



Press Release

ASPIRE gymnast qualifies for Youth Olympic Games

Ahmed Al Dyani to represent Qatar in Singapore

Monday 12 July 2010, Doha, Qatar:

ASPIRE Academy for Sports Excellence today congratulated student-athlete Ahmed Al Dyani, who has qualified to represent Qatar at the inaugural Youth Olympic Games in Singapore next month.

At a gymnastics demonstration and press conference today, hosted by the Qatar Gymnastic Federation and ASPIRE, Al Dyani was named as part of the Qatar team. It was also announced that Shaden Wohdan will compete in the female competition.

ASPIRE Director of Sport, Mr. Wayde Clews, said that the opportunity of competing at such a prestigious event would be a wonderful experience for Al Dyani and Wohdan.

“The Youth Olympic Games will present a unique experience for these two gymnasts to compete at a high level, and also learn from former champions, who will be in attendance, to share their knowledge with the athletes,” said Clews.

“ASPIRE and the QGF have a close relationship and an excellent record of co-operation. These achievements are a tribute to the work being done by both organizations. We wish our ASPIRE student Ahmed, and Shaden, the very best for the competition.”

QGF President, Mr. Ali Al Hitmi, paid tribute to the hard work of the athletes, coaches, staff, parents, Qatar Olympic Committee and ASPIRE Academy.

“On behalf of the Qatar Gymnastics Federation, I am very proud to announce the qualification of two of our gymnasts for the first Youth Olympic Games,” said Mr Al Hitmi.

“Our federation was created only 10 years ago and already we have seen the results of our hard work. This qualification is a direct result of the close collaboration between our federation and ASPIRE.”

The Singapore 2010 Youth Olympic Games will run from 14th to 26th August. Organizers are expecting more than 3,600 athletes from 205 countries to take part.

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ASPIRE Media Information

For All media enquiries (Arabic and English) and high resolution images contact:

Hassan Esbaiss E: hassan.esbaiss@aspire.qa M: (+974) 521 9545

Notes to Editors:

Created in 2004, the ASPIRE Academy for Sports Excellence in Doha has the dual aims of identifying and transforming promising student athletes into world-renowned champions across a wide range of sports and to act as a beacon to draw sporting culture into the centre of life in Qatar and the surrounding region.

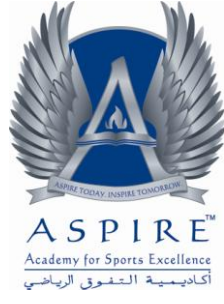
The Academy is distinguished by a philosophy which aims to develop the student as a whole, providing them with full academic, social and sporting development.

Unrivalled facilities, housed in and around the world's largest purpose built indoor sports dome, ensure the Academy's reputation as one of the foremost sporting and educational institutions in the entire international community, enticing an ever-increasing number of visitors and users, from sporting legends to global political leaders.

Every aspect of the development of elite athletes is catered for by one indoor and seven outdoor football pitches, athletics tracks, an Olympic-sized swimming pool, diving pool, combat arenas, gymnastics arena, specially fitness weight rooms, lecture halls, dormitories to accommodate what will eventually become 1,000 students, a medical centre and many more facilities.

Launched in 2007, the ASPIRE Football Dreams project has annually tests over 600.000 young footballers from all over the world including Asia, South America and Africa as part of the largest ever talent search within the sport.

The ASPIRE ACTIVE initiative is a government subsidized community program. Our focus, guided by the *2030 Qatar National Vision*, falls on preventative teen and adult educational fitness and health related exercise programming. The broad variety of scientifically designed classes and courses on offer cater for beginner to advanced users. Our mother, baby and children classes provide holistic fundamental movement skill development crucial to later sport specific skill mastery. ASPIRE ACTIVE fosters culturally sensitive lifelong recreational fitness activity and healthy lifestyle choices for the entire family to effectively address contemporary sedentary lifestyle consequences.



P.O. Box 22287, Doha, Qatar - Tel: (+974) 413 6000 - Fax: (+974) 413 6060

ص.ب. ٢٢٢٨٧، الدوحة، قطر - هاتف: ٤١٣٦٠٠٠ (+٩٧٤) - فاكس: ٤١٣٦٠٦٠ (+٩٧٤)

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