

# Montagsgesellschaft honours Jay-Jay Okocha



Nigeria's Ambassador Yusuf Tuggar with Stefan Söhngen, Chairman of the Association

He will always be remembered with the goal of the century against the Goalkeeper-Titan Oliver Kahn and will always be remembered in Frankfurt: Former Eintracht player Jay-Jay Okocha. On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Monta-society, the Nigerian would have been appointed honorary member of the association in the event which took place inside the Emperor's Hall. But the 44-year-old had to cancel for health reasons.

Instead, Nigerian Ambassador Yusuf Maitama Tuggar accepted this Honor. "I've met Jay-Jay Okocha a few times, but it would be too much to claim that I know him too well", says Tuggar, who admits he's a little disappointed. On the one hand, because he missed the opportunity to meet the former Nigerian national player once again and on the other hand, "Okocha, by not being present at the occasion, had missed something because it is a monumental honor," says Tuggar, who, a complete diplomat in answering the question on which Bundesliga team is his favorite, replied: "of course Eintracht Frankfurt.



Stefan Söhngen from the Board of the Association explains why the election fell to the exceptional footballer. Jay-Jay Okocha is a Nigerian, and the largest city in the country, Lagos, is the number one financial center on the African continent, and a hint

at the fact that "Frankfurt does not have an African partner city yet." Ergo: That is why, in his speech, Söhngen inspired some 230 guests, including the City's Mayor Peter Feldmann, to make Lagos the Partner City of Frankfurt Metropolis. Feldmann was not only one of the first congratulants, but also spoke extensively on the topic "*Citizenship is the putty that holds our society together*".

In his address on the history of the association, Söhngen has a membership of at least 150 members. "We're already a little older than ten. Our initiative has existed since 2005," says Söhngen. But only in 2007 had they decided to become active as a club. Another reason for the registration of the association was as a result of dissatisfaction with the structures of the political parties. "We were concerned more and more with content and not with positions and titles," says Söhngen. "We want people from a wide range of sectors to get together."

Among the guests at the occasion was the former Federal President Joachim Gauck and Auschwitz- Survivor and Honorary Citizen Trude Simonsohn and former Eintracht boss Heribert Bruchhagen.

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<http://www.fnp.de/lokales/frankfurt/stadtgefluester/Montagsgesellschaft-ehrt-Jay-Jay-Okocha;art51666,2805877>