

**AFRICAN REGIONAL REPORT TO IASI  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
1997-2001**

**Nerida Clarke  
IASI President (African Vice Presidency Vacant)**

**As all members of IASI are aware when we speak of Africa we speak of a diverse range of countries with different linguistic and cultural backgrounds spread over a vast geographical area. So how do we as IASI tackle the issue of sport information dissemination in this Region? – this has been and continues to be a challenge to IASI.**

**At the 1997 General Assembly in Paris IASI appointed Mr Laurie Templehoff as the Vice President for Africa and Mr Templehoff put a great deal of energy into developing a framework for sport information development in Africa with plans for education seminars in Africa and data base development.**

**Regrettably Mr Templehoff resigned from IASI in 1998 and since that time it cannot be said that IASI has worked to a concrete plan in Africa. The IASI President made a number of attempts to contact the South African sports administrators to determine future involvement in IASI however it cannot be said that there was a positive response to these contacts and IASI has had no formal contact with South Africa.**

**Despite these difficulties it is pleasing to report that there has been some progress in Africa largely due to the individual initiatives of IASI members. One initiative has been the establishment of a sport information service in Mauritius and this will be reported on more fully during the IASI Congress. The second initiative was that undertaken by Dr Fasan of Nigeria who organised a sport information seminar in Lagos Nigeria with IASI financial support.**

**The seminar in Nigeria was held from 12-14 April 2000 and was attended by 31 participants. The seminar was facilitated by Mr Laurie Templehoff whose travel to Nigeria was sponsored by IASI. This seminar resulted in a number of recommendations for the establishment of a Nigerian National Sport Information Centre. It will be important that the recommendations of this seminar be monitored for implementation.**

**In order to make progress in sport information in Africa in the future I am convinced that:**

- a) **IASI will not be able to adopt a single strategy for Africa. A multi-pronged approach will be necessary that may be based on linguistic approach and/or a geographic and/or a sub-regional approach.**
- b) **IASI cannot work in isolation – if there is to be development of sport information services then IASI must align itself and gain the support of other organisations that are working in sport within Africa.**
- c) **IASI must develop models of services that are appropriate to the needs of those countries and individuals within those countries working in sport. For example computer technology may be integral to the development of sport information services in some parts of Africa however in others the technological infrastructure may not be present to support such services and more simple means of information delivery might need to be considered.**
- d) **Sport information services must be seen as part of the overall approach to information service delivery and therefore our services should leverage other initiatives in information delivery eg University Library services, Agricultural information services.**

**Of course there is no easy answer to Africa as a whole however in the forthcoming 4 years IASI must continue to find a way to ensure that appropriate sport information is delivered to meet the needs of those working in sport.**

**Nerida Clarke  
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