

Oceania Sport Information Centre 2004 Annual Report

Introduction

2004 was a challenging year for OSIC staff, which was compounded by budgetary constraints. Despite the constraints it was still a successful year. It was encouraging to see that the number of requests received and processed in 2004, which exceeded 1500. This was an increase of more than 300 requests in comparison to 2003. OSIC staffs also had the opportunity to attend a number of workshops and regional meetings, which are important links to other organizations and to keep up with the latest developments in the region.

OSIC staffs have also been involved in a number of new initiatives in Fiji and the region. One such project is the proposed Oceania Sports Education Program, which will be jointly funded by ONOC and the Australian Sports Commission and will be based at the USP Department of Flexible Learning Program. The other initiative was a joint project with the Fiji Primary School Sports Education Program for teachers in the sport of Athletics. OSIC's role in these projects is important since it is the only sports information centre in the region that has some of the latest resources that would be utilized by participants..

Funding

Funding for OSIC by the Olympic Solidarity Program through the Oceania National Olympic Committee (ONOC) has just completed its seventh year. We have reached the end of another Olympiad (4 years cycle) in its current funding phase and looking forward to another 4 years from January 2005 - 2008. If all goes well we are hoping to have an increase in our operations budget from \$US30000 to \$US50000. The increase would ensure that all short fall that OSIC is currently experiencing would be catered for. ONOC is currently working on redirecting some of its unutilized 2004 Olympic Solidarity funds to OSIC. Due to financial problems faced by OSIC a better accounting system needs to be put in place on how funds could be better utilized to ensure that no deficit is incurred. One of the main reasons for the shortfall is the depreciation of the US dollar. Increase in staff salaries and costs of subscriptions and equipment have also contributed to the deficit.

Subscriptions

After a long delay due to problems with our suppliers, subscriptions are slowly getting back to normal. At the moment we subscribe to a total of 31 journals and magazines. We also receive another 77 titles as gifts from ONOC, FASANOC, FIBA Oceania and other regional sporting organizations. Due to the escalating costs and under utilization we have had to cancel a number of academically inclined magazines. Subscriptions cost have also escalated. We are also looking at other means of sharing costs with the School of Humanities since most of the magazines we subscribe to are directly related to physical and sports education. A formal proposal is yet to be made to SOH, although I have had a few discussions with the new Coordinator of the PE and Leisure Education, Mr. Jeremy Dorovolovo. At the moment subscriptions is costing OSIC about \$6000 annually.

Statistics

The overall number of requests received and processed for 2004 (1559) showed an increase from 2003 (1200) by more than 300. Looking closely at the statistics presented below the months of August, September and October showed substantial increase in patronage from FIT and USP students where more than 500 requests were processed by OSIC staff. This is a substantial increase in comparison to the same period last year. The large number of students (1130) utilizing our services has been on the increase and we expect greater numbers in the future as the sports and physical education fields of studies are given greater priority by regional and local institutions.

The months of January, June, July, November and December showed that less than 100 requests were processed. These low periods are during the semester break when most students are on holiday. For the first time we had several groups visiting OSIC as part of regional workshops they were attending in Suva. The group included the Oceania Weightlifting Coaches Workshop, the NOC Legacy and Archiving Workshop, and the Oceania Hockey Federation Workshop.

Listed below is the statistical breakdown of requests that were received and processed in 2004.

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total	59	182	30	1130	0	36	59	35	47	1559
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Conferences and Meetings

1. ONOC Annual Assembly

The ONOC Annual Assembly was held at the Palasia Hotel in Koror, Palua on the 23 - 24 March 2004. Represented at the Assembly were representatives from all regional National Olympic Committees in the Oceania region. There were also representatives from international sporting federations such as, Oceania Tennis, Table Tennis, Archery, Athletics, Judo, Softball, Basketball, and Baseball.

Present also were representatives of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Solidarity Program, Mr. Pere Miro and Ms. Nicole Jirad Savoy. Olympic Solidarity is the main funding agency for all Olympic programs in the region. Representatives from the Athens Olympic Games Organizing Committee were also present and were finalizing entries and arrangements for the upcoming 2004 Olympic Games in August.

The Assembly included workshops on various topics that directly affected ONOC member countries such review of the Olympic Solidarity Program for 2001 - 2004 and recommendations for the 2005 - 2008 Olympiad.

Different Coordinators of regional programs also made presentations on work they were currently doing and any new developments that had occurred in the past year. Those who presented included the different ONOC Commissions such as the Medical, Athlete, OOTC, Women in Sports, International Sporting Federations, and OSIC. Mr. Will Glenwright the ASP Coordinator also represented the Australian Sports Commission at the meeting.

During his presentation the OSIC Coordinator stressed the point that funding for OSIC will come to an end in 2004 and that it was looking forward to an extension and increase in its funding for 2005 - 2008. ONOC President - Mr. Kevan Gosper acknowledged the work carried out by the Centre and that he was aware of the current funding shortfall. He reiterated that ONOC will be negotiating an extension and increase in the OSIC funding when they meet with representatives from the Olympic Solidarity Program in Lausanne in late December.

2. ONOC Archiving and NOC Legacy Workshop

A workshop organized by the Oceania National Olympic Committee (ONOC) on Archiving and NOC Legacy Program highlighted the need for the National Olympic Committees (NOC) to seriously look at the preservation of all information relating to the historical development of each NOC. The workshop reiterated the importance of preserving records of each NOC in regional competitions such as the South Pacific & Mini South Pacific Games. Ms. Paula Jones from the USP Library and OSIC staff assisted in running the half-day workshop for the participants in the library conference room.

The workshop also discussed ways of utilizing Olympic Solidarity Program funds to establish an archive that would preserve the NOC legacy. For example FASANOC has utilized the allocated funds to establish a sports museum where it could house memorabilia's from past Games and athletes.

3. Athletics & Physical Education in Primary Schools Workshop.

A series of workshops were organized in association with the Primary School Athletics Association and the Ministry of Education. The three workshops conducted in 2004 were part of a national implementation program for primary school sports teachers. The first workshop was conducted in Cakaudrove at the Savusavu Public School and attended by 40 teachers from throughout the Province of Cakaudrove. The second was held in the West at the Natabua High School in Lautoka, which was attended by 30 primary school teachers. The third workshop was held in the Central Division at the LDS High School with 37 teachers attending the course. Each participant completing the course was awarded a Level 0 Oceania Basic Athletics Coaching Certificate.

4. Asian Sports Studies Forum 2004 (September 20 - 22, 2004). Shiga University, Shiga Japan

This was the first time that such a forum had been organized between Asian and Oceania countries. The Forum was made possible through the foresight of Professor Hajime Hirai of the Shiga University who organized the Forum bringing together participants from Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Taiwan, Philippines, Korea, China, Thailand and Fiji. The main theme of the Forum was "Reading Asia & Oceania through Sports". The Forum was held at Shiga University and sponsored by the Asian Sports Studies Group of Japan.

The initiative taken by the Asian Sports Studies Group of Japan to organize this Forum is an important step in the establishment of a networking system between countries in Asia and Oceania. As Professor Hirai stated in his opening remarks, "As we study sport in Asia and Oceania regions, we feel we have limitations in getting information alone. Without sharing knowledge and perspectives with other scholars, we will never be able to have accurate visions and broad ideas. It is vital, I believe, that we should seriously discuss how we should support each other to promote studies of sport in Asia and Oceania regions". The trip was made possible through funding from ONOC and the Asian Sports Society of Japan.

5. Oceania Sports Education Program

For the past year a series of meeting have been organized in part by the Australian Sports Commission - ASP Program and ONOC regarding the proposed Oceania Sports Education Program. After a year of planning and negotiations the Australian Government have agreed to fund the project for two years by contributing more then \$600,000. ONOC on the other hand has negotiated with the Olympic Solidarity Program for an additional \$US50, 000 per year for the next 4 years. Since funding had been secured negotiations and discussions with USP Department of Flexible Learning has moved to another level. A formal agreement between USP, ONOC and the Australian Sports Commission is expected to be signed in early 2005.

6. Sport Information Workshop (Queensland Academy of Sports - Brisbane)

OSIC Assistant - Ms. Taufa Domona attended a workshop organized by the National Information Centre of Australia in association with the Queensland Academy of Sports and Information Centre, which was held from November 17 - 19. This was Taufa's third trip to Australia to attend workshops organized by the NSIC. The workshops have greatly assisted Taufa in her work with OSIC.

Projects & Activities

1. Athletics and Physical Education Manual

The publication of the Athletics and Physical Education Manual was also a major accomplishment for OSIC in 2004. OSIC Coordinator with the assistance of Mr. Henry Elder (USP Institute of Education) published a manual for Primary School Athletics Coaches. The publication of the Manual was made possible due to the financial support of the Australian Sports Commission ASP 2006 Program and Nestles.

2. USP Open Day

The following programs were organized as part of the USP Open Day.

- Posters Display
- Showed a variety of sports video tapes
- Display of new books and current periodicals
- Give away of magazines
- Over 700 brochures and bookmarkers were also distributed to visitors throughout the day.
- Short presentations on OSIC for each tour group

3. FIT Sports Education Advisory Committee

The OSIC Coordinator is a member of the Advisory Committee for the FIT Sports Education Program and has attended a number of meetings relating to the expansion of their program. It was interesting to note that although FIT is forging ahead with plans to expand despite the lack of resources and expertise to give the Program some credibility. FIT should be given credit for showing some initiative in an area, which has some, real potential for development.

4. Oceania Sport Education Program

The proposed Program has progressed to a new level after a meeting with Fr. John Bonato, Head of USP's Distance & Flexible Learning (DFL) Department regarding how best to deliver OSEC. Fr. Bonato was very supportive of the Program and reiterated that DFL was always looking for new programs and initiatives. He commented that the OSEC proposal was similar to a Regional Policing Program that would be based at USP and also funded by the Australian Government. According to Fr. Bonato the best method of delivering the program would be through the USP Continuing Education system. Initial meetings have also been held with Dr. Muralidhar, HOD for the School of Humanity, the new USP Vice Chancellor, Professor Anthony Tarr, Esther Williams and USP Registrar, Mr. Walter Frazer. A special committee has been formed which comprises of representatives from USP, ONOC, Australian Sports Commission, and OSIC to look into the development of the Program.

OSIC Equipment

An inventory of OSIC equipment includes the following.

- 3 X PC, which includes a Compact Windows 1995, Leo Windows1997, 2004 HP (Bought in late December by ONOC).
- 1 X HP DeskJet 1120C, which is about 3 years old
- 1 X ACER Scanner
- 1 X 19inch Panasonic TV
- 2 X VCR (Panasonic & Hitachi)
- 1 X Tape Cleaner

While OSIC is fortunate to have three computers unfortunately two are out dated (Windows 1995 & 1997). We have made several requests to ONOC and the Australian Sports Commission for replacements. The two organizations have responded positively to our request and promised to provide a computer and a couple of laptops for OSIC by the end of the year. This is one area where improvements could be made to ensure that OSIC has the latest technology in order to provide better service to clients. Allowances should be made in the future to allocate a budget for equipment upgrading and maintenance.



OSIC Coordinator at the Asian Sports Society of Japan Conference

Conclusion

After a successful and busy 2004 OSIC staffs are looking forward to 2005. We are anticipating an increase in usage from our patrons as new physical education and sports education programs are being developed at USP and the region. The increase in the OSIC budget to \$US50000 would help take care of the deficit that has been experienced in the past few years.

The OSIC collections continue to increase with the inclusion of new books and sporting magazines in the past year. We are always grateful to a number of organizations for their contributions to the ever-growing OSIC collection. We would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to the following organizations; the Australian Sports Commission, International Basketball Federation - Oceania, Oceania National Olympic Committees (ONOC), Fiji Associations of Sports and National Olympic Committee (FASANOC), World Squash, International Tennis Federation (ITF), Ocean Football, and the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Conferences & Workshops

- ONOC General Assembly - March 23 - 24 , Koror, Palau
- South Pacific Games Council Meeting, March 25 - 26, Koror, Palau
- Primary School Teachers Sports Education (Athletics) Workshop - 10 - 12, Savusavu
- ONOC Archiving and NOC Legacy Workshop - May 22 - 26, Suva
- Primary School Teachers Sports Education (Athletics) Workshop - August 16 - 18, Lautoka
- Asian Sports Society of Japan Forum - September 20 - 22, Shiga, Japan
- NSIC Sports Information Workshop - November 16 - 19, Brisbane, Australia

Extra - Mural Relations

- Regional Sports Education Advisory Committee Member

Other Activities

- Secretary General - Athletics Fiji
- Board Member IAAF Regional Development Centre
- Chairman Coaches Education Development - Athletics Fiji
- Lecturer International Athletics Association of Federations (IAAF)
- FASANOC Selection Justification Committee
- FASANOC Medical Commission Committee
- Advisory Committee FIT Sports Education Program

Albert Miller

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