

World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) 2019 Annual Symposium/WADA's 2019 World Conference on Doping in Sport

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This is the first part of 2 reports, and details the experience and learning at the **WADA Annual Symposium** held at the **SwissTech Convention Center in Lausanne, Switzerland from 13th to 14th March, 2019**. This forms part of the major events prior to the WADA Fifth World conference on Doping in Sport holding on the 5th to 7th November, 2019. The main propose is to encapsulate international to regional stakeholders regarding Anti-doping to discuss emerging doping issues, the role it plays in modern sports development, enforcement of amended WADA code; and its implementation for clean, free and fair sport in 2021.

Background

From the 13th to 14th March 2019, the WADA conference (**a 2-day program**) was held in Lausanne, Switzerland to address issues concerning the World Anti-Doping Code, Anti-doping Charter of Athletes rights, International Standard for Result Management and International Standard of Education as well as looking back and moving forward together as a force to help in the fight against doping in sports globally. The program gave me a great insight on the internationalized standard of doping control system and management. In addition, extensive lecture was given on the **International Standard of Education by WADA's Education Senior Manager, Tony Cunningham**, expressing the need and role of Education in the fight against doping. During this lecture, he emphasized that it is necessary to

educate athletes on the side effects of doping to encourage the willingness to stop the use steroids and nutritional supplements rather than the focus of testing for positives. I believe the statement made by Mr. Cunningham is what regulatory authorities should be focused on for a positive change in sport world.

Day 1 Activities (13th March, 2019) - Participants registration and conference commencement

First day of the conference entails the registration of participants from the world over at the front desk of the SwissTech convention center followed by the commencement of the program. An opening speech and overview of the conference were given by **Craig Reddie, the President of the World Anti-doping agency, and Olivier Niggli, WADA's Director general.**

Afterwards detailed lectures of the program were given by WADA officials. Followed by a “looking back and moving forward together” discussion session by 5 guest speakers.

The experts included:

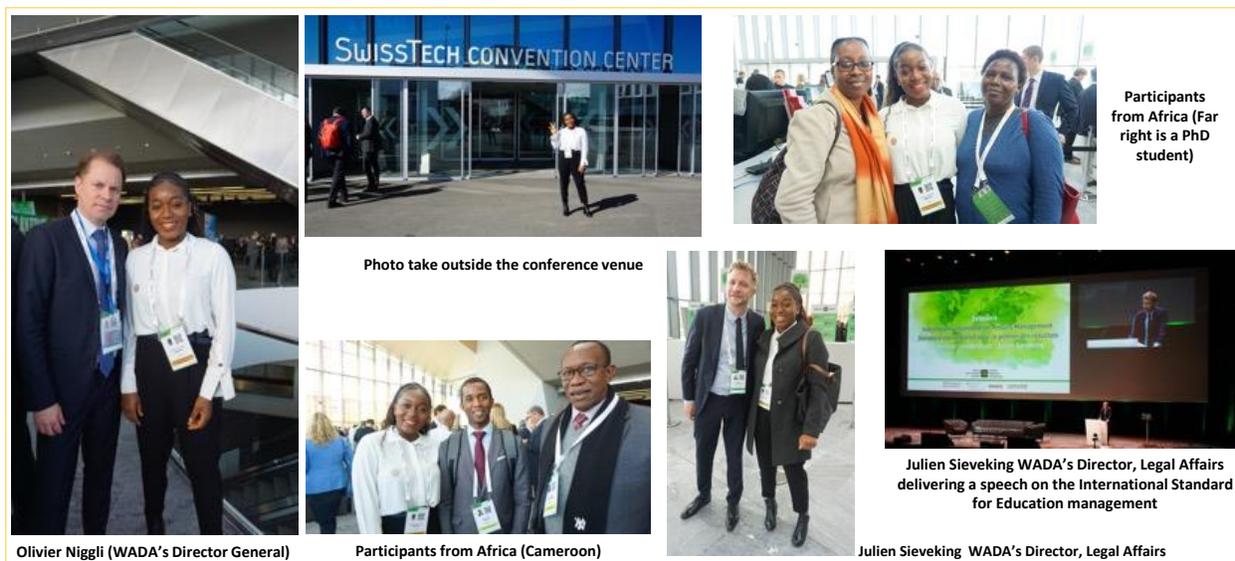
- Amanda Hudson- Head of Doping at the UK Anti-Doping (UKAD), who leads the UK Education strategy by making clean athletes her top priority and supporting UKAD's aim to protect clean sport.
- Matthew Fedoruk- Chief science officer at the U.S Anti-Doping Agency (USADA).
- Benjamin Cohen- Director general of the International Testing Agency.
- Sasha Sutherland- Executive Director, Caribbean Regional Anti-Doping Organization (RADO).
- Gunter Younger- Director of Intelligence and Investigations, World Anti-Doping Agency.
- Andy Parkinson- Chief Executive Officer, British Rowing, served as the MC during the discussion Panel.

As a prerequisite to the workshop on compliance of the world Anti-Doping code, the initial discussion yielded a lot of positive contribution on the potentials of Anti-Doping regulatory bodies in varied sport aspects to further improve and protect the dignity of sport.

Day 2 Activities (14th March, 2019)

The WADA officials centered on the International Standard for Code Compliance by signatories, Consequences framework for UNESCO convention, International Standard for Testing and Investigations, Therapeutic Use Exemptions, International Standard for Laboratories and the Protection of Privacy and Personal Information. During these lectures, the Russian doping scandal at Rio 2016 was discussed. The Russian Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA) remained non-compliant to the World Anti-Doping Code. Consequently, the suspected faulting athletes were banned from international competitions. More so, the Russian Anti-doping laboratory was banned by WADA in November, 2015 due to alleged systematic corruption following the retrieval of incriminating data and blood samples from RUSADA which tested positive for banned substances. A way forward to prevent this incident from reoccurring was discussed, as participants voted on what steps WADA should take on achieving an informed solution. **Educating athletes on the use of anabolic steroids which pose as a danger to their health among other options was ranked the most crucial to ensure doping at a minimum level.**

Athlete education subsequently provides support and the required guidance to raise the necessary awareness among the target group.



WADA, Lausanne - Images

The 2018 International Anti-Doping Seminar in Asia and Oceania organized by the Japan Anti-doping Agency in Partnership with the World Anti-doping Agency

Commissioned – by the, Japan Sports Agency, Government of Japan

Location – at the, Tsuda University Sendagaya Campus, Tokyo

Appreciation – to Dr. YaYa YAMAMOTO - JADA

The theme of this Seminar was –

“Athlete Engagement, their Rights and Achieving the Code Compliance”: Steps for the 2021 Code.

This theme may encourage Regional Anti-Doping Organization and National Anti-Doping Organization to make an effort in creating athlete centered anti-doping activity, implementing the quality Code Compliance and anti-doping program.

Overview of Seminar

The **International Anti-Doping Seminar in Asia and Oceania was held on the 4th and 5th December, 2018 in Tsuda University, Tokyo, Japan.** The objective of the seminar was focused on the evolving anti-doping movements and the road to Tokyo 2020 summer Olympics to improve athletes’ performance considering free and fair conduct during the upcoming Olympic event. WADA officials including Tony Cunningham, Julien Sieveking and Olivier Niggli explained highlighting the need to learn from the Russian doping scandal and implications. Athlete development should not only be focused on emerging as victors. The behavior leading to high performance, proper standards and the required competitive urge should be done in an ethical manner. This forms part of shaping athlete development for clean sport. The conference ended with **measures to close the gap in the current levels of uninformed athletes, monitoring and improving standards** to reduce doping to the minimum.

Conclusion and Take Home Message

These conferences were very successful and educative. I learnt that it is important for the World Anti-Doping Agency to focus on the brighter side like maximizing the potentials on the **Standard of Education which focuses on teaching the athletes** how to willingly stop doping by using their true strengths during varied sport events putting into consideration, dignity and ethical values.

By so doing, sport world will gradually become free of doping scandals, and the legacy of free and fair sport will be upheld.



Tony Cunningham (WADA's Education Senior Manager) delivering a lecture on standard of education To minimize doping in sport



Participants active discussion on Standards of Education - how to create awareness on doping



Tony Cunningham (WADA's Education senior Manager)



Participants from Sri Lanka, Samoa and Fiji



WADA officials active discussion on code implementation process

JADA/WADA Japan