

International Table Tennis Federation
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

Of the Executive Committee meeting of the International Table Tennis Federation held on **16th December 2006** at the Olympic House of Hong Kong, China, at 09:00 hours

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

Mr. Tony Yue, Chairman of the Hong Kong Table Tennis Association welcomed all to Hong Kong and apologised for any inconvenience caused due to visa problems. He said it was a pleasure to host the Executive Committee at the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the HKTTA. He invited all present to the gala banquet that would be organised in conjunction with the farewell party for the Pro Tour participants and the winners of medals at the recent Asian Games held in Doha, Qatar.

Mr. Adham Sharara in turn, welcomed the EC to Hong Kong and thanked Mr. Tony Yue for his hospitality. He apologised for the absence of Ms Judit Faragó who was representing the ITTF at the World Junior Championships in Cairo and said that it was necessary in the future to avoid a clash of dates between the Pro Tour finals and the World Junior Championships. He said he would like that the end-of-year EC+ meetings be always held during the World Junior Championships.

2. **Roll call**

Adham Sharara	President
George Segun	Deputy President
Yang Shuan	Executive Vice President
Claude Bergeret	Executive Vice President
Neil Harwood	Executive Vice President (Finance)
Koji Kimura	Executive Vice President

In attendance:

Jordi Serra	Executive Director
Lilamani de Soysa	Project Manager
Anders Thunström	TMS Managing Director
Steve Dainton	Director ITTF Asia Office

Excused:

Judit Faragó	Executive Vice President (Representing ITTF at the 4 th World Junior Championships in Cairo, Egypt)
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3. **Approval of Agenda**

The Agenda was approved as presented.

4. **Minutes**

4.1 Approval of Minutes of previous meeting (Guangzhou, 15 September 2006)

The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved with the following corrections:

- Item 5.2, paragraph 3 to read: "A further inspection visit would take place in January 2007 together with the Competition Manager, the Curator of the Museum and a representative of TMS.
- Item 6.1, line 2 to read: ... Urumqi, China on 30th September...

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

Mr. Adham Sharara informed the EC that according to the decision made at the last EC meeting, Dawei had been suspended. In the meantime, the issue had been settled and the suspension lifted.

Mr. Adham Sharara referred to item 6.4.1 and said that a strategy would have to be implemented in order to offer VIP accreditation to former world champions who may attend the WTTC.

5. TMS International update

5.1 2008 WTTC

Mr. Anders Thunström reported that the Guangzhou organising committee was already well advanced in the preparation of the 2008 WTTC and that TMS was working on the sponsorship contract with the organizers. The equipment sponsors have been selected, Double Happiness for balls, Double Fish for tables and Gerflor for flooring. Liebherr had been secured as a major sponsor and a deal was to be concluded soon with China Unicom as another major sponsor. However, title sponsorship was open for sale and several contacts had been made. A presentation had already been made to Nissan (China) and an answer was expected at the end of January 2007. Another presentation would be made in Hong Kong the day following the present meeting to Volkswagen for title sponsorship.

Mr. Adham Sharara said that Nissan Japan would also be contacted regarding Yokohama 2009 and requested Mr. Koji Kimura to provide him with the contact details of the responsible officials at Nissan Japan.

5.2 Liebherr renewal

Mr. Anders Thunström reported that all the agreements from 2008 to 2010 inclusive had been renewed with Liebherr except for the Pro Tour, which was renewed for 2008 only and Liebherr would decide the long-term commitment after further evaluation of the Pro Tour. Liebherr would be the title sponsor for the Men's World Cup, European championships, the European Top 12 as well as the ITTF museum (2008-2010), and Major sponsor at the WTTC in 2008, 2009 and 2010.

5.3 Joola package deal

Mr. Anders Thunström reported that agreements had been renewed with Joola as official table sponsor for the Men's World Cup and the World Junior Championships and the World Cadet Challenge/World Junior Circuit Final. The 3-year deal would also include sponsorship of the ITTF museum.

5.4 DHS package deal

It was reported that TMS had made a long-term 5-year deal (2006-2010) with DHS for several events including the Beijing Olympic Games where they would sponsor the tables while allowing Double Fish to provide the balls. In addition, DHS would be the supplier of balls for the Men's World Cup and exclusive equipment sponsor for the Women's World Cup. DHS would also provide sponsorship for the ITTF museum.

Mr. Thunström thanked Mr. Adham Sharara for his help in securing these sponsorship deals.

- 5.5 Grundfos
Mr. Anders Thunström further reported that, Grundfos, a non table tennis company from Denmark, had been secured by TMS as a major sponsor of the Pro Tour Grand Finals in Hong Kong. TMS would strive to secure them as title sponsor for the Team World Cup in 2007.
- 5.6 Hunan TV
Mr. Anders Thunström said that an agreement had been made with Hunan TV and the Chinese TTA for the Tournament of Champions in 2006 on a trial basis with the option to renew on a longer term basis.
- 5.7 VW negotiations
It was reported that the contracts with Volkswagen for the Pro Tour would finish at the end of 2008 and a renewal presentation to Volkswagen was scheduled for the next day.
- 5.8 Other negotiations
Mr. Anders Thunström reported that several other sponsorship contracts had been secured, in particular with Gerflor for the Pro Tour Grand Finals, the Beijing test event, the Olympic Games and the WTTTC. A new floor colour had been introduced in Athens, and TMS was requested to ensure that the same colour was used in Beijing as well as to clear the issue of the thickness of the new Gerflor flooring.

It was also reported that the new Stag sports flooring would be used in 2007 at all junior title events and two world cup events. TMS was requested to ensure that Stag flooring was taped underneath and not with strips of tape on top of the flooring.

Mr. Anders Thunström also reported that TMS was in negotiation with China-Unicom to extend its contract for the back numbers. He said that a deal had been made with Hong Kong cable, starting next year for a period of three years, to cover the full Pro Tour and that with the help of Mr. Steve Dainton, TMS was hoping to secure TV coverage from more regional Chinese television stations. TMS was also exploring the possibilities of showing live matches on the website on a special ITTF TV web-channel.

Ms Claude Bergeret said that players had complained about Double Fish balls at the last China Open and some samples of Double Fish balls used there had been sent for testing. She was requested to distribute the results of the tests to all concerned.

6. Events

6.1 China vs World

It was reported that the China vs World event, sponsored by Volkswagen, held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, had been a great success and kudos to the Malaysian TTA for the organisation. If finances could be secured, it would be a great event to host also in countries that do not have a Pro Tour event. Mr. Neil Harwood who had attended the event said that the level of play had been high, the venue had been full with spectators, and the players had enjoyed the contest. He also reported that a women's exhibition match had been played between Wang Nan and the local Malaysian women's champion and there had been nearly a full-house even though the exhibition match had taken place after the men's matches. Mr.

Neil Harwood said that it would be good to host this event elsewhere than in China that already has many events.

6.2 World Cup Men and Women

Mr. Jordi Serra reported that the Barcelona organisers of the next Men's World Cup (2007) had attended the last one in Paris and that preparations were well underway. The schedule was in place and the programme was ready, however, local major sponsorship still had to be finalised.

Mr. George Segun reported that the Men's World Cup in France (2006) had been successful, with an impressive number of spectators and extremely high level of competition.

Ms Claude Bergeret reported that the Women's World Cup had been equally successful in Urumqi, China, with an extremely good final match. She said that a Women's Working Group meeting had been held there together with a meeting with the players. The next Women's World Cup will be held in Chengdu, China.

6.3 Pro Tour Grand Finals

Mr. Anders Thunström said that there had been many problems for the players related to employment visas for the players and coaches. The ITTF would have to reconsider holding prize money events in HK unless special regulations are put in place to facilitate the receipt of the visas. Furthermore, it was necessary to ensure in the future that TMS is always involved in the promotion of the event in order to ensure a maximum number of spectators. The next Pro Tour Grand Finals will be held in Beijing, with the title "Good Luck Beijing", on 13-16 December 2007.

6.4 World Team Cup

Mr. Adham Sharara explained that the ITTF was striving to revive the World Team Cup event, which in the past had been held three times and then removed from the calendar due to a lack of funds in 1994. However, there were some sponsors interested in the event, and if a title sponsor could be secured by TMS, then the event could take place once again next year (2007). It was unanimously decided that the event, if held, should take place every two years, between world team championships. Tentative dates for next year are 5-7 October 2007. After a lengthy discussion it was decided that teams would be selected as follows: a total of 8 teams, the first seven teams from the results of the previous WTTC and one team from the host association. If the host association were already included in the top 7, then the alternate team would be selected from the Team Ranking list (highest ranked team at time of invitation).

7. Structure, Planning and Implementation

7.1 Committees structure and nomination of Chairmen

The need for an open and more democratic procedure for nominating Committee Chairmen/women was discussed at length and it was decided to request all current Chairpersons to send a detailed job description of their responsibilities. The ITTF, based on these documents, would create job descriptions for all Committee chairs including the obligation of mentoring others as future Committee Chairs. The next committee members nomination form would be modified accordingly to give more associations the opportunity to nominate candidates for the position of Chairperson. The final recommendation and selection procedure of the Chairman/woman for each committee would be done as usual for the time being from the list of nominated candidates.

7.2 Staff structure update
Mr. Adham Sharara said that he would be meeting with Mr. Neil Harwood and Mr. Jordi Serra the following day to discuss the staff contracts that were expiring at the end of December 2006 and a proposal would be made at the EC+ meeting on the 18th of December. It was reported that two possible options were being studied at the moment for the position of Media Event Manager at the Zagreb WTTC and that an advertisement would be made in the new year for a full-time Media Coordinator position. Mr. Neil Harwood insisted that a very competent person should be in place before the Beijing Olympic Games.

7.3 ITTF Constitution revision timelines
All EC members were requested by the President to carefully read the Constitution and send in any modifications to the Executive Director with the purpose of revising the Constitution in the near future.

8. U21 competition programme

The proposal submitted by Ms Judit Faragó for the introduction of prize money for U-21 events was unanimously adopted, in principle, to be implemented in 2008, pending the decision of the EC at its next meeting regarding the exact prize money allocations.

9. Anti-doping update: ADAMS and IFADO

Mr. Jordi Serra confirmed that an agreement had been signed so that the ITTF could have access to the software provided by WADA. A first training session of the ADAMS software had been held in Paris during the Men's World Cup and a few top players and their coaches had participated. However, it seemed that the players were not yet prepared to use this procedure and a system would have to be found to work more closely with the associations. A second trial would be held in Zagreb during the WTTC involving some associations that have an anti-doping programme of their own.

Mr. Jordi Serra explained that IFADO was a WADA plan to organise anti-doping services for International Federations that require this service and that he had been involved in the preliminary work. However, it was decided that the ITTF would join the programme if and when ASOIF and GAISF had officially sanctioned the programme. Mr. Serra was requested to inform WADA accordingly.

10. Finances

10.1 Auditors for 2006

Mr. Jordi Serra and Mr. Neil Harwood recommended the use of the services of the international auditing firm "Ernst & Young" as the auditors for 2006. Mr. Adham Sharara was requested to contact their counterpart in Ottawa, and provided that they are able to meet the timelines set by the ITTF, the company would be used for auditing both the Lausanne and Ottawa offices. If they were unable to meet the timelines, Price Waterhouse Coopers may be retained for one more year.

10.2 Financial Statements update

The Balance sheet and the Profit & Loss statement at 30 November 2006 were presented by Mr. Jordi Serra.

10.3 Olympic revenue (Beijing)

Mr. Adham Sharara reported that he had made a proposal to the ASOIF Council regarding the equitable distribution of summer Olympic funds and was awaiting an answer.

11. Representations

- Mr. Neil Harwood would be representing the President and the ITTF at the Tournament of Champions in Changcha, China.
- It was reported that Mr. Khalil Al-Mohannadi had represented the President at the Asian Games, held in Doha Qatar. Mr. Koji Kimura reported that it had been a very successful event and he had been invited to present an award.
- Mr. George Segun reported that he had represented the ITTF at the Lusofonian Games held in Macau, as well as the IOC conference on Education held in Beijing, China.
- Mr. Yang Shuan said he had met with Mr. Adham Sharara when he was in Beijing for a meeting of the IOC Coordination Commission and congratulated the President on this prestigious nomination and the efficient chairing of the Sports meeting.

12. Next Meeting

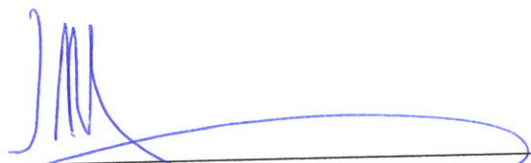
The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held on 3-4 March 2007, with location to be confirmed. Mr Jordi Serra to confirm.

13. Any other business

There was no other business than that covered by the agenda.

14. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 13h01.



Meeting Chairman, Adham Sharara