

1st RADO Conference – Report SARADO

19-21 November 2009, Kuwait City, Kuwait

1. Introduction

The 1st RADO Conference was held in Kuwait from 19-21 November 2009. The conference was organized by World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and Olympic Council of Asia. The conference was targeted for the Chairpersons and administrators of the 15 RADOs that have been formed, since WADA started the project of establishing RADOs to help the cause of the fight against doping in sport.

2. Objectives

The main objective of the conference was to bring all the key stakeholders to a common platform and understand their plight of going forward with the RADOs. In addition, it was also used as a means to disseminate information about the RADOs to international federations (IFs) who are not aware of these RADOs which can be used to assist them in the fight against doping in their sport. It also gave an opportunity to listen to the development of the RADOs and the progress made by them in the short time they have been in existence.

3. Participants

The RADO conference saw representatives from 14 RADOs, out of the 15 RADOs and from leading international federations like IAAF and other international organisations such UK, Sport Accord and Drug Free Sport. There were also representatives from some continental organisations such as OCA. In addition all the Directors of all Regional Offices of WADA took part in the conference, in addition, Director of Program Development and Education, Mr. Rob Koehler, Director General of WADA, Mr. David Howman, and Manager, Program Development, Tom May also took part.

4. Opening and Closing

The conference was opened by the President of Olympic Council of Asia, His Excellency Sheikh Al-Ahmad Al-Fahd Al-Sabah. In his opening remarks he congratulated the work WADA has done over the short period of time, only 10 years, and re-iterated the support from OCA to WADA and the fight against doping in sport. He also highlighted the success of OCA in this area referring to the clean games OCA has been conducting in the last few years.

The conference was officially closed by the Chairman of OCA Anti-Doping and Medical Commission Dr. Jegathasan. In his remarks, he congratulated the participants for their excellent contribution to the conference and stated that he looked forward for such future conferences. He stated the importance of the conference and invited WADA to host the next conference also in Kuwait if another host cannot be obtained. He wished WADA, OCA and RADOs all the best in the cause of the fight against doping.

5. Discussion papers and Presentation

A total of 6 (six) papers were submitted by WADA for discussion at the conference.

The papers include the following:

1. Self- Evaluation
2. Governance / Management
3. Sustainability
4. Code Compliance
5. Education
6. Moving Forward

All the papers were discussed among break-out groups after which all groups made presentations based on their discussions. A lot of information was put forward in this way as each paper also had a presentation from RADO perspective. The final conclusions and the presentations are being compiled by WADA.

Apart from these discussion papers, there were very important presentations from key organisations. WADA had a key presentation on Overview of Program Development. In addition, UK Sport, IAAF, OCA, OCEANIA NOC, South African Institute for Drug Free Sport and SportAccord Anti-Doping Unit made presentations. There were also presentations from WADA Regional Office, OCEANIA RADO and Central America & Columbia RADO. OCEANIA RADO is the pilot project where this successful RADO program was started by WADA.

6. Conclusions

As mentioned earlier a lot of information was exchanged over the three day conference. A comprehensive report of what was achieved and agreed in the conference is being compiled by WADA. In short, the following was agreed by participants of the conference.

1. RADOs are needed to assist in the development of anti-doping programs worldwide;
2. Significant progress has been made as a result of the RADOs, however more can be done;
3. The RADOs should continue to focus on development and assist each other in the implementation of anti-doping programs;
4. RADOs need the support of National Olympic Committees, governments and other key stakeholders to ensure self-sustainability;
5. All participants will continue to work together and learn from each other.

According to WADA a strategy to ensure the sustainability of RADOs worldwide will be developed by WADA based on the results achieved from the conference.

The Conference was an eye opener to all RADOs. A lot was learned from the different RADOs as well from the other organisations. More commitment is needed from NOCs and governments for the RADO to reach its full potential.