

# When signatures adorned a green background

The signature board, placed midway between the two main venues of the World Conference on Sport and the Environment, saw much action during the three-day conference. While some gave it a shy first glance before returning to sign

it, others approached it straightaway and penned down their thoughts.

At the end of the event, more than 500 signatures adorned the light green display. Some of the volunteers who sat beside the board recalled how the action unfolded. "The board was unveiled only on

the second day of the conference. Initially, some people were reluctant to sign. They carefully read what was written on it before putting pen to paper. Some others enthusiastically wrote messages of support to Qatar and signed beneath it. All in all, it was a great

experience to interact with people from different countries," said one of the volunteers.

If signatures could solve the earth's troubles overnight, then there were enough of them on the board to solve world's all problems several times over.



A participant signs during the WCSE conference as a volunteer looks on.



Where there is a will, there's a way

Determination is a strong-willed person. Johnson Jason is such a man. Being who did not prevent the Ta Paralympic Committee from moving around the World Conference on Sport and the Environment at the Dr. Hotel.

At the end of the three-day conference, he was all that the event's organisers would love to come back to. The country organises the World Cup.

"I loved the way the conference was organised. Obviously, I thought went into the relevant discussion that were Africa-centric and attending them. I also fact that utmost care was given to people with disabilities provided with special services to move from place to place. I love to come back who hosts the World Cup in sure they'll do a world inspired."

"Qatar is building itself to become the sports capital of the Middle East. They're organising high-profile events and are bidding wish them all the best off."

# Frank way of guiding youth!

Aju George Chris

Namibia's former athlete Frankie Fredericks certainly has a way with youngsters. As the moderator for the final plenary session of the International Olympic Committee's World Conference on Sport and the Environment, he was able to get the best out of Youth Olympic Games (YOG) ambassadors and sportspersons who had come from different parts of the globe.

When the youngsters spoke, the delegates, mostly from the older generation, listened patiently. They aired their concerns about nature and suggested ways to allay them.

Australia's Luke Dufficy, a young reporter at the 2010 Youth Olympic Games in Singapore, felt top athletes could do much more for the planet.

"Some of the most famous athletes today draw huge salaries

and sponsorships. For example, Jamaica's Usain Bolt signed a \$30m deal last year while Tiger Woods has a multi-year contract worth about \$105m. Such athletes should take a more pro-active role in spreading environmental ideas and other causes, for free. Barcelona, sporting the UNICEF logo on their shirts, is a great example," he said.

"Such steps help increase awareness of environmental initiatives by different sporting bodies. The 2016 Rio Olympics is the world's first 'carbon-neutral' Games.

"But hardly anyone knows about it. It needs to be advertised more prominently. A slogan like 'Rio '16 - Welcome to the first carbon-neutral Olympics' could do the trick," he added.

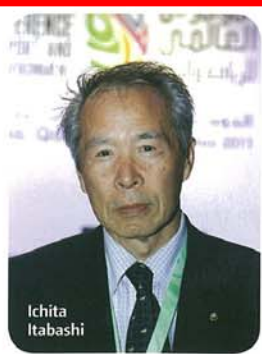
Former Canadian international swimmer NG Callum, selected as a YOG Ambassador in Singapore last year, stressed on the importance

of social media in helping initiatives take off.

"All available means should be used to spread the word about environmental protection. In an age where information dissemination has become so easy, through the use of social media like Twitter and Facebook, not enough is being done. I understand that different National Olympic Committees have their own programmes to do it, but they should all work together towards the common goal," said the youngster.

"These youngsters have made personal pledges to make a difference to the world and its environment. It's important to educate young children about their responsibility towards nature. I'm glad steps are being taken towards it," said Australian Tracey Holmes, who acted as a mentor for the YOG's Young Reporters programme.

# Unmatched love for nature



Ichita Itabashi

The Japanese are known for their love for nature. Even their country's name, which loosely translates into 'Land of the Rising Sun', points towards their affection to it. This may be a reason why despite so many natural calamities befalling their country in recent years, including earthquakes and tsunamis, their love for earth remains unmatched.

Ichita Itabashi, Chairman of the Sports and Environment Commission of the Japanese Olympic Committee, felt such conferences helped educate people about nature.

"We Japanese love mother nature. That's the reason why we've always bounced back quickly from adversities. People the world over should understand the importance of treating earth

with respect. Although indirectly, conferences such as the WCSE helps increase awareness about nature among people. Sports and sportsmen can also help towards the spread of such ideas," he said.

"Global warming and climate change are two major problems which the world faces today. If it goes unnoticed, it could pose a severe threat for the future generations," he signed off.

## How to save the world...

Although people would like to try and save the environment, not all of them may know exactly how to go about it. Going with the true spirit of the World Conference on Sport and the Environment, here are a few tips to help you save the world.

Recycle always.



Pull aside your curtain and let the sunlight come in.

Use energy-saving bulbs. It too helps reduce bills and

Use public transport whenever

Turn off the lights when you are not in the room

Travel lightly and keep luggage to a bare minimum.

Always go for reusable bags, preferably

Be smart never waste water.