

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

Of the Executive Committee meeting of the International Table Tennis Federation held on **15th September 2006**, in Guangzhou, China at 08:00 hours

1. President's welcome and opening remarks

Mr. Adham Sharara welcomed all to Guangzhou and thanked Mr. Koji Kimura for changing plans and attending the meeting despite his current busy schedule. Greetings were delivered from Mr. Han Sang Kook (PAC member) who had met with some members of staff in Lausanne two days previously. All EC members and staff were invited to attend a welcome dinner with the Mayor of Guangzhou in the evening.

2. Roll call

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

Invited to attend

Tony Yue	Chairman Junior Commission
Yao Zhenxu	Chairman Technical Committee (item 8)

In attendance

Jordi Serra	Executive Director
Lilamani de Soysa	Project Manager
Anders Thunström	TMS Managing Director
Echo Chiu	Hong Kong Table Tennis Association (item 10.1)
Rebecca Xu Jun	Interpreter (item 8)

3. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was approved with the addition of items:

- 13.5 – Pro Tour Finals update
- 20.2 – Financial Statements update

4. Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes of previous meeting (Bremen, 29 April 2006)

The Minutes of the previous meeting held in Bremen were signed by the President as a true record of the meeting.

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

No other business.

5. World Table Tennis Championships

5.1 2006 WTTC Bremen

Ms Claude Bergeret gave a comprehensive update of the last meetings held with the DTTB regarding the Bremen WTTC. She said that the DTTB was striving to obtain a waiver from the German government for the taxes to be paid on the ITTF contribution. She reported that the general feeling about the WTTC was that it had been very successfully organised with exceptionally good TV coverage, large numbers of spectators and high level play. However, from within the table tennis family much criticism had been received regarding hospitality and visa problems. She said that the DTTB had promised to take steps to improve their image and that the ITTF should also take measures to further improve its internal processes and the communication with its member associations regarding the WTTC requirements. It was said that hotel reservations for the WTTC should always be handled by a professional company and

not the organisers themselves and that the ITTF should insist with participating national federations to begin visa procedures in good time, in order to avoid problems created largely due to the late request for visas.

5.2 2007 WTTC Zagreb (CB)

Ms Claude Bergeret reported that an inspection visit had been made to Zagreb together with the Executive Director on 5th and 6th September. The overall impression was that it would be well organised albeit on a smaller scale than Shanghai or Bremen. It had been decided that accreditation would be delivered in the hotels for all those who had completed formalities and made payments beforehand. Others would have to go to the accreditation centre. Every hotel would have an information desk during the entire championship. The mixed zone proposed remained an issue under discussion. A suitable location of 220sq had been found for the museum as well as suitable space for the manufacturers' stands. Three playing halls would be used, the main hall (32 tables on the 1st two days and 18 tables from day 3 including two TV courts) and one competition hall (9 tables used during the 1st three days) as well as a practice hall (with 24 tables). The accommodation cost for extra persons had been fixed at Euros 110 per day for a single room and Euros 135 for a double room (the same as Bremen). The 1st information bulletin would be sent out before the 20th of November 2006.

In answer to several questions submitted by the Organising Committee, the following decisions were taken:

- 1) It was decided that delegates to the AGM would stay in the same hotels as their teams.
- 2) In order to simplify the process, it was decided that on a trial basis, the preliminary and final entries would be sent only to the ITTF headquarters. All changes made after the deadline should be sent to the Organising Committee only. A change to the rules would be proposed to the BOD in due course. The entry form shall be modified in order to contain all the necessary information concerning visas. The Organising Committee would be requested to send systematically invitation letters to all those that need them.
- 3) It was decided that according to the present rule, half of the umpires participating in the Zagreb WTTC would be from foreign countries.

A further inspection visit would take place in January 2007 together with the Competition Manager and the Curator of the Museum.

Mr. Adham Sharara stated that he felt that the 2007 WTTC would be a very successful event with special attention to hospitality. He is confident of the abilities of the Croatia TTA based on many years of experience in staging successful events.

5.3 2008 WTTC Guangzhou

A coordination visit with Ms Claude Bergeret and the Executive Director was scheduled for the following day. Mr. Anders Thunström would meet with the Guangzhou TTA to discuss how to increase the profile and exposure of the event as well as the possibility of making a sponsorship package proposal to the companies that were interested in sponsoring the 2008 WTTC. A presentation will be made to VW at a later date with the option to sponsor the new ITTF WTTC package.

5.4 No shows at the WTTC

Ms Claude Bergeret made an intermediary report on the work she had undertaken to study the problem of no shows at the WTTC. Several suggestions and ideas were discussed on how to improve the accreditation system, a cancellation rule with clear deadlines, the diminishing of the size of official delegations, the possibility to use credit cards for accreditation payment, etc. The item was referred to the EC meeting in Hong Kong for a final decision after study and receipt of a written proposal.

5.5 WTTC participation of smaller Associations

It was reported that about 45 questionnaires had been sent out and 7 answers received. The lack of funds seemed to be the main reason for non-participation at the WTTC. After discussion it was decided to refer this issue to the Development Manager

to propose concrete actions for non-participating countries to attend the Continental Championships as a first step. It was said that the active involvement of the Continental Development Officers should be necessary. It was also made clear that those associations to be rewarded should be those that have already taken steps in their development as would be known to our Development Manager. It was decided, that based on the response to the questionnaire it was not wise to fund any association to participate directly at the WTTC.

6. Committees and Working Groups

6.1 Women's Working Group

It was reported that a meeting of the Women's Working Group would be held in Urumqi, China on 29th September during the Women's World Cup. Ms Claude Bergeret reported that the WWG would take the opportunity to speak to the female athletes present and inform them of the Women's Development Programme and other pending issues of interest to players and coaches.

Ms Claude Bergeret further informed that according to the decision taken by the EC, 3 nights hospitality costs were paid by the ITTF for 18 female delegates out of the 31 attending the Bremen AGM. She also reported that a meeting had been held with the female delegates and the Committee Chairmen in order to encourage them to be more active in the Committees.

It was reported that the Women's Forum in Africa, scheduled to be held 15th and 16th of November in Congo DR may have to be moved to Congo Brazzaville or rescheduled to March next year.

The draft Marketing Plan presented by the Women's Working Group was discussed at length and it was decided that it would be reviewed, studied and presented again in anew format in due course. The possibility of hiring a marketing expert to sell the Women's Development Programme was also discussed.

6.2. Umpires and Referees Committee (NH)

Mr. Neil Harwood reported that the Umpire's programme was progressing well including the selection of umpires for the WTTC. However, the Referee's programme and the need for better education of IRs should be addressed urgently. It was reported that an IU examination had been fully and efficiently administered by Ms Habiba Besic in the first half of this year.

6.3. Equipment Committee

6.3.1. Suspension of Dawei

It was decided that a letter informing DAWEI that the outstanding amount of USD 30'000 for sponsorship fees for net logo advertising should be paid by 30th September 2006, failing which the company would be suspended and all racket coverings removed from ITTF lists.

6.3.2. Equipment fees 2007-2010

The proposal for equipment approval fees and testing fees 2007-2010 made by the Equipment Committee was approved as presented including an adjustment to testing fees in 2006.

6.4. Athlete's Commission

6.4.1. Invitation to the former World Champions

Following the proposal made by Ms Claude Bergeret to better acknowledge the presence of former world champions at the WTTC, it was decided that a letter would be sent in due course to all national associations asking them to inform the ITTF if any former champions would be attending the WTTC in order to provide them with VIP passes.

6.4.2. Champions T-shirts

Following a suggestion made by Ms Claude Bergeret, it was agreed that signed t-shirts from top players would be collected from top players and distributed to developing players in consultation with the Development Manager.

7. TMS International update

Mr. Anders Thunström reported that TMS had been very successful since Bremen having extended the LIEBHERR agreement until 2010, which included major sponsorship of the WTTC as well as title sponsorship of European events and the Men's World Cup. It was said that verbal agreement had been made with JOOLA for extending existing agreements. Double Fish shall continue until 2009 to be the equipment sponsor for the Pro Tour Grand Finals. He also said that a deal with Double Happiness should be signed soon as equipment supplier for the Olympic Games, WTTC and exclusive supplier of the Women's World Cup. The contract for flooring at the Olympic Games had been signed with GERFLOR. TIBHAR would be the equipment supplier for the Zagreb WTTC. Mr. Anders Thunström also reported that a TV deal J-Sports (Japan) expiring in 2006 had been extended to 2010 and that several long-term deals had been secured. TMS was now working on renewing the deal with VW. It was also said that some cross marketing was being prepared (sponsors for all ITTF events in a specific sponsorship category such as: official airline, official timer, etc.). In this respect Mr. Karl Jindrak would start making presentations to watch companies for electronic scoreboards at ITTF events.

8. 2008 Olympic Games

Mr. Yao Zhenxu accompanied by Rebecca Xu Jun made a comprehensive report on the preparations of the Olympic Games (13 – 23 August 2008). Several items such as the team competition system, the draw and the draw method for the 2nd stage of competition, and proposed dates for the draws were discussed. Several organisational questions regarding video cameras, mobile phones, and number of persons on the bench were submitted for discussion as well as special rules for the table tennis competition.

It was said that the Pro Tour Finals in December 2007 would be used as a test event for the Beijing Games.

Minutes of meetings of a visit to Beijing by Mr. Neil Harwood and the Executive Director were distributed. It was reported that the hotel for ITTF members was conveniently located. The venue was still under construction. Mr. Yang Shuan said that the concept of the ITTF Museum at the Olympics had been raised with the Beijing Cultural Department and a response was awaited. Almost all equipment supplier agreements had been finalised. The Technical Delegates would be visiting Beijing in December this year before proceeding to the Executive Council meeting in Hong Kong. A memorandum of Understanding between BOCOG and the ITTF was signed by the President (ITTF) and Mr. Yang Shuan (BOCOG).

9. Universiade

Ms Judit Faragó reported that she had attended the World University Table Tennis Championships in July 2006 as Technical Delegate and that the event had been very well organised and the level of play very high. However, she said she was happy to report that table tennis had been accepted by FISU as a core sport of the Universiade, starting next year in Bangkok (8 – 18 August 2007). Mr. Yao Zhenxu was nominated as the Technical Delegate for the Bangkok Games upon recommendation from Ms. Judit Faragó.

10. Global Junior programme

10.1 GJP Update

Mr. Tony Yue thanked the EC for the invitation to attend the present EC meeting and made a comprehensive update and overview of the Global Junior Programme with a Power-Point presentation. Several topics were discussed such as the expansion of the number of teams for the Junior World Championships, the expansion of the World Junior Circuit and "key market approach", review of the model for the World Cadet Challenge, ITTF Hope events for U-13 category, systematic approach and funding for Hello Future Programmes and the next coaches conference in 2007, matching stars programme as well as international foundation and management in cooperation with the Swaythling Club. Due to the growing number of junior events it was said that Mr. Karl Jindrak should be more involved in the junior programme as CM. It was recommended that Mr. Raul Calin take more of an educator role in order to teach organisers and avoid the use of a competition manager at every event.

Ms Judit Faragó encouraged the EC to make an urgent inspection visit of the venue for the next Junior World Championships and said that the Junior Commission would propose to the BOD to also request a preliminary inspection visit before the bids are accepted. The need to avoid calendar clashes between the Junior World Championships and the Pro Tour Finals in 2008 was also discussed.

It was decided that Ms Judit Faragó would represent the ITTF at the Cairo Championships this year, thus missing the Executive Council meeting in Hong Kong.

10.2 U21 competition programme

A written proposal in three points for discussion was presented by Ms Judit Faragó:

- 1) The right place for the event - It was decided that the U-21 event would remain part of the Pro Tour.
- 2) Prize money system – Item referred to TMS for a study of costs and a prize money proposal.
- 3) Incentive measure of “wild cards rewards” to a higher-level event – Ms Judit Faragó was requested to make a more precise recommendation for the next EC meeting.

11. Structure, Planning and Implementation

11.1 EC members tasks

The document prepared by the President containing specific tasks for all EC members and the respective staff coordination was reviewed.

11.2 Implementation of Olympic Report Recommendations

Mr. George Segun, Mr. Neil Harwood and Jordi Serra, were requested by the President to take the 20 recommendations made from the IOC evaluation of sports report and to develop a “tasks table” based on the recommendations and persons responsible for each task with deadline dates for implementation and evaluation of each task. The table would be integrated by the President into the P4 plan in due course.

11.3 Committees structure and nomination of Chairmen

Item referred for decision to the EC meeting in December with request to all EC members to think about a clear procedure for nominating Committee Chairs (application forms? direct nominations from National Associations? Qualifications? Maximum term? etc).

11.4 Staff structure update

It was reported that Ms Etsuko Enami is working at the Lausanne office 8 months of the year as Operations Manager.

The 6-months probation period for Mr. Svend Frandsen, Media and Communications Manager, had elapsed and a new contract was not offered following the evaluation of the position.

Mr. Adham Sharara has asked Mr. Neil Harwood to assist him with a new staff structure design to be implemented in the future that would correspond more to the needs of the ITTF, which are constantly changing. Such a structure review would be needed every few years.

12. Glue Ban project

12.1 Wassing and ITTF Agreement of Understanding

Mr. George Segun explained the draft Agreement of Understanding that had been submitted to the EC. It was discussed at length and several changes and additional clauses suggested. The e-nez device would be available on the market 6 months before the ban (1st September 2008). The price of the device had been fixed at Euros 170 per device for 500 pieces. The possibility to use the RAI device as a back-up to the e-nez device was added to the draft document. It was agreed that Mr. George Segun should sign the revised agreement.

12.2 JTTA decisions

Mr. Koji Kimura reported that the Japan Table Tennis Association had decided to ban current glues containing VOCs as of 1st April 2007 for players less than 12 years of age. He said that the JTTA would like to purchase 100 e-nez devices as soon as possible and that a report would be made to Wassing informing them of the performance of the product. He said that an e-nez device had been tested but some problems had been encountered, which will be reported to Wassing. He further reported that Japanese manufacturers were developing new rubbers, which increased speed and spin and that, both the new rubbers and non-toxic glues would be available on the market next year. He said he was also hoping to make experiments with VOC

glues and their effect on the human body if the budget were to be approved by the JTTA directorate.

12.3 Current glue properties. Flammability.

Mr. George Segun said that due to the stricter rules at airports regarding the carrying of liquids on airplanes the effect of flammability of current glues should be studied. It was decided to request the Equipment Committee to do more research on the subject.

13. Events

13.1 China vs. World

Mr. Neil Harwood reported that he had attended the event in Malaysia and it had been a success from all points of view. He said he had talked to the coach of the world team who had confirmed that the format of play was suitable, but that he would prefer a "fixed" allotment of the player positions from the start of the match after the match draw is made. Mr. Harwood also reported that a friendly match between Wang Nan and the Malaysian women champion had attracted a good crowd even though it was late at night.

13.2 Challenge of Champions

Mr. Anders Thunström said that an agreement with Hunan TV should be in place for this event, to be held after the Pro Tour Finals in December 2006. The event would provide equal prize money for men and women.

13.3 World Cup Men and Women

It was reported that the Women and Men's World Cups would be held as planned, in Urumqi, China for the Women and in Paris for the Men. He explained that due to the extension of the LIEBHERR agreement the Men's World Cup would remain in Europe and that VW may become the title sponsor for the Women's World Cup next year. It was reported that tickets in Paris had been sold out for the last two days; a total of 12,000 spectators was expected.

13.4 World Team Cup

Mr. Adham Sharara explained that the possibility of reviving this event in 2007 was under discussion. It would be played using the Olympic format with the 8 best teams. The event would only be possible if the ITTF was successful in finding a title sponsor.

13.5 Pro Tour Finals

Mr. Tony Yue gave a brief update on the Pro Tour Finals to be held in Hong Kong, 14 – 17th December 2006. All ITTF officials would be accommodated at the Park Lane Hong Kong Hotel. The EC meeting would be held on the 16th followed by the EC+ and OC meetings on the 18th.

14. Table tennis Academy

Mr. Adham Sharara said he would have more information in October but that all was in place to accommodate some coaches at the Academy early next year with a selection process to start in October this year. He said the Academy would be part of a larger education system that the ITTF wished to establish with the help of a professional company.

15. Panathlon Declaration on Ethics in Youth Sport

The Panathlon Declaration on Ethics in Youth Sport (see document attached) adopted by the General Assembly of International Sport Federations (GAISF) was signed by the ITTF. The document should be diffused widely through the relevant Committees of the ITTF.

16. Legal Counsel for the ITTF

On recommendation from the Executive Director, the EC appointed Mr. Philippe Richard, doctor in law in Lausanne, as the legal counsel for the ITTF for any future issues requiring legal attention.

17. Representations

The ITTF would be represented at the following events in the manner below:

Women's World Cup – Ms Claude Bergeret

Men's World Cup – Mr. George Segun

Junior Circuit Finals – Mr. Tony Yue and Ms Judit Farago

Pro Tour Finals - All EC members

IOC Conference on Education in Beijing – Mr. George Segun

Lusofonian Games in Macao – Mr. George Segun

18. Anti-doping update

18.1 IFADO

Mr. Jordi Serra explained that IFADO (International Federation Anti-doping Organisation) was a new initiative from WADA to try to export a concept that worked in regional areas where it was difficult to organise anti-doping activities by centralising some of the activities with the bigger International Federations. Mr. Jordi Serra was requested to keep the EC informed of developments and the items was referred to the next EC meeting.

18.2 ADAMS

It was decided that the Agreement of Understanding between the ITTF and WADA regarding ADAMS (Anti Doping Administration Management System) would be signed and the necessary steps taken to train the players, starting if possible at the Men's World Cup in Paris, France.

19. Next Meeting (Hong Kong, 16 December 2006)

The next EC Meeting will be held in Hong Kong on 16th December and followed by the EC+ and OC meetings on the 18th.

20. Any other business

20.1 Personal Honorary Member

The request received from the English Table Tennis Association in favour of Mr. Colin Clemett to be accepted as a Personal Honorary Member was referred to the EC+ for recommendation to the BOD.

20.2 Financial Statements. Update

The balance sheet and merged account statements (till 30th August 2006) distributed at the meeting were studied and explained by the Executive Director.

According to the request made by the AGM, the EC should appoint the auditors for 2006 and it was reported that three companies would be presenting offers (two already received) and the final decision would be made by the Executive Director and the Executive Vice-President (Finance) in the next few months.

21. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 17h37.