

REPORT TO IASI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ON

DEVELOPMENTS IN AFRICA BETWEEN APRIL 2001-MARCH 2002

DATE: MARCH 14TH – 19TH 2002

VENUE: BARCELONA, SPAIN

PREAMBLE

The development of Sports Information in Africa has been on odious task due to the nature of the continent and the prevailing economic political and social problems.

The continent of Africa is made of 55 countries. Nigeria which is the largest black African country south of sub-Sahara has a land mass of 923768.64 SQ KM. Land Area of 910770sq km. A population of 104 million with about 250 languages. The lowest paid worker at the Federal level earns an average of \$56 per month.

Not many countries can boast of 24 hours of uninterrupted power supply, more than 80% of the population cannot boast of a computer talkless of browsing through the Internet for information.

Political instability and social problems have also hinder developmental effort in Africa.

PAST INITIATIVES SINCE OUR LAST MEETING IN LAUSANNE

I have tried to reach out to our members who attended the last congress in Lausanne. Only few responded. This was due to poor communication. The only person who has been on active communication is Charl Durand of South Africa Sports Commission. We have been working together to see what we can do to develop sports Information in the continent despite the inherent problems. Also I have tried to get in touch with Mr. Tomas Sithole on Regional Centre for Sports Information in Africa. He is the current secretary general for Association of National Olympic Committee of Africa (ANOCA). I have given feed back to Mr. President, Alain Poncet on the initial difficulty of reaching him. However I have made another effort to reach him.

Distribution of sports information manual and letters of introduction on IASI. I met the President in Vitoria, Spain in September 2001 at EASM congress and discussed the need to disseminate information on IASI to Africans. He promised to send the books on sports information manual as well as IASI Manual. This I have distributed to some countries in Africa through their National Olympic Committees. I have no doubt that all concerned would have received their copies

REPORT FROM SOUTH AFRICA

The South African Sports Commission's information centre has expanded rapidly in the past year. Since books have become prohibitively expensive in the past due to the decline of our local currency, the centre is becoming more involved in the publishing its own material, and generating both electronic and print information products. The strategy is to leave library functions up to individual tertiary institutions that teach sport sciences, and for the information centre to act as a networker among those.

To this effect we are currently on a campus tour, visiting the thirty six major tertiary institutions in South Africa to promote the services of the information centre, and to study the resource of each university and technikon.

The products the information centre has launched in the past few months include:

- Sport Colloquiums: These are round table discussions held quarterly where we invite industry experts to discuss topics such as sport and media, sponsorship, and law. These are video taped, and then edited into a variety of print and electronic formats for distribution.
- Your Sport: a magazine aimed at sport administrators that give hands-on advice on the running of sport organizations.
- Sport management toolkit: This is a CDROM with a wide variety of useful tools for sport administrators, ranging from national anthems to accreditation and other forms, guidelines and policies, sample software, and so on. Video clips from the Sport Colloquiums are also included.
- Website: The SASC website is currently undergoing its annual renovation. The new version will be entirely maintainable by information centre staff, making it more flexible and scalable, while we can update it more often. The information Centres databases of sport contacts and events calendar will be online at the new website.

These information products play a strategic role in the Commission, as they are also becoming support brands of the Commission and are so playing a marketing role as well.

The information centre is also closely involved with providing information management support for 'Team South Africa' – that is the team that represents SA in multi-sport events such as the Commonwealth Games and All Africa Games.

In a nutshell the information centre is moving away from the role of a passive information supplier to one of interactive knowledge management and knowledge creation, in line with internal trends in a society where information has become paramount for development and progress.

ACTIVITIES LINED UP FOR 2002

1. SPORTS INFORMATION WORKSHOP FOR AFRICANS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Arrangement has been concluded for IASI Africa Region to organize a workshop titled "Developing a Database Infrastructure for Managing sports in Africa". In South Africa in November 2002. Mr. Charl Durand and have worked out the modalities. The workshop will include:

- i. A training course on search for sport information on the Internet
 - ii. A review of types of African Sports information available at present
 - iii. Presentation by various countries on the ICT infrastructure
 - iv. Designing and hosting an African Sports Information website
 - v. Targeting African Sport Information users and creating awareness among them as to where to find sports information.
2. Starting a Sport Information user group that can regularly interact and exchange information.
 3. Setting up a e-group for Africa members of IASI. I am happy to inform you that this has been done just few days ago <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/IASI-africa>.
 4. IASI Africa Region to organize 1st Sports Photo Exhibition first in Nigeria and other will follow
 5. Re-visit the issue of developing Africa Regional Information Centre.

I want to thank the former president Nerida Clarke and our current president Alan Poncet for their interest in ensuring that a Regional Sports Information centre is developed for Africa. I want to use this opportunity to appeal to the executive board to start something concrete on this issue. Africa can be a big market for IASI if effort is made to develop Regional Sports Information Centre.

Thanks to Albert Miller who sent me an abridge format of the proposal for the establishment of Oceania in Sport Information Centre. I have gone through this and I believe we can start something in line with what they have done. However I want to intimate you with the peculiarity of Africa in terms of landmass/size as well as language. There are four major regions. The West Africa, East Africa. North Africa and South Africa. There are three major languages English, French

and Spanish. Of all the 55 countries in Africa, it is South Africa and may be Egypt that have a standard Sports Information Centre.

I am suggesting that in our developmental effort of a regional Sports Information Centre, we should concentrate on West Africa (Nigeria) and French Speaking states of North Africa (Burkina Faso).

6. Sports Structure in Africa

Before the 2003 All African Games in Abuja, Nigeria. we want to finalize our project on sports structure in Africa. Questionnaire had already been sent out and more will be sent through NOCS

7. Need for IASI to have an Internet Café at the All Africa Games 2003 in Nigeria.

One of the avenues for making an in road into Africa, is to be identified with the largest sporting event in the continent i.e. All Africa Games. The next edition will hold in Abuja in October of 2003. The Executive Director of the Organization is Dr. Amos Adamu. 53 African Countries will compete in 22 sports events. I appeal for a commitment from IASI that we shall develop an Internet café for the games.

Funding: One of the biggest problem facing developmental effort in Africa is finance. I humbly request that IASI take a step to develop Sports information in Africa by helping to finance it.

Dr. C. O. Fasan
IASI VICE PRESIDENT
AFRICA