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FIS MEDIA INFO

Small nations benefit from FIS Aid & Promotion Programme in Aprica

While the traditional big ski nations are expected to steal most of the limelight at the upcoming FIS Alpine World Championships, the small nations have taken advantage of the FIS funded Aid & Promotion program to fine-polish their skills in high-level training camps ahead of the prestigious competition. As such, the nearby located city of Aprica have provided hospitality for representatives from various “developing ski nations” who are all part of the FIS funded Aid & Promotion program which serves to help and thereby promote skiing in countries who have limited resources to develop the sport. Therefore FIS have stepped in to finance the coaches and manager and organize the programme and transport as well as the logistical arrangements for the athletes.

The male and female participants stay in Aprica marks the conclusion of a three-phase project budgeted at CHF 450'000 which kicked off already in July 2004 when 54 athletes from 23 different nations with FIS points in a range of 50 to 100 gathered at Pitztal (AUT) for a week to follow the first part of the project. After this week an evaluation was then carried out by the instructors to select a group of 25 male and 10 female athletes enjoying a similar level who would go on to follow the second and third training camps where athletes have had the luxury of working alongside each other with expert coaches and the finest technical equipment.

In Aprica which represents the location for the third training camp which began on January 9th, athletes taking part in the World Championships have benefited extensively from the local organisers' obligation to provide them free training days and have consequently been brushing up on their skills on the “Stella Alpina” piste in Bormio and the “Paradiso” slope in Santa Caterina. Athletes from Argentina, Belgium, Bulgaria, China, Georgia, Hungary, Israel, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, South Africa, Romania, Serbia and Herzegovina, Slovakia and Turkey have all taken part in the second and third training camps.