The International Council for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, Sport, and Dance (ICHPER·SD)

Background

The International Council for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, Sport, and Dance (ICHPER·SD) was an outgrowth of an idea first conceived in 1950 by the Board of Directors of the American Association for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation (AAHPER). Under visionary leadership of Dr. Dorothy Ainsworth, Smith College, and Dr. Carl Troester, Jr., Executive Secretary of AAHPER, ICHPER was founded in Rome, Italy, in 1958, by teaching professionals and representatives from 16 countries from the fields of health, physical education, recreation, sport, and dance from 16 countries. The Council now boasts a membership representing over 145 countries, and disseminates quarterly the *Journal of ICHPER·SD* to all 208 countries and self-governing territories of the world.

From its inception, the Council has been housed in the headquarters of and supported by AAHPER. AAHPER and ICHPER have both had name changes to the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (AAHPERD), and the International Council for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, Sport, and Dance (ICHPER·SD) respectively. A common mission, is shared—one national, the other international in scope.

ICHPER·SD is a membership-based international, umbrella organization with a membership that includes professors, teachers, researchers, coaches, educators and administrators from the fields of HPERSD and other related areas, as well as educational or research institutions and departments, colleges and universities, governmental and non-governmental national and international organizations.

Prior to June 2008, ICHPER·SD had seven (7) regional organizations for mission and program implementation -- Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, Middle East, North America and Caribbean, and Oceania. As of June 2008, the Caribbean has been established as the 8th Region. There are two levels of organizational structure—the Executive Committee and the Board of Governors. There are forty (40) ICHPER·SD
Commissions of specialization and interest area as well as and nine (9) Standing Committees.

ICHPER·SD works closely with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) as an *IOC Recognized Organization* for promotion of the Olympic Movement through selected or grant-funded joint projects. ICHPER·SD holds an “Official Relations” status with the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and is a member of the Permanent Consultative Council (PPC) to the Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport (CIGEPS), founded in 1976 as a working unit of UNESCO.

**Regional Context**

Following on-going efforts by the Caribbean Sport and Physical Education fraternity to establish the Caribbean as the 8th region of the International Council for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, Sport and Dance (ICHPER.SD), a meeting was held in April 2008 between UTT representatives (Oliver Flax, Ken Butcher and Mark Mungal) and the ICHPER.SD President (Dr. Dong Ja Yang). The meeting was held in Fort Worth, Texas during the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD) National Convention. During the meeting, Dr. Yang indicated that the ICHPER.SD Board of Governors was giving serious consideration to the establishment of the Caribbean as the 8th Region of the ICHPER.SD. During the discussions, it was proposed that if the Caribbean was approved as the 8th Region of ICHPER.SD, UTT would be willing to accept the responsibilities of hosting the Caribbean Secretariat.

In June 2008, at the ICHPER.SD Board of Governors Meeting, the Caribbean was formally established as 8th Region of the ICHPER.SD. Dr. Yang was subsequently invited to meet with Professor Julien in Trinidad, where the matter of hosting the Caribbean Secretariat was discussed further and it was agreed upon in principle, that UTT would accept this responsibility along with the hosting of the Inaugural ICHPER.SD Congress. This position has been since formally ratified and is endorsed by the CARICOM Physical Education and Sport Advisory Committee and the Organization of Caribbean Administrators of Sport and Physical Education.
Attendees
The Inaugural ICHPER.SD Caribbean Congress is expected to have between 300 – 400 (local, regional and international) participating delegates.

Some of the confirmed presenters/delegates include:
Dr. Dong Ja Yang – President of ICHPER.SD
Dr. Thomas Rosandich – President of the US Sports Academy
Professor Thomas Sawyer – Indiana State University
Dr. Peter Chen – New Zealand (VP of ICHPER.SD Oceana Region)
Professor Yoshiro Hatano - Tokyo Gakugei University
Dr. Tarin Hampton – Spelman College
Dr. Mohammed Torabi – Indiana State University
Mr. Mark McElligot – Australian Sports Commission
Dr. Morella Joseph – CARICOM
Mr. Lloyd Lazar – (St Kitts/Nevis)
Prof Claudette Jones (Jamaica)

Other local high profile attendees at the Opening Ceremony include representatives of the National Sporting Fraternity; High Commissioners of Australia; UK and India; Representatives of Government Ministries (Sport; Education; Health; Community Development; Social Development).

Impact on UTT and T&T
Considering that there are only eight (8) regions of the ICHPER.SD, it is quite an honour for the University of Trinidad and Tobago to be selected as the secretariat of the Caribbean Region. In addition to the economic benefits of having the secretariat based in Trinidad, with numerous opportunities for hosting meetings, seminars and conferences – with obvious gains for the hotel and sport tourism industries, it should be noted that the impact of this event is significant at both the local and regional levels.
The recognition of the Caribbean as the 8th region of the ICHPER.SD is a major step for the Caribbean people. Prior to June 2008, the Caribbean had been a part of the North America and the Caribbean Region. Being recognized as the 8th Region now gives the Caribbean a place on the Board of Governors of the ICHPER.SD where we can now be properly represented and recognized for our efforts.

The hosting of the ICHPER.SD Caribbean Secretariat adds significant credibility to the Academy of Sports and Leisure Studies and by extension, the University of Trinidad and Tobago, positioning UTT as a global leader in the field of Sport and Physical Education. This portfolio now positions the ASLS as the focal point of Sport and Physical Education in the Caribbean Region, providing significant recognition as the hub of academic, scientific and research based activities in sport and physical education in the region.

The hosting of the Inaugural ICHPER.SD Caribbean Congress is the first step in mobilizing the region under the umbrella of ICHPER.SD and beginning the process of capturing and promoting the value of our individual and collective experiences in the allied fields of sport and physical education. In addition to the publication of the Conference Proceedings, the ASLS would also be responsible for the publication of the ICHPER.SD Caribbean Journal – a great opportunity to publish research in the field of sport and physical education that truly represents the unique sport experiences of the Caribbean people.