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White Paper: An Introduction to

FIFA U-17 World Cup, 2017

Hosted By India

FIFA U-17 WORLD CUP INDIA 2017



FIFA U-17 Indian National Team (2013):
Photograph courtesy AIFF Media

5 December, 2013. This date will probably remain in the collective consciousness of football lovers in India for many years to come. On this fateful day, FIFA announced India as the hosts of the U-17 World Cup in 2017. The decision from FIFA came as no surprise because they believe India is capable of fulfilling its potential and is confident that the rising popularity of the sport in terms of viewership can be translated to good performances on the field too.

FIFA U-17 World cup is a big event that has the ability to affect India's economy positively and reverberate throughout the global media. Some of the associated benefits of hosting this event are as follows:

- Viewership: The U-17 world cup will draw upon a global audience due to many participating nations from different continents which will lead to high TV viewership. MSM India (Sony Six) is the broadcasting partner of this event and will telecast live matches in 2017.

- Sponsorship: Revenue opportunities are also possible through partnerships with national supporters. National supporters are sponsors with roots in the host country to promote an association in domestic market. For e.g. FIFA U-17 World Cup in UAE last year had 8 national supporters (Abu Dhabi tourism, Abu Dhabi airport, ADNOC, EMAAR, Etisalat, First Gulf Bank, Fifa.com and Football for Hope)

- Football Infrastructure: One of the important benefits is infrastructure upgrading and renovation of proposed stadium and training sites. The work will involve improvement of pitch quality, dressing rooms, floodlights, stands, etc. Crowds will definitely attend games in stadiums with good facilities and pitches that improve overall quality of play.

  AIFF has proposed holding of matches in five states, namely Delhi, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Karnataka and one among the states of Assam, Goa and Kerala. Expenditure for upgradation of stadia(Rs. 95 crore) will be provided as additional central assistance to the state governments and a sum of Rs. 25 crore is kept as a contingency to ensure smooth conduct of the tournament (Source : Press Information Bureau, Government of India) Dated: 13.06.2013

- Youth Development: The lead up to the main event will ensure concerted efforts to develop the grassroots projects leading to the creation of a talent pool of players. It will also benefit the coaches who play an integral part in the holistic development of players. Many youth competitions will also take place to scout talented players. Overall, youth development programs will receive a massive boost.

- National Pride: This event has the capacity to improve the image of the country as a sporting nation. India can also prove that they are capable of successfully planning and executing a global sporting event of this magnitude and gain international recognition.

- Knowledge transfer: Hosting a FIFA event is a good way to understand state-of-the-art know-how, learn the latest methodologies involved in organisational and operational management in various fields such as accommodation, ticketing, transportation, security and also the training of professional staff.

  Now the time has come for all stakeholders in Indian football to carefully plan and execute a good tournament in 2017. A successful U-17 World Cup could be the game changer and place India firmly on the global footballing map. However, it remains to be seen whether this tournament will mark a watershed moment in the history of India football.

FIFA U-17 WORLD CUP

FIFA U-17 World Cup, first hosted by China PR in 1985, was founded as FIFA U-16 World Championship. From the 4th edition onwards, FIFA increased the age limit from U-16 to U-17 and it came to be known as U-17 World Championship in 1991. Finally in 2007, the tournament was rebranded as the FIFA U-17 World Cup as it stands today.



FIFA U-17 World Cup, China PR in 1985: Courtesy FIFA.com

The FIFA U-17 World Cup takes place every two years. As a general rule, every association affiliated to FIFA may participate in this tournament. One slot is automatically reserved for the host nation in every edition Each of the six confederations of FIFA namely AFC (Asia), CAF (Africa), CONCACAF (North, Central America and Caribbean), CONMEBOL (South America), OFC (Oceania) and UEFA (Europe) organise their respective youth championships from which the top ranked teams are selected for the U-17 World Cup. The youth championships held by the different confederations are given below:



QUALIFICATION route to the
U-17 World Cup finals

Confederation	Championship
AFC (Asia)	AFC U-16 Championship
CAF (Africa)	African Under-17 Championship
CONCACAF (North, Central America and Caribbean)	CONCACAF Under-17 Championship
CONMEBOL (South America)	South American Under-17 Football Championship
OFC (Oceania)	OFC U-17 Championship
UEFA (Europe)	UEFA European Under-17 Football Championship



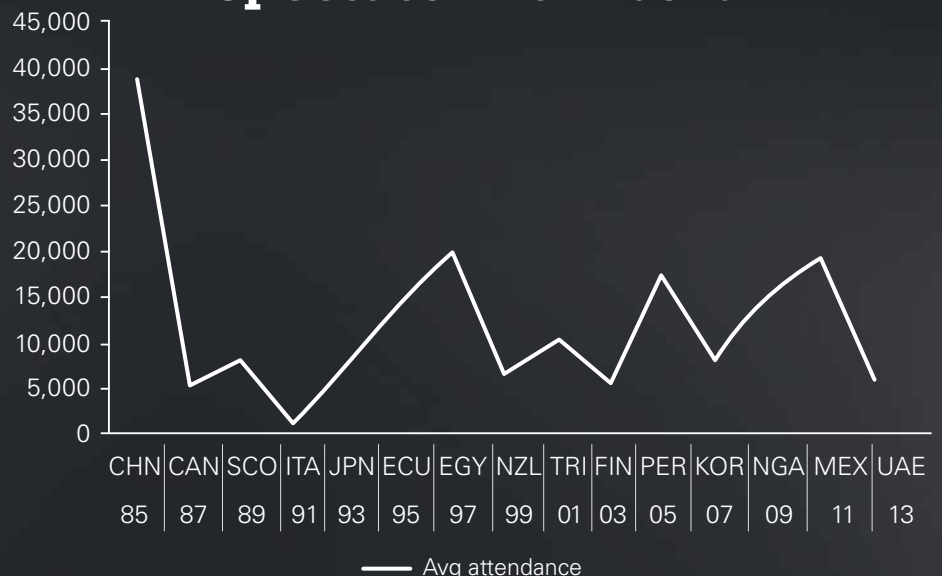
Nigeria's players hold up the trophy as they celebrate winning their U-17 World Cup final against Mexico at the Mohammed bin Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi, UAE, 2013 — KT photos by Nezar Balout

Football has come a long way since the professionalization of the sport and the advent of technology. Nutrition and medical conditioning, psychological and tactical preparation and scouting systems have all improved leaps and bounds over the last decade. It is imperative that national federations remain aware of these developments and provide the best platform for a young player to grow and showcase his/her talent. More importantly, a smooth transition from a youth to professional level is pivotal for a player to realise his/her potential. This is why the FIFA U-17 World Cup is important. The tournament brings together best youth teams of the world and provide an opportunity to identify the levels of work carried out in each country with the rising stars of football. These players are at an advanced stage of their youth training and their performance in this tournament is a good indicator of their capability to handle the demands of top-level football. With the tournament being held every two years, it allows the countries to regularly assess the progress of their teams and individual players.

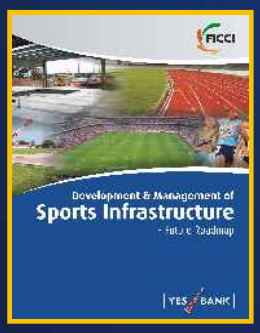
Past editions in a nutshell

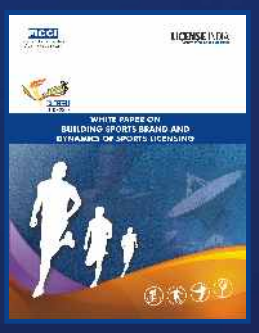
YEAR	COUNTRY	HOST CITIES	WINNERS	FAMOUS PLAYERS
1985	China PR	Beijing, Tianjin, Dalian, Shanghai	Nigeria	Fernando Redondo (ARG), Marco Echeverry (BOL)
1987	Canada	Montreal, Saint John (N.B.), St. John's (N.F.), Toronto	Soviet Union	Emmanuel Petit (FRA), Marco Echeverry (BOL)
1989	Scotland	Glasgow, Motherwell, Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh	Saudi Arabia	Claudio Reyna (USA), Luis Figo (POR)
1991	Italy	Montecatini, Viareggio, Carrare, Massa, Livorno, Florence	Ghana	Alessandro Del Piero (ITA), Juan Sebastián Verón (ARG)
1993	Japan	Tokyo, Kobe, Kyoto, Nagoya, Gifu, Hiroshima	Nigeria	Gianluigi Buffon (ITA), Hidetoshi Nakata (JPN)
1995	Ecuador	Quito, Cuenca, Riobamba, Ibarra, Porto Viejo and Guayaquil	Ghana	Esteban Cambiasso (ARG), Nuno Gomez (POR)
1997	Egypt	Cairo, Ismailya, Alexandria and Port Saïd	Brazil	Ronaldinho (BRA), Iker Casillas (ESP)
1999	New Zealand	Auckland, Christchurch, Dunedin and Napier	Brazil	Landon Donovan (USA), Leonardo (BRA)
2001	Trinidad & Tobago	Port of Spain, Malabar, Couva, Marabella and Bacolet	France	Carlos Tevez (ARG), Fernando Torres (ESP)
2003	Finland	Helsinki,Tampere,Turku,Lahti	Brazil	Cesc Fabregas (ESP), John Obi Mikel (NGA)
2005	Peru	Chiclayo , Iquitos, Lima, Piura, Trujillo	Mexico	Anderson (BRA), Carlos Vela (MEX)
2007	Korea Republic	Changwon, Cheonan, Goyang, Gwangyang, Jeju, Seoul, Suwon, Ulsan	Nigeria	Toni Kroos (GER), Bojan Kkric (ESP)
2009	Nigeria	Abuja, Bauchi, Calabar, Enugu, Ijebu-Ode, Kaduna, Kano, Lagos	Switzerland	Neymar (BRA), Borja (ESP)
2011	Mexico	Guadalajara, Mexico City, Monterrey, Morelia, Pachuca, Queretaro, Torreon	Mexico	Julio Gomez (MEX), Souleymane Coulibaly (CIV)
2013	UAE	Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Ras-al-Khaimah, Al Ain, Fujairah, Sharjah	Nigeria	Mosquito (BRA), Kelechi Iheanacho (NGA)

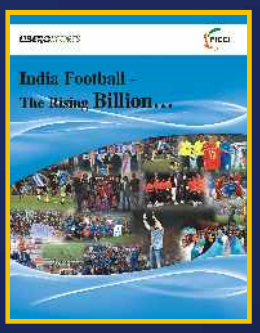
Spectator numbers

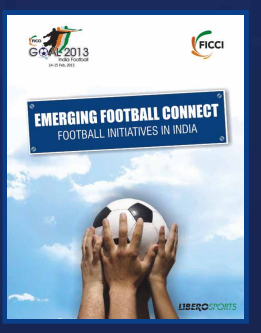


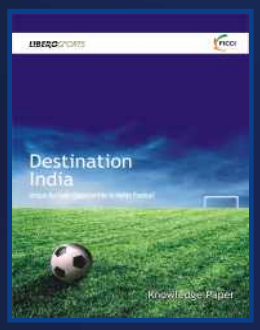
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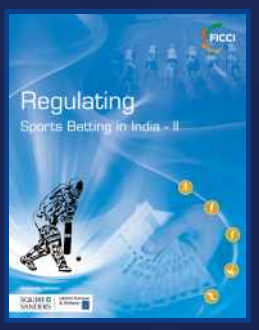




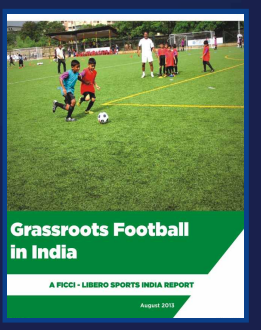


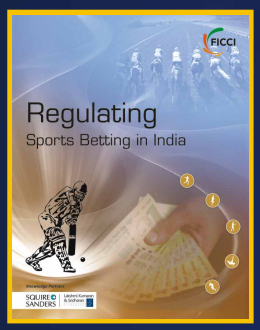




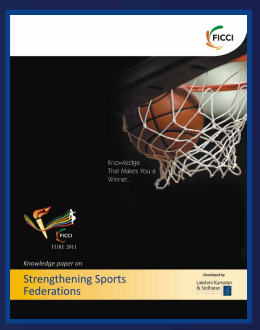


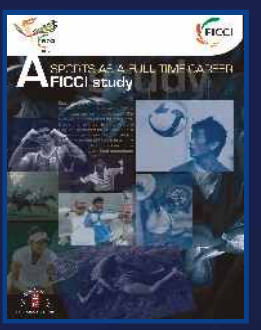


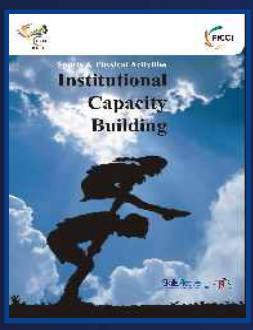


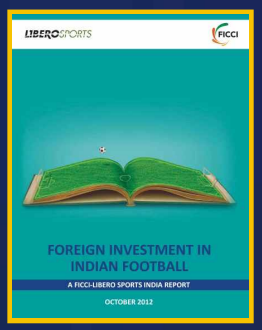


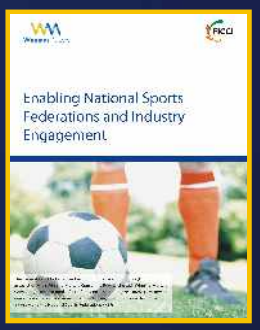












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