

Commission for Women's Chess (WOM)

Congress Istanbul - Report

2 September 2012

Presenter: Chairperson S. Polgar

R. Haring (USA), Chenjun (CHN), A. Karlovich (UKR), G. Sahhar (EGY), B. Tserendorj (MGL), B. Marinello (USA), Hou Yifan (CHN), A. Ferreira (POR), L. Santos (POR), G. Debessu (ETH), B. Balgabaev (RUS), R. Eduard Dappa (NIG), I. Lobortas (UKR), E. Kadyrova (UKR), M. Fierro (ECU), I. Leong (SIN), T. Hongwei (CHN), B. A. Madani (ALG), C. Altanoch (MGL), J. Vega (GUA)

Presentation "Caissa Award 2011"

- The chairperson of the WOM Susan Polgar presented the "Caissa Award 2011" to reigning Women World Champion to GM Hou Yifan who was voted as the winner of this prestigious award for her great achievements in 2011 (which included defending her world title, winning the Women's World Grand Prix, and breaking the 2600 rating mark). On behalf of the Classic Jewelry House Lobortas, Mr. Igor Lobortas (of Kiev, Ukraine) along with the artist who designed the beautiful statue (made out of silver, gold and diamonds) were in attendance and assisted the Chairperson in presenting Hou Yifan her award.

State of Women's chess / prizes

- Susan Polgar presented information about the increased numbers, and improved levels in women's chess around the world

Report on WOM activities

FIDE ARBITER SEMINARS

- The WOM in the last two years has organized three online FIDE Arbiter Seminars. These seminars gave the opportunity for women from all around the world (27 countries!) to achieve FA norms and gain valuable experience.

FIDE TRAINER SEMINAR

- The WOM organized a FIDE Trainer Seminar in South Africa, where many women participated and became certified trainers.

Promotional Trips

- Chairperson Susan Polgar traveled to South Africa for a promotional visit to encourage and motivate more girls to continue and improve in chess. It was a 5 days trip which included a Trainer Seminar, simul, lectures, media events Q/A etc.
- Councilor GM Xie Jun traveled to South Korea to work with girls and promote women's chess there.

Website

- A new revamped version of the WOM website has launched with up to date information on women's chess.

WOM Commission member *Gihan El Sahhar* (Egypt) mentioned an issue that affected several young players. Due to the conflict of dates of various Continental and /or World FIDE events, it forced them to choose one over the other. She asked if in the future it would be possible to avoid clashing dates.

FIDE Vice-President *Beatriz Marinello* (USA) reported about her successful meetings with *U.N. Women* Executive Director, Dr. Michelle Bachelet. The initial projects would focus on leadership and participation by introducing chess to young girls ages 5-7. Ms. Marinello informed us of her work in having a grant written which would finance the project.

Mr. Santos (Portugal) shared his valuable experience teaching chess in 30 public schools over 21 years to about a total of 100,000 children. He mentioned that when it came to learning, the ratio were around 50-50 between boys and girls. However, when it came to optional competition s (with free entries fees)

only about 5 % of the girls registered to play. Despite, how low the attendance was among girls, about 40 % of all winners were girls!

PLANS

WOM plans to organize and /or facilitate Arbiters' and Trainer's seminar yearly;

WOM plans to organize Promotional trips to raise more visibility and recognition for women's chess and to advance girls chess around the world

Proposed issues to PB

As per the recommendation of General Secretary Ignatius Leong the WOM would like to request to increase each commission's board by including at least two female members.

WOM would like to request that women members of Developing countries (formerly known as CACDEC) would be waived their Trainer's title and license application fees.

WOM would like to be involved rules/format issues relating to women's events, such as the Women's World Championship, Grand Prix etc.

WOM would like a representative (Chairperson or secretary) to be invited to future PB meetings.

WOM would like to request, FIDE to include a higher % of female arbiter's in FIDE official events. Our goal is to have at least 20% women at major FIDE events, especially on the youth and junior level.