

Community Coaching in Bangladesh

On Monday 5 July 2010, a diverse group of sport experts in Bangladesh met at the BKSP headquarters just outside Dhaka to discuss a groundbreaking project for community coaching in their country.

The aim of the project is to create a system to support the training and development of community coaches and to increase the number of coaches deployed and the quality of their delivery with this new system. The project is part of the International Inspiration programme in Bangladesh and is supported through the ICES initiative.

The meeting was led by Mr Mohammed Shawkat Ali, Director of Training at BKSP, supported by the British Council and UK Sport and attended by representatives from CARE Bangladesh, TOYMU, CMES, BRAC, GRAUS, the Centre for Injury Prevention and Research Bangladesh (CIPRB), the Bangladesh Swimming Federation, the Bangladesh Olympic Association and Uttara University.

This group will meet again as the project develops and will be steered by a smaller group made up of representatives from the International Inspiration lead partners, BKSP, Bangladesh Olympic Association and Uttara University.

Through the course of the meeting, the group discussed the needs and motivations of community sports participants in Bangladesh and what skills, knowledge and values the community coach would need to acquire in order to support a quality, developmental and inclusive sports experience. It was agreed that BKSP would lead the development of a certified training programme for community coaches, outline a plan of the structure of the training programme as well as producing a timeline for the project, including roles and responsibilities.

UK Sport International programme officer, Pippa Goodhead, who attended the meeting in Bangladesh said: "This is a really exciting prospect in Bangladesh. This project will bring a structured approach to training, developing and supporting coaches working in the community."