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German premiere of the film “GOLD: You can do more than you think”

The film “GOLD: You can do more than you think” has its German premiere in Hamburg this evening. The film tells the story of three top athletes with a disability.

For more than a year, director Michael Hammon and his team followed German swimmer Kirsten Bruhn, who is paralysed from the waist down; Kenyan marathon runner Henry Wanyoike, who is blind; and Australian Kurt Fearnley, wheelchair racer, on their way to the London Paralympic Games in 2012.

Patrons of the film, which will be shown in cinemas starting 28 February, are Federal Interior Minister Hans-Peter Friedrich and Willi Lemke, Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace.

Speaking on the occasion of the film premiere, Federal Minister Friedrich said, “I was deeply impressed by the enthusiasm and outstanding personal achievement of the Paralympic athletes at the London Games. Their attitude towards sport and life in general is inspiring and a model to us all.”

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Promoting sport for people with a disability continues to be a priority of the Federal Government's sport policy. For example, the global implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in sport is high on the agenda of the 5th World Sport Ministers Conference to be held in Berlin on 28–30 May, organized by UNESCO and the Federal Ministry of the Interior. This conference will bring together sport ministers and senior government representatives from roughly 200 UNESCO member states, as well as decision-makers from NGOs and the world of sport. The conference is aimed at reinforcing the values associated with sport, so that sport can fulfil its role as a leader in social change.

The conference topic "Access to sport as a fundamental right for all" will also address implementing the UN Convention in sport by improving access to sport for people with a disability everywhere in the world.

"Inclusion is an important issue, both in sport and in society as a whole," said Federal Minister Friedrich. "Through the World Sport Ministers Conference, I hope to advance the participation in sport of people with a disability."

For more information, please visit www.mineps2013.de or www.bmi.bund.de.