



INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION

Development and Continental Council

MINUTES of the International Table Tennis Federation Development and Continental Council Meeting (hereafter referred as DCC), held on the 10th of January 2014 at 13h30 at the Mövenpick Bur Hotel, Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

1 Welcome and opening remarks

Glenn Tepper welcomed the DCC members to the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance and for their contribution toward another successful implementation of the Development & Education Programs in 2013.

2 Roll call

Adham Sharara	Chairman
Melecio Rivera	Executive Vice-President-Development
Patrick Gillmann	Executive Vice-President and President OTTF
Masahiro Maehara	Executive Vice-President
Shi Zhihao	Executive Vice-President
Khaled El-Salhy	President ATTF
Tony Yue	ATTU Representative
Ronald Kramer	President ETTU
Osvaldo Borges	President LATTU
Bruce Burton	President NATTU

In attendance:

Glenn Tepper	Deputy CEO
Steve Dainton	Marketing Director
Leandro Olvech	Development Director
Polona Cehovin Susin	Education & Training Director
Raul Calin	Events and Olympic Games Expert

By invitation:

Jean-Michel Saive	Athletes Commission
Francisco Seijas	Observer

3 Approval of Agenda

There were no additions to the agenda and the DCC approved the agenda as presented.

4 Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on the 14th of December 2012 in India were approved and signed.

4.2 Business arising from the Minutes (not covered by Agenda)

There was no other business arising from the minutes not covered by the agenda.

5 Continental Updates and Proposals

Tony Yue (Asia):

- Asia was very active in the area of development in 2013 and many young promising players were noticed at events;
- 9 Global Junior Circuit event and 6 World Tour events were held in Asia in 2013, besides, the Asian Youth Games and the U12 South-East Asia championships were organized;
- Equipment assistance allocations are working well and a scholarship program is planned to be implemented shortly.

Ronald Kramer (Europe):

- The 2013 Development Program in Europe was limited, however youth training camps were running smoothly;
- At the moment a new Continental Development Program is being discussed and planned to be set up soon, whereby the emphasis will be on coach education by introducing some sort of "EuroCoaches" instead of the traditional "EuroKids" project.

Oswaldo Borges (Latin America):

- Educational programs for players, coaches and umpires are organized regularly and are running according to the yearly plans;
- The successful implementation of the Development Program results in the continent developing on a higher pace than in the past and some regions are doing particularly well;
- The goal for the near future is to recruit new countries and get them actively involved in development activities.

Khaled El-Salhy (Africa):

- The Development Program, including the newly introduced Education & Training projects were implemented effectively on the continent thanks also to the close cooperation with ITTF;
- The first Para TT camp was organized in Egypt in December in connection with the continental Para TT Championships and was funded by the funds raised via the Dream Building program;
- The aim for the future is to continue expanding and growing in all fields and at the same time start working on "new" areas, like for example media.

Bruce Burton (North America):

- North America has a small number of associations but big complexity.
- Getting TV coverage for North American events represents a big challenge, however the Union Cooperates very well with the Singapore office developing a new MKT concept based on a bidding system for National Associations, cities and clubs

Patrick Gillmann (Oceania):

- The implementation of the Development Program is very successful also due to the efforts of the Continental Development Officer;
- 50% of the National Associations are visited every year;
- Independent regional Para TT Championships were held for first time ever (before they were part of the Pacific-Asian region);
- 17 NAs from 4 continents attended the Global Junior Circuit event, part of the 2013 Road to Nanjing series;
- It was particularly encouraging to notice that also small islands did well when organizing international events, for example Guam with the World Cadet

Challenge, while Cook Islands will host the 2014 Road to Nanjing series event;

- One of the remaining target is to successfully market the title sponsorship for the Oceania Cup in cooperation with TMS.

Glenn Tepper thanked the continental representatives for their reporting and emphasized that the views they expressed, i.e. to involve marketing and media related activities in the continental Development and Education & Training programs is very much in line with the new orientation of the ITTF to work intensely on Promotion as the 5th "P" of the ITTF policy.

6 Continental Athletes Commissions

- ITTF Athletes Commission elections will be held during the 2014 WTTC in Tokyo.
- Europe just established and elected the first commission with 4 members, including 1 PTT representative that is going to be chaired by Peter Korbel.
- The Athletes Commission reported about their activities in 2013 and at the same time presented the plan for 2014; the document was circulated to all the attendees of the DCC meeting.
- The Athletes Commission is requesting the Continental Presidents to encourage the establishment of Athletes Commissions on all continents, which would give the Athletes the opportunity to have their say within continental Executive bodies.

7 Development and Education & Training (DET) Overview

Glenn Tepper reported about the Staff structure – all continents have appointed Development officers, with the exception of Europe who expect to appoint one in the coming months; and about the Development Program and Education & Training Programs menu of available projects that compromise the following: Coach Accreditation courses, Course Conductors Training, Training Camps, Olympic Solidarity funded courses, Umpires and referees courses, Women courses and camps, National and Continental Hopes Weeks and Equipment Assistance.

The Administration course is yet to be developed, while XIOM extended its incentive for the first 8 allocated Olympic Solidarity courses and so did Stag with the Countdown initiative for new members.

8 Development Program Update

Leandro Olvech presented the situation related to membership (1 or 2 new applications will be presented to the AGM in Tokyo) and the continental activities map. In line with the 5th P-promotion, two new development films were produced in 2013 about the Oceania Development Program, while a third one about the cooperation with UNOSDP is in progress.

2013 Awards:

- Sport Accord's Spirit of Sport Awards 2013: ITTF's Peace through Ping Pong– Ping Pong Paix-Burundi-Congo DR: Winner
- Beyond Sport's Best Governing Body Award 2013; ITTF DP was shortlisted (won by NFL)
- Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Creative Sports Award from Dubai Best Summer Olympics International Sport Federation: ITTF applied (won by FIFA)

8.1 Continental Agreements 2013-2016

Africa, Latin America, North America and Oceania have all signed the Development Program Agreements of understanding for 2013-2016 at the end of 2012, and all are being implemented according to the plan.

8.2 ITTF Coach Accreditation System

- In 2013 119 Courses were held and 30 equipment packages donated, which is slightly less than in 2012 but it needs to be taken into consideration that only 4 Continental Agreements were in place last year, and the average number per continent has actually increased
- There a notable increase in self-funded courses, which is a good sign.
- Both manuals were converted into e-versions and can be purchased online (on iTunes and Amazon).

8.3 Dream Building

- The partnerships with Peace and Sport and UNOSDP are running effectively and the same applies to the cooperation with the IPC and GSD.
- The Nittaku Dream Building Project in El Salvador was carried out very successfully with a major impact.
- The funds raised during the DB dinner in Paris are being used for selected development, junior program and PTT projects.

8.4 Women's Development

All women related matters have been fully integrated in the regular continental Development Programs, whereby at least one women's project per year was still kept in all Continental Agreements.

9 Education & Training Program Update

Polona Cehovin Susin presented the objectives of the Program and the Athletes' Development Model with its structure and multi-levelled approach that is designed as a modular pathway including all the projects that are run under the umbrella of the Program.

9.1 ITTF Hot Spots

The Network of 25 International Training centers continues to play an important role in the WFIM program – most of the players, who were allocated Olympic Solidarity scholarships practise regularly or attend training camps that are organized in the Hot Spots.

Some of them are also active in Talent Identification activities, while some are very much idle and it seems the status is mainly used for possible commercial and funding benefits.

The structure of the Network will be reviewed and a new proposal presented in due time, which would introduce stricter requirements to obtain and maintain the status of an ITTF Hot Spot and include the possibility to introduce the Academy level.

9.2 Online Learning

Since its launch in February 2013 2460 users registered, which shows that there is a market and also a tangible need for an e-learning approach in education within our sport.

The content in 2013 was mainly related to the Hopes, interviews/Messages from Paris and the platform also served for communication purposes.

2 courses, one for international and one for Chinese candidates of the Young Umpires Project[YUP] for the 2014 YOG were carried out completely online and the results were very satisfactory, from the success of the examination and also from the logistics point of view.

2 National Associations expressed the wish to use the platform for their national educational projects and discussion including the signing of related agreements is underway.

In the future it is planned to expand the courses for other profiles, for example International Umpires, and also to make participation at selected courses compulsory for certain targeted groups, such as coaches of Hopes/WFIM players.

The platform would be re-designed with the wish to make it more user friendly by displaying content for different profiles, i.e. coaches, URC, PTT etc., which not necessarily follows the internal organization.

9.3 Hopes Program

- In 2013 82 associations signed up for the Program and registered with 178 players. Organization of national and continental Hopes activities can now be co-funded also through the Development Program Agreements and this created additional interest for the Program.
- The 2013 World Hopes Week & Challenge that was successfully organized at the Werner Schlager Academy in June included an increased focus on coach education, which was highly appreciated by the participants.
- The 2013 selection of Hopes benefitted from a follow-up training camp at the Lily Yip's Training center in the USA.
- The World Hopes Team participated successfully at the 2013 World Cadet Challenge in Slovenia and thanks to the additional Dream Building funds also had the possibility for an additional training camp with specific testing at the Faculty of Sports of Ljubljana.
- The 2014 Call for Registrations was published in December and preparations for the 2014 activities are running smoothly.
- Adriana Diaz of Puerto Rico was nominated as the first ever Dream Building Ambassador and allocated a special training scholarship.

9.4 WFIM-Road to Nanjing Scholarships

- In 2013 17 players benefited from the Olympic Solidarity funded scholarships. Most of them completed the yearly individual programs successfully; those that didn't, will be replaced on the 2014 list of candidates.
- Effectiveness of the contact with respective National Associations varies a lot, which indicates that not only players and coaches but also officials need to be involved in different educational activities in the future.
- Two successful training camps were held in Hungary and Austria just prior the last 2013 Road to Nanjing event, while the majority of the program was run on individual basis in cooperation with several Hot Spots.

10 Global Junior Program Update

Raul Calin presented the update about the following:

10.1 Global Junior Circuit

- In 2013 31 events were organized on 6 continents.
- 105 National Associations participated all together, which represents 48.17% of all the membership, passing for the first time the target of 100. Also the other presented statistics, such as gender aspect, most active National Associations, overall number of participants etc. were extremely positive.
- The connection with the YOG, i.e. the 2013 Road to Nanjing series, proved to have boosted significantly participation at the concerned events – in New Caledonia and Egypt 17 and 14 Associations entered compared to 11 and 5 respectively in the previous year; almost 400 players took part at the Hungarian Open, which was the all time record.
- It planned to have 32 events staged in 2014 with 2 new and 2 returning Organizers.

10.2 World Junior Championships

- The 2013 Championships in Morocco reached full participation 96 boys and 96 girls and it was a major success that all the participants were granted the visa.
- In spite of some initial concerns the Championships that featured 475 accredited persons was a major success in particular because of the excellent hospitality, very good field of play and venue decoration and also the level of the TV production was very high; the downsides were the transportation
- For the 2014 Championships that will be held in Shanghai an inspection was conducted in November 2013 by Judit Farago and Raul Calin and the outcome

was very positive: the same venue as for the Volkswagen 2012 China vs World Challenge match will be used, which will assure a good set-up; both hotels are of the expected level and the communication with the Organizing committee is running smoothly.

10.3 World Cadet Challenge

- After the withdrawal of Turkey in Paris Slovenia offered to organize the event in 2013 and considering that time was very short they managed to deliver a great event with high level competition and hospitality facilities and very good TV production and once again full participation was reached.
- Barbados was allocated the event for 2014 and the National Association President attended the one in Slovenia, which was surely very beneficial. An ITTF inspection was conducted on 17-19 December by Raul Calin and it was positive. A report will be submitted in due time.

10.4 Junior Commission update

Patrick Gillmann reported about the meeting that the Commission held during the WJTTC in Morocco. The DCC was updated with the following:

- Inclusion of the mixed doubles event at the World Cadet Challenge was not approved by the EC the previous day.
- The WCC Hopes team shall only be composed by players from the current generation of Hopes players, who all attend the event with their coaches.
- ITTF shall not be directly responsible for the young players and a similar approach should be adopted by the continents; in the future all WCC entries should be submitted directly from the National Associations.
- The Global Junior Program is steadily and constantly growing and obviously the National Association recognized the need to invest in youth, however 30 Global Junior Circuit events seem to be a realistic number of events to be staged yearly.
- The Junior Commission will present a proposal to renew the Terms of Reference.

11 Marketing Update

11.1 Continental Marketing Agreements

- In 2011 Marketing Agreements were signed with 4 continents, for which new logos were created.
- The general objective of the continental marketing activities is to increase the Table Tennis economy.
- Currently the ITTF Marketing Division is involved in marketing Continental Championships, Continental Cups and Olympic Games Qualification events.
- Oceania was the most successful continent in embracing the new approach as far as TV deals are concerned; the initiative worked well to a certain extent also in Latin America and Africa, but TV coverage has to move from national to regional and ultimately continental scale
- Tony Yue recommended offering better content to the media, for example more statistics during games like it is done in other sports and above all to serving media with material that would promote the best athletes of our sport to the "star" level.

12 ITTF-Continental Affiliation

12.1 ITTF-Continental Affiliation Update

In Europe the elections were held on the 5th of October and the Affiliation agreement was signed the following day. A contribution toward the expenses for the implementation of the Development Program for 2013 was paid retrospectively.

Discussions with Asia are underway and the two Presidents are expected to meet soon.

13 Future Direction

- The Education & Training Program shall focus more on education of coaches of players identified as prospects within the Hopes and With the Future in Mind projects and deal less directly with players, introducing a "train the trainers" approach. A new concept of the projects that are currently running under the umbrella of this Program will be developed and presented after the 2014 Youth Olympic Games.
- Impart the knowledge to coaches

14 Any other business

The Indian Table Tennis Association thanked the international community for the condolences expressed when Mr. Ramanuya passed away.

15 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 16h20.

Meeting Chairman, Thomas Weikert

Date