

New development measures

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Introduction

Since the establishment of the IAAF Development Department in 1987, the scope of activities in the field of the development of athletics has grown steadily. The types of measures taken in the past as a part of the IAAF's Development Programme, such as coaches and officials courses, have continued and the number of each type has been increased.

At the same time, the Department has been busy analysing past experiences and planning for the future and several new types of measures have been introduced on a pilot basis. The planning work and the new measures are important elements of the IAAF's overall development strategy and will undoubtedly play significant roles in development cooperation in the future.

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the Department's progress on the elaboration of a strategy and to give a brief description of the new measures taken in order to promote awareness of the IAAF's development efforts.

Development Strategy

Following on from its earlier paper entitled "IAAF Development Cooperation - A Situation Analysis" (published in NSA no. 4 Vol. 3), in which activities in the field from 1976 to 1988

were reviewed, the Department has produced a draft of a strategy for the development of athletics in the 1990s. The main goal of this document is to establish policies and priorities for a world-wide programme for athletics. The emphasis of the strategy is on quality and effectiveness. Unlike previous IAAF operational plans, this strategy contains a strong theoretical and analysis background to justify its policies. The strategy also sets a framework of short, medium and long term objectives which will assist in the evaluation of the progress of the IAAF's development work.

Using the background and framework provided, all practical measures can be examined and evaluated. Many of the measures which the IAAF has employed in the past, will be re-examined from the points of view of their objectives and effectiveness. To insure that all measures are correctly integrated into the programme, increases or decreases in the number, as well as adjustments to the form, of these measures will be made if necessary. In addition, new measures, some of which have been implemented on a pilot basis this year, have been proposed.

From a practical point of view, a major aspect of the new strategy is the plan for a unified education and certification system for coaches. The main goals of the system will be to ensure that each country has the qualified coaches it needs to ensure its athletes reach their potential and the ability to produce its own qualified coaches. The build-up and implementation of this system will involve an increase in the activities IAAF's Regional Development Centres (RDCs) as well as increases

in the activities and responsibilities of the IAAF's Member Federations.

The IAAF Development Commission, at its meeting on 7 September in Barcelona, approved the strategy in principle. After some details have been adjusted, it is anticipated that the strategy will be published in a future issue of NSA.

Special Development Office

During the IAAF Congress and the Vth World Cup in Athletics in Barcelona, the Development Department operated a special office in the Congress hotel. Representatives of all IAAF Member Federations were invited to visit, discuss the situation and needs of their country and examine development publications and audio-visual materials.

In addition to taking this important opportunity to meet its partners in development cooperation, the Department used each meeting to gather detailed information which will assist in the proper planning and effective realisation of its programmes. From both a Department and Federation point of view, the office was a surprising success.

An important aspect of the IAAF's development strategy is for the Department to undertake an increased research and documentation role. Therefore, it is intended that a similar office will become a feature at future congresses of each of the six IAAF Area Groups. As these congresses are normally held together with Area Championships, they will also allow the Department staff to meet the top coaches from many countries.

Regional Development Centre Directors Workshop

Two days after the IAAF Development Commission meeting in Barcelona, the Directors of the IAAF's four operational RDCs (Cairo, Egypt, Jakarta, Indonesia, Nairobi, Kenya and Salinas, Puerto Rico) plus the Directors of two of the recently established RDCs (Lisbon, Portugal and Santa Fe, Argentina) met with the Department staff for a one day workshop. The workshop had two main purposes. The first was to exchange information which will assist in the functioning of the RDCs. The second was to introduce the IAAF strategy to the directors, who will play a key part in its realization, in order to ensure a standard philosophical basis for their work.

Following an overview given by Development Director Björn Wängemann, the topics covered in the workshop included standardization of the organizational aspects of staging courses, the IAAF coaches education and certification system and its frame curriculum and the research and documentation role of the RDCs. In addition, special presentations on producing RDC/Area publications and finding sponsorship for RDC activities were made.

The workshop was considered a success and it is planned that a similar workshop will be held approximately every two years.

RDC Lecturers Seminar

To help to ensure a uniformly high standard for the lecturers on courses held at the IAAF's RDCs, the first of a series of two week seminars was held at the RDC Jakarta, Indonesia from

17 to 28 July. The seminar was conducted by the highly experienced IAAF expert Ulrich Jonath (FRG) assisted by Harald Müller (FRG). The nine participants were educators from institutions in Jakarta.

It is clear that course lecturers play a key role in development in that the quality of coaches produced by a particular course depends greatly on the quality of the lecturer. However, a good coach or even an educator with a physical education background is not necessarily a good lecturer in athletics. In addition to building up the number of high quality lecturers available for work at the RDCs, the training these lecturers receive will benefit their own countries by helping them to become self sufficient in the education of more coaches on all levels.

The primary material for the seminar was adapted from Mr. Jonath's books "Athletics I" and "Athletics II" which he is in the process of revising as a special project for the International Athletic Foundation. When published, these books will become the texts for the intermediate and advanced level courses held at the RDCs.

Based on the experience gained in Jakarta and following the IAAF's strategy and programme, it is foreseen that a similar seminar will be held at each of the RDCs on a regular basis.

Level I Instructor Course

From 30 July to 5 August at the RDC Salinas, Puerto Rico, twenty coaches from around the region participated in the first course for short term (basic) course lecturers. Experience and special training are re-

quired for lecturers who conduct short term courses in foreign countries just as it is for lecturers at RDCs. The course was conducted by Lee Anne Johnston (CAN), Victor Lopez (PUR), Dan Pfaff (USA), Lyle Sanderson (CAN), Loren Seagrave (USA) and Gary Wilson (USA).

The participants were chosen for their outstanding results on basic and intermediate courses in the past, as well as for their coaching experience. In addition to theoretical and practical work on lecturing and demonstration techniques, the participants worked together with their instructors, in small specialist groups, to revise the basic course contents which they will use in the future.

Generally, basic and intermediate courses in the Central American and Caribbean region have been taught by experts from the USA and Canada. With the successful completion of this course, the region is now self-

sufficient in instructors for basic courses and this must be considered a major step forward in development.

Based on the success of this course, it is intended that the best qualified coaches from other regions will have the opportunity to participate in similar courses at the other RDCs.

Conclusion

In 1989, the IAAF, its Development Department and its RDCs have been involved in measures in a variety of areas within the field of development cooperation. Considered on their own, these measures are clearly useful. However, when considered as a whole, these measures are strong indications of the progress that is being made, both in establishing a high quality, effective world wide development programme and in the development of athletics in general. □