

## ITF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME ANNUAL REPORT 2007

### GRAND SLAM DEVELOPMENT FUND (GSDF) ACTIVITIES

As stipulated in the Guidelines for the Fund, the Grand Slam Development Fund Committee met periodically to consider applications and to review the programmes and budget for 2007. Meetings were held on 15 February, 24 May, 22 August and 22 November 2007.

#### Junior Circuits

The Grand Slam Development Fund ensures that a structure is in place that makes it possible for the most naturally gifted players to pursue their dreams to the highest level, no matter which country they come from. The player development programme is based on the concept of a 'Pyramid of Opportunity,' which aims to provide talented youngsters with the opportunity to progress through the international junior circuit and to make a breakthrough into the top levels of professional tennis.

An integral part of this structure is offering competitive opportunities in less developed tennis regions. In 2007, 23 regional junior events (18, 16 and 14 & U) took place across five continents with financial assistance as well as technical assistance from the ITF Development Officers. The competitions provide the opportunity for the players from each country to test themselves against the best in their region. The full list of circuits funded in 2007 is as follows:

- 06 – 12 January: ITF/CAT East African Junior Championships – Nairobi, Kenya
- 11 – 17 January: ITF/CAT Southern African Junior Championships – Windhoek, Namibia
- 26 January – 06 February: ITF 14 & Under Asian Championships, Group 2 – Islamabad, Pakistan
- 09 – 18 March: East European 14 & Under Development Championships 2007 – Tallinn, Estonia
- 14 – 18 March: ITF West African 18 & Under Circuit – Nigeria & Benin
- 24 March – 07 April: ITF 14 & Under Asian Championships, Group 1 – Jakarta, Indonesia
- 03 – 07 April: ITF 18 & U JWR event (+16 and 14 & U events) / Warm-up event for AJC – Botswana
- 09 – 14 April: 30<sup>th</sup> ITF / CAT African Junior Championships – Botswana
- 07 – 11 May: West Pacific Qualifying event – Fiji
- 11 – 15 June: North Pacific Qualifying event – Northern Mariana Islands
- 22 June – 03 July: ITF/CAT Southern Africa 13 & Under Circuit – South Africa
- 09 – 13 July: East Pacific Qualifying event – Samoa
- 16 July – 03 August: ITF/CAT West/Central Africa 13 & Under circuit – Senegal
- 30 July – 04 August: JITIC, Central America & Caribbean Closed – Dominican

- 31 July – 10 August: Republic
- 13 – 17 August: South/Central Africa 18 & Under circuit – Botswana, Namibia
- 13 – 18 August: Pacific Oceania Junior Championships (14s and 18s) – Fiji
- 13 – 23 August: Caribbean 14 & U Development Championships – St Vincent & The Grenadines
- 13 – 23 August: ITF/CAT East Africa 13 & Under circuit – Kenya
- 19 – 23 August: Oceania Closed Junior Championships – Fiji
- 25 August – 05 September: West Asian 13 & Under circuit – Group 4 – Jordan
- 10 - 15 September: Central American 14 & Under Development Championships – Nicaragua
- 29 Sept – 08 October: Central Asian 13 & Under circuit – Group 3 – Turkmenistan
- 25 Nov – 11 Dec: East African 18 & U JWR event – Burundi, Uganda, Kenya

During 2007 the 10th ITF Central American 14 & Under Development Championships was organised for the first time by the Federación Nicaraguense de Tenis in collaboration with COTECC. The event welcomed teams from Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama with the team from Guatemala dominating the event.

In Asia, the Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF) hosted for the first time in six years the ITF 14 & Under Junior Championships - Group 2 in January. The Championships consisted of two four-day tournaments with a feed-in consolation format being used for the event. This format ensures that 14 & Under juniors from the participating nations of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and host nation Pakistan played singles matches everyday.

### **African Junior Championships**

In 2007 a new format was introduced for the ITF/CAT African Junior Championships. The 30<sup>th</sup> ITF/CAT African Junior Championships took place in Gaborone, Botswana from 9 – 14 April 2007. The Championships offers competition in three age groups – at the 14 & Under, 16 & Under and 18 & Under levels. In the 16 & Under and 14 & Under age categories, a new format was implemented for the first time in eight years. Players from three of the four African zones (West & Central Africa, Southern Africa and East Africa) competed in zonal championships in January to qualify for a place in the African Junior Championships. In total, there were 308 players from 28 different African countries participating in both the main event and the three zonal Championships.

The singles results were as follows:

<b>Category</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Finalist</b>
<b>Boys 18 &amp; Under</b>	Damien Hume (RSA)	Mohamed Safwat (EGY)
<b>Boys 16 &amp; Under</b>	Grant Ive (RSA)	Hicham Khaddari (MAR)
<b>Boys 14 &amp; Under</b>	Younes Matrougui (MAR)	Hernus Pieters (RSA)
<b>Girls 18 &amp; Under</b>	Fatima Zahra El Allami (MAR)	Nadia Lalami (MAR)
<b>Girls 16 &amp; Under</b>	Lina Bennani (MAR)	Menna El Nagdy (EGY)
<b>Girls 14 &amp; Under</b>	Kaylea Sher (RSA)	Janine Erasmus (RSA)

Players gained points for their country according to their placing, and the team with the highest aggregate won the Team Trophy. This was won by South Africa with Morocco and Egypt coming 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> respectively.

2007 also saw the introduction of an inter-zonal trophy which is determined by the ten best singles and ten best individual doubles results by players from each zone and which was won by North Africa.

The regional qualifying events for the ITF Junior Team events were also held in conjunction with the African Junior Championships and the following countries qualified for the world finals later in 2007, as follows:

- Junior Davis Cup by BNP Paribas (16 & Under): South Africa
- Junior Fed Cup by BNP Paribas (16 & Under): South Africa and Morocco
- World Junior Tennis (14 & Under) Boys: Egypt
- World Junior Tennis (14 & Under) Girls: South Africa

### **ITF / Grand Slam Touring Teams**

The ITF/Grand Slam Junior Touring Team programme provides the second stage of the pyramid and gives the best players from each region the opportunity to be selected onto ITF/Grand Slam Touring Teams to compete in other parts of the world. The Programme had much to celebrate in 2007 with two different players being crowned grand slam singles champions. In 2007 there were 20 teams involving 183 players from 75 different countries (see attachment 1 for a full list of the players that were selected onto ITF / Grand Slam Touring Teams in 2007).

The flagship international 18 & Under team, which plays a series of Grade 1 and Grade A events including junior Roland Garros and junior Wimbledon, had an impressive run with players vying for singles and doubles titles in seven out of nine tournaments and clinching six titles. Uladzimir Ignatik from Belarus proved to be the most successful player on the team clinching the boys' singles title at Roland Garros and the Artois Championships. He also narrowly missed capturing the boys' Wimbledon singles trophy losing out to Donald Young (USA) 75 61 in the final. Ignatik started the eight-week tour ranked No. 17 in the world and finished ranked world No. 1, an incredible achievement for the player.

Other notable victories included the boys' doubles title in Santa Croce, with Henrique Cunha (BRA) and Alejandro Gonzalez (COL) defeating fellow ITF teammate Guillermo Rivera-Aranguiz (CHI) and his partner Ricardo Urzua-Rivera (CHI) 75 26 62 in the final. Meanwhile Ricardas Berankis (LTU) and Christopher Rungkat (INA) overcame other team members Rupesh Roy (IND) and Urzua-Rivera 75 62 to clinch the boys' doubles title at the Astrid Bowl. Irina-Camelia Begu (ROU) and Oksana Kalashnikova (GEO) also proved to be a formidable double act clinching the girls' doubles titles in Santa Croce and Offenbach, Germany. The girls also reached the semifinals at Wimbledon playing late into the evening on the final Saturday, but lost out to the Japanese pairing of Misaki Doi and Kurumi Nara 63 64.

Berankis was also the star of the ITF International Junior Touring Team to North America. The 17-year-old improved his ITF Junior World Ranking to No. 2 after capturing the singles titles at the Canadian Open and US Open Junior Championships.

At the Canadian Junior Open in Quebec, Berankis upset teammate and No. 1 seed Ignatik in the semifinals, before overcoming another team member Rivera-Aranguiz 61 64 in the final. Ignatik went on to win the doubles title with Roman Jebavy (CZE). There was also success in the girls' events, with Kalashnikova winning the girls' doubles title in partnership with Ksenia Lykina (RUS).

Berankis continued his run at the last Grand Slam junior event of the year, the US Open, where he defeated Jerzy Janowicz (POL) 63 64 in the final. Kalashnikova reached the girls' singles

semifinals and the doubles final again partnering Lykina. There were more doubles titles for the team at the final event in Kentucky, where Kalashnikova won the girls' event with Elena Chernyakova (RUS), and Rivera-Aranguiz taking the boys' doubles title with compatriot Urzua-Rivera.

Ricardas Berankis of Lithuania best illustrates how the ITF/Grand Slam player development programme can help talented players from less developed tennis nations breakthrough to the top levels of international tennis. At aged 12 Ricardas represented Lithuania in the East European Development Championships and was identified by the ITF Development Officer Luca Santilli as a potential Junior champion. Over the course of the next five years, the ITF continued to monitor his progress and assisted him through the ITF / Grand Slam touring team programme as he developed as a player.

For two consecutive years Ricardas was a member of the East European Team, playing the Young Stars Tour in Europe. Aged 15 he was a member of the 16 & under team that embarked on a six-week tour of high-level 16 and under events in Europe. Aged 16 he played six weeks of ITF 18 & under events with the North African team and also was a member of the team to North America. In the same year he attended the ITF Training Centre in Spain. Aged 17 he was a member of the ITF/Grand Slam Touring Team to Australia, Europe and North America. In 2007 he was crowned Boys' US Open Junior singles Champion and finished the year as ITF Junior World Champion.

### **Travel Grants**

In addition to the competitive opportunities provided through regional development circuits and teams, the Grand Slam Development Fund also provides travel grants for talented players to play entry-level professional events in order to help with the transition from the junior circuit to the professional circuit. In 2007, 21 players from 15 countries were awarded travel grants to play a specific programme of events outside of their own country.

### **ITF Facility Grants**

Many national associations do not have their own national tennis centre and are forced to rent private facilities in order to conduct player training or competitions. The ITF is able to help through facility grants, which are available to help national associations build or refurbish their own centre. Although grants are usually only a small percentage of the overall building cost, the ITF grant often acts as an endorsement and as a catalyst to enable associations to attract other funding whether from the government or private sector. National Associations benefiting from facility grants in 2007 were as follows:

- Bhutan
- Burkina Faso
- Myanmar
- Niger
- Pakistan
- Samoa
- Sri Lanka
- Yemen
- Zimbabwe

### **Professional Tournaments**

The Grand Slam Development Fund also continues to provide prize-money grants to assist less developed tennis nations to host entry-level professional events for men and women and in doing so, to help increase competitive opportunities in less developed tennis regions of the world. In 2007, the fund provided grants for 61 weeks of Men's professional events and 28 weeks of ITF Women's events.

In addition to international professional events, 13 weeks of ITF / CAT Prize-Money Circuit events were funded in Africa. These events are open solely to African players (juniors and seniors alike) and aim to provide additional competitive opportunities on the continent. In 2007, the following events took place as part of the ITF / CAT African Prize-Money Circuit:

<b>ITF / CAT African Prize-Money Circuit 2007</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Event</b>
8 – 11 February	East Africa 1	Burundi
14 – 17 February	East Africa 1	Rwanda I
21 – 24 February	East Africa 1	Rwanda II
14 – 17 February	West Africa 1	Senegal
21 – 24 February	West Africa 1	Mali
7 – 10 June	Central Africa 1	Gabon
13 – 16 June	Central Africa 1	Cameroon
11 – 14 October	East Africa 2	Ethiopia
18 – 21 October	East Africa 2	Sudan
25 – 28 October	East Africa 2	Kenya
29 November – 2 December	West Africa 2	Burkina Faso
6 – 9 December	West Africa 2	Benin
13 – 16 December	East Africa 3	Djibouti

## **ITF FUNDED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES**

### **Development Officers**

The ITF's Development Programme, which began in the late 70s, aims to help raise the level of tennis worldwide and increase the number of countries competing in mainstream international tennis. The successful implementation of the ITF Development initiatives relies on the work of the ten development officers who are the 'eyes and ears' of the ITF Development Programme. In order to be able to advise and assist national associations on activities, the development officers each spend an average of 30 weeks on the road attending events and visiting the nations in their regions. In 2007, there were ten full-time Development Officers:

<b>Amine Ben Makhlouf</b>	Development Officer, West and Central Africa
<b>Karl Davies</b>	Development Officer, Southern Africa
<b>Prince Madema</b>	Development Officer, East Africa
<b>Carlos Rodriguez</b>	Development Officer, Central America
<b>Anthony Jeremiah</b>	Development Officer, Caribbean
<b>Miguel Miranda</b>	Development Officer, South America
<b>Hroje Zmajic</b>	Development Officer, Europe
<b>Dan O'Connell</b>	Development Officer, Pacific Oceania
<b>Suresh Menon</b>	Development Officer, Asia
<b>Karim Saadallah</b>	Development Officer, West Asia

In 2007 Doug MacCurdy continued the second year of his work as a development officer in China assisting the Chinese Tennis Association with player development and coaches education ahead of the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. This project was jointly funded by the ITF and Olympic Solidarity (OS) under its development of a national coaching structure programme.

## **Coaches Education**

The development officers provide an essential link between national associations and the ITF, and one of their main areas of activity continues to be coaches' education. Many national associations do not have a coaches education programme of their own and the ITF tries to assist national associations with the creation of their own coaches education programme and also to improve the level of tennis coaching throughout the world. In 2007, 58 courses were organised by the ITF with 21 of them being funded by Olympic Solidarity.

In 2007, courses took place as follows:

- 24 x Level 1 Coaches Courses
- 6 x Level 2 Coaches Courses
- 12 x Play Tennis Courses
- 3 x Level 1 Tutors Courses
- 13 x Other Courses

(Please refer to attachment 2 for a summary of the ITF Coaches Courses in 2007).

The ITF's coaches' education flagship event – the 15th ITF Worldwide Coaches Conference (WCC) was held in Asunción, Paraguay in October 2007. The biennial event, which was held for the first time in South America, attracted more than 350 coaches from 90 countries – recording the event's highest ever attendance figure in its history.

The theme of the 2007 Conference was 'An integrated approach to coaching advanced players'. It attracted a large field of the world's leading tennis experts in sport science and medicine, psychology, biomechanics, player development and coaches' education. Speakers at the conference included Bruce Elliott, Paul Roetert Ph.D, Gustavo Luza, Antoni Girod, Victor Pecci, Machar Reid Ph.D, Steven Martens, Todd Ellenbecker, Beni Linder, Randy Snow, Ivo van Aken and Ann Quinn.

The ITF Development Department also produces coaching publications, which form part of the Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 coaching syllabi. These can be purchased from the ITF webstore (<https://store.itftennis.com/>). The ITF Coaching website has proved to be an invaluable tool for thousands of coaches across the globe since its launch in July 2004. The ITF development department decided to build on this success by launching the iCoach website ([www.tennisicoach.com](http://www.tennisicoach.com)) in July 2007. The website has already proven to be a valuable resource for tennis coaches and tennis players who are able to access the latest information from world-renowned tennis experts.

## **Olympic Solidarity**

The Development Department's close co-operation with Olympic Solidarity continues, with even more member nations benefiting from financial assistance through their National Olympic Committee. The funding is used for OS / ITF programmes, particularly in the area of coaches education and player training via the OS World Programme 2005 – 2008.

In addition to technical course grants, Olympic Solidarity also supports the Development programme through Olympic Training Grants, awarding athletes who have the potential to compete in future Olympic Games with scholarships to train at high-level training centres. In 2007 OS provided 292 Olympic Solidarity Training Grants for Young Athletes to the following players to enable them to train at high-level centres in preparation for the 2012 London Olympic Games:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Nation</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>DOB</u>
Komlavi Loglo *	Togo	M	30.12.84
Rafael Arevalo *	El Salvador	M	4.7.86
Lofo Ramiaramanana *	Madagascar	M	14.6.89
Petru Luncanu	Romania	M	7.5.89
Marcin Gawron	Poland	M	25.5.88
Amina Rakhim	Kazakhstan	F	22.2.89

\* These players attended the ITF Spanish Training Centre in Barcelona, Spain.

### **ITF Training Centres**

In addition to the three ITF training centres that are currently operating in Fiji, Pretoria and Barcelona, the ITF also opened a new ITF/CAT Francophone Training Centre in Dakar, Senegal in September 2007.

The Centre provides talented young French-speaking players from within West and Central Africa the opportunity to develop their tennis skills and carry on with their studies under the supervision of ITF coaches. The Technical Director of the Centre is former Davis Cup player Clement N’Goran of Cote d’Ivoire and he is being assisted by former ITF / Grand Slam Touring Team coaches Lamine Diedhiou and Omar Kha.

Those attending on a full-time basis still continue their schooling at local schools and many of the players attending the four ITF centres are benefiting from Olympic Solidarity scholarships as a result of their performance at regional competitions.

The ITF / SATA African Training Centre is based in Pretoria, South Africa with players using the facilities at the University of Pretoria. In 2007, the following 12 players attended the ITF African Training Centre on a full-time basis, the majority receiving either full or half scholarships to finance their stay:

<b>PLAYER NAME</b>	<b>DATE OF BIRTH</b>	<b>COUNTRY</b>
<b>BOYS</b>		
Takura Happy	19.03.90	Zimbabwe
Admire Mushonga	20.05.91	Zimbabwe
Duncan Mugabe	27.11.90	Uganda
Mbonisi Ndimande	29.05.91	Zimbabwe
Samuel Omoile	12.06.93	Nigeria
Benjamin Lock	04.03.93	Zimbabwe

<b>PLAYER NAME</b>	<b>DATE OF BIRTH</b>	<b>COUNTRY</b>
<b>GIRLS</b>		
Anastacia Simons	26.12.91	South Africa
Stacey Lock	16.07.91	Zimbabwe
Valeria Bhunu	03.04.95	Zimbabwe
Anne-Sophie Rufyikiri	31.12.92	Burundi
Niriantsa Rasolomalala	27.10.92	Madagascar
Miahy Ramiaramanana	12.07.93	Madagascar

The ITF / OTF Pacific Oceania Regional Training Centre is based in Lautoka, Fiji. In 2007, there were 13 players from the region on full-time scholarships residing at the Centre:

PLAYER NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	COUNTRY
<b>BOYS</b>		
Prince Matautia	24/09/92	Samoa
Christopher Hargrove	10/03/94	Fiji
Ian Honila	21/09/90	Solomon Islands
Duncan Maetoloa	14/01/91	Solomon Islands
Elias Tukaroa	19/02/93	Cook Islands
Luke Peani	18/06/93	Solomon Islands
Lorenzo Pineda	07/03/90	Vanuatu

PLAYER NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	COUNTRY
<b>GIRLS</b>		
Zinnia Leamana	16/12/91	Solomon Islands
Marie Liwuslili	21/01/88	Vanuatu
Jacklyn Lahari	05/08/88	Papua New Guinea
Abigail Tere-Apisha	13/07/92	Papua New Guinea
Amanda Korinihona	21/09/93	Solomon Islands
Marcia Tere-Apisha	22/07/95	Papua New Guinea

### **ITF Junior Tennis Initiative (JTI)**

The Junior Tennis Initiative encompasses three of the ITF's most fundamental tennis development programmes for players aged between 6 and 14 years:

- Mini-tennis (School Tennis Initiative)
- Performance player training and tournaments (Performance Tennis Initiative)
- The provision of equipment (Equipment Distribution Programme)

It is in effect a 14 & Under player development programme, ensuring that there is a logical link between the various programmes operating at national level. ITF support for mini-tennis, player training, new tournaments, equipment and any co-ordinator subsidies is based on the totality of the Junior Tennis Initiative plan being in place in a particular nation.

Now operating in more than 70 countries, the JTI not only gives children their first taste of tennis but a large proportion of competitors in the ITF 14 & Under events have come through the ITF funded Junior Tennis Initiative. Aung Kyaw Niang of Myanmar and Sompanth Orn of Cambodia, who played in the 2007 Asian 14 & under circuit, were both introduced to tennis through mini-tennis at school, highlighting that ITF initiated programmes continue to show results.

### **ITF Equipment Distribution Programme (EDP)**

Many of the ITF member nations still find it difficult to obtain equipment for its national tennis programmes. The ITF's Equipment Distribution Programme is able to help nations by providing ITF branded equipment (rackets, balls, strings), free of charge, for use by national associations. In 2007 alone, more than 100 national associations benefited from the ITF Equipment Distribution Programme, with the following quantities being distributed throughout the year:

- Rackets: 6,044
- Mini-tennis bats: 11,096
- Balls: 134,664 balls (11,222 dozen)
- Mini-tennis nets: 874
- Strings: 1,270 x 200m reels

- Coaching books: 9,366

### **Training Camps**

Training is also an essential part of any tennis players' programme. The ITF organises training camps on a regional basis, which enables some of the best players in the region to not only practice together, but also helps to educate and update coaches from the region in high-level training methods. Six ITF junior training camps took place in 2007 as follows:

- 11 – 22 January: North East European Regional Training Camp – Lithuania
- 25 – 29 January: ITF West Asian Training Camp - Kuwait
- 16 – 24 March: ITF East African Training Camp – Burundi
- 18 – 22 July: South East European Training Camp – Ankara, Turkey
- 02 – 08 September: ITF / COTECC Regional Training Camp – Bahamas
- 12 - 17 November: ITF / COTECC Regional Training Camp – Honduras