

To : Ms Ruby Gualberto, Sports Competition Manager of IPC
Ms Alison Burchell, IPTTC Secretary-General
Mr. Jiri Danek, IPTTC Tournament Officer

Cc : Mr. Zainal , Chairman of Organizing Committee
Mr. Manabu Aso, Secretary-General of FESPIC Federation

From : Mr. Silas Chiang, Technical Delegate

On : 26th June, 2005

Re : **Technical Delegate' Evaluation Report on the 5th Asia & South Pacific Table Tennis Championships, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 19th-23rd June, 2005**

Background

Malaysia had indicated, and later confirmed at the 4th General Assembly of the Asia South Pacific Table Tennis Committee held on 18th October 2003 in Shanghai.

Two inspections were made in view of change of accommodation and venue for the Championships. The first visit was in April of 2004 and at that time, accommodation was in Hotel Sri Pateling while the venue was the Putra Stadium, the national stadium once used for the Commonwealth Games in 1998. Later, it was found that the Stadium was not available, probably due to booking problems, and other venue needed to be found, and hotels nearby would also need to be found.

A second visit was conducted by end of March 2005 and after much effort it was decided to use the newly built Olympic council of Malaysia (OCM) Hall for competition and the hotel was confirmed to be the Pearl International Hotel, the hotel used for a recent international wheelchair basketball tournament. The two Technical Delegate Reports were submitted to IPC.

The need to re-visit had delayed of sending out the first entry which was supposed to be in December 2004. The entry was further delayed due to the clarification from IPC as to whether nations in the Middle East were allowed to join in the Regional Championships. Thus the first Entry went out in early May, with deadline extended to 30th May.

Participation of Teams

The Championships had recorded the highest entry number of players and nations/territories. A total of 126 players and 51 officials from 10 nations/territories had registered and completed. They are Australia, Bangladesh,

China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong China, India, Japan, Korea, Thailand and Malaysia.

Accommodation and Meal

For all participating teams they all accommodated in Pearl International Hotel where there are accessible lifts, large dining areas, meeting rooms and spacious lobby. Hotel Management was also helpful in that they allowed all wheelchair users to bath outside bath tubs and small wheelchairs were made available to get into wash rooms wherever necessary. Breakfast and dinners were served in hotel while packed lunch boxes in the venue for the first three days. For the last 2 days of competition teams had to register as how many would require lunch boxes in the venue.

Competition Venue

The OCM Hall is new and yet small with a size of 24m x 42m. The wooden floor area is only 19m x 33m, and when putting 12 tables, it was just considered acceptable. All tables are up to wheelchair play standard. The brand is ITTF approved “TIBHAR” yet not the model “NORM”. Tables were also found not firm enough and moved when push or moved by players during play. This was found out in the practice and the situation was improved when heavy sand bays were used to stabilize them.

Windows were high up in the arena and though they were difficult to cover the Venue Management was in time to put on covering before competitions commenced.

Training area and classification was arranged on the in-between floor, with ramp and lift serving. 8 tables were set up there. Except the Tournament Secretariat and the a corner of the cafeteria used for doping control waiting area, all other competition related facilities like computers, draws, umpires rest area, first aid etc. were arranged next to the arena.

Transportation & Tours

The trip from and to airport was by buses and some of them were specially made for wheelchair users. Police was helpful in providing escort service for players to venue in the morning as otherwise it would take more than the normal 20 minutes journey. Shuttles were run during the day. Some trips were also provided to the Twin Tower on the forth and final day. Special arrangements were also made for those teams leaving late on 24th June.

Classification of Players & A Case of Cheating

There were many new players and including some re-classification cases we had a total of 43 players needed to be classified. A Japanese female Class 3 player FUKUZAWA TOMOKO was found cheating during classification, as she could do much better in competition than she was in classification. This happened in at least 2 international tournaments where she was classified. She was disqualified from the Championships. According to the Chief Classifier she would need to produce a medical report from her medical doctor before the IPTTC would re-classify her again. The cheating case would be reported to IPTTC Executive Committee for discussion in the coming July meeting and very likely, she would not be possible to enter the Taipei Open in August or the Korea Open in October. A copy of the letter served to the Japanese Team Manager is enclosed.

There is no spectator stand in the arena and the balcony on the upper floor however served this purpose, and it was very good for classifiers to observe players during competition.

Doping Control

According to the IPC Contract 10%, i.e. 13 tests were conducted by the Malaysian Anti-Doping Control officers. 4 for Open events ; 5 for Singles events and 4 for Team events. For Open events all the 4 champions were chosen; for Singles events we chose, by draws, Men Class 2, 3,4 and 8, and Women Class 5; for Team events, one each from the winning teams of Women Classes 3-4, Men Class 5, 6-7 and 9. All classes and players were selected by draw.

Umpires Briefing and Examination

An Umpires briefing took place in the afternoon on 18th June, the day prior to competition. A total of 39 umpires attended, with 8 from overseas and 31 from local of which 7 are ITTF IUs and others national. 20 of the local umpires later took part in the examination on 21st June, with Ms Cindy Leung, the Referee being the supervisor. Results would be sent to Raul Calin.

There were 10 overseas umpires, all ITTF IUs with IPTTC experience, came with their teams. Two of them from Australian in fact took part in the Classification Seminar and joined the umpires on 21st at and 22nd June. Umpires were arranged to avoid umpiring players of their nations as far as possible and with a team of 3 umpires per tables per session of half day, umpires had enough time to break after 2 matches.

The Competition

Open events were played on the first day, on 19th June with finals in the morning of the second day. Singles events then started in the afternoon and completed the next afternoon on 21st June. Medal ceremonies were held once for Open events

and twice for Singles events. Team events started on 22nd June and medal ceremony held in the afternoon on 23rd June.

In general, the competition was run very smoothly as officers of the Table Tennis Association of Malaysia had rendered full support to the events and moreover, Nico and Jiri offered assistance throughout the competition period. The only shortfall is on communication as a revised schedule for Women Team Class 5 was not served to teams by negligence and resulted in Australian Team not present for the first match. Full support was also from the Malaysian Paralympic Council. Some senior government officials who promised to officiate in the Opening Ceremony on 19th June were not present. Spectators were not many.

Including the 4 Open events, a total of 28 medal events were held and China merged to be the overall Champion capturing altogether 19 gold, leaving 6 to Korea, 2 to Chinese Taipei and one to Thailand. 15 visas were present to the class champions who would be qualified for the World Championships next year by Nico, the IPTTC Selection Officer at the Farewell Dinner on 24th June.

Election of Players of the Year

The IPTTC had at its January meeting in Bonn decided to award the best players of the Regional and World Championships year, and election among players and coaches of participating teams, and together with regional committee officers the awardees would be elected. A letter of invitation and voting papers were issued to all teams on 21st June, with deadline by noon of the last competition day, on 23rd June. A total of 127 votes were received and after analysis together with regional officers and also assisted by Nico and Jiri of IPTTC, the following were elected :-

Women Standing	LEI Lina	(China)	44 votes from 6 teams
Men Standing	GE Yang	(China)	38 votes from 5 teams
Women Wheelchair	GU Gai	(China)	46 votes from 5 teams
Men Wheelchair	KIM Young-Gun	(Korea)	24 votes from 3 teams

Special consideration was given to Mr. KIM as he was the Wheelchair Open Champion and he was a Class 3 player.

Seminars on Classification and Technical Delegate Education

A total of 17 registered for the Classification while 12 for the TD Seminar. Aart would report on the classification of players as well as the Seminar later. For the TD Seminar, this was the first such course organized by IPTTC. The control of application was difficult as communication among some nations was not easy, so all the applications were accepted. We had 4 from the Malaysian Table Tennis Association (3 ITTF IRs and 1 IU), 3 from Hong Kong (Cindy Leung, an ITTF IU and an experienced organizer) and 1 each from China, Korea, Japan, Brunei

and Afghanistan. The lecturers were: Mr. Jiri Danek, Mr. Nico Verspeelt, Ms Cindy Leung and myself.

We emphasized that the test was only part of assessment for TD and candidates experience in Disabled and in Table Tennis, and also their commitment were important in the total assessment. After the test and assessment to each of the candidates as according to the information they provided us in writing, we finally granted pass to 5 of them and they are Ms Cindy Leung, Ms Chim Mei Fun and Ms Pega Lui from Hong Kong, Mr. Chan Foong Keong and Mr. Cyril Sen of Malaysia. All participants were however presented with a certificate of participation of the Organizer.

All the teaching material including the Schedule of lecture and Test format were with Jiri, and it would be good to use similar content and test for all the other regional seminars.

General Assembly of the Asia & South Pacific Region

The Sports Assembly of the Asia and South Pacific region was held on 18th June in the Pearl International Hotel. 9 nations with official representatives and mandate forms attended.

One of the main item for discussion and adoption was a motion of the IPTTC as to postpone the Election of Regional Representative to 2007 during the regional championships. Explanations were given to all members of such postponement. The Assembly resolved to adopt the motion. The other item being that the Assembly had confirmed the next regional championships to be held in Korea in 2007. A copy of the minutes of the General Assembly is enclosed.

The Asia and South Pacific Table Tennis Committee had also had their meeting and had some discussion on the events to be held in 2006.

Recommendations

1. IPTTC to issue certificates of participation/attendance, and not by the Organizing Committee of the host nation.
2. Election of Players of the Year by vote of players is not fair, as teams with more players would have an advantage. Some more thought would be needed to improve the election.
3. Change of Competition Venue and accommodation after the TD Inspection had caused entry delay. It also left no choice or no time for new venue and as a result not so good venue had to be used.
4. To have the TD Seminar in regional championships is good, yet it would be

too much for the TD who had in the recent Asia & South Pacific Championships had to look after too many things, including meeting Organizing Committee to finalize championships arrangement, set TD schedule and teach, schedule Regional Assembly and meeting of Regional Committee etc. A deputy TD would be required even with players less than 200.

End