

# INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION

## Development and Continental Council

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### Minutes

Of the Development and Continental Council held at 11h45 on Saturday 11 December 2009 at the Hotel Almirante, Cartagena de Indias, Colombia.

#### 1. President's welcome and opening remarks

The President welcomed all members to the meeting.

#### 2. Roll call

Adham Sharara	President
Melecio Rivera	Executive Vice-President-Development
Chérif Hajem	Executive Vice-President
Petra Sörling	Executive Vice-President
Khaled El Salhy	African representative
Tony Yue	Asian representative and Junior Commission
Michel Gadai	European representative
Jairo Orlando Paez	Latin American representative
Mike Cavanaugh	North American President
Patrick Gillman	Oceania President

#### In attendance

Glenn Tepper	Executive Director (Development)
Judit Faragó	Executive Director (Competitions)
Mikael Andersson	Executive Director (Education and Training)
Raúl Calín	Global Junior Programme Director
Alison Burchell	Secretariat

#### By invitation

Nico Verspeelt	Para Table Tennis representative
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#### 3. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved.

#### 4. Minutes

4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2008 in Madrid were approved.

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

#### 5. Development programme update

5.1.1 Continental agreements: five continents had signed agreements in 2008 for the period 2009 to 2012. Asia had requested a delay in signing until after their elections had been held in November 2009. The President and Executive Director would meet ATTU Officials in China in January 2010 to discuss and finalise. A modified programme had been run by ITTF Development Department in Asia in 2009.

#### 5.1.2 ITTF coach accreditation system:

- The ITTF PTT Level 1 coaching course and ITTF Level 1 Coaching Manual was now available in English, French, Spanish and Arabic with the Portuguese, Estonian and Farsi versions also close to completion.
- The ITTF Level 2 coaching course and ITTF Advanced Coaching Manual was now available in English, French, and Spanish, with courses commencing from 2009. Arabic would be available from May 2010.
- A positive development was the University of Leipzig course for 4 months with the only cost to the participant being their airfare as other costs were covered by the German Government. A pilot was held in English in 2008 for African countries. The first official course was currently underway in Spanish with 12 coaches from 8 Latin American countries. The next targeted course in 2011 would be in French. Participants must be ITTF Level 1 and would receive ITTF Level 2 after the course once requirements were met.

#### 5.2 Goodwill Projects:

- Ping Pong Paz had taken some time to set up with its partners (Peace and Sport, Colombianitos and Butterfly) but it had been very successful in the three targeted disadvantaged areas of Colombia;
- ITTF Development Programme was recently awarded the best Peace Project for an international sports federation at the recent Peace and Sport awards.

#### 5.3 Women's development:

- A good platform had been established by previous WWG and Executive Committee members;
- A minimum of 1 course per continent was held in 2009;
- The process was now moving from awareness towards implementation;
- The WWG wished to work closely with the continental associations;
- The continental forum funding would be re-allocated to courses;
- A WWG meeting had been held in South Africa, separately from the Women's World Cup;
- Recommendations included that men be appointed to the WWG, in future, and the WWG should be part of the development programme rather than being a separate committee.

#### 5.4 Ongoing development:

- During the period the Executive Director Development stayed in Lausanne, various contacts were reinforced with organisations such as IOC, UN and Olympic Solidarity;
- Arising from the Executive Director's presentation at the IF Development Seminar, the ITTF seemed to be well advanced in the development area;
- Sport for All would be the next target for 2010.

#### 5.5 Bonus points US\$20 000 distribution:

- The incentive was to establish new national associations, apply for Olympic Solidarity courses and funding and implement continental agreements. Funding was distributed to the continents accordingly.
- 5.6 2009 courses and equipment assistance: 86 courses and 24 equipment packages as well as over 800 manuals were provided by the Development Program in 2009.
- 5.7 Olympic Solidarity: ITTF Development Program was successful in securing over US\$1,000,000 in additional funding for coach education courses in the period 2005-2008.

## **6. Education and training update**

### 6.1 Programmes and priorities:

- Various programmes were in place incorporating working with elite coaches, young players, an equipment conference and training environments;
- US\$224,000 from Olympic Solidarity was used to work with 33 players from 23 countries in 5 continents for ITTF Hopes Team and focused on a one-on-one coaching approach for global talent identified in 2009;
- The Cadet Challenge was the major investment from the programme;
- The ITTF Junior Circuit put identified players on the fast track;
- For the future, issues addressed would be self-belief in players, respect for the game, focus on talent identification and a possible change in the role of associations;
- The focus of education and training was to provide support and services to associations and players.

### 6.2 Youth Olympic Games:

- The YOG would probably lead to NOCs refocusing their efforts onto their sub-elite athletes;
- The YOG would be used as an educational platform for players and coaches with the addition of an official training camp;
- The Young Umpire Project had been delegated to the URC with some training being done online to train 9 out of 18 umpires for the YOG.

### 6.3 World Hopes Team:

- If players were born in 1998 or 1999, associations should nominate players for ITTF World Hopes Team for 2010;
- The impact of the programme would be assessed to see how many players continued to the world championships.

## **7. Global Junior Programme update**

### 7.1 ITTF Junior Circuit:

- 25 events had been confirmed for 2010 (Africa 2, Asia 6, Europe 10, Pan America 6 and Oceania 1) of which 12 would be Junior Circuit and 13 Premium Junior Circuit events;
- 1 event per continent had been identified from which 1 boy and 1 girl would be selected for the YOG;
- Competition managers trained in each continent would be used for the organisation of future events.

- 7.2 World Junior Championships:
- the WJTTC event in Colombia had been a great success;
  - the next World Junior Championships would be held in Bratislava and a test event had already been held;
  - the Bratislava organisers were present in Colombia;
  - the standard of play increased each year;
  - 2011 would be held in Bahrain and 2012 in South Africa.
- 7.3 ITTF Cadet Challenge:
- Puerto Rico and Slovenia were interested initially but no bid was received finally;
  - Turkey, Egypt, France, Thailand, Chile and India would be approached to host this event;
  - the reduction of teams to 5 continents plus host was successful and would be continued;
  - the policy of a maximum of one player per country in continental teams was successful and would continue for the foreseeable future, adding significantly to continental development.
- 7.4 Junior Commission update:
- a successful training camp had been held before the Cadet Challenge in Tokyo;
  - proposals had been submitted for education of players and coaches to be included in the training camp and this would be integrated in future;
  - the number of teams had increased for the World Junior Championships and the play format would be submitted to the Executive Committee in Moscow;
  - the scholarship funding had assisted in raising the level of play at junior level and continental presidents were encouraged to access these additional resources;
  - with the three age groups of U18, U15 Cadet Challenge and U12 Hopes Programme, much progress had been made;
  - the funding for the junior programme continued to grow and the standard continued to improve;
  - the 100<sup>th</sup> ITTF junior circuit event had been held in Ecuador this year.

## **8. ITTF continental restructure**

### 8.1 ITTF continental offices:

- in 2010, in Europe (Vienna), Latin America and Africa, the ITTF would establish ITTF continental offices;
- an ITTF office had already been established in Asia (Beijing), which currently also served as the Oceania ITTF office and one would be established in Oceania in the future.

8.2 The Americas: an initiative was underway to establish a Pan American Union as a competition platform for the region, while maintaining the current Continental Federations.

8.3 Continental Championships and WTTC: a proposal would be presented in Moscow to give more impetus to the continental championships and cups to promote marketing and broadcasting initiatives.

The Council asked the Executive Director (Competitions) to report on which associations participated in the world championships without playing in the continental championships.

## **9. Continental updates**

### **9.1 Oceania:**

- almost all countries were now affiliated with two more being added;
- the OTTF hoped to have more young umpires for the next YOG in 4 years time;
- 5 Oceania events would be shown on television, following an agreement in Australia with Fox sports;
- discussions were ongoing between the ITTF and OTTF for the OTTF to use the "ITTF" label as part of a marketing contract (brand name) initiative.

9.2 Africa: supported the restructuring proposal and would need to minimise changes to its constitution in order to have a similar agreement to Oceania.

### **9.3 North America:**

- in the USA, the issue of TV broadcast was being addressed;
- there was a groundswell of awareness about table tennis;
- 3 story lines had been developed for a broadcast channel;
- 200,000 recreational tables were sold last year by 1 manufacturer and President Obama had purchased a table for the White House.

9.4 Europe: the ETTU was pleased with the development agreement with the ITTF and the development officer.

9.5 Latin America: congratulated the Development department and believed that the new structure in Oceania would work in the Americas as well and would improve the performance of Pan America.

## **10. Any other business**

There was no other business considered.

## **11. Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 13h54.

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Adham Sharara  
President

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Date