

INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION

PARA TABLE TENNIS

2007 SEOUL ASIAN AND OCEANIAN TABLE TENNIS

CHAMPIONSHIPS



TECHNICAL DELEGATE

EVALUATION REPORT

Name of Tournament : 2007 Seoul Asian & Oceania Table Tennis Championships

Ranking Factor Approved : 50

Name of Organiser : Korean Table Tennis Association for the Disabled

Date : 10th to 17th November 2007

Name of Technical Delegate : Silas Chiang – HKG

Pre-Event Communications

Two TD inspections were conducted in November 2005 and February 2007 respectively. During the two TD inspections, there were full cooperation and the organizers showed their commitment and dedication in organizing the best ever regional championships.

The communication before the event was slow at the beginning due to the language problem. Until a few months before the event when some staff who were able to communicate in English were in post, communication and organization picked up the momentum and geared forward smoothly.

We also had some problems with the preparation of the Contract and Doping Agreement to be signed between ITTF and the Korean Table Tennis Association for the Disabled (KTTAD). Thanks to Alison Burchell, Secretary-General and Nico Verspeelt, the Vice-Chairman of the ITTF Para Committee for their assistance in drafting the documents just before the Championships.

Information of the tournament was posted on the website, and sent to members Associations.

The Korean Organizing Committee

President	Oh Se Hoon, Mayor of Seoul
Honorary Chairperson	Jang Hyang Sook, President of Korean Paralympic Committee
Chairperson	Jang Choon Bae, President of KTTAD
Vice Chairperson	Yoon Seok Yong
Official	Jung Keum Jong Lee Geon Woo Lee Ho Man
Management Department	Shin Dong Chui Bae Kyu Hyun Park Soon Jin Oh Bock Hwan Park Min Ho Kim Chul Soo
Competition Department	Lee Il gyu Kim Gil Ja

	Kim Hyun Sic Lee Soo Hyun Choi Bo Young
Protocols Department	Kim Young Jin Hwang Moon Seon
Medical Support Department	Hong In gyu

Officials of the Championships

Position	Full Name	National
Technical Delegate	Silas Chiang	HKG
Selection Officer	Nico Verspeelt	BEL
Racket Control Official	Nobuyuki Shirakawa	JPN
Competition Manager	John Joo Hyun Lee	AUS
Computer Controller	Moon Gun Pil	KOR
Referee	Cindy Leung *	HKG
Deputy Referee	Graeme Ireland	AUS
Deputy Referee	Kim Gil Ja	KOR
Classifiers	James Lam (Chief) Sheng Kuang Wu Arthur Wilks Leonard Powel In-Gyu Hong	HKG TPE AUS AUS KOR
Umpires	12 Overseas umpires 21 Korean umpires	
Ball Persons	About 28 university students daily	
Medical	2 medical staff on duty everyday	

* Cindy Leung also served as the Technical Delegate trainee in the Championships.

ITTF ParaTable Tennis Committee

Chairman	Oeivind Ericsson
Vice Chairman & Selection Officer	Nico Verspeelt
Medical Officer	Aart Kruimer

Participants

This was the first time that the Middle East nations were included in the Regional Championships. A total of 13 NPCs registered and as Tajikistan withdrew in the last minute only 12 participated, and details of the teams are as follows : -

Association	Men's Wheelchair Players	Men's Standing Players	Women's Wheelchair Players	Women's Standing Players	Supporting Staff & Officials	Total
Australia	2	4	2	2	1	11
China	8	10	6	7	11	42
Hong Kong	5	3	4	-	5	17
Iran	4	3	2	-	5	14
Jordan	-	-	4	-	3	7
Japan	4	2	1	2	3	12
Kazakhstan	2	1	-	-	5	8
Korea	13	13	11	9	5	51
Kuwait	2	-	-	-	3	5
Malaysia	-	5	-	-	3	8
Thailand	4	1	-	-	3	8
Chinese Taipei	4	7	5	-	7	23
Total : 12	48	49	35	20	54	206

Reception at the Airport

All participants were received at the airport.

Accreditation

Accreditation passes were prepared and distributed to all participants and officials on arrival at hotel. The Souvenir Handbook was however distributed only at the Opening Ceremony on 12 November. It would be better if it was sent to teams upon their arrival, as some information in the Handbook might be useful to them.

Accommodation

Seoul Olympic Parktel Hotel was built for the 1988 Seoul Olympic and Paralympic Games, and was used to accommodate teams for the 2005 Otto Bock Korean Open. All toilets have been recently renovated with doors replaced by plastic curtains for wheelchair users. Lifts, dining areas, lobby and meeting areas were all accessible to wheelchairs. The Seoul Olympic Parktel Hotel is located in front of the Seoul Olympic Park, with a grand view of the Park. Metro station was within walking distance. Single rooms were provided to all

officials and visiting umpires.

Transport

Buses with lifts for wheelchairs were used for trips from and to the airport and regular shuttle services between hotel and venue. From the Hotel it took only 5 minutes while for walk or wheel to and from the venue along the Olympic Park scenic path, it took some 20 minutes. The travel time from airport was more than one hour. The traffic condition of Seoul was however heavy most of the time. It was very good that the Hotel and Venue are so close to each other.

Venue – Gymnasium No. 2 in the Seoul Olympic Park

The venue was used as fencing venue during the 1988 Seoul Paralympic Games. This is a circular stadium with a diameter of 61 meters. Total **capacity** is over 5,200 without extending the retractable seating. **Lighting** was about 800 -1000 lux, and was increased to around 1000 – 1200 lux upon request and was good enough for TV coverage and photo shooting without flash. **Temperature** was a bit low for the first two days during practice, and was adjusted to room temperature later.

It was spacious enough for 14 **competition tables**. 8 **training tables** were placed at one end of the hall separated by high partitions, with control of entrance at both ends. A **Show Court** was set up at the other end for TV covered matches. The entire venue was well-decorated with flags and buntings inside and outside. Signage was placed in the venue as to show the various function rooms and designated areas.



The **Tournament Control Area** was set on a raised platform in front of the venue with workstations for Referees, Competition Manager and other tournament officials. Printers & copiers, computers with internet accessibility were provided on site. On two sides of the Control Area were **waiting/rest areas** for umpires and volunteers/ball persons.

The **Field-of-Play** was under excellent control with only players and coaches being allowed to enter under the escort of match officials from a designated entrance, and leaving from the exit at the other end, to ensure free flow of traffic.

Offices and Rooms : Offices of TD, Referee, Racket Control, Meeting/Lecture Room and Rest Rooms for players and umpires were provided inside the venue.

Racket Preparation/Gluing Area was outside one of the entrances under cover at outdoors with no ventilation problem, tables and chairs were provided. The location was in front of the Ball Selection / Players Reporting area and the Racket Control Room, which allowed the Referees and Racket Control Officer the convenience in locating the players for the next match.

All spectators were confined to **spectator stand**, which provided enough space for wheelchair users. As wheelchair spectators had to go out the Stadium and enter through another entrance in order to get to the other level, some volunteers were present there to offer assistance to the wheelchair users when needed.

Meals

Buffet service for breakfast and dinner with a reasonable choice of Asian and Western style food. **Lunch boxes** were provided at the venue. **Snacks and drinks** were available for players and officials on the spectator level in the venue. Teams that were from the Muslim areas had some problems for lunch for the first two days.

Medical

Two medical staffs were present in the venue throughout the event.

Communication

Sport and logistic information were provided on arrival. Daily information, schedule and results were distributed to **pigeon holes** and on **notice boards** in the venue, as well as on the **official website**.

Programme/Schedule

9 Nov	Arrival of Classifiers, TDs and Referees
10 Nov	Classification Seminar / Classification of Players Free Practice
11 Nov	Classification Seminar / Classification of Players Scheduled Training / Draw for Open Events Umpires Seminar/Briefing Team Managers Meeting
12 Nov	Open Events Opening Ceremony
13 Nov	Open Events Class Single Events
14 Nov	Class Single Events Medal Ceremony
15 Nov	Team Events Asian & Oceania General Assembly
16 Nov	Team Events Medal Ceremony (Team Event) Closing Ceremony / Banquet & Medal Ceremony for Open Events and Awards Presentations
17 Nov	Departure

Presentation of Players & Officials and March-In of Players

Presentation of players and umpires were conducted for Semi-Final and Final rounds of competition. Good spirit/support and atmosphere displayed.

For each round of matches, there was marching in of players and umpires with marching music (or walk-in without music if there were matches of the previous round still in progress). Volunteers and umpires formed two lines to welcome and cheer for the players during marching in. Marching music and Korean pop music were also used to bring good atmosphere and spirit to the field of play.



Match Officials

Invitation of umpires was sent to NPC together with the official invitation for the Championships. As no special mention was made no overseas umpires had been nominated as of the deadline.

A separate invitation was sent to national table tennis associations (NSA) of all the participating teams some two weeks before the Championships. Finally a total 12 umpires from 7 Associations were recruited. As participating teams were to be obliged to bring umpires with them as according to the ITTF rules, we should emphasize this point in future regional championships.

Equipment

Floor	Tarafex - Gerflor
Table	Champion (Blue)
Ball	Champion 3 star (white)
Surrounds	Champion with wheels
Scoreboard	Champion
Umpires Chair	Proper raised chair for umpire (Champion) was only provided in the TV show court. Ordinary folding chairs were used for other tables. It was sometimes difficult to see side lines and end lines, some umpires needed to stand even in Singles

	competitions in order to see well.
Asst. Umpires Table	Champion
Towel Box	Champion

It was worth mentioning that the surrounds used in the Championships were one of the best of its kind, as they were strong and with wheels, and could be moved easily and not easy to fall. The floor was found a little slippery to the standing players after a few days of competition, some wet paper was provided for players.

Racket Control

Nobuyuki Shirakawa of the ITTF Equipment Committee was appointed as the Racket Controller for the event.

The Racket Control Room was big enough with two tables and 3 chairs, with good ventilation and air conditioned. It is located in front of the meeting place of the players before marching in with the racket preparation area right outside. This made it most convenient for the Racket Controller to collect the rackets from the players before match.

A total of 48 controls conducted, mostly done before the matches. The matches to be tested each day were decided at random according to the results the day before. As most of the tests were conducted before the matches, it allowed players time to change the rackets in problem before the match without being disqualified if otherwise done after the match.

A detail Racket Control Report was submitted to the TD and ITTF Equipment Committee.

Doping Control

Doping Control was contacted according to IPC / WADA requirements and procedures. Information was sent to all participating Associations.

A total of 15 Tests (10% of all the players) were conducted. Selection for control was as follows: -

Pre-competition: 4 players were drawn at random in the morning of 11th November at the Venue by the Doping Officer of the Championship, and doping tests were conducted immediately after, one each for the Male Classes 1-5, 6-10 and Female Classes 1-5 and 6-10;

Open Events: 4 players were chosen from either the Champion or the 1st Runners-up immediately after the Open Finals and to undertake the test immediately.

One each for Male Classes 1-5, 6-10 and Female Classes 1-5 and 6-10;
Singles Events: 7 out of the 16 winners in Singles were tested as decided by the Doping Officer.

The VIP Lounge on the Level Two was used for **Doping Control Room**. Samples were sent to the Korean WADA Centre for testing. The forms of those being tested were sent to ITTF via Nico Verspeelt. Players and their NPCs would be informed of the results in due course. Those who were tested were :-

MOON Sung-Hye /F (KOR)	ISHIKAWA Mogumi /F (JPN)
LIN Wen-Hsin /M (TPE)	TING Ing-Hock /M (MAS)
GU Gai /F (CHN)	CAO Ningning /M (CHN)
FAN Lei /F (CHN)	GE Yang /M (CHN)
GAI Bang /M (CHN)	MA Lin /M (CHN)
LI Qian /F (CHN)	ZHAO Ping /M (CHN)
REB Guixiang /F (CHN)	PAN Xiaotun /M (CHN)
HOU Ting-Sung /M (TPE)	

Classification & Appeal

A total of 26 players were classified and there were a few cases of class changes. A Chinese player, PAN Xiao-tun was found not eligible as according to the Medical Officer, he was neither a cerebral palsied or les austres after thorough observation from Pan's performance in Open and Singles event. The China Team was informed that Pan was not eligible to participate in the Championships. China launched an appeal on ground that the classification of Pan was conducted by official classifier in a previous IPTTC sanctioned event and also at the Championships, and such sudden disqualification was unfair to the player and would cause drastic emotional problem to the player and might also cause harm to himself as well as to others.

After lengthy deliberation the Appeal Panel, comprising of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the Medical Officer of the ITTF Para Committee, together with the TD, ruled that the player concerned was not eligible to participate in the Championships (and in all ITTF Para Table Tennis sanctioned events). However, at the request of the China Team, the gold medal won by Pan in his Singles event was to be kept by him as a souvenir. The results were rectified and winners received their appropriate medals accordingly.

Computer / Software

Dr Wu's Competition Programme was used for the Draw, Scheduling and Results Management. A computer controller assisted in the input of results and print out of match

cards under the supervision of Graeme Ireland, the Deputy Referee. Full Results were put on website and provided to all teams and key officials on discs prior to their departure.

Dr. Wu's Programme was well received and recognized by all participants for its efficiency and convenience.

Education Programmes

Seminar for Umpires was conducted on 12th November by Ms Cindy Leung, Referee of the Tournament and ITTF URC Deputy Chair. 40 Umpires attended the Seminar and 32 took the test.

Classification Seminars was conducted on 10th – 13th November, by Classification Officer, Dr. Aart Kruimer. A total of 22 participants took part in the Seminar, which was followed by an examination on 14th November.

Computer Course

Nico Verspeelt had offered to give a 2 afternoon course on the use of Dr. Wu's programme during the Championships.

TV Coverage

KTV, the Korean's main TV channel sent crews to the Championships for two days of live coverage, two hours each time on 13th and 14th November. A special Show Court with Show Table and full facilities for match officials were set at one end of the venue. Platforms and facilities for TV camera and crews were provided. Selected matches were staged according to the interest of the local viewers. According to KTTAD, the programme was quite successful.

Ceremonies & Presentation

Opening Ceremony was held in the Banquet Hall in the hotel, Guests of Honour included the Major of Seoul, Korea NPC President and KTTAD President and key Officials. Player representatives were presented by a leading placard held by volunteers dressed in national costume, and was followed by lively entertainment including Korean music and dance performances.



Medal Ceremony

Medal Ceremonies for Singles and Teams events were conducted at the venue on the completion of the events. Medal Ceremony for Open Event was conducted at the hotel prior to the Closing Ceremony. **National anthems** were played & **national flags** were raised during all the presentations. **Medal Diploma** were provided for all medalists.



Selection for Beijing 2008

Winners of all Singles events would be automatically qualified for the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games. Selection Officer, Mr. Nico Verspeelt, presented special visa to all them at the Closing Ceremony, which brought another highlight to the evening. The winners were : -

Female Class 1-2	LIU Jing (CHN)	Female Class 3	LI Qian (CHN)
Female Class 4	ZHOU Ying (CHN)	Female Class 5	REN Guixiang (CHN)
Female Class 6-7	NA Yu-Rim (KOR)	Female Class 8	ZHANG Xiaoling (CHN)
Female Class 9	LEI Lina (CHN)	Female Class 10	FAN Lei (CHN)
Male Class 1	LEE Hae-Gon (KOR)	Male Class 2	KIM Kyung-Mook (KOR)
Male Class 3	ZHAO Ping (CHN)	Male Class 4-5	BAI Gang (CHN)

Male Class 6 RUNGROJ Thainiyom (THA)
 Male Class 7 YE Chaoqun (CHN) Male Class 8 HOU Ting-Sung (TPE)
 Male Class 9-10 YE Yang (CHN)



Awards

Best Players Award - Selection of Best Players awards were based purely on competition results – the players who had won the most number of matches/sets were selected, each for Male Wheelchair and Standing, and Female Wheelchair and Standing players. Winners of the Best Players Awards were:

Men's Wheelchair	REN Guixiang (CHN)
Women's Wheelchair	LEI Lina (CHN)
Men's Standing	KIM Kyung-mook (KOR)
Women's Standing	RUNGROJ Thainiyom (THA)

Player of Players Awards – Teams were asked to nominate a male and a female players of their teams to stand for election of the Awards by end of the Singles events. Teams then elected by voting not more than 2 male and 2 female players from among the nominees by the end of the Team events. The players received the most votes would be the awards recipients. We had 7 nominees for male and 7 for female. There was a tie between a Chinese and an Iranian female player, and a second voting was again conducted to break the tie. Winners of the Player of Players Awards were :-

Male	LEE Hae-Kon (KOR)
Female	BAKHTIARI Forough (IRI)

Special Gifts of ITTF Para Table Tennis Committee were presented to four individuals

for their special contribution to the success of the Championships. The recipients were:

Mr. Jang Choon Bae,	Chairman, Organizing Committee
Mr. Lee Geon Woo,	Operations Director
Mr. John Lee,	Competition Manager
Miss Eunice Choi,	Organising Committee Secretary

Certificates for All Players Officials and Volunteers were presented



Regional General Assembly

The Asian and Oceania Regional General Assembly was held in the evening of November 15th, and representatives from 12 nations attended the meeting. Silas Chiang, Representative of the Asian and Oceania Region, chaired the meeting and informed Members on the progress of development in the region. Oeivind Ericsson, Chairman of the ITTF PTT informed the meeting on the progress of the ITTF – IPTTC merger and the corresponding changes in the near future; and Nico Verspeelt briefed the meeting on the selection of players for 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games. A short video on the preparation of the Beijing Paralympic Games was showed at the conclusion of the meeting.

At the General Assembly, the two candidates for the next regional championships, Bangkok of Thailand and Amman of Jordan were asked to give a brief presentation before a vote was conducted, and Amman of Jordan won the bid and would be the next Organizer of the Asian and Oceania Championships in 2009. A copy of the minutes of the General Assembly is attached.

2010 World Table Tennis Championships

The ITTF Para Table Tennis Committee Chairman and the Asian and Oceania Representative arranged a meeting with the KTTAD and the KPC, and later another informal meeting with officials from the Gwangju Metropolitan City, the city that had shown great interest in hosting the 2010 World Table Tennis Championships. Gwangju city would be hosting the Korean National Games for people with disability in 2008. We understood that KTTAD would need to complete some internal procedures/formalities before they would hand in the formal application to bid for the Championships.

Other Observations / Evaluations

1. The event was a great success and was considered the best for the Region so far. Under the leadership of Mr. Jang, the Organizing Committee Chairman, there was strong team spirit, commitment and dedication for the best event ever.
2. The major setback was the language barrier of the Organizers. Communication was mainly relied on a couple of persons before and during the Championships. When these persons not present at the scene, communication was very difficult. Once when the message got through, there was full cooperation from all officials and staff, with immediate and efficient response to all instructions and requests.
3. Hospitality and friendship from Organizer to all participants was great.
4. The 40 minute session for Singles events and 2 hour session for Team events was good so far to allow marching in for most of the sessions. It was only on the last day when the Team match for Female Class 1-3 took more than three hours, which held up the medal presentation. If possible, Class 1/2 events should avoid scheduling in the last session in future.
5. There should be more ball persons and umpires, especially overseas umpires. Sometimes neutral umpires were not possible due to the large number of Korean players in the Championships.
6. The invitation of umpires should be sent to the National Table Tennis Associations instead of the NPC. There was no nomination from the NPC after the deadline, and invitations to NSA were sent only the last minutes, thus only 12 overseas umpires could be recruited. The relationship between the national table tennis associations (NSA) and their NPC needed to be clarified, as many were not aware of the change that had taken place after IPTTC merged into ITTF. It would take time anyway.
7. Player of Players Awards election mechanism would need to be improved. Teams were asked not to vote for their own players in the first place, yet that seemed not workable as teams would choose not to vote at all, or they would vote for someone not likely to win the awards and eventually some silly result might appear. We thus decided to allow teams to vote for 2 for male and 2 for female players which might

include their own, the final results seemed more reasonable. A standard mechanism would be much preferred.

8. All the Technical Officials and Classifiers were from the region of Asia and Oceania, and this is a good sign of the improvement made as a result of our continued Education seminars in TD, Umpires and Classifiers organized in past years.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to the Organizing Committee, all the officials, staff and volunteers for their great efforts and cooperation in staging a very successful regional championships, and not the least the warm friendship and hospitality extended to all participants and officials. Special thanks also go to Oivind Ericsson and Nico Verspeelt, Chairman and Vice Chairman of ITTF Para Table Tennis Committee respectively for their presence and support to the event. The Championships would not have been so successful without their active involvement throughout.



Submitted by:

Silas Chiang – Technical Delegate

Cindy Leung – TD Trainee

On 1st December, 2007