

International Table Tennis Federation

DEVELOPMENT & CONTINENTAL COUNCIL MEETING

Inaugural Meeting

MINUTES

of the Development & Continental Council Meeting of the International Table Tennis Federation held on **8th December 2008** at the Husa Princesa Hotel, Madrid, Spain, at 09:00h.

1. President's welcome and opening remarks

The Deputy President welcomed all to the first Development & Continental Council meeting and explained that all members should freely bring up any issues of concern to the Continents. He explained that what affects one Continent affects the other and that it was necessary to develop together in order to function as one unit.

2. Roll call

George Segun	Deputy President (Chairman)
Yang Shuan	Executive Vice-President
Cherif Hajem	Continental Vice President (Africa)
Choo Wee Khiang	Continental Vice President (Asia)
Stefano Bosi	Continental Vice President (Europe)
Melecio Rivera	Continental Vice President (Latin America)
Bruce Burton	Continental Vice President (North America)
Patrick Gillman	Continental Vice President (Oceania)

Invited to attend

Claude Bergeret	Executive Vice-President
Tony Yue	Chairman Junior Commission (for opening of the meeting)

In attendance

Jordi Serra	Executive Director
Lilamani de Soysa	Project Manager
Glenn Tepper	Director of Development Programmes
Mikael Andersson	Global Junior Programme Manager

Excused

Adham Sharara	President
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3. Approval of Agenda and Minutes of previous Executive Council meeting

The agenda was approved as presented and the Minutes of the last Executive Council meeting held in Guangzhou, China, were signed by the Deputy President as a true record of the meeting.

4. Global Junior Programme

Mr. Tony Yue thanked the Continental Vice-Presidents for their support to the Global Junior Programme and explained some of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Junior Commission held the day before. He explained that the Junior Circuit was growing and 27 events had been planned for 2009 and more and more countries were trying to host junior events where 1300 players were participating actively in the circuit. Due to this rapid growth the period of the circuit would also be extended to 12 months with a larger representation at the Junior Circuit Finals (9 players from the ranking, 1 from the host country and 6

continental representatives). He said that the age of players participating at the first Youth Olympic Games would be for those born between 1st January 1994 and 31st December 1995. He also said that the "With the Future in Mind" scholarship programme was a success and asked the Continental Vice-Presidents to recommend players for Olympic Solidarity support. Mr. Yue also explained that the ITTF would like to create a category for U-12 players, entitled "ITTF Hopes". Mr. Stefano Bosi said the Europe would do its best to harmonise European talent scouting activities to be more compatible with the programme proposed by the ITTF.

5. Women's Working Group

Ms Claude Bergeret presented a brief update report regarding the activities of the Women's Working Group and thanked all the Continents for hosting the Continental Forums. She explained the budget and new working principles of the Women's Development Programme for the next quadrennial (combined forum and development courses, as many minor forums organised by the national associations, 1 PTT-ITTF combined course, development of tool-kits, etc.).

6. ITTF New Professional Staff Structure

Mr. Jordi Serra said that the staff structure was being adapted to fit the real needs of the ITTF with the creation of 4 Departments, each with a Director as follows: Operations Department (Mr. Jordi Serra), Development Department (Mr. Glenn Tepper), Competition Department (Ms Judit Faragó), and the Education & Training Department (Mr. Mikael Andersson). A Co-ordinator of Development Programmes had also been hired to meet the needs of the expanding Development Programme.

7. New Education & Training Department

Mr. Mikael Andersson explained his new role as the Director of the Education and Training Department and the ITTF Hopes Programme that would be put in place.

8. Development

- Development and Continental Council philosophy and direction
- 2009-2012 Continental Agreements Update, Staffing
- ITTF Development Website
- Goodwill Fund 2009-2012
- ITTF Coach Education and Certification System

Mr. Glenn Tepper gave a report on the points listed above. He explained that the Development Agreements were being evolved every quadrennial and that four of the agreements had already been signed. Asia and Europe were yet to be signed but following discussions with the Continental Presidents or their appointees in Madrid it was expected that the agreements would be signed in the near future. Mr. Glenn Tepper explained that he would continue to be in charge overall, while Mr. Leandro Olvech had been hired as Development Coordinator in charge of day to day operations in Africa, Latin America and Europe and that Glenn Tepper would remain responsible for Asia, North America and Oceania. He informed that a new Development Officer had been hired for Oceania, Mr. Scott Houston from Australia. Mr. Glenn Tepper also made a demonstration of how the development section on the ITTF website could be better consulted and utilised by the Continental Federations and the National Associations. He also gave a brief update on several Goodwill Projects underway such as Peace and Sport [Colombia], Generations for Peace [Sudan, Palestine, Afghanistan] and UNHCR [Yemen]. A lively discussion ensued regarding the principles underlying the Continental Agreements, for example the need for taking the national GDP into consideration when allocating funds and the need for the Continents to have more flexibility in their choice of activities as well as the use of the development funds.

9. Continental Unions

- Issues
- Future Proposals

Mr. Stefano Bosi officially communicated that Ms Zita Pidl's contract with the ETTU would expire at the end of the year and said that he was very satisfied with the work done by Ms Pidl for the ETTU. However, the ETTU was evolving and new projects and new teams were being formed to adapt to the new and ever changing needs of the ETTU. He said that he was satisfied with the meeting he had had with the ITTF Director of Development Programmes and said that the European Agreement would be signed soon. He requested more flexibility in the cooperation between the ITTF and the ETTU.

The payment system of ITTF membership fees was briefly discussed and it was decided to leave the system as it is for the time being.

Mr. George Segun thanked the Continental Presidents for their cooperation and willingness to work together for the development of table tennis.

10. Other Business

Ms Lilamani de Soysa explained the Friendship Trophy concept once more and encouraged the Continental Presidents to ensure that as many countries organised it on 8th March 2009.

11. Next meeting

The next meeting of the DCC was scheduled to take place on 28th April 2009 in Yokohama, Japan.

12. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12h01.

Meeting Chairman, George Segun