

## SVG National Olympic Committee Celebrates World Water Day March 22, 2011

**The St. Vincent and the Grenadines National Olympic Committee will join its fellow members of the Olympic Family throughout the world and the rest of the world, generally, in the annual observance of World Water Day on Tuesday 22 March 2011.**

World Water Day is an annual occasion for engendering public awareness and education of peoples around the world to be reminded of the many threats to water and the effects water has on living organisms. It is an opportunity to have peoples more sensitive to their surrounding environment and to use their initiative to undertake activities favourable to sustaining the availability and quality of water.

In 1994, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) developed **Agenda 21 – Sport for Sustainable Development for the Olympic Movement**.

One year later a paragraph on the environment was enshrined in the Olympic Charter and established it as the third pillar of Olympism alongside Sport and Culture.

The Olympic Movement's Agenda 21 is a guide towards the organisation's thrust in environmental protection and sustainable development among its members. The Olympic Movement is cognizant that many sporting

disciplines are performed within the natural environment and will have some impact on the ecosystems and their resources. In this regard the IOC has been encouraging its affiliates to address the environmental issues and concerns when planning activities and to implement public awareness and education programmes for all.

The call to celebrate World Water Day is not one of merriment but a day of reflection on how we can change our attitude towards the use of this valuable resource.

It is indeed heartening to see that many of our young people have recently embarked on a water conservation and preservation drive. Young Leaders from Secondary Schools throughout St. Vincent and the Grenadines have been challenged to promote this vital commodity for their focus project this year.

The St. Vincent and the Grenadines National Olympic Committee National Olympic Academy's Sport and the Environment Commission is promoting the ideals and values of Olympism to sensitise, support and encourage all members and the general public to protect, conserve and preserve the environment and to maintain a healthy environment through sport.

*Nigel Weekes Chairperson, Sport and the Environment Commission*

The St Vincent and the Grenadines National Olympic Committee remains committed to promoting its Continuing Olympic Education Programme during the course of this year.

The National Olympic Academy, which undertakes responsibility for the various Education Programmes of the NOC, would soon be hosting a Seminar on **Crisis Management for national sports associations**. There would also be a Seminar on Communications and others on the several other aspects of Sports Leadership.

The NOC, in preparation for its Annual Retreat scheduled for 26 March 2011, has been meeting with its affiliates to garner their primary needs and administrative and technical status. The information gathered would be used to facilitate the Strategic Planning process for this year and 2012.

The NOC's General Council Meeting scheduled for 14 April 2011 would therefore focus on the outcome of the Retreat.

This is a very busy year for the NOC with the Pan American Games in Guadalajara, Mexico being the most significant especially since it is the last major Games before the London 2012 Olympics.

## 500 days to London 2012

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