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Winners of " Rio 2016 Hospitality Houses" Award

The houses of the International Federation of Volleyball (FIVB), Hungary, Swiss, Qatar, Ernst & Young and NBA are the winners of "Rio 2016 Hospitality Houses" Award. The announcement was made on this Tuesday, in a press conference at Rio Media Center. The award was an initiative from Rio de Janeiro Business Association (ACRio), in a partnership with Municipal Olympic Agency, Rio de Janeiro's Sub-Office of International Relations, and Rio de Janeiro's Municipal Coordination Body. Prizes were given for houses in the categories: Legacy, Innovation, Cultural Promotion, Togetherness, Business Promotion and Fan Favorite. The judging committee was composed by City Hall representatives, State agents and ACRio staff.

Thirty four thematic houses – working during Rio 2016 Games- entered the competition. There was also an online voting going on at ACRio website. The press conference counted with the presence of Paulo Protasio (president of ACRio), Pedro Spadale (sub secretary of International Relations) and ambassador Laudemar Aguiar. The thematic houses are a tradition of the Olympic Games. The spaces are a point of interest that unites the general public, tourists, athletes, journalists and sports fans. Besides promoting local culture, tourism and gastronomy of several countries, they are also a place for doing business and contacts network, which will be a legacy to the whole country.

LEGACY WINNER: International Federation of Volleyball (FIVB) House

The International Federation of Volleyball invested R\$ 650 thousand in the remodeling of Public School Cícero Pena, in Copacabana, improving conditions for about 600 students. FIVB also promoted a lecture with Olympic athletes and incorporated students' drawings and projects in the House. Another action was the creation volleyball schools in two impoverished communities in Rio – which will be sponsored by FIVB until 2020- giving children and youths in vulnerable situations an opportunity to change their lives through sport.

INNOVATION WINNER: Hungary House

Located at Jockey Club, Hungary House innovated by transforming the place

completely, reproducing their own landscape's views such as the Danube River. The House's main inspiration was water. The Hungary House had an "Aqua Bar"- with 30 different kinds of mineral and medicinal water – and an interactive exposition that showed aquatic sports and scenery. They also brought other cultural elements like gastronomy, music and performances by Hungarian artists.

TOGETHERNESS WINNER: Swiss House

The Swiss House offered several free activities to the general public and had its working period extended to the Paralympics Games, receiving more than 150 thousand visitors. At the venue, it was possible to taste typical Swiss dishes prepared by renowned chefs and their apprentices from Morro do Borel. Swiss House will leave a renovated baseball pitch in Lagoa as legacy.

CULTURAL PROMOTION WINNER: Qatar House

Qatar house offered an experience in Arabian culture through several means: gastronomy, music, architecture, dances, decorations, performances, fashion shows and cultural ceremonies. The House's greatest hits were the tents, where a series of attractions took place: henna tattoos for women, a sample of the person's name written in Arab calligraphy, samples of meals and the chance to take pictures wearing traditional vestments. The House also had a cultural exchange between Arabian and Brazilian culture in a restaurant with dishes signed by chef Alex Atala.

BUSINESS PROMOTIONWINNER: ERNST & YOUNG (EY) HOUSE

The Ernst &Young House received the World Olympians Association, attracting about 400 visitors each day. The House had special guests – selected a year before the Games- and among its events were the EY Entrepreneurism program, that provided small and medium sized companies with the chance to participate in their business environment. Ernst & Young House also left a legacy at Clube de Regatas do Flamengo in the form of structural renovations and investments in sports.

HOUNORABLE MENTION: NBA House

The NBA House – which received up to 12 thousand people on a single day –

was elected fan favorite. In its 300m2 a great number of activities took place, like: cheerleading, dance performances and meet & greet with basketball legends. The House also used technology and social media to engage the public.

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