

## **2010 ITTF Para Table Tennis China Open**

### **Story on CIV's Participation**

6 male table tennis players with physically disability from Cote d'Ivoire (CIV) made their first appearance in an international arena outside Africa. They take part in the 2010 ITTF Para Table Tennis China Open currently held in the magnificent China Administration of Sports for Persons with Disabilities between 2-7 December.

The event is ITTF Para Table Tennis approved. The CIV team put in their entry quite early in September and we were all excited as we had not had much information about their table tennis development, in particular that for people with disabilities.

However due to the presidency election at home they informed the Organizer on 30 November that they might not be able to come. With much regret we had to decide to delete their names on 1 December afternoon from the participating list. In the afternoon of 2 December I received a distant call from the NPC Secretary-General informing us that their team, 10 altogether were already on the way and should arrive in late evening that day ! What a happy surprise. While we had to take the trouble to revise the schedule again, we were happy to do that.

The team consists 4 standing and 2 wheelchair players and 4 staff. Their standard of performance was quite high though none of them made to the 1/16-finals in the Open events which were completed on 4 December.

The Team was very friendly and according to one their standing player Fathton Elleningand Aka they were happy with all the facilities at the Centre, just that their air-fare was quite astonishing to me as they had to pay some Euro 2,000 per person from CIV to Beijing.

By Silas Chiang, TD of the China Open  
5 December, 2010



**1 Team from Cote d'Ivoire with TD Silas Chiang**



**2 Etche Fatton Elleningand Ada**