

To : Miss Stephanie Noethen, IPC
Chairman & Members of ITTC

From : Silas Chiang, Technical Delegate for Table Tennis, 8th
Busan Fespac Games

On : 14th November, 2002

Re : TD Evaluation Report on Table Tennis Competition in
the 8th Busan Fespac Games, 27-30 Nov.2002

Background

The Games Organizing Committee had done an excellent job in the preparations and actual organization of the Games. In fact, they had also organized an international Conference “The Future Direction of Fespac & IPC in the 21st Century” held prior to the Games. The IPC President Mr. Philip Craven and the IPC Technical Officer Ms Carol Mushett were invited to give speech and lectures.

A total of 2400 participants from 40 member nations/territories in the region took part in 17 sports. In the history of Fespac Games we had 16 of them, including Table Tennis, being sanctioned by the respective IPC Sports.

Though as usual, language was always a problem at the beginning, everything went on well and there were seldom complaints from the chefs de missions or TDs, perhaps except one from power-lifting whose complaints however were mainly due to pre-event communication on the part of the sport itself. Yet it seems quite necessary that a general TD manual will be needed in order to make the TDs and organizers alike understand the responsibilities of each other.

It is also noted that the Busan Organizer had generously provided all officials tailor-made suits. An extra coat was also provided to all athletes due to the unexpected cold weather during the Games.

Athletes Village

The village was purposely built for the Asian Games and the Fespac Games, and same as those in Seoul in 1988, they were all sold out before the Games started. Units were of 3 bedrooms with kitchen and bathroom, wide enough for wheelchair users. Each team was given, according to the team size an office area for the team meeting and administration. Very convenient indeed.

Facilities in the village included Bank, Post Office, Hospital, Shopping Centre, Cultural Centre, Theme Park, Sports Information Centre plus numerous meeting rooms. Being the Executive member of the Fespac Federation I was accommodated

in the Headquarters hotel, the Paradise Hotel.

Transportation/Meals

Shuttle buses between village and venues at an appropriate intervals were scheduled. Each team was further provided with cars, vans and/or buses so that specific arrangements could be made within the team. Mobile phones and interpreters at venues were also provided for key officials. Meals were provided 24 hours at the village with meal boxes also available for players and team members at competition venues.

Venue for Table Tennis

With the seating capacity of 15000 the Sajik Stadium was some 7 km from the village and was big enough for 16 tables. 2 other secondary halls were used for practice, each with 9 tables. Table for wheelchair were found not up to the 40cm requirement for wheelchair play and they managed to alter them before the competition. The official platform was also raised after some negotiation with the venue officers. Enough rooms there for meeting, draw, umpires, briefing and results. Glue area was arranged just outside the main gate of the Stadium. It is a pity that no public addressing system was available for the team meetings and the draw. Luckily the meeting room was just big enough for everybody to be able to hear. The correct computer softwares were available only after some hard time searching for them. School students and church groups were arranged to visit our venue. They cheered up for all participating teams and to our surprise, in the language of the team they cheered. So for most of the time, the venue was quite filled with groups of spectators..

There was only one lift for wheelchair spectators to go upstairs, yet there were sufficient rooms for wheelchair spectators in the arena. It is worth to note that Mr. Philip Craven, the IPC President visited the venue on 30 October and he chatted with many players in the arena. In general he was quite happy with the arrangement.

Manpower/Computer System

We had 11 invited International Umpires from overseas plus 24 local International /National Umpires from Korea. A briefing session was conducted the day before the competition.

Venue support staff seemed not enough as very often, the venue manager had to engage himself in some minor duties. Language was a major problem, in particular for the first few days prior to the competition, very often we had to spend much longer time to explain what we requested. The situation improved after the

competition commenced.

A central computer system was employed and for table tennis, information fed in after classification changes was not working, resulting in startlist be circulated to teams quite late. The computer expert reported for duty only one day before the competition, should he report earlier, we should not be in such a rush. Ball boys/girls were available in day time, yet for evening sessions, only ball men/women were there. Sometime we were short of people when there were more wheelchair play going on in the arena at the same time.

A Ms SHI Guilan of China (ITTF IU) and Mr. Youn Sung-Soo (ITTF IU) of Korea had helped a lot as Deputy Referees to Steven Lee, the Referee.

Classification

Dr. Aart Kruimer, Mr. Nico Verspeelt and Dr. James Lam plus some local classifiers arranged by Dr.Chang II Park were helping with the classification between 23rd-26th October. The late arrival of some teams and the misunderstanding for the classification timetable resulted in some players not reporting or late reporting for classification. Some last minute entries from East Timor and some ex-Russian nations also added the problem of late classification in that the list I received prior to my departure for Busan was different from that provided by the competition officials on our arrival. While last minutes entries should not be encouraged, better communication between the organizer and the TD/Referee would be necessary.

Protocol

The Organizer was very serious in treating VIPs, including the IPC President, Municipal Officers from Busan as well as senior executive committee members of the Fespics Federation.

The march in for players for the first match of each session was arranged, except the first day where communication between teams and the venue staff was not yet established. The situation improved as competition went on.

Medal ceremonies were arranged at the end of each competition, with guests from municipal government, local NGO heads as well as some invited key officials including Aart, Nico, Steven and myself.

Competitions

We scheduled to have Open first and followed by Team and Singles. We finished Open on the first day, approximately at 18:00. Team events took place for the second

day whole day and lasted through to 15:30 on the third day. As from the evening session on the third day Singles took place till 18:00 on the 4th day.

A total of 76 wheelchair players (52 men and 24 women) and 64 standing players (58 men and 6 women) competed in the Games. We had also 10 men and 9 women competing in Class 11.

Demonstration events, both Singles and Team, for INAS-FID players were scheduled and we considered this as a gesture of our support to them even though their events were not officially recognized.

As combination of some classes were necessary, only the following events were staged :-

Open – Wheelchair Men, Women
 Standing Men, Women
Team – Wheelchair Men 1-3, Men 4, Men 5
 Women 2-4, Women 5
 Standing Men 6, Men 7-8, Men 9, Men 10
 Women 7-10
Singles – Wheelchair Men 1,2,3,4,5
 Women 2,3,4,5
 Standing Men 6,7-8,9,10
 Women 7-10

All matches were played a best of 5 with 20 minutes for single match and 2 hours for team match. While for semi-final and finals we scheduled 30 minutes and 2 1/2 hours respectively. This proved to be alright.

Fespac Table Tennis Meeting

A meeting was held on 31 October with representatives of 6 active nations in the region, namely China, Chinese Taipei, Korea, Japan, Malaysia and Hong Kong. Mr. Hong-Jae LEE chaired the meeting in his capacity as the Fespac representative to ITTC, with my assistance. We had asked for comments about the organization of the competition in Busan; up-date of the up-coming events in the 2003 and the election of members of the Fespac Table Tennis committee. The following were elected for the term of 2002-2006:-

Chairman	: Mr. LEE Hong-Jae
Vice-Chairmen	: Ms SHI GuiLan, China Mr.JANG Choon-Bae, Korea
Technical Officer	: Mr. Silas CHIANG, Hong Kong
Medical Officer	: Dr. CHENG Shun-Ping, Chinese Taipei
Development Officer	: Mr.CHAN Kin-Foo, Malaysia
INAS-FID Representative	: Ms Hitomi MINOWA , Japan

It was agreed that the election of the athlete representative would be conducted at the Fespig Regional Championships to be held in Shanghai in 2003.

Recommendations

1. More local national umpires preferred
2. Better coordination on entry information necessary
3. Last minutes entry to be avoided as far as possible;
4. Computer expert must be identified as early as possible and he/she must arrive earlier to help with input of data and other related matters concerning the liaison with the central computer system personnel;
5. The allowance/honorarium to games officials, in particular those invited from IPC Sports were too much. This would set a bad example and scare the future hosts, and do harm to the spirit of volunteerism. Some guidelines would be needed and I suggest that IPC should work on this issue;
6. TD manuals are to be drafted, also, by IPC in order to make clear the area of responsibilities of TDs and other Games organizers.
7. Mr. Steven Lee, the Referee has consented to compile an organizational manual for table tennis.

A Vote of Thanks

My sincere thanks must go to Cindy Leung and Steven Lee for their total devotion in the preparation and the actual organization of the competition; the Table Tennis co-ordinator and his staff members at the stadium for their hard work before and during the competition; coaches and officers of the Koreas table tennis team for their assistance in the preparation; the many international and national umpires for their tireless effort in umpiring; the support of ITTC officers in particular Aart, Nico, Hong-Jae, Jiri, Gael and Christian for their advice; my interpreter Miss Sue Shin for her efficient work as well as for helping to interpret in other areas during the umpire briefing and other technical meetings.

