

## Report of Commission Chairman Ali Nihat Yazici

### (CHESS IN SCHOOLS COMMISSION)

There have been six principal areas of activity since the last Congress in Tallinn:

1. Promotion of chess in schools through multiple means, such as the Chess and Education conference (2012) and the ongoing visits, especially by the FIDE President to many federations, the promotion of chess in schools being the main unifying factor of these visits.
2. Major sponsorship from Rosneft meant that we were able to purchase a substantial quantity of chess sets in 2012-2013 and this year sees us distributing the last of those, albeit, with no renewal of that sponsorship, we have been seriously constrained in our budget.
3. Multi-lingual web sites, launched in January 2012, to support both our chess in schools work and FIDE-CiS Student Membership (a synergistic part of the whole), are now available in 11 languages, with a 12<sup>th</sup> planned.
4. We have now produced class books and a teacher guide in several languages, including English, French and Arabic.
5. We have produced more than 100 magazines (some 800 pages, all in a choice of languages!) for our FIDE Student members.
6. The major Chess in Schools projects have proven their worth, and not only those, since several small federations have shown that good organization is more important than funding for the development of a programme.

The development of chess in schools is a two-way process, with the Commission learning from developments around the world and then sharing that information to facilitate the programmes in other countries.

#### **1. Promotion - 107 federations visited & *Chess in Schools – Our Global Future***

Since the Khanty-Mansiysk Congress at the end of 2010, **107 federations have been visited**. The President has been to 74, CiS Chairman has been to 52 and CiS Executive Secretary to 17. Some of these federations have been visited several times. Every visit has involved, at a minimum, discussions or presentations to promote chess in schools and, at a maximum, the launch of a programme. Discussions have also been held, face to face or by email with many other federations.

#### ***Chess in Schools – Our Global Future***

This full colour 48 page booklet has been the cornerstone of our promotional materials. A revised, second edition should be ready in time for the Tromso Congress. The current edition is available for free download from our web site. You are free to use it to promote chess in schools in your country.

#### **2. Rosneft – a first global sponsor of FIDE-CiS**

The objectives laid out at the time:

*Under the agreement, Rosneft will be involved in World Chess Federation international educational projects to encourage children and teenagers to play chess. Cooperation*

*envisages seminars and training sessions in schools, as well as educational conferences. Rosneft will focus on providing comprehensive support for young Russian chess players.*

*Rosneft's involvement in the Chess in Schools programme demonstrates the Company's commitment to international social responsibility, and specifically to supporting Russian and international educational programmes.*

Their support meant that we were able to extend our support of chess in schools to many more federations – see our report for the year 2012 (2012 CiS Annual Report).

Rosneft were pleased and impressed by our work and by the publicity generated, including TV, press and internet coverage amounting to more than 5,000,000 page views.

As we all know, getting (and retaining) sponsorship is difficult, even when it results in impressive returns. FIDE, especially through our President, is actively seeking a new global sponsor for chess in schools.

In the meantime, our support materials have been of assistance in getting local sponsorships and some 100 sponsoring companies help individual countries.

### 3. Multilingual web sites

Perhaps the most important function of the original site ([cis.fide.com](http://cis.fide.com)) is to be a repository of the teaching materials that FIDE-CiS has made available for Chess in Schools projects around the globe. Those materials, for both children and teachers are all provided free of charge.

Anyone wanting to establish a chess in schools project that reaches out to *all* children should be sure to read the introduction to the Documents section, with links to the most important explanatory documents. The Resource Centre is rich in materials for both teaching chess and for its promotion in educational and social environments. The Document section contains our Handbook and pointers to the most useful items in the Information and Resource Centre.

We have placed a lot of material there, but the lack of collaboration from external contributors has been disappointing. We repeat our call for all federations, their chess in schools representatives and, especially, the members of our commission to aid the development of the site, and its increasing usefulness, by sending us new material.



<http://sm.fide.com>



<http://psm.fide.com>

The two sites that we added in 2012 are for children anywhere and everywhere around the world, not just those who are actively involved in a CiS programme. They have now been joined by [psm.demo.fide.com](http://psm.demo.fide.com), which allows anyone to look around the Premium Member site and see the great value for their annual €10 membership before committing to payment.

#### **4. Class and Teacher books**

The books, by Dr Olgun Kulaç, which are at the core of the highly successful Turkish programme (60,000 teachers, more than 4,000,000 children), are now available in a variety of languages. The class books for years one and two and the teacher guide have been translated into English, French and Arabic. Spanish will be next.

#### **5. Magazines**

All FIDE Student members receive regular magazines. In January 2014, we made a big change, making the FIDE Student Magazine (FSM) freely available to all the children of all federations. Until the end of 2013, we sent 12 magazines (96+ pages total) each year to our Basic (free) members, while Premium members received 32 magazines (256+ pages total) each year. Now those 32 FSM magazines are available, free, to all.

The magazines, like the web sites, are available in English, Arabic, Spanish, Russian, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Turkish, Slovak and Slovenian languages (**11 languages**).

#### **6. CIS100 Modules – the special projects**

Budgetary constraints, both ours and national ones, have hindered some of these developments. Nonetheless, Slovakia and Slovenia have successfully completed three years, with others following in their wake. The projects continue to evolve, especially as they are tailored to each participating country, but the basic outlines are there for all to see in our CiS Handbook.

#### **7. FIDE Student Membership**

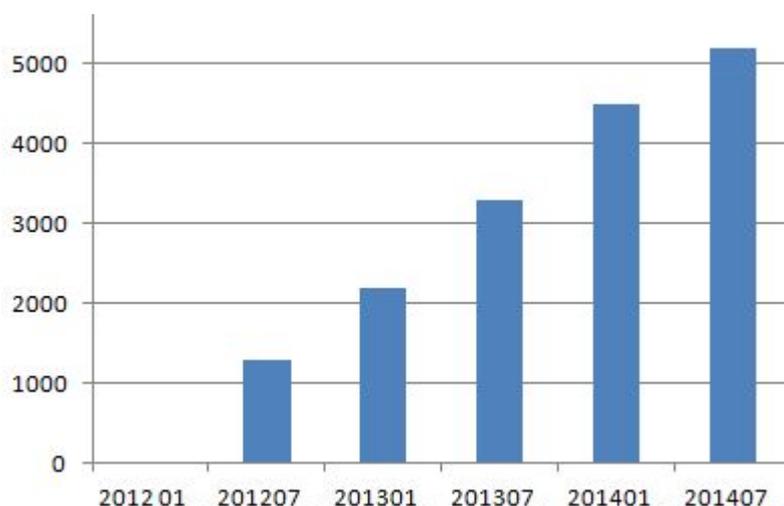
The main features of FIDE student membership can be found in the Handbook. We would like to stress two things:

- Membership is open to all (under-18) and free of charge.
- The FSM magazine is free for all.

Premium Membership costs just €10 per year and is always valid for a full twelve months.

Why do we stress the free Basic membership? We do so because the benefit of it seems to have been overlooked by many federations. The point of free Basic membership is that it can attract a huge number of members, at no cost whatsoever to the federations. Those are the

numbers we want in order to impress sponsors, both global and local to you! They are also a rich source of potential future paid-up members of your federation!



## 8. Teacher Training

Teachers have been trained in Algeria, Ethiopia, India, Ireland, Lebanon, Malawi, Mauritius, Moldova, Slovakia, Slovenia, with Trinidad & Tobago to follow later this month.

## 9. Documents & Statistics

We would also like to draw your attention to some documents full of useful statistics about Chess in Schools worldwide, and we ask you please to ensure that information from your federation is both present (in many cases it is not) and accurate (it is clear that in some cases the figures do not make sense). The documents, which can be found at [cis.fide.com](http://cis.fide.com), are:

- *CiS Worldwide Statistics* – this gives information about where there are CIS programmes, who runs them, how many schools, children and teachers are involved, all on a country-by-country basis.
- *School Year Worldwide* – this allows you to see at a glance the school year (start and finish) for each country. Most schools work from September/October until June, but there are variations around the world, especially in the Southern Hemisphere, where something like the calendar year is common.

## THE FUTURE

2010-2014 was a period of a new approach to chess in schools by FIDE. It should be underlined that there was no example other than that of the Turkish Chess Federation, where a chess in schools programme had been implemented and controlled by a federation directly. By learning from the Swedish experience, and enlarging on the Turkish experience, we have decided, together with the President Kirsan Nikolayevich Ilyumzhinov, to have a new model in the future.

- The main model of FIDE will be to offer a total package of management to each federation. A chess in schools project will be the engine to drive this model.

- A Master Plan, small or big according to the size and needs of the federation, will be developed for each federation in this new model.
- Each Master Plan, mainly through a chess in schools programme, will be financed and run by the respective National Federation and FIDE together.
- The most important target in this master plan is for each federation to increase the number of their registered members, and these will be mainly children (coming from the CiS programme)
- The methodology will be as follows:
  - CiS is a social educational programme in primary and secondary schools.
  - We will aim to access all citizens of each country by the specific CiS project of this country inside of each Master Plan.
  - Each federation will try to convert the output of CiS (socially aimed) into an input to that federation (sport aimed).
  - This conversion will aim to maximize the number of members of the specific federation.
  - This will create a pyramid structure for the federation. The base, consisting of amateurs, mainly children, will attract government, parents, sponsors and media as supports to get financial resources.
  - Those financial resources will be used largely for the upper part of the pyramid, to develop and manage chess within each federation.
- This will be the main programme not only of CiS, but of FIDE in the period 2014-2018.

*Ali Nihat Yazici, 2014.06.24*