



St. Vincent and the Grenadines National Olympic Committee

NEWSLETTER

Citius Altius Fortius
FASTER, HIGHER, STRONGER



Venezuelan Ambassador Pays Courtesy Call

The Ambassador of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in St Vincent and the Grenadines, His Excellency, Yoel Perez Marcano, on Thursday 2 June 2011 paid an official visit to the headquarters of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines National Olympic Committee. General Secretary of the NOC, Keith Joseph, met with Ambassador Marcano who was accompanied by Second Secretary at the Embassy, Ms. Daliana Guanipa. Ambassador discussed the interest of his country's government and National Olympic Committee in having St. Vincent and the Grenadines represented at this year's 4th edition of the ALBA Games. Joseph indicated that the information would certainly be discussed at the NOC Executive and a response to our participation given. The opportunity was also taken to discuss ways in which the NOCs of the two countries could engage in further collaboration and the eventual signing of a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the future. Mr. Joseph expressed the gratitude of the NOC for the visit and indicated his organization's readiness to meet with government officials of both the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and St. Vincent and the Grenadines to further discuss approaches to the sport development process here.

SVGNOC observes World Environment Day 2011

The St. Vincent and the Grenadines National Olympic Committee on Monday 30 May 2011, launched its 'Road to London 2012' Campaign. Part of this Campaign is the expansion of the work of our Sport and Environment Commission throughout the country.



Since being established the Sport and Environment Commission has been engaged in raising awareness of the various related international activities among Vincentians. On Saturday, 5 June 2011 we, therefore, join the rest of the world in observing World Environment Day under the theme: **Forest Nature at your Service.**

This year's theme is one consistent with the intent of the Sport and Environment Commission and by extension that of the National Olympic Committee – *to increase people's understanding of the importance of sustainable development and management of the world's forest ecosystems and their resources for our very survival and that of future generations.*

Forests are a natural resource that provides food, shelter, fuel wood, medicines, water, recreation and tourist attractions.

Our Sport and Environment Commission holds the view that in order to maintain an acceptable level of sustainability it is essential for St. Vincent and the Grenadines to try and maintain approximately one third of our land under forest cover.

The Sport and the Environment Commission is cognizant of the vulnerability of the forest resources of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, due in large measure to our susceptibility to natural forces like hurricanes and torrential rains as well as man-made actions – deforestation and land clearing for agriculture and infrastructure development.

The changing landscape creates condition for disasters. The recent destruction wrought by hurricane Tomas in October 2010, and the recent floods caused extensive damage to homes, roads, bridges, agriculture and the forest resource

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The recent scandal that has been circulating regarding the international governing body for football, FIFA, is rather disturbing. That there was someone within the Executive Committee of the organisation that was willing to stand up and challenge the behaviour of two senior officials of the organisation's executive committee is remarkable.

Whatever the outcome of the investigation the damage to the international credibility of FIFA has already been done.

The situation regarding the scandals at FIFA does not appear, in principle, fundamentally different from what obtained with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in respect of the Salt Lake City debacle several years ago when that city won the bid to host the 2002 Winter Olympics.

The embattled IOC president at the time, Juan Antonio Samaranch, found himself having to appoint an internationally credible team to investigate and essentially do a major repair job on the organisation's global image. The IOC has since been far more cautious about the way it does business though it is not in any way exempt from criticism for some of its decisions.

FIFA would now have to do like the IOC and expend significant resources reviewing its operational modus to rekindle credibility and some measure of trust. Sadly, this has been long in coming.

The scandal that now plagues FIFA is but a reflection of the challenges facing the world of sport today.

The age-old problem of drugs in sport is very much alive and negatively impacting the achievements of many a sport personality today.

Violence in sport is still everywhere evident and sadly, discrimination against women in sport is perhaps only matched by discrimination of small, developing affiliates by their larger counterparts in virtually every discipline.

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Olympic Day 2011 - June 23

ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE OLYMPIC HOUSE

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Road To London 2012



The St. Vincent and the Grenadines National Olympic Committee on Monday last officially launched its 'Road To London 2012' Campaign. The Launch took the format of a press conference at the NOC's Headquarters in Kingstown Park. President of the NOC, Trevor Bailey, and General Secretary, Keith Joseph, informed the media of the plans for the period June 2011 through to the Olympics in London next year.



The mascots of London 2012 – **Wenlock** and **Mandeville** – were unveiled.

The highlights of the programme are as follows:

1. Athletes Preparation

- Participation in all 2012 Olympics qualifiers
- Access Olympic Solidarity scholarships for athletes
- Facilitation of preparation for the qualifiers – Kineke Alexander and Courtney Williams
- Access of training grant from LOCOG

2. Opportunities:

- Olympic Values Education with special emphasis on the use of new media to reach the children and youths
 - Junior Olympians Branches in schools
 - Work Books on The Road to London 2012 – 'Know the Olympic World'
 - Group discussions
 - Quizzes
 - National Debates
 - Drama
 - Radio and Television programmes
 - Sport Art Programmes
- **Sport Ambassadors**
 - Identifying individual sportspersons to serve as in-country ambassadors
 - Rallying Olympians to be of service as ambassadors

COMMUNICATIONS WORKSHOP

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- **Sport and the Environment:**
 - National Schools Competition – environmental clean up
 - National community sports facility clean up – ‘Own Your Facility’
 - Tree planting at playing fields and schools
 - Environmental hikes
 - Sport and the Environment billboards
- **Sport for All:**
 - National Mini Olympics
 - Area Fun Sports
 - Sports for persons with disabilities
- **Women in Sport:**
 - Consolidation of the existing programmes in North Windward and North Leeward
 - Formation of sports clubs
 - Women’s Sports Days
- **New relationships across the sea:**
 - Twinning of schools – SVG and London
 - Cultural exchanges
 - Exploring new cultures

3. SVG Olympic Sports Hall of Fame

- Official launch of the Olympic Hall of Fame for St Vincent and the Grenadines during 2011.
- Preparation of appropriate memorabilia for the Hall of Fame

4. Olympic Week 2011 and 2012

- Make special efforts to have these events truly national and inclusive
- Incorporate Olympic Values Education in their celebrations
- Involve school children in a very special way

5. Other Milestones and attendant Activities

- 30 Anniversary of the SVGNOC
- 20th Anniversary of the National Olympic Academy
- 100th anniversary of the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF)
- Special edition pins
- Commemorative watches
- SVGNOC ties – special edition

6. Sponsors and Partners

- Olympic Solidarity
- Pan American Sports Organisation (PASO)
- Central American and Caribbean Sports Organisation (CACSO)
- Caribbean Association of National Olympic Committees (CANOC)
- Private Sector, Government Ministries and Agencies

Elite athletes, public relations officers, coaches and other sports personnel are to have their communication skills upgraded when the National Olympic Committee hosts a two-day workshop on Communications 22-23 June 2011.

Communications Consultant, Peter Andrews, would facilitate the workshop that seeks to enhance the way in which our our top athletes engage the media or respond to the media. Public relations officers (PROs) of national sports associations often lose sight of their primary focus and have often been left wondering why it is their respective bodies do not reach the Vincentian public in a manner that is at once appealing and informative.

The two-day workshop would feature the following topics: Foundations, Defining Self, Attitude & Imaging Part 1 and 2, Personal Communication, Interpersonal Communication and Embracing Change. The National Olympic Committee has already indicated that potential participants must commit to the full two days.

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base, especially on the windward side of St. Vincent. The pressures by the many unplanned developments with little or no attention to the climate and the biophysical characteristics of St. Vincent and the Grenadines have resulted in the degradation and deterioration of the quality and health of these sensitive ecosystems. While development, management and conservation of the Forest Resources of St. Vincent and the Grenadines are under the jurisdiction of the Forestry Department declared under the Forestry Act No—19, provisions are made for cooperation, collaboration and partnership with the private sector, non-governmental organizations and community-based organisations in the co-management of the country’s natural resources.

The National Olympic Committee’s Sport and the Environment Commission is committed to partner and collaborate with Forestry, Environmental Services, Education and Sports Departments as well as with any local, regional, or international organisations to assist or work along in any activity or programme, to safeguard and maintain the integrity and health of these diverse and fragile ecosystems. The International Olympic Committee’s Agenda 21 Sport for Sustainable Development is a working document adapted by our NOC and directs us to participate in developing policies, implementing and evaluating national action plans and programmes highlighting the necessity for conserving and preserving the environment.



CYCLING

2011 APUA Inet OECS Cycling Championships - Antigua

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The Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Cycling Association is preparing and planning for hosting the 2011 Annual OECS Cycling Championships which will be held on Sunday 5th June 2011 in Antigua. Team St. Vincent would be participating, we wish them good luck!

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It remains an unfortunate truism that in sport today the small and developing are treated as outside children incapable of raising the bar and this as much in the Caribbean as anywhere else.

Sport is support to engender positive values, from better individuals, promote understanding among peoples and facilitate a better world.

Closer examination of the world of sport today seems to suggest that these noble principles are as far from being achieved as when they were first conceived.

OCASPE

St. Vincent and the Grenadines played host to the official re-launching and re-branding of the Organisation of Caribbean Administrators of Sport and Physical Education (OCASPE) late last week.

The Ministry of Sport accepted the challenge of hosting the event, which featured three days of meetings here at the Murray Heights Hotel.

The meeting, which was officially declared open by Minister responsible for Sport, Frederick Stephenson, focused much of its time on an extensive review of the Constitution of OCASPE following which the organisation held its General Assembly. Erskine King of Barbados was elected new President of OCASPE. Ortis Jack, employed with the Ministry of Education was elected Treasurer while Director of Sport and Physical Education, Nelson Hillocks, was elected Committee Member.

Representatives from Commonwealth Games Canada, Mr. Andre Collins, the Trinidad and Tobago Alliance for Sport and Physical Education, Mark Mungal, the Caribbean Healthy Lifestyle

Mapping the way ahead

The Executive Committee of the SVG National Olympic Committee met at Olympic House on Monday 30 June 2011. The meeting reviewed reports on a number of activities and made recommendations for future action.

One of the major concerns of the NOC Executive was the developments taking place in Guadalajara, Mexico, for the Pan American Games scheduled there in October this year. Reports on the delays being experienced with the construction of the Games Village remains an issue especially in light of the level of violence associated with the city. The President of the Pan American Sports Organisation (PASO), Mario Vazquez Rana, has offered assurances that all would be well but that has not yet been manifested in the reportage emerging out of Guadalajara.

The Executive expressed its own satisfaction with the opportunities offered to its affiliates to participate in their respective Pan Am Games qualifying competitions thanks to the assistance provided by PSSO for that expressed purpose and also for the Olympics of 2012.

Of much concern to the Executive remains the failure of many of the coaches trained under several Olympic Solidarity Technical Courses to take up the challenge of going in the field and delivering on their training. In this regard the Executive is preparing proposals for a change in strategy to be submitted to the General Council at its meeting later this month and to Olympic Solidarity once approved.

Programme, Kathy Harper-Hall, the Caribbean Association of National Olympic Committees, Keith Joseph and the Australian Sports Commission, Amy Benson, all delivered brief presentations to the meeting.

CARICOM, represented by Morella Joseph and John Campbell engaged in all aspects of the meeting and gave their organisation's full support for the work being undertaken by OCASPE and its importance to the future development of the region.

Newly elected president, Erskine King, expressed his organisation's commitment to working with all appropriate regional institutions to sustain the viability of OCASPE. For their part, both the Minister of Sport of Barbados who attended the Official ceremony for the re-launch of OCASPE and his Vincentian counterpart, Frederick Stephenson, lauded the efforts of the affiliate institutions that came together to establish and re-launch the organisation. They committed themselves to play their respective parts as strong advocates for the work of OCASPE and its critical role to the well being of Caribbean peoples, especially the youth.

The two ministers appealed for OCASPE to move beyond a mere focus on government employees and their institutions to a broader focus encompassing institutions that impact youth and their contributions to national and regional development.

~ IPSAC 2011 ~
Inter Primary Schools
Athletics Championships
Arnos Vale Sports Complex
9.00 a.m.
WEDNESDAY JUNE 8
Come out and support
the youngsters!