

10th Anniversary of OSIC

This year we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Oceania Sport Information Centre. In August of 1997 OSIC was established on the A level of the USP Library in the space that was occupied by the law librarian. I recall how we accepted gifts of books, magazines and other sports related material, from any source just to get a collection started.

The late Mosese Latu was the first OSIC Library Assistant. Mosese was a passenger on the fatal Air Fiji PC 121 flight and was on his way to Canberra to an attachment at the National Sport Information Centre of Australia that was organized by OSIC. Ten years and four Library Assistants later (Mosese Latu, Luisa Korodrau, Samu Nakalevu and Taufa Domona), OSIC has established itself as the only regional Sport Information Centre in the world that is funded by the IOC. With the help of the USP Library and other organizations, OSIC now has an impressive collection of some of the latest sports related resources available on the market today.



Former IOC President, Mr. Juan Samaranch at the launching of the OSIC Website in 1998

Workshops and Meeting

1. Tonga OBAS Course

The OSIC Coordinator has been involved in a number of regional workshops during the past three months. These workshops included a Sports Education Program in Tonga which had been postponed from December 2006 due to political problems. The Program was organized for about 30 teachers from throughout the Kingdom of Tonga and specifically based on the Oceania Basic Athletics Education Program. The participants received a number of valuable resources and have continued to utilize OSIC to access additional information. The three days course was held in Nuku'alofa from January 28 – February 2.

2. AUSPIN Workshop

From March 8 – 9 the OSIC Coordinator attended the AUSPIN Workshop which was held at the NSW Institute of Sport located at the Sydney Olympic Park in Sydney, Australia. This was the second workshop of the Australasian Sport Information Network interest group that the Coordinator has attended since the organization was set up about 5 years ago. OSIC assistant, Ms Taufa Domona had been representing OSIC to the AUSPIN Workshops during the past 3 years.

3. ONOC Annual Assembly

The Coordinator also attended the ONOC Annual General Assembly which was held in Pago Pago, American Samoa from March 19 – 23. Before the meeting in Pago Pago there were several meetings held in Apia hoisted by the South Pacific Games Organizing Committee and the Olympic Sports Federations of Oceania.

The meetings were fruitful and informative. New contacts were established with regional sports federations who also donated a number of resources which will be included into the OSIC collection.

4. Sports and HIV Workshop

The workshop was held at JJ by the Park in Suva from October 23 – 24. The workshop was supported by Marie Stopes, UNAIDS, ONOC and FASANOC. The partnership of the UNAIDS and the IOC recognizes the role sport has to play to the response to HIV and as such prompted and HIV program for the Pacific Sports Community.

The major objective of the workshop was to provide a group of key leaders and peer educators with additional tools and ways to deliver education about HIV through sport. The workshop was also a good opportunity to collect related resources that would be added to the OSIC collection on HIV and Sports.

5. OSEP Symposium

The OSEP Symposium was held from December 6 – 7 at the Forum Secretariat. The Symposium had a number of objectives which were:

- ♣ To initiate dialogue in which education and sports leaders can agree to work together, develop partnerships and linkages to facilitate sports education in Fiji (and the Oceania region)
- ♣ To clearly identify the sports education programs offered by these sports organizations and education institutions
- ♣ To promote OSEP as a possible standardized foundation sports administration and coaches course offered by these institutions
- ♣ To generate a report as a basis of conducting similar symposium's in the other Pacific Islands targeted for OSEP

A committee which consisted of representatives from USP, OSEP and FASANOC was set up to organize the Symposium. The Symposium was well attended by representatives from Fiji College of Advance Education (FCAE), Fiji Institute of Technology Sports Science & Sport Education Program (FIT – SPESSAR), Corpus Christi Teachers College, Marist and Nabua High Schools Sports Academies, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Youth and Sports, FASANOC, OSIC, USP and students from the USP and FIT Sports Science Programs. Facilitators included Brian Minikin (ONOC), Stuart Manwaring (FIBA – Oceania/Fiji Basketball), Henry Elder (USP – Institute of Education) and Albert Miller.

The Symposium was well received and the participants appreciated the effort made by the OSEP and the organizing committee in trying to bring together all the major stake holders that offer Sports Education Courses. The onus is now on the stakeholders to create a network of all the major providers so that courses could be streamlined to meet the needs of the students.

Relocation of OSIC Serial Collection

Earlier in the year there were discussions by the USP Library management and the USP Law program to relocate the Law Collection back to the library, specifically to the OSIC reading area. This meant that the OSIC sports periodicals would be relocated. Fortunately the planned relocation of the OSIC serial collection did not take place. We are thankful to the USP Library administration for making alternative arrangements for storing the Law Collection within other areas in the library. The OSIC reading area accommodates about thirty seats for students which would have been lost had the proposal for relocating the Law Collection would have taken place as previously planned.

Statistics for 2007

OSIC statistics for the past twelve months which are presented below have indicated a substantial increase from 2006. This has been encouraging and something that OSIC has been working towards since the establishment of the Centre 10 years ago. The number of users utilizing OSIC from January – November has surpassed all previous totals. This is definitely a positive sign which we hope would continue into the 2008.

	Jan - March	April - July	Aug - Dec	Total
ONOC	3	90	55	148
Sporting Organizations	17	552	485	1054
Staff	117	44	62	223
Students	150	272	396	818
Libraries	0	29	11	40
Schools	1	34	21	56
Visitors	1	16	23	40
Media	1	30	42	73
Others	13	23	28	64
TOTAL	303	1090	1123	2516

Presented above are the stats for January –December, which clearly indicates steady increase in usage of the services that OSIC has to offer. The significant increase in requests during the first quarter (January – March) from 303 to over a thousand in the second and third quarters (April – July) and (August – December) respectively. Our usage rate is directly related to the academic calendar when the number of students and academic staff is relatively high.

Although the statistics for August – November showed a slight decrease in the total requests received, there were increases in usage from students, media and staff. It is interesting to note that the total number of requests received from the different sporting organizations (1054) outnumbered the total for students (818). In the past the number of students using our services has always been the highest. This could be attributed to the fact that we have focused most of our efforts on promoting OSIC to the sporting organizations this year.

Visits by the International Olympic Committee Presidents



The IOC President, Mr. Jacques Rogge with USP senior management and ONOC Executive members.

In the past 10 years we have hosted the two IOC Presidents, Mr. Juan Samaranch and Mr. Jacques Rogge. Mr. Samaranch visited OSIC in 1998 to officially launch the OSIC Website. Mr. Rogge visited OSIC in 2004 not long after his appointment as the new IOC President.

The visits by the IOC Presidents to the Centre is significant in the sense that it shows the continued support of the IOC and the important role that OSIC plays in the development of sport information centres in developing countries world wide.

Research

We have had a number of individuals from the region seeking our assistance in conducting research for their projects either with the IOC MEMOS Program or other sports related studies. The introduction of a Sports Science programme at the USP has also contributed to research use along with students and staff from the Fiji Institute of Technology, Sports Science Program and Fiji College of Advanced Education (FCAE).

OSIC Website (www.oceaniasport.info)

Talks have been held with Brian Minikin (ONOC) and Sport Impulse on what needs to be done concerning the relocation of the website to www.oceaniasport.info to which all parties agreed but little has been done to facilitate this. I am hoping that the OSIC website will be relocated soon so that OSIC can start inputting and updating information.

South Pacific Games Results and Medal Tally

OSIC received a number of complaints from a few countries that results and medal tallies posted for each South Pacific contained errors. For example, the Vanuatu National Olympic Committee had indicated that although they had participated at the 1995 SPG, there were no records to indicate their participation. We have also received similar complains from the Solomon NOC stating that there were discrepancies in SPG records. OSIC is working with Brian Minikin of ONOC to rectify records by cross-checking all SPG results. We encourage the various National Olympic Committees to double check records and results of past South Pacific Games to ensure that results are accurately recorded.

Role of the OSIC Coordinator

During the last several months a number of discussions have taken place between the USP Librarian and ONOC regarding the expansion roles and responsibilities of the OSIC Coordinator and OSIC. This has come about due to several new programs which have been initiated by the University of the South Pacific, Faculty of Science and Technology, Sports Science Program and the Oceania National Olympic Committee, Oceania Sports Education Program (OSEP). Most of the discussions have been centered on time allocation and commitment to OSIC and library specific responsibilities of the coordinator. Discussions between ONOC and the USP Librarian will be an ongoing process as long as there are changing demands on the roles of OSIC.

Conclusion

OSIC staff are confident that the number of users will increase steadily and is targeting 3000 in 2008. However before this can be achieved the relocation and re-launching of the OSIC website and production of new brochures and posters to publicize OSIC must be in place. Unfortunately the cumbersome USP procedures for brochure design and approval has taken the Library almost a year to re-design its brochures inclusive of the OSIC brochure and it is hoped these will go to print in the next month.

OSIC Staff will be putting together a special 10 year Anniversary Report encompassing the last ten years that OSIC has been operating.

Albert Miller
Coordinator