



الكنفدرالية الإفريقية للكانوي **Confédération Africaine de Canoë** **Confederation of African Canoeing**

Presidents Report To the 2007 CAC Congress – December 2007

Honored guests, delegates, ladies and gentlemen.

Since the last congress in 2005 I am pleased to inform you that although the growth of canoeing has slowed a little we have continued to make good progress with canoeing in Africa.

There are now 26 member countries in Africa: These are Algeria, Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cote D'Ivoire, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Kenya, Namibia, Somalia, South Africa, Senegal, Seychelles, Sao Tome, Sudan, Toga, Tunisia, Uganda and Zambia.

The ICF development program is still active in Africa and the ICF is focusing on our continent as an important area for growth in terms of member countries and also participation of women and Canadian paddlers in the Olympic Disciplines of Flatwater and Slalom canoeing.

The first priority in the development program is to provide new countries with equipment and advice on coaching. Assistance is also given to more advanced countries with support to enable them to start to compete at a World Championship level.

During the past two years my circumstances have changed and I have not been able to give canoeing work as much time as I had in the previous 4 years. However, over the past two years CAC has become more organised through the work of our Secretary General Seif Patwa. Another improvement has been more regular meetings of the CAC Board.

Another area of activity has been the development of proposals for the modification to the Statutes based on ideas which have come from Morocco and Senegal and myself. These will be presented for consideration by the Congress.

All African Games

The ICF and CAC worked hard towards obtaining approval for the inclusion of canoeing in the program of the All Africa Games to be held in Algiers in 2007. Unfortunately we were unsuccessful in obtaining a place for canoeing in the 2007 All Africa Games. However we were fortunately asked if we would like to put on a demonstration event for canoeing at the Algiers All Africa Games and we agreed to do this.

Special thanks must go to the Algiers Federation, the Tunisian Federation, FISA and Csaba Szanto for the work done in making this demonstration successful. The even was attended by 22 athletes from 11 countries. (14 men and 8 women) Flatwater races were held over 200 meters.

Further efforts will be needed to try and achieve the inclusion of canoeing in the next games which are to be held in Zambia.

2007 African Championships

The 2007 African Championships and Olympic Qualification events were due to take place at Msinga Dam near Nairobi, Kenya in early November 2007.

Because of serious concerns regarding the preparations for the event a decision was made to postpone the events until now and of course the Congress was also postponed so that it could be held at the same time as the Championships.

A permanent course was to be constructed with the support of Canoeing South Africa officials but delays were experienced with the purchasing and payment of the materials by the Kenyan Government and unfortunately at the time of writing this report the course construction looks unlikely to be completed in time for the event. I am sure a course of a temporary nature will be ready but it is unfortunate that a better racing facility will not be ready for this prestigious event. There is also some uncertainty regarding the delivery of boats from Brazil which are still on route to Kenya by ship.

From the above it can be seen that there is still some uncertainty that everything will be ready for the event which is a most unsatisfactory situation which I would not wish to be repeated in the future.

Over the 4 days of the competition we should see the most African Countries ever assembled for a canoeing event.

In Morocco in 2001 we had 26 athletes from 4 nations, in South Africa in 2002 there were 29 athletes from 6 nations and in Tunisia in 2003 there were 43 athletes from 7 nations, in Senegal there were 136 athletes from 13 nations. This year we have intended entries from 17 nations. It is great to see Canoeing in Africa growing at an encouraging rate.

Conclusion

Although I have been nominated by South Africa to continue as President for a further term I have decided that in my current circumstances I am no longer able to make myself available for this position. I would like to apologize to those who encouraged me to continue and be nominated as President.

It is possible that I may not even be able to come to Kenya. I will try and be there but if I am not there when this report is presented please accept my apologies.

The reason for the change is that I have a new job and the time which this job is taking makes it impossible for me to give the same attention to canoeing work.

I could possibly stay as a CAC Board member if there was a place for me but I feel that someone else must take on the leadership of canoeing in Africa. I will certainly give who ever takes my place as much support as possible.

Finally I would like to thank our hosts Kenya and for the organisation of the Congress and the African Championships and also Joao Costa Alegria from Sao Tome Principe, Seif Patwa from Kenya, Ben Boubaker from Tunisia and William Achi Degbo from Ivory Coast for their work for the Confederation in developing Canoeing in Africa.

Thank you.



Tim Cornish

12 December 2007

President - Confederation of African Canoeing