

AFRICAN CHESS UNION REPORT – 2009 FIDE CONGRESS (HLKIDIKI, GREECE)

1. AFRICA YOUTH CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

The inaugural Africa Youth Chess Championship took place in Cape Town (South Africa) from 30 June to 9 July 2009. Ten countries participated in the event – Algeria, Botswana, Egypt, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Sao Tome & Principe, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Egypt dominated the open section, winning U12, U16 and U18 with South Africa winning the U10 and U14. South Africa dominated the girls section winning all but the U16 age category, which was won by Algeria.

AFRICA INDIVIDUAL CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

The Africa Individual Chess Championship took place in Tripoli, Libya over the period 20 to 31 July 2009. Egypt dominated the open section, winning positions 1 to 6, with Algeria breaking the monotony by coming on seventh position. The open section was won by GM Amin Bassem with 7 points while South Africa's WIM Greeff Melissa won the ladies event with 7 points (on a tie break against WIN Mezioud Amina of Algeria).

2. AFRICA CHESS TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

Plans to stage the Africa Team Chess Championship in 2009 could not bear fruit. The event was to be hosted by Kenya who later indicated facing financial challenges. Although Mozambique was ready to rescue the situation, there was not enough lead time between invitation and the proposed dates for the event. The event was eventually cancelled.

3. AFRICAN CHESS ADMINISTRATORS' SEMINAR

As part of an initiative by the Turkish Chess Federation to support African chess, plans are underway to hold the first African Chess Administrator Seminar in Sudan in December 2009. Preparations are gathering momentum, courtesy of the Khartoum Chess Federation.

Efforts to have this seminar held in Kenya in May and later Algeria in August could not materialise due to a variety of reasons.

Africa remains thankful for the Turkish Chess Federation generosity in supporting chess development in the continent.

4. ARTIC CHESS CHALLENGE

The event took place as planned but participation from Africa was marred by the not-so-smooth logistical arrangements.

5. 2009 African Junior Chess Championship

The 2009 edition of the African Junior Chess Championship will be held in Egypt from 30 December. The venue and other related details are still to be communicated by the host.