

News Article

Participation Sport Highlighted in Zone VI

Over 30 African sports officials, practitioners and system builders from government and non-government agencies committed to support the education and development of children's and grass roots sport coaches at a development seminar in Johannesburg last month.

The participants highlighted the importance of quality coaches play in providing opportunities for young people to participate in safe, quality activity. Due to this their was strong support for improvement and wider recognition of training, development and accreditation of coaches specifically focused on children's, grass roots and participation sport.

The participants where gathered in the South African hub as part of the Supreme Councils of Sport in Africa Zone VI's development of a Sport Education and Accreditation Framework (SEAF) across the ten member countries.

"SEAF is a key project for the Zone developed to address identified needs. It focuses on capacity building, education and development which form a cornerstone of the Strategic Plan." Said SCSA Zone VI General Manager Mr Rangarirai Charles Dzimba. "Within that plan participation, community and grass roots sport are considered to be very important."

The development of the SEAF is coordinated by the Zone VI Secretariat and implemented at country level by the Zone's Technical Working Group which is made up of representatives from member state's Government sport agencies. Following recent meetings between the Zone VI secretariat, UK Sport International and the Norwegian Olympic and Paralympic Committee and Confederation of Sport (NIF) agreement was reached to harmonize the International Community Coach Education Standards (ICES) Project and SEAF.

As part of this harmonization and the Zone's on-going partnership with the Kicking AIDS Out Network representatives from leading African based NGO's and international partners joined the development seminar to support the process and add to the pool of experience focusing on participation level sport.

Patrick Mweshi, Training and Educxation Manager from Zambia's Edusport said that this was an extremely positive aspect of the seminar.

"The idea of bringing Government and NGO representatives together for this event was helpful," Mweshi said. "It has provided a platform to further develop the (coach education and development) systems in my organization and aligned with the proposed SEAF."

The Zone VI led development of the SEAF Participation stream has been identified alongside work in India, Trinidad and Tobago and Bangladesh to contribute to developments in the ICES work over the remainder of the year. In addition any learning and engaged expertise linked to the ICES work will be available for Zone VI to utilise for the further development of the SEAF project.

Background

SCSA Zone VI Sport Education and Accreditation Framework (SEAF)

The SEAF project has been initiated by the Supreme Council of Sport in Zone VI as part of their strategic plan drafted in 2001. The aim of the project is to establish a standardised education and accreditation framework for sports practitioners across the ten member states of the Zone. The work is coordinated by the Zone VI secretariat with a Technical Working Group driving the

implementation within each country in the Zone. The Zone's International partners NIF and UK Sport support the development of SEAF.

International *community* Coach Education Standards (ICES)

The ICES project aims to contribute to improving the sport and physical activity experience for children and young people by providing an international platform for advocacy, organisational support and quality assurance of the training and development of community and grass roots level coaches. The project extends across the fields of sport and sport for development with a focus on linking to existing national and regional frameworks to provide a forum for sharing good practice. The work is led by UK Sport and supported by UNICEF and the British Council, partners in International Inspiration the sport and physical education legacy programme of the London Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Kicking AIDS out Network

Kicking AIDS Out offers an innovative, inclusive, high energy approach that links sports, physical activity and traditional movement games with HIV and AIDS prevention and education. Kicking AIDS Out begun as an African initiative aimed at children and youth. Kicking AIDS Out has developed into an evolving international network of 'southern' and 'northern' partner- and member organisations and associates. Trained youth leaders who can engage their peers in sports, provide accurate health-related information and skillfully create safe spaces for discussion on many sensitive issues are essential factors in the initiative's success.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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