



Nairobi, 18 June 2009

Press Release

Productive Youth Development Through Sport in Africa

Over 60% of Africa's urban population is less than 30 years old. Many of them live below the poverty line of less than 1 \$US and are denied their basic human rights, including education, health, food and shelter. Throughout the continent, numerous programs have been established using sport to address these issues particularly for the youth.

In order to discuss the potentials and limitations of sport as a tool for productive youth development in Africa, the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace (UNOSDP) and the Jacobs Foundation organized the *Forum on Productive Youth Development through Sport in Africa*, from 16-18 June 2009 at the United Nations Office in Nairobi, Kenya.

The Forum was initiated and endorsed by Mr. Wilfried Lemke, Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace, and Dr. Christian Jacobs, Chair of Jacobs Foundation and was organized in collaboration with the Swiss Academy for Development (SAD) and the Mathare Youth Sports Association (MYSA). The Forum brought together more than 70 experienced practitioners, programme managers, academia and advocates.

The Special Adviser underscored the crucial role that sport can play for Productive Youth Development in Africa:

"Sport is essential to further develop this wonderful and talented continent! Governments have a responsibility in maximizing the potential of youth development through sport. We therefore need governments to recognize the power of sport and to invest in and implement programs that support their youth through sport."

Dr. Christian Jacobs applauded the participants from the NGO sector for their excellent achievements in the field of PYD through sport in Africa. Reiterating the importance of the implication of governments, Dr. Jacobs concluded:

"NGOs and private donors have their limitations when it comes to rolling out good practices to benefit large numbers of children and youth. It is therefore essential for NGOs to cooperate with governmental partners without compromising the flexibility, expertise and the innovative potential of civil society engagement in the field".

The Forum has generated recommendations concerning the importance of partnerships, of monitoring & evaluation and of sharing knowledge & lessons learnt (see annex).

In order to respond to the challenges and recommendations raised during the Forum, the Jacobs Foundation announced the conception of a pilot project within the framework of a Jacobs Foundation Initiative. With the support of the UN Office on Sport for Development and Peace (UNOSDP), this Jacobs Foundation Initiative will call upon the participation of other stakeholders and financial contributors in order to create new momentum for Productive Youth Development through sports in Africa.



The Forum on Productive Youth Development Through Sport in Africa



You can find more information on the Forum at: <http://www.sportanddev.org/forum09>.

For free TV footage of the Forum and field visits to projects using sport for PYD within the slums of Kibera and Mathare, please contact:
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INITIATED AND ENDORSED BY



The United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace (UNOSDP)

The Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace and his office, the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace (UNOSDP) promotes the use of sport as a powerful tool to achieve development and peace objectives, in particular the eight Millennium Development Goals. UNOSDP provides the entry point to the entire UN system in this area and hosts the Secretariat of the 'Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group' (SDP IWG), an intergovernmental platform whose objective is to promote the integration of sport for development and peace into national and international development policies and programs. Find out more about UNOSDP: www.un.org/themes/sport/



The Jacobs Foundation Switzerland supports programs for Productive Youth Development worldwide and funds projects that contribute to the welfare, social productivity and social inclusion of current and future generations of young people by understanding and promoting their personal development and employability. Find out more about the Jacobs Foundation: www.jacobsfoundation.org

ORGANIZED BY



The Swiss Academy for Development (SAD)

The Swiss Academy for Development (SAD) promotes development opportunities and allows for the participation of young people who face rapid social change abroad and in Switzerland. Our focus areas are Intercultural Dialogue, Youth and Anomie, and Sport & Development. SAD operates the International Platform on Sport & Development. SAD conducts Sport & Development research, is specialised in Monitoring & Evaluation and runs operational projects in the field. Find out more about SAD www.sad.ch



The Mathare Youth Sports Association (MYSA)

The Mathare Youth Sports Association (MYSA) is a pioneering community development organisation that uses sports to engender broad socio-economic development, while also effecting positive social change. Founded in 1987 in the Mathare area of Nairobi, home to some of Africa's biggest and poorest slums, MYSA runs a variety of youth and children centered programmes focusing on sports, environment, health, education and the arts. To date, MYSA has directly impacted well over 200,000 children and youth in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Sudan and Botswana. Find out more about MYSA www.mysakenya.org/