

**Memorandum of Understanding
between
the Kurdistan Regional Government Ministry of Sports and Youth
and
the Sports Council Wales**

The Ministry of Sports and Youth (MOSY) and the Sports Council Wales (SCW) share the same value of promoting physical and sporting activities for the well-being of society. They are united in their pursuit of mutual objectives in sports:

- to support the creation of an inclusive and participatory sporting culture, encouraging mass participation and ensuring that there are more opportunities for women, the disabled and socially-excluded groups to take part in sporting activity;
- to support the broader role played by sport in promoting youth education, general health and well-being, self-confidence and leadership potential in individuals, and stronger communities at the local, regional, and national levels.

MOSY and SCW welcome the strong friendship and partnership they have already created over the last two years, particularly in the two international sports conferences held in Cardiff, Wales in December 2008, and in Erbil, Kurdistan Region in April 2009.

Looking to the future, MOSY and SCW will continue to broaden and deepen their partnership, and continue to pursue mutually beneficial relations and activities in the following ways:

MOSY and SCW will continue to be involved in strategic collaboration in supporting and developing regional sports on the international stage;

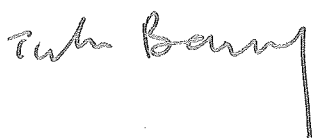
MOSY and SCW will further their practical collaboration in regard to developing reciprocal exchange programmes so that both have the opportunity to benefit from each other's knowledge and expertise, in the areas of sporting achievement and excellence, the provision of first class coaching and training, regional and local sporting administration, using sport to develop stronger communities and a thriving voluntary sector provision of sports, and the development of a strong base of sports research and sports science;

MOSY and SCW will work to create future events and opportunities for collaboration between themselves, and other sporting organizations in the Kurdistan Region and Wales.

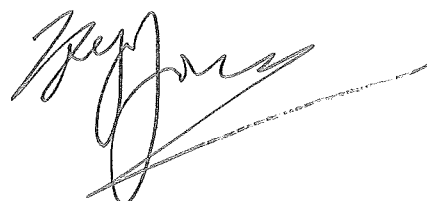
The nature, frequency and extent of the activities described above will be carried out, and revised as necessary, in accordance with the requirements and mutual interests of both MOSY and SCW, with due observance of the financial and other resources available to each.

Signed in Erbil, Kurdistan region, on 28 April 2009, in two original documents in the English language.

NAME: Mr. Taha Barwani
TITLE: KR Government Minister of Sports and Youth
SIGNATURE:



NAME: Mr. Huw Jones
TITLE: Chief Executive, Sports Council Wales
SIGNATURE:



REGIONAL SPORTS, INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION: NEXT STEPS

Today we have made significant progress in our relations with two of our closest partners on the international stage.

Earlier today we signed an Agreement with Madame Faiza Hashemi Rafsanjani and the Islamic Federation of Women's Sports.

Moments ago we signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Huw Jones and the Sports Council Wales.

Both of these ground-breaking documents will create substantial new opportunities for sportsmen and women, as well as coaches, officials and experts, in the Kurdistan Region over the upcoming months and years.

And we hope that our friends in Wales and Iran will gain equally from our newly reinforced partnerships.

We are also pleased to announce some immediate next steps and outcomes from our conference.

- The Ministry for Sports and Youth will begin a strategic work and design programme to finalise the best model for a Confederation of Sports here in the Kurdistan Region. We will be advised closely in this programme by the Sports Council Wales. Our aims are to follow in the footsteps of well-established international models to be able to deliver independent sports in the Kurdistan Region, in a way that is integrated with Iraq at the national level, and builds on the strength of new and existing international partnerships.

- Students from the Kurdistan Region have been invited to join a new and specialised Master Degree in Sports and Leadership at the University of Wales, Institute Cardiff – and to pick up practical experience working closely with the Sports Council Wales while they are there;
- The Welsh Football Trust have invited to Wales a party of coaches and senior administrators in football to see first hand how they develop talent at a young age in local communities and carry it through to performing at the highest levels;
- The English Youth Sports Trust wish to work as partners on a programme to develop leadership and volunteering in schools, which would involve direct partnering between schools in England and here in Kurdistan; and
- The English Federation of Disability Sports has agreed to embark on an exchange exercise with disability sports groups in the Kurdistan Region to share vital information and resources.

In addition to these specific announcements, we have had the chance over the last two days to learn a huge amount about international best practice.

And now we must take on board the challenge that Huw Jones extended to us – it is for us in the Kurdistan Region to seize this opportunity to shape our own destiny in delivering our goals of sports for all, and elite achievement in sports.