FIVB President Dr. Ary S. Graça F° officially launched the FIVB’s 9 goals at the SWATCH FIVB World Tour Finals, as the global federation looks to build on recent success and achieve its vision of becoming the number one family entertainment sport in the world.

The 9 goals are part of a long term strategic plan developed by President Graça and the FIVB to help direct the future work of the federation and ensure it realises the sport’s huge global potential.

The FIVB has experienced great success in the past couple of years, with record attendances at the World Championships in Poland and Italy last year and one of the most memorable beach volleyball men’s and women’s World Championships in the Netherlands this year. Volleyball and beach volleyball continue to set the benchmark for dynamic and innovative family sport entertainment and the 9 goals will ensure this upward trajectory of success is maintained.

When asked about the significance of the 9 goals, President Graça said:

“Today represents a historic and exciting milestone for the FIVB. Our success has been built on the foundation of a strong vision: to make volleyball the number one family sport entertainment in the world and these 9 goals will help us achieve this vision.”

WORLD TOUR FINALS IN FORT LAUDERDALE: SAVING THE BEST FOR LAST

Fans were treated to a premier sporting experience at the SWATCH FIVB World Tour Finals in Fort Lauderdale, with the technology taking the fan experience to a never before seen level at an international beach volleyball tournament.

High-speed cameras provided ultra-slow motion replays for viewers. New virtual graphics were overlaid onto the event’s world live feed, which provided information on the temperature, humidity, wind speed and wind direction. There were also dedicated graphics that gave fans more detail on the jump height of athletes going in for a spike or a block.

The tournament also saw the use of the cable cam which provided fantastic bird’s eye views of the venue, its surroundings and the spectators in attendance adding a unique perspective to the viewer experience.

There were also 18 television broadcast cameras and 12 high-resolution HawkEye cameras for the Challenge System, which was used for the first time at an FIVB Major Series event.

READ FULL STORY
VOLLEYBALL WILL BE A HUGE SUCCESS AT RIO 2016

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, September 5, 2015

FIVB President Dr. Ary S. Graça F° expressed his confidence that volleyball and beach volleyball will be a huge success at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games following his visit to the Brazilian city for the FIVB Beach Volleyball World Tour Rio Open. Athletes who competed at the Rio Open spoke enthusiastically about the world-class venue located on the iconic Copacabana beach and the electric atmosphere generated by Brazil’s volleyball-loving fans. During his visit, President Graça and FIVB Beach Volleyball Events Director Angelo Squeo met with the Rio 2016 Volleyball Competition Manager Giovane Gavio – a World and Olympic Champion in volleyball - and Rio 2016 Sports Coordinator Guilherme Marques – a World Champion in beach volleyball - to discuss the Olympic preparations. Speaking from Rio de Janeiro, President Graça said:

“With just under one year to go until the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, this is a very exciting time for everyone involved in volleyball. I have been very impressed with the organisation of the Rio Open and the feedback from athletes has been excellent.

“I have no doubt that beach volleyball and volleyball will be a huge success at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. I was born in Rio and I know full well just how much everybody here in Brazil, from adults to children, loves volleyball. The world’s best athletes can expect a wonderful atmosphere in world-class venues in 2016.”

FIBA EXHIBITION SERVES AS INSPIRATION FOR FIVB EXHIBITION HALL

Lausanne, Switzerland, July 2, 2014

FIVB President Graça visited an exhibition at the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) headquarters in July, which “will serve as inspiration for the new FIVB Exhibition Hall to be built at the International Volleyball Federation’s headquarters in Lausanne.”

DR GRAÇA WELcomed BY LATVIAN PRESIDENT

Riga, Latvia, May 22, 2015

Latvia President Andris Berzins welcomed President Graça during a visit to the country to discuss current issues with Latvian Volleyball Federation President Atis Sausnitis. During his time in Latvia, Dr. Graça paid a visit to the 2015 CEV Beach Volleyball European Championship - Jurmala Masters.

FIVB PRESIDENT VISITS JURMALA MASTERS

Jurmala, Latvia, May 21, 2015

FIVB President Graça paid a visit to the venue of the Jurmala Masters in May. He was joined by Latvian Volleyball Federation President Atis Sausnitis, and the chairmen of the national federations of neighbouring Estonia and Lithuania, Hanno Pevkur and Marius Vasiliauskas.

Image: FIVB President Dr. Ary S. Graça F° shaking hands with Latvian beach volleyball star Aleksandrs Samoilovs
FIVB President Salutes Impressive Major Series Start on Visit to Stavanger

Stavanger, Norway, June 12, 2015

The organisers and FIVB partners, the Beach Major Company (BMC) were congratulated by President Graça for the impressive start to the Swatch Beach Volleyball Major Series, during his special visit to the Stavanger Major in June. The Norwegian city hosted the second Major of the year and President Graça emphasised the importance of the FIVB’s drive behind the ground-breaking partnership with BMC in developing and implementing the Swatch Major Series, which formed part of the FIVB Beach Volleyball World Tour 2015. “This new partnership is the next step in the FIVB’s mission to ensure that beach volleyball is the world’s leading family sport entertainment through engagement, innovation and universality,” President Graça said at the event.

FIVB President Visits Morocco

Lausanne, Switzerland, May 19, 2015

Dr. Ary S. Graça F° travelled to Morocco in May to meet with the president of the volleyball federation Mrs Bouchra Hajij and other officials from the federation.

It was an opportunity for the President to discuss volleyball development activities in Morocco and to congratulate the Federation for the qualification of their women’s team - Ikram Ettayafi and Mahassine Siad – to the FIVB Beach Volleyball World Championships The Netherlands 2015.

New JVA Management Welcomed into Volleyball Family

Tokyo, Japan, August 25, 2015

The Japan Volleyball Association (JVA) met with FIVB President Graça during the FIVB Volleyball Women’s World Cup 2015 which took place from August 22 to September 6. The Japan Volleyball Association is one of the forerunners in hosting major FIVB volleyball and beach volleyball competitions, and among the major players that promote the sport. President Graça said:

"Japan has always been an innovator for our sport in terms of sport presentation and entertainment, spectatorship and technology. Many of the most memorable moments in volleyball have taken place in this country and I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to the JVA for the never-ending support to the International Volleyball Federation in terms of hosting and participation."

Image: FIVB President Dr. Ary S. Graça F° with FINA President Dr. Julio Maglione (left), FIVB President Julio Perez Alfaro (3rd from left) and Vice President Guido Salvo
FIVB’S SUCCESS IS THANKS TO EVERYONE – PRESIDENT GRAÇA

Cagliari, Italy, November 1, 2014

A record 210 of the FIVB’s 220 national federations, including 13 proxies, were represented at the two-day FIVB Congress in 2014 held in Cagliari, Italy. The President updated delegates on the revolutionary LED net and how the FIVB will continue to innovate to break through into new markets and ensure that volleyball is truly a sport for all. “This was the best Congress ever. I have never seen such participation from the participants. This has stimulated the debate,” President Graça said when closing the Congress.

“Do you know why we have success? It’s because of you. You are working hard, you are stimulated. After this Congress, you have seen everyone working at every level. Everyone is trying to push the FIVB and volleyball to the right place that it deserves.”

“I am very proud of you all.” During the Congress, there was also a standing round of applause in support of Ghoncheh Ghavami, the female volleyball fan who was detained in Iran, after President Graça reminded the members about the action taken by him – having written a letter directly to the Iran President asking for her release – and of the FIVB’s commitment to inclusivity and the right of women to participate in sport on an equal basis, in accordance with the Olympic Charter.

“INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITIES ARE THE KEYS FOR DEVELOPMENT”

Cagliari, Italy, October 30, 2014

FIVB President Graça encouraged the representatives of all category I and II national federations to take advantage of the opportunities made available for their development and the expansion of volleyball and beach volleyball worldwide during his address at a workshop organised on the occasion of the 34th FIVB World Congress.

“Our goal is to provide innovation and opportunities for those who want to work and believe in themselves to move on,” Dr. Graça said. “We have problems but we also have solutions to your problems.”

President Graça added that the FIVB has invested over $25m in development programmes over the last two years, through the five continental confederations.
ANOC PRESIDENT GUEST OF HONOUR AT FIVB BOARD MEETING

Lausanne, Switzerland, May 12, 2015

The Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah was welcomed by President Graça as the guest of honour at the FIVB Board of Administration meeting, at the FIVB headquarters in Lausanne. Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah is President of the Olympic Council of Asia and an IOC member and used his great standing in the sporting world to congratulate President Graça for the direction he is taking the FIVB as he addressed the FIVB Board members on the first day of its two-day meeting. “Volleyball has been radically increasing income and participants in recent years and for that I would like to pass on my congratulations. Volleyball is one of a few federations leading the international sports movement,” said Sheikh Ahmad.

SHEIKH AHMAD AL-FAHAD AL-SABAH A FRIEND OF VOLLEYBALL

Lausanne, Switzerland, May 12, 2015

FIVB President Graça thanked the President of the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah for his inspirational leadership during his opening address at the FIVB Board of Administration meeting.

“It’s an honour to have Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah here, he is an example to follow, he has become our friend, he is for sure a friend of volleyball,” President Graça said. “He understands our family. He has told me several times, we can count on him.

“During my presidential campaign I stood for opportunities and innovation. These two words are very important even more so today. We must give opportunities to the whole world and technology is the innovation of the world. We cannot stay still in the past.

“Volleyball has been too long outside the Olympic movement. For that I have been attending some key events, including personal meetings with the IOC President Thomas Bach and accompanying him and UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon to Haiti for the opening of a Sports Development Centre. This is very important for our goals in the future.”

The President closed his address by introducing the new FIVB campaign - Volleyball Your Way. “Volleyball can be played on the beach, on snow, with a balloon for all ages. Volleyball is a sport of peace, for the family. No contact, no violence. This is Volleyball Your Way.”
ANOC President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah was presented with the international volleyball community's most prestigious award – the FIVB Grand Cross – by President Graça on the opening day of the FIVB Board of Administration meeting. The FIVB Grand Cross, created in 1998, is awarded to high-ranking government officials, heads of organisations and prominent figures in the sports world for their exceptional contribution to volleyball and beach volleyball.

President Graça called for constructive criticism and a focus on innovation and new technologies when he opened the meeting of the Refereeing and Rules of the Game Commissions at the FIVB's headquarters in Lausanne in January.

FIVB President Graça welcomed Volleyball England President Geoff Allen and Chief Executive Lisa Wainwright to the headquarters of the International Volleyball Federation in Lausanne. Discussions centred around the federation’s strategy to build a sustainable long-term future for the sport in England and the FIVB’s plans for the sport in the years ahead.

President Graça and Italian Volleyball Federation (FIPAV) President Dr. Carlo Magri met Italian National Olympic Committee (CONI) President Giovanni Malagò and Secretary General Roberto Fabbricini to discuss the successful organisation of the FIVB Volleyball Women's World Championship Italy 2014.
The Netherlands were applauded by President Graça after they staged the most spectacular Beach Volleyball World Championships as the sport gathers increasing momentum towards the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

The FIVB’s commitment to innovation under President Ary Graça’s leadership was evidenced by the competition being yet another “Championship of Firsts” as is becoming a tradition for the International Volleyball Federation.

This Championship was the first hosted by the Netherlands, the first staged across multiple host cities, and the first edition to act as an Olympic qualification opportunity for Rio 2016.

Over 110,000 fans passed through the gates across The Hague, Amsterdam, Apeldoorn and Rotterdam, with 95,000 local children participating in side events related to the tournament and 2,355 people playing volleyball in one location which successfully smashed the world record.

“This was the best ever FIVB event in the history of beach volleyball with great organisation, fantastic matches, excellent crowds and teams from all around the world. I would like to congratulate TIG (Promoter) and NEVOBO (Volleyball Federation of the Netherlands) for the outstanding results of this tournament which has taken beach volleyball to another level,” President Graça said.

“The event will trigger a new era for beach volleyball – redefining sport as dynamic family entertainment, and I look forward to capitalising on this momentum on Copacabana Beach for the competition of a lifetime in 2016.”

The FIVB Beach Volleyball World Championships Netherlands 2015 was opened in the presence of King Willem-Alexander at the Royal Theatre in The Hague.
FIVB President Graça was one of 2,355 people to take to the sand in The Hague as a record number of people gathered in one location to play beach volleyball.

The President spoke of his passion for the sport, and how the #VolleyballYourWay campaign is about bringing volleyball to the masses.

“'This is what we call volleyball. Real volleyball. It's for the kids,'” he said.

“'Volleyball is not only to compete at a high level. Volleyball is fun. Volleyball brings you to the beach. Volleyball is a very social solution.'”
Following the Men’s FIVB Volleyball World Championship 2014 in Poland, FIVB President Dr. Ary S. Graça F° spoke about the beginning of a new era for volleyball.

President Graça, volleyball is having a magical season globally. What growth do you expect for the sport?

This season has pushed volleyball into a new era of sports entertainment and innovation, which has never been reached before. The Opening Ceremony for the Men’s World Championship in Warsaw reflected our vision for the future of the sport and Poland has set the new benchmark for volleyball events with a record participation of 70,000 people. From now on, we expect the same level of service from other host cities to maintain this quality for our stakeholders.

In order to meet the public’s expectations, we have been investing heavily in technology and innovation since my election in 2012. We want to bring a truly entertaining show, not only to the fans in the stadium, but also to the world watching the matches from home.

Respect, fair-play and loyalty are values underlying volleyball. One of your purposes as an FIVB President is to develop and spread them further.

Yes, absolutely. One of the primary goals of the Federation is to bring volleyball and beach volleyball to the doorsteps of disadvantaged communities worldwide. We want to ensure that volleyball is made available as an educational tool all over the world and to promote values such as respect and fair-play through a team sport.

I am a great believer that volleyball has a significant role to play in our society and I am truly convinced that it is our obligation to take part in all development projects as much as possible.
FIVB President meets State Secretary to the Italian Prime Minister

Rome, Italy, September 23, 2014

On the first day of the FIVB Volleyball Women's World Championship Italy 2014, Dr. Carlo Magri, President of the Italian Federation, and FIVB President Dr. Ary S. Graça F° met Graziano Delrio, State Secretary to the Italian Prime Minister and Secretary of the Council of Ministers with responsibility for Territorial Cohesion Policy and Sport.

READ FULL STORY

President Graça praises “successful” World Championship

Milan, Italy, October 13, 2014

The success of the FIVB Volleyball Women's World Championship Italy 2014 is proof that the sport is heading in the right direction according to President Dr. Ary S. Graça F°.

Speaking to the media at the final in Milan he stated that the fierce competition during Italy 2014 made it increasingly evident that volleyball is continuing to develop worldwide. The final took place just after the FIVB announced a new partnership with Rosetta Stone as the organisation looks to improve communication on court between athletes and referees.

“The global spread of volleyball has been made evident by the Championships this year – which have been the most successful in FIVB history,” President Graça said. “The fact that world No. 10 the Dominican Republic got so far through the competition demonstrates how the sport is developing beyond the usual stars in Russia and Brazil. We are seeing new stars emerging all the time from every corner of the world and this assures me that we are heading in the right direction as a federation.

“This will be enhanced even further as FIVB athletes and referees engage in Rosetta Stone programmes in the future. While this will ensure clarity and friendship on court, it will also help to inspire the younger generation of athletes. I am delighted that we have signed such a prestigious and game-changing partnership and also very proud to be the President of the first International Federation to initiate such a programme.”

Almost 13,000 fans packed into the stadium for the final game of the 17th edition of World Championship, which saw 102 matches played over the course of two weeks in six of Italy’s major sporting cities.

Looking ahead to the future, President Graça continued:

“Our next big development for 2015 will be the new LED nets which will be massive step for the commercial appeal of volleyball. These nets are for the fans. As the Rosetta Stone partnership will enhance communication on court, the LED net will facilitate communication between the athletes competing and the fans that are cheering for them.”

READ FULL STORY

“WE MUST GIVE A SHOW TO THE PUBLIC”

Verona, Italy, October 2, 2014

During the FIVB Volleyball Women's World Championship in Italy, FIVB President Dr. Ary S. Graça F° stressed how volleyball has entered a new era on and off the court.

“The most important thing is innovation and using new technology,” he said.

“You must be interactive with the public. The public are the most important thing. You have to help them to be satisfied.”

Promoting volleyball worldwide is one of the key areas for Dr. Graça and he is happy with the sport’s progress with the Rio 2016 Olympic Games on the horizon.

The President said: “That’s what we are trying (to create new volleyball markets). In the past, beach volleyball had only 31 countries trying to qualify for the Olympics. In London, because of investment in Asia and Europe we had 143 countries trying to qualify.

“Now for Rio 2016 we already have 195 countries, so we are spreading volleyball all around the world to be more popular. I think that we are succeeding. The new show we gave in Poland (men's World Championship) shows that people want to be more enthusiastic about volleyball.”

Talking about his hopes for volleyball and beach volleyball at the Games in his home country, Graça was in no doubt about the potential success for the FIVB’s two sports.

Dr. Graça continued: “Volleyball in Rio de Janeiro is almost as popular as football, so you can expect a lot of things from us and it's going to be a real success at the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.”

READ FULL STORY
Prior to the start of the FIVB Volleyball Women’s Club World Championship in Zurich, FIVB President Dr. Ary S. Graça explained he was looking forward to the “melting pot of talent” which has helped create some memorable moments in the tournament’s history.

Six teams competed in the 2015 edition which was hosted in Zurich for the third year in a row and President Graça was quick to praise its success.

“The teams are not international teams, but they are made up by the best teams in the world and you could see here that we had the best teams and the best players,” Dr. Graça said.

President Graça met with Fuji TV in the Japanese capital and commended the broadcaster’s ongoing commitment to engage the global volleyball community after its world-class coverage of the FIVB Volleyball World Cup in Japan. Fuji TV Sports Department Senior Director Mr. Taichiro Fujiyama, who has been committed to broadcasting volleyball for many years, welcomed President Graça to a dinner during which the FIVB’s plans for competitions in Japan were discussed.

Speaking shortly after USA claimed a first FIVB Volleyball World Cup victory in 30 years, FIVB President Graça praised a well-organised event which kept volleyball fans hooked from start to finish.

“The FIVB Volleyball World Cup was an extremely exciting competition,” said President Graça. “It was difficult to know which teams would qualify for the Olympic Games until the very end.”

Men’s World Cup winners USA booked their ticket to the Rio 2016 Olympic Games with a 10-1 win-loss record and a 3-1 victory against Argentina on Wednesday. They will be joined by silver medallists Italy, who finished second after defeating world champions Poland in their last match of the competition.
ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER ATTENDS FIVB WORLD LEAGUE FINALS IN FLORENCE

Florence, Italy, July 22, 2014

FIVB President Graça was honoured to welcome Italian Prime Minister, Matteo Renzi, to the World League Finals in Florence, Italy, as the FIVB confirmed that the ground-breaking changes introduced for the 2014 FIVB Volleyball World League will be implemented for the 2015 edition.

The tournament’s success was widely attributed to the innovative changes that the FIVB introduced as part of their ongoing commitment to developing the sport.

Following the successful event, President Graça said: “The 2014 FIVB Volleyball World League Finals in Florence provided a fitting conclusion to what has been the best ever edition of the FIVB Volleyball World League. We are delighted to have seen the positive impact our changes have made. The reaction from the athletes and the fans has been excellent and this has really raised the bar for all future competitions.”

REVAMPPED WORLD LEAGUE IS A SUCCESS

Lausanne, Switzerland, July 13, 2014

The excitement, passion and intensity generated by the 25th edition of the FIVB World League was highlighted by President Graça when volleyball’s premier annual men’s tournament was held in Florence last year.

In 2014, significant modifications were made to the format of the competition and the number of participating teams increased from 18 to 28.

“The new format of the FIVB Volleyball World League has produced a spectacular 25th edition of the competition, including a fair share of surprises,” Dr. Graça said.

OMAHA A FANTASTIC WORLD GRAND PRIX FINALS HOST

Omaha, USA, July 27, 2015

President Graça was on site in Omaha during the FIVB World Grand Prix and was impressed with the running of the event.

“Omaha has been a fantastic city which has embraced the FIVB Volleyball World Grand Prix completely,” President Graça said.

The President singled out the cooperation between the Omaha Sports Commission and USA Volleyball for their efforts in hosting a memorable event - one of four FIVB events on US soil in 2015. Part of the mutual interests the FIVB and USA Volleyball share is having NBC as a major player in growing the sport. Earlier in July, Graça was a special guest of AVP Pro Beach Volleyball Tour’s New York City open and had the opportunity to meet top NBC executives.
“WE ARE SPREADING VOLLEYBALL AROUND THE WORLD”
Thessaloniki, Greece, June 30, 2015

During a visit to the FIVB Volleyball World League Group 3 Pool G matches in Thessaloniki in June, FIVB President Graça spoke to the Hellenic Volleyball Federation (EOPE) and shared his thoughts and plans for the future of volleyball as the most engaging family sport entertainment in the world. The next challenge, the FIVB President acknowledges, is the conquest of big markets including the United States and China. Ten days earlier in Thessaloniki, President Graça provided an inspirational speech saying Thessaloniki “breaths volleyball” as Aristotelous Square in the centre of the city was transformed into a mini volleyball court for the future stars of the sport.

The tournament, which was also part of a wider anti-bullying campaign, was a memorable experience for all the children in attendance as they had the opportunity to receive a warm message and useful advice from the FIVB President.

PRESIDENT GRAÇA: “DEVELOPMENT IS MY FIRST GOAL”
Lausanne, Switzerland, January 27, 2015

President Graça asked the members of the Development Commission to help grow the popularity of volleyball globally as he opened a two-day meeting at the FIVB headquarters in Lausanne.

“Development is my first goal. We must take volleyball to the whole world and grow our market. We have already seen strong results in Asia and Oceania, where we are changing the way we work by promoting innovation and opportunities,” said Dr. Graça.

President Graça also spoke of the African Dream Project, which will help to organise cooperation between the FIVB, National Olympic Committees and local governments and sponsors. The project focuses on promoting volleyball in schools and getting boys and girls interested in volleyball and beach volleyball at an early age, but also encourages local authorities to get involved in actively promoting the two sports at a grassroots level.
FIVB PRESIDENT OUT TO RAISE SPORT’S GLOBAL PROFILE

Lausanne, Switzerland, February 7, 2015

Regional confederations are being pushed by President Graça to boost their presence online and raise the sport’s global profile to a higher level.

Dr. Graça delivered the message at the body’s headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland, stressing that the five confederations must work much harder to achieve their targets.

The FIVB President and the FIVB 1st Vice President Cristobal Marte Hoffiz jointly chaired the meeting, which saw Press Commission President Hiroshi Takeuchi, members, the Press Officers from the five FIVB Confederations consisting of Asia, Norceca, Africa, South America and Europe and officials from the FIVB Communications Department attend the one-day meeting to exchange their points of view to improve volleyball coverage as well as improving their working atmosphere while covering major volleyball tournaments.

"FIVB SETS NEW STANDARD"

Cagliari, Italy, November 1, 2014

FIVB President Graça emphasised three important innovations which are helping the FIVB set the benchmark for dynamic sport entertainment during his opening speech at the 34th FIVB World Congress.

The Challenge System, which is due to be used for the World League and World Grand Prix Finals and World Cup in 2015 as well as the FIVB Beach Volleyball World Tour Finals and Rio Open, was accompanied by the use of revolutionary LED nets, which will help to develop marketing and communication around the sport.

A E-learning and project management tool called Collaborate has been set up to promote integration, helping coaches and referees to improve their skills and allowing national federations and promoters to access event regulations and key FIVB Master Plans.

President Graça emphasised the importance of developing the use of digital platforms, including social media. “We must strive to be the most innovative and technologically advanced sport on the planet,” he said.
CSV UNANIMOUSLY REQUESTS FIVB PRESIDENT TO STAND FOR A NEW TERM AND ENDORSES NEW FIVB STRATEGIC PLAN

Lima, Peru, September 12, 2015

FIVB President Graça was applauded from the stage following his ground-breaking presentation to the CSV Congress, which was held in Lima, Peru on Saturday.

President Graça made the inaugural presentation of the FIVB 9 Goals project. The 9 goals are part of a long term strategic plan developed by President Graça and the FIVB to help direct the future work of the federation and ensure it realises the sport’s huge global potential.

FIVB PRESIDENT URGES AVC BOARD TO CONTINUE HARD WORK

Bangkok, Thailand, December 4, 2014

FIVB President Dr. Ary S. Graça F° chaired an Extra-Ordinary Meeting of the AVC Board of Administration, asking for cooperation among all 65 AVC affiliated member federations and the AVC to set up a long-term development plan and help move the continent’s volleyball-governing body forward. The day before the Extra-Ordinary Meeting, President Graça joined distinguished guests at the official inauguration of the new AVC Headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand.

PRESIDENT GRAÇA ATTENDS CSV’S 69TH ORDINARY CONGRESS IN COLOMBIA

Cartagena, Colombia, March 13, 2015

Representatives of the 12 South American volleyball federations were present at the continental confederation’s 69th Ordinary Congress, which took place in the city of Cartagena in Colombia on March 6. The meeting was chaired by FIVB President Dr. Ary S. Graça F° alongside CSV President Dr. Rafael Lloreda.
FIVB WELCOMES IOC PRESIDENT THOMAS BACH

Lausanne, Switzerland, June 29, 2015

International Olympic Committee President Dr. Thomas Bach was welcomed to the FIVB headquarters by President Graça, where the ongoing development of volleyball and beach volleyball and preparations for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games were discussed.

The Olympic volleyball tournament in 2016 will take place at the Maracanãzinho Arena in Rio de Janeiro.

The beach volleyball tournament at the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro is also set to mark an important new milestone in the history of the sport, after the highly successful event at the London Olympics. A temporary beach volleyball stadium will be located at Copacabana beach with seating for 12,000 spectators. The venue, which will be located on one of Brazil’s most iconic landmarks, will play a central role in the image of the Rio Olympic Games, which will take place from August 5 to 21 2016.

Ticket sales for the volleyball and beach volleyball events at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games have been extremely popular, with the interest in volleyball putting the sport ahead of other popular events including football, swimming and athletics.

READ FULL STORY

FIVB DISCUSS RIO 2016 PLANS AT IOC HEADQUARTERS

Lausanne, Switzerland, February 2, 2015

FIVB President Graça met with IOC President Thomas Bach when he attended long lunch meeting in the IOC’s headquarters. The Rio de Janeiro 2016 Olympic Games and the organisation of volleyball and beach volleyball tournaments were the main items of discussion.

READ FULL STORY

PRESIDENT GRAÇA MEETS TOKYO 2020 ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Tokyo, Japan, August 28, 2015

President Graça met with representatives of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games Organising Committee in the Japanese capital, where plans for the volleyball and beach volleyball tournaments at the Summer Games in five years’ time were discussed.

READ FULL STORY

FIVB SUPPORTS OLYMPIC DAY VALUES

Lausanne, Switzerland, June 24, 2014

President Graça called on all to participate in Olympic Day and said that “the International Volleyball Federation is proud to support the core values which underpin this annual event, including the participation in sport for all and the promotion of a healthy lifestyle.”

READ FULL STORY
HONDA PRESENTS FIVB WITH NEW CR-V
Lausanne, Switzerland, September 2, 2015

Official partner Honda Motor Europe presented the International Volleyball Federation with a stylish new CR-V 1.6 i-DTEC during a ceremony at the FIVB’s Lausanne headquarters. Honda Motor Europe was the first international brand to partner with the FIVB across both volleyball and beach volleyball marking a new beginning for the federation.

President Graça said: “The FIVB is grateful to Honda Motor Europe for its support which has seen volleyball and beach volleyball move forward rapidly since our partnership was signed in 2013.”

FIVB AND MIKASA TEAM UP FOR TOKYO!
Lausanne, Switzerland, May 12, 2015

The FIVB renewed its partnership with Japanese company Mikasa to provide the official balls for all FIVB volleyball and beach volleyball events until the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

FIVB SELECTS ROSETTA STONE TO ENHANCE COMMUNICATION AMONG ATHLETES AND REFEREES
Milan, Italy, October 13, 2014

Rosetta Stone Inc. and the FIVB announced a new partnership that aims to break down language barriers that exist between athletes and referees in this global sport.

As the official language-learning partner of the FIVB, Rosetta Stone will provide its trusted language-learning solutions to the referees and staff of the FIVB with the goal of helping all referees become proficient in the English language.
**DB SCHENKER NAMED OFFICIAL LOGISTICS AND FREIGHT FORWARDING SUPPORTER**

Lausanne, Switzerland, December 10, 2014

DB Schenker, and its specialist group of DB SCHENKERsports, entered into a two year agreement with the FIVB in December, 2014. They will provide logistics planning, freight transportation and customs clearance, distribution operations, as well as on site presence at major events for the FIVB.

**READ FULL STORY**

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**PRESIDENT PRAISES NEW BIDDING PROCESS**

Lausanne, Switzerland, June 23, 2015

The FIVB launched the bidding process for the 2017 edition of the FIVB Beach Volleyball World Championships – this is the first time a bidding process has been introduced for the competition.

Dr. Graça explained the decision to introduce bidding for this competition is part of the FIVB’s dedication to transparency and good governance in accordance with Recommendations 27 and 29 of the Olympic Agenda 2020.

“We are 100 per cent committed to ensuring fair play at all levels – including when we select host cities for our competitions.

“We want the selection of host cities to be open and transparent and a bidding process is essential for this.”

**READ FULL STORY**

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**2018 WOMEN’S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP BROADCASTING DEAL AGREED WITH TBS**

Tokyo, Japan, August 25, 2014

The FIVB and the Japan Volleyball Association (JVA) announced an agreement with longstanding partners Tokyo Broadcasting System Holdings, Inc (TBS) to broadcast the 2018 FIVB Volleyball Women’s World Championship, which will take place in Japan.

**READ FULL STORY**
BEACH VOLLEYBALL SET FOR GLOBAL EXPANSION WITH NEW PARTNERS

Zurich, Switzerland, February 26, 2015

In February, the FIVB announced a historic new partnership agreement with the Beach Major Company - a joint venture between Hannes Jagerhofer (Acts) and Red Bull - demonstrating FIVB President Dr. Ary S. Graça F°’s commitment to sport innovation as he looks to secure volleyball’s position as the most engaging family sport entertainment in the world.

This ground breaking partnership will ensure that beach volleyball will set the benchmark as one of the world’s most dynamic forms of sport entertainment, with Red Bull bringing its full marketing, event management and media competence to the realisation of three Major Series events and the Swatch Beach Volleyball Season Final as part of the FIVB World Tour.

Swatch also returned to beach volleyball as the title sponsor for the Major Series as part of the FIVB World Tour.

“This new partnership is the next step in the FIVB’s mission to ensure that volleyball is the world’s leading family sport entertainment through engagement, innovation and universality,” President Graça said.

BRILLIANT START TO MAJOR PARTNERSHIP

Stavanger, Norway, June 13, 2015

FIVB President Graça presented Hannes Jagerhofer with a plaque prior to play at the Stavanger Major and acknowledged the exciting start to the new partnership of the FIVB and Beach Major Company (BMC), which is behind the new Swatch Major Series.

Under the guidance of Dr. Graça, the 2015 World Tour calendar featured $9.25m in prize money and culminated with an inaugural SWATCH FIVB World Tour Final in September in Fort Lauderdale, USA.
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