

## **ICES in Trinidad and Tobago**

ICES is to be introduced in Trinidad and Tobago in October 2009 as part of International Inspiration in the country.

Sport for development in Trinidad and Tobago is a developing area, with some partnerships and programme running, including the Active Community Clubs programme coordinated by the partnership of UNICEF and Trinidad and Tobago Alliance for Sport and physical Education (TTASPE) and Youth Empowerment through Sport (YES), also coordinated by TTASPE.

Mark Mungal, the President of TTASPE, stresses the importance of cohesion and direction in coach education:

"In my own experience working in the emerging field of sport for development, I have witnessed the evolution of community sports programs – particularly those designed for children and young people. Most of these programs start with good intentions, but many times, the methodologies and content are inconsistent with the intended outcomes."

The ICES approach was first discussed with colleagues from Trinidad and Tobago when they visited the UK in March 2009 and it was welcomed as an innovative approach that could benefit sport for development organisations and programmes in Trinidad and across the Caribbean. The implementation of ICES is supported whole-heartedly Mark Mungal, who said:

"...ICES project fills a major gap in ensuring that we standardise coaching programmes, ensuring that they are designed to meet internationally accepted standards that provide children and young people with meaningful sport experiences that add value to their overall lives."

The ICES interactive seminar will bring together stakeholders involved in International Inspiration in Trinidad and Tobago and the wider Caribbean community to discuss coach education with the ultimate aim of developing regionally accepted and adopted standards for education coaches working in child-centred community sport.