



Intergovernmental Institution for the use of Micro-algae Spirulina Against Malnutrition

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IIMSAM Goodwill Ambassador Diego Maradona awarded with the Simon Bolivar Order by H.E. Evo Morales, President of Bolivia



IIMSAM's Goodwill Ambassador Diego Maradona, FIFA's Footballer of the Century



H.E. Ambassador Remigio M. Maradona, Director General-IIMSAM, with H.E. Evo Morales, President of Bolivia

(United Nations Headquarters, New York, 24th March 2008) IIMSAM's Goodwill Ambassador Diego Maradona was awarded with the Liberator Simón Bolívar, Medal of Merit with the Degree of Knighthood by the Government of Bolivia on the 18th of March, 2008. Ambassador Diego Maradona was conferred with the honour by H.E. Evo Morales, Hon'ble President of Bolivia for his exemplary humanitarian work and his solidarity with the victims of natural disasters that have afflicted Bolivia; and his endorsement of the right to play soccer at high altitudes.

The International Charter of Physical Education and Sport, UNESCO, 1978 stresses upon securing the fundamental right of every human being to sport that is essential for the full development of one's personality. FIFA's recent ruling which bans international games in high altitude cities like the Bolivian capital La Paz is seen as arbitrary and discriminatory by many that see it as an unnecessary infringement upon their fundamental right. Ambassador Diego Maradona supported the Bolivian position and the right to play in a Benefit Game that was played 3,600 meters above sea level in defiance of the FIFA ruling. Leading a team of Argentine players, Ambassador Diego Maradona addressed the people, **"I, with 47 years, and your president; we have shown to the FIFA that soccer can be played in high altitudes"** and further stated, **"In name of all the Argentines, we tell them all that we do not fear high places."**

The entrance ticket for the Benefit Game was a pack of rice, pasta, or milk powder that would be sent to the victims of floods and various natural disasters that are caused by La Niña and other climate changes. La Niña has killed over 76 people and left around 300,000 homeless along with causing over 700 million dollars in infrastructural damages in the Amazon zone of Bolivia.

The Argentine team had the participation of Esteban Pogany, Alejandro Mancuso, Hector Almandoz, Esteban Carrario, José Turu Flowers, Diego Latorre, the actors Benjamín Red and Nicolas Pauls, and the musicians Peteco Carabajal and Jaime Towers, whereas the Bolivian team had Mark Torrico, Carlos Borgia, Milton Melgar, Luis Cristaldo, Erwin Sánchez, William Ramallo, Miguel Angel Rimba, Marco Etcheverry, Carlos Sandy, Ricardo Fontana, Ivan Castle, Tucho Antelo, Presidential Minister Juan Ramón Quintana and the President's Official Spokesman Alex Contreras.

The Argentine team led by Ambassador Diego Maradona that wore blue won by a score of 7-4 against the Bolivian team in green led by H.E. Evo Morales; but the Benefit Game that exhibited solidarity and cooperation would leave a lasting impact on the sands of time.

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