

The present state and future plans of the Brazil's Sorocaba Football Club

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Heung Tae Kim, president of Sorocaba Football Club

True Father envisioned establishing a soccer club and a sports, educational and cultural center for world peace and asked that a parcel of land be found where this center could be erected. Father personally inspected the city of Sorocaba, in São Paulo State, by flying over it in a light airplane in April 2000. He instructed that seven hundred thousand *pyeong* of land be bought (2,315,000 m²; "pyeong" is a Korean unit of measurement). During this time, Father also bought Atletico Sorocaba, a C League club.

On May 6, True Parents visited the Sorocaba Football Club, for the first and last time. While talking to the players and the staff, Father interpreted the meaning of Sorocaba. According to him, Sorocaba means "covering each other (서로 커버)" or "helping one another through sportsmanship." He added that Sorocaba will be able to greatly contribute to world peace and the unification of North Korea and South Korea through soccer, bestowing upon the club deep significance.

Sorocaba FC's Special Features

Among the many professional football clubs in Brazil, the Sorocaba Football Club possesses the largest training complex. The São Paulo club is the most

prestigious club in Brazil and prides itself on its long history.

Yet, São Paulo FC owns only land covering 350,000 *pyeong* (1,157,000 m²). Sorocaba FC not only has the largest training complex but no club in Brazil owns a hotel among its facilities other than Sorocaba FC, which has completed building two, both of which are now in operation. Having a big lake on its land, the view from the hotels is also something to boast about.



Brazil will host the 2016 Olympics. Currently, an Olympic Center is being built in the city of Sorocaba, making Sorocaba FC more familiar and better known to people. Many people within Brazilian soccer circles know that Sorocaba FC belongs to True Parents. When True Parents held a peace event in Uruguay and Brazil in 2000, the chairman of the São Paulo Football Association was invited and True Father particularly praised him as someone who could become Brazil's future president. Presently, he is the president of the Brazil Football Association and is preparing to run for president in the next election.

Also, when the first Peace Cup was held, in 2003, True Father invited Pelé, the King of Soccer, and Marco Polo, president of the Brazil Football Association to Korea and directly gave them a Divine Principle lecture, asking them to guide soccer in a way that it greatly contributes to world peace. In 2008, True Father personally gave Pelé his autobiography.

Plans are being made to hold the next Peace Cup, which True Parents established, with the involvement of Pelé and Marco Polo in Brazil in 2015. In particular, Sorocaba is setting up plans that will enable the North Korean national club to make sequential visits to Sorocaba for off-season training. Sorocaba FC plans to visit North Korea and have a friendly match in Pyeongyang.

One special project that is being planned is to have young North Korean and South Korean athletes come to Sorocaba for soccer training, thereby creating an environment where they can live and train together on the same grounds. If North Korea and South Korea become one through soccer centered on Sorocaba FC in this manner, we could say with certainty that unification between the two Koreas will surely be realized.



The Mato Grosso do Sul State Championship Cup is among many of the awards won by Sorocaba

The Current State of the Sorocaba FC

This season has officially ended for the Sorocaba club. Our players are now taking a break during the ongoing World Cup. Presently, we are accommodating Algeria's national club within our training complex, which is therefore under FIFA's direct management.



The 2014 champion CENE team

The area is closed and off limits until the World Cup finishes. Atletico Sorocaba is an A2 League club. We plan to scout players to elevate it to A1. After the World Cup, we plan to compete in São Paulo's

championship, which is called the *Copa Paulista*. Unlike in Korea, soccer clubs in Brazil can become independent on their own. As of this year, we have started to build a system that will enable Sorocaba to become self-reliant by carrying out an internal reshuffling and beginning a systematic reorganization managed by professionals.



The Sorocaba team greeting Seongnam Ilhwa and the audience before a game in the Peace Cup Tournament

Future Plans

The things True Father spoke about when he first took over Sorocaba FC and bought land for our training complex are coming true one by one. We are maintaining a close relationship with North Korea and are playing an important role in advancing the unification of the Koreas. In addition, we will invite two very famous European clubs and the North Korean national club to the Peace Cup when it is held in Brazil next year. We are preparing to hold a festive event for world peace through soccer with True Parents. We are also making plans to carry out True Father's vision of creating a soccer university, which does not yet exist in Brazil, at the Sorocaba Club and to invite famous soccer leaders worldwide to give lectures, in order to develop great soccer players through Sorocaba.

Aside from Sorocaba FC, there is also the C.E.N.E. Football Club (*Centro Esportivo Nova Esperança* [Center Sports New Hope]) in Campo Grande city in Mato Grosso do Sul State.

C.E.N.E. is another professional football club that True Parents acquired; it is presently in D League. However, every year it wins the state championship. Based on what True Father said, that we should "cover each other" and exhibit sportsmanship, Sorocaba FC and the C.E.N.E. club will become more united. We are earnestly working to contribute to the soccer providence.

Fourteen years have already passed since True Parents acquired Sorocaba FC. Now that the World Cup has begun, the soccer providence in Brazil has also begun in earnest. What True Parents said is coming true and the Sorocaba Football Club is determined and plans to play the role of a filial son so that our victorious Peace King, the savior of humanity, the Messiah, can have great influence within the Brazilian providence.