



WORLD TABLE TENNIS DAY

# 2019 REPORT

Celebrating & Sharing our PASSION for TABLE TENNIS!



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# WORLD TABLE TENNIS DAY 2019

## Event Report

### Intro message

April 6, 2019 brought forth the **strength and inspiration of diversity**, making its mark in global sports. For the first time, World Table Tennis Day reached more than 100 countries, bringing many ideas of how table tennis can be used to reach a broad and diverse population groups. For example, in Tunisia, an event was organised in a retirement centre where table tennis was introduced for the first time to elderly people living there, in Ecuador it helped to involve refugees from Venezuela in sport, in Algeria table tennis was used to educate people about the danger of drugs.

This year was also an important milestone in celebration and respect of diversity, shown by the organisations which took part in the fifth edition of the WTTD. As usual we saw a high number of schools, NGOs and clubs taking part but also companies and governmental bodies. It shows that everyone can participate in the promotion of table tennis in the world, and for this reason the ITTF Foundation won the **bronze award** for WTTD as the **Best Sports Event Of The Year Overseas** in this year's **Sports Business Awards**.

Diversity was also shown by the places where events were held. There were a lot of events organised in big cities such as Los Angeles in the USA, Rome in Italy and Abidjan in Côte d'Ivoire. But many of these were also held in rural areas like Kuruman in South Africa.

Therefore, table tennis as a sport keeps growing, becoming more and more accessible to everyone thanks to the commitment of all the organisations involved in the WTTD working even harder to organise the best events possible. All in all, the WTTD 2019 reached around 700, 000 people globally who had the chance to enjoy table tennis.

On April 6, we also share the love for our sport and throughout all the **922 events in 107 countries** that held events this year, we had an amazing overview of the creativity that inspired activities to make people more interested in table tennis. Moreover, many kids from schools got the chance to discover our sport and we hope it will create a vocation for some of them in the future. Table tennis is getting more and more popular within schools in their educational programs.

As in previous years and also thanks to the kind contribution of iPong and Butterfly, featured projects received iPong robots and Butterfly equipment. All organisers sharing a video with us received t-shirts which were specifically designed for World Table Tennis Day 2019 and are not purchasable. This year, t-shirts were also offered to the first organiser of each country who registered an event.

My personal **thanks** goes out to our major sponsor Butterfly and our contributions from iPong, to Hoima Network of Child Rights Clubs and Slum Ping Pong in Uganda, and to our role model Ibrahim Hamadtou for the joint celebration in Uganda, to Carolina Rosso for her patience and ideas with graphic design, to Etsuko Enami for her diligent work, to Corentin Bonnegent for his commitment in the evaluation process, to Khaled El-Salhy for translations and intervention, to Romina Concha Sepúlveda for her social media management, to Jacqueline Njeri for her professional reporting, to Dennis Weißflog for willingness and constructive help, and to Wiebke Scheffler for all those little unseen steps. Furthermore, I'd like to thank the ITTF officials and staff for their continuous support and also those elite players that celebrated with us.

**My biggest acknowledgments are reserved for each single organiser and participant.** It is thanks to your love for our sport that we keep going further, making table tennis accessible to everyone everywhere!

And of course, thanks to you, reader of this report, for your interest in World Table Tennis Day and your help to spread the word and make it grow in 2020.

Looking forward to seeing you on April 6, 2020!

**Leandro Olvech**  
ITTF Foundation Director  
[lolvech@foundation.ittf.com](mailto:lolvech@foundation.ittf.com)



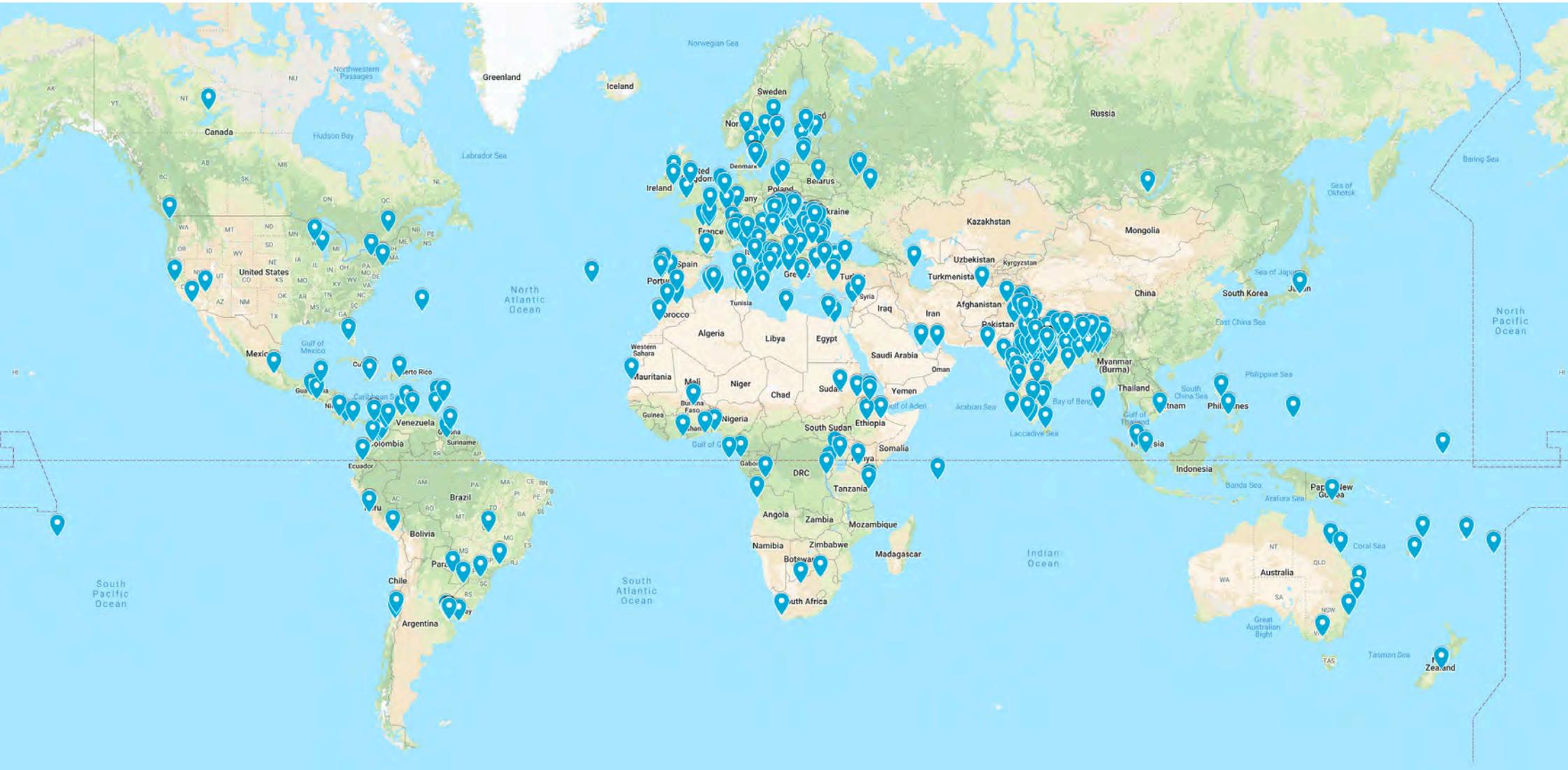
# 2019 WTTD EVENTS MAP

992

EVENTS in

107

COUNTRIES



👤 TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS  
700,000 approx.

👤 AVERAGE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS  
775 approx.

# CONTINENTAL TOP ORGANISERS

(Events quantity)

## # RANKING PER CONTINENT

- 470 Europe
- 275 Asia
- 74 Latin America
- 69 Africa
- 19 Oceania
- 15 North America

## # COMPARATIVE TABLE

CONTINENT	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
NORTH AMERICA	12	7	20	13	15
EUROPE	50	68	215	288	470
LATIN AMERICA	36	29	35	63	74
ASIA	35	61	126	140	275
OCEANIA	13	17	15	11	19
AFRICA	14	13	39	64	69

### 15 NORTH AMERICA

- 10 USA
- 4 Canada
- 1 Bermuda

### 74 LATIN AMERICA

- 15 Argentina
- 12 Colombia
- 6 Jamaica
- 5 Peru
- 4 Brazil
- 4 Chile
- 3 Ecuador
- 3 Venezuela
- 3 Guyana
- 3 Trinidad and Tobago
- 2 Uruguay
- 2 El Salvador
- 2 Mexico
- 2 Panama
- 1 Paraguay
- 1 Barbados
- 1 Belize
- 1 Costa Rica
- 1 Dominican Republic
- 1 Guatemala
- 1 Bonaire
- 1 St. Vincent

### 470 EUROPE

- 209 Slovakia
- 131 Romania
- 38 Italy
- 23 Sweden
- 8 Turkey
- 6 Greece
- 5 Portugal
- 5 Russia
- 4 France
- 3 Estonia
- 3 Latvia
- 3 Poland
- 3 Wales
- 2 Andorra
- 2 Bulgaria
- 2 England
- 2 Ireland
- 2 Kosovo
- 2 Luxembourg
- 2 Malta
- 2 Netherlands
- 2 Switzerland
- 1 Austria
- 1 Croatia
- 1 Germany
- 1 Gibraltar
- 1 Hungary
- 1 Macedonia
- 1 Norway
- 1 Spain
- 1 Azerbaijan
- 1 Slovenia
- 1 Belarus

### 275 ASIA

- 230 India
- 8 Pakistan
- 7 Nepal
- 7 Bhutan
- 5 Malaysia
- 4 Japan
- 4 Philippines
- 2 Qatar
- 1 Bangladesh
- 1 Vietnam
- 1 Afghanistan
- 1 Lebanon
- 1 Singapore
- 1 Sri Lanka
- 1 Syria
- 1 United Arab Emirates

### 69 AFRICA

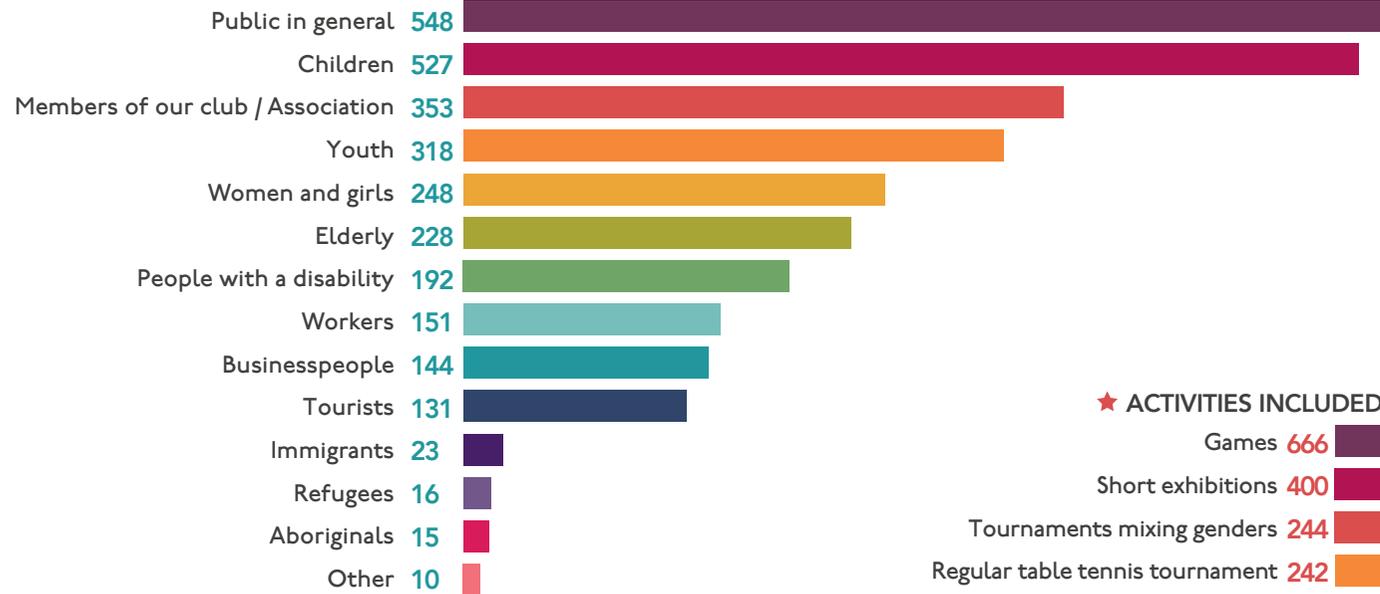
- 19 Ethiopia
- 7 Tunisia
- 6 Algeria
- 5 Morocco
- 4 South Africa
- 3 Burkina Faso
- 3 Egypt
- 3 Uganda
- 3 Tanzania
- 2 Libya
- 2 Nigeria
- 1 Angola
- 1 Cote d'Ivoire
- 1 Gabon
- 1 Kenya
- 1 Rwanda
- 1 Togo
- 1 Burundi
- 1 Sudan
- 1 Congo Brazzaville
- 1 Mauritania
- 1 São Tomé and Príncipe
- 1 Seychelles

### 19 OCEANIA

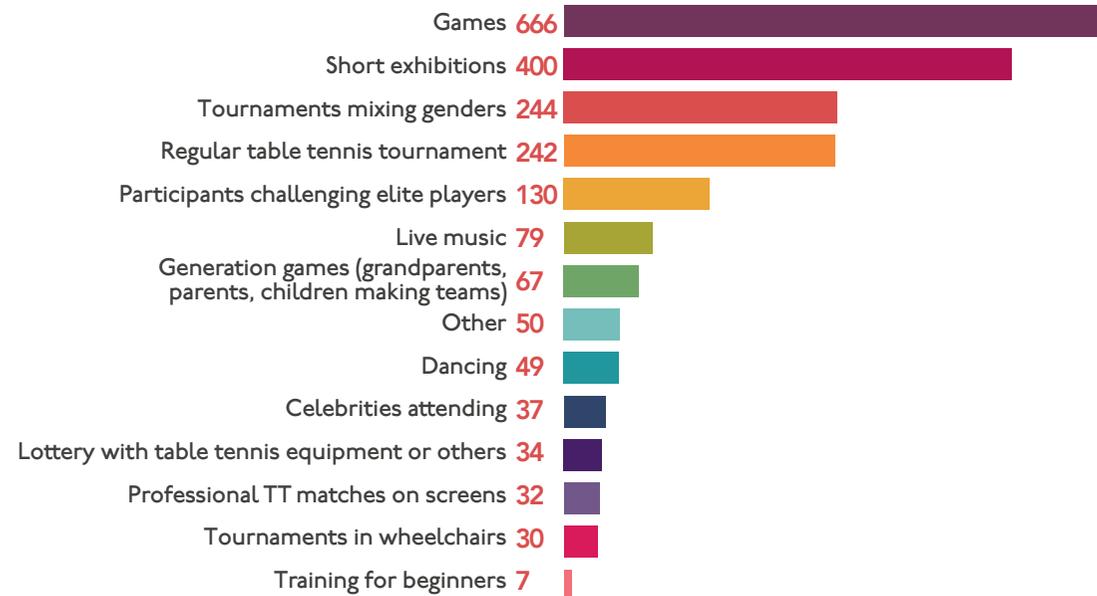
- 7 Australia
- 2 Fiji Islands
- 2 New Caledonia
- 2 Tonga
- 1 New Zealand
- 1 Kiribati
- 1 Papua New Guinea
- 1 Vanuatu
- 1 Micronesia
- 1 Tahiti

# ★ EVENT DETAILS

## 👤 TARGETED PARTICIPANTS

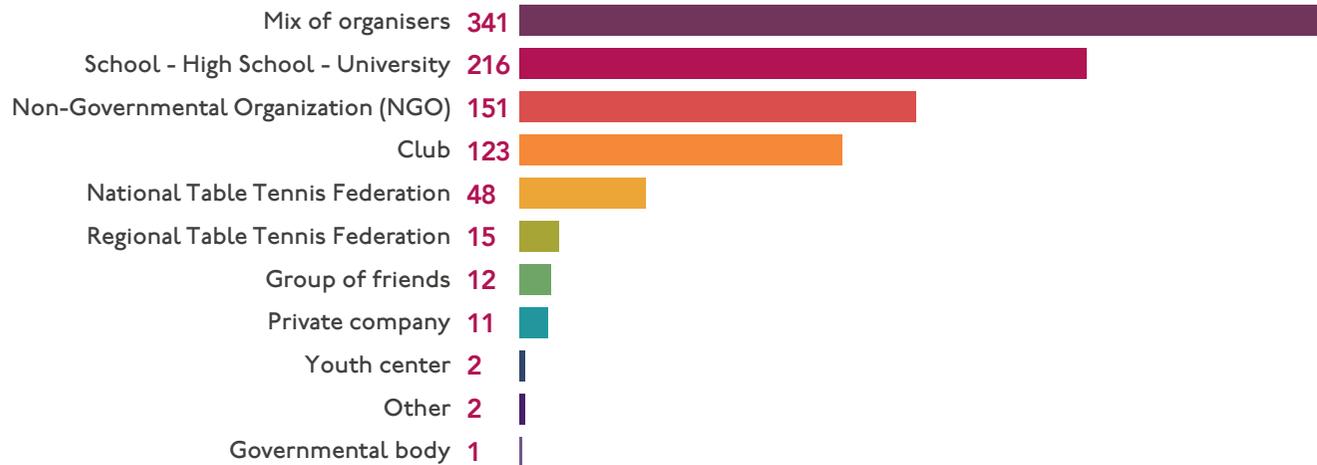


## ★ ACTIVITIES INCLUDED



# ★ ORGANISER(S)

## ★ The various types of organisations which organised events



## 📍 VENUES



WILL YOU ESTABLISH A "COME 'N' TRY PRIOR TO THE WTTD?



ARE YOU PRODUCING BANNERS OR ANY OTHER PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL?



ARE YOU PRODUCING T-SHIRTS?



DO YOU HAVE A PHOTOGRAPHER?



DO YOU HAVE A CAMERAMAN?



# ★ THANKS TO ROMANIA, INDIA, SLOVAKIA AND ITALY

Together with the ITTF Foundation, table tennis lovers from all over the globe rallied to celebrate World Table Tennis Day. The event is showing consistent growth and going from strength to strength each year. We would like to highlight some organisers with a particular high commitment motivating others to celebrate WTTD in 2019.



## Romania:

	2019	2018	2017
Number of events	131	163	114

Over recent years, Romania has been a fertile ground for the development of table tennis for all with over 100 events organised each year since 2017. In 2019, approximately 5,000 players participated. Well done to AmaTur Romania, an organisation arranging competitions for amateur players and special thanks to the commitment of Marcel Giosan,



## Slovakia:

In Slovakia, two table tennis lovers took the reins; Alica Grofova – Chladekova, Slovak table tennis legend (2nd on the World Championships) and Marian Bystrican, international table tennis referee, motivated 141 organisers in 2018 and 209 in 2019. Amazing things are possible for those who believe in the power of our sport! Congratulations, Alica and Marian!



## India:

	2019	2018	2017
Number of events	230	109	89

In India, the NGO Pingpongphilic StartUp Incubation Universal Society (PSIUS), under the guidance of Lokesh Singh Bagri, contributed to make table tennis more accessible in both urban and rural areas. Through its events, PSIUS visited schools, colleges, public places and other locations making it possible for diverse population groups to play Table Tennis. Impressive development!



## Italy:

The Italian Table Tennis Federation successfully engaged their members to host a World Table Tennis Day event in 2019. Thanks to the appointment of World Table Tennis Day Manager Sara Anastasi, 38 events were organised all over Italy reaching a wide range of participants such as kids, persons living with a disability and table tennis players. An inspiring initiative for other National Associations to follow!

*... What are you doing to spread the word?*



## ★ Overview of the WTTD in the two projects in Uganda

Actions in both of the two events:

- **At the beginning of the event:** public procession towards the venue
- **In the afternoon:** table tennis fun activities for kids

## Hoima, 04-04-2019 Honecric

- **12.00:** ceremonial start with speeches and anthems
- **14:00** fun table tennis activities for kids
- **16:00** exhibition match and interaction with WTTD Ambassador Ibrahim Hamadtou



★ Kampala, 06-04-2019  
Slum Ping Pong

- 01:00pm: Lunch for everyone
- 02:00pm: Performances including traditional dances and poetry
- 05:00pm: End of the event with cake cutting and tree planting at the venue

# ★ ITTF Main Celebrations

The ITTF Foundation presence in Uganda is through 2 different projects led by the ITTF Foundation.

The first one is located in the **rural region of Hoima**, in western Uganda and has been ongoing since 2013. Many children from this district are affected by an early school dropout. The rate of school dropout is even higher for girls who usually get married in their adolescence.. There is also a lack of integration of children with disabilities. **In Hoima, table tennis is used as a powerful tool to encourage school attendance rates** because they have to go to the school if they want to play in the program. The second project is based in Kampala, where 39 % of the population lives below the poverty line. Slum Ping Pong, a table tennis club, aims to give a chance to kids from the slums to play table tennis and enjoy free lunches as well as clothes and shoes offered by the program. The project also integrates school support depending on the needs of each young player. **The idea is to give hope to the kids and break the cycle of poverty.**

The reality is that many kids in these locations do not see schools as a way to get better opportunities in the future, and some of them prefer to join a gang. These 2 projects set up a safe place where kids can practice table tennis and increase their self-esteem and confidence, and they are encouraged to regularly attend school.

Sport is a powerful tool to create positive social change. The ITTF Foundation, Ibrahim Hamadtou and local organisations from Hoima (Hoima Network of Child Rights Clubs) and Kampala (Slum Ping Ping) are all aiming to **promote positive individual and social change for children in Uganda - helping them to aspire and reach a better future.**



Check out the video to learn more about the WTTD celebration in Uganda



# ★ WTTD 2019 AWARDS - OVERVIEW

World Table Tennis Day lives through the contribution of each single event, no matter how big or small, whether ordinary or extraordinary. Thanks to each participant, our sport reaches more and more people, year after year. Each event organiser deserves a special recognition. Thanks to so many impressive contributions, World Table Tennis Day is what it is today - a wonderful and accessible Sport for ALL event, each year reaching more people and more target groups.

The WTTD awards aim to feature special 2019 initiatives, with a focus on showcasing exemplary and different initiatives each year. It is only a motivational incentive. World Table Tennis Day clearly shows that it is not about the wealth of materials organisers have, but rather about the love for our sport and sharing it with others.



## Butterfly - 1 Big Equipment Package

**AWF World Table Tennis for All Celebration in Peshawar, Pakistan**

**Goal:** - To promote United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)  
- To attract people to play table tennis and give a peaceful message

**Participants:** 200

**Program:** - Activities like mini ping pong, painting/drawing TT4All competition, water balloon fight  
- Distribution of table tennis equipment to the participants  
- Table tennis dance and fireworks at the end

**Organiser:** Absar Welfare Foundation



# ★ WTTD 2019 AWARDS - OVERVIEW



## Butterfly - 2 small equipment packages

### Table Tennis, the sport that Superheroes love in Arima, Trinidad and Tobago

- Goal:**
- To reach people who do not know about table tennis
  - To create and increasing a huge interest in the sport

**Participants:** > 1000

- Program:**
- Play table tennis in a famous shopping mall in Arima
  - Make local people and tourist play activities like challenge a celebrity, spin the wheel

**Organiser:** Arima Table Tennis Club



### JTG Schools Table Tennis Growing the Sport in Kuruman, South Africa

- Goal:** - To introduce table tennis to school kids from rural areas

**Participants:** 52

- Program:**
- Exercises to learn the basis of table tennis
  - Fun activities to interest kids

**Organiser:** JTG School Table Tennis



# \* WTTD 2019 AWARDS - OVERVIEW

## IPONG® iPong ROBOTS

The iPong – Robots went to the most popular, most universal, most inclusive and most creative events. The selected initiatives have modelled character and shown great ideas to be repeated on World Table Tennis Day. With 12 iPong – Robots and 3 iPong Kits awarded in 2016 and 2017 we now have a total of 25 different featured initiatives. Congratulations!

# A

### 2 iPong Robots for the 2 most popular events

This category awards events with a high quantity of participants, both in terms of real numbers and potential.

One of the main indicators was « hard to reach people », that is to say, how were people involved, who normally don't play table tennis.

#### World Table Tennis Day in Los Angeles, USA

**Goal:** - To expand awareness and enjoyment of table tennis through a public festival on Santa Monica's famous Third Street Promenade

**Participants:** > 1000

**Program:**

- Game exhibitions
- Free training
- Give people the opportunity to learn about here to play locally

**Organiser:** PongFit

#### TT is fun and beneficial in Slovenia

**Goal:**

- To show to the general public how fun and useful table tennis can be for all generations
- To reach out to people who do not usually practice sport

**Participants:** > 500

**Program:**

- Game exhibitions on the street and the shopping malls
- Music show and prizes to the participants

**Organiser:** NTK Vesna



# \* WTTD 2019 AWARDS - OVERVIEW

## B

### 2 iPong Robots for the 2 most universal events

The most universal event has been determined by the location where the event was organised, whether unusual, hard to reach or a vast region covered.

#### Pasaules Galda Tenisa Diena (World Table Tennis Day) in Ķekava, Latvia

- Goal:**
- To popularize table tennis among children and youth
  - To encourage children and youth to play table tennis and spend their free time in qualitative manner

**Participants:** 40-50

- Program:**
- Fun activities for children around table tennis
  - Drawings and prizes

**Organiser:** - Latvian Table Tennis Federation and children and youth centre "Laimite"



#### World Table Tennis Day in the Universidad del Valle de Guatemala, Guatemala

- Goal:**
- To promote table tennis within the University
  - To provide a fun atmosphere where participants can play table tennis with their friends

**Participants:** 50

- Program:**
- Table tennis activities for students organised by students
  - Opening ceremony to talk about the week of health which takes place in the same time than the table tennis event

**Organiser:** Club de Tenis de Mesa UVG



# \* WTTD 2019 AWARDS - OVERVIEW



## 2 iPong Robots for the 2 most inclusive events

The most inclusive event has been determined by the activities offered to mix up different target groups, reach a special target group that might not be reached by mass participation events and this way make everybody participate of World Table Tennis Day.

### Senior retreat tournament in Manouba, Tunisia

**Goal:** - To introduce table tennis to people in a retirement house

**Participants:** 40

**Program:** - Table tennis games among people living in the retirement house  
- Convivial banquet

**Organiser:** Chouigi sports club

### Seleka spin! In Haveluloto, Tonga Goal

**Goal:** - To introduce kids to "Bounce it Back" community program (increase levels of physical activity and promoting social inclusion)

**Participants:** 30

**Program:** - Children played games and discovered table tennis  
- Celebration party with the kids for the WTTD

**Organiser:** Tonga Table Tennis Federation



# \* WTTD 2019 AWARDS - OVERVIEW

D

## 2 iPong Robots for the 2 most creative events

This category is for all those who show creative ideas to make Table Tennis popular, universal and inclusive. Indicators are unusual activities, places, promotional campaigns, etc. The selected events give examples of “what else can be done”.

### Día Mundial del Tenis de Mesa (World Table Tennis Day) in Badajoz, Spain

**Goal:** - To show that table tennis is a sport fun and for a family

**Participants:** 195

**Program:** - 14 people played table tennis in the same time on 1 table  
- Table tennis provided to local students in the morning  
- Games, activities and carnival in the afternoon

**Organiser:** A.D Badajoz Tennis de Mesa



### Tenis de Mesa por la Paz in Cartago, Costa Rica

**Goal:** - To create a fun atmosphere merging table tennis and culture open to everyone

**Participants:** 130

**Program:** - Organisation of activities like giant table tennis and a tournament with self-made rackets  
- Children concert band during the event  
- Music, dance and traditional folklore

**Organiser:** Centro Cívico por la Paz



# \* WTTD 2019 AWARDS - OVERVIEW

E

## 2 iPong Kits for the 2 most popular, universal and inclusive events at once

The events combining the best of the 3 pillars of World Table Tennis Day (popular, universal and inclusive), received an iPong - Kit.

### Table Tennis Fair in Bucaramanga, Colombia

- Goal:**
- To inform more people about the WTTD and about table tennis in the area
  - To reach people who do not normally play table tennis and show them the benefits of it

**Participants:** 200

**Program:** The event took place in a local university open each Sunday to everyone.

**Organiser:** Fundación Federico



### Ping Pong frees everyone in Velletri (Rome), Italy

- Goal:**
- To create an opportunity for children to socialise and integrate as well as develop their personal freedom of expression
  - To realise the awareness of autism in conjunction with the World Autism Day on the 2nd

**Participants:** 200

**Program:**

- Fun and creative activities for children who participated in the event
- Creation of a story book about table tennis for children

**Organiser:** A.S.D Vigor Velletri





**INDIA - Alappuzha**



**INDIA - Pune**



**BHUTAN - Thimphu**



**LEBANON - Beirut**



**AFGHANISTAN - Sheberghan**



**LATVIA - Riga**



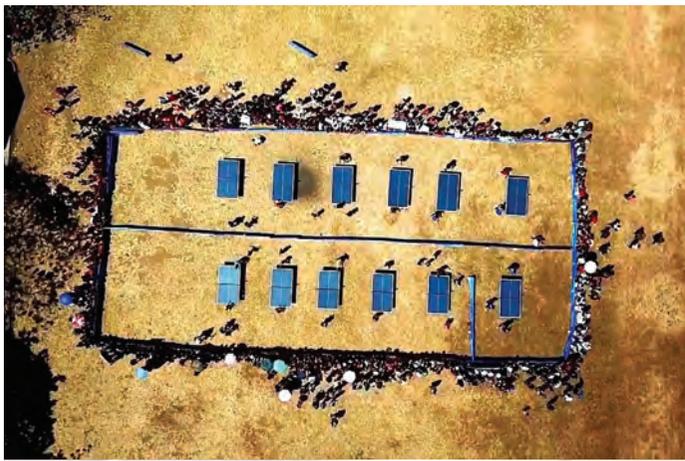
**INDIA - Pimpri**



**MALAYSIA - Selangor**



**TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO - Arima**



**PHILIPPINES - Municipality of Isabela**



**AUSTRALIA - Marsfield**



**INDIA - Satna**



**AUSTRALIA - Nambucca Heads**



**ITALY - Senigallia**



**ESTONIA - Tallinn**



**SWITZERLAND - Bern**



**FRANCE - La Riche**



**TUNISIA - Touza**



**PERU - Arequipa**



**MACEDONIA - Prilep**



**GUATEMALA - Ciudad de Guatemala**



**SPAIN - Badajoz**



**CHILE - Santiago**



**RUSSIA - Irkutsk**



**ITALY - Jesi**



**SLOVENIA - Ljubljana**



**TUNISIA - Manouba**



**ALGERIA - Larbaa Algerie**



**COSTA RICA - Cartago**



**BURUNDI - Bujumburaa**



**PORTUGAL - Coimbra**



**LATVIA - Kekeva**



**EL SALVADOR - San Salvador**



**PERU - Chosica**



**jamaica - Kingston**



**USA - Los Angeles**



**BHUTAN - Yadi Mongara**



**PAKISTAN - Bahawalnagar**



**INDIA - Satna**



**BRAZIL - Guarulhos**



**ITALY - Cagliari**



**PAKISTAN - Lahore**



**SLOVAKIA - (all over the country)**



**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - Dubai**



**BULGARIA - Sofia**



**BRAZIL - Sao Paulo**



**KOSOVO - Prizren**



**VENEZUELA - Caracas**



**POLAND - Prabuty**



**UGANDA - Kampala**



**PORTUGAL - Torres Vedras**



**FRANCE - Chateaufneuf**



**JAMAICA - Kingston**



**MOROCCO - El Hajeb**



**MOROCCO - Ait Melloul**



**COLOMBIA - Bucaramanga**



**PARAGUAY - Asuncion**



**ECUADOR - Quito**



**TONGA - Haveluloto**



**CHILE - Rengo**



**PAKISTAN - Peshawar**



**PAKISTAN - Karachi**



**PANAMA - Panama**



**LIBYA - Benghazi**



**BHUTAN - Mongar**



**TURKEY - Isparta**



**U.S.A - Estero**



**TUNISIA - Rades**



**NEPAL - Lalitpur**



**TURKEY - Istanbul**



**ETHIOPIA - Harar**



**JAMAICA - Portmore**



**MALAYSIA - Kuala Lumpur**



**ETHIOPIA - Mekelle**



**USA - Flushing**



**SOUTH AFRICA - Kuruman**



**ETHIOPIA - Adigrat**



**IRELAND - Dublin**



**KOSOVO - Ferizaj**



**BHUTAN - Gomtu**



**SYRIA - Hama**



**TURKEY - Istanbul**



**SLOVAKIA - Nove Zamky**



**6/4/2019, Slovakia**

**SLOVAKIA - Sirokê**



**SLOVAKIA - Dolna**



**SLOVAKIA - Mucin**



**SLOVAKIA - Stitnik**



**BELARUS - Minsk**



**ITALY - Velletri**



**SLOVAKIA - Trenciansky**



6 APRIL  
WORLD  
TABLETENNIS  
FOR ALL  
DAY

# 2020

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