

International Relations September Update Report

CGA Visits

Caribbean

Scott Logan and Kate Randall visited 5 CGA's over the past week :

- Trinidad and Tobago
- Grenada
- St Lucia
- St Vincent and the Grenadines
- Dominica

This has been the third contact with many of the delegates in this Region – the first in Melbourne, then again at the PASO meeting in Argentina attended by Scott and Fred.

The visits were a continuation of the overall strategy of visiting each CGA in their own Region. This Region is regarded as a supporter but it is important that we are seen in the Region even though the majority of travel to this region will be undertaken in 2007.

The visit also enabled an opportunity to discuss the more detailed concepts that have been developed for the CGA Support Program to validate the concept is deliverable and to get feedback into the operation of the Program.

Asia

Fred MacGillivray, with Kate Randall, returned to Colombo, Sri Lanka to attend the South Asian Games. The South Asian Games are for the countries in the south and western part of Asia, including the following CGA's:

- Pakistan
- India
- Bangladesh
- Maldives
- Sri Lanka

The Halifax 2014 delegation were included as VIP's and treated extremely well by the Games Organisers – Sri Lanka. They were provided a vehicle and driver, a Protocol Liaison officer, and security officer. They were invited to attend the Opening Ceremony as part of the VIP group.

During the Games and in the Games Hotel the Halifax delegation had numerous opportunities to casually meet with the delegates from the CGA's that included:

- Pakistan CGA President – Lt. Gen. Syed Arif Hasan HI
- Indian CGA President (and Delhi 2010 Chairman) – Suresh Kalmadi
- Indian CGA Sec. Gen. (and Olympic Council of Asia Sec. Gen.) – Randhir Singh
- Maldives CGA President – M. Zahir-Naseer
- Maldives CGA Sec. Gen. – Ibrahim Ismail
- Sri Lanka CGA President – Hemasiri Fernando
- Sri Lanka CGA Sec. Gen. – H.U. Silva

Additional to these casual discussions a dinner was hosted by Halifax 2014 for all the CGA delegates. Only the Maldives and Sri Lanka attended the dinner because a there was a Pakistan soccer game on at the same time unfortunately.

In general the positive goodwill shown towards Halifax was exceptional. The CGA delegates were very appreciative of the effort Halifax is making to engage with them. In a Region where personal relationships are critical to business relationships, this event has greatly helped build these relationships.

There have also been some concerns that the India has actively been trying to avoid Halifax 2014 on previous occasions, but this was not evident in the behaviour of Randhir Singh and the proactive way he interacted with Fred and Kate.

After spending three days in Sri Lanka, Fred and Kate travelled to the Maldives which is off the coast of Sri Lanka. Although they had already spent time with the Maldives delegates in the prior days they met on their soil and hosted a dinner for the President and Secretary General and also Vice President of the Maldives CGA. While in the Maldives they had the opportunity to see a number of their facilities and get briefed on sport development in Maldives.

Europe

On return from Sri Lanka and the Maldives , Fred and Kate stopped in Cyprus where they had the opportunity to briefly meet with the Cyprus CGA President Kikis Lazarides. They also spent time with the Cyprus CGA Sec. Gen. Andreas Stavrou.

Similar to the Maldives the CGA took Fred and Kate on a tour of their facilities, some of which are exceptional for such a small country.

Upcoming Travel

The August report noted the outcomes of the Faces of the Bid workshop and since then a number of the outcomes have been implemented.

There are now International specific collateral materials to enhance the presentations when we have an opportunity to make a presentation, including a 2 minute DVD, high quality powerpoint presentation format, and very high quality brochure to leave behind.

Trips are planned already to complete another section of Oceania plus Brunei in September/October; Europe in September and again in October.

Two key regional Olympic Association meetings, the Caribbean (CANOC) in the Bahamas, and Africa (ANOCA) in Malawi, are also being targeted to enable a number of CGA's to be met in a couple of trips. Halifax 2014 is waiting on formal invitations and hopes to make presentations at these meetings.

Preliminary planning continues for trips into Africa in November and December.

Planning has also commenced for the Asian Games in Doha, Qatar which are being held in December.

Other Activities

Planning for the CGC AGM is also well progressed. Halifax 2014 will take responsibility for managing the on-ground arrangements for Mike Fennell and Mike Hooper from the CGF who will be attending the AGM. It will be critical to demonstrate the high level of service delivery and operation Halifax is capable of for these visits.

Planning has also commenced with the Federal Government, through Sport Canada, to minimise the complexities of the Visa requirements and processes. Many of the delegates Halifax 2014 will invite to Halifax next year will require entry Visas and this cannot become a problem whereby any delegates are refused entry, as has happened in other recent events and conferences.