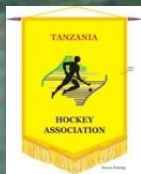




COPE
Cooperazione Paesi Emergenti



WRITTEN BY VALENTINA QUARANTA



HOCKEY TANZANIA NEWSLETTER...

***All about hockey development project in Tanzania!
September-November 2015***

FIRST HOCKEY SCHOOL TOURNAMENT IN TANZANIA!!!

28-29 and 30 November 2015 have been memorable days for Hockey in Tanzania. Why? Because the 1st Hockey School Tournament took place in Dar Es Salaam. The venue has been the new Sport centre “Jakaya Kikwete Youth Park”, which has been inaugurated recently by the ex-President Kikwete himself. The Sport centre is an amazing sport facility which has been sponsored by several partners (Symbion Power, NBA, Sutherland Football Club) with the aim to give the young Tanzanians the possibility to have a place where they can play different sports, all for free! And, the most amazing thing for the small Tanzanian Hockey family, is that among the football pitch, the basketball pitch and the netball pitch, also a small astroturf hockey pitch (6-side) has been built!! The pitch is available to all the players and their coaches to play every day. For Tanzania is a big achievement, meanwhile we wait for the normal size Astroturf pitch, this small one is really good because players can train individual skills on a real pitch!.

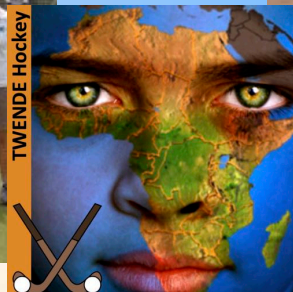
Now, let's back to the main topic of this article, the hockey school tournament. More than 200 youngsters participated to this big event: 7 primary schools from Dar Es Salaam (Jica Primary School, Juhudi Primary School, Ukonga Primary School, Amani Primary School, Kawe Primary School, Bombambili Primary School) and 5 Secondary Schools (Kibasila Secondary School, Juhudi Secondary School, Makongo Secondary School, Kigamboni Secondary School and the Lindi Secondary School) The tournament has been divided in four categories: Primary School tournament- boys; Primary School Tournament- girls; Secondary School-boys; Secondary School- girls. In Primary School Tournament, both category girls and boys, the winner was Bombambili Primary School, from the suburbs of Dar es Salaam. In the Secondary School Category, from the girls side the winner was Kigamboni and for the men Lindi. The energy and the happiness of the young players was amazing, it has been so nice to see new generations of hockey players come up. Local coaches, who are mainly the players of the women and men national teams, did a great, fantastic job training the children in the schools. Also the collaboration of the sport teachers was good, they showed interest in this new sport for them. Meanwhile the school tournament went on, a coaching course, basic level, has been carried on by 4 Dutch trainers: Ivo, Marlies, Joos and Wietske. The target of the coaching course have been mainly sport teachers, in total 18 (coming from different regions of Tanzania: from Dar Es Salaam, Tanga and Lindi) and around 30 young hockey players from the University of Dar Es Salaam and other clubs. The aim is it give them the basic tools to teach children hockey in schools and at grassroot level. The coaching course has been supported by the newborn *Twende Foundation*.

The Hockey School Tournament has been organized by the Dar Es Salaam Regional Hockey Association in the person of The secretary Mnonda Magani, in collaboration with COPE ngo, in the person of Valentina Quaranta and the JM Youth Park staff. The sponsors of the event will be Symbion Power, Advertising Dar, Merry Water, Skywards, Mery Stopes TZ, R&D Brothers Transport, Right To Play, and the Sikh Temple of Dar Es Salaam. The event has been organized under the patronage of the Tanzania Hockey Association. Thank to all the sponsors and all the people who have worked to make this huge achievement possible. Twende hockey in Tanzania!



THE NEW BORN TWENDE HOCKEY FOUNDATION!

It seems to be yesterday, but three years already have been passed. It was 2011, I had just finished my experience as volunteer for the ngo COPE in a remote rural area in the South of Tanzania. One week before going back to Italy, I went to Dar es Salaam, the main city in Tanzania. I was on the dala dala (local bus) going on holiday to Bagamoyo with a friend and suddenly hesaw on one pitch nearby the street that there were people playing hockey! "Turn, look there! Hockey!". I couldn't believe what I was seeing. That day, my life took another direction as it was supposed. By chance that day I met hockey in Tanzania, I met coach Magan and his team. We jumped out of the bus and we went to meet the players. That day I play with them, and something inspired me instantaneously. Few days later I left Tanzania, my time was over at that time, but after one year I was again in Tanzania, working again with COPE in Dar es Salaam and I started to help reviving the women hockey team coaching the team and finding the money to support it. In less than three month together with the local coaches, we built up the team and went to play for the first time ever the Africa Cup of Nation. In the following year, in 2014, a new women team composed by young women has been built, with the name of Twende, which means let's go in Swahili. In the meanwhile hockey was been introduced in schools and university with the first few sticks that I managed to collect from hockey friends all other the world, mainly Italy. In the early 2015 the first hockey coaching course has been organized with 3 coaches coming from Italy and Holland and local players were trained to be coaches for young players. After few months micro-entrepreneurship projects have been started-up by the women players to help them economically. In May 2015 a twinning program between Twende Hockey Club in Tanzania and the dutch women hockey team of Rijswijk has been established, with the visit of the dutch team in Tanzania for one week, during which through sport the aim was to facilitate the intercultural exchange of young hockey players coming from two different cultural background. And was after the visit of the dutch junior team that the idea to build up a foundation which the focus to help in long term the development of hockey in Tanzania, started to come up among Nick Isbouts (who took part at the first coaching course in January 2015), Ivo Caminada (coach of the Rijswijk hockey club), Elly Duivesteijn (mother of one of the Rijswijk players) and me, Valentina. Today, Twende Foundation is a reality, and the four of us (who have in common the crazy passion and love for hockey in our blood and the dream to see this sport as much as popular in Tanzania) are the board members. Twende Foundation has already started to work, it has the focus to support the development of hockey in schools in Tanzania through training of trainers and players, collecting hockey material in Europe for Tanzanian young future players, supporting the national teams with high level coaching and helping Tanzanian Hockey Association in looking for sponsors. The foundation has its own website, www.twendehockey.com that all the people interested in knowing what is going on or to donate, can find all the which will be used instead of the current website www.hockeytanzania.com and also has its own facebook page, Twende Hockey. When I started the first trainings with few girls in 2013, I had five only balls and nothing else, today hockey in Tanzania is growing from the grassroots level, more and more people are getting involved in the development of hockey in this country. Today, with the establishment of this foundation, what was a dream two years ago, is becoming a solid reality. Without the support and help of many many people during this trip, nothing would have been possible, these amazing achievements are the results of the effort of many people around the world. Twende Foundation! Twende Hockey!



NEXT APPOINTMENT: AFRICA JUNIOR OLIMPYC QUALIFY

Less than two months ago we were busy in organizing the trip to go to Johannesburg to play the Africa Olympic Qualify with the senior men and women team. Trainings, funds raising, logistic issues... many things to do and lots of efforts from players, coaches and staff in general from THA. We went to Johannesburg, we played our matches, we met the strongest teams in Africa. We lost all the matches, except for the men team (coached by the hero Nick Isbouts) which managed to win one match against Botswana. But it was good, we learned a lot, and some improvements have been made and good input have been shown. Another new challenge is coming up, a new tournament to participate in few months. Is the Junior Africa Olympic Qualify, which will be played in Namibia from the 18th to the 28th of March 2016. Will be the tournament of national teams U21 of all Africa. In all history of hockey in Tanzania, never a Junior National Team has made up and could reach the participation to a big international competition in Africa. Nowadays in Tanzania there are new young players who are growing, most of them didn't know that there is a sport called hockey before than 2 years ago, they started to play at school, at grassroots level thanks to our project of hockey development in schools and in local community. Participate to this tournament with young national teams, men and women, will be a big step forward in the development of hockey among young people in Tanzania, it means that this sport is starting to spread among youth in this country. The players are ready to give all they have to be selected to represent their country. From the school tournament we saw many talents coming up, so it's a good sign!. Like always, although, the biggest challenge is to find money to pay all the expenses for the teams for the trip to Namibia and to organize the training camp for the players. Another challenge that we are ready to start! Donations and sponsorship are welcome, like always! Twende!!!



**NAMIBIA
HOCKEY UNION**