

## **Annex: Bio Profile of Samuel Schweingruber**

Mr Samuel Schweingruber is a FIFA Grassroots Instructor based in Cambodia who holds an AFC coaching 'A' License. The 35 year old high school teacher from Switzerland had been coaching football back in his home country since he was 16. He came to Cambodia in 2003 and in that same year, played in the Cambodian Premier League before becoming player-coach in the following year. In 2004, realising that there were no youth football programmes in Cambodia, Mr Samuel Schweingruber began holding evening training sessions for street children in Phnom Penh.

In 2006, Mr Schweingruber moved to Battambang to form the Sport and Leadership Training (SALT) academy. Its aim was to effect social change in the community through football. The academy started with a weekend league consisting of fifteen U-17 teams and has grown from strength to strength. Today, over 2,000 boys and girls take part in more than 500 matches every season. The academy also teaches the children to avoid alcohol and drug addictions, and imparts to them life skills for their personal development.

In 2009, Mr Schweingruber was appointed head coach of the newly formed Cambodia Women's National Football Team. The team went on to play in their first FIFA recognised international match in Laos with Mr Schweingruber on the touchline. In 2012 Mr Schweingruber was appointed head coach of Phnom Penh Crown, one of the top football clubs in the country. He is also the manager of the club and is heavily involved in the development of youth programs. In 2013, he was appointed head coach of the U16 Cambodia National Football Team.

Mr Schweingruber strongly believes in the educational role of football, especially its impact on youth at the grassroots level. He has been a FIFA Grassroots Instructor since 2009 and has gone all over Asia to countries like Australia, Japan and Malaysia to guide coaches in conducting football programmes for children. This is the fourth time he has come to Singapore to conduct the FIFA Grassroots Course and Festival.