

ASPIRE ACADEMY TO CONTINUE TO DRIVE FOOTBALL PERFORMANCE AND SCIENCE

Paris, 7 October 2014. Football clubs from around the world have praised Aspire Academy and pledged to continue to work together to build upon the Aspire Academy Global Summit on Football Performance and Science that concluded in Paris today.

Speaking at the conclusion Aspire Academy Director General Ivan Bravo said: "The summit is just the first step that Aspire Academy has taken to create a community of clubs and academies that will regularly share knowledge."

"What has been demonstrated during the summit is that the world's top clubs and academies are eager to learn about our techniques and methodologies at Aspire Academy and that we are being recognized globally as a leader in the development of football performance and science."

Over 50 clubs were represented at the summit with many commenting that they will be able to apply some of the content at their clubs.

Les Parry from Manchester United said: "Sports science is a great tool for coaching that has become very important and generated a whole industry within football. From this conference I can take an input from discussion on psychology to Manchester and we will think how we can incorporate it. "

Daniele Bernazzani, Academy Technical Director at FC Internazionale said: "The summit has been a great idea. It's different from usual conferences because it's not just one person in the spotlight. Everyone shares experiences and I am looking forward to the next step of this summit when we can go deeper in the future."

Louis Coolen, Chief of Development Coach at Zenit St Petersburg said: "I have been to quite a number of seminars but I have never seen anything like this. It's not just one directional talk. You get inside into all sorts of research and the different ways of tactical development. What is interesting is that this process is ongoing after the conference."

Speaking at a special stars chat session during the conference former Argentina internationals Juan Sebastian Veron and Gabriel Heinze stressed the important role football academies play in the life development of individuals.

Juan Sebastian Veron said: "It is important to organize summits like this in order to come together and share information. We train people not just athletes. We have young people in our hands and we have to convey values to them and education is the foundation so they can make progress in their lives. Many youngsters will be successful and many will not. It's important we leave something for them to build on."

Speaking about players becoming coaches Gabriel Heinze said: "Just because you were a player doesn't make you a coach. You have to learn from experienced coaches, spend hours talking to people like Roberto Mancini and go to events like this."

ASPIRE ZONE CEO HOLDS IMPORTANT MEETINGS IN PARIS

While in Paris to participate in the Aspire Academy Global Summit Football Performance and Science, Aspire Zone CEO Mr. Khalid Al-Sulaiten conducted several important meetings.

Mr. Al-Sulaiten met with the French State Secretary of Sport Mr. Thierry Braillard with the aim to enhance the existing relations of France and Qatar in relation to the sports sector. During the meeting Mr. Al-Sulaiten gave a presentation on the Aspire Zone facilities and services and mentioned that Paris was chosen as the location for the summit since it is in the heart of Europe. The State Secretary appreciated the fact that Aspire Zone had selected France as the location for the summit and stated that he is keen to visit Aspire Zone to attend Doha GOALS.

A visit also took place to the Paris St Germain training centre where a tour of the facilities took place with the management of the club. Discussions also took place focusing on the operations of the training centre and future collaboration. An exchange of gifts took place between the two organizations.

A meeting also took place with the management of Lagardere, a leading French media group where discussions centered on a possible collaboration between Aspire Zone and Lagardere. The management of Lagardere pledged to visit Aspire Zone in the future to continue discussions.

ASPIRE ACKNOWLEDGES WORLD SPORT STARS AT GALA DINNER

Stars of world sport were acknowledge for their involvement in the Aspire Academy Global Summit Football Performance and Science during a gala dinner in Paris.

Sports legends, Gennaro Gattuso, Roberto Mancini, Juan Sebastian Veron, Julio Velasco, Gabriel Heinze, Gaizka Mendietta, Louis Saha, Patrick Kluivert and Victoria Azarenka received souvenirs of the event.

The audience was also treated to a stars chat interview featuring former world number one tennis player Victoria Azarenka and Dutch football legend Patrick Kluivert.

Speaking on stage about her season-ending injury Azarenka said: "It can be frustrating but it is part of it. You have victories and tough times and from this experience you appreciate it when you are healthy."

"My family have always been very supportive in everything I did. I played when I was a kid I played tennis with passion and it was like an art for me. One day I came home and said I didn't want to play anymore and may be focus on study. I spoke to my grandmother and she is the one that puts things in perspective. After that I felt that passion again that I felt before. "

"Practice sometimes is just boring. Playing in front of a big crowd is a lot easier and after you win the first point you feel that the hard practice is worth it."

During the interview Kluivert revealed that he rejected offers from several clubs in Europe as he was focusing on his role as assistant manager with the Dutch national at the 2014 FIFA world Cup.

Kluivert said: "Lots of clubs were interested in me, yet in big tournaments such as the World Cup you have to be focused."

ASPIRE4SPORT OPENS DOORS OF OPPORTUNITY

ASPIRE4SPORT came to an exciting conclusion in Paris today with Aspire Zone Foundation revealing expansion plans whilst 800 scheduled business meetings took place between 15 Qatari entities and 100 international companies.

Phillip Templar, Director of Venues and Events at Aspire Logistics said during his presentation: "Aspire Zone, while impressive in size, is planning to undergo a significant expansion that will see it almost double in geographical footprint.

"The phase two master plan in the west part of Aspire Zone will provide more flexible sports and event facilities and could potentially include any number of developments ranging from multipurpose venues, indoor and outdoor recreational areas, areas for children, aquatic facilities, restaurants and residential areas. "

"This is the most significant development project undertaken by Aspire Zone since the original construction and provides excellent opportunities for companies to contribute."

Speaking at the conclusion of ASPIRE4SPORT Alexander Bondarenko, Business Development Director Sports Industry from FORS Development Center in Switzerland said " We came to ASPIRE4SPORT looking for cooperation and we had very good meetings with Aspire, Qatar Olympic Committee and the Qatar Stars League. We will definitely be following up on this."

Philippe Mendes from French software company Mediatree said: "For us it is good opportunity to meet decision makers to increase and win new projects."

During ASPIRE4SPORT it was confirmed that in 2015 the event would return to Doha.