

Executive Committee (1)

Minutes

of the **informal** Executive Committee Meeting of the International Table Tennis Federation, held on Friday 18th February 2000 at the Nikko Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, at 2 p.m.

Present

Adham Sharara	<i>President and CEO</i>
Pierre Albertini	<i>Deputy President</i>
George Segun	<i>Executive Vice-President</i>
Nils Bergström	<i>Executive Vice-President</i>
Yang Shuan	<i>Executive Vice-President</i>

In attendance

Eve Williams	<i>Administration Director</i>
Anders Thunström	<i>Marketing Director</i>
Jordi Serra	<i>Technical Director</i>
Lilamani De Soysa	<i>Administrative and Project Co-ordinator</i>
Li Tiefeng	<i>Interpreter</i>

Mr. Adham Sharara welcomed the Executive Committee to Kuala Lumpur and wished those attending a successful World Championship.

1. **WTTC update**

Mr. Nils Bergström reported that there were still several minor problems related to transportation, food, and accreditation. Mr. Chan, Director general of the WTTC, had been informed and would take the necessary steps to solve these problems. The air conditioning in the hall was too cold but Zlatko Cordas was dealing with the matter. A welcome dinner would take place in the evening but there were difficulties distributing invitations. Mr. Bergström felt that there was a lack of information and the distribution of information was not very efficient. He said that pigeonholes would be set up at the entrance for all ITTF officials, Council members, teams and delegates.

2. **Information about WTTC**

Ms Eve Williams reported that arrangements were being made so that all ITTF meetings would take place in the best of conditions. Booths were being set up for simultaneous interpretation at the AGM and the meeting would also be filmed and tape-recorded.

Mr. Adham Sharara invited the Executive Committee and the wives of the Executive Committee members to the dinner to be held on the 20th of February, in honour of Mr. Gilbert Felli, Director of Sports of the IOC, who was present in Kuala Lumpur.

Mr. Anders Thunström reported that contractual agreements had been discussed in the morning with the sponsors and a meeting with the host broadcaster would take place in the evening. He was happy to report that TV rights sales to Korea and some more foreseen in Europe would bring the ITTF closer to attaining its goal of US \$ 500,000 discussed in Prague. He felt that the TV broadcasters (TV3) were very well prepared.

Mr. Adham Sharara explained the immediate situation concerning the future of the World Championships. He said that so far there had been no official bids for the 47th WTTC but the Table Tennis Federation of India had requested to host the full event in 2003. However, in case the AGM decided to separate the event, India would prefer to host the individual events. He had been informed that Korea would not be applying for 2003 but for 2005 but would in reality be ready to host the team events in 2004. The French Federation would be explaining its position at the General Meeting. Mr. Stefano Bosi expressed concern that a separation of the WTTC may clash with the European calendar. Mr. Adham Sharara explained that it should not be a problem to draw up a new calendar, which was logical for everybody taking all the Continents into consideration.

In this uncertain state of affairs, Mr. Adham Sharara said that it was important that Council present a concrete recommendation to the AGM. He said he would make a proposal to Council for a first experimentation, explaining the advantages of holding the WTTC annually. He said he would propose two options and then the decision for the future could be taken in 2003 or 2004. He was also happy to report that despite the very short time available to the Table Tennis Association of Malaysia for the organisation of the WTTC, the overall participation response had been very good.

3. Auditors

Mr. Adham Sharara explained that since the untimely passing away of Mr. Yap Yong Yih the ITTF had not had a Vice-President for finance and the ITTF financial reports presented in Eindhoven had not been audited. The Executive Board, as instructed by the BGM, should now nominate the auditors of the ITTF. However, the new auditors could be appointed by the AGM, on recommendation by the Executive Board. Mr. Adham Sharara said he would make a more detailed presentation of the new firm to the Executive Board the next day.

4. List of meetings

Ms Eve Williams would distribute an updated list of all the meetings to be held in KL. The first Executive Board Meeting would take place on the 19th of February at 2 p.m. in the Nikko Hotel.

5. Contacts and Communication

Ms. Eve Williams would also distribute a list of all room numbers of ITTF officials and staff. It was reported that the ITTF offices at the Stadium were situated in an inconvenient location and that the VIP lounge could be used by the Executive Committee for informal gatherings.

6. Welcome reception

A welcome reception would take place tonight at 7h30 p.m. and guests were requested to arrive at 7 p.m.

7. **Advance from IOC**
Mr. Adham Sharara explained that the ITTF had paid the KL Organising Committee the amounts due to them, which had created a cash-flow problem. However, he announced the good news that the IOC had accepted to advance from the Olympic grant the sum of US \$ 250,000 to the ITTF in order to help ease the situation.
8. **Sport Science Congress**
Mr. Adham Sharara reported that he had attended the Sports Science Congress held in the morning, together with 30 - 40 other participants and the Malaysian Deputy Minister of Sports. He had made a short welcome speech but the keynote address had been made by Mr. George Segun who had asked those involved in Sports Science to work harder in order to introduce more research and to make our sport more athletic.
9. **EGM and GM**
Mr. Adham Sharara explained the proceeding for the EGM and AGM. The exact hall in the Nikko Hotel would be notified later by Ms Eve Williams. He explained that three guests from the City of Lausanne would make a short presentation regarding moving the headquarters to Lausanne. Mr. Michel Dach, Executive Secretary of the *Jeux de la Francophonie*, would also make a brief presentation on the next Francophone Games to be held in Ottawa, Canada. He announced that some manufacturers would be presented with an award and so would the members of the President's Advisory Council. He said that he intended to ask Mr. Hans Giesecke to be part of the President's Advisory Council.
10. **Council Meeting**
Mr. Adham Sharara explained the proceedings for the Council Meetings and informed that the first Council Meeting would include all the Agenda items without any propositions and the 2nd Council Meeting after the AGM would deal with the propositions.
11. **Awards and presentations**
Mr. Adham Sharara reported that several awards would be given to some organisers Pro Tour events, such as an award for the most spectators, best hospitality, best new event, best overall event, highest prize money and a prize for premium event. As mentioned before, some manufacturers who sponsor the ITTF as well as the Organising Committee and the President's Advisory Council would be presented with an award.
12. **Any other business**
There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 5 p.m.

Meeting Chairman, Adham Sharara