



Events unexpectedly changed how they saw themselves.

Travel and Sport



Adventure in the heart of the Tunisian desert

This was an adventure all about real, tangible, sustainable development. Veolia helped disabled pupils and fellow students from three classes at Édouard-Herriot primary school in Lyon, France, go on a trek in Western Sahara.

A one-week trek to discover the Sahara in Tunisia's Great Western Erg: an adventure undertaken in March 2006 by pupils from the Édouard-Herriot primary school in Lyon, France. Sixty-seven pupils from three classes, between the ages of 10 and 11, took part in the expedition, among them eleven pupils with disabilities. The trek was organized by the Évasion Verticale association, founded by teachers from Édouard-Herriot school. The trip was designed to help pupils discover the

Scientific, sports and cultural activities made the children more aware of the vulnerability of ecosystems.

flora, fauna and geography of southern Tunisia through a series of scientific, sports and cultural activities. The trip involved a number of experiments and activities, covering water management, solar power, the climate and orienteering (with compasses and GPS).

An association sponsor

The adventure was recorded both in writing and on film. With the help of an author and a photographer, pupils created a trip log that will subsequently be published, with a documentary shot under the watchful eye of a film director, and a website created for the occasion. The Veolia



Sport fosters integration, and when offered to young disabled pupils, it can help them find their bearings at school, and can even produce future Paralympic champions. The Veolia Environnement Foundation lends its support to such campaigns.

FOR ALL

Environnement Foundation was also involved in the project through a patron, Xavier Guepet, from the Veolia Transport marketing and innovation department: "I knew one of the founders of the Évasion Verticale association. Through my work - making transport accessible to disabled people - I got really involved. This initiative encompasses the full range of challenges we will face over the coming years in environmental services and sustainable development, ensuring we make children more aware of the vulnerability of our resources, the complexity of ecosystems and the impact of their daily activities."



The Veolia Environnement Foundation provided funding to help disabled pupils take part.



1500m wheelchair race at the 2004 Paralympic Games in Athens.



2004 Paralympic Games in Athens.



Sport changed their lives

Medal haul for the French disabled sport federation, Fédération Française Handisport. The Veolia Environnement Foundation provides a springboard to this success.

“ Sport is an outstanding means of integration ”

Fifteen medals, including seven gold, two silver and six bronze. France's impressive haul in Turin, where it finished 4th in the Ninth Paralympic Winter Games (behind Russia, the Ukraine and Germany), has made the competition increasingly popular in the country. These impressive results are in part the fruit of the long and exacting work carried out by the French disabled sport federation, Fédération Française Handisport (FFH).

Created in 1977, at a time when few people showed an interest in sport for the disabled, the FFH now has some 16,000 licensed members and 24,000 athletes in over forty-two sporting disciplines. The association is responsible for granting "handisport" qualifications to Phys Ed teachers and awarding sports training diplomas (brevets d'éducateurs sportifs).

France's champion patron

The FFH now aims to create a real teacher-training center at its offices in Paris. The idea for the project was borne of the realization that disabled pupils who attend non-specialized schools are usually left out of physical educa-



10th National Seven-a-Side Football Cup in Cognac (France), June 18 2006.

tion classes due to a lack of qualified staff. When the Veolia Environnement Foundation looked to its employees to find a sponsor for the project, one name quickly stood out: Morgane Challe, five-time national fencing champion and 7th in the world championships. "I accepted the offer immediately, simply because sport changed my life." Head of recruitment and mobility at Dalkia, Morgane was introduced to fencing while at school, and had an "outstanding fencing master" who made her want to pursue the sport as a lifelong vocation. "I remember when I was studying to become a qualified fencing master myself, there was a course on teaching athle-

tes with disabilities. They told me how hard it was to practice a sport outside of specially designed facilities, which were often far from where they lived. Sport is still a key driver in helping children feel part of a group at school, and starting young can reveal a real calling. I am living proof." The Veolia Environnement Foundation will provide annual funding totaling €60,000 to support the FFH project. The money will be used to buy eight specially designed wheelchairs (used to play basketball, table tennis, etc.), Braille printers and the necessary software, as well as furniture suitable for disabled students.

The Veolia Environnement Foundation also supports:

«**HANDI'CHIENS**», HELPING TO TRAIN EIGHT ASSISTANCE DOGS TO MAKE DAILY LIFE EASIER FOR PEOPLE WITH MOTOR DISABILITIES (GRANT TOTALING €96,000).

PATRONS: SERGE CAVELIUS (VEOLIA WATER), JEAN-FRANÇOIS ONFRAY (VEOLIA RETIREE).

«**HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL**», PROVIDING DISABLED FACILITIES AT TWENTY-SEVEN SCHOOLS IN SAMLOT, CAMBODIA, FOR PUPILS WHO HAVE BEEN VICTIMS OF LANDMINES (GRANT: €30,000).
PATRON: PHILIPPE RATTO (VEOLIA TRANSPORT).