

*79th FIDE Congress
17-25 November
Congress Centre, Dresden, Germany*

**Continental Meeting for Asia
MINUTES
22 November 2008**

Chairman: Sheikh Sultan Bin Khalifa Al Nehyan

Present: F. Campomanes (PHI), I. Leong (SIN), C. Abundo (PHI), H. Al Taher (UAE), M. Pahlevanzadeh (IRI), A. Chaudhry (PAK), B. Asanov (KAZ), H. Albitar (SYR), C. A Nemri (LIB), V. de Asa (FIJ), M. Maddahi (IRI), L. Wijesuriya (SRI), R. Joshi (NEP), D. V. Sundar (IND), B. Singh (IND), H. Rashid (BAN), E. Park (KOR), M. Watai (JPN), D. Madhloom (IRQ), H. Reimova (TKM), I. Al Bannai (UAE), G. Altanoch (MGL), Ko0fei L. (TPE), K/ So;veoromha (MAC), G. Beklkeer (AUS), O Abu Bakkar (MAS), S. Nakvanich ((THA), Tian H. (CHN), P. Ambarurmi (INA), P. Viner (AUS), B. Jones (PNG), A. Kerim (YEM), A. Jaradat (JOR).

Section A: Administrative Matters

1. Representation by Asian President Sheikh Sultan bin Khalifah Al Nahyan

Sheikh Sultan reported on his activities and the coming Asian Club Cup in Al Ain, UAE. The Assembly noted the close ties between Sheikh Sultan and Olympic Council of Asia President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al Sabah of Kuwait and that chess shall be in the 16th Asian Games in Guangzhou, China. Sheikh Sultan recalled the great successes of Asia this year exemplified by the victory of World Champion Viswanathan Anand and the organization of world events in Asia such as the World Mind Sports Games in China and the World Youth in Vietnam, and thanked the federations for their hard work.

The Assembly noted that Sheikh Sultan in his capacity as Asian Chess Federation president attended the FIDE Presidential Board meeting in Athens, Greece and opened the World Mind Sports Games in Beijing, China, making the ceremonial moves. Sheikh Sultan personally answered the appeal for assistance from the Myanmar Chess Federation which suffered extensive damage from the cyclone. The President also assisted the chess federations of Afghanistan, Iran, India, Lebanon, Nepal, Palestine, Papua New Guinea, Uzbekistan and Zone 3.6 for various projects. The President also opened the Asian Chess Academy in Dubai and shall soon inaugurate the Academy in Oman.

2. Affiliations

The Assembly welcomed the chess federations of Bhutan (to Zone 3.2) and Solomon Islands (to Zone 3.6) into the FIDE Asian family. This shall bring the total to 47 federations in Asia. Serious discussions are being held with Ministry and sports officials in Oman.

3. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mehrdad Pahlevanzadeh reported on the financial statements. Federations in arrears were requested to please settle their dues. It was emphasized that the funds received from member federations will be used for development of member federations.

Section B: Committees

4. Arbiters Pool

Secretary General Hisham Al Taher invited all Asian federations to submit their nominees for a selection list of Arbiters in Asian events, with each Arbiter's chess bio data. The Asian Assembly approved the proposal that the Chief Arbiter of an official Asian event should be from a federation different from that of the organizing federation.

5. Tournament Bidding

Bids were received for events in 2009 and 2010. Priority was given to joint bids for Men's (Open) and Women's Championships to be organized jointly.

6. Marketing Program

Secretary General Hisham Al Taher invited all Asian federations to submit information on their players, clubs and federation officials for publication on the Asian web site in order gather data and approach sponsors.

7. Development Program

In response to requests for assistance for Training Programs, the Asian Chess Federation is supporting the Training Programs in Sri Lanka, Nepal and Maldives with grants of \$2,000 each.

The Assembly noted that chess clocks from CACDEC were being distributed to federations and the membership was asked to send suggestions for future application of CACDEC assistance.

The Asian Chess Federation offered Swiss Manager software to all Asian federations who do not have this official tool. Swiss Manager software was given to the chess federations of: Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brunei, Maldives, Macau, Chinese Taipei, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Qatar.

The Asian Chess Federation has financially supported Zone Presidents for their office communication expenses.

Section C: Tournaments and Matches

All India Chess Federation Secretary D. V. Sundar called on all Asian federations to more actively send players to official Asian championships. Deputy President C. Abundo said that what usually happens is that participation was dependent on proximity for reduced travel expense.

8. 1st Asian Club Cup

The Asian Chess Federation shall organize the 1st Asian Club Cup from 24 to 30 December 2008 in Al Ain, UAE. Invitations have been sent to federations.

9. 2009 Asian Men's (Open) and Women's Championships

The National Chess Federation of the Philippines shall organize the 2009 Asian Men's and Women's Championships jointly in May in Subic Bay Freeport. In addition to the grant from FIDE, an additional prize fund of \$18,000 shall be added to the Men's for a total prize fund of \$50,000. In addition to the grant from FIDE, an additional prize fund of \$11,000 shall be added to the women's for a total prize fund of \$15,000.

10. 2009 Asian Cities for the Dubai Cup

The Lebanese Chess Federation shall organize the 2009 Asian Cities for the Dubai Cup. Dubai Chess Club president Ibrahim Al Bannai confirmed that the City of Dubai shall continue with its grant to the event. The Sri Lanka Chess Federation was given the second option.

11. 2009 Asian Youth Championship Under-8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18

The All India Chess Federation shall organize the 2009 Asian Youth Championship Under-8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18 for boys and girls, to be held all together in either Delhi or Chennai. Deputy President Abundo emphasized the need to hold it all together in one venue.

12. 2009 Asian Team Championship

The All India Chess Federation shall organize the 2009 Asian Team Championship in either Mumbai or Kolkotta.

13. 2009 Asian Juniors and Girls Championships Under-20

The Sri Lanka Chess Federation shall organize the 2009 Asian Juniors and Girls Championships Under-20 from 20 to 28 May 2009 in Colombo.

14. 2009 Asian Schools Under-7, 9, 11, 13, 15

The Sri Lanka Chess Federation shall organize the 2009 Asian Schools Under-7, 9, 11, 13 and 15 from 5 to 12 August 2009 in Colombo.

15. 2010 Asian Men's and Women's Championships

National Chess Federation of the Philippines president Prospero Pichay said that since there were no other bids, the Philippines shall organize the 2010 Asian Men's and Women's Championships.

16. 2010 Asian Youth Championship Under-8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18

The Asian Chess Federation shall organize the 2010 Asian Youth Under-8, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18 in a Southeast Asian venue such as Bangkok. Deputy President C. Abundo said that the event has in recent years always been in East Asia and the President's wished to allow more participation from Southeast Asian and Oceania federations.

17. 2010 Asian Juniors and Girls Championships Under-20

The All India Chess Federation shall organize the 2010 Asian Junior and Girls Under-20 in either Delhi or Mumbai.

18. 2010 Asian Schools Under-7, 9, 11, 13, 15

The All India Chess Federation shall organize the 2010 Asian Schools Under-7, 9, 11, 13 and 15 championships in either Mumbai, Visakapatnam or Hyderabad.

19. Asian Zonals

Zonal championships are scheduled in 2009. The Asian Chess Federation shall continue its financial assistance of \$5,000 prize fund per zone.

20. Proposed Asia vs. Europe Match 2009

The European Chess Union invites the Asian Chess Federation to organize the return Asia vs. Europe Rapid Chess Match. FIDE Secretary General Ignatius Leong explained that the system in the first match was with six men, six women in a double round Scheveningen. Sheikh Sultan said that the Asian Chess Federation shall organize the event.

21. Asian Indoor Games, Vietnam 2009

Chess is a medal sport in the 3rd Asian Indoor Games in September in Halongbay, Vietnam, two and a half hours from Hanoi.

22. Asian Cup 2010

Secretary General Hisham Al Taher proposes institution of the Asian Cup to be organized by the Asian Chess Federation. The top 24 Asian teams from the Olympiad qualify into four groups, then the top two qualify to the knockout state of Quarter Finals, Semi Finals and Finals. The Asian Assembly approved.

23. Asian Games, Guangzhou 2010

The Assembly noted the letter of support from Sheikh Ahmad, President of the Olympic Council of Asia. A delegation of the Asian Chess Federation shall visit the Olympic Council of Asia in Kuwait.

Section D: Other Matters

24. Proposed Representation by Citizenship.

On proposal by National Chess Federation of the Philippines president Prospero Pichay, the Asian Assembly approved that Olympic Council of Asia eligibility rules shall apply for the Asian Team Championship. It was pointed out that this is a transitory application of the citizenship and residency requirements because it does not apply to individual or other Asian team events.

25. Special Awards

In order to give recognition to the chess workers in Asia, the Asian Chess Federation shall give special awards for the Year. The President appointed a Committee to be chaired by Deputy President C. Abundo and composed of Messrs. M. Pahlevanzadeh, D. V. Sundar, G. Bekker and B. Asanov, to consider categories and awardees to be announced at the end of the year. The Asian Assembly approved.

26. Closing Remarks

Asian Chess Federation President Sheikh Sultan bin Khalifah Al Nahyan thanked the members for attending the meeting and congratulated the federations for their work. He looked forward to more federations joining the Asian chess family in future.

Sheikh Sultan bin Khalifah Al Nahyan
President
Asian Chess Federation