

**17 July 2009**

**1<sup>st</sup> Continental International Council for Coach Education Conference for Africa held at Tshwane University of Technology in 2008 bears fruit on National level.**

Whether the “nine months” that has lapsed since the inception of Long Term Athlete Development [LTAD] by the expert Dr. Istvan Balyi from a TUT stage at the conference in October last year, bears any resemblance, one has to wait and see. This conference was the platform for coaches and stakeholders to meet and learn from internationally acknowledged presenters and in particular Dr. Istvan Balyi a sought after LTAD specialist. Dr Istvan Balyi flew back into South Africa this week as guest of the South Africa Sport Confederation and Olympic Committee [SASCOC], who was also a partner in the TUT’s initiative for the ICCE conference.

More good news is that he will be sharing his knowledge and assisting SA Coaches in the implementation of Long Term Athlete Development in the South African Context in November later this year again. Structured programmes are planned for the next four years to sustain and gain momentum for coach education and development in South Africa under the Auspices of SASCOC, who has formed an Association for this purpose.

Forty Federations attended a two day session in Johannesburg last weekend. The excitement was echoed by Cricket South Africa in arranging a two day presentation on LTAD this week in Pretoria for all cricket coaches from the different provinces, inclusive of Women and Youth Cricket. Dr. Istvan Balyi said he is very impressed with the progress made and the positive attitude with which sport in South Africa accept challenges. “It takes 36 hours travelling time to get to South Africa from Victoria in Canada, but I am still looking forward to my other visits here, because of the good spirit and hospitality I have experienced from all I have met here.” This was the first step envisaged by the conference for Coaches in SA. There is more to come.

The International Council for Coach Education in partnership with TUT has taken the initiative to add more international value to coach education in South Africa as it believes that it can play a major role in networking information on the latest developments in Coach Education to the rest of the African Continent.

Compiled by

Steve Noi – ICCE Vice President for Africa.



From left to right: Steve Noi , ICCE Vice President for Africa, Dr. Istvan Balyi, Marlen Fick and Hennie Fick, Chairman ICCE Control Committee at the High Performance Centre of the University of Pretoria.