



MSG Successfully Concludes Sports Committee Meeting (SCM) in Port Vila, Vanuatu

MSG Sports Officials recently concluded the MSG Sports Committee Meeting (SCM) in Port Vila, Vanuatu from 28 – 29 October, 2013. This was the second meeting of the MSG SCM which comprises of MSG representatives of respective Ministries and Departments of Youth and Sports as well as representatives of the respective MSG National Olympic Committees (NOCs).

The MSG Sports Committee Meeting was chaired by Mr. Yvon Faua of the Front de Liberation Nationale Kanak et Socialiste (FLNKS) Political Bureau of New Caledonia.

One of the main agendas of the SCM is the preparations towards the inaugural Melanesia Games 2014 to be hosted by the FLNKS in collaboration with the Government of New Caledonia on 16 – 23 August, 2014 in New Caledonia. The Inaugural Melanesia Games 2014 as endorsed by MSG Leaders will be youth based between ages 15 – 18 years and comprise of 6 sports disciplines namely Basketball, Futsal or Indoor Soccer, Beach Volleyball, Rugby Sevens, Open Water-Swimming and Track and Field events. In addition the Games will include cultural events designed so that it does not only cater for sports and competition but that it provides a safe and learning environment for the youth of Melanesia to build friendship, share their cultural identities and strengthen Melanesian solidarity.

The MSG SCM officials expressed their full support towards the inaugural Melanesia Games earmarked for 2014 and look forward to further updates from the FLNKS when they next meet in early 2014.

The Papua New Guinea (PNG) Handball Federation also provided a presentation to the Sports Committee Meeting on sports disciplines to include Handball as an additional sport for the inaugural Melanesia Games 2014. MSG SCM members welcomed this proposal and requested for further consultations with the PNG Handball Federation in assisting other MSG members such as Fiji in affiliating to the International Handball Federation.

The MSG SCM was quite successful as it provided MSG members the opportunity to further advance discussions on the draft Melanesia Games Charter as well as the draft guidelines and criteria for non-MSG countries eligibility to participate in the Melanesia Games. The SCM also agreed to undertake national feasibility studies on viability of Sports Institutes in MSG countries and also agreed to develop a MSG Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Sports Cooperation for consideration at their next meeting.

The MSG SCM officials welcomed the update by Vanuatu on their preparations towards the Vanuatu Pacific Mini-Games 2017 and commended the Government of Vanuatu for the initiative of the long term goal of converting the sports complexes into sports institutes post VAN2017 Mini-Games.

The MSG SCM will meet again in February 2014 in New Caledonia to prepare for the inaugural Melanesia Games 2014.

Authorized by the Director General

MSG Secretariat

31 October 2013
Port Vila, Vanuatu