

# **ITTF Annual General Meeting**

---

Yokohama, Japan, 30<sup>th</sup> April 2009, 09h00

## **MINUTES**

### **1. Welcome and opening address**

The President welcomed all to the 2009 Annual General Meeting and thanked the Japan Table Tennis Association for hosting this meeting. He expressed his pleasure at the very large representation from all the Continents. He said that he hoped Japan would host another World Championship in the near future.

### **2. Appointment of Chairman of Meeting**

Mr. Adham Sharara was appointed Chairman of the meeting by acclamation.

### **3. Roll call and verification of proxies**

Roll call was taken and proxies verified:

- 135 Associations were present with delegates plus 21 proxies for a total of 156 votes.

### **4. Appointment of scrutineers**

A list of scrutineers, 2 per Continent, was approved.

### **5. Minutes of previous General Meeting (Guangzhou, 27 February 2008)**

The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held in Guangzhou, China, were signed by the President as a true record of the meeting.

### **6. Presentations**

The following persons received the ITTF **Merit Award**:

- Berthe **Bakhary** (Côte d'Ivoire)
- Geoffrey **Reed** (Jersey)
- Yao **Zhenxu** (China)

Several other presentations were made to ITTF sponsors (H.I.S., Volkswagen, Liebherr) and the organisers. The Chairman of the Yokohama Organising Committee and President of the Japan Table Tennis Association made a welcome speech and thanked the ITTF for its support without which the championship would not be a success. He wished all an enjoyable event as well as an enjoyable time in the City of Yokohama, which was celebrating its 150th anniversary.

Mr. Adham Sharara paid a tribute to Mr. André Damman who was vacating his position as Chairman of the Ranking Committee after many years of loyal service. Mr. André Damman in turn thanked the ITTF for its confidence in him and support to him over the years (he joined the Committee in 1981) and wished the ITTF the best of luck in the years to come.

Mr. Adham Sharara paid a tribute to Mr. George Segun, the longest serving member of the current Executive Committee, who had decided not to seek re-election in order to give his younger African counterpart a better chance to be elected to the Executive Committee. Mr. Adham Sharara said that he would be inviting Mr. George Segun to remain within the ITTF as a Senior Policy Consultant.

Mr. Koji Kimura presented a gift to the Austrian Table Tennis Association as Austria had bid at the same time to host these 2009 world championships.

**7. Report of Nomination Committee (document A20)**

Mr. Yuri Posevin made an oral presentation of the activities of the Nomination Committee since the last world championships and explained the procedures for electing Committee and Commission members at the present championships as well as providing statistics related to the nomination of members to the various committees.

**8. Membership applications**

**8.1. Cayman Islands (new member)**

Cayman Islands were admitted as a new member of the ITTF.

**8.2. Papua New Guinea (re-activation)**

The request from Papua New Guinea for re-activation was accepted bringing the total of ITTF member associations to **207**.

**9. Start of Voting procedures**

Mr. Jordi Serra presented the names of the persons running for office and explained the voting procedures, according to the rules of the ITTF. It was said that Mr. Shahrokh Shahnazi had withdrawn his candidacy in order to maintain the unity of the Asian candidates.

The candidates running for President, Mr. Adham Sharara (CAN) and Mr. Alaor Azevedo Pinto (BRA) made comprehensive presentations about their intentions and plans for the future if elected President.

**10. Executive Committee Reports**

**10.1. President - A. Sharara (document A1)**

Report accepted as presented.

**10.2. Deputy President – G. Segun (document A2)**

Report accepted as presented.

**10.3. Executive Vice President (Finance) – N. Harwood (document A3)**

Report accepted as presented.

**10.4. Executive Vice President – Yang Shu’an (document A4)**

Report accepted as presented

**10.5. Executive Vice President – Claude Bergeret (document A5)**

Report accepted as presented. It was reported that Serbia had withdrawn its bid for the 2012 WTTC since the publication of the report.

**10.6. Executive Vice-President – K. Kimura (document A6)**

Report accepted as presented.

**10.7. Executive Vice President - J. Faragó (document A7)**

Report accepted as presented.

**11. Continental Presidents' (or their appointees) Reports**

**11.1. Africa (document A8)**

The report was accepted as presented.

**11.2. Asia (document A9)**

The report was accepted as presented.

**11.3. Europe (document A10)**

The report was accepted as presented.

**11.4. Latin America (document A11)**

The report was accepted as presented.

**11.5. North America (document A12)**

The report was accepted as presented.

**11.6. Oceania (document A13)**

The report was accepted as presented.

**12. Executive Director's Report (document A14)**

The report was accepted as presented.

**13. Reports from Committees and Commissions**

**13.1. Equipment (document A15)**

The report was accepted as presented.

**13.2. Media (document A16)**

The report was accepted as presented.

**13.3. Ranking (document A17)**

The report was accepted as presented.

**13.4. Rules (document A18)**

The report was accepted as presented.

**13.5. Sports Science (document A19)**

The report was accepted as presented.

**13.6. Technical (document A21)**

The report was accepted as presented.

It was reported that Mr. Yao Zhenxu would be retiring from his position as Chairman of the Technical Committee and that he had been hired by the ITTF as Consultant to the marketing and competition departments as well as the ITTF museum.

**13.7. Umpires & Referees (document A22)**

The report was accepted as presented.

**13.8. Veterans (document A23)**

The report was accepted as presented.

**13.9. Athletes' Commission (document A24)**

The report was accepted as presented.

**13.10. Junior Commission (document A25)**

The report was accepted as presented.

**13.11. Olympics Commission (document A26)**

The report was accepted as presented.

Mr. Jordi Serra explained that a working group had been formed in February 2009 in order to deal with several proposals regarding the next Olympic Games and that the working group had presented several recommendations to the Olympics Commission regarding London 2012 and the Youth Olympic Games.

#### 14. Financial Statements

It was reported that audits had been conducted in the Ottawa and Lausanne offices in March 2008 by Ernst & Young.

##### 14.1. Audited Financial Statements 2007 and 2008

Mr. Neil Harwood presented the audited reports for 2007 and 2008, followed by Mr. Jordi Serra who presented a detailed financial report and analysis.

The audited financial statements were approved as presented for 2007 and 2008.

##### 14.2. Appoint Auditors for 2009

Ernst & Young were appointed as the Auditors for 2009.

##### 14.3. Budget

The quadrennial budget for 2009–2012 was approved as presented.

#### 15. Proposition and Resolutions (document A28)

2/3 majority required

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1</b></p>	<p><b>Proposed by the Executive Committee</b></p> <p><i>To delete paragraph 1.5.2.4 and to add a new paragraph 1.5.3.3</i></p> <p><del>1.5.2.4 The Board shall determine the terms of reference for Equipment, Media, Nominations, Ranking, Rules, Sports Science, Technical, Umpires &amp; Referees and New Technologies &amp; Research Committees, as well as for the Athletes Commission and Junior Commission. The Board may determine the terms of reference for any other Committee, Commission, working group or panel that it may from time to time establish.</del></p> <p><b>1.5.3.3 The Executive Committee shall determine the terms of reference for all committees, commissions, working groups or panels that the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee may establish from time to time.</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PASSED</b> <b>89%</b> <b>Yes 122</b> <b>No 15</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>Proposed by the Executive Committee</b></p> <p><i>To modify paragraph 1.3.5 and to rename the "Olympic Commission" to "Olympic and Paralympics Commission" in 1.9</i></p> <p>1.3.5 The ITTF shall co-operate with the IOC, ASOIF, GAISF, <b>International Paralympics Committee (IPC)</b> and other organisations that recognise it as the controlling and governing authority for table tennis throughout the world.</p> <p>1.9 <b>OLYMPICS AND PARALYMPICS COMMISSION</b></p> <p>1.9.1 The <del>Olympics</del> Commission shall consist of the members of the Executive Committee, the Continental Federations Presidents or their appointees, <b>the Chairman of the Para Table Tennis Division or his appointee</b> and a representative of the organising committee of the next Olympic Games.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PASSED</b> <b>99%</b> <b>Yes 143</b> <b>No 1</b></p>

**3/4 majority required**

<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>Proposed by the Chinese Table Tennis Association</b></p> <p><i>To modify paragraph 2.4.3</i></p> <p>2.4.3 A side of the blade used for striking the ball shall be covered with either ordinary pimped rubber, with pimples outwards having a total thickness including adhesive of not more than 2mm, or sandwich rubber, with pimples inwards or outwards, having a total thickness including <del>including</del> <b>excluding</b> adhesive of not more than <del>4mm</del> <b>3.8mm and including adhesive of not more than 4mm.</b></p>	<p><b>DEFEATED</b></p> <p><b>70%</b></p> <p><b>Yes 99</b></p> <p><b>No 43</b></p>
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>Proposed by the Finnish Table Tennis Association</b></p> <p><i>To clarify paragraphs 2.4.3 and 2.4.3.2</i></p> <p>2.4.3 A side of the blade used for striking the ball shall be covered with either ordinary pimped rubber, with pimples outwards having a total thickness including adhesive of not more than <b>2.0mm</b>, or sandwich rubber, with pimples inwards or outwards, having a total thickness including adhesive of not more than <b>4.0mm.</b></p> <p>2.4.3.2 Sandwich rubber is a single layer of cellular rubber covered with a single outer layer of ordinary pimped rubber, the thickness of the pimped rubber not being more than <b>2.0mm.</b></p>	<p><b>PASSED</b></p> <p><b>85%</b></p> <p><b>Yes 120</b></p> <p><b>No 22</b></p>
<p><b>5a</b></p>	<p><b>Proposed by the Rules Committee</b></p> <p><i>To modify paragraphs 2.4.7 and to insert a new paragraph 3.4.2.3</i></p> <p>2.4.7 The racket covering <del>should</del> <b>shall</b> be used <del>as it has been authorised by the ITTF without any physical, chemical or other treatment, changing or modifying playing properties, friction, outlook, colour, structure, surface, etc.</del></p>	<p><b>PASSED</b></p> <p><b>84%</b></p> <p><b>Yes 122</b></p> <p><b>No 23</b></p>
<p><b>5b</b></p>	<p><b>Proposed by the Rules Committee</b></p> <p><i>To move former Law 2.4.7 to the Regulations for International Competitions (new paragraph 3.4.2.3)</i></p> <p><b>3.4.2.3 The racket covering shall be used as it has been authorised by the ITTF without any physical, chemical or other treatment, changing or modifying playing properties, friction, outlook, colour, structure, surface, etc.</b></p>	<p><b>PASSED</b></p> <p><b>by the Board of Directors</b></p>

6	<p><b>Proposed by the Austrian Table Tennis Association</b></p> <p>To modify paragraph 2.6.2</p> <p>2.6.2 The server shall then project the ball <del>near</del> <b>vertically</b> upwards, without imparting spin, so that it rises at least 16cm after leaving the palm of the free hand and then falls <b>at least 16cm</b> without touching anything before being struck.</p>	<b>WITHDRAWN</b>
7	<p><b>Proposed by the Rules Committee</b></p> <p>To modify paragraph 2.6.6</p> <p>2.6.6 It is the responsibility of the player to serve so that the umpire or the assistant umpire can see <b>be satisfied</b> that he complies with the requirements for a correct service.</p>	<p><b>PASSED</b>  <b>88%</b>  <b>Yes 130</b>  <b>No 17</b></p>
8	<p><b>Proposed by the Umpires and Referees Committee</b></p> <p>To modify paragraph 2.6.6.1</p> <p>2.6.6.1 If the umpire <b>or assistant umpire</b> is doubtful of the legality of a service he may, on the first occasion in a match, <b>interrupt play</b> and warn the server.</p>	<p><b>PASSED</b>  <b>76%</b>  <b>Yes 111</b>  <b>No 35</b></p>

## 16. Future World Championships

### 16.1. Update 2010 Moscow

The Organising Committee of the Moscow WTTC presented a video and an update on the preparations for the 2010 World Championships.

The ITTF inspection report was accepted, however it was said that two issues remained to be solved. The ITTF was awaiting an official confirmation letter from the highest authorities in Russia guaranteeing visas for all delegations as well as the final cost for hospitality for the participants. The AGM transferred its power to the Executive Committee to receive the above confirmations by the 15th of May after which date the final decision regarding the host of the 2010 WTTC would be made.

### 16.2. Update 2011 Rotterdam

A short video presentation was made by the Rotterdam organisers about the city and other preparations.

### 16.3. Selection for 2012 World Championships

The initial bid from Serbia having been withdrawn, and based on the favourable inspection report made by the coordination team of the ITTF, the city of Dortmund (Germany) was declared the organisers of the 2012 World Championships.

### 16.4. Bids for 2013 and 2014

The deadlines for application for the 2013 and 2014 WTTC are as follows:

- 2013 until the 30th of September 2009
- 2014 until the 30th of September 2010

## 17. Elections

### 17.1. Board of Directors

The 31 names presented by the Nomination Committee were accepted as presented. **See list attached.**

### 17.2. Committees

The lists of Committee members presented by the Nomination Committee were accepted as presented. **See list attached.**

### 17.3. President

There were 156 ballots with 3 spoiled ballots for a total of 153 votes.

- Alaor Gaspar Pinto Azevedo (BRA): 20 votes
- Adham Sharara (CAN): 133 votes

**Mr. Adham Sharara was re-elected President of the ITTF for a further 4-year term.**

### 17.4. Executive Vice Presidents (8)

There were 156 ballots with 7 spoiled ballots for a total of 149 votes.

The following candidates were elected as Executive Vice-Presidents in the following order:

- Yang **Shuan** (CHN): 146 votes
- Koji **Kimura** (JPN): 145 votes
- Neil **Harwood** (AUS): 145 votes
- Chérif **Hajem** (AFR): 143 votes
- Khalil **Al-Mohannadi** (QAT): 139 votes
- Petra **Sörling** (SWE): 136 votes
- Thomas **Weikert** (GER): 134 votes
- Melecio **Rivera** (ESA): 114 votes
- .....
- Claude Bergeret (FRA) : not elected

The ITTF President requested that the AGM approve his choice of Mr. **Yang Shuan as Deputy President** of the ITTF. The AGM approved unanimously.

The elected members thanked in turn the AGM for the confidence placed in them and pledged to do their best for table tennis.

## 18. Next AGM – Moscow, May 2010

The next AGM will be held in Moscow, Russia, in May 2010. The exact date will be confirmed in due time.

## 19. Any other business

- The delegates from Jamaica and from the Congo DR raised the issue of visas for the next two world championships and asked the EC to ensure that Visas will be facilitated to all participants.
- The delegate from Barbados congratulated the newly elected EC and requested the help of the ITTF to improve table tennis in the Caribbean.

## 20. Meeting adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 16h06.

---

Meeting Chairman, Adham Sharara

## Associations present at AGM 2008 (135)

Algeria	Angola	Armenia
Argentina	Australia	Austria
Bahrain	Bangladesh	Barbados
Belarus	Belgium	Belize
Benin	Brazil	Brunei
Bulgaria	Burundi	Cambodia
Canada	Chile	China
Chinese Taipei	Colombia	Comoros
Congo Brazzaville	Congo D. R.	Cook Islands
Costa Rica	Côte d'Ivoire	Croatia
Czech R.	Denmark	Djibouti
Dominican R.	Egypt	El Salvador
England	Estonia	Finland
Fiji	France	Germany
Ghana	Greece	Guam
Guatemala	Guyana	Honduras
Hong Kong	Hungary	Iceland
India	Indonesia	Iran
Iraq	Isle of Man	Israel
Italy	Jamaica	Japan
Jersey	Jordan	Kazakhstan
Kenya	Kiribati	Korea R.
Korea D.P.R.	Kosovo	Kuwait
Kyrgyzstan	Laos	Latvia
Lebanon	Lesotho	Liechtenstein
Lithuania	Luxembourg	Macao
Malaysia	Malawi	Maldives
Malta	Mauritius	Mexico
Moldova	Monaco	Mongolia
Montenegro	Morocco	Nepal
Netherlands	New Caledonia	New Zealand
Nicaragua	Nigeria	Norway
Pakistan	Panama	Paraguay
Peru	Philippines	Poland
Portugal	Puerto Rico	Qatar
Romania	Russia	Saudi Arabia
Scotland	Senegal	Serbia
Singapore	Slovak R.	Slovenia
Somalia	South Africa	Spain
Sri Lanka	Sudan	Sweden
Switzerland	Tajikistan	Thailand
Trinidad & Tobago	Tunisia	Turkey
Turkmenistan	Uganda	Ukraine
United Arab Emirates	USA	Vanuatu
Venezuela	Vietnam	Yemen

## Proxies (21)

Albania	Aruba	Bolivia
Burkina Faso	Cyprus	Ecuador
Faroe Islands	Gambia	Guinea
Haiti	Ireland	Madagascar
Namibia	Netherlands Antilles	Rwanda
San Marino	Seychelles	Tahiti
Togo	Uruguay	Zambia