

## **Intervention of Saudi Arabia**

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Saudi Arabia is a fast growing country in all aspects of development. The Kingdom's population is 24 million in which %55 of the population are in their teenage years. Therefore, sports would naturally be one of the important aspects of development that the Kingdom took into consideration. The Kingdom has witnessed numeral significant successes in spite of the recent progressions that took place in these areas. The numbers of officially registered athletes in various Sports Federations have increased into more than one hundred thousand adding to them amateurs and beginners, with these facts the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia initiated anti-doping activities in the early 1990s for example in 1993, Saudi Arabian Sports Medicine Association has published the first book in Arabic titled "Fight Doping in Sports". It also commenced awareness and educational programs about doping by organizing a five-year plan of educational programs carried out across the Arab world, they consisted of 20 courses in which the number of attendees has reached 1403, all this with the cooperation of the Pan Arab Sports Federation associated by the Medical Committee of the International Olympic Committee. Furthermore, a number of representatives from the Kingdom have participated in WADA's establishment meetings held in IOC's headquarters in 1999. Saudi Arabia has also hosted, in the year 2000, the First Anti-Doping Arab Conference in the capital of Saudi Arabia, Riyadh in which very high rank officials of IOC have attended the Conference. In 2003, the Kingdom participated in Copenhagen's Conference and became one of the countries that signed Copenhagen's Declaration. It has participated, in UNESCO's meetings to form the UNESCO Anti-Doping Convention in which the legitimate officials have agreed to sign the Convention which is expected to take place before the end of this year.

Sports officials in the Kingdom have formed NADO at the beginning of 2005 as an independent committee working under the National Saudi Arabian

Olympic Committee. NADO has implemented effective programs in both organizational and training aspects locally or by coordinating with WADA through RADO, in addition to extensive awareness programs along with in and out-of-competition testing. Not to mention that 56 awareness sessions were held for athletes especially those participating in national teams who will compete in regional, continental and international sports activities and random out-of-competition sample collecting were made.

The National Committee (NADO) in the Kingdom has effectively participated with WADA along with Asia's office to form RADO, and the Kingdom's representative was granted the presidency of the Committee. RADO is now carrying out training and coordination programs among member states, this committee is considered the most successful one in the world.

NADO is currently initiating an ambitious plan for next year that includes expanding awareness activities to reach students and amateur athletes; moreover, organizing courses for training and qualifying sample-collecting officers, conducting tests and increasing translation activities into Arabic by coordinating with RADO to form common programs under the supervision of WADA, as well as forming TUE Committee and Result Management Team.

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