



Press Release

ASPIRE4SPORT STARS TO RAISE MONEY FOR CHARITY

Reach out to Asia and The Little Prince hospital to benefit

Sunday, 28 August 2010, Doha, Qatar: Unique paintings of sporting superstars, along with beautiful bronze statues of living legends will be among the fantastic items going under the hammer at the ASPIRE4SPORT Charity Auction sponsored by Barwa Real Estate.

Premier League footballer Jody Craddock of Wolverhampton Wanderers – an up-and-coming artist whose work has won critical acclaim – has been commissioned by the organisers of ASPIRE4SPORT to paint a number of the superstar attendees to the event.

These paintings, which include fabulous studies of John McEnroe, Bjorn Borg, Michael Johnson and others, will then be personally signed by both the artist and the subjects before being auctioned to raise money for Reach out to Asia and The Little Prince Hospital – ASPIRE4SPORT's chosen charities.

"I'm honoured to offer the paintings for these great causes", said Craddock recently.

"I think ASPIRe4SPORT is a great concept and the charitable aspect make it truly unique and special."

Meanwhile the Castle Foundry, a renowned company based in Wales, have donated maquettes of legendary sportsmen Mohammed Ali and Pele, which will also be auctioned on the glittering charity night, which will be held at Barwa Village on the final night of the ASPIRE4SPORT Congress and Exhibition in November.

The maquettes, of Ali standing over a prone victim and of Pele celebrating his opening goal in the 1970 World Cup Final are sure to create considerable interest and, along with the paintings, are the start of a stunning and valuable set of items which are sure to generate much interest and raise an excellent sum of money for the worthy beneficiaries.

Many other top-class items will be added to the auction. To keep up-to-date with these and all the other exciting news about the event, visit www.aspire4sport.com

ENDS

ASPIRE Media Information

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

Hassan Esbaiss E: hassan.esbaiss@aspire.qa M: (+974) 5521 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 center 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 him 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, special fitness weight rooms, lecture halls, dormitories to accommodate what will eventually become 1,000 students, a medical center and many more facilities.

In 2010, ASPIRE hosted the IAAF World Indoor Athletics Championships, attracting a record number of countries (149) and participants (more than 1,100 athletes and officials). The event also witnessed the first-ever world record on Qatari soil – Teddy Tamgho of France setting a new world indoor record of 17.90 meters in the Triple Jump.

The WIC saw too the first ASPIRE graduate to take part in a major world championship. High jumper Mutaz Essa Barshim is also the first graduate of the Academy to hold a national record in an Olympic sport.

In a move unique in world sport, ASPIRE has signed a cooperation agreement with the Qatar Association of Athletics Federation (QAAF), the core objective of which is to produce elite athletes able to represent Qatar, with success, at major international athletics events and meetings. QAAF's most talented young athletes are to become student-athletes at ASPIRE Academy, where they will receive both their training and education.

Launched in 2007, the ASPIRE Football Dreams project annually tests more than 600,000 young footballers from all over the world, including Africa, Asia and Latin America, as part of the largest-ever talent search within the sport.

The ASPIRE ACTIVE initiative is a community engagement program spread across the country, ensuring that thousands of the nation's residents have accessible and advanced health and fitness activities as routine aspects of their lives. Each social group is catered for by tailor-made classes and programs.