



REPORT VISIT OF Mr. LEMPKE IN BURUNDI

Special Advisor of the United Nation Secretary General
for Sport in the Service of Development and Peace

Burundi December 05-06, 2011
Bernard MESSNER

Mr. LEMKE, during a trip to Africa, stopped by two days in Burundi to personally realize the progress of three projects in which the United Nations are concerned. The IJF, which is involved in the projects of the commission «Judo for Peace,» had appointed me as its representative.

Program

Welcome by Mr. Valéry MANIRAKIZA, President of the Burundian Judo Federation, at the bottom of the plane. He stayed with me throughout the duration of the stay.

Summary of the program

- Monday 05-12-11
 - 10h. : welcome of Mr. LEMKE at the airport
 - 11:30 to 12:30: visit of the GATUMBA near the border
 - 13:30 to 15:00: visit of the « Olympafrica Center » in KANYISHA
 - 15:30 to 17:30: visit of the Turikumwe Judo at the Lycée Ste Famille in KINAMA
 - 17:45: visit of the construction of the national dojo
 - 18:00 to 19:00: meeting with the Minister of Sport, Youth and Culture in the presence of the NOC representatives and 14 national Federations.
- Tuesday 06-12-11
 - 9:00 to 9:30: protocolar visit between Mr. Lemke and the President of the Republic.
 - 10:00 to 11:15: meeting with Mr. LEMKE, the Minister of Sports and the President of the Burundi Judo Federation.
 - 11:30: Departure of Mr. LEMKE
 - 18:00: Dinner with the Minister of Sports, the FBJ president and the IJF representative.
- Wednesday 07-12-11
 - Return to Strasbourg

Detailed Program

• Monday 05-12-11

- 10:00: Welcome of Mr. Lemke at the airport with the FBJ President, the representatives of BNUB and UNDP, and the Minister of Sports Youth and Culture.
- 11h30 : visit the cross-border center for youth (Burundi, Rwanda, eastern Congo) in Gatumba, funded by the IOC and the United Nations. The exemplary nature of this project to promote peace among young people from areas where there was armed violence is based on sport, and was hailed with various speeches. Judo is involved in a dojo project. The infrastructure is still under construction. In due course, the Judo Federation of Burundi will provide a judo teacher in order to create an additional judo club.
- 13h30 à 15h. : visit of Olympafrica in Kanyosha on the outskirts of Bujumbura. The project has been developed 7 years ago by the NOC. Mr. Lemke found that this project had not yet reached a stage of significant development. Judo is not concerned
- 15h30 à 17h30 : visit to the TURIKUMWE judo club installed in the «Ecole Sainte Famille», in the Kinama district, particularly hard hit by civil war. The judo club is a success story of the projects launched with the support of the Alsacian Judo League and the CACI, supported by «Judo for Peace». Mr. Lemke and personalities attended a judo demonstration carried out by young people from the school and the surrounding neighborhoods. Judo is used as a tool for the creation and re-creation of social ties. The project also allowed to provide the school with textbooks and library books. Ms. Nina SHIMA presented to Mr. LEMKE a photo exhibition dedicated to 14 projects completed across the country with judo since 2006, when the Mr. MANIRAKIZA. became the FBJ president. Mr. Lemke was very impressed by these achievements for young people, especially for young people with mental disabilities
- 17h45 : quick stop at the site of the future national dojo, located in the city center on a land provided by the Ministry of Sports. This project, started 3 years ago and whose roof has been completed, will be the center of gravity of the Judo peace project in the whole Great Lakes region. It will give full meaning to judo as a tool for peace, education and sports
- 18h à 19h : Meeting at the Ministry of Sports, under the patronage of the Minister and in the presence of the NOC representatives and 14 national federations.

Topics addressed by the Minister

- The desire to use sport as a tool for reintegration
- The importance of aid and support by international institutions, especially the UN, the IOC and International Federations ;

Comments of Mr. LEMKE

He particularly underlined the following points :

- To develop realistic project combining sport, education and human relations
- To act Step by step
- To Complete the started projects before starting new projects
- To Assess and report regularly
- He said that his role is as a facilitator and not a provider of finance. This role can be crucial to obtain governmental support as well as support from the international federations and NGOs.
- He assured the Burundi of his support

it must be noted with satisfaction that Mr. Lemke repeatedly presented the IJF as an example to follow in terms of number and quality of projects and actions.

• Tuesday 06-12-11

- 9:00 to 9:30: Protocolar visit to the President of the Republic.
- 10:00 to 11:15 : meeting with Mr. LEMKE at the airport, in the presence of the IJF representative, the Minister of Sports and the FBJ President. The passed, present and future projects involving judo were discussed.

CONCLUSION

Mr. Lemke has shown a keen interest throughout the meeting. Admittedly that these projects were not unknown to him, as well as the IJF projects in other parts of the world. He mentioned the very good relations that he has with the «Judo for Peace» commission and he will not fail to refer to the example of judo in this area for sport and for peace.

Bernard MESSNER
IJF Representative



Visit of the «école Ste-Famille»



Meeting with the headmaster of the
«école Ste-Famille»



Meeting with the first female black belt in
Burundi



Meeting with the Minister of Sports



National Dojo Construction



Equipment of the floor

JUDO IN BURUNDI - HISTORY AND PROJECTS

The Important Dates

- 1958 : introduction of judo in Burundi
- 1976 : Creation of the sports institute at the University of Burundi ; judo enters the curriculum of the future sports teachers
- 1982-84-86 : judo training sessions led by François Besson and Bernard Messner, sent by the French Judo Federation.
- 1987 : 2 Burundians take part for the first time ever in an international refereeing training session in Tunis.
- 1989 : 3 Burundians take part at the first ever international competition (Jeux de la Francophonie in Morocco)
- 1991 : creation of the Burundian Judo Federation (FBJ) by Fabien Gakeme.
The FBJ is one of the 5 founders of the National Olympic Committee of Burundi
But judo doesn't develop, remaining a sport of «rich people».
- Until 2000 : dark period due to the historical events, the number of judoka dramatically decreases but despite the risks judo never stops completely.
- 2001 : resumption of contacts with the Alsacian Judo League and the CACI (Alsacian Centre for International Cooperation).
- 2006 : Valéry Manirakiza becomes the 3rd FBJ president . Creation of a development project over 6 years (2006-2012) - a Memorandum of Understanding between the FBJ, the Alsacian Judo League and the CACI is signed. It permits the implementation of a dual commitment to judo and education through the development of practice in schools and colleges.
- 07-07-07 : First ever male and female national Judo Championship.
- 2008 : Burundi organises the 2nd edition of the East-African Championship and finished at the first place.
- Two Burundians, Vital NIYONGABO and Salvator BIGIRIMANA are nominated continental referee.
- Introduction of «adapted» judo for mentally challenged children in the Akamuri Center
- 2009 : first participation of a female athlete to the East African Championship, Antoinette Munezero is designated as the best athlete.
- 2010 : Hassan Bigirimana (5°) and Antoinette Munezero (7°) enter the African ranking list.
- Rachel IRAKOZE becomes the first ever female black belt in Burundi.
- 2011 : Hassan Bigirimana wins the title of the best competitor in the East African championship ;
- Odette Nitahomvukiye enters the World Ranking list
- The number of clubs jumps from 9 to 14.
- End of the shell of the dojo and national educational center for young people in Bujumbura.

AMBITIOUS PROJECTS IN 2012

New development project based on four main areas

- strengthening of the human resources (technical, pedagogical and administrative dimension)
- creation of one new club per province
- Extension of the partnership with Judo for Peace with the theme: « the use of judo as a reconciliation tool to promote peace ».
- Continued development of Judo in schools.

IMPORTANT ASPECTS

- Presidency of the East African judo
- Membre du EC of the African Judo Union
- Member of the IJF
- From nothing in 2002, Burundian judo is now present on the international scene

Referee and officials :

- 8 referees - 3 international
- 12 certified Commissioners

National championships and increase of the participation:

- Since 2007, 5 championships, 1 per year
- First championship, 51 participants (43 men - 8 women - 4 clubs)
- 5th championship, 200 participants, (152 men - 51 women - 11)
- 3rd junior national championship: 251 participants
- First school championship