



Inter-Governmental Observer to the United Nations Economic and Social Council

“There are people in the world so hungry that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread”

"Hay personas en el mundo tan hambrientas que Díos no puede a parecerles a ellos más que en la forma de pan"

" Il y a des gens dans le monde qui sont si affamés que Dieu ne peut leur apparaitre que sous la forme d'un pain."

Mahatma Gandhi

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IIMSAM OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE

IIMSAM`s GOODWILL AMBASSADOR DIEGO MARADONA VISITS SOUTH AFRICAN SCHOOLS SOCIAL WELFARE FACILITIES



IIMSAM`s GWA Diego Maradona, from left: With students from from various educational facilities in Pretoria and students from the Selekelela Secondary School in Soweto, South Africa,

(IIMSAM Headquarters, New York 25 January 2010) IIMSAM`s GWA Diego Maradona and Argentinean National Team Coach arrived in South Africa on Monday to inspect the Argentina World Cup base camp at the High Performance Centre in Pretoria. **Maradona said** he was happy with preparations for the FIFA World Cup. *“They can say what they want but we know we are coming to play the World Cup in a safe country. I have seen that with my own eyes. Anything can happen in the world but I have spent a week in South Africa and everything is great and the people are very friendly. “This will be a great World Cup with no doubts over security. I will tell my players that they only have to think of playing football when they come here and worry about nothing else. I think that it is only fair for South Africa to host the World Cup because they have deserved it for a very long time,”*

As he always does on his official trips Maradona always finds time for humanitarian endeavours by promoting the IIMSAM agenda and visiting social welfare facilities, schools, orphanages and the University of Pretoria. Maradona also met the participants of an educational football foundation based in Soweto whose president has expressed his willingness to enrol the foundation into the IIMSAM CampMaradona® programme that provides holistic education by using football as a vehicle of delivery.

IIMSAM was granted an *Observer Status* with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), in keeping with the Resolution Number E/2003/212, dated 5th of March, 2003. IIMSAM is registered under the United Nations Treaty Series Number 37542-37543 dated 7th of June 2001, in accordance with the Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.

IIMSAM has a *De Facto* diplomatic status in U.S. soil.



Maradona also handed out gifts to children and football players at a school in Soweto's Orlando east area.

Danny Jordan, the head of the local organizing committee, accompanied Maradona to the Soccer City, where the World Cup opening ceremony and final will be held. The former Argentine legend exchanged football shirts with Jordan and showed some of his skills by playing with one of the Jabulani footballs that will be used during the World Cup.



IIMSAM's GWA & Argentina's National Team Coach Diego Maradona, right, and Danny Jordan, chief executive of South Africa's 2010 World Cup Soccer organizing committee, pose with soccer jerseys at Soccer City stadium outside Johannesburg, South Africa, Thursday Jan. 21, 2010. Maradona is on a five-day visit to inspect soccer facilities ahead of the 2010 Soccer World Cup. (AP Photo/Jerome Delay)

As an IIMSAM Goodwill Ambassador Maradona will be promoting a Spirulina Programme to combat severe malnutrition in impoverished areas of Central and South America, and Caribbean Regions; in particular Argentina, Bolivia, Honduras, Haiti and Venezuela. The Spirulina Programme will be supported by the logistical aide of one of Argentina's prominent Foundations, *Dr. Luis Agote Foundation*, an IIMSAM Official Partner in Argentina.

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