



## ASPIRE Media Information

### Testimonials - What People Say About Us.....

**Lionel Messi, FC Barcelona and Argentinean National Player:** *"I have visited many countries as a player and have seen many developmental facilities – nothing compares with what they have at the ASPIRE Academy. The Qatari boys are very fortunate. With these amenities at their disposal, there are good chances of them making it big in the future."*

**Pele, Brazilian Football Legend (commenting on Aspire Football Dreams):** *"There is a reason why I believe in the ASPIRE Football Dreams program. I was the same age as these youngsters when I began to dream about my life as a football player. They should get the chance (to train and be educated) which was denied to me. The game has given me a lot and now, I want to give something back to the game.....This project will ultimately help developing countries discover more talent and hope."*

**Hicham El Guerrouj, two-time Olympic Gold Medalist (athletics, middle distance running) and ASPIRE Ambassador:** *"Children in the Middle East are deprived of sports facilities – I experienced that when I began my career. ASPIRE has been designed to give children a chance. I have teamed with ASPIRE to do my best to encourage them to practice sport and do their utmost. Academic studies and further education are crucial in nowadays and the ASPIRE concept not only creates aspiring sports heroes but delivers champions in life."*

**Jacques Rogge, President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC):** *"ASPIRE goes beyond anyone's imagination. I had heard and read a lot about ASPIRE, but what I have seen went further than my dreams of a state of the art sports venue. Sport is universal and provides tremendous education components and promotes the search for excellence."*

**Clarence Seedorf, AC Milan and Dutch National Player (Midfielder):** *"Wow, it's amazing! I have been to a lot of sports academies, but have never seen one that comes close to ASPIRE in terms of ambition and facilities available... I wish I were a boy again! "*

**Renauld Longuevre, French Athletics Coach:** *"This place is incredible. The best thing about ASPIRE is that athletics facilities are of equal level both indoors and outdoors, allowing athletes preparing in excellent conditions throughout the year."*