

AGENDA

ITTF Annual General Meeting

To be held in Bremen, Germany, 27 April 2006, at 09.00 hours

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 (Shanghai, May 2005)
6. Report of Nomination Committee (document A19)
7. Court of Arbitration in Sport (CAS)
 - 7.1. Appeal
 - 7.2. Decision
 - 7.3. Validation of EC work and decisions
8. Elections
 - 8.1. Deputy President position
 - 8.2. Executive Vice Presidents (4) positions
9. Presentations
 - 9.1. Life Membership
 - 9.2. Other presentations
10. Membership applications
11. Executive Committee Reports
 - 11.1. President - A. Sharara (document A1)
 - 11.2. Deputy President – K. Al-Mohannadi
 - 11.3. Executive Vice President (Finance) – N. Harwood (document A2)
 - 11.4. Executive Vice President – Yang Shuan (document A3)
 - 11.5. Executive Vice President – C. Bergeret (document A4)
 - 11.6. Executive Vice President – K. Kimura (document A5)
 - 11.7. Executive Vice-President – I.G. Munivrana (document A6)
12. Continental Vice Presidents' Reports
 - 12.1. Africa (document A7)
 - 12.2. Asia (document A8)
 - 12.3. Europe (document A9)
 - 12.4. North America (document A10)
 - 12.5. Latin America (document A11)
 - 12.6. Oceania (document A12)
13. Executive Director's Report (document A13)

14. Reports from Committees and Commissions
 - 14.1. Equipment Committee (document A14)
 - 14.2. Media Committee (document A15)
 - 14.3. Ranking Committee (document A16)
 - 14.4. Rules Committee (document A17)
 - 14.5. Sport Science Committee (document A18)
 - 14.6. Technical Committee (document A20)
 - 14.7. Umpires & Referees Committee (document A21)
 - 14.8. Athletes' Commission (document A22)
 - 14.9. Junior Commission (document A23)
 - 14.10. Olympic Commission (document A24)
15. Financial Statements
 - 15.1. Audited Financial Statements (2005)
 - 15.2. Appoint Auditors for 2006
 - 15.3. Date of 2006 Audited statements
 - 15.4. Budget
16. Proposition and Resolutions (document A27)
17. Future World Championships
 - 17.1. Update 2007 Zagreb
 - 17.2. Update 2008 Guangzhou
 - 17.3. Bids for 2010 and 2011
18. Selection of 2009 World Championships
19. Election of Continental Vice President
 - Latin America
20. Next AGM – Zagreb 2007
21. Any other business
22. Adjournment

AGENDA

ITTF Board of Directors Meeting

To be held in Bremen, Germany, 28 April 2006, at 09:00 hours

1. Welcome and President's opening address
2. Roll call
3. Minutes of previous Meetings (Shanghai, 30 April and 3 May 2005)
4. Update Reports
 - 4.1 Calendar Working Group (document A25)
 - 4.2 Glue Working Group
 - 4.3 International Paralympic TT Committee
 - 4.4 ITTF/Continental Development Plans
 - 4.5 Merit Awards
 - 4.6 Veterans Working Group
 - 4.7 Women's Working Group (document A26)
5. Propositions and Resolutions (Document A27)
6. World Junior Championships
 - 6.1 Austria 2005 report
 - 6.2 Egypt 2006 update
 - 6.3 2007 and 2008 updates
 - 6.4 2009 Selection
7. Global Junior Programme (Junior Circuit, JC Finals and Cadet Challenge)
8. WTTC Team System- update
9. Olympic Solidarity support
10. Olympic Games
 - 10.1 Beijing 2008 update
 - 10.2 Testing Team event system
11. Next meeting
12. Any other business
13. Adjournment

PRESIDENT

Report to the AGM

Document A1

Since the AGM in Shanghai, in May 2005, several important factors have affected the ITTF and had a major impact on the direction the ITTF will take in the future. The rest of the year 2005 should have been used by the ITTF leadership in updating and formulating the new P4 Plan, based on a solid foundation of accomplishments and establishing more challenging goals and objectives for the future. However, following the Shanghai AGM, the ITTF was called to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) to face three appeals presented by a member association. Although an appeal by a member association may seem as a negative issue for the ITTF, I can surely say that it was both a learning experience and a positive "eye-opener" for all of us. I now realize that the small "family oriented" ITTF is experiencing growing pains and is becoming a large Federation with 200 members and with heavy financial clout. We have also become the envy of many international federations based on our financial/marketing success and our ever-expanding development model. Therefore, we have to accept the Arbitration process as a sign of maturity and an opportunity to improve and further develop our systems and structures.

The delay in updating the P4 Plan was indeed a blessing in disguise, as we received from the IOC a detailed evaluation report of all Olympic Sports. This comprehensive report analyzed summer Olympic Sports in 17 different areas. I am very proud to say that Table Tennis fared very well in most of the 17 areas, showing tremendous strength in some areas such as marketing and TV coverage. While we must admit that we are still weak in some areas such as print media coverage. However, in general, Table Tennis has made tremendous leaps over the last few years and can now be measured favourably against the so-called "marquis" sports.

At the November 2005 ITTF Executive Committee meeting, a detailed analysis of the IOC report was presented by Neil Harwood, Executive Vice President, and Jordi Serra, Executive Director, which culminated with 20 practical recommendations. These 20 recommendations will be incorporated in the P4 Plan update for the period 2006-2009. Therefore, the P4 Plan will not only build on previous accomplishments, it will also have a specific "Olympic Focus" to help our sport and our Federation strengthen and enhance its position within the Olympic movement in general and the Olympic games in particular.

The most satisfying accomplishment of the ITTF came from two announcements made by the International Olympic Committee (IOC):

- 1. Table Tennis is 5th overall in terms of TV audiences at the 2004 Athens Olympic Games.**
- 2. The ITTF is 2nd overall in terms of number of Olympic Solidarity development courses provided in the past quadrennial**

These two announcements have provided me personally, and I am sure also to all my colleagues, the necessary motivation to continue our work and to concretely see the fruits of our financial and human resources investments. I am very proud, as President of the ITTF, of our accomplishments through the tireless work of our expert volunteers and our professional staff. Although we operate in a very "decentralized" model, the real cooperation of all concerned has resulted in an excellent result of which ALL ITTF members can be proud.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the continuing growth of our competition programme. The ITTF Pro Tour celebrates 10 year of its existence and has grown into a stable well staged and well presented series of events that reflect to the World our beloved sport. The Junior Circuit has now grown to 14 events from its modest beginnings four years ago with just 6 events. We must continue to work hard to improve

the quality and presentation of our events, which are the window of our sport to the world.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the associations responsible to organize World Championships and World Junior Championships over the years, and especially over the recent years, for enhancing the image of our sport. The standards are now very high and I hope we can continue to maintain these high standards while still improving in those areas that need improvement.

Finally, I would like to thank my colleagues within the ITTF Executive Committee for their hard work and understanding, especially during a difficult period, and for their continuous support. Without the contribution of my colleagues we would not be able to reach our objectives. It is also heart-warming to see our professional staff work hand-in-hand with our elected volunteers at all levels. This synergy is serving the ITTF very well. However, due to our rapid growth, a redesign of our Professional Structure is extremely necessary and will be one of the priorities of this year.

To you, the member associations, please accept my deepest admiration for the work you do within your national associations, and rest assured that you have my full support in all your endeavours to develop our sport.

Respectfully submitted,

Adham Sharara (President)
February 2006

EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT (FINANCE)

Report to the AGM

Document A2

This is my first report as the Executive Vice-President (Finance) and it has been a privilege to continue the role that has been performed so effectively by my predecessor, Mr. Han Sang Kook.

I am very satisfied with the financial position of the ITTF, following the strong performance of TMS & careful management within the office. The financials are currently being audited & I will attach a more detailed report with the audited statements, which will be circulated as soon as the audits of the Lausanne and Ottawa offices have taken place.

Following my election in Shanghai, last May, I was given other responsibilities by the Executive Committee in areas of Olympic Games, Umpires and Referees and the integration of the International Paralympic Table Tennis Committee (IPTTC) into the ITTF family.

Firstly I am pleased to report that whilst the integration process of IPTTC is a slow one the work is continuing in a positive manner. The general meeting of the IPTTC to be held in Montreux, Switzerland, during September this year, is expected to pass the necessary motion to ensure it occurs.

The work regarding the Olympic Games is well structured and our position in the Olympic Family continues to grow with the TV results from the Athens Games providing a very positive indicator. We must continue our work to ensure that our image is enhanced and I believe that the introduction of Teams Events in the Beijing Olympic program is a big step in the right direction.

The Umpires and Referees Committee is continuing its excellent progress in a cohesive manner. I am particularly pleased to note that, in conjunction with Continental Development Plans, recruitment training and accreditation from the grass roots level will be implemented. This will result in clear pathways and opportunities for all to reach the top level.

Personally I was pleased to be part of the decision making process that saw funds allocated for a structured development plan in the area of women's participation. Attention to this area has been needed for some time and I am sure that the long-term results will be positive.

In my capacity as an Executive Vice-President I attended the following:

- 11th – 14th November – Executive Committee Meeting and German Open Championship in Magdeburg, Germany;
- 8th – 11th December – 2005 Volkswagen Pro tour Grand Finals, Fuzhou, China;
- 13th – 17th December – Executive Committee meeting and World Junior Championship, Linz, Austria.

In conclusion I wish to thank my colleagues in the Executive Committee, Executive Council and the Board of Directors. I particularly want to thank the staff of the ITTF and all the Committee Chairmen who work with such commitment for our sport. The guidance and leadership provided by our President, Adham Sharara, is a key factor for our continued success financially and for positioning table tennis on the world stage. I express my personal gratitude for his performance and for his guidance to me in my new role.

Neil Harwood (Executive Vice-President – Finance)
January 2006

EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

Report to the AGM

Document A3

It is my honor to be re-elected as the ITTF Executive Vice-President at the AMG in Shanghai so I can continue my job to promote and develop table tennis. In the past years, our sport has made a lot of progress owing to the joint efforts of the world table tennis family. I am happy to be part of this great course and the report on my work in 2005 is as follows.

Olympic Games – Beijing 2008

The construction of the table tennis venue – Peking University Gymnasium started in September 2005 and will be completed by the end of the 2007 in order to host the Olympic test event – 2007 Pro Tour Grand Finals. Team events will be included for the first time in the Olympic Games as approved by the IOC and I took an active part in the discussions on the team competition system. Mr. Yao Zhenxu has been appointed by the BOCOG as the Competition Manager for Table Tennis. The table tennis competition will be held over a period of 10 days. In the capacity of the Executive Vice-President (Sports) of the BOCOG, I will do my best to ensure the success of table tennis competition in Beijing 2008 Olympic Games and further improve the status of our sport in the Olympic family.

World Championships – Shanghai 2005

The World Championships was held in Shanghai on 29 April – 5 May. It was the 3rd time for China to host the WTTC after Beijing (1961) and Tianjin (1995). I had been working closely with the Chinese TTA and the Shanghai OC before and during the Championships to ensure the organization and implement the ITTF directions. I can say the World Championships in Shanghai was successful in terms of organization, presentation, sponsorship, TV and media coverage. The Championships also attracted a large number of spectators and TV audience since it was held during a nation-wide holiday in China.

World Championships – Guangzhou 2008

The Shanghai AGM selected the city of Guangzhou to host the World Team Championships in 2008. A delegation from the city headed by its Mayor visited the ITTF headquarters in Lausanne at the end of October and an agreement of understanding was signed regarding the organization and hosting of the Championships in Guangzhou. The local authorities in Guangzhou will give full support to the World Championships which is scheduled in the beginning of March, 2008.

ITTF Events

Several events were held in China in 2005 such as the Grand Finals, Women's World Cup and I have been working closely with the Chinese Table Tennis Association and local organizers to ensure the organizations.

- **Pro Tour Grand Finals**

The 2005 Pro Tour Grand Finals was organized in Fuzhou on 9th – 11th December with Volkswagen being the title sponsor for the 3rd time continuously, which set up a record in the Grand Finals. The event also achieved many "firsts" in Grand Finals history such as 1st U-21 Grand Finals; 1st all-European Men's Singles finals and 1st European Men's Doubles Champion. The Chinese TTA and the local organizer did a good job in providing human resources and facilities and the Grand Finals were organized successfully.

- **Women's World Cup**

The 2005 Women's World Cup was held in Guangzhou on 13th –15th December. A local company from Guangzhou – Hengda Group was the title sponsor of this event. The spectators were full-house during the last days of the tournament and the atmosphere was nice in the venue.

- **Men's World Cup**

The Men's World Cup was held in Liege Belgium on 21st –23rd October. Thanks to the efforts from the Belgium Association and Mr. Philippe Saive, the Men's World Cup was a very successful event with a full-house of spectators at most times.

All the above events received good TV and media coverage which not only promoted the image of our sport but also increased the exposure of the sponsors. With the increased TV and media exposure, our sport has become more popular and attractive.

- **Events in 2006**

The Men's World Cup will be held in France and the Women's World Cup will remain in China. The Pro Tour Finals will be held in Hong Kong with Volkswagen as the title sponsor once again.

Development

- **Assistance**

I continued to work on providing assistance to the underdeveloped Associations. With the support from Chinese TTA and Shanghai OC, financial assistance was provided to Associations from Africa, Latin America and Asia to take part in the World Championships and ITTF AGM in Shanghai. Training facilities and camps were also arranged before and during the Championships. Equipment assistance was provided to 4 Associations in 2005. Chinese Association has also provided assistance in other aspects such as organizing training camps and sending out coaches and trainers to some Associations.

- **Table Tennis Academy in Beijing**

The program will start in 2006 with the joint efforts of the ITTF, Chinese TTA and Peking University. Detailed plan will be worked out and Volkswagen has expressed the interest to sponsor this program.

Meetings and Representations

In 2005, I attended the following meetings and events as the Executive Vice-President.

- EC Meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland in February
- World Championships and Meetings in Shanghai, China in April/May
- Asian Championships in Jeju, Korea in September
- EC meeting in Magdeburg, Germany in November
- World Junior Championships and Meetings in Linz, Austria in December

Plan for 2006

In 2006, I will focus on (but not limited to) the following tasks:

- Further promote table tennis in providing assistance and improving its status within the Olympic family.
- Work with BOCOG on the 2008 Olympic Games.
- Ensure the Organization of the World Cup and other international events.
- Preparations for Guangzhou 2008 World Team Championships and Table Tennis Academy in Beijing.

In conclusion I would like to thank all colleagues and friends of the world table tennis family for their continued support and teamwork.

Yang Shuan (Executive Vice-President)
January 2006

EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

Report to the AGM

Document A4

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

- **World Team Championships, 24 April/1st May, Bremen, Germany**

Since my election on 1st May 2005 in Shanghai I made two coordination visits to Germany.

I was accompanied on the first visit, 30th and 31st August 2005, by Nicke Bergström, Jordi Serra and Christian Véronèse (TMS). At this time, during a press conference, the contract between the ITTF and the BOC was officially signed.

On the second visit, 31st January and 1st February 2006 I was accompanied by seven persons from the ITTF, all specialists in their own area of activity.

As I write this, here are still a few issues to be resolved but I'm sure that when you read these lines everything will be solved and we will be ready for a great World Championship.

- **Individual World Championships, 21-27 May 2007, Zagreb, Croatia**

The contract is scheduled to be signed in March 2006 during the first coordination visit.

- **World Team Championships, 2-9 March 2008, Guangzhou, China**

On 23rd September 2005, at the ITTF Headquarters in Lausanne, I met the Mayor of Guangzhou together with a delegation from the city. At this occasion, an agreement of understanding was officially signed between Guangzhou and the ITTF.

- **Individual World Championships 2009**

Two cities have submitted their candidature to host the 2009 World Championships, LINZ (Austria) and YOKOHAMA (Japan).

The inspection visits were made in January and February 2006 respectively.

A report was submitted to the Executive Committee on 27 February 2006 and a final report shall be presented to the AGM in Bremen.

GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Since Shanghai, I participated in all the Executive Committee, Council and Olympic Commission meetings and I represented the ITTF at the following competitions:

- LIEBHERR World Cup, LIEGE (Belgium) 21-23 October 2005
- Russian OPEN Pro Tour (St Petersburg) 3-6 November 2005
- Swedish OPEN Pro Tour (Göteborg) 17-20 November 2005

I also represented the ITTF at the funeral of my friend Andrej GRUBBA on 25th July 2005, a most difficult and painful task at the beginning of my mandate.

OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

Further to the general responsibilities within the Executive Committee, each EC member received specific responsibilities.

Further to the activities related to the World Championships, I was also in charge of follow-up on certain activities of the:

- Athletes' Commission
- Women's Working Group
- Technical Committee

In conclusion, I would like to thank my colleagues in the Executive Committee and Council for their help and support.

I also address my warmest thanks to all the members of the ITTF and TMS staff for the quality of their work and their devotion to the ITTF and to table tennis.

Claude Bergeret (Executive Vice-President)
January 2006

EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

Report to the AGM

Document A5

I was elected as one of the Executive Vice-Presidents at the ITTF AGM held on May 1, 2005 in Shanghai, China.

After that, 2 EC Meetings were held during the Shanghai WTTC and I confirmed about the way of thinking of Mr. Sharara, President, the way of proceeding with EC in the future and so on.

After Shanghai, there was a proposal of responsibilities by the E-Mail from Mr. Sharara. I took charge of the following 3 items:

- The equipment committee
- The junior commission
- Glue Working Group

The establishment of the new rubber test centre

I thought that it was necessary to increase the number of test centers for equipment and for the following reasons I proposed a new installation in Japan to Mr. Sharara and Mr. Gustavsen, Chairman of Equipment committee.

- It is expected that the manufacturers would proceed with the development of new rubbers just like new glues which do not contain volatile organic solvents in the future and I think that the application for new rubbers to the ITTF will increase.
- There are a lot of rubber manufacturers in the East Asia area.

My proposal was accepted and on recommendation of Mr. Sharara, Mr. Gustavsen came to Japan on August 8th, 2005 and visited the center in Osaka, which I proposed, with me and Mr. Shirakawa, a member of the Equipment committee. The feature and system as the ITTF rubber test center were ready as result of the inspection of the facilities and the devices in the center, and discussion with the persons concerned. At present, it is formally taken up as the new rubber test center of ITTF.

Meeting with the table tennis manufacturers in Asia

During the period of the Asian Championships held in Jeju Island (KOR) from August 27th, 2005 to September 2nd, meeting with 12 manufacturers was conducted to exchange views. I explained the fixed rule about the glue, the business of the Glue Working Group and the development circumstances of the new glues.

Glue Working Group Meeting

I attended the Meeting of GWG held in Barcelona on October 5th, 2005. Main purpose was to make the ITTF standards for the glues to be approved newly and to see the device, which can inspect volatile organic solvents.

ITTF Meetings

I attended the following 3 meetings held during the World Junior Championships in Linz from 10-17 December 2005.

- EC Meeting
- Olympic Commission
- Junior Commission

I also attended the Meetings of the Glue Working Group held in Barcelona on February 26th, 2006 and the EC Meeting held on 27th for the preparation of meetings to be held in Bremen.

Koji Kimura (Executive Vice-President)
February 2006

EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

Report to the AGM

Document A6

Only nine months have passed since I was elected as Executive Vice-President. A few months later, after consultation with the President of the ITTF and other members of the EC, in addition to my general duties as ITTF Vice President, it was decided that I would be specifically responsible and represent the EC with regards to the following committees and working groups

- Media Committee
- Ranking Committee
- Veterans Working Group

In regard with that decision, together with the President Mr. Adham Sharara, Chairman of Media Committee Mr. Arne Madsen and Executive Director Jordi Serra I took part in the first panel interview held with the aim to select the successful candidate for the position of Media Manager (more than 70 applications had been received). The interview took place on the 25th of August 2005 in Geneva.

An additional panel interview was held on 6th October in Geneva too, in attendance were Mr. Serra and myself and those two panels resulted in the recommendation of Mr Svend Frandsen for the position of Media Manager. EC accepted this recommendation.

Except for personal contacts with Mr. Andre Damman, Chairman of Ranking Committee I was not involved in the work of this committee (actually there was no need for my involvement).

The work of the Veterans Working Group (supposed to finish with official establishing of ITTF Veterans Committee in Bremen, during WTTC 2006) was brought to my knowledge through regular e-mails.

I represented the ITTF at the opening of the Island Games "Crete 2005" held in Crete from 25th to 29th May 2005. The table tennis event was successful.

I also represented the ITTF as Technical delegate at the Mediterranean Games held in Almeria (Spain) from 27th June to 3rd July 2005, and took part in the meeting of the Mediterranean Table Tennis Union, which was held during the games.

As Croatia and the city of Zagreb is the organizer of the individual WTTC 2007, I have been working closely with the Zagreb 2007 WTTC Organising Committee to ensure good organisation of this, for ITTF a most valuable event.

Communication with all staff members in Lausanne and Ottawa was perfect with my special thanks to Jordi, Lila and Anders for their great support.

Finally, I have pleasure to express my gratitude to the President and all my colleagues in the Executive Committee for their understanding and friendship, which has made my first year in the Executive Committee much easier and pleasant.

Ivo-Goran Munivrana (Executive Vice-President)
February 2006

AFRICA

Report to the AGM

Document A7

Translated from the French by Lilamani de Soysa

Thanks to the encouragement of President Sharara, the International Table Tennis Federation and national sports authorities (Ministry, Councils, National Olympic Committees), table tennis, under the guidance of the African Table Tennis Federation and its member associations, continues to progress in Africa; as such the situation at the end of 2005 can be seen as follows:

- 1) 44 countries are now affiliated to the ITTF and contact has been made with the 9 left in the Continent : Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mozambique, Sao Tome Principe, Swaziland and Tchad (Comores and Eritrea have already begun the affiliation process).
- 2) All training courses that had been allocated to 11 countries were completed: Congo, Djibouti, Morocco, Gabon, Congo DR, Somalia, Ethiopia, Niger, Senegal, Cameroon and Togo. (I would like to take this opportunity to recommend to all of you to contact your respective NOCs in order to request similar Olympic Solidarity courses every 3 years.
- 3) 8 other courses or training camps offered by the ATTF were also completed: 6 which were for the 6 who qualified for the World Cadet Challenge, 1 umpires course in Brazzaville in January and one other in Casablanca in March.
- 4) 4 other countries: Benin, Botswana, Mali and Senegal benefited from Olympic Solidarity courses.
- 5) Each of the two organisers of African Championships, on a request from the ATTF, received 12 tables from the ITTF, 12 nets, 12 scorers, 12 umpire tables, 200 surrounds and 720 balls.
- 6) On recommendation of the ATTF, 2160 balls were distributed in Brazzaville in January to 14 countries participating at the African championships: Algeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Congo, Burkina Faso, Congo DR, Egypt, Burundi, Morocco, Benin, Senegal, Gabon, Rwanda and Togo.
- 7) 5000 beginners rackets, 500 rackets for elite players (youth) and 2160 balls were distributed, on request of the ATTF, in Casablanca in March to the 9 participating countries: Algeria, Congo, Egypt, Kenya, Morocco, Tunisia, South Africa, Côte d'Ivoire and Togo.
- 8) 6 tables, 6 nets, 6 scorers, 80 rackets and 1152 balls, on recommendation of the ATTF, were sent to Somalia, Ethiopia, Guinea, Angola, Benin, Congo DR, Djibouti, Zambia and the Seychelles together with 200 rackets and 2160 balls to Equatorial Guinea.
- 9) Furthermore, in a letter dated 29 December 2005, Mikael Andersson, Junior Programme Manager congratulated Africa on the performance of its youth players, referring to the bronze medals won by El Sobky Mohammed (EGY) and Steve Yogo (CGO) at the World Cadet Challenge held in Santo Domingo in October and to the revelation of Komi Agbetoglo of Togo (12 years old) who won the International Mini Cadet Tournament held in China as well as that of the Tunisian Adem Hmam (11 years old); the African boys finished 5th out of 8 and the girls finished 6 out of 8, whereas Ajbike Mojisola Suliati (NGR) the best African girl finished 13th out of 32 participants. Steve Yogo (CGO) the best African boy finished 15th out of 32 participants. Congratulations to all. The African cadet selection that went to the training camp in Spain and attended the World Cadet Challenge in Santo Domingo in November were:

Boys: Mohamed Tarek Al-Sobky (EGY) Steve Yogo (CGO) Komi Agbetoglo (TOG) Adem Hmam (TUN)

Girls: Reem Al-Shoubary (EGY) Maroua Ridene (TUN) Khadidja Boukerdouh (ALG) Mojisola Suliati Ajbike (NGR)

Official coaches: Yousef Rabie (EGY) for the boys and Mourad Sta (TUN) for the girls.

Other coaches: Mohamed Gharieb (CGO) Agbogbankou Drackey (TOG) Mohamed Seddiki (ALG) Isiaka Alarape (NGR)

Head of delegation: Khaled El-Salhy (ATTF)

Furthermore, athletes from 4 countries, Steve Yogo (CGO), Komi Agbetoglo (TOG), Sarra Abdellaziz (EGY) and Reem El Shoubary (EGY) went on Olympic Solidarity scholarships

(level B) for training camps in Egypt and China in August where as Theo Cogill (South Africa), level A, had another programme just like the two revelations Adem Hmam et Marouan Ridene (TUN) both beneficiaries of 50% of the Butterfly scholarship, which they received thanks to their results and evaluations by M. Andersson in March in Morocco.

- 10) The total cost of ITTF/ATTF assistance regarding points 2 and 9 can be estimated at USD 255,000 for a total of USD 950,000 spent on all 6 Continents, in other words more than 25% had been reserved for Africa (thank you to Adham Sharara, Glenn Tepper and Mikael Andersson).
- 11) The Olympic Solidarity report produced in 2005 covering the period 2001-2004 states that table tennis came 2nd out of 23 sports in the number of courses organised: a total of 82. Africa contributed to this because 23 out of the 82 courses organized (about 30%) were held in Africa.
- 12) The ATTF proposed to the ITTF in May 2005 to host 13 coaching courses in Uganda, Algeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Zambia, Seychelles, Madagascar, Congo DR , Tanzania, Libya, Malawi, Rwanda, Gambia and Ghana as well as 2 umpires courses in Algeria and the Congo DPR and 6 WCC camps. The ATTF also requested that the same quota of equipment mentioned in point 8 should be reserved for Gabon, Gambia, Lesotho, Liberia, Namibia and Tunisia and the same equipment mentioned in point 5 for Algeria and the Congo DR. As such, once every 4 years all African associations through the ITTF/ATTF continental agreement benefit from a coaching course or equipment.
- 13) In December in Austria, Africa was represented at the World Junior Championships by Egypt and South Africa by the boys and Egypt and Tunisia by the girls. Congratulations.
- 14) The winners of the Africa Cup, Ahmed Ali Salah (EGY) and Victorine Fomum (CAM) represented Africa in the Men's World Cup held in Belgium in October and the Women's World Cup held in China in December. Congratulations!
- 15) In 2005 Africa was also represented in all the higher structures of the ITTF, George Segun (NGR) and Khaled El Salhy (EGY) as Chairmen of Working Groups are examples to follow by all those who wish to be members of ITTF committees. Furthermore, there are 7 African members in the new Board of Directors of the ITTF: Jane Pinto (KEN) Olabanji Oladapo (NGR) Berthe Bakary (CIV) Khaled El Salhy (EGY) Philippe Hao Thyn Voon (MRI) Henri Djombo (CGO) et Ganief Fataar (RSA); as well as Cherif Hajem (TUN), member of the Executive Council.
- 16) In March, Morocco organised for Africa its first Junior Pro Tour event which was an absolute success from all points of view, because 15 countries participated, of which 5 were African: Congo, Egypt, Morocco, South Africa and Tunisia. The Egyptian junior girls team won the silver medal while Tunisia won 2 bronze medals in the junior girls team event and the doubles. Well done Hamidi, Bouazza and Khlar and congratulations to Egypt and Tunisia).
- 17) In April an exclusively women's coaching camp was organised in Kinshasa ; as we are on the subject of women's table tennis and following the participation of 20 African countries in the Women's Forum held in Shanghai in May 2005, the African women have become more and more active. Who doesn't know today leaders, trainers, umpires and players such as Jane Pinto (KEN), Hajera Kajee (RSA), Bosee Kaffo (NGR), Sonia Touati (TUN), Emna Aissaoui (EGY), Maria Musoke (Uganda) or Attignon Mawulawoe (TOG). Other pioneers should also be mentioned: Audrey Mac Donald – Zayda Lyners – Elesée Schombe (RSA) Game Mothibi (BOT) Cisa Nadine (BUR) Victorine Fomum (CAM) Nicole Bongo (COG) Elizabeth (GHA) Dilshad Kanji (KEN) Georgia Msowonya (MAW) Samira Oughir (MAR) Marylise (MRI) Sigrid Goebel (NAM) Patience Iwuno et Yomi Oluwasann (NGR) Kodon Cissokho (SEN) Agripina Habicht (TAN) and so many others to be discovered at the 1st African Forum and women's course to be held in Kinshasa in November 2006 (thank you Claude, Judit and Lila).
- 18) The three official competitions fixed in the calendar in November 2004 by the General Assembly of the ATTF were held as planned:
 - a) In January in Brazzaville: The 5th African Club Championships with the participation of 5 countries – Congo, Congo DR, Gabon, Cameroon and Egypt. The titles were won by Zamalek for the men and Ahly for the women. Congratulations.

- b)** In January in Brazzaville: the 10th Africa Cup, individuals, with the participation of 25 men and 16 women from 14 countries : Algeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Congo, Burkina Faso, Congo DR, Egypt, Burundi, Morocco, Benin, Senegal, Gabon, Rwanda and Togo (congratulations to Minister Henri Djombo and all his collaborators, specially as the opening and closing ceremonies were graced with the presence of the Prime Minister and all the members of his government).
- c)** In March in Casablanca the 14th African Youth Championships (16 events) were organised with the participation of 9 countries – Algeria, Congo, Egypt, Kenya, Morocco, Tunisia, South Africa, Côte d'Ivoire and Togo. Egypt won 15 gold medals; the 16th going to Algeria. 48 boys and 38 girls took part in the qualification events for the World Junior Circuit. Congratulations to Egypt and to Algeria and other qualified countries: Congo, South Africa and Tunisia.
- 19)** Zones n° 3 (Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria and Togo), n° 1 (Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia), n° 2 (Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Sierra Leone and Guinee) and n° 4 (Congo, Congo DR, Burundi, Cameroon, Central Africa, Equatorial Guinee, Gabon and Rwanda) should also be congratulated for the respective organisation of their championships or tournaments (zones 5, 6 and 7 will host their events in 2006). Furthermore, several Associations of several zones participated in different international events as published in the Table Tennis Illustrated.
- 20)** Egypt won 3 gold medals, 1 silver and 1 bronze at the Islamic Solidarity Games in March in Saudi Arabia. Congratulations! Other African countries present – Algeria, Senegal and Sudan). Egypt also won 11 out of the 15 gold medals at the Arab Cup in September in Lebanon.
- 21)** Niger, despite its very young age (2 years in table tennis) organised with success the Francophone Games with the participation of 19 countries out of which 10 were African : Benin, Burkina Faso, Congo DR, Egypt, Gabon, Madagascar, Mauritius, Niger, Senegal and the Seychelles ; the individual Men's title was won by the Egyptian El Sayed Lashine, congratulations to Niger and to the Silver medallists from Africa.
- 22)** 31 African Associations were present at the ITTF General Assembly held 1st May 2005 in Shanghai, China - Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritius, Morocco, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia and Uganda. Cameroon, Gabon, Central Africa and Niger had given proxies to Nigeria, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso. Gambia had given a proxy to Slovenia, Madagascar to France and Zambia to Switzerland. Egypt, Mauritius, Nigeria, Rwanda, Seychelles and Sudan participated in the World Veterans Championships.
- 23)** News from the umpires: in 2005 there are 252 international umpires; some of them officiated with success in events in Africa and elsewhere. The umpires and referees worth a mention: the Nigerians Oluranti Lajide and John Peters who were respectively referee and deputy referee at the events in Brazzaville in January, the Egyptian Mohamed Bassiony was referee at the event in March, the Tunisian Bechir Metoui who was the deputy referee at the events organised in March in Morocco and in December in Niger. Also, two other international umpires worth mentioning are the two women from Nigeria, Patience Iwuno and Yomi Oluwasann and the woman from Togo Attignon Mawulawoe as well as the Nigerian Abiadun Alarape, the Algerians Taïeb Kioul and Said Lansare and the Tunisian Taoufik Khmiri without forgetting the Ugandan Ronald Mugwanya who umpired at the semi-finals of the boys doubles at the Junior World Championships in Austria in December and the Egyptian Gamal Abdennaceur who represented Africa with honours in Shanghai.
- 24)** A new coach has been formed and is already active in Africa, Kaka Lawson from Togo. Congratulations!
- 25)** Concerning the best world ranked players, I would like to mention the Egyptians Mohamed Ali Salah no. 84 on the world ranking list and Sarra Abdelaziz no. 102 in Juniors, the Nigerian Toriala Segun no. 106 elite, the Tunisian Olfa Guenni no. 113 in Juniors, the Egyptian Islam Sonbol no. 166 and his compatriot Ayotolla Ashraf no. 180 on the most promising players list as well as the Nigerian Funke Oshonaike no. 240 elite.

- 26) Furthermore in my capacity as President of the ATTF and Continental Vice-President of the ITTF, I went on 15 missions (in 75 days) during the period December 2004 to December 2005 - China (December 04) Hong Kong (December 04) France (December 04) Congo-France (February 05) (January 05) Morocco (March 05) Algeria (April 05) China (May 05) France (May 05) Algeria (July 05) Belgium (October 05) Algeria (November 05) Niger (December 05) Austria (December 05) and Niger once again (December 05).
- 27) As for my colleagues of the ATTF Executive Committee, Jane Pinto (Kenya), Olabanji Oladapo (Nigeria) Berte Bakary (Côte d'Ivoire) Khaled El Salhy (Egypt) and Philippe Hao Thyn Voon (Mauritius), they have not only been active in their own Federations but als good ambassadors for the ATTF, within and outside the Continent, just like the foursome formed by the Presidents of special committees, Mokhtar Toukabri (Tunisia), Arthur Williams (South Africa), Oluranti Lajide et Babatunde Obisanya (Nigeria).
- 28) However, one of the most satisfying moments for me was when I met in Tunisia in November many table tennis personalities - Presidents, Vice Presidents or General Secretaries of NOCs - who attended the Olympic Sport Forum organised by the Tunisian NOC during the UN celebration of the Year of Sport and Physical Education 2005 under the leadership of the President of the Republic of Tunisia Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. These persons were Presidents, Vice Presidents or General Secretaries of their national associations - Gilbert Gressenguet (Central Africa) Haileejesws Asfaw (Ethiopia) Floriono Massah (Malawi) Philippe Hao Thyn Voon (Mauritius) Olabanji Oladapo (Nigeria) et Hajera Kajee (South Africa). George Segun and I represented the ITTF and the ATTF at this big congress.
- 29) In conclusion, I would like to reiterate my thanks to President Sharara, all the ITTF staff and in particular those I am in contact with permanently (Jordi Serra, Lilamani de Soysa, Habiba Besic, Glenn Tepper, Mikael Andersson, Christian Veronèse and Anders Thunström), to all my colleagues in the Executive Council, Councils and special committees of the ITTF and the ATTF not forgetting the national associations. At the local level, my thanks go to the Minister of Sports of Tunisia as well as to the President of the Tunisian Olympic Committee and to all their collaborators without forgetting the Tunisian Association run by the duo Ahmed Boughnim and Larbi Guiga as well as two great leaders and friends of Africa Xu Yinsheng, President of the Chinese Table Tennis Association and his collaborators Yang Shuan and Yao Zhenxu as well as to Gérard Velten President of the French Association and his chief of international relations, Claude Bergeret.

Chérif Hajem (Continental Vice-President – Africa)
January 2006

ASIA

Report to the AGM

Document A8

The year 2005 has been a very busy year for Asia - the 48th Volkswagen World Table Tennis Championships held in Shanghai in May and the 17th Asian Championships held in Jeju, Korea at the end of August were the most significant events for ATTU members. Besides the two championships, we also saw a record number of Asian title tournaments and ATTU meetings organized, which made our players, especially the top ones, and officials very active and busy throughout the year.

I was appointed ITTF Vice President for Asia in the latter half of 2005 after my colleague Mr. Kahlil Al-Mohannadi has been promoted as ITTF Deputy President. Having been involved with ATTU affairs for more than a decade, I feel honored with this new assignment and look forward to contribute more to the development of the sport I love.

In December 2005, I attended the ITTF Executive Council meeting in Linz during the World Junior Championships and came back fully convinced that our sport has a bright future after seeing the exciting and close competition among the junior players, whose technical standards are truly amazing.

My report on activities that took place in Asia in 2005 is as follows:

- **World Title Competitions in Asia**

World Championships

China held the Volkswagen 48th WTTC in Shanghai from April 30th to May 6th. The competition was a great success in every aspect and it has received commendations from ITTF. Both the number of participating teams at the tournament and the participating associations at the AGM broke past records. The biggest winner of this competition was still the host country, China, which made a clean sweep of the five (5) gold medals.

Women's World Cup

The last season of 2005 has been a very busy season for China. From Dec.9th to 11th, only two days after the Pro-Tour Finals, the Heng Da Women's World Cup was held in the city of Fuzhou, China. Although the championship was again won by the Chinese team, many young players have made remarkable progress in this year's competition, for example, the Japanese player Fukuhara Ai became a bronze medallist at the World Cup.

- **ITTF Events**

ITTF World Junior Circuit

The gulf region organized two World Junior circuit tournaments in the first half of this year namely the Qatar and UAE Junior Open. Another tournament in Asia was organized by the Chinese Table Tennis Association in Taiyuan in August.

Pro-Tours & Pro-Tour Finals

In 2005, a record high number of six (6) Pro-Tour events were held by five (5) Asian countries and regions, namely: Qatar, Korea, Chinese Taipei, China and Japan. Prior to the Pro-Tour China Open sponsored by Volkswagen in Shenzhen, China held another Pro-Tour tournament in Harbin sponsored by Panasonic, who has been sponsoring this event for more than a decade.

Pro-Tour Grand Finals in Fuzhou

The Pro-Tour Finals was organized in Fuzhou, China. It was the first time that the men's singles' final were played between two European players in such a major tournament. Timo Boll emerged as the champion for the men's singles and, together with Christian Süss, also won the men's doubles.

- **Asian Title Competitions**

2004 Women's Asian Cup

This competition, which was postponed from 2004, was organized by the Japan Table Tennis Association in Kitakyushu on March 12th & 13th. Hong Kong player Tie Yana emerged as the champion for the tournament.

Asian Junior Championship

As an active member of ATTU, the Table Tennis Federation of India once again organized the Asian Junior Championships in July, 2005. The TTIF had successfully organized this competition for many times and contributed significantly to the development of Asian Table Tennis.

East Asia Hopes Tournament

The East Asian Hopes Tournament for 2005 was scheduled on August 23rd & 24th in Osaka, Japan. Thanks to the efforts made by Japan Table Tennis Association, this competition which aims at improving the cadet players' skills level as well as facilitating cultural exchange between them has successfully achieved its objectives.

17th Asian Championship

The Championship is considered the most prominent event of ATTU this year. The competition, held in Jeju Island, Korea from August 27th to September 2nd was a complete success. With great enthusiasm, the Korean TTA provided hospitality that was of the highest level. The surprise news of the tournament was that the Korean women's team knocked out the Chinese team in the semi-finals. However, in the women's competition, ultimately Hong Kong got two titles - women's single and women's team.

2005 Asian Cup

At the ATTU congress meeting in Jeju Island, a new policy was arrived at - that from 2005 onwards, the winner of the Asian Cup will represent Asia to participate in the World Cup. This new policy resulted in the participation of a large number of top players for the 2005 Asian Cup, successfully achieving ATTU's objective of upgrading the level of the competition.

ATTU/ITTF Meetings

Starting from 2003, the Asian Championships would be held in alternate years. In order to prepare for the 17th ATTU Congress and the ITTF election during the 48th Volkswagen World Championships held in Shanghai, the ATTU leading executives met on a record number of occasions in 2005.

- **HK Meeting in January, 2005**

The meeting was to prepare for the ATTU AGM during the 48th WTTC in April.

- **Shanghai Meeting during the 48th WTTC**

Since most of the ATTU members have already gathered in Shanghai, a Congress meeting was called during the championships where some important issues such as the ITTF election and date of Asian events were discussed. Mr. Adham Sharara, ITTF President, graced the meeting with a warm welcome speech.

- **Guangzhou Meeting in preparation for the 17th Asian Championships**

- **ATTU EC, EB and Congress Meeting in Jeju Island**

At the meetings held in Jeju, it was decided that the ATTU leading officials should serve for a term of four (4) years instead of previous two (2) years. This is also to be consistent with the ITTF constitution change in Shanghai. Mr. Li Furong was re-elected as President of ATTU until the 2009 Asian Championships.

- **ATTU Manufacturers' Meeting**

With the aim to strengthening cooperation between ATTU and manufacturers in Asia, the meeting was initiated by Honorary Secretary General Mr. Tony Yue and received strong support from Mr.Koji Kimura, ITTF EVP in charge of equipment.

- **Womens' Forum & Development Workshop**

Through the hard work of Ms. Sachiko Yokota, Mr. Badiie Afshin and Mr. Chan Foong Keong, the course was conducted successfully in Jeju. These experts briefed the attendants with the latest news and information of ITTF with regard to the program of promoting table tennis on various levels.

The number of table tennis activities has been growing steadily in the past years and my report may miss some of the regional tournaments and courses. I would like to commend those who have worked very hard throughout 2005 to promote table tennis in Asia. I also wish to thank Mr. Adham Sharara and senior officers of ITTF for their fullest cooperation and support towards Asia.

Choo Wee Kiang (Continental Vice-President – Asia)
January 2006

EUROPE

Report to the AGM

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1. Member basis

57 Associations are members of the European Table Tennis Union.

2. ITTF Meetings

As Vice-President for Europe I attended all Executive Board meetings organised during the World Championships in Shanghai (CHN) and I took part in the ECB meeting, which was held in Linz (AUT) in December 2005 during the Junior World Championships.

3. ETTU Meetings

Since Shanghai the ETTU Executive Board met three times, during the European Youth Championships in Prague (CZE), in St. Petersburg (RUS) and in Linz (AUT). We will meet again beginning of February 2006 during the Europe TOP-12 in Copenhagen (DEN). In all meetings held the basic topical problems were discussed and solved in a good and friendly atmosphere. A new concept, regarding organising in future the European Championships on a yearly basis and to change also the date to October/November, has been discussed thoroughly and will be put for voting to the Member Associations during our Congress to be held in Bremen.

During the year 2005, I visited the German, the Ukraine, the Slovene as well as the Montenegro Associations. Already now I am planning such visits for 2006.

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 the world table tennis. I am especially happy to have signed end of December the continuation of the TV agreement with TMS up to the year 2010, which ensures that table tennis also is broadcasted throughout Europe.

The development of table tennis in Europe runs smoothly. Like during the last year, the different projects, such as Eurokids, Eurotalents and Eurochamps, were organised with every time more interest. For the time being we are thinking to introduce new projects in the development area. Also during the year 2005 we were able to help some of our member Associations with the equipment Assistance thanks to the help of the French Association and thanks to a development agreement we reached with the TIBHAR Company. Of course ETTU would not be in a position to realise all these projects without the help of ITTF and there I was very happy to have signed the new co-operation agreement with ITTF for the period 2006/2007 and I really want to thank them for their financial support.

ETTU is always trying to participate in all ITTF's efforts. Europe, thanks to favourable geographic conditions, has developed in most of their Associations a high level organisation and has found an efficient system of events and other table tennis activities.

5. Competitions

Since the AGM in Shanghai one major competition has been organised in Europe, the European Youth Championships in Prague (CZE). Despite some small problems these Championships had been organised in a very professional way. I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Czech Association.

Beginning of February 2006 the Danish Association will host the Europe TOP-12, the Montenegro Association will organise the Europe Junior TOP-12 by end of January 2006. ETTU also introduced a Champions League for Women, a league which was well appreciated, by all engaged clubs. All Club competitions are running smoothly for the moment and will end only after the Bremen Championships.

As a very positive point ETTU considers the activities of our Marketing Department. With this help we were able to have a professional brochure for the clubs engaged in our Club competitions and for the respective Associations.

Finally I want to express my sincere thanks to the ITTF Executive Committee and Executive Board 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 2006

NORTH AMERICA

Report to the AGM

Document A10

Since the last report in Shanghai there has been a great deal of table tennis activity in North America. On the competition side there was a successful Liebherr US Open Pro Tour event in Fort Lauderdale, USA and STAG Canadian Junior Open (World Junior Circuit event) in Vancouver, Canada. The Junior Open is back on the agenda for Edmonton in 2006 but the US Pro Tour event will take a break this year as the USATT plans for an even higher profile approach for the event in 2007. There remains still a huge untapped market in North America and we need to continue to explore creative ways of raising the profile of table tennis much higher.

At the national and regional level the USATT continues to hold a large number of events for players of all ages and levels. The STIGA Canada Cup circuit continues to flourish. The 2006 season will for the first time include the Cuban National team; negotiations with a US team are still on-going. This will further enhance the development of the pool of young talent that we currently have.

Through the North American Table Tennis Union and partly in conjunction with the ITTF Development Programme a number of successful projects were carried out: training camps on the junior and on the cadet level (Montreal, Vancouver), coaching seminars in 2005 (Montreal, Vancouver), North American Championships (Montreal).

Unfortunately there has been extremely limited contact with the smaller associations, Bermuda and Greenland, but we strive to try and build relationships to allow for development in these two member associations.

On the International scene players such as Gao Jun and Zhang Mo have enjoyed very good success and North American athletes continue to be a presence at ITTF Pro Tour and World Junior Circuit events. As competition and training opportunities continue we look forward to the World Team Championships in Bremen and to preparation for qualification for the Pan AM Games in 2007 and of course the Beijing Olympics in 2008.

Bruce Burton (Continental Vice-President – North America)
January 2006

LATIN AMERICA

Report to the AGM

Translated from the Spanish by Anna Vals

Document A11

3rd place overall 4th WORLD CADET CHALLENGE 2005

A DREAM COME TRUE

The title of our report says it all. After years of hard work, planning, discipline and a lot of training, LATIN AMERICA has managed to make its dream come true: for the first time ever, it obtained THIRD PLACE OVERALL IN THE WORLD CADET CHALLENGE held in the DOMINICAN REPUBLIC in October 2005.

One of our priorities is to work very closely with our younger players, particularly with talents from across the continent. We have only been able to achieve this thanks to the support of OLYMPIC SOLIDARITY and the magnificent collaboration and support of MIKAEL ANDERSSON, THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ITTF, AND THE JUNIOR COMMISSION.

We could describe 2005 as the year with the biggest-ever international exposure for LATIN AMERICA. This year, a number of international ITTF events organised on our continent broke *television coverage* records: THE WORLD CADET CHALLENGE IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, THE WORLD JUNIOR CIRCUIT IN BRAZIL AND EL SALVADOR, AND TWO PRO TOURS IN BRAZIL AND CHILE. Three international ITTF training camps were held and the one in EL SALVADOR in particular was attended by over 100 athletes and 24 trainers. This camp was led magnificently by PETER KARLSSON AND EMANUEL CHRISTIANSSON of SWEDEN.

The SUPER 5 of EL SALVADOR, which included a number of consecutive events (two Central-American championships, three Latin-American championships, a training camp, and WORLD JUNIOR CIRCUIT) broke every record, especially in terms of media coverage. Over 50 hours' television coverage and over 75 full pages in the country's newspapers. I believe that the World Junior Circuit of EL SALVADOR is now the event of its category with the most media coverage since the programme was set up in 2001. Congratulations to all our friends in El Salvador and in particular to its president, MR. MELECIO RIVERA.

The ITTF also made a great contribution by allocating a very special section of the magazine and website to coverage of all Latin-American Table Tennis activities and victories. This special coverage reached its climax in the September/October edition of the TABLE TENNIS ILLUSTRATED magazine which, for the very first time, included 27 pages of information on Latin-American Table Tennis. The front cover itself was a very special photograph of the QUEEN AND CHAMPION OF THE CARIBBEAN, IZZWA MEDINA. Latin America is grateful for this wonderful opportunity, which has encouraged us to work even harder. Thanks to the *BEST PEN, IAN MARSHALL*.

Ending this section on a special note, in 2005, LATIN AMERICA OPENED ITS DOORS TO WELCOME THE WORLD TO PARADISE: THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, when the FOURTH WORLD CADET CHALLENGE AND THE FINAL OF THE WORLD JUNIOR CIRCUIT were held there in October.

Our Dominican friends hosted a truly unique event and one that we hope all our guests who travelled from abroad to visit us will remember forever. Excellent organisation, 5-star all-inclusive hotel, a variety of excellent and plentiful food, timely transport service, perfect agenda, excellent refereeing, constant media coverage, *including television coverage every day of the competition*, beautiful match scenery, Internet and communication facilities for all participants, extra special VIP rooms and events, stunning beaches, white sand and warm Caribbean water, artistic shows every night, etc.

I would like to take this opportunity to openly thank the association of the DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, the organising committee, the Dominican Olympic Committee, all the volunteers, sponsors and, in particular, its president JUAN VILA, the president of the organising committee RAMON HIPOLITO MEJIA, the technical director FRANCISCO BOYERO, the excellent collaborator and champion MARIO ALVAREZ, the coordinator MANUEL CORONADO (EL CHU), and all of the ITTF staff who attended.

By his presence in the Dominican Republic, our president ADHAM SHARARA gave the best possible boost to this magnificent event, as did the attendance of MIKAEL, IAN, RAUL, JUDIT AND MO.

Latin America broke another record in the world championship of SHANGHAI, CHINA. For the first time in the history of the world championships, our continent was present alongside 30 countries at the ITTF general assembly. This was thanks to the hard work of the organising country in publicising the event and to the very special collaboration of the federation of CHINA. We would like to publicly thank CHINA and the organising committee of SHANGHAI for providing us with the BEST-EVER WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP.

As for our Latin-American championships agenda for 2005, I am pleased to inform you that all of the planned events were carried out in full:

GRAND AND MASTERS LATIN-AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP: URUGUAY
CADET and PRE-CADET CHAMPIONSHIP: CUBA
JUNIOR AND PRE-CADET CHAMPIONSHIP: EL SALVADOR
THE TOP 16 JUNIOR CUP: EL SALVADOR

We are pleased to inform you that all of the planned official events of the three regions (SOUTH AMERICA, THE CARIBBEAN AND CENTRAL AMERICA) were carried out in full.

Also in 2005, 18 COUNTRIES organised international activities (INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS, ITTF COURSES, SOLIDARITY COURSES, TRAINING CAMPS, TRAINING CAMPS FOR WOMEN, HPC, ETC.). This is also a record and we would like to thank all of the countries involved for their hard work. These countries were:

Argentina; Barbados; Brazil; Chile; Colombia; Cuba; Ecuador; the Dominican Republic; El Salvador; Guatemala; Guyana; Peru; Saint Kitts and Nevis; Saint Vincents; Paraguay; Trinidad and Tobago; Uruguay, and Venezuela.

The activities can be summarised as follows:

- 9 courses and visits by the **Development Director** to: GUYANA – ARGENTINA – PERU - URUGUAY – TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO – BARBADOS – EL SALVADOR - GUATEMALA AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.
- 4 visits and courses by the **Marketing Director** to: ECUADOR – PARAGUAY – ST. KITTS – URUGUAY.
- 1 **HPC** (high-performance) course. BARBADOS
- 1 course for **Women** – TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
- 5 courses for **Olympic Solidarity**. PERU – GUATEMALA – ST. VINCENTS – URUGUAY – VENEZUELA.
- 3 Training **Camps**. EL SALVADOR – BRAZIL – CUBA
- Over **100 players** at the Centro Internacional de A. R. Piracicaba – Brazil. – **Countries** – PANAMA - COLOMBIA - PARAGUAY - CUBA - BRAZIL – EL SALVADOR – PUERTO RICO – THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.
- 8 **OLYMPIC SOLIDARITY/ITTF SCHOLARSHIPS** – BRAZIL (2) – CHILE (2) - CUBA (1) – EL SALVADOR (1) – THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC (1) AND COLOMBIA (1).
- EIGHTY LEVEL 1 HANDBOOKS – ITTF – In ENGLISH – **Countries** – HAITI (7) – ARUBA (3) – BARBADOS (10) – GUIANA (10) – TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO (20) – JAMAICA (10) – ST. VINCENT – (20)
- SIXTY LEVEL 1 HANDBOOKS – ITTF – In Spanish – Countries - URUGUAY – PERU – GUATEMALA.

The deliveries of tennis-table equipment and materials were as follows:

- **11 COUNTRIES** - COLOMBIA – DOMINICA – EL SALVADOR – GUYANA – HONDURAS – MEXICO – THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC – PERU – TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO – ST. KITTS – GRENADA.

The MY CHAMPION TABLE TENNIS SCHOOL is still growing in all regions, particularly in CUBA, EL SALVADOR, HONDURAS, COSTA RICA, COLOMBIA, ARGENTINA, BARBADOS, ECUADOR, URUGUAY, GUATEMALA, ETC.

This MASSIFICATION programme is helping to popularise the sport on our continent and continues to open up many doors on a daily basis.

Lastly, MARKETING has become a number one priority for the LATIN-AMERICAN development programme. We have spent just over a year deliberating and working with our president ADHAM SHARARA to create a NEW MARKETING PROGRAMME FOR OUR CONTINENT. This 2006 will be the start of a new era for our sport in this part of the world, in which marketing will be essential if LATIN AMERICA IS TO REACH UNHEARD-OF HEIGHTS.

We would like to express our thanks to the executive committee of the ITTF and particularly to its president, ADHAM SHARARA, who has always supported us in the good times and the not-so-good times. We would also like to thank all of the professional staff of the ITTF, the LATTU executive committee, all of the presidents and members of ULTM executive committees, the LATTU directors, all of the athletes and trainers of the continent and to thank God for giving us another year allowing us to work to MAKE TABLE TENNIS GREATER.

**Miguel Delgado (Continental Vice-President – Latin America)
February 2006**

OCEANIA

Report to the AGM

Translated from the French by Lilamani de Soysa

Document A12

The year 2005 was noticeable for numerous changes which led our Federation towards international recognition, mainly due to its policy of development which began to bring positive results.

1. Development

This is the leading activity of the ITTF thanks to the dynamism, professionalism and great competence of Steve Dainton, our development officer. In spite of working half-time as a result of his recruitment by the ITTF, he did not spare his efforts to enable Oceania to be recognised at the highest world level.

Thanks to a record amount of training financed by the Olympic Solidarity Fund and financial support from the ITTF and ONOC, no fewer than 13 training courses and logistical support were given by Steve and well-qualified coaches in the following countries; Kiribati, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Fiji and Palau (Steve Dainton AUS); Vanuatu, Fiji and Tuvalu (Alois Rosario AUS); Tahiti and Niue (Glenn Tepper AUS); Tonga (Alan Pedley NZL); New Zealand (Jarek Kolodziejczyk POL); Solomon Islands and Palau (Surendra Suwal NEP); and Cook Islands (Mariann Domonkos CAN).

Engaged full-time by the ITTF in 2006, Steve recruited and trained the technician who will be responsible in future for development, namely Surenda Suwal, to whom we wish equal success.

He was responsible for the administrative and financial management of the programme for developing table tennis in Oceania, and he managed and directed a two-week training programme at Chengdu in China with the South Pacific Junior Talent Team as well as the cadet team from Oceania for the World Cadet Challenge in Santo Domingo.

Steve represented the OTTF at the General Assembly of the ONOC followed by permanent contacts which enabled table tennis to be given an excellent position in Oceania.

He has been a first-class adviser to the President and been the kingpin for achieving the objectives set for 2005. A big thank-you to Steve who is entitled to recognition from the table tennis world in Oceania and especially from its President.

2. Competitions in Oceania

World Junior Circuit in Suva: the Oceanic leg of the Junior World Circuit was held in Suva in Fiji. This was an unprecedented success with the participation of 10 countries from 3 continents.

It was another opportunity for the players from Oceania to face the best junior players from Japan, South Korea, India, Hong Kong, and Brazil. Japan which had some of the world's best junior players made the grand Slam. The international training camp preceding the competition was conducted by a distinguished trainer Jarek Kolodziejczyk and by a top player Peter Karlsson. This will remain an unforgettable memory for our young players, and the experiment is worth repeating in 2006 at Geelong. The organisation was impeccable and the welcome truly worthy of Melanesian hospitality thanks to Anthony Ho, the mainspring and new president of the Fiji Federation, to whom we send our congratulations.

Qualification tournament for the World Cadet Challenge in Suva: This competition was organised for the first time and led to the qualification of boys and girls players from New Caledonia, Vanuatu, New Zealand and Australia who will play for Oceania in Santo Domingo.

Qualification tournament for the world junior championships in Suva: New Zealand for the girls and Australia for the boys qualified for the World Junior Championships in Linz (AUT).

The Pacific Mini-Games in Palau: Koror, the capital of the small Republic of Palau hosted the Pacific Mini-Games, and table tennis was included for the first time. Our discipline was able to put on for the local public a competition which was of a high standard, attractive and flawless. New Caledonia, Although up against countries which had made great progress such as Fiji and Vanuatu, as well as Guam or also Palau, excelled by winning 4 out of 7 gold medals. Thanks to the beneficial effects of the development programme, the level is rising for the general benefit of table tennis in Oceania.

The open National Championships: New Zealand, the pioneer in this field, Australia, Fiji and New Caledonia have opened their championships to the other countries of Oceania. This initiative should become widespread in 2006.

3. International Competitions

The World Cadet Challenge in Santo Domingo: Managed by Steve Dainton and assisted by Raoul Rainouard NCL and Karen Li NZL, the team from Oceania showed real progress at this level and nearly joined the world top four of the boys, who were beaten 3-2 by South America after having beaten Africa.

The young boys from Oceania are no longer far away from those from other continents and their professionalism was acknowledged by all the specialists present. Yoshua Shingh VAN received the special ITTF boy's award for "the most valuable team member" as well as a scholarship worth \$4,500 for 2006, as also was Robert Frank AUS.

All the players took part in the three days training camp before the actual competition.

The World Junior Championships in Linz: Australia finished 14th amongst the boys and New Zealand 15th amongst the girls against competition which was extremely fierce. Only Carter Trent and Frank Roberts got beyond the first round of the boys' doubles.

4. The members

The Federation comprises 18 members who have become more and more active in 2005 along with the stable administrative structure and convincing sporting results. The total adherence of Australia and New Zealand to the ambitious policies of the OTTF will enable us to rival the big Continental Federations.

5. The Management Committee

For the first time since its establishment in 1977, the Oceania Federation has an elected representative on the ITTF Executive Committee in the person of Neil Harwood in the post of Vice-President for Finance. This is a source of great satisfaction for our federation which has thus acquired international recognition. Congratulations to Neil who is a great servant of Oceanic table tennis and who remains a privileged adviser to the OTTF.

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

The women: Anolyn Lulu, the first woman to be elected to the Management Committee, has taken responsibility for the working group for the promotion of women. She took part in the training sessions in Chengdu and in the Linz coaching seminar thanks to a grant from the Austrian Federation. A training course for women was organised in the Cook Islands at the beginning of the year under the guidance of Mariann Domonkos CAN.

Links with countries in the Pacific: Anthony Ho is the representative for the small countries in the Pacific who need practical solutions to their specific problems. The result has been improved participation in Oceanic sport policy.

Finances: Graeme Ireland is responsible for financial management of the administrative accounts and their follow-up, as well as of the preparation of the budget.

Ranking: For the first time the OTTF was able to publish the rankings of the players in the Pacific, based on a system worked out by David Jackson, taking account of all the competitions recognised by the OTTF.

Calendar: Another innovation in 2005 was the establishment of a calendar for Oceania: this was the work of Ron Garrett.

The Youth: An annual stage in the world junior circuit, the progress of our young players in the World Cadet Challenge, the financing of training camps for our best players in the Oceanic region, the grants awarded by the ITTF, ONOC and the NOCs are moving in the right direction and that it will all soon bear fruit. The decision to hold the World Championships in New Zealand in 2007 is another piece of good news. As the person responsible for the continental policy for our Youth, I also remain a member of the Junior Commission of the ITTF.

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 Coordinator: As chairperson of the committee Fran Keyhoe conducted a referee training course in Palau before the Mini-Games. She has proposed a development plan for referees, which will become operational in 2006, thanks to an ITTF grant of \$6,000 for two courses.

Veterans Committee: Averil Roberts is taking action to associate more actively the veterans in the development of our discipline in Oceania.

6. Meetings

Meetings of the ITTF: As a member of the BOD and then as Continental Vice-President, I attended the meetings of the BOD and of the EC in Shanghai as well as the EC in Linz. David Jackson and Graeme Ireland were present at the BOD in Shanghai. Members elected in the different structures of the ITTF attended the following meetings in Shanghai: Graeme Ireland (Technical Committee), Ron Keyhoe (Equipment Committee), Phil Males (Rules Committee), Karen Li (Athletes Commission), Avéril Roberts (Veterans Working Group), Patrick Gillmann (Junior commission in Shanghai and Linz).

Meetings of the OTTF: One meeting took place in Shanghai and another in Palau.

7. Conclusion

I should like to thank all those who enabled table tennis in Oceania to prosper: The International Federation, its president and administrative staff, the ONOC for its unfailing financial support, Neil Harwood for his sensible advice, the members of the OTTF for their active participation, Steve Dainton for his excellent work and his personal investment in developing table tennis in the whole of Oceania, 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 2006

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Report to the AGM

Document A13

1. 2005, consolidation of a change

The year after the 2004 Olympics has signified for the ITTF the consolidation of the change initiated on the previous quadrennial with the implementation of the P4 Plan. Several indicators show that the ITTF has changed not only internally but also on the image that our sport is projecting to the other International Federations and inside the Olympic movement. Some facts:

1. The good results on the TV audience during the Athens Olympics Games showing the popularity of our sport mentioned in the report of the IOC Olympic Commission.
2. The final report of Olympic Solidarity for the quadrennial 2001-2004, with table tennis as a second sport on the organization of technical courses.
3. The interest of several organizations in getting more information from us regarding our organization, our Development Plan and our Women's Plan. I would emphasize, for instance, that the ITTF has been asked to make presentations of our projects at the ASOIF Forum on IFs Development held in Lausanne on 31 October and 1 November and at the 2nd Conference on Sport and Development held in Magglingen (Switzerland), from 4 to 6 December. Furthermore, the ITTF also presented speeches at the Conference of the IAPSGW (International Association for Physical Education and Sport for Girls and Women) held in Edmonton, Canada in August 2005 and at the 2005 International Summit entitled Effecting Social Change through Women's Leadership in Sport held at Kennesaw University, Atlanta USA.

The ITTF is now in the process of consolidating its new image and our projects are now considered of big interest inside the sports community. The opening of our new offices in Shanghai, the ITTF Museum project in Lausanne and the ITTF Museum Tour during the World Championships, our decentralized organization, the activity of TMS and our main programs, the Global Youth Program, the Development Plan and the Women's Development Plan are seen from outside our organization as interesting experiences. All these projects are possible because of the vision of our officers, the constant help from them and from all the members of the ITTF Committees, the support of the Continental and National Associations and the dedication and professionalism of those responsible for these projects.

Finally, 2005 has seen also the very good organization of many ITTF events: the World Championships held in Shanghai, the Juniors in Linz, the World Cadet Challenge in the Dominican Republic, the World Cups in Liege and Guangzhou, the Pro-Tour Circuit events and the Junior circuit events. This is also very important on the process of improving the presentation of our sport worldwide.

2. Communication

During the year 2005 we have come to the updated editing of the *Handbook 2005-2006*, the *Rules Booklet 2005-2006*, the *Directory 2005-2006* and already within the year 2006, we published our Yearbook "*Review 2005/Preview2006*" a compendium of the competitions held in 2005 and the anticipated ones for 2006. New coaching manuals Level 1 were printed in French and Spanish versions to be added to the former English edition.

The printing of *Table Tennis Illustrated* moved from England to China and is now fully designed by Mr. Ian Marshall.

The process of selection of the new Media Manager was finished during 2005 and Mr. Svend Frandsen, former Media Manager of FIS (International Skiing Federation) was selected for this position, starting his duties on 1st January 2006.

The *ITTF News* appeared 6 times per year thanks to Mrs. Lilamani de Soysa. We have now started the process to convert the *ITTF News* in an e-bulletin to have the chance to arrive to a bigger audience and to increase the number of issues per year.

Finally, the ITTF web site continued to improve and increased considerably the number of visits being now our most powerful communication tool thanks to the efficient work of the IT Manager, Mr. Mohammed El-Shentenawy. The ITTF website in Chinese version was opened in December 2005.

3. Staff

The new staff hired in 2005 was mainly for our new office in Shanghai: Mr. Steve Dainton, former Development Manager of Oceania, was selected as a Director of this office and 3 new Chinese staff members are now working there: Mrs. Zheng Xixi, for the position of Executive Assistant, Mrs. Liu Chanjuan as a Chinese Website Editor and Ms. Fu Jiayu, as Website Manager.

As a continuation of the internship program, Mrs. Shiho OGAKI (JPN) joined the ITTF for a 12 months internship (February 2005 to February 2006) and she will be replaced by Mrs. ZHANG Qian (Jeanne) (CHN).

Mr. Chuck Hoey, the Curator of the ITTF Museum, completed his second year working on a volunteer basis at the ITTF Headquarters and he will remain with us in 2006 and 2007.

4. International relations and IOC relations

I attended the ASOIF General Assembly and the joint meeting between the IF's and the IOC Executive Board, both meetings held in Berlin on April 2005 during the Sport Accord conference. I also attended the IOC Session held in Singapore, from 5 to 9 July.

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.

Thank you very much to all of you for your continued support, for your help and for your confidence,

Jordi Serra (Executive Director)
February 2006

EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE

Report to the AGM

Document A14

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

Balls	69	(last year	69)
Tables	66	(" "	60)
Sport floors	4	(" "	3)
Nets	44	(" "	41)
Glues	70	(" "	70)
Coverings	950	(" "	925)

▪ Balls

The random ball tests are now running routinely in a 2 years period. The market tests seem to show that improvements with the 40mm ball have been reached. Nevertheless we have to make efforts for further improvements. To reach this goal we are cooperating very closely with players and manufacturers.

▪ Nets

Last year, there were 4 applications (3 for net assemblies and 1 for net) from 3 companies /suppliers. The test results of all the samples were good. One net assembly is quite different from the traditional ones. The horizontal part of net post has no clamp. It is attached to the bottom of the table with the screws. So there is no part of the net post above the table surface. This year, we are planning to retest those net assemblies, which were approved 10 years ago.

▪ Glues

During 2005 the EQC has received around 100 e-mails with questions about glues, which were all answered. Six different companies applied for ITTF authorisation for 9 new glues. Two of these 9 glues didn't get the ITTF authorisation.

Also during 2005 the new Technical Leaflet T4B was produced, which was revised at the end of the year in order to be updated with the new requirements of the ITTF from 1st January 2006.

Two members of the EQC have been working in the Glue Working Group for the development of the Japanese proposal approved by the BOD in 2004.

▪ Tables

The most important topic here may be the improved control of the "show" tables, which we are working with now.

▪ Racket Coverings

We have now two laboratories, in Germany and Japan, that are performing the tests for coverings in a very satisfying manner. We will now be able to check the red colours in a better way. The number of new coverings is still increasing.

▪ General

We have some very devoted members in our Committee, which we are very much in debt to. Our co-working with the Lausanne office is a great pleasure for us.

Odd Gustavsen (Chairman, Equipment Committee)
January 2006

MEDIA COMMITTEE

Report to the AGM

Document A15

The committee is very pleased, that the ITTF has a full-time Media Manager once again. In January Svend Frandsen began work at the Lausanne office in the position left vacant after the departure of Peter Jensen.

We are looking forward to the collaboration, and we are happy that the ITTF is now able to serve the media professionally every day of the Year.

Our events have been more successful in the last years. If we want to continue the success in the marketing and TV sectors, we need to develop our events, the presentation of our sport and act in a professional way with our professional partners; otherwise the interest from external partners will decrease very soon.

The world championship in Shanghai was a fantastic success. Exciting matches and brilliant TV exposure and the quality of the TV production was excellent. The working conditions for the media were very good. Internet connections from all media seats.

There was limited space for the photographers, and the photographers did not have permanent access to the floor. There were inevitable delays with the result system, but congratulations to the Chinese organisers. They really deserve admiration for a brilliant world championship.

Christian Heyerdahl acted as the ITTF press officer, Jean-Jacques Huberman provided the media with statistics, Ian Marshall made articles for the website and Mo El-Shentenawy was in charge of the results on the website. A very good team, who did a great job in Shanghai.

The number of accredited media people

Foreign journalists	98
Foreign photographers	43
Foreign TV	28
Domestic journalists	239
Domestic photographers	62
Domestic television	264
Total domestic	565
Total number of accreditation	774

The organisers had made quotas for the domestic media.

The ITTF had as usual awarded three scholarships to young journalists. Priority is given to journalists outside the continent, where the championships are played and at least one of the scholarships was reserved for a female journalist. In Shanghai all the three scholarships were given to female journalists, because their applications were the best. The three journalists were Karen Glienicke from Germany, Barbara Kneidinger from Austria and Lidia Margarita Andino from Honduras.

In Shanghai we had the usual problems with accreditation. A lot of semi journalists apply for accreditation to get free access to our events. We have to be strict to secure the best working conditions for those journalists working on a daily basis.

On the other hand there are many associations, that have media managers and press officers without international press cards, and they have to bring stories back to their countries and their websites. These people need access to internet, but may be not all

kinds of services, which are needed for by all the professional journalists working for newspapers, agencies and electronic media.

We need to find a solution, which can satisfy all interests and improve the exposure of table tennis in every kind of media. In the future we may need a kind of semi-press centre for the use of the associations.

The electronic needs for the media have changed rapidly in the last decade. Before the number of telephone lines were an essential item for the press centre during an event. Later we needed to have enough faxes. Today all journalists have a lap-top and the essential item in a press centre is to have internet connection and electronic plugs for the computers.

Other demands are more timeless. You always need a fast result system and you need to provide the media with statistics, background material and details about participants. The better you are, the more coverage you will get.

Team World championships

We are playing a new format in Bremen. The media committee will always be in favour of simple playing systems, which can be understood easily by the media and spectators. Otherwise you will lose coverage in the media. We are in favour of the new system, because it is quite easy to understand, and will give a lot of interesting matches and will give the marketing department better opportunities to sell TV-rights than the previous system.

Publications

We are living in a time, where things are going fast. The electronic development has given a much easier way to communicate, and we have to be ready for changes.

It is not many years ago, where we got results and all the news from events only in printed media. In the early 90^s many did not see any future for the computer or the internet. Today we cannot live without the computer and the internet is our main news source.

Many sports magazines and I guess many associations have decided to stop issuing printed magazines and use all their efforts to develop their websites. International associations like the ITTF must not forget that there are still parts of the world, which do not have access to the internet, but we have to adjust our publications to modern times.

We have to develop our publications so we are able to give all our members, players and fans the best possibilities to obtain knowledge of our sport.

The aim is to change the Table Tennis Illustrated to become a magazine with more background stories and use the website for all the news, and to increase the number of subscribers.

The number of hits on the website is increasing year after year. We have to develop the website, if we want to continue. We need interaction with our fans, we have to be live on the net with results, quotes and it will not take long before we can have streaming with live pictures on the net.

Experiments with table tennis on the net have already been made, and the results were quite positive. There will be a lot of changes in the media world in the coming years. The media committee is looking forward to playing an active role for the ITTF in the very exciting development in the written and electronic media.

In Bremen we plan to have discussions with the accredited media about how to develop our cooperation in the daily work with the media. We will also have meetings with AIPS to develop the cooperation and discuss how ITTF can increase services to the media.

Arne Madsen (Chairman, Media Committee)
January 2006

RANKING COMMITTEE

Report to the AGM

Document A16

In the same way as during the previous years the Ranking Committee produced in due time all the lists they were asked for.

▪ **Senior Individual Rankings**

Senior Rankings have been issued at the usual frequency, i.e. one ranking in the first days of each month, with the exception of the first ranking of 2006, on request of the Chairman of the Media Committee, was issued on 28th December 2005.

These rankings are still expanding, the Women's section passing the limit of 700 players in September 2005 whereas over 1000 men were ranked for the first time in November 2005.

▪ **Youth Individual Rankings**

U-21 and U-18 Ranking lists were published in conjunction with and at the same dates as the Senior Individual ranking lists. Actually these youth ranking lists are merely extracts from the corresponding Senior Rankings.

Due to the increasing number of international youth events, especially in connection with the World Junior Circuit, the number of players recorded on these rankings increases steadily.

On 28th December we published the final youth ranking lists for the year 2005 and on 2 January 2006 lists recording for each age category only the players still eligible in 2006 for the relevant age category.

▪ **World Team Rankings**

In addition to these individual ranking lists and with the same frequency we also produce team ranking lists.

The Senior ones of 1st March 2006 have been used for the composition of the Divisions and as a basis for seeding of the 2006 World Team Championships.

▪ **Ranking Penalty Policy**

Since the beginning of 2005 the ITTF introduced for the competitions under its direct authority a Penalty Policy for defaults or withdrawals of players at these competitions. The application of sanctions connected to this policy is managed by the Ranking Committee.

▪ **ITTF Pro-Tour Standings**

The administration of these standings for Men's and Women's Singles and Doubles that are used for the selection of players and pairs for the Pro-Tour Grand Finals is ensured by Tim Gautreau on behalf of the Ranking Committee.

As from 2005 on there are also at these grand Finals Singles events for U-21 players and the standings for this age category are also set up.

▪ **World Junior Circuit Standings**

Similarly to what happens for the ITT Pro-Tour, the Ranking Committee ensures the maintenance and the updating of standings for the World Junior Circuit.

▪ **Doubles Seeding Lists for ITTF Pro Tour tournaments**

In close cooperation with the Competition Managers in charge, the Ranking Committee provides for each ITT Pro-Tour tournament seeding lists for the doubles events of these tournaments.

From the beginning of 2006 the lists used for this purpose are published on the ITTF Website.

▪ **Acknowledgements**

My thanks to the people from all over the world who helped us to collect results or forwarded us other valuable information and especially to the Competition Managers, Didier Leroy, Raul Calin and Karl Jindrak.

My sincere thanks also to the ITTF people, Tim Gautreau, without whom we should not have most of these rankings and Mo El-Shentanawy, our Website Manager, without whom you should not have the possibility to see them.

Finally I express my gratitude to the members of the Committee who contributed to our work and in this respect especially to David Jackson, who runs all our team rankings.

André Damman (Chairman – Ranking Committee)
February 2006

RULES COMMITTEE

Report to the AGM

Document A17

The Rules Committee's main tasks in 2005-2006 were:

- **Constitution**

An analysis of principles for a future standing order of General Meetings and of directives for voting at General Meetings was started.

Following a request of some national associations a proposition for enlarging and restructuring the Executive Committee was drafted.

- **The Service Rule**

It seems that after a number of years we have found a service rule that can be followed by our umpires and obviously players adjusted themselves to the relevant regulations.

Still we have not adequately covered the large area of 99% of table tennis matches played world-wide where only 1 or no umpire is officiating.

- **The Handbook**

Unfortunately it has to be reported that our attempt to make some rules more transparent and understandable by using diagrams in our Handbook was not successful. Several contacts with designers did not bring the expected results and it was decided to publish the Handbook 2005-2006 again in the traditional layout. Nevertheless we recently found a designer who is in the position to fulfil the specified requirements.

- **Eligibility**

The chairman was consulted in more than 40 specific eligibility cases by national associations, continental federations and even players.

According to the meeting of the Junior Commission during the World Junior Championships in December 2005 in Linz there is still a wish having special eligibility regulations for cadets and juniors.

- **Review of the ITTF Handbook**

Our Committee members and other ITTF officials were again studying present rules carefully and brought up a number of excellent ideas for improvements.

Some of these suggestions resulted in a proposition to the AGM and the Board of Directors meeting 2005. In other cases we had just to correct some misprints.

- **Interpretation of Rules**

As e-mail communication is still growing also the number of questions concerning rules interpretation is increasing. So since the World Championships 2005 in Shanghai I had to answer to some 900 queries concerning ITTF rules from all continents and all groups of our table tennis family.

As every year I have to express my sincere thanks to all ITTF officials, Committees and Commissions, which contributed to the work of the Rules Committee.

Rudi Sporrer (Chairman, Rules Committee)
January 2006

SPORTS SCIENCE COMMITTEE

Report to the AGM

Document A18

Meetings

ITTF

- The Annual General Meeting held on 1st May, 2005, in Shanghai (China).
- The Board of Directors meetings on 30 April and 3 May, 2005.
- The Sports Science Committee meeting on 4 May, 2005.
- Meetings of the Glue Working Group on 9 July and 15 October, 2005, and 26 February, 2006, in Sant Cugat (Spain)

IOC

- Meeting of the Chairpersons of the Medical Commission of IFs on 24 May, 2005, in Lausanne (Switzerland)

WADA

- 2nd IF / National Anti-Doping Organization Symposium, on 30 – 31 March, 2006, in Lausanne (Switzerland)

Scientific activity

- The 9th ITTF Sports Science Congress was successfully organized by Mr. Zhang Xiaopeng and his colleagues from 28 to 30 April, 2005, in the famous Shanghai Jiao Tong University. All the abstracts of the communications presented have been put on the ITTF web site, and a book containing most of the presentations will be published very soon.
- Besides the book "Science and Racket Sports III" published in 2004 and sent to all the participants to the 8th ITTF Sports Science Congress and to all the Continental Development Managers, another book has been published in French in 2005 : "J.F. Kahn et D. Lehénaff, Sports de raquettes : données scientifiques et méthodologiques - applications pour l'entraînement. Les Cahiers de l'INSEP No 35, pp 305".
- The 4th World Congress on Science and Racket Sports will be held from 21st to 23rd September, 2006, in Madrid (Spain) during the Badminton World Championships. Several table tennis scientists and researchers have already announced that they intend to attend it in order to present their works.
- The 10th ITTF Sports Science Congress is planned for 2007 in Zagreb (Croatia).

Fight against doping

- Doping control: from January to December 2005, I received 167 results of tests at national and international level. 73 of them have been conducted out of competition (26 with the help of WADA). 4 samples in 2 European countries showed a ratio T / E (Testosterone / Epitestosterone) exceeding the limit fixed at 4.
- Therapeutic use exemption (TUE): I received 8 requests for an abbreviated TUE, and 10 reports of approval of an abbreviated TUE taken by different national anti-doping organizations.

Medical service during the Liebherr 49th World Individual Championships 2005 in Shanghai

- The medical team was composed of 2 doctors permanently present on site.
- There has been no particular health problem with the players and officials.
- The doping control (14 samples) has been conducted by doping control officers from Shanghai together with the 3 members of the ITTF doping control panel, and the samples were analysed by the Beijing accredited laboratory. All were negative.

Sad news

Prof. Nobuo Yuza from Japan, who was a very active and respected member of the ITTF Sports Science Committee for 12 years, passed away on 2 January, 2006. After a sudden and serious stroke a few days before the 2001 World Table Tennis Championships, he could never completely recover. He is sadly missed.

Dr. Jean-François Kahn (Chairman, Sports Science Committee)
January 2006

NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Report to the AGM

Document A19

The work of the Nomination Committee within the period since May, 2005 up to the April, 2006 was done according to the documents and regulations stipulated by AGM, Executive Council and Executive Committee.

1. The main emphasis of the work was placed on searching of propositions for more effective work of the ITTF and, especially, the committees. In practice, the work of committees generally keeps in accordance with the documents and regulations of AGM, EB and EC. The significant fact in committees' work is the activity of their members. However, the activity of some members does not go beyond their presence at congresses.
2. The election of the ITTF's governing body in Shanghai in 2005 revealed the fact that due to the increase of members (200) the pre-existing "Proxy" system failed with negative consequences for the ITTF. The proposition of Nomination Committee is as follows. In our opinion, the main reason of absence of more than 30 member-countries at the congress is due to a lack of funds. It would be expedient to examine the opportunity for these countries to participate in the congress work at the expense of the ITTF.

This may be efficient in a few aspects: firstly, the financing by ITTF gives these federations the opportunity to take part in the most important forums. Secondly, their prestige is enhanced in their own countries. Thirdly, the formal participation of the federations in the discussion of issues important for ITTF is included.

3. The Nomination Committee suggests to introduce the title "Coach of ITTF" for the enhancement of coaching prestige. The introduction of this title gives the coaches of national federations stimulus to their jobs. First of all, because it is the acknowledgment of their merits by ITTF. Secondly, it gives them additional material welfare in their countries. The work concerned with the selection of candidates for "Coach of ITTF" could fulfill the corresponding ITTF committees.

On examination of the issue concerning the perfection of Federation structure conducted by EC in Linz was given a recommendation by the Nomination Committee to keep on working in this direction.

I would like to thank officials of ITTF, Chairmen of Committees, Management and Staff of ITTF, for their valuable cooperation.

Yuri Posevin (Chairman – Nomination Committee)
February 2006

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Report to the AGM

Document A20

In the meetings of the Technical Committee in Shanghai and with correspondence afterwards, the Committee has been working mainly on the following 2 items:

1. To increase 1 competition day at the World Championships.

A proposal for increasing the number of competition days at the World Championships (both team and individual) from 7 to 8 days was put forward, based on the calculations of number of entries in team and individual events, number of matches and tables and studies on other general conditions. This proposal was submitted to the EC meeting in Magdeburg in November 2005.

2. 2008 Olympic Games Team Qualification and Competition Systems.

The team qualification system for the 2008 Olympic Games was submitted and accepted by the EC meeting and the following principles were set up.

- 16 men's and 16 women's teams with 3 players in each team;
- At least 1 team from each of the continents and 1 team from the host NOC;
- Team qualifications are decided based on the results of singles qualifications and World Team Ranking Lists;
- 1st Stage: 16 groups will be divided into 4 groups of 4 and group round robin matches will be played.
- 2nd Stage: the top 2 teams (8 in total) will play knock-out and play-off to decide the gold, silver and bronze medals.

As for the system for 1 team match, the Committee worked out a proposal of 1 doubles match followed by 4 singles matches, which was later amended after discussions within the ITTF. The Olympic spirit and the principles of table tennis competitions that were discussed by various sides of the ITTF can be summarized as follows:

- 16 teams with 3 player per each team
- All 3 players must play in first 3 matches
- To guarantee that a doubles match is included in a team match of the Olympic Games, and this doubles' match shall be within the first 3 matches
- Each player shall have a equal chance of presentation in a team match
- Re-match of players shall be avoided
- Flexible choice of players is encouraged in order to make the team match more unpredictable
- Easy to understand and explain to media and spectators

Based on the above, the Committee improved the system and put forward the below proposal which was accepted by the ITTF Olympic Commission.

Olympic Team System of the ITTF

order	type	Host team	Guest team
1	S	A	X
2	S	B	Y
<i>Captain chooses DBL pair & 5 minutes break</i>			
3	DBL	C + A or B	Z + X or Y
<i>5 minutes break</i>			
4	S	A or B (non-playing DBL)	Z
5	S	C	X or Y (non-playing DBL)

Explanation

- 4 singles plus 1 doubles match with doubles played as the 3rd match
- Three players on each team have equal chance of presentation, i.e. everyone can play two matches if 5 matches are played to decide the winner
- Before the start of the match, team winning the toss shall choose either to be the "Home Team" or the "Guest Team".
- After tossing and choice of "Home Team" and "Guest Team", the non-playing captain shall give out exact nomination of players on position A, B, C or X, Y, Z
- After the coach hand over the nomination sheet of doubles (after 2 singles are played), the match order of the 4th and 5th games is automatically decided

Considering the possibility of one player playing two consecutive matches, there shall be a 5-minute break prior to, and after the Doubles match.

Yao Zhenxu (Chairman, Technical Committee)
January 2006

UMPIRES & REFEREES COMMITTEE

Report to the AGM

Document A21

The technical problem of the URC database has caused much inconvenience and anxiety not only to the URC, but also for the ITTF Administration, not the least member Associations and fellow umpires and referees. With the support from the ITTF Administration, team efforts of the URC members, and patience, cooperation and understanding of Associations, the URC has overcome such challenge and continue to make progress in the training and development of match officials in 2005 and 2006.

A special meeting of the URC and ITTF Administration was held in Linz during the WJTTC. The long-term and short-term goals of URC were set and directions made clear. Input from the Continental Federations and the ITTF Development Manager were sought. Positive feedback was received with an aim for better cooperation and a wider spectrum of URC activities were developed and agreed. More focus would be put on the training of match officials in the developing countries and to promote umpires and referees in these regions by introducing a pathway for higher level of achievements.

Below is an overview of the activities and achievements of the URC since the last AGM:

Documentation and Training Materials

- Updated Handbook for Match Officials published on the ITTF website
- Updated Handbook for Tournament Referees published on the ITTF website
- Updated the 4 Basic Umpires Courses on the ITTF website
- Updated Advanced Umpires Training Course materials and distributed to all URC Trainers

Umpires Education, Training and Certification

- Conducted an Advanced Train the Trainer Workshop for all active URC Trainers, with an aim to achieve consistency during evaluation of umpires
- Conducted 2 Basic Umpires Courses
- Conducted 10 Advanced Umpires Training Courses in 2005
- Certified 47 new Blue Badge International Umpires in 2005
- Conducted over 400 field of play evaluation in 14 different events

Referees Education, Training and Certification

- Conducted one International Referee Course in 2005
- Certified 5 new International Referees
- Sent Trainers to the International Referees Conference organised by the European Table Tennis Union
- A Working Group was set up to develop working documents and training materials for referees education and for maintaining consistency of referees procedures in major ITTF competitions.
- With the cooperation of the Organisers and Host Association, the new working documents and proposed procedures were observed in Bremen WTTTC.

Examination

- The 2006 IU examination is set to take place between March to May 2006
- The AUT exam was updated and translated into 9 different languages
- The electronic web-based examination was developed and tested positive, with some technical challenges to overcome before putting into operation in the future.

Nomination & Selection of Umpires and Referees Procedures

- Completed the nomination and selection of umpires and referees for the 2005 World Junior Championships (Linz, Austria) and the 2006 World Team Championships (Bremen, Germany)
- A new approach on the nomination and selection procedures was introduced. Invitations for nomination were sent to all Associations, and a balanced mixture of

experience among older and younger umpires were selected. This is to ensure that the legacy of experiences could be carried over to future events.

The New Database

- The URC database was inaccessible soon after Shanghai WTTC. Much effort was made but unfortunately the original database was not returned to the ITTF possession. A special Task Force was set up to retrieve the old data and to re-construct a new database. With the great efforts of the Task Force and cooperation of all URC Trainers, most of the personal data, examination and evaluation results were recovered. The new database will cover a wider dimension of information and archives of the URC activities, and provide a platform for better communication and information on URC activities.

Objectives for 2006-2007

- To continue training of umpires and referees at all levels
- To conduct evaluation of match officials not only in ITTF Pro Tour and major events, but also in Continental Championships
- To incorporate the umpires and referee education programme with the ITTF Development Programme, with an aim to promote and develop new match officials at various levels.
- To support and cooperate with Continental Federations on areas of match officials development programmes
- To promote younger match officials for better image of our sport.
- To promote and increase the number of female match officials
- To review and evaluate the referee training programmes, and fine-tune the working documents and procedures for major ITTF events.
- To develop a referee training and evaluation system
- To introduce new certifications for basic umpires courses, IR (Language) & Blue Badge (Language) to recognize efforts and achievements of participants.
- To put in place the new Directives for Match Officials for Major ITTF events
- To make use of all communication channels, such as the URC database, ITTF website, ITTF News, Table Tennis Illustrated to disseminate URC information and update URC activities. Encourage open discussion and sharing of experiences and good practices.

Submitted by,

Cindy Leung (Chairwoman, Umpires and Referees Committee)
January 2006

ATHLETES' COMMISSION

Report to the AGM

Document A22

▪ Activities

I have published the outline of the Athletes' Commission on the ITTF web site and also informed new Commission members about it.

After the creation of the new Commission, we started to work by correspondence on the following subjects:

- The 2nd IOC Athletes Forum held in Lausanne in June.
- The Random tests of Nittaku WC balls in July.
- The presentation made by Kelly Fairweather, Sports Director IOC at IOC Athlete's Commission Meeting in July.
- The information from the Glue working group
- Olympic Games 2008 Team matches system.

I attended the ITTF Executive Council Meeting held on 15 December in Linz and made a short report of our activities. Prior to this meeting I summarized the response from the members regarding the Olympic Games 2008 Team Match System and submitted it to the ITTF. I requested the ITTF regarding new glue (non harmless) information distribution and its test to be implemented in the near future.

And it was accepted that completely non harmful glues (ITTF approved) should be distributed to male and female players during the Croatian Open (24-28 January 2006) and the players would be asked to try them and make a report to the Athletes' Commission, so hopefully I could make a brief report about it in Bremen.

In closing, on behalf of the Athletes' Commission I would like to sincerely thank the ITTF officials and staff for their cooperation and support for our Commission and I would also like to thank all the members of the Athletes' Commission.

Respectfully submitted by,

Sachiko Yokota-Heyerdahl (Chairwoman, Athletes' Commission)

January 2006

JUNIOR COMMISSION

Report to the AGM

Document A23

Positive reflection does come easy when asked about a summary of the ITTF GJP year 2005. ITTF GJP events all around the world had more participants than ever before. The overall quality of organization took a big step forward and in many cases we now have junior events organized on the same or equal levels as ITTF Pro Tour or major championships.

Our thoughts of appreciation for 2005 goes to Santo Domingo and the Dominican Republic Table Tennis for their outstanding work with the ITTF World Cadet Challenge and to the Austrian Table Tennis Association for hosting the 3rd ITTF World Junior Table Tennis Championships in Linz, Austria, with such excellence.

For the first time in the history of the ITTF GJP we are also starting to see some of the young players that once started their carrier in the official GJP events mature and become a serious threat to any established top player in the world.

In the ITTF GJP we have now the much needed platform for excellence that for many years was missing in our sport. Yearly world title events for cadets and juniors sharpen both the necessary winning skills and do generate both extra effort and important preparation time.

The World Cadet Challenge is a living example of progress, ambition and preparation. It was a true delight to see the progress made by continents like Africa, Latin America and Oceania this year. In some cases the reward came instantly in the shape of a few medals. Even more important was the competitiveness and attitudes shown by team managers, athletes and the many coaches attending the event.

The 3rd ITTF World Junior Championships solidified all the efforts made by the ITTF Junior commission to present a world-class event. Except for a somehow smaller than expected spectator-base the championships had a touch of class attached to it.

Only the presentation and awards ceremonies alone are well worth mentioning in this column - Here we had flashing screen presentations, live anthems and a generous prize table – simply world class.

As we are looking forward to the year 2006 it is important to realize that the success of the ITTF GJP is far from a give me.... Many challenges are there to be solved. Attraction of the ITTF World Junior Championships as a yearly showdown featuring all the best juniors in the world is only one example. It is important that all National Associations and Continental Federations do continue to back the event as one of the major goals of the year in order to generate interest and motivation for the best junior players to attend.

Some skepticism surrounded the very latest of innovative ideas generated by the commission. To organize a Coaching conference at the same time as running a championship was indeed a test of commitment and time planning.

But.... Again with solid, constructive and financial support from the local organizing committee the HELLO FUTURE conference in Linz found a momentum of its own.

The positives in the end were many. Interesting keynote speeches by Krisztina TOTH and Csilla BATORFI gave supporters of European Women's Table Tennis new life and energy. Mario AMIZIC entertained close to 70 coaches for one hour with his views on coaching life in general.

For HELLO FUTURE – and the opportunity to draw more than 65 motivated coaches closer to our ideals, I thank all the involved parties.

With the support from our main sponsors – Butterfly and Joola and with funds generated from the ITTF / Olympic Solidarity project “With the future in mind” we have continued to pour in more than 300,000 US\$ into various activities for the next generation.

No wonder that seeing Jun Mizutani beat world-class players and for MA Long take on the top of the worlds gives you some satisfaction.

It was after all not more than 3 years ago the two boys lined up in the Cadet Boys final of the ITTF World Cadet Challenge in Malaysia 2002.

Thanks to our commission members and to Mikael Andersson and Raul Calín. Special appreciation to Judit Faragó for all her insights and kind advice.

With the future in mind,

**Tony Yue (Chairman – Junior Commission)
January 2006**

OLYMPIC COMMISSION

Report to the AGM

Document A24

During the year 2005 the Olympics Commission, held one meeting on 15th December 2005, in Linz, Austria.

The main decisions of this meeting were:

1. Test event for Beijing 2008

It was decided that the new hall for the Beijing Olympics would be used for the Pro Tour finals in Beijing 2007, as a test event for the Olympic Games.

2. Team system for Beijing 2008

2.1 Qualification system

Athlete quota: 86 men, 86 women

The maximum number of athletes per NOC shall be 3 men and 3 women in the singles events, and a maximum of 3 men and 3 women in the team events.

▪ Singles events

Sixty-four (64) athletes for each of the men's and women's singles events will qualify for the main draw as follows:

20 ITTF World ranking, with a maximum of two (2) players per NOC

40 Continental qualification system

1 Host nation

2 Final World qualification event

1 Tripartite Commission Invitation place

Total : 64 with a maximum of three (3) players from the same NOC

▪ Team events

There shall be 16 men's teams and 16 women's teams including at least one team from each Continent, 1 team from the host nation (if not already qualified) and 9 teams selected according to singles qualifications and World ranking (10 teams if host nation already qualified). Furthermore, players in each team must be from the same NOC and it is acceptable that a player in a team not be entered in the singles event. A maximum of 1 men's and 1 women's team per NOC may be entered. Players who have been added to a team from the quota of 22 additional players may only play in the team event and shall not be entered in the singles event. In each team event, the host nation is guaranteed 1 direct entry provided it has not otherwise qualified as a continental quota.

In addition to the players qualified for the singles draw, 22 men and 22 women will qualify for the team events. The 22 additional players will be selected to complement the quota for teams that did not qualify at least 3 players on the singles event. If the team quota is filled using less than 22 men and 22 women, the additional quota places will be added to the singles event in the qualification rounds and the players will be selected from the World Qualification Tournament based on their order of finish.

2.2 System of competition and schedule

You will find the detailed system on the report of the Chairman of the Technical Committee. The first days of the competition would be reserved for team events and the last days for the singles events. The Competition Manager of BOCOG will

present to the ITTF a draft schedule. An extra day of competition may be requested from the IOC.

For singles events the same system as in Athens would be used.

2.3 Team match system and procedure

You will find the detailed system on the report of the Chairman of the Technical Committee.

Jordi Serra (Executive Director)
February 2006

CALENDAR WORKING GROUP

Report to the Board of Directors

Document A25

I have been nominated to chair the Calendar Working Group last year in Shanghai within its new structure to include 6 continental corresponding members to have a better communication with all continents, to gain their direct input concerning important events and also to get them more involved for a better planning for their regions by avoiding continental clashes with the ITTF World title events as much as possible.

The ITTF Calendar group was forced to change one date in late 2005, it was for the Women's World Cup, the new date was necessary to accommodate some of the organizer's wishes to avoid clashes of other sports events for better and live exposure to our important event in CCTV5, thanks to the understanding of all concerned (ETTU re-arranged their calendar to match this amendment and also China TTA provided to host the event just after the Pro-Tour Grand Finals for more facilities to the majority of qualified participants).

The Calendar of the current year 2006 is growing much more due to the following reasons:

- Excellent image of the ITTF Pro-Tour events raised the bids from so many countries to be a part of such a successful chain, we have 16 events in 2006 (2 premium + 12 major + 2 regular) compared to 15 events in 2005, while the Grand Finals will be in Hong Kong in December.
- The enlargement and motivation of the World Junior Circuit due to the great efforts of the Global Junior Programme, we have 14 events in 2006 compared to 11 events in 2005, while the World Junior Circuit Grand Finals together with World Cadet Challenge will be in the United Arab Emirates in October and the World Junior Table Tennis Championships will be in Egypt in December.
- All continental championships and other important events have already been taken into consideration.
- I have to highlight the ITTF professional system of organising all World title events, which encourages everybody to go for further hosts even in case of clashes due to the guarantee of ITTF competition management support.
- The 100% contribution of the Calendar Working Group continental representatives in providing their complete view of many other events shown in our calendar which are very important to all table tennis family.

The ITTF complete Calendar is already available through the ITTF website on a regular basis with a possibility to update any additions or amendments in time, important forthcoming dates are also published periodically within the ITTF News & the Table Tennis Illustrated.

I have to express my sincere thanks to all my colleagues in the Calendar Working Group (Continental Representatives). Special thanks for great help to Anders Thunström (Pro-Tour), Mikael Andersson (WJC), Etsuko Enami & Mohamed El-Shentenawy (Calendar Update) and all ITTF staff.

Khaled El-Salhy (Chairman, Calendar Working Group)
February 2006

WOMEN'S WORKING GROUP

Report to the Board of Directors

Document A26

In Shanghai on the 2nd May 2005 the 3rd International ITTF Women's Forum, entitled **From Education to Participation**.

About 100 participants from over 70 federations had an interesting time together. The three speakers from China, South Africa and Slovenia gave three very different but fascinating and inspiring speeches.

The last part of the Forum the participants were split up in groups and were invited to have discussions about the future and how to get more women involved in table tennis both as players, coaches and administrators in the federations.

To help both during the discussion and to use at home all the participants were given tool kits.

- ITTF Tool kit for gender equity
- ITTF Facilitator's guide for Continental workshops on gender Equity

All the participants joined the forum with great enthusiasm and the wish to speak up and share stories and experiences was fantastic.

A few days before the Forum the WWG had a meeting where we further discussed our Terms of Reference and our action plan 2004 – 06.

Still under the headlines:

- Participation
- Popularity
- Planning.

One of the items we discussed at length was how to increase the number of women coaches and especially women coaching courses.

Another item was how to increase the number of women at the EC and at the AGM, also with the knowledge that we have still not reached the IOC targets concerning female representation in sport federations (20% by the end of 2005). But things are moving forward as the following decisions made by the EC in Linz (December 2005) show:

- A bonus will be given to association that have 40% or more women participants at their coaching courses, development courses or Olympic Solidarity courses.
- The ITTF will take charge for 27 female delegates for 3 days at the AGM starting at the WTTC in Bremen 2006. The following quota will be used: 6 to Asia, 6 to Europe, 5 to Latin America, 5 to Oceania and 5 to Africa. (None to North America as there are only 3 countries which all are advanced in gender issue).
- There will be 5 Continental Women's Forums in the next three years and one international Forum at the WTTC in 2009.
- The WWG would also hold one annual meeting at the Women's World Cup or other event at ITTF cost.
- The ITTF would send a representative to at least two international Women and Sport conferences per year.

Lilamani de Soysa represented the ITTF as keynote speaker at the Conference of the IAPSGW (International Association for Physical Education and Sport for Girls and Women) held in Edmonton, Canada in August 2005. She was also invited to speak at the 2005 International Summit entitled Effecting Social Change through Women's Leadership in Sport held at Kennesaw University, Atlanta USA and at the UN Conference on Sport and Development held in Magglingen, Switzerland in December 2005.

I want to thank Lilamani de Soysa for her great work and always great enthusiasm and dedication. I also want to thank the EC and especially Claude Bergeret and Adham Sharara for their great support both by being very active whenever we discuss anything by e-mail but also and mostly for their support in the EC. And last but not least I want to thank all the members of the WWG.

Dorte Kronsell (Chairwoman, Women's Working Group)
January 2006

PROPOSITIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

Propositions to the AGM

Document A27

2/3 majority required

1	<p><i>Proposed by the French Table Tennis Federation</i></p> <p><i>To modify 1.5.3.1 and to amend 1.6.1, 1.11.1 and 1.18.4.1.10 accordingly (to delete the words "Deputy President").</i></p> <p>1.5.3.1 The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, Deputy President and 5 6 Executive Vice-Presidents of which one shall be appointed by the President as Deputy President and another one shall be appointed by the Executive Committee responsible for finance.</p> <p><i>At present 3 persons of the Executive Committee are elected separately and individually by the AGM: the President, the Deputy President and the Vice-President finances.</i></p> <p><i>Concerning the President the procedure is a good one because it confers him with a stronger legitimacy. In contrary the other two particular elections are not justified.</i></p> <p><i>Concerning the finances position, the new Executive Committee will allocate to one of the elected Vice-Presidents the finance portfolio.</i></p> <p><i>Regarding the Deputy President it seems very important that the President himself (herself) nominates the person who will represent him (her).</i></p> <p><i>[This proposal will be withdrawn in case of new elections.]</i></p>
2	<p><i>Proposed by the French Table Tennis Federation</i></p> <p><i>To modify 1.18.6.1:</i></p> <p>1.18.6 Elections</p> <p>Voting procedure of the Executive Committee:</p> <p>One round vote, elected by the relative majority: The candidates are elected in a decreasing order of the number of votes gathered by each of them not exceeding the number of available positions.</p> <p>This system with one round is presenting the advantage to avoid any agreement or pressure between two rounds.</p> <p><i>We would like that we can vote for a free number of persons. The present system forces to vote for as many names as there are available positions. In that situation we are sometimes obliged to vote for persons who do not seem capable to our eyes.</i></p> <p><i>[This proposal will be withdrawn in case of new elections.]</i></p>

3/4 majority required

3	<p><i>Proposed by the Finnish Table Tennis Association</i></p> <p>2.6 THE SERVICE</p> <p>2.6.4 From the start of service until it is struck, the ball shall be above the level of the playing surface and behind the server's end line, and it shall not be hidden from the receiver by the server or his doubles partner and or by anything they wear or carry.</p> <p><i>The word "and" is misleading.</i></p>
4	<p><i>Proposed by the Finnish Table Tennis Association</i></p> <p>2.13 THE ORDER OF SERVICE, RECEIVING AND ENDS</p> <p>2.13.7 The player or pair starting at one end in a game shall start at the other end in the next game of the match and in the last possible game of a match the players or pairs shall change ends, if either player or pair wants to, when first one player or pair scores 5 points.</p>

	<p><i>In a match of 7 games players have changed ends already six times. In the deciding game it takes only 3 or 4 minutes when either player/pair has scored 5 points and it seems unnecessary to change ends again. In major competitions there is seldom any difference between the ends and there is no real reason to change ends during a short game. If there is a difference between the ends or for any other reason, the change would still take place by simply one player walking to the other end.</i></p>
<p>5</p>	<p><i>Proposed by the USA Table Tennis Association</i></p> <p>2.6 THE SERVICE</p> <p>2.6.1 Service shall start with the ball resting freely on the flat open palm of the server's stationary free hand.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>There is no record that the word flat was deleted from the rule.</i> ▪ <i>Today most of the players are cupping their palm.</i> ▪ <i>To them it is open, again how open is open and what is acceptable.</i> ▪ <i>Umpires are faced with more arguments with the absence of the word flat.</i>
<p>6</p>	<p><i>Proposed by the USA Table Tennis Association</i></p> <p>2.6 THE SERVICE</p> <p>2.6.4 From the start of service until it is struck, the ball shall be above the level of the playing surface and behind the server's end line, and it shall not be hidden from the receiver, the umpire or the assistant umpire by any part of the body or clothing of the server or his doubles partner.</p> <p>2.6.5 As soon as the ball has been projected, the server's free arm shall be removed from the space between the ball and the net.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>The focal point of the space between the net and the ball or the body is extremely hard for the umpire to judge.</i> ▪ <i>The position of the free arm is also very questionable.</i> ▪ <i>If both the umpire and the assistant umpire will see the ball, the opponent and the spectators will see the ball.</i> ▪ <i>The service rule as it is now is impossible to apply; it has endless interpretations, and creates conflicts between players/coaches and the umpires.</i>
<p>7</p>	<p><i>Proposed by the Rules Committee</i></p> <p>2.9 A LET</p> <p>2.9.1 The rally shall be a let</p> <p>2.9.1.5 if the receiver is in wheelchair due to a physical disability and in service the ball, provided the service is otherwise correct</p> <p>2.9.1.5.1 leaves the receiver's half after touching it in the direction of the net;...</p> <p><i>This addition clarifies that the let against players in a wheelchair refer to the service only.</i></p>

Propositions to the Board of Directors

Simple majority required

8	<p>Proposed by the Equipment Committee</p> <p>3.2.4 GLUING</p> <p>3.2.4.1 Coverings may be attached to racket blades only by means of pressure-sensitive adhesive sheets or adhesives that do not contain a prohibited solvent; a list of prohibited solvents is available from the Secretariat.</p> <p><i>With the new requirements of the Technical Leaflet T4B (Edition from 1st January 2006) it would be impossible to list all possible forbidden substances, but chapter 5 of this Technical Leaflet describes which substances shall be considered as prohibited.</i></p>
9	<p>Proposed by the Japanese Table Tennis Association (To add an explanation to existing paragraph 3.2.4.1.1)</p> <p>3.2.4 GLUING</p> <p>3.2.4.1.1 Adhesives containing volatile organic solvents shall not be used at the playing venue from 1st September 2006 on and shall not be used at all from 1st September 2007 on.</p> <p><i>Above mentioned "playing venue" means the whole establishment in the playing building and the ground where the playing building stands, which contains the doorway, the parking lot and related facilities.</i></p> <p><i>However, players can use the adhesives, which were authorized by ITTF as the ones which do not contain volatile organic solvent (under 0.3 millibar) at the fixed place in the venue specified by the responsible person of the competition.</i></p>
10	<p>Proposed by the Athletes' Commission</p> <p>3.2.4 GLUING</p> <p>3.2.4.1.1 Adhesives containing volatile organic solvents shall not be used at the playing venue from 1st September 2006 on and shall not be used at all from 1st September 2007 2008 on.</p> <p><i>It was agreed that the players will be involved into the process of finding new solutions and will get opportunity to make tests, but only some players could test for the first time in the end of January 2006 non harmful glues, because there were not many on the market until then. They simply could not buy or find such glues because only a few manufacturers had produced non-harmful glues.</i></p> <p><i>Now the players have only around 2 years left for trying completely new types of glue, but during this time they will use ordinary harmful glues because they must take part in many international tournaments, two World Championships and Continental Championships, etc. in order to get good results.</i></p> <p><i>If there is no speed gluing effect anymore, the whole game and the technique will dramatically be changed for sure. For such a change a lot of practice and time are required.</i></p> <p><i>The players are not against stopping the use of harmful glues for the sake of health. They simply need time to get used to non-harmful glues, and less than 1 year term (1st September 2007) is not enough for making successful preparation for the Olympic Games in order to show their exciting and splendid performances. We expect manufacturers also need more time for producing non-harmful glues.</i></p> <p><i>Therefore we request to postpone the implementation of the current regulation of glue after Olympic Games 2008, which is 1st September 2008.</i></p>

<p>11</p>	<p><i>Proposed by the Japanese Table Tennis Association</i></p> <p>3.2.4 GLUING</p> <p>3.2.4.2 Tests for prohibited solvents will be carried out at World and Olympic title competitions and major Pro-Tour tournaments and a player whose racket is found to contain such a solvent and a player when forbidden act in the “playing venue” of the preceding clause is discovered by the competition staff from 1st September 2006, is liable to be disqualified from the competition and reported to his association.</p>
<p>12</p>	<p><i>Proposed by the German Table Tennis Federation</i></p> <p>3.2 EQUIPMENT AND PLAYING CONDITIONS</p> <p>3.2.5.10 Advertisements on playing clothing shall be limited to</p> <p>3.2.5.10.1 the maker's normal trademark, symbol or name contained within a total area of 2450 cm²;</p> <p>During the last decades the space for advertisements on players' clothing has been increased from virtually zero to 600 cm² for example on the front, side or shoulder and to 400 cm² on the back of a shirt. The logo of the manufacturer, however, has remained at 24 cm².</p> <p><i>In comparison to the large exposure of sponsors, the manufacturer's logo is very small and hardly visible. This is not justified, especially with regard to the intensive support the manufacturers give to ITTF, Continental and National Associations throughout the world.</i></p> <p><i>We share the opinion of FIT (Federation of International Table Tennis Manufacturers) that it is only fair and just to increase the manufacturer's logo as proposed.</i></p>
<p>13</p>	<p><i>Proposed by the German Table Tennis Federation</i></p> <p>3.2 EQUIPMENT AND PLAYING CONDITIONS</p> <p>3.2.5.10 Advertisements on playing clothing shall be limited to</p> <p>3.2.5.10.4 not more than 2 advertisements, contained within a combined total area of 80120 cm², on the front and the sides of shorts or skirt.</p> <p>The increase from 80 to 120 cm² is to improve the visibility of the advertisement for spectators and television viewers, therefore raising the value for potential sponsors.</p> <p><i>In addition, advertisements on the back of shorts or skirt would no longer be allowed.</i></p>
<p>14</p>	<p>Proposed by the Umpires and Referees Committee</p> <p>3.4.4 INTERVALS</p> <p>3.4.4.2.3 The request for a time-out, which may be made only when the ball is out of play, shall be indicated by making a “T” sign with the hands, which can be made only between rallies.</p> <p><i>This is in line with the guidelines in the Handbook for Match Officials, and the intention is to avoid having players asking for a time-out immediately after the statutory two minutes practice period, and the interval between games.</i></p>
<p>15</p>	<p><i>Proposed by the USA Table Tennis Association</i></p> <p>3.4.4 INTERVALS</p> <p>3.4.4.2.4 On receiving a valid request for a time-out the umpire shall suspend play and he or the assistant umpire (when present), while seated, shall hold up a white card; he shall then place the card on the court of the player or pair making the request with the hand on the side of the player/pair who requested it till the end of the time-out.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>When the umpire is working alone and he is seated on a high chair, it is very awkward for him to come down and go up to remove the card from the tables.</i> ▪ <i>The same is happening when the assistant umpire is sitting behind a table.</i> ▪ <i>Most of the time there are no standing up, special cards, to put on the table and no one sees the flat card that is placed on the flat side of the table.</i>

<p>16</p>	<p><i>Proposed by the USA Table Tennis Association</i></p> <p>3.5.2 MISBEHAVIOUR</p> <p>3.5.2.1 Players and coaches shall refrain from behaviour that may unfairly affect an opponent, offend spectators or bring the sport into disrepute, such as abusive language, deliberately breaking the ball or hitting it out of the playing area, kicking the table or surrounds, wiping the hands on the surface of the table and disrespect of match officials.</p> <p><i>While one player is wiping his hand in his towel every 6 points, the other is wiping his hand on the surface of the table, some times at every point and some times more than one time between the two points.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>It looks rather offensive on the TV.</i> ▪ <i>It disruptive to the continuous play.</i> ▪ <i>It delays the game and that in it is against the rules.</i> ▪ <i>It creates arguments between the player and the umpire, as there is no specific mention to it in the rules.</i>
<p>17</p>	<p><i>Proposed by the Junior Commission</i></p> <p>3.8 INTERNATIONAL ELIGIBILITY</p> <p>3.8.4 A player is eligible to represent a Continental Federation (1.17.1) in an event senior and/or junior events of continental teams only if he is eligible to represent a member Association of this Continental Federation according to 3.8.3. For cadet events in which Continental Federations enter continental teams, Continental Federations may enter players who are eligible to represent a member Association of this Continental Federation according to 3.8.3 and/or players who, on the first day of a competition, have been permanent residents for at least three years in a country over which a member Association of this Continental Federation has jurisdiction.</p>
<p>18</p>	<p><i>Proposed by the European Table Tennis Union</i></p> <p><i>(To omit 4.1.9.2 completely)</i></p> <p>4.1 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS</p> <p>4.1.9 Events</p> <p>4.1.9.2 In doubles events, both players shall be from the same Association.</p> <p>This would make doubles partnerships possible between players from different Associations, for example with similar playing styles. <i>Furthermore, this would guarantee that players No. 3 or 5 from teams with odd numbers of participants can take part not only in singles but also in doubles.</i></p>
<p>19</p>	<p><i>Proposed by the German Table Tennis Federation</i></p> <p>4.3 OLYMPICS COMPETITION</p> <p>4.3.2 Events</p> <p>4.3.2.1 The Olympics competition shall include at least men's singles, women's singles, men's doubles and women's doubles men's team events and women's team events.</p>
<p>20</p>	<p><i>Proposed by the German Table Tennis Federation</i></p> <p><i>(To insert a new paragraph 4.3.2.2)</i></p> <p>4.3 OLYMPICS COMPETITION</p> <p>4.3.2 Events</p> <p>4.3.2.2 The Team Match System in team events and the system of play in both team and individual events including any qualifying competitions shall be decided by the Board of Directors, on the recommendation of the Olympic Commission,</p>

	<p>and shall be notified to all Associations not later than 30 calendar months (team events) and 6 calendar months (individual events) before the start of the Olympic Games.</p> <p><i>In addition to the relevant chapter 1.9 in the Constitution, it is necessary to specify the future procedure regarding the playing systems and formats, due to the grown importance and complexity of table tennis at the Olympic Games.</i></p>
21	<p><i>Proposed by the European Table Tennis Union</i> <i>(To omit 4.4.9.1.1 completely)</i></p> <p>4.4 WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS</p> <p>4.4.9 Events</p> <p>4.4.9.1.1 With the exception of mixed doubles events, both players of a doubles shall be from the same Association.</p> <p><i>This would make doubles partnerships possible between players from different Associations, for example with similar playing styles.</i></p> <p><i>Furthermore, this would guarantee that player No. 3 from a team with only 3 players can participate not only in the team event and in singles but also in doubles.</i></p>

RESOLUTIONS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Simple majority required

A	<p><i>Put forward by the Equipment Committee</i></p> <p>Technical Leaflet T4A</p> <p>A requirement that for the racket coverings the rubber surface should be uniform and without coating shall be included in the Technical Leaflet.</p> <p><i>This is a new type of requirement in T4, in order to get closer to measuring playing properties. The background is the following:</i></p> <p><i>Treated rubbers: This term is used for pimples-out racket coverings that have a coating on top of the pimples or have been through some other process in order to reduce the friction. The intention is to confuse an opponent when a player is making a stroke, which normally would give a spin to the ball. Instead the ball has little or no spin, making it hard for opponent to make a good return.</i></p> <p><i>We estimate today that we have 25 - 30 rubbers on our List of Authorized Racket Covering, which we believe come under this heading. The reason they are there is that we did not have a good enough method to identify this.</i></p> <p><i>Now we may have found a laboratory, which can measure what is named micro friction on the top and the sides of the pimples.</i></p> <p><i>What we would like to do now is to collect data. After having made some measurements we hope we could establish a minimum friction level for rubber for racket coverings.</i></p> <p><i>The target is to introduce later this minimum friction level for all pimples-out coverings as part of the authorization.</i></p> <p><i>We hope thereby to underline more the players' skill and less the importance of the material.</i></p> <p><i>This could be a first step for test of the playing properties of rubbers instead of merely some physical ones.</i></p>
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