



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

ST. AUGUSTINE, TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, WEST INDIES

OFFICE OF THE CAMPUS PRINCIPAL

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50th Anniversary Distinguished Lecture by the President of FIFA, Dr. Joseph Sepp Blatter
‘Sport as a Catalyst for promoting National Development and Solidarity’

Learning Resource Center (LRC), UWI St. Augustine

Saturday 25th September 2010 10.00 am

Opening Remarks

Salutations

- FIFA President, Dr. Joseph Sepp Blatter
- FIFA Vice President and Minister of Works and Transport, the Honourable Jack Warner
- Director of the Sport and Physical Education Centre, Dr. Iva Gloudon
- President of the Guild of Students, Mr. Hillan Morean
- Staff , Students and Colleagues of the UWI St. Augustine Campus
- Ladies and Gentlemen

- A very pleasant good morning!

- The hosting of the FIFA Under 17 Women's World Cup in Trinidad and Tobago has been a truly wonderful opportunity for our country, one which the public and in particular, football aficionados of all ages, will always remember. For the two teams in the finals, today is a very important day. For the St. Augustine Campus of The University of the West Indies, today will be equally memorable as we have with us one of the most accomplished and experienced individuals of international sport and diplomacy. An individual who is committed to football and who has dedicated his life to supporting the development and promotion of sport, in general. As Campus Principal, it is my distinct pleasure to welcome Dr. Joseph Sepp Blatter to the UWI St. Augustine Campus! Thank you, Dr. Blatter, for making the time to visit our Campus and for agreeing to deliver this Distinguished Lecture!

- Special thanks also to the Honourable Minister Jack Warner who was instrumental in arranging this Distinguished Lecture and for his steadfast support for our Campus! The UWI St. Augustine Campus is indeed honoured by your presence here today and is especially grateful for FIFA's support for the St. Augustine Campus. For those of you who may not be aware, FIFA, through its academic arm – the International Centre for Sports Studies (CIES) – and the UWI signed an MOU last year, which formalized our collaboration for

the establishment of a Postgraduate Diploma and a Master of Science in Sport Management...the first to be offered at the tertiary level in the region! Consequently, the UWI also joined a network of other prestigious universities internationally that offer CIES programmes in Sport Management. This has been extremely beneficial for our students and our lecturers but more importantly, there is no doubt in my mind that this type of training, exposure and professional development in the sport sector, will positively influence the policy and practice of sport management in Trinidad and Tobago and the wider Caribbean. I sincerely thank the FIFA President and Vice President for supporting this vision!

- Not only does this lecture take place on the heels of the Women's Under 17 World Cup final this evening, but it is also one of the key events to mark our golden 50th Anniversary as a Campus! We have been commemorating this important milestone by paying tribute to our rich history and at the same time looking towards the future, all the while highlighting the important role of the UWI St. Augustine Campus in contributing to national and regional development.

- Today's Distinguished Lecture on "*Sport as a Catalyst for promoting National Development and Solidarity*" is indeed appropriate and has great relevance not only to Trinidad and Tobago but also to the rest of the Caribbean. In fact, on more than one occasion, I have emphasized the need for sport to play a greater role in the development of our country and region - socially and culturally, and also economically. Hosting events such as the ICC Cricket World Cup in 2007, the Men's FIFA – Under 17 World Cup in 2001 and now the Women's FIFA - Under 17 World Cup redounds in benefits to the region through the creation of jobs, foreign direct investment, international recognition and so on.

- As a society, we need to go far beyond the perception of sport as a means of recreation and exercise, as important as this is, we need to view sport as a business opportunity and an impetus for economic empowerment and advancement. As Campus Principal, it is my hope that today's special 50th anniversary Distinguished Lecture will serve to sensitize our population to such benefits. Additionally, it will highlight the fact that academic programmes such as the UWI/FIFA Postgraduate Diploma and Masters in Sports Management serve to strengthen and build the region's cadre of sport professionals in a wide range management-related disciplines such as marketing, finance, law and events management.

- The UWI St. Augustine Campus is also about reaching out and providing service to our wider community. As a university, this is one of our core strategic goals in addition to supporting teaching, learning, research and innovation. Similarly, sport has an ethos that is uplifting and unifying – that brings persons together, regardless of age, gender, class, race or ethnicity. The principles, standards and values that underpin all sports – a drive to compete, to excel and to be the best; an appreciation for teamwork and the greater result than can be achieved when persons channel their talent and expertise towards achieving a common goal – are all values that we should embrace as a community and practise in our daily lives.

- I look forward to hearing Dr. Blatter speak more on this, particularly given his vast experience in outreach activities and his personal commitment to supporting humanitarian projects through alliances with SOS Children's Villages, UNICEF, ILO, WHO and many others. It is truly a privilege to have someone like Dr. Blatter with his diverse international experience address us today.

- Ladies and gentlemen, as I close let me once again thank the President and Vice President of FIFA and their staff for making this Distinguished Lecture a

- Ladies and gentlemen, I thank you.