

IFDS Development Committee

The growth in interest in sailing for people with disabilities during 2011 has proceeded primarily as a result of individual contacts with ISAF Member National Authorities (MNA) and IFDS Recognized National Authorities (RNA). Our hope is that these countries will have planned to attend the IFDS seminar held during this conference.

IFDS Vice-President, Costas Tsantilis established contacts with the following:

- Kuwait, a presentation was given which provided information for attendees to contact their National Paralympic Committee (NPC);
- Lebanon, Palestine and Morocco (where ISAF International Judge, Mohammed Zanzoul is working to promote disabled sailing);
- Pakistan/Qatar;
- India;
- Thailand.

Costas plans to follow up with representatives from Arab countries that will be present during the Arab Games in Qatar during December.

In addition, ISAF/IFDS Disabled Sailing Administrator, Emma Little has presented information to the following ISAF MNA representatives visiting ISAF:

- Dyan Puspito Rini, Indonesia;
- Go Hashimoto, Japan;
- Earl Tobias, Trinidad and Tobago;
- Rodin Acosta, Trinidad and Tobago;
- Anna Ólöf Kristófersdóttir, Iceland.

IFDS looks forward to continuing to explore our relationship with the ISAF Training and Development Department as they work towards inclusion of all sailors in their training programmes.

IFDS President, Linda Merkle and IFDS Development Committee Member, Debbie Blachford presented an introduction to disabled sailing to the Dorset Council (GBR) during the IFDS World Championships which took place in Weymouth during July 2011. This was the first opportunity for the town and city representatives to be presented with information about the sport.

In addition, IFDS are developing and maintaining our relationship with EUROSAF with an eye toward promoting and reactivating programs throughout Europe. IFDS Vice-President Wilfried Klein the IFDS's EUROSAF representative.