

Sports and Social Development: Paradis Beachcomber hosts the Laureus Sport for Good Summit

Paradis Beachcomber Golf Resort & Spa hosted the second edition of the National Sport for Good Summit from August 1st to September 1st. A first in Mauritius, this event was organised as part of Sport for Good Foundation of Laureus Association South Africa. Laureus comprises the Laureus World Sports Academy, the Laureus Sport for Good Foundation and the Laureus World Sports Awards, which collectively harness the power of sport to promote social change and celebrate sporting excellence.

The organisation indeed brings together the world's living sports legends in diverse fields: football, cricket, tennis, athletics, skateboard and car racing. Through their charisma and the financial assistance from various partners, these athletes advocate for social change. Active members of Laureus include Edwin Moses (400 m Olympic Champion in 1976 and 1984), Tanni Grey-Thompson (Paralympic Champion in athletics) and Czech tennis champion Martina Navratilova. All the members of Laureus firmly believe that sports can change lives.

Since its foundation seventeen years ago, Laureus has raised over EUR 85 million - allowing three million young people to benefit from no less than 150 projects throughout the world. In Mauritius, Laureus supports Hope House, a non-governmental organisation which through social engagement, aims to give vulnerable individuals access to their basic needs.

The second National Sport for Good Summit brought together several stakeholders of the Laureus programme – ambassadors, Chiefs of Mission and others – to showcase the various programmes of Laureus. The highlight of the conference was the presence of some ten ambassadors of Laureus, and among them: long distance specialist and 1992 Olympic Games gold medallist, Sean Fitzpatrick, former All Blacks captain and Ryk Neethling, South African swimmer and gold medallist in the 4 x 100 meters relay at the 2004 Olympic Games.

For Morne du Plessis, Chairman of Laureus Sport for Good Foundation, South Africa and legendary coach of the Springbok in 1995, this forum was an opportunity for the participants to look into best practices which can help the most vulnerable through sports. "The first summit was held in Johannesburg and this year we wanted to gather all our project leaders, ambassadors and trustees, to give them the opportunity to exchange ideas in order to strive for best practices and improve the impact of their particular projects.", he affirmed.

During his speech at the opening of the conference, Morne du Plessis thanked Beachcomber for its support to Laureus as an event partner.

"I'd like to thank Beachcomber, Event Partner and host for the Laureus Sport for Good South Africa Summit, who have provided us with the opportunity to be able to put on an event of this nature for our delegates. Beachcomber has a rich tradition of supporting sport in Mauritius, as well as a Foundation that focuses on community upliftment, complementing our Sport for Good movement. Their passion and professionalism in supporting this event is greatly appreciated and we look forward to a healthy partnership benefiting both the Laureus Foundation and Beachcomber." he stated.

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About Beachcomber

Beachcomber Resorts & Hotels is the pioneer and leader of the Mauritian tourism industry. Since the creation of Park Hotel in 1952, a collection of 11 resorts have emerged over the years, including the mythical Royal Palm Mauritius in 1985, considered by everyone as the reference in hospitality for luxury holidays in Mauritius.

Beachcomber has exported the tradition of Mauritian hospitality beyond the shores of the island, with the launching of Sainte Anne Resort & Spa in Seychelles, in 2002.

The Group is presently expanding its collection, with the integration of the Beachcomber French Riviera Resort & Spa, situated on the Côte d'Azur, in France.

The collection of 10 resorts affords a choice of accommodation options ranging from rooms and apartments to suites and villas. Each hotel is imbued with a particular history and cachet, embodying an image of discrete luxury.

Social responsibility – Fondation Espoir Développement (FED), by Beachcomber

Set up and financed by Beachcomber since 1999, with the participation of hotels and employees, this foundation takes care of these main projects:

- Projet Employabilité Jeunes (PEJ): professional insertion of school drop-outs through a training programme and industrial attachments.
- Collaboration with NGOs, schools and associations
- Regional projects – youth mentoring: the “Amour et Espoir” NGO; IT initiation; youth monitoring via the “Duke of Edinburgh International Award” programme, participation of regional sports clubs in the organisation of the Beachcomber UTRB Trail 2015

Social responsibility – Local Hands

Programme launched in 2006 to support small local artisans by providing them with training and guidance as they embark upon the process of creation, production, marketing and sales.

Sustainable development – our environmental actions – EarthCheck label

Sustainable development and environmental protection constitute real considerations within the Group, which has set up, amongst other initiatives, practices that ensure energy savings and favour renewable energy sources. These initiatives in favour of sustainable development have been recognised and rewarded, with two of our hotels recently obtaining the EarthCheck Benchmarked Bronze accreditation for their ongoing commitment to environmentally responsible practices.