Session 1 Youth Olympic Games 2018 and future

Youth Olympic Games (YOG) IOC Director Antoine Goetschy was the guest speaker on the Youth Olympic Games 2018 and future.

The IOC Director explained that benefits of competitive sport for young people; it taught them to perform, to take risks, to set goals, to commit to something and to work hard to obtain results.

During the recent IOC session, the CEO of one of the biggest communications agencies in the world mentioned that the YOG could be used as a laboratory, and incubator for finding out what young people want and what they expected.

Today’s youth have become more interested in the impact they have through sport rather than the achievement. They like sport but wish to do it in a different way, they wish learn something, sport needs to fun, it should provide new skills, have an impact on society and create new challenges.

Whilst through sport clubs the lives of many are changed, organised sports are increasingly being challenged. The traditional pyramid model is not what young people are looking for anymore; “non-organised” sports are becoming increasingly popular and through the technological means of today, many athletes are becoming their own broadcasters.

The IOC have worked together with a panel of representatives to know what the YOG of the future should be aiming at, and the following became clear:

- Athletic performance is not enough, it does not suffice anymore. Young people look for purpose; if you add a good cause to an event it is more interesting.
- Innovation is important.
- It is important to retain young people in competitive and organised sport and promote the benefit of Olympism as a philosophy of life.
- Some things could be tested at the YOG for the Olympic Games. Not everything has to be taken over, but a laboratory is for experimenting and the YOG could be the place to do this.
- Sport has the responsibility to help bring references and values to young people.

The Youth embodies both young elite adults as well as local youth. Engagement is important and the goal is to make Athletes, Organisers and the local youth embrace the sport in general.

The selection process for the venue of the YOG 2022 has started. The main goal for the IOC will be to find the most suitable partner to build the best event possible rather than the best bidder.