

# All about Africa

## Highlights in FIFA's calendar

**FIFA's competitions in 2009 and 2010 will have a distinctly African flavour. The 2010 FIFA World Cup South Africa™ from 11 June to 11 July 2010 will undoubtedly be the highlight of the next two years.**

On 14 June 2009, the eyes of the football world will turn to Johannesburg for the opening match of the FIFA Confederations Cup. Eight teams, divided into two groups, will compete in a tournament that is generally regarded as a dry run for the FIFA World Cup™. Africa will be represented by the South African hosts as well as by Egypt, the winners of the 2008 Africa Cup of Nations. South Africa will face Iraq, New Zealand and European champions Spain in Group A, whereas Egypt will come face-to-face with Italy, Brazil and the USA in Group B. Over the years, the FIFA Confederations Cup has blossomed into so much more than a dress rehearsal for the World Cup. In Germany in 2005,

fans and organisers were thrilled with the quality of the action on the pitch. This popular competition does, however, give the Local Organising Committee and FIFA the opportunity to evaluate the status of preparations for the event in 2010.

### Egypt and Nigeria as hosts

Then, in Egypt from 25 September to 16 October, teams will be vying to succeed Argentina as U-20 world champions. The *Albiceleste* shocked everyone by failing to qualify from the CONMEBOL qualifying competition this time. The search is also on for somebody to follow in the footsteps of the competition's outstanding player in Canada in 2007, Sergio Agüero. At the FIFA U-20 World Cup 2007 in Canada, the Argentinian striker claimed both the adidas Golden Shoe for top goalscorer as well as the adidas Golden Ball for the tournament's best player.

The FIFA U-20 World Cup was played in Nigeria in 1999 – and exactly ten years later, the west African country

South Africa  
FIFA Confederations Cup  
June 2009



Nigeria  
FIFA U-17 World Cup  
October - November 2009

