



The International Topper Class Learn to Dream program

When you have nothing and can see no future, even to dream is a luxury denied to many."

(Rob Holden)

For a number of years, the International Topper Class Association (World) (ITCA) has provided financial and practical support to sailing organisations throughout the world, especially in those countries that are developing their sailing programmes. In line with the World Sailing and UN Sustainability Goals, ITCA has developed its own Sustainability Programme aimed at emerging nations to help those with nothing, to begin to learn to imagine *and dream* for their future.

The 'Learn to Dream' Programme has three core values:

- 1 To promote sustainable development and
- 2 The protection and preservation of the environment; through
- 3 The advancement of amateur sport in clubs and trusts set up in underprivileged or developing areas.

We aim to provide grants and resources to the Emerging and Developing Nation Projects (EDNPs) to enable sailors who would not normally travel far from home, to participate at World and Regional events organised by ITCA and access coaching resources locally before and during the events themselves.

We also recognise that there are many boats that have become redundant because of cosmetic, timing and 'fashion' issues so resulting in a loss of interest by the owners. Often however, there are few functional problems with the boats themselves.

As a result, there are many thousands of unwanted boats lying around in gardens and dinghy parks worldwide.

Our program aims to gather up these unwanted and unloved boats so that they can be reactivated. They will be shipped in their raw and un-activated state together with reactivation kits to the EDNPs. The reactivation will be undertaken by local people who will gain valuable skills and work experience from the work.

The reactivated boats will then be marketed, sold and shipped by the EDNPs to nearby Emerging Nations, along with support from Topper International Limited and ITCA (World).

Benefits

- A compelling story for the sailing world which works on both the sustainability and emerging nations levels.
- Delivers a potentially award-winning recycling and reactivation case study – so supporting World Sailing's need to promote greater sustainability awareness and their Emerging Nations programme.
- Emerging Nations given access to reactivated, up to date and durable boats at about a third of the cost of new, so making it possible for more people to be introduced to sailing and marine activities.
- Underprivileged young people will given training and skills – the model could develop into a business opportunity worldwide.
- Profit delivered to a charity so that they can develop their work further and offer even more.