

PRESS RELEASE

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The Qatar Olympic Committee (QOC) announces ‘Save the Dream’ project to mark the opening of the 2012 Sorbonne-ICSS Sport Integrity Symposium

Paris, France; 11th September 2012; The Qatar Olympic Committee (QOC) today announced a new integrity initiative to mark the start of the **2012 Sorbonne-ICSS Sport Integrity Symposium**.

The ‘Save the Dream’ programme, which was launched by **H.E. Sheikh Saoud Bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani (Secretary General, Qatar Olympic Committee)** alongside **Mohammed Hanzab (President, ICSS)** and Italian football star **Alessandro del Piero**, will see the QOC and ICSS collaborate to raise awareness amongst young athletes and children of the dangers of sports results manipulation and its consequences.

A key part of the initiative will be the creation of a panel consisting of 11 high-profile athletes from different sports and regions around the world, as well as a multidisciplinary team composed of world-leading experts in education, communications, sport management and sport integrity. Alessandro will be Chairman of the project.

Speaking at the opening session, **H.E. Sheikh Saoud Bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani (Secretary General, Qatar Olympic Committee)** said; “As part of the QOC’s vision to become a leading nation in bringing the world together through sport, I am delighted to unveil the ‘Save the Dream’ initiative at the 2012 Sorbonne-ICSS Sport Integrity Symposium.

“This new programme, created in partnership with the ICSS, is designed to nurture sports’ core values in the youth of today and will hopefully inspire a new generation of athletes to safeguard the integrity of sport for years to come.”

Mohammed Hanzab (President, ICSS) said; “Since its creation in 2010, the ICSS has been working hard to share knowledge and best practice with major event organisers, sports federations and host cities.

“This exciting, new collaboration with the QOC will bring together leading figures from the world of sport to share their invaluable knowledge and experiences with young athletes and children. I look forward to working closely with the QOC and Alessandro del Piero to deliver this unique programme and promote sport’s core values among the next generation of sporting champions.”

Alessandro del Piero added; “Protecting the credibility and integrity of sport is essential if we want to inspire a new generation of young people to take up sport. With many young athletes around the world hoping to emulate their sporting heroes, I hope that this programme will offer them the opportunity to meet their idols and understand what it takes to be champions on and off the field of play.”

The **2012 Sorbonne-ICSS Sport Integrity Symposium**, taking place from the from the **11th – 13th September 2012** at the **Paris Sorbonne University**, is being jointly staged by the **International Centre for Sport Security (ICSS)** and **Panthéon-Sorbonne Paris I University**, with the official support of the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)** and is the first

international event to support the global sporting community in its battle against corruption by sharing knowledge and enhancing current integrity strategies and processes.

The event will see leading experts and entities in the world of sport - including National and International Sport Federations, Governments, International and Regional Organisations such as United Nations Agencies, INTERPOL, the European Union and the Council of Europe, as well as Non-Governmental Organisations, Academic Institutions, Betting Institutions, Legal and Anti-Corruption Experts and Law Enforcement – explore trends, challenges and solutions in the field of sport integrity.

Today's opening session featured keynote presentations from senior figures in the world of sport, including, **Philippe Boutry, (President, Paris I University Panthéon-Sorbonne), Christophe De Kepper (Director General, International Olympic Committee), H.E. Sheikh Saoud Bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani (Secretary General, Qatar Olympic Committee), Haroon Lorgat (former CEO, International Cricket Council) and Pier Luigi Dell'Osso (Deputy Head, Italian Anti-Mafia Directorate).**

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Background Information:

About the International Centre for Sport Security (ICSS)

The ICSS is an international, not-for-profit institution that aims to help event organizers to stage safer major sporting events. The Centre's mission is to improve security, safety and integrity in sport by addressing real issues and providing world-leading services, skills, networks and knowledge.

The ICSS team brings together some of the world's leading sport security and integrity experts and has access to a worldwide network of specialist practitioners, offering expertise in every aspect of sport security and integrity.

The ICSS is based in Doha, Qatar, an emerging centre for global sporting events including the 2006 Asian Games, the AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2011™ the 2011 Pan Arab Games and the 2022 FIFA World Cup™.

The organization recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Qatar 2022 Supreme Committee to collaborate on safety and security planning, capabilities and infrastructure for the 2022 FIFA World Cup Qatar™.

At the 2nd International Sport Security Conference, that took place in March 2012, the ICSS announced partnerships with two leading academic institutions to help tackle the emerging threat of match fixing and extreme behaviour exhibited by sports fans.

As part of the ICSS's partnership agreement with Université Paris I – Panthéon-Sorbonne, the two organizations will oversee the creation of a new central hub for gathering knowledge with international sporting federations to promote and support global sporting integrity.

In addition to this historic agreement, the ICSS has signed an MOU with the Institute for Fan Culture (IfF), a new academic institution led by Professor Harald Lange (Dept. of Sport Science at the Julius Maximilian University, Würzburg). The MOU will examine why fans exhibit extreme behaviour within a sporting environment, and what can be done to proactively reduce such behaviour at sporting events.

The ICSS regularly organises events to encourage the creation of sport security and integrity networks and to drive new thinking. Further details will be announced shortly about "SECURING SPORT Doha 2013", the 3rd International Conference for Sport Security and Integrity, taking place in March 2013.

For more details please visit: www.theicss.org

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