

EXPOCHESS CHILDREN OF THE WORLD

MEMORY



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1. Introduction

We all know what **Chess** provides and that children have a very positive attitude for this sport-science, they connect each other. Therefore taking advantage of the Christmas spirit of these dates that we realize what really matters and the people around us, we have organized an international festival, a fusion of **Solidary Children's Tournament and Contest** (10/12/2016).

The goal was that children in each country (between 8 and 12 years) can see how they play, under what conditions, as discussed and debated at the congress of the festival **EXPOCHESS 2016**, the inequality that exists over girls in the game (disparities of opportunities) **cultural and possibilities differences that there are...** to everyone aware of the big differences that we suffer in the world and we show solidarity with each other; even of the bad things we can take good ones.

Another goal of the festival was **to send aid funding for these neediest countries**; an objective that very pleasantly we achieve it.

Such shocking issue, in which we saw the differences that they suffer and what can be achieved with a small contribution by each of us, will serve as a **turning point facing the future festivals** because in many countries we live in certain ignorance (or don't want to see) regarding in which conditions live the countries with more poverty.

The mundial headquarters of the festival was the **Gran Hotel Lakua** of Vitoria-Gasteiz, because is known internationally for its **commitment to the culture, Chess and for the solidary events**, besides having facilities and **high quality services**.



The festival had a headquarters or venue in each of the countries, creating a cultural network of unique human connection; each country had **one representative**, a responsible for organizing and coordinating.

2. Connecting the World

12 countries, 5 continents, hundreds of children participating, 64 children from 8 countries playing and emphasizing in the tournament through our game system AHSI 4.0, if there is something that characterized this festival was that for a few hours, we saw how the world connect with a common goal, the children of the world, our future.

Here is the list of countries of the EXPOCHESS CHILDREN OF THE WORLD:

Spain

Boys and girls of the **CA Martintxo XT** of the Basque capital Vitoria-Gasteiz, were the representatives of the festival core. We showed that we are very advanced and put us on top of the world news, because besides being the venue of such a relevant festival, they were the winners of the tournament.



USA

The main power of the world, also participated in the festival. It is not new that is an example as a country that lives in its interior with a unification of cultures and demonstrated in this EXPOCHESS. Thanks to the organizer Dora Leticia (Chess Educators) and Beatriz Marinello (First Woman to be elected President of the United States Chess Federation and Vice President of FIDE), we could see how American children enjoyed the rest of the countries and, of course, the American spirit that characterizes them, very enriching.



UGANDA

One of the countries that surprised us the most. They made a great effort to participate, because although the AHSI 4.0 system is very economical, versatile and flexible, unfortunately in Uganda there are many technical difficulties, but we managed to connect with them, the children played and had interviews with each other, an unforgettable experience . It should be noted that the representative of this country is Robert Katende, who already had several feats to his credit, trained and helped his compatriot Phiona Mutesi, an example to follow that found in chess a way to save and improve his life. Among other achievements, in 2010 she participated in the Khanty-Mansysk (Siberia) Olympics and in Istanbul, she became the first African to win a FIDE

title. This beautiful story was captured in a book (2012) and a Disney movie (2016), both titled "The Princess of Katwe".



MEXICO

With the help of members of our collective friend, Cuarto de Luna (Cuernavaca, Mexico), we obtained a few snapshots, games and interviews that were very enriching for the public. With the help of Georgina Salazar, Margarita Muñoz (members of the Cuarto de Luna Collective), the instructor Isidoro Astudillo and the State President of Chess of Morelos, Rubén Canales Inocencio, children of the Solei School showed us the spirit of union with which they played chess, they told us about their culture, about their gastronomy, sending us photos of what they were eating during the festival, with an interest and enthusiasm that filled us with joy and transmitted to each of the countries with which they connected.



HUNGARY

Hungary, an example to follow in the world of chess, a referent. For us it was a challenge, because the Hungarian team was organized by the Judit Polgar Foundation, the best player in history to support us from the first moment of learning about the project at its Global Chess Festival (Budapest) where we present the project.

The very Judit Polgar carried out the one that was undoubtedly the biggest surprise of the festival, she called us personally minutes before starting to tell us that she had recorded a video-greeting at the same moment and that she was witnessing the festival from Hungary; an honor for us.



The hungarian children demonstrated their skill on the board, talked a lot in the interviews and, at all times, transmitted the illusion they had in the EXPOCHESS CHILDREN OF THE WORLD.

CHILE

We have to start by thanking the representative and organizer of Chile, Raúl González N. President of the Quillota Chess School Circuit (CEAPQ), because even though he had different tournaments and things to take from his school, he was in contact with us at every moment, connecting at any time via Skype and put all his illusion in this intercultural project.

They made the world see that they are a great power of World Chess with a very showy games and at all times wanted to participate in the interviews with the different countries.



PERU

The peruvians Leandro Zegarra and Wilder Marcelino, among others, showed us that if you believe in something, you can achieve it, and that is that with only 3 weeks to organize their participation, they launched the project and finished embroidery, so much that they stayed half point of the tournament winner.

The peruvian children were the ones who interacted most in the interviews, telling us many anecdotes, such as that they were located at 2800 meters of sea level, a fact that surprised much.



NEPAL

We, as the host of the world and organizing country, we had the challenge of doing the best possible with TV broadcasts, radio, different public relations of very relevant entities ... but we had a great competitor. The representative and organizer of Nepal, Umesh KC Chaulagain, Executive Director of Chess Travels, executive member of the Nepali Chess Association ... put all his energy and illusion into the EXPOCHESS CHILDREN OF THE WORLD by distributing festival t-shirts, holding the main Nepali press in the precinct, with directors of the country attending the festival ... everything to show, as he himself said in the video-greeting he sent us, that this project is like a mirror for children to see what they really are and how the world is surrounds us so that among all we can improve it.



CONGO

Even with all the difficulties they have in Congo involved in this project , we connected several times with our contact there and we knew how they are carrying out their participation in the EXPOCHESS CHILDREN OF THE WORLD project, with great enthusiasm. We hope that in the next edition they can participate more actively after their great work.

AUSTRALIA

Australia's participation was a challenge for us in this festival, the big time difference prevented their participation in the tournament, however, their representative Manuel Weeks helped us with their participation in this project and launched the work proposal to participate in the Tournament of the next edition.

COLOMBIA

With the help of César Monroy, the children of the coffee country participated in the festival contest and made a video about their customs and culture, a look at their society that saw all the participants in the festival.



FRANCE

The Aroki Association and the Chess Club Echiquier Henri IV participated in the project sending aid and works to the drawing contest of the festival.

Our contact was Marie-Alix Graciet and, Patrice Etchegaray, the representative of the country. Thanks to them we were able to have the participation of the Gauls in this festival that, in addition to the aids mentioned, gave much publicity to the project, enlarging the network of union that creates this festival EXPOCHESS CHILDREN OF THE WORLD.

3. Solidary Children's Tournament



Chess unites us, connects us, and so we have organized a **Solidary Children's Tournament** in which children from different countries connected to each other, **creating a network between different cultures** reclaiming that even being thousands of kilometres, we are all equal and we all deserve to live well without unequal opportunities faced by many today.

The tournament was online, not face to face: In each country they put the boards and people playing, but in front, instead of an opponent they had a **volunteer that have had a screen where games were broadcasted live to know what piece move accordance with what is emitted in the screen;** via the Internet. Everything was retransmitted live from each country.

The game system was a **league** with a speed game of **20 minutes** for the entire game; 10 minutes per player and 10 more between games.

Participants were **paired by drawing lot** having one team per country and conditioned by guidelines established in the bases of the tournament.

Because the time zone differences, **an optimal schedule** for the entire event was applied; in the countries of **America** the games were played in the **morning**, in **Europe** and **Africa** in the **afternoon** and in **Asia** in the **evening**; the festival concluded with a dinner or with a meal, respectively.

It must be emphasized that being a solidary tournament, the **spirit of personal competition was left aside**, with the goal of the tournament to be a **human connection** between children from different countries, besides **playing chess**, they played asking questions each other: each round was a **round of questions from opponents about the culture of their country, their school... so that emphasized each other**.

Therefore, we have not given much relevance to the results of the tournament, because **there really was not a single winner, but we all win enriching ourselves with the culture and society of each country**. One of the goals was to show everyone that we are all equal and that we all deserve a decent and happy life, especially the world's children, and this is something that the **AHSI 4.0 system** has achieved.



4. Solidary Drawing Contest

With the experience gained from the International EXPOCHESS Painting Contests organized in previous festivals, we organized an **international children's drawing contest** with the participation of children of the countries participating in the festival.



Children from 8 to 12 years were the protagonists of this event. The **thematic** was *CHESS, CHILDREN OF THE WORLD (Social Chess)*, with free technical and in A3 format.

Being many (hundreds) participants, each participating country made a preliminary selection of the drawings made by participants **selecting 8** works sent to the organization that the jury reviewed by the contest rules.

The selected works by the jury were exhibited at the **Gran Hotel Lakua (Vitoria-Gasteiz)** during the festival and each participating country had the option to use them as decoration during the games of the tournament, as in the lunch/dinner closing.

The best evaluated works by the jury competed for special prizes, in addition to gifts with the theme of the contest for children participants and a raffle (with surprise prizes) among attendees.



of art with hints of different cultures.

The **contest** was "**2.0**" because new technologies merged with the traditional; we opened a section on the event website where the visitors they was able to see the 8 works selected by each country as all works of the participants (of each country) creating a huge and very rich network

It is noteworthy to emphasize that in the drawings one could see the differences with which the children of each country sees the world; art is a universal language. Here we leave part of the explanation that gave us in the closing of the festival the chief of the jury **Mikel Garate**:

"In Chess and in the cosmos there is a hierarchy, a systematization, a way of organizing and of functioning, and often, as adults we are very rational, children are more abstract in this aspect, and at the time of expressing, they not need to be so rational or so narrative. There have been other adult contests in other editions (from EXPOCHESS) and what we have seen is that it is a so good to see the children's works, they have a lot of creativity and capacity for expression, their way of presenting themselves creatively before the world is very original."

As in previous contests, was organized by the cultural association **EXPOCHESS X.E.** in cooperation with **AHSI Consulting**, a perfect combination of ideas and goals.

5. During the festival



Although the festival started after a small speech by the presenter, the festival promoter and the tournament referee, it can be said that the show started after giving the "Play" button on the **AHSI 4.0 game system**. In an instant, the tournament and the cameras were underway in the 8 countries and interviews were beginning to bear fruit.

The **chess** games were **high level**, very competitive, everything was **very close**. It must be said that there were technical problems in some of the countries like Uganda or Nepal, but we managed to everyone were connect with each other; It was shown that using the AHSI 4.0 gaming system, any person from anywhere can connect in a way that encompasses all the senses of union.

The result of the tournament was decided, in an aura of tension and curiosity, after the last round and with a huge equality. The winner was the representative team of the world headquarters by only half a point.

Despite the main idea was that the interviews were only between the countries that faced each other, we made **several group calls**, something very curious and that gave us many great moments.



6. Greetings received

Being one of the objectives of the festival the interaction between the different countries, we had the idea of proposing to representatives and great figures of each country that to send us a video, brief and natural, greeting the children of the world and even giving their point of View on the idea of the festival.

We received several types of videos, from one in which a book was presented, to one that surprised us very much, a video of the very **Judit Polgar** who recorded it minutes before starting the festival, giving us an extra energy.

Here is a list of several of the video-greetings received:

- Umesh KC
- Ana Matnadze
- Anna Rudolf
- Juan Antonio Montero
- Joaquín Fernández Amigo
- Cesar Monroy
- Judit Polgár
- ...



7. Solidary meal or dinner

After completion of the Solidary Tournament and Contest, **there was a meal or dinner** (depending on the time zone of the country) **with the aim of raising funds for the project;** all remaining aid was destined to the project objective.



Previously, we took advantage of the awards **ceremony, gifts and speeches** of the closure so all the attendants could talk about the festival and each participating country in the same. This part of the festival, like the rest, even having the headquarters in the **Gran Hotel Lakua** of Vitoria-Gasteiz, **took place in various of the countries participating in the festival.**

8. Impact

When we started with the project, seeing the extensive list of countries we dared to say loudly that the diffusion of the festival would be very broad. However, we had a huge surprise because, despite having worked hard to have the greatest impact in the area of the headquarters and worldwide (**Gran Hotel Lakua, Vitoria-Gasteiz**), the other venues in each country also bet heavily on the Festival, with the participation of several producers of TV, attendants of great caliber like politicians of the Nepalese government ... making that the repercussion of the festival is practically of an incalculable scale.

As regards to the press, there have been references in all countries, both in print, radio and the Internet, the latter being the main network for dissemination of the project.

In social networks, only on the **Facebook page of EXPOCHESS**, each publication reached more than **50,000 people** around the world with thousands of interactions of the same. Weeks after the festival, there are still a huge number of people talking about the project.

It is noteworthy that in Spain we had the **TVE** in the headquarters and that the TV producer **VTV Gasteiz** made a special program of the festival recording it and broadcasting it in its totality several times during a week. In Nepal, they were not left behind having to the main producer of TV of the country recording the event.

There is a long list of press that participated in each country, in addition to the same organizers, who have made the impact of the project and the dissemination of the objectives have been a success, no doubt the world could see that the children of the World are the future of our society.

9. Organizers



We, in **AHSI Consulting** and the **EXPOCHESS X.E. Cultural Association**, have the **ability, knowledge** and **resources** to address the organization of this major event and **solid experience** in this field, thanks to the activities we accomplished so far combined with the **Gran Hotel Lakua**, more known for its spectacular events like the **Champions League (2007)** which brought together, among others, **six former world champions** Anatoly Karpov, Judith Polgar, Veselin Topalov, Ruslan Ponomariov, Rustam Kasimdzhanov and Alexander Khalifman, a concert series "The Nine Symphonies of Beethoven" was organized in charge of the Russian symphony orchestra...

The last festival organized by the merger of AHSI Consulting and EXPOCHESS X.E. was the **EXPOCHESS VITORIA-GASTEIZ 2016** in where it took place **the 1st International Congress regarding Women's Equality in Chess** (considered "The **world's most important congress** for Equality of Women in Chess"), the **2nd International EXPOCHESS Painting Contest**, exhibitions of painting, photography, an international photographic reportage Mexico and Alava ... in short, a spectacular festival with the theme "WOMEN CONQUERING CHESS WORLD".

In 2015, together with the cultural association EXPOCHESS X.E. and the cooperation of the Gran Hotel Lakua, we organized the 1st Festival EXPOCHESS VITORIA-GASTEIZ, the natural model for the current project.

In November 2014 we promoted and organized the EXPOCHESS 2014: it was a sports and cultural event, attended by **Mr. Martín Garitano** (President of the Provincial Council of Gipuzkoa); **Mr. Jon Redondo Lertxundi** (Director of the Department of Youth and Sports, Education, Language policy and Culture of the Basque Government), who inaugurated the expositions and also made the honour move for the national teams match (Basque Country vs Scotland) celebrated in tribute to the Basque Team's 30 anniversary; and **Mr. Miguel A. Muela** (President of the Basque Chess Federation), among other authorities. This event was widely covered by media and was a great success, with more than a hundred news and reviews published in various general and specialised communication media.

Also remarkable were the Guinness Chess World Record, the European Chess Record (3131 players playing at the same time at the Gran Via, Bilbao) and the Basque Chess Team's first tournament, among other events promoted and organized by the main promoter of the consultancy.

10. Sponsors and Contributors

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