

AGENDA

ITTF Annual General Meeting

To be held in Yokohama, Japan, 30 April, at 09.00 hrs

1. Welcome and opening address
2. Appointment of Chairman of Meeting
3. Roll call and verification of proxies
4. Appointment of scrutineers
5. Minutes of previous General Meeting (Guangzhou, 27 February 2008)
6. Presentations
7. Report of Nomination Committee (document A20)
8. Membership applications
 - 8.1. Cayman Islands (new member)
 - 8.2. Papua & New Guinea (re-activation)
9. Start of Voting procedures
10. Executive Committee Reports
 - 10.1. President - A. Sharara (document A1)
 - 10.2. Deputy President – G. Segun (document A2)
 - 10.3. Executive Vice President (Finance) – N. Harwood (document A3)
 - 10.4. Executive Vice President – Yang Shu'an (document A4)
 - 10.5. Executive Vice President – Claude Bergeret (document A5)
 - 10.6. Executive Vice-President – K. Kimura (document A6)
 - 10.7. Executive Vice President - J. Faragó (document A7)
11. Continental Presidents' (or their appointees) Reports
 - 11.1. Africa (document A8)
 - 11.2. Asia (document A9)
 - 11.3. Europe (document A10)
 - 11.4. Latin America (document A11)
 - 11.5. North America (document A12)
 - 11.6. Oceania (document A13)
12. Executive Director's Report (document A14)
13. Reports from Committees and Commissions
 - 13.1. Equipment (document A15)
 - 13.2. Media (document A16)
 - 13.3. Ranking (document A17)
 - 13.4. Rules (document A18)
 - 13.5. Sports Science (document A19)
 - 13.6. Technical (document A21)
 - 13.7. Umpires & Referees (document A22)
 - 13.8. Veterans (document A23)
 - 13.9. Athletes' Commission (document A24)
 - 13.10. Junior Commission (document A25)
 - 13.11. Olympics Commission (document A26)

14. Financial Statements
 - 14.1. Audited Financial Statements 2007 and 2008
 - 14.2. Appoint Auditors for 2009
 - 14.3. Budget
15. Proposition and Resolutions (document A28)
16. Future World Championships
 - 16.1. Update 2010 Moscow
 - 16.2. Update 2011 Rotterdam
 - 16.3. Selection for 2012 World Championships
 - 16.4. Bids for 2013 and 2014
17. Elections
 - 17.1. Board of Directors
 - 17.2. Committees
 - 17.3. President
 - 17.4. Executive Vice Presidents (8)
18. Next AGM – Moscow, May 2010
19. Any other business
20. Adjournment

AGENDA

ITTF Board of Directors Meeting

To be held in Yokohama, Japan, 2nd May 2009 at 09:00 hrs

1. Welcome and President's opening address
2. Roll call
3. Introduction of new members
4. Minutes of previous Meeting (Guangzhou, China, 29 February 2008)
5. Appointment of Committee Chairmen
6. Appointment of Working Groups
7. Update Reports
 - 7.1 Calendar Panel
 - 7.2 Women's Working Group (document A27)
8. Propositions and Resolutions (Document A28)
9. World Junior Championships
 - 9.1 Colombia 2009
 - 9.2 Bratislava 2010
 - 9.3 Bahrain 2011
 - 9.4 Cape Town 2012
10. Global Junior Programme (Junior Circuit, JC Finals and Cadet Challenge)
11. ITTF Honorary President designation
12. ITTF Honorary Life Members
13. Next meeting
14. Any other business
15. Adjournment

PRESIDENT

Report to the AGM

Document A1

More than a year has passed since our last AGM in Guangzhou, however, due to hectic activity at the ITTF, time seems to fly by.

The highlight of 2008 must surely be the Beijing Olympic Games. The superb organization and presentation of the Games has brought them to a level difficult to surpass. Table Tennis of course had a very special place at these Games, but like always the attention of the world is on 26 sports and more than 300 events. We are very fortunate that Table Tennis again had excellent Television ratings in China, ranking first in many categories and fourth overall when all is taken into consideration. The good news is that a special survey done in the UK showed table tennis TV rankings between 11th and 14th amongst the 28 Olympic sports. This is encouraging and hopefully by the time London 2012 comes around we could even improve on that standing.

The next most important event in 2008 was the full implementation of the ban on harmful Volatile Compounds (solvents) and the gradual introduction of Racket Control stations at all ITTF events. It would be an understatement to say that all went fine without a hitch. But the reality is that it is a major challenge and continues to be one with the appearance of so-called Boosters and Tuners, some containing VOCs and some claiming to be free of VOCs. The fact remains that the ITTF is steadfast in implementing its rule and the testing equipment is improving gradually detecting extremely low levels of VCs, while also finding ways to detect the rubber & sponge altering agents and additives. We are in a transition period, not an easy one, but we will prevail and with a reasonable amount of time toxic compounds will be eradicated from Table Tennis equipment.

One of the main activities in 2008 and early 2009 has been the restructure of our professional Staff. We now have four efficiently functioning departments lead by department heads (Executive Directors) implementing the daily activities of the ITTF. We are lucky to have dedicated professionals and table tennis lovers in these positions. The restructure is creating a more business-like model and soon we will see the effects of this new structure in all aspects of ITTF's work. One of the newly created departments will focus on Education & Training. This is an area in which the ITTF needs to step up and provide educational opportunities to our athletes, coaches, officials and administrators in all aspects that would enhance their performance and knowledge.

The Marketing income of the ITTF increases gradually every year and now we can safely say that the main income of the ITTF is divided in three parts at the ratio of 4:2:1 for Marketing (4), Olympic revenue (2) and Other revenue (1). The ITTF has signed a new six-year agreement with TMS International by which TMS guarantees to the ITTF a minimum commercial income of more than US\$ 28 Million over the period 2009-2014.

The ITTF continues to find innovative ways to provide all our events on a live or delayed basis on our own itTV on our website. This is not without challenges, but we continue to strive to reach the ultimate goal of having all ITTF events available on itTV free of charge. This is a goal that will be achieved in 2009.

The introduction of itTV has increased the traffic on our website considerably. However, overall our website is currently ranked as the 3rd most visited website of all International Sports Federations. This is a tremendous honour and we are doing our best to attract even more visitors to our website to move it to an even higher ranking.

Our Pro Tour and our Junior Circuit, the backbones of our competition programme, continue to thrive and the participation levels are increasing regularly. However, with very few exceptions, a main concern remains the lack of spectators at many of these events. It seems that the organisational level has improved tremendously but there is still a lack in the promotional activities devoted to attract spectators and attention to the events. This is a serious problem on which we must focus in 2009 in order to turn this negative trend around.

The Constitution Working Group has a lot on its plate; so I have passed the Chairman's position on to Mr. Walter Rönmark who will now lead this group in the future and will continue to bring proposals to the AGM for changes to our Constitution. We already had two rounds of calls for changes, and this activity will continue in this quadrennial.

The ITTF will see in Yokohama the largest ever elected Executive Committee in its history. The EC will expand to 9 members allowing for the possibility of having at least one member from each Continent. This change will reinforce the universality of the ITTF's leadership and the new additions will be very welcome as the load on the current EC has increased at a very fast pace due to the tremendous increase in ITTF's programmes and activities over the last few years.

With the projected change to the EC, the 2008 AGM also created a new body, the Development and Continental Council (DCC), which will focus its attention on development matters as well as giving the Continental Presidents a direct link to the ITTF leadership to find common ground for the advancement of our sport in all continents.

The ITTF continues to grow, we will have yet another new member in 2009 making the ITTF one of the largest federations in the world in terms of member associations. This growth is not without pain, but growing pains if managed correctly can always lead to a better and brighter future.

I would like to thank my EC colleagues for their work and support, I also would like to thank the Presidents of the Continental Federations for their full cooperation and concern about the development of our sport, and finally I would like to thank our devoted professional staff for their tireless work in implementing our plans and ideas.

Respectfully submitted,

Adham Sharara (President)
February 2009

DEPUTY PRESIDENT

Report to the AGM

Document A2

Please find below the report of my activities in the year 2008 as follows:

1. Glue Ban Project

The glue ban took effect in two stages. For the Junior events the effective date was 1st January, 2008 and for the Senior events 1st September, 2008. Although the separation of the dates was as a result of consideration of possible adverse effects on performance at the Beijing Olympics, this decision turned out to be just right. The undersigned attended three Junior events in Germany, Hungary and Egypt in the first four months of the year 2008 both as an EC representative as well as a technical observer of Racket Control measurements. There were a lot of problems which were resolved and more findings were made on illegal materials being applied to the rackets. The Equipment Committee Chairman Mr. Odd Gustavsen will include more details in his own report.

The complete ban took place on 1st September, 2008 starting with Pro Tour Shanghai China Open. By this time, the use of glues containing VOCs had declined but other tests continued to reveal that some unidentified materials were still being applied to the original rubber and the racket sponge. During my visit to Liege in Belgium in the month of October 2008 it was observed that there were some very late deliveries of rubbers to some top players by manufacturers suggesting fresh treatment to the rubbers just before their matches. During the World Junior Championship in Madrid, Spain another discovery was made. A product "Haifu" in a small container was shown to the Equipment Committee Chairman.

It would appear that some players and some of our manufacturers collaborate with unknown opportunists in chemical liquid production outside the table tennis family to frustrate the control efforts. However, the rule is clear and it states that no additive may be introduced to the racket once the rackets leave the factories. Other measurements carried out on the racket most times give the illegality away. Some opinions have been expressed that some after-manufacture treatment may not always be detected. I am aware that a database for measurements on the original racket produced is being compiled by the Equipment Committee and like doping cases in sporting activities, the eradication of cheating may take a bit of time.

2. Glue Working Group Dissolved.

At the EC meeting held in Paris, France in November, 2008 it was agreed that this Group be dissolved. All matters pertaining to glues will now be handled by the Equipment Committee.

3. Additional Duties

Following the resignation of Judit Faragó from the EC, the President agreed to my taking on the supervision of the Junior Programme until next election here in Yokohama.

Also, he agreed to my helping my colleague, Mr. Koji Kimura with overseeing activities of Equipment Committee mainly because of the challenges facing Racket Controllers.

4. Meetings of EC, Olympic Commission, Development & Continental Council, Board of Directors.

All meetings since the last AGM in Guangzhou, China were attended.

1. Acknowledgement

My sincere thanks go to all my colleagues in EC and all the members of the groups mentioned above for their valuable assistance and advice at all times. All members of our staff are also remembered in this regard.

Thank you for taking some time to read this report.

May God bless you.

George O. Segun (Deputy President)

February 2008

EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT (FINANCE)

Report to the AGM

Document A3

At the time of preparing this report the financial results are not available and I will send my comments regarding this item together with the audited statements when distributed.

During the past 12 months I have been involved in the preparation and staging of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, integration of para table tennis into our mainstream operations, umpiring and refereeing committee and the implementation of the new professional structure.

Obviously, the highlight of 2008 was the outstanding success of both the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Beijing. The replacement of the doubles event with the teams event in the Olympic Games was a significant point and raised the media attention both in television and written press. The Paralympic Games were staged at the equivalent level of the Olympic Games and competition was before capacity crowds and received higher television coverage than previous Games. I must record my appreciation to BOCOG, in particular to M. Yang Shuan and M. Yao Zhenxu, for their great work in staging our sport at the highest possible level during both Games.

My work with the umpires and referees committee has been the most constructive in my time working with this group over the past years. The results of their efforts are listed in the report of the URC Chairman (Document A22). The highest priority for 2009 will be increased training of referees and recruitment of young umpires in conjunction with the Director of Education and Training.

The integration of para table tennis is proceeding steadily within achievable timelines. The Para Table Tennis Division will be subject to the standard committee appointment process during the AGM in Yokohama with nominations being submitted by national associations. The biggest challenge now is the integration of the sport in national associations.

A more professional structure is being introduced with four Directors now in place and the next stage will see the provision of support staff at the necessary levels.

We are now a major international sporting federation and we must provide the resources to meet the challenges ahead.

Finally, I have attended all the EC meetings, represented ITTF at the Pro Tour Grand Finals in Macao and have attended many meetings of the organisers of both Beijing 2008 and London 2012.

I thank all the staff, officials of the ITTF and national associations for their support and assistance over the past year.

**Neil Harwood (Executive Vice-President – Finance)
February 2009**

EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

Report to the AGM

Document A4

The year 2008 is a historical year for table tennis. During this year, our sport has gained a lot of attention from all over the world. The 2008 World Table Tennis Championships and the table tennis event of the Beijing Olympic Games had achieved great success, and at the same time, we have witnessed many other excellent table tennis activities. Now I would like to report my work in the past year as follows:

Involvement in the organization of the 2008 WTTC

Just after the Chinese New Year, the people of China welcomed the 49th World Table Tennis Team Championships to Guangzhou. As ITTF Executive Vice President, I had a lot of meetings with the leading officials of CTTA and the government of Guangzhou City. I felt obliged to work with ITTF, CTTA and the city government of Guangzhou to ensure a close and smooth cooperation among the three parties. With the joint efforts, the 49th WTTC concluded successfully in terms of event organization and the warm hospitality rendered to the participants.

The tremendous success of the Beijing Olympic Games

As we all know, the most outstanding success we have achieved in the year 2008 was the Beijing Olympic Games. As the Executive Vice President of BOCOG and the sport director of the Beijing Olympic Games, I have 28 different sports to look into, but everyone knows that I have a special sentiment to table tennis. I am proud to say that the BOCOG table tennis competition management team, under the leadership of Mr. Yao Zhenxu, our most experienced and hardworking technical expert, has organized the table tennis competition of the Beijing Olympic Games perfectly with all their experience, energy and passion.

There is no doubt that the Beijing Olympics have achieved splendid success. The hotel, venue and competition organization are all of extremely high standard. The spectators enjoyed the best table tennis matches they have ever seen. The ITTF has also given Beijing very high evaluation and set it the model of table tennis competition.

Communication with Chinese Table Tennis Association

An important part of my work is keeping the communication and cooperation between ITTF and CTTA smooth. The year 2008 was a very busy year for CTTA, as it is not easy for one country to hold the World Championships and Olympic Games in the same year. However, China fulfilled its responsibility as a major table tennis powerhouse and managed to hold both events magnificently. In addition to that, CTTA also held many international tournaments, such as Volkswagen China Open, Panasonic China Open, Taiyuan WJC, etc. Considering that China has suffered from a horrible earthquake in this year, the efforts from Chinese people and CTTA are even more precious.

Attendance in ITTF Meetings

In my capacity as ITTF Executive Vice President, I attended the following meetings:

AGM, EC, EC+, BOD, OC meetings during WTTC, Guangzhou, China

2 EC meetings during the Beijing Olympic Games (one at Park Plaza Hotel and one at Peking University), Beijing, China

ITTF EC meeting, Oct. 10th to 13th, Paris, France

ITTF EC meeting, Dec. 7th to 10th, Madrid, Spain

In conclusion, I want to deliver the special thanks to my colleagues in the executive committee and other friends in the ITTF family. With your kind cooperation, we had a wonderful year. Thank you very much!

Yang Shuan (Executive Vice-President)

January 2009

EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

Report to the AGM

Translated from the French by Lilamani de Soysa

Document A5

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

World Individual Table Tennis Championships 2009 - 28th April / 5th May 2009, Yokohama, Japan

Two coordination meetings were organised:

- From 2 to 4 June 2008 together with TMS (Anders Thunström and Steve Dainton) and Etsuko Enami (ITTF).
- From 27 to 29 January 2009 with a complete ITTF team (Jordi Serra, Didier Leroy, Marius Widmer, Etsuko Enami) and TMS (Steve Dainton).

At the time of writing this report the organization seems on track. A few small problems still need to be solved such as the sponsor stands, electronic scoring devices, and the detailed configuration of the playing hall.

World Team Table Tennis Championships 2010 - 22 /30 May 2010, Moscow, Russia

A meeting should be held in February 2009 mainly to discuss visa problems, communication and money transfer and for signing the contract.

Two visits should be organized: one between June and October 2009 and another in January 2010.

World Individual Table Tennis Championships 2011 – Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Nothing in particular to report at the moment.

World Team Table Tennis Championships 2012

To this day, two bid proposals have been submitted :

- Germany (Dortmund)
- Serbia (Belgrade)

Inspection visits will be made before the middle of February 2009.

The Executive Committee will consider these applications at its meeting on 20 February 2009 in Doha and a final report will be distributed before the General Assembly in Yokohama.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND GENERAL REPRESENTATIONS

Since Guangzhou, I participated in all the meetings of the Executive Committee, Development and Continental Council (former Executive Council) and the Olympic Commission.

Furthermore, I officially represented the ITTF at the following events:

- Oceania Women's Forum in Tahiti, 6th July 2008 during the Oceania Championships.
- Women's World Cup in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) from the 6th to the 8th of September 2008. On this occasion, I took part in a meeting of the Women's Working Group as well as a meeting with the players.
- Latin American Women's Forum in Buenos Aires (Argentina)
- Finals of the World Cadet Challenge and the Junior Circuit in Helsingborg (Sweden) from the 31st of October to the 2nd of November 2008.
- Polish Open in Warsaw on 29th and 30th of November 2008.

I was also present during the ITTF Junior Circuit event in France, held from the 4th to the 8th of June 2008 in Vern sur Seiche.

I was fortunate to be present at the Beijing Olympic Games which according to unanimous opinion were a huge success and this not only from a table tennis point of view.

A big thank you to the Chinese Table Tennis Association, to M. Yang Shuan and to M. Yao Zhenxu for making us live these unforgettable moments.

As part of my responsibilities within the Executive Committee, I continued to lend my support and help to the Athletes' Commission, to the Technical Committee and the Women's Working Group.

I would not like to conclude this annual report (and the Olympiad) without warmly thanking my colleagues in the Executive Committee and the Development and Continental Council for their precious help and flawless collaboration as well as the national associations and their Presidents for their enlightened advice and permanent support.

And naturally these thanks also go out to all the members of the ITTF staff and TMS. Thank you for the quality of your work, the happy as well as serious nature with which you work.

Claude Bergeret (Executive Vice-President)
January 2009

EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

Report to the AGM

Document A6

- **From the 28th of February to the 2nd of March 2008 in Guangzhou, China**

I attended the Executive Committee twice and the Olympic Commission, Annual General Meeting and Board of Directors Meeting during the World Team Championships in Guangzhou, China from the 28th of February to the 2nd of March 2008. These effective conferences contributed to further global table tennis growth because of the careful consideration of the Table Tennis Association of China and the Organising Committee of Guangzhou.

- **On the 17th and 18th of May 2008 in London, United Kingdom**

I attended the Executive Committee in London, UK and conducted an inspection of the proposed table tennis event site for the 2012 London Olympic Games on the 17th and 18th of May 2008. The site is adjacent to the railway station and it is very convenient for visitors.

- **From the 13th to the 24th of August 2008 in Beijing, China**

I was given the opportunity to participate in the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games as a member of the Executive Committee and attended the Executive Committee twice during the Olympic Games from the 13th to the 24th of August 2008.

The table tennis venue was adequate to hold the stage for the world's top elite. Moreover, I had a comfortable time because of the activity officials and volunteer staff had worked efficiently with a smile the whole time. Once again, I would like to commend BOGOC, the Chinese Table Tennis Association and staff and thank them personally for their professionalism and compassion.

- **On the 11th and 12th of October 2008 in Paris, France**

I attended the Executive Committee in Paris, France on the 11th and 12th of October 2008.

- **From the 6th to the 13th of December 2008 in Madrid, Spain**

I attended the Executive Committee and the Olympic Commission during the World Junior Table Tennis Championships from the 6th to the 13th of December 2008.

- **Following the 1st of February 2009**

I will attend the Executive Committee in Doha, Qatar on the 20th and 21st of February 2009.

In order to attend the preliminary meeting for the World Table Tennis Championships (Individual) that will take place in Yokohama City (28th April to 5th May 2009) as well as the inspection of the site, Ms Claude Bergeret and ITTF officials who are headed by the Executive Vice-President as a Director of the World Championships, visited Yokohama twice on the 2nd and 3rd of June 2008 as well as from 26th to 28th January 2009.

Each of the productive and effective discussions led to great momentum for the preparation of the event. I highly appreciate the efforts from everyone involved.

I am deeply grateful that I could have worked as a member of the Executive Committee thanks to President Adham Sharara, all members of the Committee and ITTF Staff who showed constant support.

**Koji Kimura (Executive Vice-President)
February 2009**

EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

Report to the AGM

Document A7

As an Executive Vice-President, I was assigned to be responsible for different specific areas within the Executive Committee. These were: **Global Junior Program, U-21 competition program, Calendar Working Group, Ranking Committee, Media Committee and Publications.**

Here is the summary of the main duties in the period between my last report dated November 2007 and my resignation as Executive Vice President on 1 September 2008.

- I attended as EC representative the World Junior TT Championships in Palo Alto in December 2007 which will be memorable about the fantastic venue at Stanford University and the excellent presentation and huge spectator interest on the day of the finals.
- I was in the group which was responsible to present to the IOC and to the EC the age group, the qualification/playing system at the Youth Olympic Games.
- I followed closely starting to implement the new racket control programme and protocol at the Junior Circuit events from January 2008.
- I helped to prepare the introduction of the U-15 World Ranking in cooperation with the Ranking Committee.
- I coordinated with the Committee Chairman and with Media Coordinator to publish the Result Book 2007-2008 covering all results 18 months prior to the Beijing Olympic Games.
- I supervised the ITTF media service at the Olympic Games in Beijing.
- I was appointed to represent the President at the ITTF / AIPS media reception at the Beijing Olympic Games with the active participation of two legends, Deng Yaping and Jan-Ove Waldner.
- I was a member of the Constitution Review Working Group submitting proposals to the AGM in Guangzhou.
- I attended ITTF meetings in December 2007 in Palo Alto, in February 2008 in Guangzhou, in May 2008 in London and in August 2008 in Beijing.

I wish to thank the President and my colleagues in the Executive Committee for their support, the Continental Vice-Presidents, the Board of Director members, the Committee Chairpersons for their cooperation and the staff members for their dedication and help.

As you know, from 1 September 2008 I officially resigned as EVP in order to start my new duties as Director of Competition Programmes. I am grateful to the EC members for the excellent collaboration during my mandate, and even more for the trust and warm welcome I experienced taking up the new position. As professional staff member, I want to show my full commitment to the ITTF and want to make use of my administrative, organisational and leadership experience for the benefit of table tennis.

Judit Faragó (Executive Vice-President)
January 2009

AFRICA

Report to the AGM

Translated from the French by Lilamani de Soysa

Document A8

* Like in 2007, Africa attributes to President SHARARA and to all his elected colleagues and professional staff, the success that Africa has registered during the year 2008. The results are as follows:

1) 45 Associations are affiliated to the ITTF and the ATTF; efforts are being made to bring the remaining 8 on board before 2012.

2) 14 training camps (out of the 15 that had been budgeted) were organised within the ITTF/ATTF development programme :

a) For Competition Directors: Egypt (1)

b) For athletes: Egypt and Tunisia (2).

c) For umpires: Angola, Congo DR and Egypt (3)

d) For coaches: Cameroon, Congo DR, Djibouti, Gabon, Rwanda, Seychelles, Togo and Zambia (8)

* To be noted that a training course for umpires and Competition Directors was held at the same time, in Zambia and in the Cameroon.

3) 2 other courses were organised through Olympic Solidarity in Niger and in Senegal.

4) 180 ITTF manuals were distributed to 9 Associations : Angola, Congo DR, Djibouti, Gabon, Libya, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal and Togo.

5) The distribution throughout the year, within the ITTF/ATTF development programme as follows : 14544 balls, 680 rackets, 450 surrounds, 120 racket covers, 84 nets, 72 tables, 62 scorers and 28 tables for umpires, to 10 Associations : Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo R, Djibouti, Egypt, Madagascar, Niger, Togo, Tunisia and Zimbabwe.

6) The distribution in February in China during the World Championships of 72 DHS uniforms to the 19 following countries that do not have an equipment sponsor : Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Congo R, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Morocco, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia and Uganda.

7) In February in China, also within the programme « Share your Passion », 706 items were distributed to the 11 following countries: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Congo R, Egypt, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania et Uganda.

8) Again in February in China, different sponsors who were in partnership with DHS/TMS, gave away 69 packages of sports clothing (shirts, shorts, training suits, towels, socks and bags) to 18 countries : Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Congo R, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Morocco, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania and Tunisia.

9) In April in Egypt there was another distribution, during the African Youth Championships, of other equipment, within the « Share your Passion » programme as follows: 500 hard bats, 310 racket covers and 2880 balls to the following 12 Associations: Burundi, Congo R, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa and Tunisia.

10) The distribution in June in Congo R, during the African Senior Championships, within the ITTF/ATTF programme of 1440 balls to the 12 following countries: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Cameroon, Central Africa, Congo DR, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Gabon, Nigeria and South Africa.

11) Kenya was the beneficiary of a credit of USD 500 within the Goodwill Fund for the realisation of a project with cement tables (Needy Schools for Impoverished General Society in Schools in Poor Areas).

12) Where women's table tennis is concerned, the recommendations from the ITTF/ATTF forum held in February 2007 have been followed as certain national associations (for example Kenya and the Seychelles) have more women in their Boards (with respectively 37% and 43%). Other associations are contributing to the improvement in numbers of female participation in competitions judging by the following statistics: 63 % of the 11 countries participating in the World Championships in China were represented by their women's teams ; 55 % of the participants in the ITTF Junior Circuit held in Tunisia in April were female; 45 % of the participants at the African Championships in June in Brazzaville were female. However, in spite of the fact that women in ATTF structures is still below our expectations (11 out of 56 (20%) as were hoping for 19 out of 56 (35%) we have got other satisfactions: 30% of the new international umpires who qualified in June were women and 33% of the Africans in the ITTF structures is female. I'm sure that such statistics will be pleasing to Hajera Kajee, Chairwoman of the ITTF Women's Working Group, to Lilamani de Soysa, Coordinator of the group and Mary Musoke, the African representative in the group without forgetting the first lady in the PAC, Jane Pinto who has also just been nominated last November Honorary Deputy President of the ATTF.

13) The honourable performance of the Africans during the different championships can be stated as follows:

a)- Egypt in position 28 at the World Team Championships in China.

b)- The Egyptian Assar Omar, finalist in the ITTF Junior Circuit in Bahrain in March, semi-finalist in Qatar in March, winner of the event in Egypt in April and Tunisia in May.

c)- Position 56 occupied by the Nigerian Toriola Segun on the world ranking list following his victories at the Olympic Games when he beat world ranked no 60, Monteiro Joao (Portugal) and no 26 Jean-Michel Saive (Belgium) and his great performance (losing 3-4 after 53 minutes of play) against world no 15 Oh Sang Eun (South Korea) as well as his excellent results at the World Cup in September in Belgium where he beat Gao Ning (Singapore) ranked 20 21 in the world before losing 3-4 to Kalinikos Kreanga (Greece), world ranking no. 14. All our admiration and congratulations.

d)- The other Africans present during the Olympic Games in China in August :

- Male athletes: Lashine El Sayed, Ahmed Ali Salah and Adel Massaad (Egypt), Merotohum Monday and Nosiru Kazeem (Nigeria), Saka Suraju (Congo R) and Khouarta Idir (Algeria).

- Female athletes : Yang Fen (Congo R), Kaffo Bose, Offiong Cecilia and Funke Oshonaike (Nigeria), Abdelaziz Shaima and Noha Yossri (Egypt) and Fomum Victorine (Cameroon).

- Umpires : Abdallah Boudjehem (Algeria), Moegemad Issacs (South Africa) and Ronald Mugwanya (Uganda).

e) The Congolese from Brazzaville, Yang Fen, represented Africa at the Women's World Cup in September in Malaysia.

f) – The African Cadet selection led by Khaled El-Salhy, Executive Vice-President of the ATTF, was composed of 2 male and 2 female athletes from Egypt, 2 female players from Nigeria, 1 male player from Tunisia and another from Ghana, coached by an Egyptian and a Tunisian and a female Nigerian coach. They succeeded in winning 2 bronze medals in singles and in the girls team event as well as occupying position no 5 in singles and in the boys team event at the World Junior Circuit in China in August. They participated in a long training camp in China and before taking part in a 2nd training camp in October in Egypt and in Sweden, where the World Cadet Challenge took place with the participation of teams stronger than in 2007, in South Africa. That is why the best results of the Africans were no 7 and 12 in girls doubles, no 9 and 10 in boys doubles, no 15 and 17 in girls singles and 17 and 21 in boys singles.

g)- Those qualified for the final phase of the World Junior Circuit in December in Spain – Egypt (girls and boys), Nigeria (boys) and Tunisia (girls).

14)- The support of Messrs Mikael Andersson and Glenn Tepper for the cadet Mawussi Agbetoglo (Togo) for a high level training camp in 2008 in France.

15)- The organisation in Africa of the following events:

a-) The Junior Circuit of the ITTF in Egypt in April, with the participation of 104 boys and 60 girls from 20 countries (8 of them African : Djibouti, Mauritius, Morocco, Côte d'Ivoire, Congo R, Nigeria, Egypt and Tunisia), Hungary, Norway, United Arab Emirates, Belgium, Greece, Yemen, Cyprus, Uzbekistan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Czech R and Romania (congratulations to Egypt for its 1st place with gold, 6 silver and 7 bronze as well as to Nigeria that won 1 silver medal and to Tunisia and Mauritius for 1 bronze medal each).

b-) The African Junior and Cadet Championships held in Egypt in April, with the participation of 61 boys and 46 girls coming from 11 countries :

Burundi, Congo R (4 bronze), Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt (11 gold, 7 silver and 11 bronze), Ghana (1 bronze), Kenya, Mauritius, Nigeria (2 silver and 3 bronze), South Africa (1 bronze) and Tunisia (2 bronze).

c-) The Junior Circuit event in Tunisia in April/May, with the participation of 37 girls and 31 boys from 12 countries: Germany, Egypt, (3 gold, 1 silver and 3 bronze), Spain, France, Wales, Jordan, Monaco, Romania, Slovakia, Switzerland, Czech R and Tunisia (2 silver and 5 bronze).

d-) The U-21 African Championships in Congo R in June with the participation of 35 male and 28 female players from 11 countries: Algeria (2 bronze), Angola (2 bronze), Benin, Botswana, Central Africa Congo R (2 gold, 1 silver and 3 bronze), le Congo DR (1 silver and 1 bronze), Cote d'Ivoire, Gabon, Nigeria (2 gold and 1 bronze) and South Africa (3 gold, 5 silver and 4 bronze).

e-) The Africa Cup in Congo R in June with the participation of 26 male and 20 female players from 13 countries: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Cameroon, Central Africa, Congo R (1 gold and 1 bronze), Congo DR (1 bronze), Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt (1 bronze), Gabon, Nigeria (1 gold, 2 silver and 1 bronze) and South Africa.

f-) The African Club Championships in Congo R in June with the participation of 10 men's clubs and 5 women's clubs from 9 countries: Angola, Benin (1 bronze), Botswana, Central Africa, Congo R (1 gold, 1 silver and 1 bronze), Congo DR (2 bronze), Cote d'Ivoire, Gabon and Nigeria (1 gold and 1 silver).

g-) The African Senior Championships in Congo DR in November with the participation of 53 men and 31 women players from 11 countries: Angola, Benin, Congo R (5 gold, 2 silver and 5 bronze), Cote d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Congo DR (1 bronze), Ghana (1 bronze), Kenya, Nigeria (1 gold, 3 silver and 5 bronze), South Africa (1 gold, 2 silver and 2 bronze) and Sudan.

* On this occasion, I pay a great tribute to the National Federations that organised these events and thank their national (in particular the governments) and international sponsors.

16)- The participation at the World Team Championships in China in February of the 12 following countries : Egypt (ranked 28 in the men's and 44 in the women's), Nigeria (35 men's and 46 women's), Algeria (51 men's), South Africa (58 men's and 74 women's), Congo DR (75 men's and 58 women's), Tanzania (79 women's), Liberia (80 women's), Benin (81 women's and 94 men's), Liberia (100 in the men's), Sierra Leone (102 in the men's), Uganda (103 men's) and Tanzania (104 men's).

17)- The presence at the General Assembly of the International Federation in February in China of 24 African countries : Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Congo R, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Morocco, Nigeria, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia and proxies from Cameroon, Gambia, Namibia and the Seychelles.

18)- Participation at the meetings of the International Federation in China in February of the 9 African BOD members and in Spain in December at the Development Council and the Olympic Commission.

19)- The organisation of the General Assembly of the African Table Tennis Federation in November 2008 in Kinshasa with the participation of 20 countries : Angola, Benin, Burundi, Central Africa, Congo R, Cote d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Congo DR, Djibouti, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda and proxies from Algeria and Burkina Faso.

20)- The participation of African players to various regional championships and meetings organised by the zones of the African Federation, the regional unions according to linguistic or maritime delimitations etc.

21)- The numerous travels and hosting of Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the ATTF.

22)- The numerous articles and information about African activities in the magazine of the ITTF.

23)- The promotion of 7 new umpires to blue-badge level, in other words a total of 12, as of 30th September, coming from 5 countries : (Egypt 6, Algeria 2, Nigeria 2, Uganda 1 and South Africa 1 amongst the 366 International Umpires out of which 62 are new) from 17 countries, which justifies the choice of 5 umpires (2 from Egypt, 2 from Nigeria and 1 from Algeria) to the World Championships in February in China. 3 others (1 from Algeria, 1 from Uganda and 1 from South Africa) to the Olympic Games in China and 2 others (1 from South Africa and 1 from Egypt) to the Paralympics in September in China, all blue-badge umpires.

* As we are on the subject of umpiring, I would like to thank Refaat Bassiony, the referee of all 5 African Competition in 2008 as well as the deputy referee Oluranti Lajide, for the great role they are playing in Africa. However, our weak point is still the lack of female referees on a continental and international level, because all 10 existing international referees in Africa (3 from South Africa, 2 from Egypt, 2 from Nigeria, 2 from Tunisia and 1 from Mauritius) are all men.

* Finally, I pay tribute to all those that help occasionally or on a daily basis, I will mention in particular, the ITTF President, the staff, the members of the Executive Committee, the Continental Presidents, the Chairmen/women of Committees, Commissions and working groups of the ITTF as well as all the leaders (Presidents, Vice-Presidents, General Secretaries, Treasurers or members) of the national Federations of my Continent and also those from other Continents that support Africa, without forgetting the financial and equipment sponsors (Sports Ministries, national Olympic Committees, International Federations, Regional or Linguistic Unions, non African Federations, Equipment Companies, personal friends etc.) as well as my principal colleagues (former or new) of the Executive Committee of the ATTF : George Segun (Nigeria), Jane Pinto (Kenya), Berthe Bakary (Cote d'Ivoire), Olabanji Oladapo (Nigeria), Khaled El Salhy (Egypt), Philippe Hao Thyn Voon (Mauritius) and Henri Djombo (Congo R).

Chérif Hajem (Continental Vice-President - Africa)
January 2009

ASIA

Report to the AGM

Document A9

The year 2008 was a special one for Asia as two of the most important competitions of table tennis; the World Championships and Olympic Games, were both held in China. It was a year of challenges, excitements and achievements. On behalf of Asia, I am happy to present my report as follows:

International Competitions

✧ **World Championships**

The 2008 World Championship was successfully held in Guangzhou, China in February. The hospitality standard was very high and the organizing committee received very positive feedback from many participating teams.

✧ **World Junior Championships**

The 2008 World Junior Championships was held in Madrid, Spain from Dec. 6th to 13th. It was a great success for Asia that all the titles were swept by Asian young players.

✧ **World Cup**

Asian Players kept their crowns in both Men's World Cup in Liège, Belgium and the Women's World Cup in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

In the Men's World Cup, the competitions were extremely keen and captivating as both semi-finals were between Asian and European players.

✧ **Olympic Games**

Just as Dr. Rogge, the President of the IOC, commented during the closing ceremony, that the 2008 Olympic Games was a "truly exceptional" one. Understandably, the table tennis competition was organized in the same fashion and the Chinese Teams managed to have a clean sweep in all the four events.

✧ **ITTF Events**

Asian countries and regions successfully held 5 ITTF Junior Circuits and 8 ITTF Pro Tour events including the Pro Tour Finals in 2008.

✧ **Asian Title events**

2008 Asian Cup was held in the northern city Sapporo, Japan, from March 29th to 30th, and all top players from Asia participated in this gala event.

In 2008, Singapore hosted the annual Asian Junior Championships in July. The 7-day competition signals the beginning of the Association hosting major junior events like the 2009 Asian Junior Games as well as the 2010 Youth Olympics.

With the cooperation of ETTU, a brand new competition was created and named Asia Euro All Star Challenge. This competition will consist of two events which will be held in Asia and Europe each year.

ITTF & ATTU Meetings

A series of international meetings were held during various competitions. Asian representatives actively participated in the meeting of all levels.

✧ **ATTU Meetings**

ATTU Executive Board members and EC members had gathered together for the ATTU EB and EC meetings in Guangzhou during the World Championships. The Second ATTU EB meeting was organized in Macao, China on December 13th. All EB members took part in the meeting and discussed many issues including various on-coming events and revamping of the ATTU official website.

1. Development Program

The development Program conducted by ITTF and ATTU went on well in 2008. However, though many courses and training programs were introduced, the ATTU EB members were not entirely happy and asked to explore ways to carry out development programs in a more value for money, cost efficient and effective manner. ATTU looks forward to continue cordial working relationship with ITTF and all.

We are ready to take on new challenges in the New Year!

Thank you.

Choo Wee Kiang (Continental Vice-President - Asia)
January 2009

EUROPE

Report to the AGM

Document A10

1. **Member base**

The ETTU Congress held in St. Petersburg decided to exclude the Gibraltar Association from the ETTU membership. The total membership of the ETTU is at present 56 Associations.

2. **ITTF Meetings**

As Vice-President for Europe I attended all Executive Council meetings organised during the World Championships in Guangzhou (CHN) and I attended in December 2008 the meeting in Madrid.

3. **ETTU Meetings**

Since Guangzhou the ETTU Executive Board met twice, during the European Youth Championships in Terni (ITA) and in Frankfurt (GER). Several important issues have been discussed during telephone conferences. In February we will meet in Düsseldorf during the LIEBHERR Europe TOP-12. In all meetings held, the basic topical problems were discussed and solved in a good and friendly atmosphere. A new concept, developed by a group of European experts, the Olympic Project 2012-2020 was presented at the ETTU Congress and the associations approved this new project unanimously. In the meantime, we started already with this new concept and the first training camps will be organised in Düsseldorf (GER) and Paris (FRA).

During the year 2008 I visited the following Associations: Montenegro, Serbia, Germany, Hungary, Russia, Poland and Turkey. Already now different visits are planned for 2008.

4. **Co-operation with the ITTF**

The ETTU considers the close co-operation with the ITTF as one of the most important principles in its work. Many deciding matters can be solved only on the world level and the ETTU is ready to strengthen its initiatives to reach the best possible results in favour of world table tennis.

The development of table tennis in Europe runs smoothly. As during the past year, the EUROKIDS project was running with more and more interest from the Associations. Also the Grubba project was a success, even if ITTF did not contribute to this. Several of our member Associations were helped with some equipment Assistance thanks to a development agreement we reached and renewed last year with the TIBHAR Company. Of course ETTU would not be in a position to realise all these projects without the help of the ITTF, and I really want to thank them for their financial support.

5. **Competitions**

Since the AGM in Guangzhou several major competitions have been organised in Europe, the European Youth Championships in Terni (ITA), the European Championships in St. Petersburg (RUS) and the European Super Cup in Moscow (RUS). Despite some small problems, these events have been organised in a very professional way. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Associations of Italy and Russia.

End of January 2009 the Dutch Association will host the Youth TOP-10 and the German Association will organise at the beginning of February the Europe TOP-12.

As a very positive point the ETTU considers the activities of our Marketing Department. With this help we were able to have professional brochures for the clubs engaged in the Champions League (Men and Women) and for the respective Associations.

In addition we were able to have the clubs done the live-ticker during the matches and TV-streaming of several ECL matches could be ensured.

Finally I want to express my deepest thanks to the ITTF Executive Committee and the Board of Directors for their consistent and successful work, to all other Continents for their co-operation and to the ITTF Secretariat for their friendly and willing help.

Stefano Bosi (Continental Vice-President - Europe)
January 2009

NORTH AMERICA

Report to the AGM

Document A11

As we head into the next quadrennial, the dynamics in North America are changing. Within Canada there are increased pressures as we deal with ever-changing funding criteria and this poses challenges to ongoing efforts at elevating elite development. In the United States there is a newly constituted USATT Board with a mandate to sustain competitive excellence and to grow the sport within the country. Mike Cavanaugh is the newly appointed USATT CEO and brings a strong background in International and Olympic sport that will surely serve the organization well.

In moving forward it seems that it is both necessary and beneficial to enhance our contact with Latin America. In 2008 we had a very successful Pan Am Youth event hosted by Canada and a highly successful Women's Forum organized by Argentina. It is important that we build upon these successes and I am confident that will happen as Chile is hosting this year's Youth event and there is a current positive energy to focus to a higher degree on issues that are particularly relevant to women in our sport.

In addition we are looking forward to even greater cooperation as we begin to flesh out the qualification and preparation requirements for the 2009 World Cadet Challenge and the 2010 Youth Olympic Games. It is my belief that continued and enhanced contact between NATTU and LATTU will be mutually beneficial.

As my four year term draws to a close, this represents my final report as President of NATTU. It has been extremely gratifying to be a part of the ITTF during this time as it has continued to expand and flourish. My interactions with the EC+, the Olympic Commission and the various Committee Chairs and members are ones that I will value for a very long time. There are still many challenges ahead and I look forward to continued involvement in some fashion in the future.

Bruce Burton (Continental Vice-President – North America)
January 2009

LATIN AMERICA

Report to the AGM

Document A12

WE CONTINUE TO WALK SUCCESSFULLY TOWARDS OUR GOALS

Certainly the year 2008 has been a year of enormous satisfactions, big efforts and great deal of work to continue walking successfully on the path that our Continent has imposed itself in order to reach the goals of our sport's technical development. Our new generations of Table Tennis players keep pushing forward following the guidelines of **ITTF Development Program**, and making use of the advantages of the **Junior Global Program** that allows our young persons to enjoy the scholarships supported by **Olympic Solidarity Program** that lets them travel to other Continents of greater development to participate in Training Camps, as it is the case of the Training Center in **Koping, Sweden**, where various of our Continent's most talented players have stayed during fairly long periods of time profiting by their training and their continuous international tournaments. The benefits of their development have already begun to be received, filling us with pride and great satisfactions, confirming in this way, we are in the right path.

During the elapsed period, we can inform you that our decentralized Administration system, operating with six (6) Operative Directions, has come to be consolidated making easier our actions and activities. We have the pleasure to inform that the Working Program of our three geographical regions: **Central America, the Caribbean and South America**, has been accomplished on a 100% their Activities Calendar certainly thanks to the support received by ITTF and to the own efforts of each one of our member countries through an intense and dedicated work from their leaders. The quantity of events carried out by our Associations has increased in each region, following the innovations being imposed by the **ITTF Programs**, which stamps with greater intensity those efforts not only on human aspects but also on the economic ones from our Associations.

Doubtless, the largest support received in this process by **ITTF** continues being the **Understanding Agreement LATTU – ITTF 2006 – 2008** which contributed to fulfill what was planned. This agreement which already finished, we can say satisfactory performed our development process, allowing once again that our countries in the year 2008 received the foreseen equipment for ten (10) of these countries; through TMS five (5) of our countries received playing clothing from the DHS firm in order to participate in the **World Championship in Guangzhou**; Ten (10) courses were given for Coaches Level I which were extended by adding the PTT part, with which covers an important sector of our disable players; it took place very successfully a Continental Course for Women; Five (5) Umpire courses were given to obtain the degree of International Umpires, it should be pointed out the fact that our Continent since the year 2006 to this date, has increased from 52 active International Umpires to 173, which stands out the efforts being carried out on this field.

Another outstanding event is marked by the realization during the year 2008 of Four (4) events corresponding to the **World Junior Circuit in VEN, CHI, ESA and ECU**, which have already consolidated as international events of great recognition and participation. Before the fulfillment of each one of these events, the **International Training Camps** were carried out corresponding to the **ITTF World Junior Circuit**, with great participation of the remainder of Continents. Likewise, in this period were consolidated with great success the **Brazil and Chile Pro-Tours** having its realization each time more international relevance.

An event of great importance was established by the **World Veterans Championship** carried out in Brazil during this period, which was a big success in participation and organization, attracting a big amount of players from all Continents.

The efforts to obtain in a short term the union of the **Latin American** and the **North American** Continents through our sport, to form the Pan American Confederation, as is required by the **International Olympic Movement**, has continued taking place by both sides. Our best Junior players participated in the I **Pan American Junior Championship** that took place in the city of **Halifax, Canada**, which was very successful.

It is also outstanding that on the passed period was implemented the Pre-Cadet Latin American Championship, with which possible more attention will be given to these Categories as the fundamental basis of our development.

In general, and as a summary of all that was reported to our General Assembly, we should conclude that the year 2008 was a success, filled with many activities and great satisfactions, for which we should express our gratitude to Mr. President Sharara and to everybody in his Executive Committee for all the support given to our Continent, and in a special manner to its Directors and Executives, Mr. Glenn Tepper, Mr. Mikael Andersson, Mr. Raúl Calín and Mr. Leandro Olvech, as well as our special friend Mr. Ian Marshall, who have been at all moments very close to our projects and activities.

In the same way we should express our recognition and gratitude to the athletes, coaches and Latin American leaders, without their effort, work and participation, none of our projects could have been reality.

The work to be done it still very big, and only the conveyance, dedication and vision to reach our goals constitute our big challenge.

Thanks to all,

Melecio Rivera (Continental Vice-President – Latin America)
January 2009

Visit our website: www.ultm.org

OCEANIA

Report to the AGM

Document A13

The year 2008 was noticeable for the good promotion of our continent due to the Olympic qualification tournament in Noumea and the good results of William Henzel in Beijing, the election of our new executive board, the 1st Oceania Women's forum in Tahiti, the high number of training courses conducted in 11 countries by our Development officer Andrew Hubbard and the 1st ever private income for OTTF due to the sponsorship and broadcasting of the Olympic Qualification in Noumea and the Oceania Championships in Papeete Tahiti. The big disappointment of this year for Oceania was the withdrawal of the NZTTA for the organisation of the World Junior championships. Our continent is now the only one that has never organized this event.

1. Development

This is the leading activity of the OTTF thanks to Andrew Hubbard, our Development Officer. Thanks to a record amount of training courses financed by the Olympic Solidarity Fund and financial support from the ITTF and ONOC, no fewer than 11 training courses (of which 6 were funded by Olympic solidarity) and logistical support were given by Andrew and well-qualified coaches in the following countries; Fiji, American Samoa, Solomon Islands, Cook Islands, Tahiti, Marshall Islands, 2 x Micronesia, Samoa, New Zealand, New Caledonia (Oceania training Centre)

2 Oceania training camps in China and New Zealand (Andrew Hubbard)

1 WJC training camp in Tahiti (Emanuel Christiansson)

1 Oceania women's forum: Tahiti (Lila Desoysa)

2 umpire courses: PNG and Solomon Islands (Dave Delpratt)

2. Competitions in Oceania

Olympic Qualification for Oceania in Noumea:

For the first time ever an Oceania Olympic Qualification Tournament was organized outside of NZL and AUS. It was a great success for the sport as it was broadcast in New Caledonia and sponsorship for OTTF was gratefully received.

William Henzell, Kyle Davis and David Zalcborg (AUS) for the Men and Karen Li (NZL), Jian Fang Lay, Stephanie Sang (Aus) for the women all qualified.

The NZL NOC didn't allow Karen to participate and Mia Miao (Aus) was then qualified as the 1st substitute.

World Junior Circuit in Papeete: the Oceanic stage of the World Junior Circuit was hold in Papeete, Tahiti. The participation was low with only 5 countries from 2 continents.

The international training camp preceding the competition was conducted by Sweden head coach Emanuel Christiansson.

Qualification tournament for the World Cadet Challenge in Papeete:

This competition was organised By the Tahitian TTA under the authority of OTTF and led to the qualification of boys and girls players from New Caledonia, Tahiti, New Zealand and Australia who will play for Oceania in Helsingborg (SWE).

Oceania Championships in Papeete (Tahiti)

Trent Carter (Aus) and Miao Miao (Aus) have won the 2008 titles and also qualified for the World cup

Open National Championships: This is one of the big satisfactions with the increasing number of countries (6) that have opened their championships to the others of Oceania. This initiative should become widespread in 2009.

3. International Competitions

The World Cadet Challenge in Helsingborg:

Managed by Andrew Hubbard and assisted by Wayne Gear and Peri Campbell Innes, Unfortunately both teams finished in 8th place.

Kevin Wu finished 26th in the boy's single and Lily Phan 25th in the girl's single.

All the players will take part in the three days training camp before the competition.

The World Junior Championships in Madrid:

Australia finished 15th in the boys team event and New Zealand 16th for the girls. No Oceania players were qualified for the main draw.

4. CONTRACT SIGNED WITH TMS

It was a hard work for OTTF's President and several persons within the ITTF and TMS International to conclude a contract so that the OTTF has received the rights to allow 1 Television station in each Oceania Country Free rights to a number of International table tennis events, including the Pro Tour Events and World Championships.

However, The OTTF is going even further and trying to raise the profile and professionalism of its own key events

- 1) The Oceania Championships,
- 2) The Oceania Cup
- 3) Oceania Olympic Qualifying tournament.

5. The members

The Federation comprises 21 members who have become more and more active in 2008 along with the stable administrative structure and convincing sporting results.

6. The Management Committee

I should like to warmly thank the members of the Management Committee who have devotedly assumed the following responsibilities:

The Administrative Director: Phil Males remains the key person in our Federation. He carries out the functions ascribed to him with authority and competence. He is also the very much appreciated webmaster of our Internet site www.ottf.org

Umpire and Referee Committee: As chairperson of the committee Fran Keyhoe was charged to create a group of IU's who would be available to conduct umpire courses in Oceania, and to set up an umpire reference in each country, to know the needs of each country and then to select the courses that have to be conducted each year. Fran Passed away a few months ago and the OTTF will miss her with strength.

Dave Delpratt is now the new chairman and he will conduct our umpire and referee policy with a will to success.

AWD Committee: This is a new committee, chaired by Arthur Wilks and is in the straight line of the ITTF fusion with PTT. 2009 will see the first effects in Oceania.

Ranking and classification Committee: David Jackson manages this matter with effectiveness and professionalism. The OTTF ranking lists are now updated regularly.

Pacific Commission: Our Deputy President Anthony Ho is the link between OTTF and the Pacific Island countries. There is the aim of our federation and our development program, which allows them to become competitive in many areas.

Women's coordinator: Anolyn Lulu had in charge the organization of the 1st Oceania women's forum in Tahiti that is a first step for her to increase women's activity in our continent.

The Financial Director: Graeme Ireland follows the budget and helps the ED in the finalisation of our Finances.

7. Meetings

Meetings of the ITTF: As a member of the BOD and as Continental Vice-President, I attended the meetings of the BOD, the Olympic commission and of the CDC in Guangzhou as well as the CDC and the Olympic commission in Madrid.

David Jackson, Anthony Ho and Graeme Ireland were present at the BOD in Guangzhou.

Meetings of the OTTF: One meeting took place in Guangzhou and a second one in Papeete for the BGM.

8. Conclusion

I should like to thank all those who enabled Table Tennis in Oceania to prosper: The International Federation, its President, EC and administrative staff, the ONOC for its unfailing financial support, Glenn Tepper and Steve Dainton for their sensible advices, the members of the OTTF for their active participation, Andrew Hubbard the DO, the members of the Management Committee and the Administrative Director, those responsible for Committees and those elected in international authorities for the time devoted to the service of table tennis in Oceania.

Patrick Gillman (Continental Vice-President - Oceania)
January 2009

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Report to the AGM

Document A14

1. 2008. The Olympic and Paralympic year

2008 will be remembered as the year of the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Beijing. The *Chinese year* for the international table tennis community, if we add to the previous events the World Table Tennis Championships held in Guangzhou, a few months prior to the Olympics. For us an Olympic year means also a year with much more work than an usual year. A very busy year in which it was necessary to fix clear priorities in order to succeed in the organisation of such complex events.

The big success of the organisation of the above-mentioned events was at the same time a reconfirmation that the ITTF continues along the line of progress and growth started some years ago. The fact that we had the World Championships, the Olympic and the Paralympic Games in China, the country with greatest interest and audience for our sport increased in a positive manner the worldwide image of our sport.

Let's take a couple of examples: the TV audience at the Olympics. According to several independent studies of audience table tennis was the first sport in audience in China on 4 of the 16 days of the Olympics (CSM Media Research). Another research conducted by TNS, a TV Audience measurement research agency, concluded that table tennis was number 4 on *unique reach* TV audience in China at the Olympics, meaning that 48.2% from a total audience of 1.12 billion Chinese viewers watched table tennis for a minimum of 15 minutes. This is a newest measure for Sports TV performance providing a sign of the marketing penetration.

Another sign of the good health of table tennis worldwide and specifically on the new media area comes from the information that we can obtain from Alexa.com a website to rank internet website traffic by analyzing the web usage. The ITTF website is ranked number 2 on traffic (number one is FIFA) among all international Olympic Federation websites.

2. Communication

During the year 2008 we have come to the updated editing of the *Handbook 2008-2009*, the *Rules Booklet 2008-2009* and we prepared for the Olympics the *Results Book 2007-2008* a compendium of the competitions results held in the previous 18 months before the Olympic Games.

The printing of *Table Tennis Illustrated* moved from China to Slovakia and is now designed by the company "World Table Tennis" in Japan and edited by Mr. Ian Marshall, 4 times per year.

We have also helped with the edition of the new *Table Tennis Fascination – IV, collector's edition*, magazine containing excellent photos from 2006, 2007 and 2008 World Championships and 2006 and 2007 Pro Tour Grand Finals.

Through our Media Co-ordinator, Mr. Marius Widmer, we have sent by e-mail, in 2008, 14 e-newsletters.

Finally, the ITTF web site continued to improve and increase significantly the number of visits. It is now one of the most powerful communication tools of the ITTF as mentioned previously.

3. Staff

We have continued the re-structuration process of the ITTF staff. Two new Departments are now part of our structure: the Competition Department, lead by Ms. Judit Faragó, since 1st September 2008 and the Education and Training Department, under Mr. Mikael Andersson's leadership, from 1st. January 2009. Mr. Karl Jindrak became also a full-time Competition Manager.

Our office in Beijing, ITTF Asia Pacific Office, has also seen some changes in its staff: Mrs. Zheng Xixi, Executive Assistant, left the office, Mrs. Liu Chanjuan, is now Marketing Assistant. Ms. Fu Jiayu, Website Manager, was replaced by Ms. Diana Shi.

25 full time employees are now working for the ITTF: 6 in the ITTF Headquarters in Renens/Lausanne, 6 in the President's office in Ottawa, 8 from home-offices and 5 in the ITTF Asia Pacific Office.

4. International relations

As usual I have made sure that during the visits of the ITTF President to Lausanne he had the opportunity to meet with the IOC officers and the local, regional and international sports authorities.

Finally, I would like to thank you all very much for your continued support, for your permanent advice and assistance and for your confidence.

Jordi Serra (Executive Director)
February 2009

EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE

Report to the AGM

Document A15

At the last count of approved / authorised equipment we had:

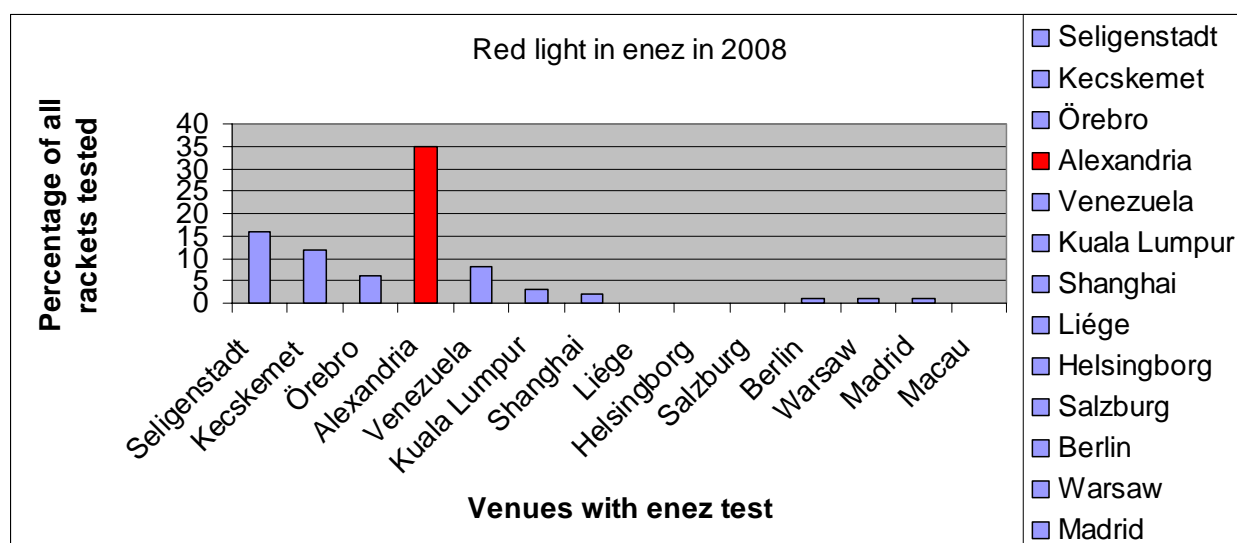
Balls	69	(last year	69)
Tables	90	(" "	82)
Sport floors	5	(" "	5)
Nets	49	(" "	48)
Coverings	1107	(" "	1048)

Racket Control

2008 became the year when racket control really took off. From mainly having been done at World Championships - and Olympic Games - it has now been introduced at many great events, and it is still spreading.

The background was the decision to eliminate volatile organic compounds (VOC) in glue for health reasons. The year started with the use of the newly designed "weapon", enez®, and later an improved thickness measurement method was introduced. Both contributed to the result.

The first use of enez® was for the Junior events; later the Senior events followed. There seems to be a marked development, shown in the attached diagram.



(Data from Alexandria is for enez® and thickness)

During 2008 boosters found their way into table tennis, and this combat is not yet over.

A new edition of the Technical Leaflet T9 Racket Control has been published at the end of 2008, together with the document of recommendations for referees regarding racket testing.

Balls

The ball matters run smoothly. However we have to control and maintain the quality of balls more strictly in order to keep and further improve the level we have reached now.

Tables and coverings; Proceedings as normal.

General

Again we would like to express our thanks to our Lausanne office.

Odd Gustavsen (Chairman, Equipment Committee)

January 2009

MEDIA COMMITTEE

Report to the AGM

Document A16

The Year 2008 was a very good year for table tennis. We had two big events in China of very high standard.

The Olympic Games in Beijing was a magnificent event.

Very good organisation, full house and excellent venue for table tennis and very big media interest. Compliments to BOCOG, Mr Jiao and his crew.

The final of the women's team event was seen by 320 million viewers in China.

The ITTF website had 54,537,434 hits. On the busiest day we had more than 7.6 million hits.

The services provided on the ITTF website were:

- Articles (Echoes, At a Glance and stories partially taken from the press releases)
- Press releases (one or two per day)
- Figures/statistics as a preview to important matches
- Flash Quotes
- Pictures of the Day
- Players' biographies
- Possibility to order pictures (from the ITTF photographers)
- Live scoring

Things to improve:

The match statistics should be improved. The mixed zone was much too small.

World championships Guangzhou

The organising committee provided very good facilities for the media.

The press centre, the mixed zones, the press conference room and the press stands were situated close together. Free access to internet. Only problem delay of results.

In the press centre there were 120 positions and 30 computers with free access. In the press centre matches could be followed on big screens.

The press stands had the best positions in the hall. 250 positions were provided.

476 media accreditations (336 from China and 140 from abroad)

197 press

95 photos

124 TV and radio

50 from host broadcaster (CCTV)

Top nations:

336 from China

64 from Japan

12 from Germany

9 from Korea

We offered three scholarships to young journalists: Olalekan Okusan from Nigeria, Syed Umair Hassan, from Pakistan and Philip Stallmeister, Germany. We did not receive applications from female journalists.

Table Tennis Illustrated

We have tried to "rethink" the Table Tennis Illustrated. Ian Marshall is the editor; the layout will be done by N. Konno in Japan and printed in Slovakia.

It will be issued four times a year.

We will try to use the website for news and the Table Tennis Illustrated for analyses, background stories and portraits and with more focus on photographs.

Arne Madsen (Chairman, Media Committee)

January 2009

RANKING COMMITTEE

Report to the AGM

Document A17

As I am no longer a candidate for a function in the Ranking Committee this will be my last report to the AGM.

Evolution

During the latest years the number of events continuously increased.

The ITTF Pro-Tour Circuit expanded as far as the number of events concerned but also in the number of participants to these events.

But the biggest expansion has been the spectacular explosion of the number of tournaments in the ITTF Junior Circuit.

Furthermore in the year 2008 it was decided to take also into consideration the results of cadets events, and to create a special ranking list for players of this age category and this start-up represented a lot of work for the members of the Committee who contributed to it.

Besides there was also an extension of table tennis in several areas activities in some areas especially in Latin America and in West Asia, but also in Africa and in Oceania and all the consequence of all this has been a considerable increase of the amount of work for the people in charge of world rankings.

Activities

During the year 2008 the following activities were performed and the following lists were produced

- Starting of World Cadets rankings;
- Monthly issuing of individual World Rankings, with extracts for U-21, Juniors and Cadets;
- Monthly team rankings for the same groups of players;
- Updated Pro-Tour Standings for singles and doubles, qualifying for the Pro-Tour Grand Final;
- Updated pairs and individual standings used for setting up Seeding Lists for Pro-Tour Circuit tournaments and setting up of these Seeding Lists;
- Juniors Individual standings on the basis of results of the ITTF Juniors Circuit events, for qualification for the Junior Circuit Final tournament;
- Seeding Lists for doubles events at World Individual Championships;
- Composition of Divisions for the 2008 World Team Championships;
- Lists of qualified players and teams for the 2008 Olympic Games;

Acknowledgements

My thanks to all the people who assisted the Committee and especially to Tim Gautreau, who runs all the World Individual Rankings as well as the Pro-Tour Standings, to David Jackson, who is in charge of managing the World Team Rankings, and to Mo-EI-Shentenawy who ensures that all these rankings and standings are displayed on the ITTF Website, as well as to the members of the Committee who contribute to its working.

My thanks also to the ITTF Officials for their confidence, to the ITTF Competition Managers for their efficient collaboration, to the members of the ITTF Staff in Lausanne with whom it was always a pleasure to co-operate, and to the table tennis people from all over the world who helped us to collect results and provided us other required information.

André Damman (Chairman – Ranking Committee)
February 2009

RULES COMMITTEE

Report to the AGM

Document A18

In the season 2008-2009 our Committee had essentially to deal with following tasks:

Interpretation of Rules

The Rules Committee had to reply to more than 700 questions and enquires about table tennis laws and regulations including eligibility issues.

Another time table tennis equipment (rackets, rubbers, gluing) took the top position in terms of the number of requests.

Propositions to the AGM and Board of Directors Meeting 2009

The Rules Committee is providing written explanations to all propositions and resolutions received by the ITTF Head Office in due time.

Our Committee is presenting a few propositions mainly focussing on the Service Law and equipment rules.

The Service Rule

Although we had a relatively quiet period as far as the application of the Service Rule is concerned, this was still a main subject at internal discussions within the Rules Committee.

After running a "Service Workshop" during the World Championships 2008 in Guangzhou from which a number of quite interesting ideas emerged, we were concentrating on a possible higher ball projection (2.6.2) and a possible amendment of the "near vertical projection" (2.6.2) as well as on the question of the examination of the correctness of the service by the umpires (2.6.6).

Another interesting question came up during the Olympic Games 2008 and was repeated at Pro Tour events: Should both players or pairs be entitled to overrule an umpire's decision by mutual agreement (2.9.1.1)?

Eligibility Cases

Since the World Championships 2008 in Guangzhou I was consulted with significantly fewer eligibility cases than in former years. This might partly be caused by the new registration procedure for eligibility at World Title events. Many of the remaining requests did not affect regular eligibility but nomination to individual events of the ITTF Pro Tour.

Review of Rules and the ITTF Handbook

We were trying to update and adjust our laws and regulations by preparing propositions or making editorial modifications only.

I am much obliged to the Committee members for their valuable contributions, and my special thanks go to the Deputy Chairman, Phil Males, who was assisting to manage the Committee in a most efficient way, whenever necessary.

Rudi Sporrer (Chairman, Rules Committee)
January 2009

SPORTS SCIENCE COMMITTEE

Report to the AGM

Document A19

1. Meetings

ITTF

- The Annual General Meeting on 27 February 2008, the Sports Science Committee meeting on 28 February, and the Board of Directors meeting on 29 February in Guangzhou, China.
- The Glue Working Group meeting on 28 June 2008 in Barcelona, Spain.
- Before renewing the agreement between ITTF and ETTU on the Development Programme, I participated in a meeting organized on 6 December 2008 by Glenn Tepper, ITTF Director of Development Programmes, during The World Juniors Championships in Madrid, Spain.

IOC

- The Meeting of the Chairpersons of the Medical Commissions of International Federations on 8 November 2008, in Stockholm, Sweden.

WADA

- The symposium for the International Federations and an ADAMS training session from 1 to 4 April 2008, in Lausanne.

2. Scientific activity

- The 11th ITTF Sports Science Congress has been held from 25 to 27 April in the Sports Medical Center of Yokohama under the lead of Prof. Y. Tsuji and his team.
- For the first time, a scientific congress will be held during the Veterans European TT Championships, from 12 to 14 June 2009 in Porec, Croatia. The main theme will be "Table tennis in ageing population".
- On 8 November in Stockholm, I presented a communication and an update on the ITTF fight against unhealthy substances (glues and boosters containing VOCs) and the new regulations which are in line with the Agenda 21 of the Olympic Movement and United Nations.
- The communications presented during the 4th World Congress of Science and Racket Sports have been published in a book issued in 2008: Science and Racket Sports IV, Routledge (more information and online ordering on www.routledge.com).

3. Fight against doping

- Doping control: from January to December 2008, I received 152 results of tests at international level. 23 of them have been conducted out of competition with the help of WADA and IDTM. 3 samples in 3 European countries were positive: ratio T / E (Testosterone / Epitestosterone) exceeding the limit fixed at 4 (1), cannabis (2).
- Beijing 2008: I attended the Olympic Games as the ITTF Medical Officer, and Dr. Aart Kruimer (Netherlands) was the Medical Officer for the Paralympic Games. 40 players have been tested during the Olympic Games and 14 during the Paralympic Games. All results were negative.
- The new version of the ITTF Anti-Doping Rules, in line with the revised version of the WADA Code, has come into effect on 1st January 2009. Among others, there are important changes concerning the application for a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE). Detailed information can be obtained on the WADA website: www.wada-ama.org

4. Medical service during the Team World Championships 2008 in Guangzhou:

- A medical team conducted by Dr. Hu YueLin (also present in Beijing) was permanently present on site and there has been no particular health problem with players and officials.

Dr. Jean-François Kahn (Chairman, Sports Science Committee)
January 2009

NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Report to the AGM

Document A20

The activity of the Nomination Committee within the period, starting from April 2008 till April 2009 was carried out according to the decisions and regulations stipulated by the AGM, BOD and EC.

At present the ITTF unites 205 National Associations (Federations). It is a great community that requires attention, respect and, to a greater extent, management. Management of such a great community with the most efficiency is a highly complicated task. The main stress in the work was done on the improvement of the Committee's activity as well as the elaboration of recommendations in development of ITTF Committees' activities. Much closer cooperation between different federations has been established, which is reflected in carrying out joint trainings, seminars, tournaments and exchange of experience. The work of committees and commissions is becoming slightly more intense. The level of communication between federations, including the ITTF, is rapidly increasing. It's not a secret that some elected Committee members appeared only at the annual ITTF congresses (this fact had already been mentioned in the Report to the AGM in Guangzhou in 2008).

Due to this fact, according to the opinion of the Nomination Committee, one of the important tasks of the National Federations is the control over the activity of their members elected to the ITTF Committees. Of course, it's possible only if regular contacts between Committee Chairmen and National Federations are available.

The decision of the Executive Council taken in July 2006, is positively influencing the work of the Committee – "each member of the EC has a special focus" and specific responsibilities conducted on behalf of the EC. These specific tasks are supported by the ITTF professional staff members.

Practically at all international competitions members of the Nomination Committee conducted the work with the National Federations, connected with selection of candidates into ITTF committees and commission (especially among women). During the European Championships in St. Petersburg a meeting under auspices of the Women's Working Group was held. Deputy Chairwoman S. Lubi took part in a number of Women's forums.

As a rule, all Nomination Committee members are included into the composition of the Organizing Committees of the largest international Tournaments, etc.

At the previous ITTF Congresses (Zagreb, Guangzhou) the Nomination Committee made their proposals regarding Nomination Committee members participation in the selection of the sites for the world championships (make recommendations to BOD) and, taking the opportunity that Education and Training Department had been created, requested to consider the issue of introducing the title "ITTF coach", as the Nomination Committee believes that it would raise the authority of the coaches who have developed the players of the world level.

The Nomination Committee continues to pay attention to the work efficiency of Committee members and Commissions, work with National Federations concerning more accurate selection of candidates to the Committees, close cooperation with Continental federations, preparing instructions for the members of the committees determining their rights and obligations in order to fulfill the aims facing the Committees.

Closing the Report I would like to thank all ITTF officials, Chairmen of committees and commissions, management and staff of the ITTF for their valuable cooperation.

Yuri Posevin (Chairman – Nomination Committee)
January 2009

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Report to the AGM

Document A21

The main responsibilities for the Technical Committee of recent years were proposing competition format for the team event of the World Championships and the Olympic Games as well as participating in making competition schedules. During the meeting at the Guangzhou World Championships and the later communications, the Technical Committee have made the following conclusions on the competition methodology, regulation and the competition schedule:

1. Competition Format

- a. The format must take three things into consideration: the image of the event, the advantage of promotion and the Olympic Spirit.
- b. The format should be propitious to the development of table tennis and help it to compete with other sports
- c. The format should give priority to the TV broadcasting, ticket sales, and the profit for the sponsors.
- d. The format has to meet the needs of each association.
- e. The format should be equal, fair and transparent.

2. Competition Regulation

- a. The regulation should state clearly the following items: the competition dates, competition time, competition venue, the brand and model of the equipment, the competition format (if it is round robin, clarify the sequence), the date, place and methodology of the draw, the date, time and place for the Jury meeting, and other issues relating to racket control, anti-doping test and awarding ceremony.

3. Competition Schedule

- a. The schedule is the main line and key point of the game, any other work or service should be conducted according to it. The competition schedule should be made with great carefulness and detailed consideration. Once published, the schedule should not be changed easily, or the whole game will be influenced.
- b. The schedule should be equal to every player or team in terms of the number of matches and the time between the matches.
- c. The schedule should be made after knowing the time difference and which countries may need to buy the TV live broadcast. The most important and exciting matches should be arranged at the time that has the most audience rating.
- d. The top players(teams) or the players(teams) from the host association can promote the selling of TV broadcast and tickets, so the schedule should be made in the way that every section has attractive matches, and the host team(players) and seeded players should have matches separately as early as possible.
- e. The schedule should fit the demand of the venue and should consider the in-and-out of the audience between the sections, the time needed to arrange the court, the time needed for the transition of workers, etc. At the same time, it should fit the habit of the local audience.
- f. The schedule should not take 100% of the tables and the court. There should be space in case of emergency or incident.
- g. If there is a possibility to change the schedule (such as in the need of TV broadcast), a notice should be published in advance, and the final change should be made known to the players of teams in the fastest way.

These points are made according to our practice, and they may be useful for the organizers of future competitions.

Yao Zhenxu (Chairman, Technical Committee)
January 2009

UMPIRES & REFEREES COMMITTEE

Report to the AGM

Document A22

Meetings

The URC had 2 meetings during the World Championships 2008 in Guangzhou. The rest of the communication was done by e-mail and sometimes by telephone.

The URC chair attended a meeting in Paris with the 4 ITTF directors to talk about the new way of working after the restructure of the ITTF organisation.

Umpires Education, Training and Certification

In 2008 four (4) Advanced Umpires Training courses were conducted, and 512 field of play evaluations were conducted in 10 events. At the end of 2007 there were 153 Blue-badge certified umpires. During 2008 that number increased by 39 to 192 Blue Badge umpires at the end of 2008, 13 of them didn't manage to maintain their certification.

As part of the ITTF Development Programme trainers were sent to conduct the ITTF Certified Umpire Course in the developing countries.

Referees Education, Training and Certification

A pilot International Referee school and examination was organised in Moscow, with 9 participants. Experience has been used to finalise the IR training materials.

For knowledge refreshment of the current referees there were 3-day conferences in Guangzhou and Luxembourg with a total of 62 participants.

The Basic Referee Course (National Referee) was completed in autumn and the draft version was immediately used for some courses as part of the Development Programme.

Renewal of the handbook has been started and is expected to be available mid 2009.

International Umpires Examination

A total of 77 Associations with 765 candidates took part in the 2008 IU examination, and 333 new IUs were certified in 2008 with a passing rate of 43,5%.

Nomination & Selection of Umpires and Referees Procedures

The approach of "open invitations" has been adopted by more and more organisers and the URC helped them by providing standard invitations and published these on the URC section of the ITTF website.

The URC selection panel completed the selection of umpires and referees for the 2008 World Team Championships (Guangzhou), World Olympic Qualifications (Budapest), Women's World Cup (Kuala Lumpur), Men's World Cup (Liege), WCC finals (Helsingborg), ProTour Grand Finals (Macau), 2008 World Junior Championships (Madrid), and started up the selection for the 2009 World Championships (Yokohama).

Directives for Racket Control

The new Directives for Racket Control were developed in close cooperation with the Equipment Committee and Competition Management.

Planning 2009

The URC will give priority to further developments on the referee side, resulting in 2 more IR schools and examinations, and a renewed Handbook for Referees.

The web-based URC-database will be finalised and implemented as part of the ITTF website.

In conclusion I wish to thank my fellow members of the Umpires and Referee Committee. A special word of thanks for the support of the ITTF office.

Albert Rooijmans (Chairman, Umpires and Referees Committee)
January 2009

VETERANS' COMMITTEE

Report to the AGM

Document A23

1) COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The ITTF Board of Directors had officially established the formation of the ITTF Veterans' Committee at its meeting during the 2007 World Table Tennis Championships held in Zagreb with the following members:

Chairman	Mr. Chan Foong Keong	
Deputy Chairman	Mr. Hans Westling (M)	
Members	Mrs Diane Schöler	Mrs Olga Fenigold-Kahan
	Mr. Galal Ezz	Mr. Ron Garrett
	Mr. Alaor Azevedo	Mrs Jeanny Dom

2) COMMITTEE MEETING

The ITTF Veterans' Committee meeting was held during the World Team Championships in China as follows:

Date	24.2.2008
Time	14h00
Venue	Guangzhou, China
Present	Chang Foong Keong, Diane Schöler, Hans Westling, Anthony Herberts, Khaled El-Salhy

3) WORLD VETERANS TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

A discussion session was held on 27.2.08 among the Committee members together with representatives from the South African Table Tennis Board to discuss the possibility to include team event to the present World Veteran Championships.

After much deliberation, it was decided to allow all concerned more time to find the best option and to submit proposals and suggestions to the Committee Chairman.

From the proposals and suggestions received it was clear that all the members felt that it would not be feasible and advisable to include team event to the present World Veteran Championships.

4) 14th WORLD VETERANS TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2008

- The 14th WVTTC was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 25 – 30th May 2008.
- The championships, which had attracted more than 1350 players from the five Continents, had been organised successfully by the Brazil Table Tennis Federation.

5) 15th WORLD VETERANS TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2010

The 15th WVTTC 2010 will be held in Hohhot, Inner Mongolia, China, 7 – 12 June 2010.

6) PROPOSAL

The Committee would like to propose that a Competition Manager be appointed by the ITTF for World Veteran Championships.

Chan Foong Keong (Chairman, Veterans' Committee)
January 2009

ATHLETES' COMMISSION

Report to the AGM

Document A24

Since the Annual General Meeting of the ITTF, which was held during the World Championships in Zagreb on 23rd May 2007, where the new members were elected, the Commission has not been changed.

Members of the Athletes' Commission (2007-2009):

PRIMORAC Zoran (HRV)	CHAIRMAN
DESJARDINS Lyne (CAN)	DEPUTY
BOUDJAJA Sofian (ALG)	AFRICA
MATSUSHITA Koji (JPN)	ASIA
STEFANOVA Nikoleta (ITA)	EUROPE
SUBONJ Viktor (USA)	NORTH AMERICA
MONTEIRO Thiago (BRA)	LATIN AMERICA
LI Karen (NZL)	OCEANIA
AGGARWAL Neha (IND)	Junior representative
KNIGHT Darius (ENG)	Junior representative

I was not able to organize a meeting in Guangzhou last year due to illness.

The athletes will be in the center of the Forum named "Player today, Leader tomorrow" organized by the Women Working Group on the 4th of May from 9.00 AM to 13.00 in Yokohama during the 2009 WTTC.

I will attend the 4th International Athletes' Forum – Marrakech, 29-31 May 2009 and report will be transmitted to ITTF.

In the future, the Commission would like to concentrate on the following projects:

- Try to incorporate our colleagues Athletes from Paralympics to join us in our Commission
- In cooperation with ITTF try to develop better system for Olympic Qualifications (continental and world) and also playing system and format for Olympic Games
- Developing Ranking system. We would like to have the Ranking list published more often (maybe every week like in tennis), because it is good for media and easier for players and coaches to follow. Also we have to pay attention to avoid point calculation mistakes, which is very important for players who have contract money based on ranking.
- One of the important issues is education for players. It could be interesting to find a solution with the assistance of the ITTF to give the opportunity for players to study at University or do an MBA.
- The Athletes' Commission would like to find some possibilities for players who play in the Pro Tour to enjoy some benefits or privileges. We would like to develop that with sponsors of ITTF (Volkswagen, Liebherr).

As Chairman of the ITTF Athletes' Commission, I call my colleagues, all players, to support Sandra Paovic, member of the Croatian women's national team. She has suffered very serious injuries during a car accident, which happened in France. She needs us to be with her in the future.

In conclusion, on behalf of the Chairman and members of the Athletes' Commission we would like to say many thanks to the ITTF officials for their cooperation and support to our Commission.

Zoran Primorac (Chairman, Athletes' Commission)
February 2009

JUNIOR COMMISSION

Report to the AGM

Document A25

The ITTF Global Junior Programme continues to mature, develop and progress. In its sixth year of operation since the official start in 2003, the ITTF Junior Commission rolled out eighteen ITTF Junior Circuit events all over the globe, laying a solid foundation for worldwide growth for our sport.

More than 1400 individual athletes took advantage of the opportunities provided and participated in at least one ITTF JC event in 2008. We are proud of the growing ITTF Junior Circuit which is the back/bone of the ITTF Global Junior Programme. In our belief success comes from the formula PASSION + VISION + ACTIVITIES. Continued growth is projected and in 2009 the number of events scheduled comes in at twenty-five, covering all the six continents.

The broad base of participants also sets up for a quality improvement at the top level. Especially encouraging is the fact that success now is reaching nontraditional table tennis markets. The strong results of three very interesting prospects from Egypt, Omar Assar; Iran, Noshad Alamanyian and Paraguay, Marcelo Aguirre; are in itself a clear success for ITTF Development work in general and the ITTF Global Junior Program more specifically. Through various means of support we hope to continue this trend of bringing new rejuvenated energy into countries ready to make junior development a priority.

With the unfortunate late cancellation of the New Zealand- North Shore World Junior Championships bid the yearly championships were held in Madrid. We are extremely thankful to the city of Madrid and the 2016 Olympic campaign for making this late switch at all possible. The brand itself – ITTF World Junior Championships / Where the Future Begins is very much alive and gaining importance from year to year. Most evident is the hard work and preparation offered by the qualified associations. We now have a true world championship clearly capturing all the positive elements of global Table Tennis growth .

The other major event included in the ITTF Global Junior arsenal is the ITTF Cadet Challenge, in 2008 allocated to Helsingborg, Sweden. Full participation –sixty four cadet players from over thirty countries took part in both training camp and the actual competition. The Swedes did a great job providing excellent playing conditions setting the scene for good quality table tennis. The future is indeed friendly for our sport judging from the talent level on display at the Cadet Challenge.

In a very quiet way, the ITTF GJP also scored some huge success at the Beijing Olympic Games. From year one we have recognized the needs to provide financial and moral backing to promising junior players through the ITTF /Olympic Solidarity project; With the Future in mind. Counting the last Olympic cycle the project invested more than 600,000 dollars in training camps and individual support to targeted athletes. In Beijing the results were evident as 13 athletes participating in Table Tennis at one time or for many years have been supported by the ITTF WFIM project.

Filing this report it is my hope that the ITTF will continue to recognize the values of the ITTF Global Junior Programme as a unique and important feature within the ITTF. We need to understand the basic developmental needs and provide a promotionally strong, strategic and striving model to our membership.

I would like to thank our sponsors, the dedicated staff working at events, and our supporters at various levels for the opportunities provided to young athletes and coaches all over the world.

With the future in mind,

Tony Yue (Chairman – Junior Commission)
February 2009

OLYMPIC COMMISSION

Report to the AGM

Document A26

Meetings of the Olympics Commission

The Olympics Commission met in Guangzhou (CNH), on 25 February 2008 and in Madrid (ESP), on 8 December 2008. The points treated at the first meeting were related to the preparations of the Beijing'2008 Olympic Games and at the second meeting were mainly related to the review of the Beijing'2008 Olympics and the proposals for London'2012.

The main points discussed and the decisions taken during the meeting held in Guangzhou were as follows:

Beijing'2008

1. Approval of a change on the schedule proposed by BOCOG.
2. Approval of the replacement of an International Umpire
3. Information about the request to IOC of having alternate players for team events.
4. Eligibility issues. Impact on the IOC decision on the eligibility of 2 players.
5. Number of accreditations for ITTF

Olympic Qualification Tournaments

1. Update on the Continental Qualification tournaments
2. Update on the Final World Qualification tournament

Youth Olympic Games update

The main points discussed and the decisions taken during the meeting held in Madrid were as follows:

1. Presentation of the Post-Games Report requested by the IOC.
2. Presentation of the Survey addressed to all the National Associations and ITTF officials regarding the qualification, playing system and format of the competition at the last Olympics.
3. It was decided to form a Working Group to deal with the proposals presented by the Hong-Kong Table Tennis Association, the French Table Tennis Association and the recommendations from the survey.
4. The qualification system for the Youth Olympic Games was approved.
5. Mr. Richard Scruton, Competition Manager of London'2012, was introduced as a new member of the Olympics Commission representing LOCOG and gave a first overview of the table tennis plans for London'2012.

Jordi Serra (Executive Director)
February 2009

WOMEN'S WORKING GROUP

Report to the Board of Directors

Document A27

As chairperson of the Women's Working Group I hereby present my report covering the period February 2008 - May 2009.

1. Women's Working Group Meeting

The Women's Working Group (WWG) meeting for 2008 was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 7 September 2008 hosted by the Malaysian Table Tennis Association during the Women's World Cup.

The meeting was officially opened by Dr. Sharmala Subramaniam, Executive Director of the Malaysian Women and Sport Group. The following members of the Women's Working Group were unable to attend due to financial constraints, viz. Anoline Lulu (Oceania) Norma Jara (Latin America) and Mary Musoke (Africa).

The Women's Working Group Budget for the next quadrennial has made provision to assist with travel costs for five persons of the WWG; this will ease some of the financial challenges.

It is also important to mention that Ms Alejandra Gabaglio representing the Para Table Tennis attended the meeting and more importantly; the Para Table Tennis Executive Committee agreed on the following:

- A special budget will be set aside for women's development.
- Free hospitality for women classes 1-2
- One Training camp for women before a Para Table Tennis Tournament.

This is a great breakthrough for Women Table Tennis athletes with disability

I would like to once again thank Mr.Chan Foong Keong and his executive members of the Malaysian Table Tennis Association; for organising an outstanding event and for their unconditional hospitality.

a. Athletes and Coaches Meeting

The Athletes and Coaches meeting was held on 8 September 2008, the attendance was very positive. Both male and female coaches and managers attended the meeting.

Ms Claude Bergeret gave an update on the following:

- Table Tennis - Mother and Baby Friendly
- Ensuring that women's matches are watched (semi-finals to be played together)
- Further education for players and AiSTS (International Academy for Sports Science Technology, University of Lausanne) Management Seminar
- 2009 World Women's Forum

Gao Jun was co-opted as the athlete representative.

2. Continental Forums

The WWG endorsed the continuation of the continental forums, in addition it is suggested that the continental representatives drive this process, the final format will be finalised at the WWG meeting in Yokohama, Japan.

3. Friendship Trophy

The next edition of the Friendship Trophy will be held on International Women's Day 8 March in partnership with the United Nations Sport and Development, the International Working Group for Women and Sport and the ITTF WWG.

This activity addresses and recognises the 3rd Millennium Goal of **Promoting Gender Equality and Empower Women**. By increasing access for women and girls to physical education that will assist in building confidence and promoting stronger social integration within sport structures alongside boys that will breakdown prejudices that contribute to social vulnerability of women and girls.

4. International Table Tennis Federation World Women's Forum

The World Women' Forum is scheduled for 4 May 2009 in Yokohama, Japan.

The forum is dedicated to the athletes with special emphasis of how to keep athletes in sport and also their vocation or "**second challenge**" after sports. Most importantly how do athletes' contribute to civil society as role models?

5. Conclusion

I would like to thank Ms Claude Bergeret Vice President of the ITTF responsible for overseeing the work of the WWG, members of the Women's' Working Group and Lila de Soysa for her support during the past 15 months

Secondly my thanks to the Continental Presidents for their continuous support and ensuring that the promotion of Women is an integral part of their respective Continental programmes

Lastly, Mr President my appreciation to you for advancing the role of women within the structures of the ITTF.

Hajera Kajee (Chairwoman, Women's Working Group)
January 2009

Propositions & Resolutions to the AGM & BOD 2009

Document A28