

# ***Chess in Schools Commission Meeting***

***Tromso, 6 August 2014***

Present:

Chairman and Secretary: Ali Nihat Yazici (TUR), Kevin O' Connell (IRL).

Members/Coordinators/Consultants/Councillors: Alexander Kostyev (RUS), Ravinda Dongre (IND), Sevan Muradian (USA), Susan Polgar (USA), Hadi Karimi (IRI), Charles Moura Netto (BRA), Martin Huba (SVK), Enrique Celi (URU), Goran Dizdar (CRO), Margaret Murphy (ISV), Kezzie Msukwa (MAW).

FIDE VPs: Lewis Ncube (ZAM), Israel Gelfer (ISR).

Observers: Miguel Vazquez (ESP), Carol Williams Pesquiera (ARU), David Mehler (USA), Dr. José Junqueira (ANG), Jonas Sidabras (LTU), Chihade Abou Nemri (LIB), Roger Tiroyamodimo (BOT), Betty Yves, Debra Walcott (TTO), Fidel Gonzalez (VEN), Bakyt Omurzakov (KYR), L. Garcia (ESP), Paul Spiller (NZL), Jean Hoffman (USA), Sophia Rhode (USA), Jose F. Suarez (ESP), Ali Nooh (MDV), Cristobal Vega Adorno (PUR), Esteban Jaureguizar (URU), Rajesh Hari Joshi (NEP), Naeem Hamid Mirza (PAK), Sidi Mohamed Tajidine (MTN), Kreyked Ali Mactar (MTN), Abdus Salim (PAK), Antouman Njie (GAM), Serigne Mactar Sokhna (SEN), Hurrinarynain Bhowany (MRI), Michel Nguete Viang (CMR), Christina Wang (TPE), Emelia Ellappen (RSA), Dina Mei Fang Chen (TPE), Igor Glek (GER), Dwi Hatmisari (INA), Luis Perez Carrillo (COL), Javier Vergara Garzon (COL), Gamba Barthelemy (CAF), Larry Ebbin (VER), Olena Boytsun (UKR), Walter Kastner (AUT), Hisham Al-Taher (UAE), Ali Nooh (MDV), Ali Nasih (MDV), Abdulaziz Al Khoori (UAE), A. Mbeki, Graham Jurgensen (RSA), Andrei Korobeinik (EST), Tarig Zaroug (SUD), Suer Jan, Lekan Adeyemi (NGR), Marcos Joselito (PNG), Jan Callewaert (BEL), Thomas Luther (GER), Geber Diaz (VEN), Charles T. Kuwaza (ZIM), Gizaw Assefa (ETH), Gazi Tarique (BAN), Anderson Gordon (TTO), Jamal Essa Almidfa (UAE), Fawzia Lutfi (UAE), Mona Al-Harmoudi (UAE), Chanda Nsakanya (ZAM).

Apologies for absence: Councillor Uvencio Blanco, members Gihan El-Sahhar, Jérôme Maufra, Radislav Atanassov, Jerry Nash, Vlad Ungureanu. A most unusual occurrence was that several of the people attending the meeting, which was open to all, refused to sign the attendance sheet.

Chairman **Ali Nihat Yazici** opened the meeting. He thanked His Excellency Kirsan Nikolayevich Ilyumzhinov for having appointed him as Chairman of the Commission for a second time (2004 & 2010). He referred to the general acceptance of CiS and expressed his thanks for the help and appreciation received from federations. He went on to restate the principles behind the main approach of CiS :

- For FIDE, CiS is neither a social project, nor a program to generate Grandmasters. The CiS approach of FIDE is to focus on primary schools with the aim to introduce chess to young children to help their education.

- CiS is not a charity. It is very important that there should be a benefit for our members – the national chess federations. We are not UNICEF, UNESCO or the Red Crescent to make donations, we are FIDE, with basic aims to:
  - Access millions of children in primary schools
  - Direct the maximum number of these children towards membership of our national federations.

It has been notable that in 2010 and 2014 both candidates for the FIDE Presidential election have given a great deal of attention to chess in schools.

Chess in schools has been on the agenda in the history of chess in the last century, but only some federations have begun to benefit from it during the last decade. Now it is different since we are using chess in schools as the engine for federation growth, part of a total management package.

The management package is based upon a Master Plan. What does that mean? The Tunisian Master Plan is being shared publicly, so that you can get a clear idea of what is involved. It is attached as Appendix 1.

Chairman gave the floor to Mr Israel Gelfer.

**FIDE Vice President Israel Gelfer** praised the CiS team and thanked them for their hard work. He also stated that the future of chess education lies not with any one individual, but in cooperation with FIDE-CiS.

**FIDE Vice President Lewis Ncube** echoed Mr Gelfer's comments. In view of the widespread use of the Internet, it is important to increase the access and use of the extensive materials available on the CiS web site ([cis.fide.com](http://cis.fide.com)). He encouraged all federations to take a closer look at that material. Federations should be proactive and if they need help, they should be able to pinpoint specific items lacking in their Master Plan, rather than just crying 'help!'

**CiS Chairman** mentioned his personal decision to stop distributing material to federations during the last twelve months to avoid any link with election matters. Nothing has been sent since Tallinn. Bulk shipments will recommence from 16 August. The production of previous material was centralized because of the requirements of Rosneft sponsorship (Rosneft's large sponsorship manual had to be complied with), but in future federations will be financed to order direct from their own suppliers.

As for our activities over the past four years, you will decide on 11 August 2014.

Chairman expressed his special thanks to Executive Secretary Mr O'Connell, mentioning that much of our success could be attributed to his hard work, without which we would have been on a lower level.

**CiS Executive Secretary** Kevin O'Connell spoke about the materials on the CiS web site (cis.fide.com) and where and how to find it, stressing the free availability of the FIDE Student Magazine and the teaching materials. He also stressed that the title of 'Chess in Schools' is something of a misnomer because we are concerned with chess in kindergartens, in primary schools, in secondary and high schools, in colleges, in universities and research into the benefits of chess. **Chess for Education** would be more appropriate.

**CiS Councillor** Ravindra Dongre spoke about the remarkable Indian experience. In Tamil Nadu 54,000 chess teachers were trained in just one year. Another highlight was the translation of FIDE-CiS teaching material into the Marathi language for use in the state of Maharashtra. The impact that chess in schools can have was shown by the discussions with the sponsor of the World Junior Championship whose interest perked up when the figure of 250 schools in Maharashtra was mentioned.

**CiS Councillor** Alexander Kostyev spoke of his delight at seeing, after 27 years experience of the CiS Commission, the turn since 2010 from discussion to activity! FIDE's future is in chess in schools. We must work at developing the methodology of how to teach the teachers to teach chess to the children. He asked EVE to consider developing a University Team Championship.

**Higher Education Research Adviser** Malola Prasath Thittanimuttam Sundaramadhavan spoke of his two year journey since his appointment to the Commission. He stressed the importance of our need to establish proof of domain transference of benefits from chess education. He has spoken with 81 Universities and many other institutions. UNESCO's IBE (International Bureau of Education) and International Institute do not have any example of an organization working in a large number of countries, hence their great interest in our FIDE-CiS program. Research is needed to recycle the data generated in chess, especially with respect to the Millenium Development Plan (which runs until 2015) and the UN Disability Convention (also 2015), therefore now is the right time to tie these things together. We should invite international organizations to cooperate with FIDE.

**Special Advisor on Higher Education** Susan Polgar mentioned her heavy involvement over the last seven years in university chess, which is very developed in the USA. She encouraged all to approach universities in their countries and encourage them to follow this example and to start competitions, echoing Mr Kostyev's call on EVE. She also mentioned the new *Journal of Chess Research*.

**CiS Chairman** responded to some of the above points, especially the need to move in the area of research with the help of Malola and Prof. Caner Açıkada, before moving on to reports from the continents. He expressed his special thanks to Continental President for Asia Sheikh Sultan Bin Khalifa Al-Nehyan, Continental President of the Americas Jorge Vega and Continental President for Africa Lakhdar Mazouz.

## EUROPE

**Slovakia** Martin Huba described how his small federation, then with only 200 junior members, clubs full of old guys and the average age climbing, have used their CiS program to build. The program is now in more than 240 schools (of 1800 total in the country). They now have more schools involved than they had junior members four years ago! He referred to our desperate need for **proper accreditation of chess education** and that universities should be persuaded to provide that additional level.

**Chairman** pointed to one of the developments and how it could have been used to build the federation. The Slovak Chess Federation has a total budget of about €150,000, one third of which comes from the state. The Slovak School Championship is organized completely free and had 6,000 children competing. Had they paid €10 each (a quite small sum in most European countries), that would have been an extra €60,000 for the federation. This is a good example of the kind of thing that should be included in any **Master Plan** and a good lesson to learn from our experience.

**Ukraine** Olena Boytun spoke about the mission of the All-Ukrainian Charity Foundation "Chess for Children" (Founder, President WIM Olena Boytsun) is to discover the potential of every child through engaging children into a game of chess. The Foundation implemented 7 projects and organized 20 events all over Ukraine. In April 2014 the foundation was declared "Social Initiative of the Year" by the Sport Committee of Ukraine.

One of the consistent parts of the development of chess among children in Ukraine is the FIDE program "Chess in Schools". The project "Chess Ukraine" supports establishing new chess clubs and schools all over Ukraine as well as providing consultations, chess equipment and literature etc. In 2012 the foundation in cooperation with the Ukrainian Chess Federation organized the first national seminar "Chess in schools: theory and practice". Over 60 leading chess specialists from all over Ukraine took part at the workshop. The participants were chess trainers and teachers, methodologists, heads of schools and centers, authors of teaching books on chess etc. During 2012-2014 57 schools are united in an informational network and receive support from the foundation. For "Chess Ukraine" project it is also important to have a training of chess teachers. In 2013 a new modern chess club and a chess school for children was opened in Krivoy Rog. The highest in the world 5-meter tall chess marble piece is also situated at the local art square near the club. The chess school is equipped in accordance with the standards of FIDE. On the basis of the center the training of chess teachers is also organized. Within the project 'Literary Chess' a fiction book by Olena Boytsun «Babish Gilzi plays Chess» was published by the major Ukrainian house «Folio». The book as well as didactic materials, games with basic rules of chess based on the book and chess promotion posters are popular among teachers of the pupils up to 9 years old and is distributed among schools that are participants of the «Chess Ukraine» project.

(see Reports also for 2014\_UKR2\_2013-2015-CharityProgram-ChessForChildren-eng.pdf)

## **ASIA**

**China** GM Ye Jiangchuan (General Secretary) and Abigail Tian described the Chinese experience: There are more than 500 chess schools in China. Since Xie Jun became the World Woman Champion 1991, chess has been promoted in China greatly.

There are two ways to encourage chess promotion in China. One is to try to get support from the government. We have persuaded the Ministry of Sport and the Ministry of Education to support us. Both Ministries issued a notice to all the schools to include chess (and another two mind games Go and Xiangqi together) into the schools in 2002. Since then, chess has been taught in many schools in China. Another way is that we mobilize the headmasters or the principles to join us to promote chess in schools. We organized the seminars for the headmasters and principals to let them realize that chess has both the functions of competition and education. Chess can make the students more active in academics. In this way, chess can be easily promoted in schools.

Nowadays chess has very good marketing in China. Many coaches and trainers go to the schools to teach chess free of charge. They develop their own players in the schools. More and more students gained from playing chess. After school, their parents are willing to pay more money to give their kids private lessons. So the marketing become bigger and bigger. Many college graduates who learnt chess before gave up their own profession and came back to train kids. In this way, they earn more than ordinary staff.

We hope to cooperate with CIS commission and learn from other countries that have done well in this field.

**CiS Chairman** responded that he had visited Chongqing for the conference and had been very impressed by the school with its 3500-4000 kids and five chess classrooms. He continued that we should watch out for Nepal; he had never seen such media support in such a small country.

**Nepal** Rajesh Joshi spoke about the recent launch of the CiS project in Nepal. A TRG Seminar in Kathmandu had produced 48 trainers. They succeeded in getting government support, but are in competition with football and cricket, both of which benefit from full time trainers. Chess material has been purchased with government support. The federation can do miracles but wants material and financial support from FIDE, including 5 sets and a demo board for each of 100 schools, as well as chess clocks.

**CiS Chairman** pointed out that CiS does not provide any clocks – they are simply not part of a social project, but relate to high level chess and spoke of cooperation with DEV & TRG for that.

**Pakistan** Dr Naeem Hamid Mirza said that, following CiS Chairman's visit, they were in contact with 150-200 schools and are working on completing their Master Plan. He pleaded the case of Pakistan for special help since they have 50 million children, all of whom speak the one language (Urdu), while 90% also have English. The federation has already created a lot of infrastructure and has nearly completed the translation to Urdu of a full set of teaching materials supplied by CiS.

**Bangladesh** Gazi Shayiful Tarique described the historic achievement of producing five GMs even though they had not received government support. They have 160+ schools ready to start a program.

if we start nursing our children for chess... we will get more

**Chinese Taipei** Dina Mei-Fang Chen described a series of roadshows they had organized. These had turned up both schools and teachers interested in a CiS program. They want to start a CiS program and will soon complete their Master Plan. They are also looking to cooperate with China in order to add Chinese as the 12<sup>th</sup> language for the FIDE Student Magazines and web sites.

**Asian Chess Federation** General Secretary and **UAE** Board member Hisham Al-Taher mentioned that the Asian federation recently added an under-5 section to their continental youth championships. He stated that the ACF can provide support and is ready to help federations both financially and technically and is looking for better cooperation with CiS. He spoke to the need of a unified syllabus/curriculum [*ed.: see CiS discussions with UNESCO's IBE*].

**Iran** Hadi Karimi (see Reports) spoke about the special department of the Ministry of Education responsible for children with learning difficulties. He has attached to his report two research papers: Effects of Formal Chess Education on Working Memory Pre School Students (full text) and Impact of Training of Chess on Executive Functions (Functions of Planning, Problemsolving, Attention and Flexibility) of Dyslexic elementary School Second Graders of City of Tehran (abstract; full text will be made available after publication).

**Israel** VP Israel Gelfer asked to make a special announcement:

go to the CiS web site

all the material you need is there

you should spread the word about this resource

## **AFRICA**

**Kenya** Githinji Hinga was very critical of CiS. He felt that most reports concerned only what the federations had done and that we should state what is internal and what help has been provided by the commission. They have received 5,000 boards and sets from Kasparov Chess Foundation Africa and they have been distributed to 1,000 schools. He asked 'what is the commission doing?'

**Chairman** answered that he had sent three emails to Kenya during the last year, none of which had received an answer.

**CiS Councillor** Ravindra Dongre was moved to respond that we are not here to take applause, but the facts remain that CiS was created to drive chess into the schools and has been extremely successful in doing that around the world.

**Nigeria** Adeyemi Olalekan was also very critical, but was confusing numbers of FIDE Student members [we showed the top ten countries, Nigeria having 140] with children playing chess in schools [of which, of course, there are far more than 140 in the country].

Chairman answered that he had sent two emails to Nigeria in the last year, neither of which was answered [dates were mentioned].

**Malawi** Kezzie Msukwa said that since the training seminar provided by CiS, there has been a great improvement in chess enthusiasm among the young, leading to pressure on the federation to provide material and he recommended that FIDE should give more support to CiS so that we may provide more assistance to federations.

**Sudan** Tarig Ali Zaroug said that we need to do more for Africa. He asked what percentage of the CiS budget is spent in Africa [we consider this to be impossible/meaningless to answer since much of the commission's expenditure goes not on materials or seminars but on things that cannot be apportioned, such as the web site, teaching materials, magazines, translation and so on]. He also stated that the CiS Commission financial report should have been included in the agenda for the meeting.

**Zimbabwe** Charles Tawonerera Kuwaza said that CiS work has been fantastic.

(South Africa) Audile Mbeki (Trustee of Moves for Life) said that we should focus on the image of chess in schools and be positive. He queried our statement concerning South Africa on p31 of our 4 year report. He said that his organization was working in 110 schools with 55,000 kids.

**Mauritius** Hurrynarain Bhowany said that their CiS program was a big success and that by 2016 chess would be in all schools and colleges in the country.

**Senegal** Mactar Sokhna, a Master of Education and also a FIDE Developmental Instructor, said they can have the teachers trained, but material is their problem.

**Ethiopia** Hailu Gizaw Assefa, new Treasurer of the federation, said that nothing had been received from CiS, while the Kasparov Chess Foundation Africa was working in Ethiopia.

[This highlighted a problem of lack of continuity; a new federation official being unaware of what had previously happened. In this case, boards and sets had been delivered by CiS as well as training seminars for School Instructors and for Trainers, but these were done prior to Mr Assefa's appointment.]

**Botswana** Roger Tiroyamodimo reported that their Ministry of Education says that the curriculum system cannot be changed to include chess but nonetheless supports the inclusion of chess in the schools. Centres, sponsored by the Botswana Mining Company have been set up in the last couple of years and teachers trained to work in them. FIDE-CiS was thanked for its support, especially the preparation of a presentation to the Minister which

was very helpful. The current plan is to train at least one teacher for all the 780+ schools in the country; chess is there, but the chess teachers are in short supply. The slogan of the federation could be adopted elsewhere:

one family, one chess set

**Gambia** There are two Ministries of Education, one for Basic and one for Higher Education. They began a CiS project this year in 30 schools and are eagerly awaiting the delivery of boards and sets from CiS.

## **AMERICAS**

**USA** – Ruth Haring referred to the Supnationals, a nationwide tournament for school children of all ages organized by the USCF, which attracted 5335 competitors at the final in Nashville, TN in 2013. A nice video of this event, including the thoughts and reactions of many of the children, was shown later in the session and can be found here (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sn8I3j7CKUs>) or in the videos section of our web site.

David Mehler then reported on the Washington DC program that has been running since 1991 (see the Reports section of our web site). Over the years, some 30,000 students have passed through the program in more than 80 public schools. In tune with FIDE-CiS, the object is not to create strong players, but to improve academic performance and social skills. Their web site (<http://www.chessctr.org/>) can tell you more and has materials available for free download.

**Puerto Rico** Cristobal Vega reported that during CiS Chairman's visit in April this year, they asked him how to get support from the national authorities. CiS Chairman advised them to go and talk to some Senators. They took this advice and spoke to Senator Power Nadal about the need to improve the CiS program in the country. As a result, in June, the Government passed resolution 432, with the award of US\$200,000 for the program. He thanked the CiS Chairman and expressed the federation's appreciation for his experience.

**Trinidad & Tobago** Anderson Gordon referred to the Memorandum of Understanding that had been signed between FIDE, the Ministry of Education and the national chess federation. Unfortunately, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry had changed and it had taken a while to gain momentum. They now have 12 schools on board. CiS Chairman, during his visit to the islands, spoke with the new Director of Education, who wanted the program to be implemented in 70 schools in Trinidad and 10 in Tobago. The federation arranged for schools in the San Fernando region of Trinidad and all across Tobago to become involved and about 20 schools will be starting this year. Two training sessions for teachers, one in Trinidad, the other in Tobago were provided by FIDE-CiS. CiS, together with the national federation, has also developed a CAPE module for chess and this is to be a component of the training of physical education teachers.



**Uruguay** CiS member Enrique Celi Frugoni passed the baton to his compatriot Esteban Jaureguizar, who presented *Ajedrez Educativo en Uruguay*, together with a commentary in English. The presentation, featuring both Chess for Education and Chess for Competition, is in Reports, but a few highlights: the federation is pleased with a 400% growth in the number of competitors in junior events over the last three years; 192 teachers have been trained (in courses lasting 72 hours, settling into a rhythm of four regional courses per year) since 2012 and are teaching about 7,000 children; the software program *Ajedrez y Leyendas* has had 100,000 downloads and 30,000 kids from more than 500 schools took part in the connected competition. In parallel, the university project *Ajedrez Udelar* includes research into the value of chess in education (reporting September 2014). While *Ajedrez para la Convivencia* is a social project created last year uses chess to develop social inclusion; its most emblematic manifestation being *El ajedrez sale a la Calle* (Chess comes to the Street). The report further describes the ways in which the federation ties all these activities in to the development of the national chess federation.

## COOPERATION

CiS welcomes cooperation with other organizations, both internal (such as TRG, CDC, DEV) and external.

GM Thomas Luther, Chairman of CDC, spoke of the value of cooperation between our two commissions for bringing chess education to the blind, the deaf and the physically disabled.

We showed the inspirational video of Hande nur Sahin which has been one of the most popular videos on our site since we posted it three and a half years ago - <http://cis.fide.com/en/videos/102-no-handicap-for-chess-in-school-tsif>.

Malola Prasath also reported on our way forward in this area. The full text of that report (FIDE Innovating in the World of Higher Education Research) is in the Reports section of our web site. He concluded:

We need to participate as a partner in transitioning the millennium development plan, that offers greater commitment to shaping education of the future.

We should focus on developing international co-operative projects, through our events, for targeting the application of chess in schools to drive clear insights into how we can help transition our 'smart chess playing children', into 'agents of positive change for the future' of international cooperation.

CiS Chairman closed the meeting.

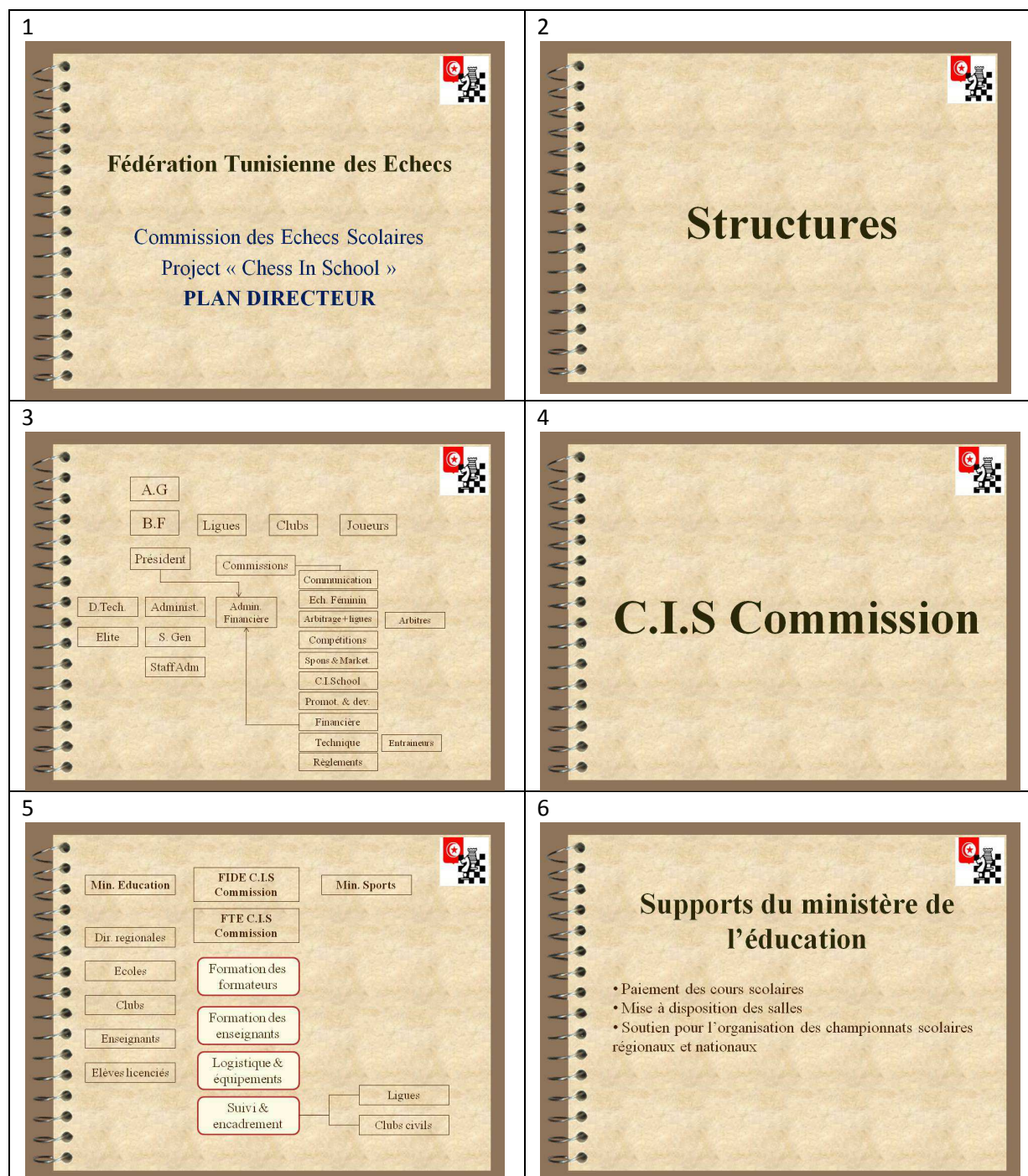
Ali Nihat Yazici  
CiS Chairman

Kevin O'Connell  
Executive Secretary

Alexander Kostyev  
Councillor

Ravindra Dongre  
Councillor

**Tromso**  
**2014 08 06**





7

## Supports du ministère des sports

- Soutien pour la participation de l'élite au championnat du monde scolaire
- Mise à disposition des salles de sport pour les grands événements échéphiles

8

## Education des Echecs basée sur Internet

9

## Supports de formation

- Création d'une chaîne Youtube pour publier des leçons en dialecte tunisien (environ 300 leçons)
- Diffusion d'une newsletter aux licenciés et aux établissements scolaires
- Publication d'articles sur le site web de la fédération tunisienne des Echecs
- Diffusion du module d'initiation aux Echecs sur le site Edunet

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## Objectifs de croissance & ressources

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## Objectifs

	2015	2016	2017
Clubs scolaires	100	200	400
Joueurs	5000	10000	20000
Animateurs	100	200	400

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## Principales ressources

- Licences scolaires: 10 dt / élève par an donnant droit à
  - Manuel scolaire des Echecs
  - Cours
  - Participation aux compétitions scolaires
  - Accès gratuit à l'académie en ligne
- Licences de formateurs: 30 dt / an
  - Manuel du formateur
  - Diplôme
  - Formation

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## Medias & relations publiques

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## Actions médiatiques

- Couverture médiatique de toutes les activités scolaires
- Reportage sur les clubs et écoles pilotes
- Page Facebook « Echecs pour Tous »: Atteindre 300 000 fans
- Diffusion de spots promotionnels sur Facebook + Youtube + TV
- Rubrique « Echecs » permanente dans « La Presse Magasine »
- Emission TV hebdomadaire sur la chaîne TV Almutawassit



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## Sponsoring & financement des clubs



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### Actions

- Création d'un dossier de sponsoring unifié et professionnel
- Formation des dirigeants des clubs civils sur les techniques de sponsoring et de marketing
- Formation des organisateurs d'événements échéphiles



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## Planning de Formation des enseignants



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### Actions

- Organiser un séminaire de formation des formateurs. Ces formateurs doivent avoir les diplômes FIDE. Durée: 5 j/ 4 nuitées.
- Organiser des cycles de formation en groupe de 20 personnes durant la période. Durée de chaque session: 4j/3 nuitées.

Sessions	Période	Sessions
Formation des formateurs	1 <sup>er</sup> au 15 Aout	1
Formation des enseignants	15 Aout – 15 Septembre	5



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## Formation des arbitres



20

### Actions

- Organiser chaque année au moins:
- Un séminaire de formation pour les nouveaux arbitres nationaux (NA)
  - Une session de recyclage et de mise à niveau



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## Championnat national par équipe



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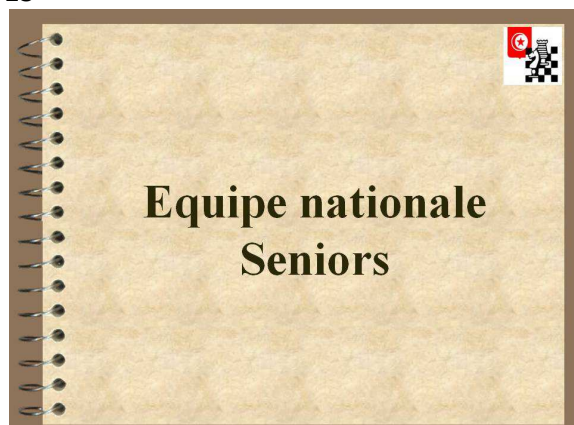
### Tableau Recap

Div	2014	Passage aux autres div	2015	2017
Div 2	52	(+6)	80	150
Honneur	20	(+4,-6)		
National B	10	(-4,+2)		
National A	10	(-2)		

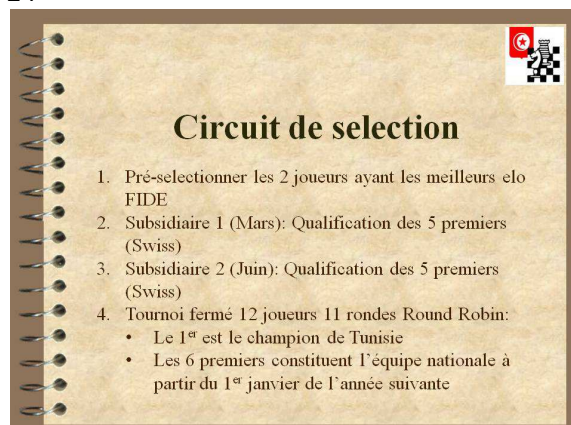




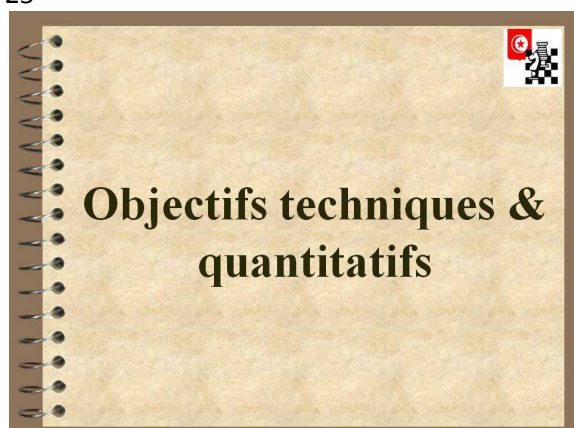
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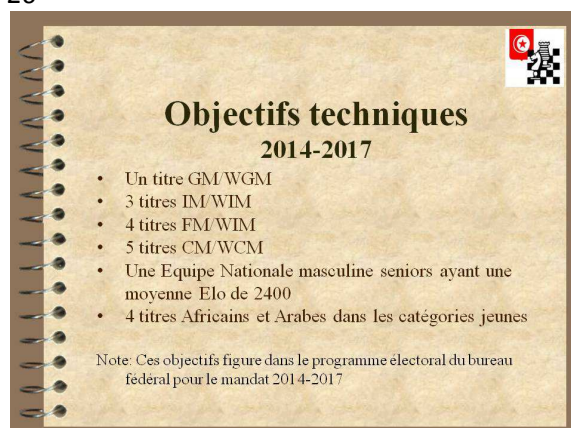
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