

Next Step Conference 2011 – reflective report

This is a report collecting the thoughts of some of the delegates attending the Next Step Conference 2011. The Next Step Conference 2011 was a special opportunity for international 'sport for development' organisations to network and share best practice. Hosted for the first time by an NGO; the Trinidad and Tobago Alliance for Sport and Physical Activity this was a forum to provide engaging, informative, creative thinking and new partnership opportunities for all involved.

The Next Step conference was opened by Debbie Lye; Director of UK Sport International Sport Development, Mark Mungal; President of TTASPE and Ambassador Shabazz who in her keynote address said "The problems are not new, the struggles are not new, but triumph is closer than we think".

The theme of the conference was "***Promoting Global Partnerships in Sport for Development***" with discussions and presentations majoring around four areas as follows:

1. Promoting Global Partnerships.
2. Monitoring and Evaluations.
3. Resource Mobilization.
4. Policy.

A number of organisations were supported by UK Sport to attend the conference, these included; Moving the Goalposts, CHRISC, Rugby League Association for Jamaica and Go Sisters. All of whom identified areas of significant learning from the conference, in areas in which they would not usually have access to such as:

- How coaching can be used to develop coaches as leaders and also focus on aspects of child psychology and child development for children taking part in the programme.
- Need to engage Corporate partners and local fundraising to support sports for development initiative.
- Which monitoring and evaluation approaches to select according to their relevance.

Addressing these areas will not only provide new considerations to learning but will also contribute to the need for programme review and using this as a means of evidence gathering for future programmes.