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BLATTER'S INDIAN SUMMER

FIFA PRESIDENT SEPP Blatter believes football has a huge opportunity when the professional Indian Super League (ISL) launches next month. The ISL is a new football league set up by the IMG agency, Reliance Industries and the All India Football Federation. Blatter made his comments to more than 400 people at the FIFA Master Alumni Association (FMA) in Rio de Janeiro last month.

"Football has to keep on spreading throughout the world," he said. "We have seen success with the professional league in China, but in September I can inform you that we will have a professional soccer league in India. "This is another market for football – not a financial market – but another market to grow our sport. There are 1.3 billion people in India. That's 1.3 billion people who want to play football now. Obviously they like cricket and

it's a good sport; let them play it, but it's not as good as football." Blatter was joined in the opening of the FMA seminar by Brazil's sports minister Aldo Rebelo. As a celebration of the FMA's 5th global gathering and the FIFA Master's victory in this year's *SportBusiness International* Postgraduate Sports Course Rankings, FMA vice-president Joao Frigerio presented President Blatter with a commemorative plaque ■

1. FIFA president Sepp Blatter
2. Brazilian sports minister Aldo Rebelo
3. CAF general-secretary Hicham El-Amrani
4. Sepp Blatter receives a plaque celebrating the FIFA Master's victory in this year's *SportBusiness International* Postgraduate Sports Course Rankings
5. Fernando Azevedo e Silva, president of the Brazil Olympic Public Authority
6. FIFA Master alumnus Daniel Cade
7. Professor Pierre Lanfranchi [right]