

Coach Developers Will Be The Key to Support Coach Learning



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Abstract. Coaches play an important role not only in athletes' development but also in our society. Many believe that sports can be used as a vehicle to foster good citizenship. However the reality is not that simple. Good coaches can use sports as a good tool to develop many virtues in athletes. It is unfortunate that coaches can lead their athletes to the opposite direction as well. How to develop good coaches has been our concern for many years. Nippon Sport Science University decided to run an academy which develops coaches of coaches, i.e., coach developers, in collaboration with the international council for coaching excellence. The first program was held in 2014 and only six people participated. Since then, the academy has kept growing and word of mouth have attracted many others to apply to this program. More than 70 coach developers from 31 countries have completed a year long programs so far. The graduates of NCDA have been active to develop coaches or their own coach development systems around the world. The academy will keep serving as a catalyst which bridges coaching researches and practice by developing coach developers and connecting them in a coaching community of practice.

Brief Biodata: Dr. Ito is a professor in sports coaching at Nippon Sport Science University in Japan. He is also the director of NSSU Centre for Coaching Excellence and the deputy director of NSSU Coach Developer Academy (NCDA). He is a member of the research committee of the International Council for Coaching Excellence and a first vice president of the Asian Association of Coaching Science. He completed his Ph.D. work in Biomechanics at University of Tokyo, then moved to NSSU, where he devoted to creating Master's and Ph.D. programs in sports coaching. One of his contributions to the world of coaching practice is the creation of NCDA (<http://www.ncda.tokyo>) which offers unique professional development opportunities to whom supporting coaches to learn around the world. He has been deeply involved in the reform of Japanese coaching qualification system and leading discussions around quality coach development in Japan. At the same time, he is running a Japanese government funded program to support para-athlete and coach development and creation/capacity-building of national Paralympic committees in developing countries.