

EVENT: FIDE World Amateur Chess Championships 2014

DATE & PLACE: 25 April to 04 May 2014 - Singapore

Organizer: Singapore Chess Federation

Official website: <http://www.wacc2014.com/>

Tournament Director: IO Thomas Hoe (SIN)

Chief Arbiter : IA Chan K.K (SIN)

FIDE Technical Delegate: Özgür Solakoğlu (TUR)

FTD REPORT

Singapore, officially the Republic of Singapore, is a sovereign city-state and island country in Southeast Asia. It lies off the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula and is 137 kilometers (85 mi) north of the equator.

World Amateur Championships 2014 had 171 participants from 32 countries at Open Category and 22 participants from 8 countries at Women Category.

1. TRANSPORTATION FROM AND TO AIRPORT

Transportation from and to Singapore airport completed without any problem. The car distance between airport and hotel was 20-30 min. Mini buses & private cars were used. No problem or protest was reported. Singapore airport is very comfortable, modern and one of the best and 3rd biggest airports in the world.

2. ACCOMMODATION

Only official accommodation hotel was Costa Sands Resort (Downtown East), <http://www.costasands.com.sg/downtowneast/>. This is an hotel mainly used for barbeque parties for local people. There was no any restaurant, café or any other similar sections as normally hotels have. There are just concrete barbeque tables and sits in front of every hotel block. Hotel has just a swimming pool. Hotel was combined from 2 floored many separate blocks. People are making barbeques till late night. Rooms were very simple, few furniture with TV, shower, wardrobe and one small wooden chair. There were some kind of ants and also insects in the rooms. Rooms were not small and they were big enough. There was no hair dryer in the rooms. Room cleaning service is not given daily but was done in every 2 days. There are some hot water machines at every block. There was no laundry service in the hotel but just there was one very old self-service washing machine and drying machine at the hotel. You have to put money and also have to buy your own detergent. You can see some pictures below from the a room of the Hotel. The hotel rooms are may be just enough for a 1-2 star hotel and the prices were very expensive. The hotel is situated near a small shopping mall with many shops and restaurants. Not in the hotel but nearby area offering nice walks and recreation activities. There were some problems or protests reported about the rooms, hotel and distance to the tournament hall. Honestly, Hotel was just at a 10-15 minutes walking distance to the tournament hall, it was generally reasonable, acceptable and just sometimes because of rain, hot temperature and high humidity it can cause some

minor problems but generally for me it was ok and acceptable distance. Also there was free shuttle from hotel to a shopping center and metro station near to the tournament hall. But of course after shuttle, you had to walk for 3-5 minutes to tournament hall. There were free Wi-Fi internet at Hotel area and not very strong and perfect but generally worked properly and it was ok.



3. MEALS

As on it was announced at FIDE WEB page, because of the changed and unapproved published regulation it was first told the participants that accommodation payment does not include meals. But at Technical meeting Mr. Thomas announced that after the FIDE's announcement yesterday, They decided to follow the FIDE Statement and they will pay $5+10+10=25$ Singapore dollars to each participant that who are staying at official Hotel (Costa Sand Resort) for meals. This amount is not enough for average quality meal; it must be around at least 40-50 Singapore dollars. But if you have all your meals every day at Mc Donald's or at local food courts that combined of many mini shops then it can be enough.

4. PLAYING HALL

The Playing Hall is the Pasir Ris Sports Hall (situated within Pasir Ris Sports and Recreation Centre). The tournament venue is very nice. There is enough light, good air-conditioning. Also there were some restaurants and cafes around there. There was 4 live broadcasting boards at the beginning but then 1 board had problem so there were live WEB broadcasting for 2 men and for 1 women board. Toilets were ok enough and they had separately toilets for players/organization and others. There was no wireless internet access in the tournament hall. In the hall there was a board decorated with countries flags. Tournament Venue was very good and there were more than enough space for players also there were tribunes for spectators.

Playing Hall



5. ARBITERS & TECHNICAL STAFF

Chief Arbiter IA Chan K.K and his team made a good work. There were two appeals. There was no bulletin available. Tournament web site was in a fair medium level.

6. CEREMONIES

Opening and Closing Ceremony both were at average standards and organized in the Tournament Hall. Protocol followed with FIDE and National Anthem and Officials' speeches. Especially for the Opening Ceremony Singapore Foreign Relations Minister Mr. K Shanmugam was also present.

Technical Meeting



Opening Ceremony



Closing Ceremony



7. PRESS & MEDIA

There was not much press coverage. None of the National and local TV channels covered the event daily. There was no Press conference took place before the Opening Ceremony. There were no Banners and posters which were visible in many parts of the city. There was no any parallel chess activities like as daily tournament for kids, blitz tournament for all participants or seminar.

Özgür Solakoğlu