship and respect.



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BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

The **AFC President's Recognition Awards for Grassroots Football 2019 – Aspiring** was awarded to the National Football Association of Brunei Darussalam (NFABD) for its commitment to developing the game.

Through a collaboration with the Ministry of Education, NFABD aimed to introduce sports and ongoing developments to children through physical education and co-curricular activities at their schools.

The collaboration also included a School Outreach Programme, a Centre of Training for primary school students, a sporting roadshow, an initiative to deliver player pathways in all four districts, and "Bularelawan", a volunteering platform.

On May 5, NFABD celebrated AFC Grassroots Football Day with a festival for children between the ages of six and 10. With the aim of creating relationships, friendships, team spirit, and, most importantly, to have fun, the NFABD U-6, U-8 and U-10 Grassroots Football Festival was attended by 128 players, 33 coaches, 21 volunteers from the BSRC FC U-16 team and 13 committees.



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CAMBODIA

The Football Federation of Cambodia (FFC) marked AFC Grassroots Day 2019 on May 15 in two provinces: Kampong Speu and Kandal.

Across the two groups, 160 boys and girls were joined by coaches, physical education teachers and volunteers to celebrate the day. Local coaches led the exercises and activities that included dribbling, shooting and a simple five-on-five match, so that the children could experience and test the skills and techniques they had learnt.



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CHINA PR

The **AFC President's Recognition Awards for Grassroots Football 2019 – Inspiring** was awarded to the Chinese Football Association (CFA) for its exemplary efforts in developing the game.

CFA's commitment to grassroots football includes the establishment of the "Football for All" project, which aims to build a resource-communicating platform. At the participation level, the national grassroots tournament "Enjoy the Game" has seen participation rise from 302,112 in 2017 to 553,248 in 2019.

CFA confirmed cooperation with Shanghai Adream Foundation—Youth Football Growth Special Fund for its "Dream China" project, to invest more resources and create the most influential football social responsibility brand in China.

CFA also led the Continent in engagement for AFC Grassroots Football Day, with activities planned across 25 cities, including a ceremony for player escorts in Dalian, attended by 22,000 people.



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CHINESE TAIPEI

Chinese Taipei Football Association (CTFA) gained AFC Grassroots Charter Bronze membership in August 2019 for its dedication and promise in developing grassroots football. CTFA's grassroots efforts are based on its Grassroots Plan, which includes a wide range of activities that focus on professional football, international activities, domestic contests, talent cultivation, promotion of local football and the building of football fields.

AFC Grassroots Football Day in Chinese Taipei was held in conjunction with a grassroots coaching course in two cities, Changhua and New Taipei City.

The grassroots celebration was designed for children aged between four and 14 to learn the fundamentals of football while also having fun. A total of 217 children participated and were assisted by football teams from different schools.

CTFA also aims to cultivate a coaching culture at the grassroots level, and 33 coaches benefitted from the three-day course, which included both practical and theoretical sessions.



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DPR KOREA

DPR Korea Football Association (PRK) celebrated AFC Grassroots Football Day at Pyongyang International Football School on May 15, with 200 participants joining 30 principals and physical education teachers from schools in the capital.

Pupils of Pyongyang International Football School and other schools played small-sided games and enjoyed rhythmic exercises.

A seminar was also held for the teachers, focused on current development trends in football education for young players, key points in teaching basic techniques, issues arising from basic technical education, and experiences gained in running football groups at the schools.



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GUAM

Close to 200 youth players, coaches and assistants participated in the AFC Grassroots Football Day celebration held at the Guam Football Association (GFA) National Training Centre on May 25.

Divided into age groups, the children took part in various activities that emphasised fun yet focused on practical football skills. These included dribbling, shooting, passing, defending, and application of skills in mini games.

Leading coaches from the GFA Centre of Excellence were assisted by the U-16 and U-19 national boys' and girls' training squads, as well as the men's and women's national teams.



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HONG KONG

Hong Kong took part in a record-breaking AFC Grassroots Football Day, which saw over 1,700 players in four separate events in May.

Eighteen districts were represented, with teams playing three matches of 20-25 minutes throughout the morning sessions.

The U-6 and U-8 categories drew the largest number of participants, as 1,000 boys and girls played in the three-on-three and five-on-five formats, while the U-10 and U-12 age groups took part in leagues using the seven-on-seven format.

The events were supported by young referees from The Hong Kong Football Association Ltd. (HKFA) providing a great opportunity to practice their refereeing skills.



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INDIA

A massive turnout of over 21,000 children, men and women celebrated AFC Grassroots Football Day across India, with the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and 157 stakeholders celebrating grassroots football in the country.

The variety of events ranged from beach football activities, child and youth football camps, disability football, football for the blind, veteran's tournaments, and, with the upcoming FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup coming to India, a strong focus on women's football.

The country-wide celebrations brought together over 12,500 girls and boys, with 4,400 coaches and volunteers uniting to celebrate football and enhance grassroots development.



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ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Nearly 50,000 people took part in various promotional events organised by the Football Federation Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI) to commemorate AFC Grassroots Football Day. Among the highlights was a Football Academies Festival for children, held in Qom Province.

Divided into two categories, U-10 and U-12 children played small-sided games, cheered on by friends and family, before being presented with an appreciation plaque for their attendance and fair-play.

With an aim to encourage boys and girls to be involved in and contribute to football throughout the year, FFIRI regularly organised grassroots activities such as competitions, youth, futsal, beach soccer and coach training courses.



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IRAQ

The Iraqi Football Association (IFA) worked with football academies across the country to celebrate AFC Grassroots Football Day, welcoming 750 boys and girls to a festival in Baghdad on April 15.

The children, all members of football teams from schools and academies, took part in various skills stations and played friendly matches at the Al-Shaab Stadium, where local coaches were on hand to advise on technical improvements.



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JAPAN

A walking football festival was held on May 19 at Fukuda Denshi Square in Chiba Prefecture to commemorate AFC Grassroots Football Day.

Organised by JEF United Chiba, approximately 300 participants of all ages were divided into teams for a day of football.

Walking football shares the same rules as regular football except that it prohibits running. It allows players of all ages, physical abilities, and experience to play together, and the sport has seen a growing demand throughout the country due to its friendly nature.



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JORDAN

The Jordan Football Association (JFA) organised a fun-filled AFC Grassroots Football Day that saw 300 boys and girls take part in training sessions and small-sided games.

The festival, held over multiple regions across the country, attracted a huge audience as they watched the participants navigate through each station. Among the activities held were five-on-five football, one-on-one football and sessions to improve coordination.

At the end of the event, the children were provided with food and gifts.

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KOREA REPUBLIC

The Korea Football Association (KFA) became the third AFC Grassroots Charter Gold member in June 2019, in recognition of its outstanding work in grassroots football.

The importance of grassroots development is deeply rooted in the KFA across its 17 regional and 33 local member associations, where the focus on promoting and developing can be found in all levels of its football structure.

KFA held its AFC Grassroots Football Day celebrations in conjunction with its 'Soccer for the youth of agriculture and fishing villages' project. Also known as the '2019 Road to Dream', the project is aimed at providing non-elite players with opportunities to experience advanced football activities, specifically children in agricultural, mountain and fishing villages.

A total of 150 children between the ages of nine and 14 gathered in Haenam, Jeonnam Province, for the football clinic, with the support of local leaders and athletes.



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KUWAIT

Kuwait Football Association (KFA) was awarded AFC Grassroots Charter Bronze membership in September 2019 for its continued commitment to raising the level of grassroots football development.

KFA has placed great emphasis on the development of football, based on its philosophy of grassroots where young talents are the core focus in creating an active and healthy community.

Thirteen football academies came together for the AFC Grassroots Football Day festival that included 20 children from the Kuwait Sports Club for the Deaf, the hosts of the event, on May 15.

A total of 200 children enjoyed a whole day of activities, which included eight training stations led and supervised by accredited KFA coaches.

Activities included small-sided games, basic skills training sessions and coordination exercises. Family members and teachers from the Ministry of Education also participated with the children in a friendly and respectful environment for all.

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KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

Events were held across the country to celebrate AFC Grassroots Football Day in May. In Chuy and Osh regions, festivals were held for local children, with 320 boys and 80 girls taking part in training stations that included relay races, striking goalposts, juggling and football matches.

In Issyk-Kul, Djalal-Abad, Naryn and Talas regions, 50 teams comprised of 400 children aged between six and 12 competed in a week-long tournament, with the winners awarded cups and diplomas. Four women's teams also competed in the Djalal-Abad region's tournament.



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LAOS

Laos Football Federation (LFF) received AFC Grassroots Charter Bronze membership in January 2019, having placed emphasis on grassroots development through various activities such as the LFF Out Reach, MA Holiday Course and MA Grassroots Football with the Laos Ministry of Education and Sports & Provisional Department of Education as its main partners.

LFF held a football clinic and mini tournament as part of their AFC Grassroots Football Day celebrations on May 10.

A total of 160 boys and girls from eight different primary schools in the Hatsaiphong District took part in the festival held at the KNC School Thintom Village in Vientiane. The children tried their skills across eight stations, including ball control, dribbling, goal keeping, passing and shooting. The event finished with a mini tournament, awards and ball donation.

Male and female coaches oversaw the event, assisted by U-19 men's and women's players, teachers, parents and LFF staff.



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LEBANON

Lebanese Football Association (FLFA) was awarded AFC Grassroots Charter Bronze membership in December 2018 thanks to its dedication to increasing the level of grassroots development, with programmes that involved over 24,850 players.

To celebrate AFC Grassroots Football Day 2019, FLFA organised six Grassroots Festivals in Bekaa, Beirut and Mount Lebanon to introduce children to football.

Under the supervision of FLFA, 12 coaches managed the clinics, each of which ran for two hours. Approximately 760 children participated, including 90 girls, working their way through four small-sided games and four technical stations.

Parents were encouraged to attend and support their children, and the participants ended the day with food and drinks.



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MACAU

The Macau Football Association (AFM) joined with the Sports Bureau of Macau, Municipal Affairs Bureau of Macau and the Women's General Association of Macau to host a grassroots festival for children in July to commemorate AFC Grassroots Football Day.

A record total of 150 children enrolled and were guided through five-a-side games by 20 coaches, as well as representatives from the national youth and women's teams.

AFM also organised a number of friendly games between senior players from local associations.



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MALAYSIA

As many as 550 participants aged six to 10 attended Malaysia's AFC Grassroots Football Day at the PKNS Sports Complex, and were treated to a series of fun activities, ranging from football matches to face painting.

The Football Association of Malaysia (FAM) also launched 'SUPARIMAU Charter', which was formed for community and recreational football clubs, and football academies who are passionate in driving grassroots football and youth development.

FAM organised a number of other programmes to coincide with the celebrations, including a Veteran's Walking Football Friendly Match against the Singapore Walking Football team.



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MALDIVES

The Football Association of Maldives (FAM) joined the AFC Grassroots Charter in September 2019, being granted Bronze membership.

FAM sees the value of grassroots football as a medium to foster social and sporting values as well as personal development, with the aim of attracting participants regardless of age and gender.

FAM celebrated its third Grassroots Festival in 2019 with hundreds of children and Ivory Coast legend Yaya Toure in the capital Malé, with further festivities in Addu City, Eydhafushi and Thinadhoo.

Malé hosted a celebration with 700 children under the age of 11, and another 462 children were engaged through the Non-Residential Academies. Both Malé and Addu City hosted festivals for young girls, while Addu City also organised the first-ever Grassroots Baby League 2019 for U-11 school children. Thinadhoo hosted a further 187 U-12 children and Eydhafushi hosted 167.

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MONGOLIA

Mongolian Football Federation (MFF) celebrated Grassroots Football Day in collaboration with a social responsibility project to build a new mini pitch at School No. 79 in the Bayanzurkh district.

Students between the ages of eight and 12, as well as local residents, were invited to the festival. Held on an existing mini pitch at the school, the children rotated between football exercises with MFF coaching staff and the U-19 national team goalkeeper.

The bright future of grassroots football was evident in the smiles of the participating boys and girls.

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MYANMAR

In April 2019, Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) received AFC Grassroots Charter Bronze membership due to its comprehensive calendar of grassroots activities ranging from U-12 to U-19 leagues, women's leagues, AFC Grassroots Football Day, AFC Women's Football Day events and social programmes.

MFF celebrated its AFC Grassroots Football Festival in 28 townships across the country with a huge turnout of 2,600 participants.

Respective township football associations came together to organise the six-day festival, which was graced by AFC Vice President and MFF President Mr Zaw Zaw, who awarded certificates of honour, prize money and footballs to the Myanmar National Paralympic team during the opening ceremony.

Under-10 teams from various districts took part in a five-on-five tournament as part of the celebrations.



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NEPAL

More than 900 children joined in the festivities for AFC Grassroots Football Day in Bara, Rupandehi and Sunsari districts in Nepal.

The children participated in drills in a fun and enjoyable environment, under the tutelage of coaches and volunteers.

Parents, All Nepal Football Association (ANFA) members, local school principals, host club members, mayors and police representatives also attended in support of the children, and the participants ended the day with food and a speech from honoured local guests.



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NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association (NMIFA) was awarded AFC Grassroots Charter Bronze membership in July 2019 for its outstanding commitment to grassroots football development.

A major strength of NMIFA is strong grassroots competition structures for male and female players of all ages, showing tremendous progress in its youth, men's, women's and masters' leagues, with over 1,700 players and 54 teams in total.

In 2019, NMIFA enjoyed the biggest turnout to date for its AFC Grassroots Football Day festival, with 116 children participating in U-8 and U-10 divisions.

The festival was divided into two sessions; the first comprised six stations for each division, with 12 teams of five participants each. The second part was parent-children games. The objective was for parents to experience the fun in playing football and to spark their interest in coaching or other involvement in the future.

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OMAN

After successful celebrations in the capital city, Muscat, in 2018, Oman Football Association (OFA) expanded its AFC Grassroots Football Day celebrations to four regions in 2019.

On June 20, Al Khaburah, Al Suwaiq, Ibri and Muscat each welcomed 50 children and six coaches to share the joy of football.

Following the success of the festivities, OFA aims to expand to cover all eight regions of the country, and work with clubs, football schools and academies to increase the reach and impact of the event.



1 MESSAGE FROM THE AFC PRESIDENT

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PALESTINE

Palestine Football Association (PFA) was granted AFC Grassroots Charter Bronze membership in October 2019 following its continuous efforts for the development of football.

A major strength of the PFA is its 17 football centres for both male and female players between the ages of 7 and 12, which attracted approximately 12,000 players.

The association's concept is to bring people together through football by not only advocating the pleasure of practicing and playing football, but also promoting teamwork, cooperation and tolerance.

The PFA hosted championships for aspiring young footballers in five different cities on June 22 to celebrate AFC Grassroots Football Day. Bethlehem, Hebron, Jerusalem, Nablus and Ramallah AlBireh hosted 550 U-12 boys and girls for a festival of football, with a total of 60 coaches assisting.

Representing 40 clubs, the children enjoyed matches and skills stations, and rounded out the fun day with food and medal presentations.

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PHILIPPINES

The Philippine Football Federation (PFF) became the fourth Silver member of the AFC Grassroots Charter in September 2019, when it was recognised for its continuous efforts in developing grassroots football and player programmes in the country.

PFF and its 40 regional associations (FAs) conducted football clinics and festivals around the country throughout the month of May to promote grassroots football for boys and girls across age categories, as well as women's football development activities.

The main AFC Grassroots Football Day celebrations were organised on May 15 at the National Training Centre in Cavite.

The National Grassroots Officer, together with volunteer coaches, conducted a football clinic and festival with 200 young players.

The festivals and clinics primarily focused on children aged six to 12, with up to 600 youngsters joining the fun in some locations. A total of 3,416 children joined in the celebrations.



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QATAR

Qatar Football Association (QFA) held football festivals for boys and girls on May 4 and April 29 respectively to celebrate AFC Grassroots Football Day 2019.

Held at the Aspire Dome in Doha, the boys' festival saw a turnout of 900 young footballers take part in seven-on-seven football. Families, sports administrators and local sports channels attended the day, which culminated in a closing ceremony where medals were distributed to the top three teams in each category.

For the first time in Qatar, an AFC football festival was held for girls, marking an important milestone in the country's grassroots football development with the partnership between QFA and the Qatar Women's Sport Committee.

A total of 150 girls from six schools took part in the festival at Qatar Women's Sport Committee Hall, which was equally enjoyed by families, sports administrators and local media.

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SAUDI ARABIA

Saudi Arabian Football Federation (SAFF) held two major events to celebrate AFC Grassroots Football Day 2019.

An evening event was held at the LDI institute in Riyadh, with 85 players from different age groups invited to participate. With a focus on the values of cooperation and inclusivity, the session was divided into training and a mini football tournament that ensured the participation of all players.

The GSA and SAFF Ramadan Futsal Tournament was held over 12 days in four cities, namely Dammam, Mecca, Medinah and Riyadh. Each city registered 16 teams of 16 players, and, additionally, allowed 36 local referees to test their skills. It was the first time that an indoor futsal tournament was organised by SAFF.

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SINGAPORE

Football Association of Singapore (FAS) was awarded the **AFC President's Recognition Awards for Grassroots Football 2019 - Developing** for its continuous efforts in grassroots development.

FAS showcased a steady increase in the number of schools and players through a mix of commercial, government and football industry partners.

The inaugural Singapore Pools-FAS Inter-School Futsal Challenge (ISFC) was launched with the support of Singapore Pools and the Ministry of Education.

FAS partnered with Singapore United for the third edition of the SG United Football Fiesta, adding a Women's category for the first time. It also celebrated AFC Women's Football

Day 2019 with a networking afternoon and a carnival.

FAS has focused its efforts on improving and increasing grassroots facilities such as stadiums and age-appropriate equipment, while launching the FAS Respect programme to encourage a more positive environment in the local football scene.

For its annual AFC Grassroots Football Day celebrations, FAS was joined by more than 120 participants from the Special Olympics, Children's Cancer Foundation, Eden School, SportCares and NTUC Silver Circle, who participated in various skill stations. The stations were conducted by FAS grassroots-certified coaches and members of the national women's team.

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SRI LANKA

With an objective of bringing football into schools, communities and families, the Football Federation of Sri Lanka (FFSL) held a festival at the Vincent Dias Stadium in Badulla to mark AFC Grassroots Football Day 2019.

On June 21, 300 children between the ages of 11 and 12 (200 boys and 100 girls) from Uva province and 50 physical education teachers and coaches joined in the activities, which consisted of technical workshops, small-sided games, and fun, football-related activities aimed at encouraging more boys and girls to play football.



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SYRIA

To mark AFC Grassroots Football Day 2019, the Syrian Football Association (SFA) organised four events over two months, with festivities in Damascus, Homs, Lattakia and Tartus.

In Damascus and Homs, 140 children were joined by volunteer trainers in a day of small-sided matches and individual skill competitions.

In Tartus, four teams of children, including one from an orphanage, enjoyed a day of football matches, with an additional friendly match against adults and parents.

In addition to the parents who came to support their children, there was a strong official presence at the events, including the President of the Syrian Olympic Committee.



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TAJIKISTAN

About 100 children between the ages of 6 and 12 attended the AFC Grassroots Football Day organised by the Tajikistan Football Federation (TFF) at the Dushanbe Central Republic Stadium on May 15.

It was a day filled with engaging activities, such as relay races and football drills. The children also had a taste of a competitive match when they played in a five-on-five tie, before being presented with medals and training gear.

TFF organised regular grassroots activities throughout the year, including a football festival for children with disabilities in Dushanbe in June. The festival was enjoyed by 80 children between the ages of six and 15, and included activities such as entertainment and relay races, capped off by a presentation of medals and balls.

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THAILAND

Football Association of Thailand (FAT) was recognised with AFC Grassroots Charter Bronze membership in March 2019, having outlined a comprehensive framework for its grassroots development programmes that focuses on basic principles such as preparation of games, building of perception, football concepts of space making and utilisation, passing intelligently and effectively, and supporting teammates.

To celebrate AFC Grassroots Day 2019, FAT organised celebrations in Pattana, Chonburi, with over 500 children and 80 volunteers taking part in the fun-filled festival.

The participants were put through their paces during six football activities: shooting, four-on-four matches, protecting the ball, dribbling, passing and juggling.

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TIMOR-LESTE

Federacao Futebol Timor-Leste (FFTL) was awarded AFC Grassroots Charter Bronze membership in August 2019 for its dedication to developing grassroots football.

FFTL's philosophy is centred around football as a fun sport for all, regardless of religious, ethnic or social background.

FFTL developed a Football Development Plan for 2019-2022, which lays out numerous activities to provide opportunities to all communities and children.

A main area of growth is FFTL's four football centres located across the country, which have seen 1,450 male and female players involved. Additionally, U-14 youth and grassroots competitions have been organised, with plans to provide similar opportunities to other age groups in the future.



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TURKMENISTAN

Football Federation of Turkmenistan (FFT) partnered with UNICEF for the 2019 AFC Grassroots Football Day celebrations, benefitting over 200 children, including 40 children with special needs.

On May 19, the Ashgabat Stadium was divided into eight training sessions, including ball juggling, dribbling, coordination exercises, passes and penalty kicks. One coach and two assistants were assigned to each station.

Parents who attended the festival were also encouraged to join the special activities, while a DJ added to the festive atmosphere.



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UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

The United Arab Emirates Football Association (UAEFA) held three events for its AFC Grassroots Football Day, with 100 children from private and government schools enjoying various activities together.

A friendly tournament was also organised to further promote the sport among the community, before participants witnessed their women's national team play against Maldives in an international friendly match.

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UZBEKISTAN

Some 200 boys and girls from schools across Tashkent joined the AFC Grassroots Football Day celebrations on May 15, which were organised by the Uzbekistan Football Association (UFA), who partnered with the Ministry of Education and Children's Sports Development Foundation.

The young participants began by showcasing their football skills on the field, before being divided into small groups where they received coaching on basic techniques and skills.

They then went through various stations, including juggling, dribbling, passing and ball control to test their skills.



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VIETNAM

Vietnam Football Federation (VFF), alongside Vietfootball Academy – Football for Community in Hanoi and Football For All Vietnam in Thua Thien Hue Province, organised activities in both cities in conjunction with AFC Grassroots Football Day 2019.

In Hanoi, children from grassroots football centres and academies had the chance to witness performances of freestyle football. Participants met former national players such as Hanoi FC captain Pham Thanh Luong and Vu Nhu Thanh, and were trained in basic football skills and tactics.

In Thua Thien Hue, 110 girls participated in fun activities and learned football and life skills, before playing friendly matches at their school training field.





“Carry the ball, close to your heart!”

Andy Roxburgh, AFC Technical Director

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

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