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GAA announces its support for the Succeed in Ireland Initiative in advance of Annual Congress

Using Ireland's Global GAA Team to help Create Jobs

In advance of its two day 2012 GAA Annual Congress in The Heritage Hotel in County Laois this Friday 13th and Saturday, 14th April the GAA has announced their support of the rollout of ConnectIreland's "Succeed in Ireland" initiative on a national and international basis.

ConnectIreland will use the global strength of the GAA network of almost 750,000 members across 2,800 clubs of which 400 are overseas. In recent years the Gaelic Games Association has seen clubs further develop in locations such as Asia and Middle East. Between the US and Australia an estimated 15,000 people are regularly involved in playing GAA games.

GAA President Christy Cooney believes, "GAA members from all over the world can play a part in creating new jobs in Ireland. The GAA global Diaspora in particular has the potential to reach into the heart of their host countries and help make valuable connections with growing companies that ConnectIreland can engage with."

ConnectIreland, appointed by IDA Ireland to deliver the Succeed in Ireland initiative as part of the Government's Action Plan for Jobs 2012, has been tasked with creating 5,000 new jobs over a five year period. Since the initiative's launch in March, ConnectIreland has been in talks with GAA representatives and it has been agreed that as part of on-going efforts to deliver the jobs initiative, it will tap into the extensive GAA network at home and overseas.

Under the initiative, people are asked to use their global contacts to make introductions between ConnectIreland and overseas companies who are looking at expanding internationally. If a company expands to Ireland and creates new jobs the person who made the introduction will be paid a reward by the Irish Government of €1,500 per job, up to a maximum of 100 jobs. The reward can be used personally or donated to support a local GAA club.

Terry Clune, Chairman, Connect Ireland, commenting on the GAA's involvement said, "The GAA, together with ConnectIreland, will act as a powerful tool to engage Irish people overseas by offering a simple way that GAA members all over the world can support the Irish economy and be rewarded for their efforts."

The GAA is Ireland's largest sporting organisation and is celebrated as one of the great amateur sporting associations in the world. Gaelic games are growing in popularity with clubs in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Dubai and further afield.

To learn more about ConnectIreland see www.connectireland.com or see www.gaa.ie

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