

Media Release

4 May, 2010

Sri Lankan Olympic Contenders Train in Perth

Two Sri Lankans are among 11 athletes from 8 different nations to arrive in Perth today for the start of the fourth Perth 2011 Emerging Nations Programme (ENP). This intensive training programme involves competitors from as far away as Serbia and Columbia. These aspiring athletes will arrive in Perth today, with the dream of qualifying for the Perth 2011 ISAF Sailing World Championships.

The fourth ENP will be held at the Fremantle Sailing Club from 4-19 May, 2010. The athletes will improve their sailing skills and knowledge under the guidance of top Australian sailing coaches, Olympic Gold Medallist Belinda Stowell and former World Number One Arthur Brett.

The ENP programme aims to recognise talented international sailors (from countries which have never been represented at the Olympic Games) and provide them with extra practical and theoretical experience. This assistance could potentially enable them to qualify for the Perth 2011 ISAF Sailing World Championships (3-18 December, 2011) and secure a spot for their nation at the 2012 London Olympic Games Sailing Regatta!

Athletes attending the fourth training programme have been identified as being on the cusp of qualifying at Olympic level, but due to underdeveloped sailing programmes in their home nations, these young athletes are yet to reach their potential. They are among 34 sailors from 23 different nations to participate in the first four (of seven) ENP intensive training programmes.

Their first step towards their dreams begins with another exciting ENP Regatta, which will be held on Saturday 15th May, 2010 at Bathers Bay (Centre Course for the World Championships). During this regatta, the ENP athletes will test their new skills against some of Australia's best in the sport.

According to Perth 2011 Acting Event Director Darren Beazley, there is always plenty of exhilarating action on the water during the ENP regattas;

"It is fantastic to see how much the athletes improve during the couple of weeks they spend training with the ENP Coaches. It is such a pleasure for the coaches and the Perth 2011 team to watch their confidence soar and their performances improve," Mr Beazley said.

"The coaches really bring out the best in the ENP athletes and ensure that they give the Aussie sailors 'a run for their money'!"

- To interview the ENP athletes or coaches please contact Perth 2011 Communications and PR Coordinator Samantha Scott on PH: +61 (8) 9335 2688, M: 0417 177 598 or email: samantha.scott@perth2011.com.

- To book your place on the media boat for the ENP Regatta on 15th May 2010 please contact Samantha on : +61 (8) 9335 2688, M: 0417 177 598 or email: samantha.scott@perth2011.com.

THE DREAM BEGINS IN PERTH!

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