

# AGENDA

## ITTF Annual General Meeting

To be held in Zagreb, Croatia, 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2007, 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 (Bremen, 27<sup>th</sup> April 2006)
6. Presentations
  - 6.1. Personal Honorary Membership
  - 6.2. Merit Awards
  - 6.3. Other presentations
7. Report of Nomination Committee (document A20)
8. Membership applications (Comoros and Nauru)
9. Executive Committee Reports
  - 9.1. President - A. Sharara (document A1)
  - 9.2. Deputy President – G. Segun (document A2)
  - 9.3. Executive Vice President (Finance) – N. Harwood (document A3)
  - 9.4. Executive Vice President - Yang Shuan (document A4)
  - 9.5. Executive Vice-President – C. Bergeret (document A5)
  - 9.6. Executive Vice President – K. Kimura (document A6)
  - 9.7. Executive Vice President - J. Faragó (document A7)
10. Continental Vice Presidents' Reports
  - 10.1. Africa (document A8)
  - 10.2. Asia (document A9)
  - 10.3. Europe (document A10)
  - 10.4. North America (document A11)
  - 10.5. Latin America (document A12)
  - 10.6. Oceania (document A13)
11. Executive Director's Report (document A14)
12. Reports from Committees and Commissions
  - 12.1. Equipment (document A15)
  - 12.2. Media (document A16)
  - 12.3. Ranking (document A17)
  - 12.4. Rules (document A18)
  - 12.5. Sports science (document A19)
  - 12.6. Technical (document A21)
  - 12.7. Umpires & Referees (document A22)
  - 12.8. Athletes' Commission (document A23)
  - 12.9. Junior Commission (document A24)
  - 12.10. Olympics Commission (document A25)
13. Financial Statements
  - 13.1. Audited Financial Statements
  - 13.2. Appoint Auditors for 2007
  - 13.3. Adjusted budget 2007 and 2008
  - 13.4. 2007 Audit timing

14. Propositions and Resolutions (document A28)
15. Future World Championships
  - 15.1. Update 2008 Guangzhou
  - 15.2. Update 2009 Yokohoma
  - 15.3. Bids for 2011 and 2012
16. Selection of 2010 World Championships
17. Election of Committees
18. Transfer of governance from IPC to ITTF
19. Review of the ITTF Constitution in 2008
20. Next AGM – Guangzhou, February 2008
21. Any other business
22. Adjournment

# **AGENDA**

## **ITTF Board of Directors Meeting**

To be held in Zagreb, Croatia, 25<sup>th</sup> May 2007, at 09:00 hours

1. Welcome and President's opening address
2. Roll call
3. Minutes of previous Meetings (Bremen, Germany, 28<sup>th</sup> April 2006)
4. Electing and Co-opting Committee Chairmen/women
5. Update Reports
  - 5.1 Calendar working Group (Document A26)
  - 5.2 Glue Working Group
  - 5.3 Veterans Working Group
  - 5.4 Women's Working Group (Document A27)
  - 5.5 ITTF/Continental Development Plans
6. World Championships
  - 6.1 World Team Championships Playing System
  - 6.2 Number of players per association
7. Propositions and Resolutions (Document A28)
8. World Junior Championships
  - 8.1 USA (Palo Alto), 2007
  - 8.2 New Zealand (Auckland), 2008
  - 8.3 Colombia (Cartagena de Indias), 2009
  - 8.4 Bids and selection for 2010
  - 8.5 Bids for 2011
9. Global Junior Programme (Junior Circuit, JC Finals and Cadet Challenge)
10. World Cup Events and ITTF Pro Tour
11. ITTF Academy update
12. Olympic Games 2008
13. Appointment of Working Groups
14. Next meeting (Guangzhou, 2008)
15. Any other business
16. Adjournment

# **PRESIDENT**

## **Report to the AGM**

## **Document A1**

### **World Championships**

We gather again in Zagreb after one year since we met in Bremen. The Liebherr 2006 World Championships in Bremen were a great success from all point of views with large participation and record TV worldwide coverage. Although we experienced delays and difficulties for some of our member associations in obtaining visas, the host association, the German TTA, made a generous gesture of offering equipment assistance to those Continents that were the most affected.

The World Junior Championships in Cairo was a memorable event with a record 100% participation. The organizing committee did a wonderful job in making everyone feel welcome with a special brand of hospitality. It is also obvious that the level of play at the junior ages is increasing at a very fast pace with several juniors now joining the senior national team ranks.

### **Marketing**

The marketing revenue in 2006 will set a new income record for the ITTF since its focus on marketing activities in the late 1990s. Most encouraging is the securing of new sponsors for our events and the increase in TV rights sales. However, the ITTF properties to market are all already served, hence, the introduction of new ITTF events to increase the exposure of our sport and open new marketing possibilities. In 2006 the "Challenge of Champions" was introduced as a new and very successful showcase event. In October 2007 the ITTF will bring back the "World Team Cup", which will be staged in Magdeburg, Germany.

TMS International is working very well on behalf of the ITTF and has been able to meet, and exceed, the budgeted and contracted marketing income for the ITTF. Most of the current sponsorship and TV contracts have been renewed for longer terms, or are in the process of being renewed. This source of income represents more than two-thirds of the ITTF's total annual income. A representative from TMS attended each of the ITTF's Executive Committee meetings to explain the status of sponsorships and TV rights sales, which has enhanced the understanding of these matters by our EC members.

### **Planning and implementation**

The 22 recommendations prepared by Mr. Neil Harwood and Mr. Jordi Serra, derived from the IOC's assessment of all sports, have been integrated in our overall planning process within the P4 Plan, and are being implemented by our staff on an ongoing basis. The idea is to raise the level of the ITTF in each of the assessed parameters in order to receive an even higher assessment after the 2008 Olympic Games. This exercise has also served in identifying the strong and weak points of our sport and our federation as seen by an independent entity.

Stricter financial planning to reduce expense and maximize revenue will be the priority of the next quadrennial. The ITTF's overall expenses have increased steadily over the years, coupled with an increase in revenue. However, in order to build a larger safety net and increase our liquid assets we will need to reduce our expenses over the next quadrennial. This will be a very difficult task, but strict spending and budgeting priorities will have to be implemented to secure a healthy financial future for the ITTF.

Since we had a change in the composition of the ITTF's EC members in Bremen, the responsibilities of each EC member were realigned and a new set of responsibilities distributed. I am very pleased with the smooth transition and the full work synergy of our EC members with our professional staff.

At the last EC meeting in Istanbul, it was decided to launch a review of our Constitution. This will be the second round of Constitutional review (last done in 2002) in order to modernize and update the current Constitution after several changes and modifications over the last 5 years. This process will involve the member National Associations, and hopefully we would be able to adopt a revised Constitution at the 2008 AGM in Guangzhou.

A major part of our planning activities has been a restructure of our Professional Staff. This is an ongoing process with the main goal of increasing efficiency and improving our programmes and services. Very soon several new positions will be introduced and filled (July 2007), while other positions may be re-adjusted and modified to best suit the changing needs of the ITTF and its members.

### **Development**

We had a record number of courses in 2006 delivered in all Continents under the auspices of our Development Programme and Olympic Solidarity. At the same time the ITTF Junior Circuit is expanding at a very fast rate (20 events in 2007) and our Global Junior programme with all its parameters is anchoring itself as one of the fastest growing and necessary programmes of our Federation. Our Women's Programme is thriving with many exciting and fresh ideas; our Umpires and Referees programme has set new goals and targets that are being achieved according to plan

### **Services**

A very new and exciting "free" service is being provided by the ITTF on its web-site with one "Live", one "Junior", and one "Archival" web-casting channel for all to enjoy on their computer screens. This new web-site feature will allow all our members regardless of their location to enjoy international table tennis events as long as they have access to a fast Internet connection. In addition, our web-site has been revamped and improved providing better services to its users. Our "on-line" services are increasing and improving, such as "Pro Tour entries on-line", "live scoring", "WTTTC entries on-line", etc. Congratulations to all concerned for this major enhancement.

### **Conclusion**

Our events are the showcase of our sport to the World. The level of presentation and professionalism at all our events is improving all the time. Our World Championships and World Cup events have reached very high standards of organization and presentation. In addition, our Pro Tour programme and the Pro Tour Grand Finals have matured into a solid competition circuit for the benefit of our athletes and promoting our sport worldwide.

A lot of work was accomplished in 2006; a lot of work is ahead of us. It is a pleasure to see all committees and commissions as active as ever and moving our sport forward. All this is achieved in harmony through a special synergy between the elected volunteers and the professional staff working together in a decentralized but successful operational model.

Finally, I would like to thank my colleagues the members of the Executive Committee, the ITTF Continental Vice-Presidents, all Committee Chairmen/women, the PAC, and our professional staff for their work and support.

Respectfully submitted,

**Adham Sharara (President)**

**March 2007**

# DEPUTY PRESIDENT

## Report to the AGM

## Document A2

Please find below report on my activities since the last AGM in Bremen, Germany in April, 2006.

- **Glue Ban Project** The Group set up to look at this project continued working throughout this period to ensure smooth operations with new device, the 'enez' equipment which is now being used in Japan. JTITA has already banned cadet players from using glues containing Volatile Organic Compounds with effect from March 2007. A sizable number of enez equipment have been purchased and delivered to JTITA by the manufacturers. The original prototype of the equipment has been greatly improved upon and the Working Group members are now putting finishing touches to the training of personnel to handle the equipment as well as amending the technical leaflet appropriately. The ban date of glues containing VOCs still remains 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008
- **Educational Activity** Forum on Sport and Education was held in Beijing, China between 20 and 22 October, 2006 and I was privileged to attend. The forum was highly educative and I came out from it full of ideas/suggestions on putting education at all levels in ITTF on high priority list.
- **Representations**
  - 1) First Lusofonia Games at Macao, China from 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2006. 10 Portuguese speaking countries plus Goa in India and Sri Lanka building the number to 12 coming together to participate in 5 sports including table tennis. Facilities in general were good and they were the same used 2 years previously for the South East Asian Games
  - 2) Men's World Cup in Paris, France. A well organized tournament, with a large number of spectators, which took place between 27<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2006.
  - 3) WJC and 16th African Championships for Juniors and Cadets in Tunis, Tunisia which took place between 11<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan. 2007
- **Meetings**

All meetings of the Executive Committee and Executive Council since last year after new elections in April have been attended.
- **Acknowledgement**

My sincere gratitude to my colleagues in EC, EC+ Board of Directors and Glue Working Group for their support. Special thanks also go to all ITTF staff in all locations.

Thank you for sparing some time to read this report.

**George O. Segun (Deputy President)**  
**March 2007**

# **EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT (FINANCE)**

## **Report to the AGM**

## **Document A3**

At the time of preparing this report the final financial results are not available and I will present my comments on finances at the time the audited Financial Report is distributed.

I have been actively involved in the areas assigned by the Executive Committee, integration of IPTTC, Olympic Games preparation and the Umpires and Referees Committee.

Together with our Executive Director I attended the World IPTTC Championships and the Sport Forum in Montreux Switzerland in September. During the Sport Forum a unanimous decision was taken by the nations attending to transfer the governance to the ITTF. The decision will come into effect after the Beijing 2008 Paralympics but transfer procedures are set in place to effect a smooth transfer by the 2009 ITTF AGM in Yokohama.

Olympic preparations in Beijing are proceeding very well, with the co-operation and great organization of BOCOG. All Technical Official positions will be finalised at the Olympic Commission meeting in December. The Olympic Results System was reviewed in October to incorporate changes following the introduction of team matches. The results and playing systems will be tested during the Pro Tour Grand Finals in December and at a special invitation teams' event which will be conducted after the Pro Tour Grand Finals. The hotel that will accommodate the ITTF family, including guests, Executive Committee, staff and all Technical Officials, is located within a ten minute drive of the venue and is of excellent standard.

The Umpires and Referees Committee is continuing its work with the improvement in the standard of umpiring being obvious but there is still some work to be undertaken in this area to ensure consistency in evaluation of umpires. Richard Scruton has been engaged, on a part time basis, to develop a modular education package for referees and delivery and practical assessment will follow. This will mean that referee performance will be raised ensuring that all will be able to work well with Competition Management, Television, etc.

In my capacity of Executive Vice-President I was involved in the following:

June - visit to Beijing with the Executive Director for Olympic Games preparation

July - represented ITTF at Oceania Championships and a World Junior Circuit Event in Geelong, Australia.

September – represented ITTF at a China v. Rest of the World Event, using the new Olympic format, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

September – attended an Executive Committee Meeting in Guangzhou, China.

September – attended IPTTC Championship and Congress in Montreux, Switzerland.

October – attended Olympic Results and Information Systems meeting in Montreux, Switzerland.

December – visited Beijing with Technical Delegates en route to the Pro Tour Grand Finals and Executive Committee Meeting in Hong Kong. I represented the ITTF at the Tournament of Champions in Changsha, China, following the Pro Tour Grand Finals.

March – attended Executive Committee Meeting in Istanbul, Turkey.

In conclusion I wish to thank my fellow Executive Committee Members, the ITTF staff and, particularly, the chair persons and members of committees in the Working Groups that I have been involved with. The spirit of co-operation has been a key factor in the positive steps that we have taken.

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

**March 2007**

# EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

## Report to the AGM

## Document A4

The year 2006 was quite fruitful with the success of the World Championships for team events in Bremen, Germany and the Asian Games in Doha, Qatar. In the past year, our sport has continued its steps of P4 Plan steadily owing to the joint efforts of ITTF officials and its family members. The report of my work in 2006 is as follows:

### **ITTF Academy & Olympic Venue**

Together with ITTF, CTTA is working hard on the preparation of ITTF Table Tennis Academy in Beijing. Peking University expressed great enthusiasm in this project and detailed plan for further collaboration will be discussed with CTTA and ITTF. Both parties are ready to contribute their efforts to this program. I believe once the program is launched and to obtain good reward, it will be not only another contribution of CTTA and ITTF, but also a big fortune to the sport of table tennis. This year the 2007 ITTF Pro Tour Grand Finals will be held in the Olympic Venue in Peking University to pretest all the facilities. By January, the concrete structure of the TT venue has been completed and the interior construction will be finished by September of 2007. The hall will have a total floor space of 26,900 square meters plus seating for 8,000 spectators with 6,000 seats being permanent and two thousand temporary.

### **World Cup Events**

The Men's and Women's World Cup had been held as planned in Paris for men and in Urumqi for women. Both events have achieved full success in terms of event presentation, TV coverage and large number of spectators. The Women's World Cup held in Urumqi, Xinjiang Autonomous Region, the first world title event ever being held in the spacious area for ethnic groups, aroused great public interest and enthusiasm in table tennis and actively advanced the development of the sport. For the first time in ITTF history, women players were given equal prize money as men, and it will be the case for more and more ITTF events starting from 2006 Women's World Cup. Also for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in ITTF history, the ITTF Women's Working Group held a meeting with current leading women players. Important issues and information concerning women's clothing as well as ITTF Courses for women were discussed and shared. It was felt by all that such a meeting was necessary and beneficial for developing women's table tennis. On the competition side, the Chinese players once again showed their domination and superiority to clinch both titles.

### **Multi-Sport Games (TT)**

On one hand, I exert myself to undertake my responsibilities as an ITTF Executive Vice President. On the other hand, being BOCOG's Vice President responsible for Sports, I have more opportunities and tasks to communicate with other IFs and popularize our sport of table tennis among the Olympic family. In 2008, Team events of table tennis will be staged for the first time in the Olympic Games. BOCOG also requested IOC to extend one more competition day for table tennis considering the sport is a passion in China and there will be so many spectators on site. The proposal was well accepted and approved by IOC, which reveals IOC's good image on table tennis among all the events.

Another exciting news is that our president has been appointed as a member of IOC Coordination Commission for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. Mr. Adham Sharara is the only current IF President serving on the IOC's Coordination Commission and is the 1<sup>st</sup> table tennis man to have this honor. As the BOCOG's Vice President responsible for sports, I attended the meeting with IOC Coordination Commission in Beijing. It was a meeting strongly represented by table tennis and a unique moment to have two persons from the ITTF serving on the commission for the 2008 Beijing Olympics Games. It's not only an honor awarded to our sport but also recognition of our hard work in developing table tennis among all the other sports.

### **International Events in China**

In the year 2006, I also pushed the Chinese Table Tennis Association to undertake their responsibilities in the promotion of table tennis by organizing two ITTF Pro Tours, the Women's World Cup and the Tournaments of Champions. All the experience accumulated will help us to secure a successful organization of table tennis competition in the 2008

Beijing Olympic Games. In the near future, the CTTA will put more attention on promoting table tennis on grass root level instead of only organizing events for professional players.

### **Representations**

In 2006, I attended the following meetings and competitions in my capacity as an Executive Vice President:

27 February, 2006	EC Meeting in Barcelona, Spain
23 <sup>rd</sup> -28 <sup>th</sup> April, 2006	EC Meetings, EC+ Meetings, AGM Meeting in Bremen, Germany and 2006 Liebherr World Table Tennis Championships
15 <sup>th</sup> September, 2006	EC Meeting in Guangzhou, China
12 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> December, 2006	EC Meeting in Hong-Kong, China and 2006 ITTF Pro Tour Grand Finals.

In conclusion, I wish to thank all colleagues in the executive committee, the executive council and the board of directors for their continued support and excellent teamwork.

**Yang Shuan (Executive Vice-President)**

**February 2007**

# EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

## Report to the AGM

*Translated from the French by Lilamani de Soysa*

## Document A5

### WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

- **Liebherr Team World Championships 2006, 24 April/1 May :**  
Assessment meeting organized in Frankfurt the 30<sup>th</sup> of August 2006.
- **Liebherr Individual World Championships 2007, 21/27 May, Zagreb (Croatia)**  
Since the last World Championships in Bremen, I have made two visits to Zagreb. The first, on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> September 2006 together with Mr. Jordi Serra. The second on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> January 2007 accompanied by Adham Sharara, Jordi Serra, Anders Thunström, Didier Leroy, Chuck Hoey (ITTF Museum Curator) and Hubert Gueriau (Media Manager for the 2007 World Championships). To this day, certain organizational issues remain unresolved but the political problems between the Croatian Table Tennis Association and the Organization Committee are a more serious source of worry. I hope that these problems will be resolved when you read these lines and that we will be able to witness an excellent World Championship.
- **Team World Championships 2008, 24 February/2 March, Guangzhou, China**  
The first inspection visit took place on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> September 2006, immediately after the China Pro Tour organized in Guangzhou. The organization seems to be well advanced in many areas.
- **Individual World Championships 2009 in Yokohama**  
Nothing to report yet.
- **Team World Championships 2010**  
4 cities have submitted their applications to host the 2010 World Championships, 3 have been retained by the ITTF EC for consideration.  
DOHA (Qatar), LINZ (Austria), MOSCOW (Russia)  
Inspection visits will be made between the months of March and May 2007 and final report will be distributed before the AGM in Zagreb.

### GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Since Bremen, I participated in all the meetings of the EC, the EC+ and the Olympic Commission and I officially represented the ITTF at the following events:

- Women's World Cup in Urumqi (China) from 29<sup>th</sup> September to the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2006 (at this occasion I participated in a meeting of the women's working group and directed a meeting with the players)
- African Women's Forum in Brazzaville (Republic of Congo) on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February 2007 during the African Championships
- The European Women's Forum in Belgrade (Serbia) on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2007 during the European Championships.
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I was also very involved on behalf of the FFTT in the organization of the Men's World Cup held in Paris, 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> October 2006.

### OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

My tasks within the EC make me responsible for the following commissions and working groups and I am their spokeswoman at all levels:

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

I take this opportunity to thank the Chairmen/women of these commissions and working groups for their work, their competence and their dedication.

Furthermore, I would like to warmly thank my colleagues in the EC and the EC+ for their permanent support and knowledgeable advice.

But without our professionals (from the ITTF and TMS) we will not amount to much. I would therefore like to express my gratitude to them and tell them what a pleasure it is for me to work with them.

**Claude Bergeret (Executive Vice-President)**

**February 2007**

# EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

## Report to the AGM

## Document A6

I was re-elected as one of five Executive Vice-Presidents during the AGM which was held in Bremen on April 27th 2006 and attended the BOD, EC meetings hosted during the world championship.

After that, I received an e-mail from Mr. Sharara, the ITTF president, offering me my responsibilities as EVP and, as a result I took charge of the Equipment Committee, Sport Science Committee, Veterans Working Committee and Glue Ban Project.

I am happy to be in charge of these working committees and projects and would like to thank the chairmen of each committee for the good work that they have done.

Concerning the new Rubber Test Center in Osaka that made a contract with the ITTF/Equipment Committee in October 2005, and has been providing services to them, I have been involved with that Center, at times, through my work with the JTTA. Hence, I am pleased to deliver a short report from that Center, as outlined below:

1. The center is satisfied because the number of rubber tests is gradually increasing.
2. It takes about 7 days to go through the process of testing, from the day of receipt of the rubber to delivering.
3. There is good communication via email and a nice rapport building with Mr. Gustavsen, Chairman of the Equipment Committee, and the center is grateful for this.
4. As for the proposal from the center regarding the method of testing, Mr. Gustavsen accepted it with quick response.
5. In the future, the center wants to attempt to study the possibility of testing other equipment.

In relation to the Glue Ban Project, I proposed the following matters to JTTA and it was hopefully accepted:

Players who are schoolchildren (under12) cannot use glue containing VOC, commencing April 1<sup>st</sup> 2007.

Because of this decision, Table Tennis manufacturers in Japan will proceed with the development of the new glue and new rubbers and these products will become the accepted form to be supplied to the world market.

I attended the EC hosted by China in Guangzhou city on September 15<sup>th</sup>.

I visited the Asian Games Table Tennis event held in Doha (Qatar) from November 29<sup>th</sup> to December 7<sup>th</sup>.

The competition level and the venue was of very high standard and operation was well organized by Qatar table tennis association.

Since visitors from other IFs also attended, in addition to several other OCA officials, I took on the role of explaining our sports to them and succeeded in helping them to realize the profound nature of our sport. Also, I was given the opportunity to attend an awards ceremony as a representative of ITTF

I attended the meetings of the EC, EC + and Olympic Commission which were held in Hong Kong on the 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of December.

I also attended the Pro Tour Grand Final which was held during this time and I watched a game on the last day and attended an Awards Ceremony. Also, the Hong Kong Table Tennis Society hosted the Commemorative Ceremony for its establishment, its seventieth anniversary, on December 17<sup>th</sup>, I was invited to attend and enjoyed the party and meeting old friends.

I will attend the EC Meeting to be held in the Turkish city of Istanbul on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of March 2007 ( Schedule).

**Koji Kimura (Executive Vice-President)**  
**February 2007**

# EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

## Report to the AGM

## Document A7

After my election as an Executive Vice-President in April 2006 in Bremen, I was assigned to be responsible for different specific areas in addition to the general duties within the Executive Committee.

### **SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES**

#### ***Global Junior Program***

I am lucky and honoured to follow from the very beginning its spectacular progress. Junior Commission is led by its open-minded chairman, Tony Yue and assisted by dedicated and professional staff members, Mikael Andersson and Raul Calin. Proposal of the commission to expand by 4 more teams the World Junior TT Championships from 2009 is submitted for approval to the Board of Directors.

In 2006 a table tennis world title event returned to Africa after 67 years of absence, when we had a successful World Junior TT Championships in Cairo with full and record participation and high-level organisation in a friendly spirit. The ITTF Junior Circuit is growing fast, including 20 events in 2007 compared to 13 in the previous year. The 5<sup>th</sup> World Cadet Challenge was a real success for the continents, thanks to the Serbian TTA taking over the organisation in the last moment. Busy schedule and expansion demand more financial, technical and human resources, but this is definitely a worthwhile investment!

#### ***U-21 (youth) competition program***

After I took initiative, the Executive Committee decided to keep the U-21 event in the Pro Tour competition system and to implement prize money for this event starting from 2008.

#### ***Calendar Working Group***

As former Chairperson of the Calendar WG for 6 years, I know exactly how difficult job my successor, Khaled El-Salhy is facing. The ever-growing number of tournaments and invention of new events (Tournament of Champions, Team World Cup, etc.) are great news for our sport, but require new approach to the calendar system.

#### ***Ranking Committee***

I am regularly updated about ranking issues and it is my greatest pleasure to be in contact with André Damman, who – besides being the longest-serving official in the ITTF - was my "tutor" at the time when I joined international table tennis.

#### ***Media Committee and Publications***

Media has a significant influence on sports and ITTF has to follow this trend. The Executive Committee and the committee chairman, Arne Madsen work together very hard on new ideas (creating special awards for the World Championships), on new staff structure (positions of Media Event Manager and Media Coordinator) and on new web-look (easy-to-access link for press on the web-site, net-streaming). Hopefully I can contribute to these changes using my former experience as sports journalist for the interest of ITTF. Ian Marshall has undisputable merit in covering all events and providing interesting articles in the ITTF publications.

### **MEETINGS, REPRESENTATIONS**

I attended ITTF EC meeting in September 2006 in Guangzhou.

I represented ITTF at the following events:

World University TT Championships, July 2006 in Maribor (Slovenia)

World Cadet Challenge/World Junior Circuit final, October 2006 in Vrsac (Serbia)

World Junior TT Championships, December 2006 in Cairo (Egypt)

Unfortunately I was absent from the meetings in December in Hongkong due to the clash with WJTTC in Cairo.

Finally I wish to thank the President and my colleagues in the Executive Committee to be supportive, the Continental Vice-Presidents and the Board of Director members to be cooperative and the staff members to be dedicated and helpful.

**Judit Faragó (Executive Vice-President)**

**February 2007**

# AFRICA

## Report to the AGM

*Translated from the French by Lilamani de Soysa*

## Document A8

With the encouragement of the President Adham Sharara, African table tennis continues to progress. This is the unanimous opinion of all the members of the African table tennis family, which is making enormous efforts each year to develop our favourite sport in all African countries.

In effect, a positive evaluation can be made of the last year in almost all the sectors of activity as shown below:

1) A 45th African country, Comoros, will be recommended to the AGM for admission to the ITTF as decided by the Executive Committee at its reunion in Hong Kong in December.

2) Once again, 100% of the 11 coaching courses proposed by the African Table Tennis Federation for 2006 were held in 10 different countries: Uganda, Algeria (2 out of which one was for national and international umpires), Zambia, Ivory Coast, Gambia, Tanzania, Madagascar, Tunisia, Zimbabwe and Burundi. 5 other courses also came under the World Cadet Challenge held in October 2006 in Serbia and 12 Olympic Solidarity courses were held in: Liberia, Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Congo DR, Burkina Faso, Comoros, Morocco, Malawi, Nigeria, Zambia and Namibia.

3) Furthermore, the Algerian Federation, organizers of the African Youth Championships in March, on proposal from the ATTF were the beneficiaries of 10 tables, 12 nets, 12 counting devices, 12 umpire tables, 200 surrounds and 2880 balls out of which  $\frac{3}{4}$  was distributed to the participating countries. The same quantity was sent to Congo Brazzaville in July and will be put to the same use at the African Championships in Brazzaville.

4) More equipment from the ITTF, on proposal from the ATTF, was offered to each of the 5 following associations: Gabon, Gambia, Lesotho, Liberia and Tunisia – 6 tables, 6 nets, 6 counting devices, 80 rackets and 1152 balls.

5) Regarding the Youth, the African Under 15 selection, active during August to October 2006, was composed of 4 players, Omar Asar (EGY), Mohamed Zaghoul (EGY), Komi Agbetoglo (TOG) and Adem Hmam (TUN) and 4 female players, Reem El Shoubary (EGY), Noha Yousri (EGY), Mojisola Suliat Ajibike (NGR) et Marwa Ridene (TUN). They were accompanied by two coaches, one from Egypt Mr. Ramy Gaser and one from Tunisia Mr. Elyes Sfar and one official of the ATTF, Mr. Khaled El-Salhy (VPE in charge of marketing) who deserves our thanks for the delicate role of coordinator that he has to play between the ITTF, the ATTF, the organizers of the event, the athletes and the team leaders and this at every stage, before, during and after, of any operation. This selection was able to go to China in August (2 players from Egypt) and in September to Romania (2 athletes from Tunisia) to participate in training camps as well as youth tournaments. In October, the entire selection accompanied by the Nigerian player Mojisola were able to attend the final phase of the World Cadet Challenge (unfortunately, the young Agbetoglo from Togo was unable to attend).

Congratulations to our cadet boys for the team bronze medal and to the Egyptian Omar Asar who went to the quarter-finals in the singles.

The 4 following athletes received financial support from the ITTF in 2006 of a sum of USD 4000: Asar and El Shoubary (EGY), Hmam and Ridane (TUN), support that is destined to cover their travel and hospitality costs during camps organized for their benefit by the ITTF. Special attention is also given by the ITTF to the player Agbetoglo (TOG).

Furthermore, Mr. Mikael Andersson believes that some young players could qualify for the Olympic Games in 2012, some young players under 20 like Théo Cogill (RSA), Stève Yogo (Congo R), Sarra Abdelaziz (EGY) and Reem El Shoubary (EGY).

As such, points 2 and 5 have cost the International Federation about 225.000 USD out of which 50.000 USD was dedicated for improving the level of African youth during the year 2006 (thank you Adham, Glenn and Mikael).

**6)** From their side, the juniors from Egypt and Tunisia as well as the girls from Algeria and the boys from Congo Brazzaville did very well in Cairo in December during the final phase of the junior circuit, organised jointly by the Egyptian Ministry of sports and the International Table Tennis Federation, under the leadership of Mr. Khaled El-Salhy, Executive Vice-President of the the ATTF and BOD member of the ITTF, as well as Chairman of the Calendar Working Group. Thank you Khaled and thank you Egypt (Ministry of sports and the national federation), for hosting after 67 years, for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time, a world championship (the first time was in 1939 for Veterans), but this time, 43 associations were present out of which 4 were African, and the participation of 96 boys and 97 girls.

**7)** Once again concerning the youth, 15 countries with boys teams and 12 countries with girls teams participated in the World Junior Circuit in Algeria in March 2006 where Egypt won a silver medal in the boys doubles event.

**8)** Moreover, 51 boys and 45 girls from 11 African countries were present in Algiers in April for the 11 events of the African Youth Championships for under 18 (7) and under 15 (4) categories, dominated by Egypt who took 11 gold medals, 6 silver and 6 bronze. Tunisia took 3 silver and 5 bronze, Algeria 1 silver and 5 bronze, Congo DR 1 silver and 1 bronze, Congo R 4 bronze and South Africa 1 bronze. The 5 other participating countries were: Angola, Burundi, Ivory Coast, Mauritius Island and Morocco.

**9)** At international level and in Bremen in April/May 2006, Africa for the first time (80 years after the creation of the ITTF) was honored, following the election of Mr. George Segun (NGR) to the post of Deputy President. This was thanks to the remarkable efforts made by 95% of Africans during two years and above all thanks to the understanding and support of several friends of Africa from other Continents (Congratulations George).

**10)** Here I would like to point out the presence in Bremen of:

**a)** 35 African countries at the General Assembly of the ITTF: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Congo R, Ivory Coast, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Mauritius Islands, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda and by proxy, Botswana, Gambia, Guinee, Libya, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

**b)** men players from Egypt, Nigeria, South Africa, Cameroon, Madagascar, Togo, Namibia, Congo DR, Sierra Leone and Uganda and women players from Nigeria, Egypt, Madagascar, Uganda, South Africa and Togo were present in Bremen at the WTTC, to be noted that our best teams were ranked during these championships - 30th position for the men (Egypt) and 41st for the women (Nigeria).

**c)** 5 umpires were chosen by the organisers and the URC of the ITTF - Mohamed Bassiony (EGY), Miss Attignon Mawuloe (TOG), Mugwanya Ronald (UGA), Issaacs Mohamed et Patterson Andrew (RSA). Congratulations for a job well done.

**11)** Also in Bremen, the African Associations present were rewarded with a lot of equipment offered to them by Butterfly - 480 rackets for beginners, 120 rackets for elite players and 6912 balls (Thank you Butterfly).

**12)** On the international sphere once again, at the World Cup events, Africa was represented by Bacent Osman (EGY) in Urumqi in September and Lashine El Sayed (EGY) in Paris in October.

**13)** Furthermore, it would not be correct not to emphasize at this point, the best ranked African athletes on the world ranking (December 2006) who are :

- Toriola Segun (NGR) Men	= n° 119
- Oshonaike Funke (NGR) Women	= n° 260
- Ajetunnobi Segun (NGR) Under 21 boys	= n° 116
- Offiong Cecilia (NGR) Under 21 girls	= n° 183
- El Belali Mohamed (EGY) Under 18 boys	= n° 70
- Abdelaziz Sarra (EGY) Under 18 girls	= n° 108

Congratulations to all!

**14)** Concerning the women, Africa is honoured to acknowledge the presence of about 20 pioneers in different countries, their representation passing the 25% mark in 2007, together with the organisation of the 1st African women's forum to be held in Brazzaville in February 2007 and the organisation of the African Games in Algeria in July will surely confirm their presence (it is therefore a success so congratulations in order for Judit, Claude and Lila).

**15)** Concerning the formation of African coaches, after the discovery 6 years ago of the Egyptian Ahmed Dawlatly, we have now discovered others like the Togolese Kaka Lawson and the Cameroonian Batix Manasse who conducted several courses for the ITTF in 2006 in Africa. We are now awaiting the new female expert from Algeria Ms Kerima Telaa to take on the training of women coaches. Let me also point out that in 2006 31 African countries have received 792 ITTF manuals (Thank you Glenn).

**16)** Concerning African umpires, considerable progress can be noted with the passing out of 304 international umpires in 2006 belonging to 14 countries (115 from Egypt only) and 10 international referees. In the lot were 7 new female international umpires, they seem to be doing well. The quality of umpiring will come with experience as proved by the umpires Gamel Abdelnaceur (EGY) and Ronald Mugwanya (UGA) as well as the female umpire Emna Aissaoui (EGY). All three are blue badge umpires (congratulations to the umpires and to Cindy Leung who keeps a close eye on them).

**17)** Our zones are also active because 4 of them have communicated the results of the competitions organised in 2006. They were zone no. 1 (Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia), zone no. 2 (Ivory Coast, Gambia, Guinea, Mauritania, Sénégal and Sierra Leone), zone n° 3 (Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria and Togo) and zone n° 4 (Burundi, Cameroon, Central Africa, Congo, Congo DR, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and Rwanda) ; the other zones n° 6 (South Africa, Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe) and n° 7 (Djibouti, Madagascar, Mauritius Islands and the Seychelles) have planned their competitions for 2007 where as zone 5 (Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Somalia, Sudan and Tanzania) will present their programme at a later date.

**18)** Nevertheless, the most important event marking the history of table tennis was in zone 6 where the President of the Republic of Angola inaugurated the new table tennis hall of the national federation, on 17 Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup> September (it is a pity that the ATTF received the invitation so late).

**19)** At a regional level, it was Egypt who once again dominated the Arab Championships in 2006, winning 5 gold medals and 1 silver, leaving the 6th gold medal as well as 2 silver medals to Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco. Djibouti participated in the event for the first time.

Sur le plan régional, l'Égypte a encore une fois, dominé le Championnat Arabe de 2006 avec 5 médailles en Or et 1 en Argent, laissant la 6<sup>ème</sup> en Or ainsi que 2 en Argent, à la Tunisie ; l'Algérie, le Maroc et le Djibouti (pour la 1<sup>ère</sup> fois) y étaient présents.

**20)** At local level, at least 35 countries (out of the 45 affiliated) are relatively active at national level if you refer to certain articles that have appeared in the ITTF Table Tennis Illustrated.

**21)** At the social level, Africa has received financial support from the Solidarity fund for a specific project in Uganda called the « Mbale Tigers », for the sum of 7750 USD, or in other words over 25% of the total annual sum allocated to the 6 Continents (thank you Mr. Yang Shuan).

**22)** Concerning representation, Africa is well represented in several structures of the ITTF – Executive Committee, Executive Council and Board of Directors by our illustrious colleagues such as George Segun and Olabanji Oladapo (NGR), Jane Pinto (KEN), Berthe Bakary (CIV), Khaled El Salhy (EGY), Philippe Hao Thyn Voon (MRI), Ganief Fataar (RSA), Henri Djombo (CGO) and myself (TUN); Africa is represented in the committees of the ITTF - Khaled El Salhy is President of the Calendar Working Group. (Congratulations to Olabanji, Jane, Berthe, Khaled, Philippe Ganief and Henri).

**23)** Finally, in my capacity as President of the African TTA and Continental Vice-President of the ITTF, I feel that the most important missions that I had to accomplish was my meeting with the President of the Association of African Olympic Committees in April in Paris, my participation in the meetings of the ITTF in Bremen in April/May and in Hong Kong in December and the reunion of the Superior Council of Sport in Africa in Algiers in November for discussions about the African Games to be held in Algeria in July 2007 (the results of this meeting is important for the Olympic Games in 2008). I was also present at the African Youth championships held in Algeria in March, the University Games held in Rabat (MOR) in July and the Men's World Cup held in Paris in October.

\*Before I end I would like to sincerely thank President Sharara, all the members of the Executive Committee (George Segun, Neil Harwood, Yang Shuan, Judit Faragó, Koji Kimura and Claude Bergeret) and the staff of the ITTF ( Jordi Serra, Lilamani de Soysa, Habiba Besic, Etsuko Enami, Glenn Tepper, Violet le Blanc, Mikael Andersson, Christian Veronese, Anders Thunström et Mohamed El-Shentanawy) as well as all my colleagues of the Executive Council of the ATTF, of the Council and the special committees of the ITTF and the ATTF, the national sports federations, without forgetting all the Presidents of the Continental Unions, Regional Unions and the Linguistic Unions (in particular Berthe Bakhary), all the manufacturers (through the ITTF or through friends) who directly or indirectly support the African associations as well as the new sponsors of the Youth competitions in Africa – Egysport.

\*My thanks also to the Tunisian Minister of Youth, Sport and Physical Education, the President of the Tunisian NOC and all their collaborators, for their support to table tennis in Africa as well as my colleagues at the Tunisian TTA, led by my friend Larbi Guiga.

\*Finally, my thanks are also addressed to two great presidents of national federations, friends of Africa for over 35 years : Mr Xu Yinsheng, President of the Chinese Table Tennis Association and Mr. Gerard Velten, President of the French Table Tennis Association.

**Chérif Hajem (Continental Vice-President – Africa)  
February 2007**

# ASIA

## Report to the AGM

## Document A9

At the end of 2006, I am glad to present the delightful 2006 to everyone of the table tennis world, so that you will share the satisfaction and sense of achievement Asia has enjoyed.

Under our mutual effort, the past 2006 has been a fruitful year to ATTU and our member associations respectively.

### Dominance in World Title Competitions

#### ✧ **World Championships**

From April 24th to May 1st, the 48th Team Table Tennis World Championships in Bremen was staged successfully. The Asian Players won the world's acclamation by their dominance in the game. All the titles were swept down by Asian boys and girls.

#### ✧ **Men's World Cup**

Paris welcomed top-level male table tennis players in October by holding the 2006 Men's World Cup. The excellent performance of Chinese Player Ma Lin helped him win the event for the third time.

#### ✧ **Women's World Cup in China**

The Women's World Cup of 2006 had been held as planned from Sep. 29<sup>th</sup> to Oct.10<sup>th</sup> in Urumqi, Xinjiang Autonomous Region of China. It has become a milestone in ITTF's History, for the fact that women players were given equal prize money as men for the first time.

### ITTF Events

#### ✧ **ITTF Junior Circuit**

This year, it attracts more than 200 junior players from 16 associations. The statistic demonstrated that the Taiyuan International Junior Circuit has now become and has been acknowledged as a major ITTF junior event after its four-year effort in constancy. One thing worth mentioning is that, many young players coming from developing countries who are not able to participate in most international junior events took part in the competition.

#### ✧ **ITTF Pro-Tours & Pro- Tour Finals**

In conjunction with Hong Kong Table Tennis Association's celebration of its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Pro-Tour Final held in Hong Kong caught the world focus on Hong Kong, China. The four-day competition from Dec.14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> was absolutely heated thanks to the participation of all the elites of table tennis world. All the top 16 ranked players came to the eastern pearl to fight for the crown. After a series of fierce competition, Chinese players claimed kings based on their better performances.

#### ✧ **ITTF Tournament of Champions**

The ITTF Tournament of Champions is a new baby of the ITTF family. The event was held in Changsha, China from Dec.21<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>. ITTF upgraded the former "China VS World" into "ITTF Tournament of Champions" and acknowledge it as an ITTF major event.

### Asian Title Competitions

This year, three of the four ATTU titled events have been successfully accomplished.

#### ✧ **Asian Games**

Thanks to QTTA's diligent work, the table tennis competitions in Asian Games in Doha have just completed with applauses and satisfaction. My special gratitude goes to Qatar Association for their hard work and generous hospitality.

#### ✧ **Asian Cup**

2006 Asian was held in Kobe, Japan dated March 4th to 5th. Japan Table Tennis Association demonstrated its proficiency and competence to the Asian world again.

#### ✧ **Asian Junior Championships**

2006 Asian Junior Championships was held in Kitakyushu, Japan from July 25<sup>th</sup> to July 28<sup>th</sup>. The excellent organization of JTTA showed Japanese people's foresight in organizing juvenile events, which will have a great impact on the future of table tennis.

◇ **Asian Veteran Championships**

The only misfortune is the miscarriage of Asian Veteran Championships. KTTA has organized the event perfectly. But due to some unforeseen reasons, they have to cancel it in the last minute.

◇ **Asian Junior Training Camp**

As the preface of the Taiyuan International Circuit, the Asian Training Camp was able to be conducted with the ATTU Development Fund in Zhengding, China. More than a hundred Asian junior players joined in the training camp coached by top junior coaches in China. The 10-day training period enabled them to get a deeper knowledge about this sport.

◇ **Asian Cadet Team fought for Asia**

The Asian Cadet Team was summoned in late October. Under the management of Ms. Sachiko Yokota and Mr. Afshin Badiiee, the team fought bravely for Asia from October 23<sup>rd</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> in Vrsac, Serbia. Though we did not achieve impressive results, the purpose of working together as a team was certainly achieved, and it will bring close friendship to all the participants from different regions of Asia.

## **ITTF & ATTU Meetings**

◇ **ATTU EB Meeting**

ATTU held its Executive Board meeting in Beijing on April 10<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2006. Important issues were discussed and problems were solved at the meeting.

◇ **ATTU Council Meeting**

Members of ATTU Council were gathered together in Bremen, Germany shortly before the World Championship.

◇ **ITTF EC Meeting in Guangzhou**

During the 2006 Panasonic China Grand Prix, September 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>, 2006, the members of ITTF Board were able to gather together and therefore held a brief meeting.

◇ **ITTF EC & EB Meeting**

ITTF EC & EC+ Meetings were conducted during Dec.17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> at the occasion of the Hong Kong Pro-Tour Finals.

The past year is a fruitful one, and thanks to those who had helped, we are able to come through the year pleasantly and successfully. And, I sincerely believe that the coming 2007 will be a busy but splendid one. All the ATTU Associations will work hard and prepare for the 2008 Olympics hold in our backyard.

**Choo Wee Kiang (Continental Vice-President – Asia)**  
**February 2007**

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 Bremen (GER) and I took part in the ECB meeting, which was held in Hong Kong (HKG) in December 2006.

3. **ETTU Meetings**

Since Bremen the ETTU Executive Board met three times, during the European Youth Championships in Sarajevo (BIH), in St. Petersburg (RUS) and in Arezzo (ITA). We will meet again at the end of March during the European Championships in Belgrade (SRB). In all meetings held, the basic topical problems were discussed and solved in a good and friendly atmosphere. A new concept, regarding the organisation of the future European Nations League on a yearly basis, has been discussed thoroughly and will be put for voting to the Member Associations during our Congress to be held in Belgrade.

During the year 2006 I visited following Associations: Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Greece, Germany, Latvia, Montenegro, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Spain. Already now I am planning several visits for 2007.

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

The ETTU considers the close co-operation with the ITTF as one of the most important principles in its work. Many deciding matters can be solved only on the world level and the ETTU is ready to strengthen its initiatives to reach the best possible results in favour of world table tennis. I am tremendously happy to have been able to sign the continuing of the TV agreement with TMS up to the year 2010, which ensures that table tennis is broadcast throughout Europe.

The development of table tennis in Europe runs smoothly. Like during the last year, the different projects, such as Eurokids and Eurotalents, were organised with more and more interest each time. For the time being we are thinking of introducing new projects into the development area. Also during the year 2006 we were able to help some of our member Associations with the equipment Assistance 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 the ITTF, and I really want to thank them for their financial support.

5. **Competitions**

Since the AGM in Bremen one major competition has been organised in Europe, the European Youth Championships in Sarajevo (BIH). Despite some small problems, these Championships had been organised in a very professional way. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Association of Bosnia Herzegovina.

Now in February the Italian Association is hosting the Europe TOP-12, the Latvian Association has hosted the Europe Junior TOP-12 in the end of January 2007. The recently introduced Champions League for Women was well appreciated by all engaged clubs. All Club competitions are running smoothly for the moment and will end only just before the Zagreb Championships.

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

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

**Stefano Bosi (Continental Vice-President – Europe)**  
**February 2007**

# **NORTH AMERICA**

## **Report to the AGM**

## **Document A11**

In North America we still must break through a major barrier posed by the emphasis placed on almost exclusively publicizing the major professional North American sports. What is more, funding agencies in Canada and the United States have taken to emphasizing targeted funding for elite athletes – typically, this means demonstrated podium potential. As a result, table tennis athletes face severe competition for available high performance monies in North America.

The challenge then is to promote development as well as raise the level of our athletes on the international scene. Given the changes in funding regimens, we need to be even more creative in the way that we present and market our sport. It is only through increased exposure and participation that we can hope to attract the funds that will permit the achievement of both goals.

A number of significant NATTU projects took place in 2006:

- 10 Junior Girls and four coaches participated in the NATTU Junior Girls Camp in Montreal, Canada in April 2006.
- 12 Junior Boys and Girls took part in the ITTF Junior High Performance camp preceding the 2006 STAG Canadian Junior Open – World Junior Circuit.
- 8 Junior athletes, 2 coaches and a team manager participated in the 10-day ITTF High Performance Camp linked to the Taiyuan Junior Open in Zhending, China.
- Prior to the World Cadet Challenge, Team North America trained in Serbia.
- A Junior Girls training camp including 8 junior girls and 3 coaches took place in Richmond, BC from October 30, 2006 to November 3, 2006.

In Canada, the Canada Cup series was strengthened by the presence of the Cuban Men's and Women's teams; discussions are underway to expand the series across the continent.

A major focus this year will be the Pan American Games in Brazil in July followed by the Para Panam Games in August. These Games provide a superb lead in to the qualification process that will begin early in 2008 for the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Beijing.

On the competition side there are two significant events in North America in 2007– the Canadian Junior Open in Montreal (April) and the World Junior Championships in Palo Alto (December). The Junior Circuit event is one that we hope will build upon the successes of the past ventures in Western Canada; the Worlds will surely be a showcase event at Stanford University and it is here that North American spectators can witness first hand the tremendous advancements that have occurred at the Junior levels.

Respectfully submitted

**Bruce Burton (Continental Vice-President – North America)**  
**February 2007**

# LATIN AMERICA

## Report to the AGM

## Document A12

### TOWARDS A BETTER FUTURE

As it was made known during our last AGM in Bremen, the Latin American Union of Table Tennis changed in March 2006 its directional structure, after twelve years of productive work and excellent performance our good friend Miguel Angel Delgado who left the Presidency and relocated himself in a new position of TMS International for Latin America. Miguel Angel and his working team have set up the basis for what our Continent has become throughout those years within the magnificent world of our beloved sport. Its is now the turn of the ones who replace him to continue with those efforts, supporting every moment within the development and expansion politics that have been suggested by Mr. President Sharara, his Executive Committee and the Directors in charge of all the Programs, all of it has been directing us to harmoniously pursue this process of change that all Table Tennis is having before the world with the leadership of our President.

Our first measure after receiving the LATTU administration was to revise its operative structure, precisely to respond more efficiently to all our member countries, the requirements of different activities, be these competitions or participations, courses, Training Camps, setting up events and the rest. The applied change is giving us excellent results by the creation of 6 Operating Directions, that, how it was pointed out takes care of all the demands of Development and Participation of our member countries, leaving behind the centralization of the most amount of activities which were handled before by only one person. These 6 Directions are the following: The **Development Direction**, managed with excellence by our friend Lic. Evelio Alvarez, who has been developing mainly the Development Program that includes the ITTF-LATTU Understanding of Agreement for 2006-2008, that is administered with excellent results by our good friend Glenn Tepper; the **Technical Direction**, conducted very successfully by Lic. Carlos Esnard Bolaños, who has assumed his role with great responsibility and who is also playing an effective role in the direction of all our official events, Training Camps, elaborating and revising all the organizational prospectus related to Technical topics; **The Umpires and Rules Direction**, also conducted with excellent results by our friend Ing. Fernando Aguilar, who is directly in charge of the Umpire Courses and preparation so that our national umpires could take the Exam to become ITTF International Umpires, and who in a short time increased the number of ITTF International Umpires within our countries. **The Communication Direction**, operated very well by our Journalist and Communicator Lic. Martha Amor, who through her articles and newsletters to the Table Tennis world has informed us all of what is going on in Latin America; the **Direction of Information technology and Statistics**, where our friend in charge is Professor Juan Nilo Castillo, a man of great experience in this field who has prepared very interesting works where he clearly shows the advances that our Continent has been making in recent years regarding international Participation, in particular our performance in International Competitions; and finally the **Marketing Direction and Human Resources**, conducted by our well known International Coach and a specialized man on these topics, Lic. Frank Camargo, who have been involved in complicated themes such as Sport Marketing in our countries and our relationship with T.V., and who has been preparing a very interesting project to join the efforts of TMS International Latin America. All of them have developed in this period an excellent work combining the features of all tha is demanded at this moment, for the development of Table Tennis in all the Continents.

In a very special manner we wish to refer to the ITTF-LATTU Understanding Agreement 2006-2008 through which economic resources have been assigned, that we deserve as a Continent to strengthen our developmental process. Although their scope at this moment is very important, we believe that in the year 2008 the new Agreement could be improved directing some of their activities that will improve even more the objectives being reached. Of course, this process should have a dialogue and discussion with the Program Director to study if it is convenient or not. At this moment, the objectives have been reached, operated by our friend Evelio Alvarez with great success, which show us some important values pointed out as follows:

- \* 521 ITTF Manuals in Spanish for Trainers Level I were distributed and 45 Manuals in English.
- \* 11 visits were carried out to our countries by the Development Director to teach our trainers ITTF Courses, level I. The countries visited were: COL. (3), PAR, NIC, MEX, CRC, ESA, GUA, ECU (2).
- \* The Director of Umpires and Rules gave 6 courses to form ITTF Umpires in the following countries: HON, ESA, GUA, JAM, ECU, CRC, thus graduating a total of 39 umpires out of the 98 who took the exam.
- \* A course for Women was carried out very successfully and with a large participation in Costa Rica.
- \* 5 courses for Trainers were organised under the sponsorship of the International Olympic Solidarity Program. These Courses were given in PAR, NIC, TRT, DOM and VEN.
- \* 4 Training Camps were held with the participation of very well known ITTF Experts. These Camps were directed particularly for our Cadets and Junior athletes and took place in ESA, CHI, ARG and BARCELONA.
- \* Two new International Training Centers were created (CIAR) one in Dominican Republic and the other in Venezuela. CIAR started to operate in Dominican Republic with the participation of 30 players, Pre-Cadets and Cadets coming from HON (4) ESA (3) PRC (2) SVC (2) DOM (19).

The CIAR in Venezuela will start its operations during the month of March 2007.

- \* Equipment was distributed composed of tables, rackets, nets, balls, separators to ten countries of our Continent: ARU, BRA, CHI, CRC, JAM, NIC, PAN, PAR, PRC, SVC.

In Summary this Development Program is having an important success in the development process of Table Tennis in our Countries, and with no doubt its implementation should continue to particularly favor our minor categories. Our very special gratitude to our friend Glenn Tepper for setting up this Program.

On a special section of this Report we wish to refer to the **ITTF Global Junior Program** conducted very successfully by our friend Mikael Andersson and that is bringing great opportunities for our countries. We should mention that thanks to this Program and with the support of Olympic Solidarity the opportunity has been given to receive scholarships for our young athletes which have permitted them to attend Training Centers in other Continents and intensively play, participating in many international events. During this period, the total of athletes favored have been nine (9) from the following countries:

BRA (2); CHI (2); CUB; ESA; DOM; COL; and PAR.

By decision of this Program in the year 2006 were carried out two (2) events concerning the Junior World Circuit, one of them carried out in Chile and the other in El Salvador. Both events have been an organizational success, getting better each time than previous editions, proving that the countries of the most developing Continents are now closer and participate with their Junior athletes. This year 2007, there will not be two (2) but four (4) events of the Junior World Circuit which will take place in Latin-America: Once again in Chile and El Salvador another in Venezuela and the fourth in the city of Cuenca, Ecuador. This step without any doubt is showing the enthusiasm with which our Continent considers the fulfillment of these events each time of a higher technical level and of a great organization.

Each time the T.V. continues getting closer to us, which helps to increase the popularity we want for our sport.

We should mentioned and should point out the two (2) events of Pro-tour, celebrated in Brazil and Chile that once again have been celebrated very successfully each time with greater participation of well-known world athletes of our sport. With great satisfaction we should inform you that in the year 2006, the Calendar of our official activities was accomplished 100%, which once again shows the Commitment of our leaders, Trainers and athletes to reach the foreseen goals.

- \* Major Latin American Championship held in Medellín, Colombia.
- \* At the same time as the previous event and in the same place the II Latin American Veterans Championships.
- \* The Junior Latin American Championship and U-21 celebrated in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- \* The Tournament of the Best 16 Cadets of Latin America also carried out in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- \* The Latin American Championship Pre-Cadet and Cadet carried out in Asunción, Paraguay.

- \* The participation of our countries in the XX Central American and Caribbean Games
- \* The participation at the Games ODESUR, also carried out in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- \* The participation of the VIII Central American Sports Games carried out in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

Likewise, we would like to inform with great satisfaction that the three regions into which our Continent is divided, South America, the Caribbean and Central America, have also accomplished 100% also their own official events, which without any doubt is something very relevant since it represents a big effort of all our countries to fulfill their participation engagements.

We wish to express our special gratitude to the Editor of the magazine Table Tennis Illustrated, Mr. Ian Marshall, who by his articles is promoting our athletes and their trainers as well as our habits has put Latin America in a very special place. Thank you for your support.

Finally, we wish to express our acknowledgment to all the Latin American Sport leaders for their work and commitment to our projects, to our trainers and athletes for their efforts of succeed, but in particular to Mr. **President Adham Sharara and his Executive Committee** for their permanent support to our Continent, to the Directors Mikael Andersson and Glenn Tepper for their understanding of our restrictions and for your ample vision towards our most urgent necessities; to the International Competition, Manager Mr. Raúl Calín, for his assistance at all times in our most important events, as well as to all the friends in the LATTU Executive Committee and the rest of the co-workers for their impartial feeling of union and fight to elevate our technical levels and cooperation between our members.

The challenge is greater every day towards a better future. Thanks to all!

Visit our WEB site: [www.ultm.org](http://www.ultm.org)

**Melecio Rivera (Continental Vice-President – Latin America)**  
**March 2007**

# OCEANIA

## Report to the AGM

## Document A13

The year 2006 was noticeable for the adoption of a new constitution, the nomination of a new development officer the election of a new management committee and the good results during the WJC in Cairo.

### 1. Development

This is the leading activity of the OTTF thanks to the dynamism, professionalism and great competence of Steve Dainton, our development manager who accepted to take this position in addition to his job at the ITTF office in Shanghai and is still a first-class adviser to the President. A big thank-you to Steve who is entitled to recognition from the table tennis world in Oceania and especially from its President.

The nomination of Andrew Hubbard as new development officer in October has given our development program a new direction and we wish him equal success as his predecessors Steve and Glenn.

Thanks to a record amount of training financed by the Olympic Solidarity Fund and financial support from the ITTF and ONOC, no fewer than 14 training courses and logistical support were given by Steve, Andrew and well-qualified coaches in the following countries; Samoa 2x (Steve Dainton), American Samoa (Steve Dainton), FSM (Surendra Suwal), Palau (Surendra Suwal), Vanuatu (Phil Males), Vanuatu (Surendra Suwal), Cook Islands (James Morris), Australia OTTF (Emmanuel Christianson & Glenn Tepper), Australia (Costantini Massimo), Kiribati (Andrew Hubbard), Papua New Guinea (Andrew Hubbard), Fiji (Andrew Hubbard), Tahiti (Shane Laugesen)

2 women courses: Vanuatu (Andrew Hubbard), New Caledonia (Anolyn Lulu)

1 umpire course: Samoa (Dave Delpratt)

### 2. Competitions in Oceania

**World Junior Circuit in Geelong:** the Oceanic leg of the Junior World Circuit was held in Geelong in Australia. This was an unprecedented participation success with 14 countries from 3 continents.

It was another opportunity for the players from Oceania to face the best junior players from Japan, Korea Republic, India, Hong Kong, Sweden and Croatia. The international training camp preceding the competition was conducted by head coach Emmanuel Christiannson assisted by Glenn Tepper. Thirteen nations and over one hundred players attended the camp.

**Qualification tournament for the World Cadet Challenge in Geelong:** This competition was organised by the Australia TTA under the authority of OTTF and led to the qualification of boys and girls players from New Caledonia, Tahiti, Vanuatu, New Zealand and Australia who will play for Oceania in Vrsac (Serbia).

**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 Cairo (Egypt).

**The open National Championships:** This is one of the big satisfactions with the increasing number of countries (6) that have opened their championships to the others of Oceania. This initiative should become widespread in 2007.

### 3. International Competitions

**The World Cadet Challenge in Vrsac:** Managed by Alan Pedley NZL and assisted by Andrew Hubbard and Karen Li NZL, the team from Oceania showed real progress at this level; even finishing 8<sup>th</sup>, the Boys had a short defeat against Latin America and the girls have got their first ever victory verses North America; unfortunately they lost the second match against N. America for the 7<sup>th</sup> position.

In the single events Jenny Hung (19<sup>th</sup> place NZL)- and David Powell (22<sup>nd</sup> place AUS) were the best players

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

**The World Junior Championships in Cairo:** Australia finished 10<sup>th</sup> amongst the boys with the best ever ranking and New Zealand 13<sup>th</sup> amongst the girls against competition which was extremely fierce. Kyle Davis reached 1/8<sup>th</sup> final that is an excellent result, losing only versus the future finalist XU Ke (CHN).

#### **4. The members**

The Federation comprises 19 members who have become more and more active in 2006 along with the stable administrative structure and convincing sporting results.

#### **5. The Management Committee**

Neil Harwood has been confirmed on the ITTF Executive Committee in the post of Vice-President for Finance and was, with the deputy president David Jackson, good advisers for the president

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

**The women:** Anolyn Lulu has taken responsibility for the working group for the promotion of women. She took part in the women's course organised in Vanuatu and conducted those in New Caledonia

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

**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:** David Jackson manages the Oceania ranking with skill and professionalism

**Calendar:** Ron Garrett has published the first official Oceania Calendar that has to become a reference for our countries to organize an Oceania agreed competition.

**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 Oceania 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 Junior Championships in New Zealand in 2008 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](http://www.ottf.org)

**Umpires and Referees Committee:** As chairperson of the committee Fran Keyhoe is in charge of creating a group of IU's who is available to conduct umpire courses in Oceania, to set up an umpire referent in each country, to know the needs of each country and then to select the courses that have to be conducted each year.

The umpire & referee committee has to select the persons who have to conduct the courses.

**Veterans Committee:** Ron Garret is taking action to associate more actively the veterans in the development of our discipline in Oceania.

**Disabled Working Group:** Arthur Wilks has begun to work for recognition and integration of the disabled in Oceania.

#### **6. Meetings**

**Meetings of the ITTF:** As a member of the BOD and as Continental Vice-President, I attended the meetings of the BOD, the Olympic commission and of the EC+ in Bremen as well as the EC+ and the Olympic commission in Hong Kong.

David Jackson and Graeme Ireland were present at the BOD in Bremen.

Members elected in the different structures of the ITTF attended the following meetings in Bremen: Graeme Ireland (Technical Committee), Ron Keyhoe (Equipment Committee), Phil Males (Rules Committee), Karen Li (Athletes Commission), Averil Roberts (Veterans

Working Group), David Jackson (Ranking committee), Patrick Gillmann (Junior commission in Bremen), Ron Garrett (Junior commission in Cairo).

**Meetings of the OTTF:** One meeting took place in Bremen and the BGM in Geelong.

## **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 advise, the members of the OTTF for their active participation, Andrew Hubbard the new DO, 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)**  
**February 2007**

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Report to the AGM

## Document A14

### 1. 2006, a year of progress and stability

2006 will be remembered in ITTF History as a year of progress and stability within our structure. If we take as a reference our 4P strategic plan we should agree that during 2006 the ITTF has increased its popularity, participation, profit and all of this through a good planning system. As the ITTF President was saying in his Year-end message: « *The ITTF may have experienced the most active year in its History in 2006* »

In terms of popularity we had record-breaking TV audiences for our main events (World Championships in Bremen (Germany), and Men's World Cup in Paris (France) and Women's World Cup in Urumqi (China)). New events as the match China vs. World All Stars held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in September and the ITTF Tournament of Champions held in Changsha, China, in December, revealed to be creative formulas to attract new audiences to our sport.

In terms of participation the progress is obvious if we mention the record number of courses (over 100) delivered in all Continents through our Development Programme and the Olympic Solidarity Programme and also the huge participation experienced in the ITTF ProTour events forcing us to establish entry limits for these events. We also had very good entries at both our World Championships in Bremen (Team) and in Cairo (Juniors).

Regarding profit TMS International has generated in 2006 the highest ever marketing and TV income for the ITTF.

Finally, from the planning point of view, the ITTF Development Plan, the Women's Development Plan and the Global Youth Programme are now 3 strong and useful tools to guarantee the progress of our sport.

### 2. Communication

During the year 2006 we have come to the updated editing of the *Handbook 2006-2007*, the *Rules Booklet 2006-2007*, and already within the year 2007, we published our Yearbook "*Review 2006/Preview 2007*" a compendium of the competitions held in 2006 and the anticipated ones for 2007 and a summary of the Development Program activity from 1999 to 2005.

*Table Tennis Illustrated* our official Magazine fully designed by Mr. Ian Marshall, has seen in 2006, as usual, 6 new issues, all printed in Shanghai, China, and distributed from our offices there.

The *ITTF News* appeared only till February 2006 and since then we started a monthly e-bulletin with the objective to arrive to a bigger audience and to increase the number of issues per year. The e-bulletin distribution will be sooner effective again when the new Media Coordinator will be hired.

We have also helped on the edition of *the Table Tennis Fascination III*, collector's edition, magazine containing excellent photos from 2004-2005 World Championships, Athens Olympic Games and 2003, 2004 and 2005 Pro-tour Grand Finals.

The ITTF web site continued to improve and increased considerably the number of visits being consolidated as our most powerful communication tool thanks to the efficient work of our IT Manager, Mr. Mohamed El-Shentenawy. The ITTF web site in Chinese version was opened in December 2005 and already in 2007 a redesigned web site was launched with new services included as, per instance, the iTV allowing to watch major table tennis events with TV quality production on 3 different channels.

### Staff

Mrs. Etsuko Enami come back to Lausanne as Operations Manager, splitting her yearly working time between her home office in Japan (4 months) and the ITTF office in Switzerland (8 months).

Mr. Svend Frandsen, former Media Manager of FIS (International Skiing Federation) worked for us as a Media Manager, from January to July 2006. A new structure on the Communication Area was designed when he left the ITTF and since January 2007, Mr. Hubert Gueriau is the Media Event Manager (for World events) and a new Media Coordinator position has been opened.

Mr. Karl Jindrak started working for ITTF as a Competition Manager 50% for ITTF and 50% as TMS Marketing representative for Europe.

On the internship programme Mrs. Zhang Qian (Jeanne) (CHN) finished her stay in the ITTF offices on September 2006.

### **International relations**

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

Thank you very much to all of you for your continued support, for your permanent advice and assistance and for your confidence.

**Jordi Serra (Executive Director)**  
**March 2007**

# EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE

## Report to the AGM

## Document A15

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

Balls	72	(last year	69)
Tables	75	( " "	66)
Sport floors	4	( " "	4)
Nets	46	( " "	44)
Glues	71	( " "	70)
Coverings	1011	( " "	950)

### **Balls**

The random ball tests are running smoothly. The improvements with the 40mm ball have been reached. Still, we make efforts for further progress. Here we are cooperating very closely with players and manufacturers.

### **Nets**

We have re-tested the net assemblies, which were approved 10 years ago, which is our usual practice. The re-test concerned 16 brands. Since some of the brands have two different colours, the total number of the net assemblies that were re-tested was 23. Generally, all the net assemblies for the re-test are good. But our Technical Leaflet was revised in 2005. Those which could not pass the test, mostly failed the test in the new criteria.

### **Glues**

At the end of 2006 there were 71 authorised glues, most of them based on volatile organic compounds (VOC), which shall be withdrawn by the 1. September 2008.

Seven suppliers applied for authorising new glues under the new regulations of the Technical Leaflet T4B (Edition from 1. January 2006), without any VOC's with a vapour pressure equal to or above 0,3 mbars, but only four got the authorisation. Approximately 150 mails have been received during 2006 regarding glues from different manufacturers, associations and table tennis fans; all of them were duly answered.

### **Tables**

We added to the website Technical Leaflets, FAQ , and instructions on how to get equipment approved. For show tables some additional criteria have been introduced in order to keep the players' confidence. All tables, new or slightly changed, must now be, prior to their use, inspected by the EQC's specialist. The announcement of such changes or new tables must be done at least 75 days in advance to Paul Schiltz. Tables type II can no more be approved for wheelchair play, if there is no mechanism to assure its stability.

### **Sports floors**

The EQC discusses the need and way of approving permanent floors as suitable for table tennis. The EQC wishes to remind all that the presently approved floor mats are not suitable to be laid down directly on concrete, tiles or similar material. The approval only is given for their use over an existing sports floor.

### **Coverings**

The number of new coverings is still increasing. In relation to the agreement in Bremen we are continuing the measuring of friction for pimples-out rubbers. We have some delays in the receiving of samples.

### **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 continues to be a great pleasure for us.

**Odd Gustavsen (Chairman, Equipment Committee)**

**February 2007**

# MEDIA COMMITTEE

## Report to the AGM

## Document A16

The Olympic Games in Beijing in 2008 will give table tennis remarkable possibilities for more exposure and coverage in the media, and if we are ready to use the interest from all the media we will be able to boost the interest for our sport around the world.

We will get more attention from the media than we have ever received before during the Olympic Games 2008.

We must be prepared to play an active role in the cooperation with the media. The media committee are ready to arrange media courses all over the world to train people in cooperation with the media and give advice on how to increase the cooperation with the media.

We are looking forward to the co-operation with continents and associations, so we can serve the media every day in the year in a professional way.

Our events have been more successful in the last years.

### World championships in Bremen

#### Accreditations

Accreditations TV	230
TV stations	27
Hours on TV	330
Cameras	13
Table 1: 8 cameras, table 2: 5 cameras	

#### Press

Accredited journalists	227
German	97
Foreign	130
Chinese	47
Japanese	12
Austrian	8

Press	195
Radio	23
Photographers	60
Internet	22

#### Press centre

Offices	3
Desks	110
Telephones	12
Fax machines	4
Internet wireless for all	
Electric plugs	100
Computers	12
Printers	4
Copy machines	2
TV screens	2
Safe deposit boxes	15

#### Press tribune

Seats	201
With desks	120
Without desks	81
TV cabins 6 a two seats	
Electric plugs	150

Internet lines 150

Press conference room  
Seats 100

#### Photographers

They criticized two points. The main one was the limited access to the centre court restricted by the tournament director and TMS. To find a solution, which would be good for everybody, TV, spectators and photographers, will be difficult.

#### Press tribune

The ITTF and the organiser had very good co-operation regarding accreditation.

The result system was fast and we have not heard any complaints about results. Results service in a team event is a very heavy task, but it worked very well. Live scores from all matches in champions division were provided.

In the beginning there were problems with space and the unstable barriers in the mixed zone.

The podium for the press was not high enough and should have been steeper. Due to the TV people and the photographers, it was very difficult to watch the matches. 500 representatives from 26 countries got a media accreditation. It is a heavy task to serve all these people. We must not underestimate the work that had to be done. In Bremen, Simone Hinz and Manfred Schillings did a very good job with their helpers.

In Bremen we had as usual offered three scholarships to young journalists: Brit Therkildsen, from Denmark, Lubos Bogdany, Slovakia and Harald Hanemaijer, Netherlands were the winners. The one chosen from New Zealand could not participate. All three worked a lot and made a lot of stories from Bremen to their newspapers and news agency.

*The AIPS appreciate our scholarships and at least one other association has copied our offer.*

#### Table Tennis Illustrated

The aim is to change the Table Tennis Illustrated to be more a magazine with background stories and use the website for all the news, and to enlarge the number of subscribers. In Bremen the Media Committee agreed to recommend that.

Extensive competition reports aren't needed as the delay in distribution makes the stories outdated – therefore a short round-up would be sufficient. It is important not to write about WHAT happened but instead WHY it happened – this is the best way to fulfil the potential of the publication. The magazine is not a news magazine (news is for the website) but a publication featuring what goes in the background of the sport.

Theme series will be highly welcomed.

We need more contributors to get different angles in the different stories.

We need to make more promotion for the magazine on our own website – there must be small teasers from various articles – present an option to subscribe for potential readers) – campaign for subscribers

#### Media Minimum requirements

The Media Minimum Requirements for ITTF events have been renewed in cooperation with the AIPS. In the future we will cooperate with AIPS to develop accreditation, press kits and service in ITTF events

#### Awards

In many sports they elect and celebrate the best player, best umpire, and best fair play after a big event. We should do the same in our world championships and other big events. It will give exposure in the media. Entertainment for the spectators

We can give some awards not only gold silver and bronze, but also for some outstanding performances. More players, more associations will be awarded, and that will give us more exposure in the media.

We have proposed and it has been decided that on the final day we would give some awards to different participants in the event, who have made a special performance. The selection should be made of different parts – committees, players, coaches and other people involved in the championships. Possibilities for awards:

Team championships – best player (men and women)

Individual championships – most impressive player (men and women)

Biggest surprise

Most promising player

Best umpire

Best fighter

Fair play prize

There could be others

It will bring entertainment to the spectators, stories to the media, visibility for sponsors, and honour for the winners. – And will not cost a lot for the ITTF. We will try to start in Zagreb to have some new awards.

#### **New website**

The ITTF is going into a new era when launching a new website including net-TV and a new media section.

**Arne Madsen (Chairman, Media Committee)**

**February 2007**

# RANKING COMMITTEE

## Report to the AGM

## Document A17

During the period elapsed since my last report the Ranking Committee kept on preparing the various rankings they have to produce.

- **Senior Individual Rankings**

The Senior Rankings were issued at the usual frequency, i.e. one ranking generally in the first days of each month.

Due to a technical problem, our computer programme being not able to deal with negative values, we had to add a fixed number of points to the ranking points of all players. Various values were put forward (1000, 3000, 5000, 10000) and finally it was decided to use 10000 because this seemed to be the most suitable solution:

- It is the most transparent and ensures continuity. The existing digits of the players remained exactly the same. There has just been a digit "1" (or 10, or 100) added before the previous points).
- The differences of ranking points between players remaining exactly the same this does not change anything to the outcome of the calculations in the ranking system.

This change contributed to increase the number of players recorded on these lists which is now over 1150 Men and over 875 Women, compared to respectively 1091 and 752 at the 2006 AGM.

Beside these singles rankings the Ranking Committee will also prepare Seeding Lists for the doubles events of the Zagreb World Championships.

- **Individual Youth Rankings**

Together with its Senior Ranking Lists the Ranking Committee produces each month special rankings for U-18 and U-21 players, which are in fact merely extracts of the corresponding Senior Rankings.

However in the same time as the first 2007 senior rankings, two sets of rankings were produced for each of these age categories, the first one recording the positions of all the players eligible in 2006 in their respective categories, the second one taking only into account the players who will be still eligible in 2007 for the same age categories.

- **World Team Rankings**

Senior and Junior World Team Rankings are still also produced at the same rhythm as the individual ones, the Senior ones being used as a basis for seeding in the team competitions at World Team Championships and the U-18 ones for the team events at World Junior Championships.

- **Other commitments**

In addition to these monthly rankings the Ranking Committee produces following listings:

In connection with the **ITTF Pro Tour Circuit**

- updated standings for singles and doubles, qualifying for the Grand Finals;
- updated standings used for seeding in doubles events

In connection with the **World Junior Circuit**

- singles standings updated after each tournament, qualifying for the final tournament of the WJC.

The Ranking Committee is also in charge to apply the **Ranking Penalty Policy** implemented since the beginning of 2005 for the ITTF events, and consisting in a possible deduction of rating points for players who do not show up at a tournament for which they were entered or who default during the competition.

- **Acknowledgements**

As usual I would like to express my thanks to all the people who helped us, in various ways, to carry out all these activities and especially to the Competition Managers, Raul Calin, Karl Jindrak and Didier Leroy whose precious collaboration made our task much easier, but also to David Jackson who is running the Team Rankings, to Mo El-Shentenawy, who is displaying all this information on the ITTF Website and of course to Tim Gautreau, who has to produce most of these rankings.

My gratitude also to the people of the ITTF head office with whom it is always a pleasure to be in touch as well as to the members of the Committee who contributed to our work.

**André Damman (Chairman – Ranking Committee)**  
**March 2007**

# **RULES COMMITTEE**

## **Report to the AGM**

## **Document A18**

In the season 2006-2007 our Committee had mainly to deal with the following tasks:

### **Interpretation of Rules**

The Rules Committee had to answer about 730 questions about table tennis laws and regulations (less than last year), not counting eligibility issues. Another time we had to realize that new means of communication make it much easier to respond but also easier to ask. 2006 evidently was the "year of equipment questions" – more than 50% of requests were related to rackets, gluing and rubbers.

### **Propositions to the AGM and Board of Directors Meeting 2007**

In addition to the fact that the Rules Committee by tradition is providing written explanations to all propositions received by the ITTF Head Office in due time we are only presenting 2 propositions to the AGM and to the Board of Directors from our side.

The first one is related to a possible relaxation of the specified material of racket blades which might rather be understood as a task of the Equipment Committee. Actually the Rules Committee was involved in the examination of a number of blades which probably do not comply with table tennis laws due to the composition and structure of its different layers. But practically the legitimacy of racket blades cannot be checked properly as far as these specifications of layers are concerned.

Our second proposition should just be an amendment of the "time out announcement" rule passed in 2006.

### **The Service Rule**

I was pleased to learn that there were significantly less problems with the application of the service rule than in the past.

Nevertheless we are discussing possible improvements with referees, umpires, players and coaches.

Still we are looking for a "Squaring the Circle" problem: More than 99% of all table tennis matches are played with not more than 1 umpire, but our service laws are based on an umpire and an assistant umpire who have to check the service simultaneously. Hence in a match with only 1 umpire officiating it frequently happens that a particular service is visible to the umpire (and correct) in one game but not visible to the umpire (and incorrect) after players changed ends.

I have to confess that we are in are not in the position to solve this serious difficulty under current conditions.

### **Eligibility Cases**

Since the World Championships 2006 in Bremen I was consulted for clarifying more than 40 specific eligibility cases.

A special issue was the distinction between being "eligible to represent an association" and being "nominated by an association for an individual event of international championships".

### **Review of Rules and the ITTF Handbook**

Still we are trying to update and adjust our rules and our Handbook by preparing propositions or making editorial modifications only.

I am much obliged to my Committee members for their valuable comments regarding this activity and their useful contributions on general rules matters.

**Rudi Sporrer (Chairman, Rules Committee)**

**March 2007**

# SPORTS SCIENCE COMMITTEE

## Report to the AGM

## Document A19

### 1. Meetings (ITTF & IOC)

- The Annual General Meeting held on 27 April, 2006, in Bremen (Germany).
- The Board of Directors meeting on 28 April, 2006.
- The Sports Science Committee meeting on 29 April, 2006.
- Meeting of the Chairpersons of the Medical Commissions of IF on 13 September, 2006, in Lausanne (Switzerland)

### 2. Scientific activity

- The presentation of the English version of the book "Methodology of sports training: table tennis" written by Prof. Yuri Pokholenchuk, member of the Sport Science Committee, (and V. Landik and G. Arzyutov) took place on 28 April, 2006, during the Liebherr World Team Championships.
- The 4<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Science and Racket Sports has been held from 21st to 23rd September, 2006, in Madrid (Spain) during the Badminton World Championships. Several table tennis scientists and researchers participated in and presented their works. I presented a communication entitled "Prevention of injuries and cardiovascular events in veteran table tennis players". The various papers will be published in a book "Science and Racket Sports IV".

### 3. Fight against doping

- Doping control: from January to December 2006, I received 120 results of tests at national and international level. 30 of them have been conducted out of competition with the help of WADA. 6 samples in 4 European countries were positive: ratio T / E (Testosterone / Epitestosterone) exceeding the limit fixed at 4 (1), cannabis (3), cocaine (1), beta2-agonist (1).
- Therapeutic use exemption (TUE): I received 5 requests for an abbreviated TUE, and 6 reports of approval of an abbreviated TUE given by different national anti-doping organizations mainly from Europe.
- On the occasion of the 2006 Men World Cup held in Paris (France) we organized a short training session on the Anti-Doping Administration and Management System (ADAMS) which is a web-based database management system developed by WADA and particularly useful for the players to send and update their whereabouts information at any time and from anywhere in the world. The presentation has been made by Mr. J.P. Moser from WADA, and about 15 people (players, coaches and officials) attended the session. The session took place in a room equipped with computers at the Headquarter of the French TTA located within walking distance from the competition venue. Longer and more complete training sessions are regularly organized with the help of WADA in all continents either by International Federations or by National Olympic Committees. All ITTF member associations are encouraged to adopt ADAMS as soon as possible.

### 4. Medical service during the Liebherr 50<sup>th</sup> World Team Championships 2006 in Bremen:

- A medical team was permanently present on site in a well equipped medical room.
- There has been no particular health problem with the players and officials.
- Meals (lunch and dinner) of high quality were served in a large restaurant inside the sporthall.
- The doping control (32 samples) has been conducted by doping control officers from the German National Anti Doping Agency (NADA Deutschland) together with the 3 members of the ITTF doping control panel, and the samples were analysed by two WADA accredited laboratories in Germany: Dresden (12) and Cologne (20). All were negative.

5. I'd like to thank the Executive Director and all his staff, and particularly Ms. Etsuko Enami.

**Dr. Jean-François Kahn (Chairman, Sports Science Committee)**  
**February 2007**

# **NOMINATION COMMITTEE**

## **Report to the AGM**

## **Document A20**

The work of the Nomination Committee within the period from 2006 till May 2007 was done according to the decisions and regulations stipulated by the AGM, BOD and the EC.

At present the ITTF unites 202 national Associations (Federations). It is a great community that requires attention, respect, and, to a greater extent, management.

Management of such a great community with the most efficiency is a highly complicated task. An increasing number of countries participating in the International Federation reflects the popularity of table tennis all over the world. In spite of the uneasy situation in the world, different religions (Islam, Catholicism, Orthodoxy, Buddhism, Judaism) and different governments of International Federation members, the world community of table tennis follows the rules of creation and not destruction.

There is a much closer cooperation between different federations, a reflection of which are joint trainings, seminars, tournaments and experience exchanges.

The work of committees and commissions is slightly becoming more intense.

The level of communication between federations, including ITTF, is rapidly increasing.

It is well known that a well organized structure, including formation based on democratic principles, such as equal rights of Associations (Federations), common rules for candidates pretending for effective office in ITTF and so on, in combination with professionalism of officials who directly exercise management of ITTF (committees, commissions, working groups, executive management, etc.) shall manage this community.

The decision brought by the Executive Council on July 1, 2006 is positively influencing the work of the committees. The decision is as follows: "In addition to general responsibilities within the Executive Committee, each member of the EC has a special "focus" and "specific" responsibilities conducted on behalf of the EC. These specific tasks are supported by the ITTF professional staff members.

The great work stipulated by the EC decision that concerns staffing of committees by women (at least 25%) which was proposed by the Women's Working Group.

The work conducted by the Russian Women's Working Group during the Pro Tour Russian Open in St. Petersburg will definitely attract women to the work in Committees.

Along with some achievements of committees and commissions there are still some problems: insufficient activity in work of committees and commission members, in some cases there is total absence of activity; lack of control over the work of representatives from the side of Federations (Associations); scarcity of proposals concerning improvement of Federation activity, perfection of Constitution, etc.

The Nomination Committee continues to pay attention to the work efficiency of Committee members, commissions, work with National Federations concerning more efficient selection of the candidates to the Committees; are considered questions of close cooperation with Continental Federations; bringing to work in the Committees more considerable quantity of women; preparing instructions for the members of the Committees determining their rights and obligations for realization of aims facing the Committees.

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

**Yuri Posevin (Chairman – Nomination Committee)**  
**February 2007**

# TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

## Report to the AGM

## Document A21

On the meetings held during 2006 Bremen World Champions and in the e-mail communications following Bremen meeting, technical committee members mainly discussed the following issues:

1. Beijing 2008 Olympic Games Team Events Competition Schedule
2. Beijing 2008 Olympic Games Team Events Special Rules
3. Beijing 2008 Olympic Games World Qualification Regulation

Most works done by Technical Committee in the year 2006 centered round the preparations for Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, due to the fact that two of its members, Mr. Yao Zhenxu and Mr.Georgios Seliniotakis, are working for it. Mr. Yao is holding the position of Table Tennis competition manager in BOCOG, and Mr.Seliniotakis was appointed as the technical delegate of Table Tennis competition for Beijing 2008 Olympic Games. The report of our work in 2006 is as follows:

### **Beijing 2008 Olympic Games Team Events Competition Schedule**

Since ITTF Olympic Commission has made the decision on competition format to be adopted in round robin stage of Team Events in Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, namely that the runners-up in each group could only compete for Bronze Medal, technical committee, in view of spectators, Medias and TV Broadcasting and etc, has made a few minor adjustments to the original competition schedule.

### **Beijing 2008 Olympic Games Team Events Special Rules**

In order to better embody Olympic Spirit of emphasizing participation, technical committee has established Team Events Special Rules for Beijing 2008 Olympic Games. The Rules state that in the case that if team members' absence is due to injuries or diseases, it is allowed that a team of 2 players competes against a team of 3 players in Team Events. ITTF has made publication of the special rules.

### **Beijing 2008 Olympic Games World Qualification Regulations**

In Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, Teams Events will be substituted for Doubles Events. Since Team Events will use less quota than Doubles Events and the extra quota will be re-allocated to Singles Events, the World Qualification Quota will increase from 2-3 in the past to 16-18. Technical committee, after having full discussions on the issue, has drafted World Qualification Regulation and provided it to ITTF Olympic Commission.

**Yao Zhenxu (Chairman, Technical Committee)**  
**February 2007**

# UMPIRES & REFEREES COMMITTEE

## Report to the AGM

## Document A22

### **Umpires Education, Training and Certification**

- An Advanced Train-the-Trainer Workshop was conducted in 2006 for all active URC Trainers, with an aim to achieve consistency during training and evaluation of umpires;
- 7 Advanced Umpires Training Courses were conducted in 2006, with 88 participants, and 51 new Blue Badge International Umpires were certified in 2006
- 597 field of play evaluations were conducted in 12 different events
- Trainers were sent to conduct Basic Umpires course in the developing countries, as part of the ITTF Development Programme.

### **Referees Education, Training and Certification.**

- The Referee Training and Certification Programme is revamped to include three new modules, namely the Rules interpretation and application, Technical Aspects and Communication and Presentation Skills.
- Mr. Richard Scruton is employed on half-time basis to develop the education materials. The first module has been completed for further fine-tuning and the second module is in progress. With the assistance and input from the ITTF Competition Managers, it is hoped that a new user-friendly programme would be accessible for Referees for conduct of draws, schedule and results management.

### **International Umpires Training and Examination**

- A total of 65 Associations with 634 candidates took part in the 2006 IU Examination, and 315 new IUs were certified in 2006, with a passing rate of 49.7%.
- 4 IU Training Courses were conducted to prepare candidates before the examination. Iran organised the first ever IU Training course, with 41 candidates, 21 women and 20 male umpires participated in the course, and 39 candidates successfully passed the IU examination afterwards.

### **Nomination & Selection of Umpires and Referees Procedures**

- Completed the nomination and selection of umpires and referees for the 2006 World Junior Championships (Cairo, Egypt) and the 2007 World Individual Championships (Zagreb, Croatia)
- The new approach of open invitation for nominations by Associations continued to be appreciated by Associations and umpires. 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 URC 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 and maintained in the form of spreadsheets.
- The ITTF IT Manager and the Task Force are working closely on developing a new database with interactive modules, and to cover a wider dimension of information and archives of the URC activities, and provide a platform for better communication and information on URC activities.

**Cindy Leung (Chairwoman, Umpires and Referees Committee)**  
**March 2007**

# ATHLETES' COMMISSION

## Report to the AGM

## Document A23

Since the last Annual General Meeting of the ITTF, which was held in Bremen on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May 2006, the composition of the Commission has not changed. A meeting of the Commission was held in Bremen on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2006 and the discussion was mainly about the glue issue which was our proposal to the ITTF Board of Directors meeting and the below mentioned items were determined:

- Adhesives containing volatile organic solvents shall not be used from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008 on. A properly ventilated area shall be provided for the attachment of racket coverings to rackets and liquid adhesives shall not be used anywhere else at the playing venue. ("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.)

The Subjects informed to the committee members and players were as follows;

- Report on the decisions taken at the Annual General Meeting and the Board of Directors Meeting held during WTTC in Bremen.
- The minutes of the ITTF EC meeting held on 15th Sept. 2006 in Guangzhou, China. Specially concerning our commission at the meeting, it was decided that a letter would be sent in due course to all national associations asking them to inform the ITTF if any former champions would be attending the WTTC in order to provide them with VIP passes.
- The equal prize money for both Men and Women shall be provided at the Women's World Cup 2006, Pro Tour Grand Finals 2006 and Major Pro Tour 2007 in France, Germany, China and Japan and all ITTF events from 2008. The Commission worked by correspondence on the following subjects:
  - The information from the Glue working group.
  - "Let" on Service.
  - Playing systems of the ITTF Pro-Tour Grand Finals

I attended the Olympic Commission Meeting held in Hong Kong on 18 December 2006 during the ITTF Pro Tour Grand Finals as the Technical Delegate.

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

### **Members of Athletes' Commission (2005 ~ 2007)**

Chairwoman	Sachiko Yokota (Japan)
Deputy Chairwoman	Lyne Desjardins (Canada)
Africa	Toriola Segun (Nigeria)
Asia	Shi Zhihao (China)
Europe	Zoran Primorac (Croatia)
Latin America	Lizzwa-Lizzalledd Medina Bueso (Honduras)
North America	Khoa Nguyen (USA)
Oceania	Karen Li (New Zealand)
Junior representatives	Zeina Shaban (Jordan)
	Emmanuel Lebesson (France)

Respectfully submitted by

**Sachiko Yokota-Heyerdahl (Chairwoman, Athletes' Commission)**  
**February 2007**

# JUNIOR COMMISSION

## Report to the AGM

## Document A24

### **A Solid Year**

They say that challenges are there to be solved. Not that there were many – but still a few. The ITTF Global Junior Programme continued to grow and mature in its fourth year of full operation. Junior Table Tennis as a stand alone point of interest is gaining respect and now drawing attention not only from directly involved coaches and athletes but also from a wider circle of professionals and media interested in the future of our sport.

For us growth is not only about increasing the number of events connected to our properties, but also earning recognition in new and exciting table tennis markets around the world. In a great symbiosis of various scholarship programmes, World Junior Circuit events , qualifications to the ITTF World Cadet Challenge and of course the flagship event the 4th ITTF World Junior Table Tennis Championships we saw, in the year 2006 , more clearly than ever before the future of our sport shaping up in front of our eyes

Trust us. It does look great .As facilitators of the very same FUTURE, we the ITTF World Junior commission, are proud of many things connected to our work.

Here are some of the figures **to remember**.

Fourteen ITTF World Junior Circuit events involving all the six continents. Some smaller , some bigger, some with high quality top level juniors and some with less known but ambitious young players gaining confidence and motivation. The ITTF WJC is continuing to grow and providing international playing opportunities and learning experiences for interested parties.

Twenty-one young athletes were in 2006 connected to the ITTF /Olympic Solidarity project With the FUTURE in Mind tapping into a US 120 000 budget for international training and competition opportunities. The very sharpest are already in progress towards Beijing 2008 while the very youngest more realistically dreams about London 2012.

One hundred and sixty five days on the road for our hard working, excellent GJP Competition manager Mr. Raul Calin from Spain.

One hundred and ninety five athletes from 44 countries made the ITTF World Junior Table Tennis Championships in Cairo a splendid event with a true world championship feeling.

Two major sponsors – Tamasu Butterfly and Joola Tischtennis have over the years provided significant financial support helping the development of Junior Table Tennis in the ITTF.

Sixty four young Cadet Athletes were called for the 2006 World Cadet Challenge in Vrsac, Serbia. Sixty three of them made it to an event that now is one of the highlights of the year for staff and observers of the ITTF Global Junior Programme. Much of the success for the rapid development of the ITTF Global Junior Programme can however not be measured in numbers. The dedication and hard work of the many local organizing committees who came together to support and organize our events should always be remembered in times like this. Mikael Andersson, our Global Junior Programme Manager, is a true motivator of this Junior Table Tennis movement. He always provides new ideas to the commission to help bring the program forward. All of us in the commission also appreciate his lively write-up which we enjoyed so much over the year

In 2006 Vrsac, Serbia provided excellent conditions for the ITTF WCC & WJC finals and in Cairo, Egypt we celebrated a true World Junior Championships, showcasing young table tennis players with simply amazing skills and dedication for their age.

Allow me to thank all supporters as well as coaches, athletes and officials for a solid year!

*With the future in mind,*

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

**February 2007**

# OLYMPIC COMMISSION

## Report to the AGM

## Document A25

### Meetings of the Olympic Commission

The Olympics Commission met in Bremen, on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2006 and in Hong Kong, on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2006. The points treated and the most important advances regarding the organization of Beijing'08 Olympic Games were as follows:

#### Technical Delegates for Beijing.

The Technical Delegates for Beijing'2008 were confirmed: Mr. Georgios Seliniotakis (GRE) and Ms. Sachiko Yokota (JPN) who replaced Mr. Neil Harwood elected Vice-President.

#### Specific rules for Beijing 2008

The qualification system and the specific rules to be applied to the Olympic Games were discussed and approved. Both documents can be found in the ITTF web site, Olympic section.

#### Equipment

Agreements with Double Happiness for tables, Double Fish for balls and Gerflor for flooring have been signed.

#### International Technical Officials

The final number of International Technical Officials has been agreed: 42 in total including 1 medical officer, 3 racket control officials, 6 Jury Members, 28 International Umpires and 4 National Technical Officials.

#### MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) and Technical Booklets

The Memorandum of Understanding specifying the responsibilities of each International Federation and BOCOG was signed. The updated appendices would be signed during 2007. The Technical Booklet for table tennis is scheduled to be ready one year before the Games.

#### Meetings with ORIS group and BOCOC

The ORIS (Olympic Results and Information Services) meeting took place in Montreux (12-14 October 2006). Mr. Neil Harwood, Mr. Georgios Seliniotakis and Mr. Jordi Serra represented the ITTF. Mr. Yao Zhenxu represented BOCOG as the Table Tennis Competition Manager for Beijing'08. A second meeting with ORIS and ITTF representatives was held in Lausanne, on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2007 to implement in ORIS documents the decisions taken in the Olympic Commission meeting held in Hong Kong, last December.

After these two meetings the final draft of all the documents to be presented in Beijing related to Results and Sports information was finished and the procedures well defined.

#### Continental Qualification Tournaments Timeline

<b>1 Jul 07-15 Apr 08</b>	Period for holding the Singles continental qualification events
11 – 23 July 2007	All <b>Africa Games</b> , Algiers (ALG)
21 – 27 July 2007	<b>Pan-American Games</b> Rio de Janeiro (BRA). The winners of Men's Singles and Women's singles will be automatic qualifiers. This place will be deducted from Latin American or North American quota.
6 – 11 March 2008	<b>Asia Qualification Tournament</b> , Hong Kong (HKG)
30 March – 6 April 2008	<b>Latin America Championships</b> , Santo Domingo (DOM)
2 – 6 April 2008	<b>Europe Qualification Tournament</b> , Nantes (FRA)
4 – 6 April 2008	<b>North America Qualification Tournament</b> , Vancouver (CAN)
5 – 8 April 2008	<b>Oceania Qualification Tournament</b> , Noumea (NCL)

**Jordi Serra (Executive Director)**  
**March 2007**

# CALENDAR WORKING GROUP

## Report to the Board of Directors

## Document A26

The ITTF Calendar Working Group has continued its assignment within its structure including continental corresponding members, the main aim remains to have a very stable calendar with a priority to the protected dates for the World & most important title events, in the same time the corresponding members are contributing with the continental & regional activities due to their direct communication, trying to minimize any clashes with the ITTF major events as well.

The Calendar of 2006 was very successful, all ITTF events went as per planning except only the cancellation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Morocco WJC event in March 2006 due to matching the date of elections to their national association.

A special ITTF prestigious event has been added in 2006, which is the Challenge of champions (Champion of all champions) held in China in December and to be organized on an annual basis just after the Grand Pro-Tour Finals in December of every year.

The Calendar of the current year 2007 is growing extremely more and more as follows:

- ITTF Pro-Tour events raised to be 17 events (2 premium + 13 major + 2 regular) compared to 16 events in 2006, while the Grand Finals will be in Beijing - China in December.
- ITTF World Junior Circuit expanded also due to the great efforts of the Global Junior Programme manpower to be 21 events in 2007 compared to 14 events in 2006, and it covers all the continents (3 Africa, 6 Asia, 6 Europe, 4 Latin America, 1 North America & 1 Oceania), while the World Junior Circuit Grand Finals together with World Cadet Challenge will be in Cape Town - South Africa in October and the World Junior Table Tennis Championships will be in USA in December.
- All continental championships and other important events have already been taken into consideration.
- An important event also will be added by the end of this year as a test event for the new system of the Olympic Team Event, to be held in China in December.

The huge number of events in the ITTF Calendar leads our working group to recommend to the Board of Directors to fix the deadline for bidding to both Pro-Tour & WJC to the 1<sup>st</sup> July of the preceding year, this will help us to negotiate for the new calendar with TMS & GJP and to fulfill all conditions and recommendations for consequent closer events if possible.

New calendar (at least for the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the year) in this case will be published not later than the 1<sup>st</sup> of August to provide the utmost means of planning to all continents and national associations and to avoid misinformation before the start of the coming year.

The complete ITTF Calendar is already available through the ITTF new-look website with a summarized sub-calendar for each section (i.e. Pro-Tour, WJC, & Veterans), we are always ready to update any additions or amendments in time, important forthcoming dates are also published periodically within the ITTF News & the Table Tennis Illustrated.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all my colleagues in the Calendar Working Group. Special thanks for great help to Anders Thunström (for the Pro-Tour chain and World title events), Mikael Andersson & Raul Calín (for the GJP events), Etsuko Enami & Mohamed El-Shentenawy (for Calendar Updating) and all other ITTF staff.

**Khaled El-Salhy (Chairman, Calendar Working Group)**  
**March 2007**

# **WOMEN'S WORKING GROUP**

## **Report to the Board of Directors**

## **Document A27**

From 2003 to 2005 a Women's Forum was held every year. In Shanghai it was agreed to make a change in order to better target the needs of the Continents. It was therefore decided that a forum would be held in every Continent from 2006 to 2008 and a major forum at the World Championships in 2009.

A women's forum will be held in Africa (Congo) in February 2007 and a forum will be held during the European Championships in Belgrade in March this year. It will be very exciting to see the results of these continental forums.

In Bremen 2006 the Women's Working Group had an informal meeting with both members from the WWG and other interested women from our table tennis family.

We discussed several items e.g. the proposal to the EC about equal prize money. We were all very proud and happy when the EC approved the proposal.

We also decided to try to increase the knowledge regarding the functioning of the ITTF among the female delegates. Therefore we invited all the committee chairpersons to stay after the AGM to tell the female delegates about their work.

Our official WWG meeting in 2006 took place at the Women's World Cup in Urumqi, China late September.

Unfortunately only half of the Working Group could be present at the meeting.

Among a lot of other items we made a strategy for having more women nominated for the committees in 2007 to achieve at least 25% of female representation in the committees. We had the constitution changed in order to secure that at least 25% of all committee members should be female, now we need the associations to nominate the women.

Once again we discussed how to motivate the manufacturers to make more fashionable as well as practical clothing for both our female and male players. The EC has accepted our suggestion of an ITTF design award.

Last but not least in Urumqi we had a meeting with the players and their coaches where we explained about our work and talked to the players about the possibility of remaining in table tennis and becoming a future leader within the national or international federation.

At the EC meeting in Hong Kong Lilamani de Soysa and Claude Bergeret presented a progress report for the work done since the WWG was established in 2003.

I want to thank Lilamani de Soysa for her great work and enthusiasm. I also want to thank Claude Bergeret and the rest of the EC for their great support. And last I want to thank all the members of the WWG.

**Dorte Kronsell (Chairwoman, Women's Working Group)**  
**February 2007**

# Propositions to the AGM 2007 Document A28

## 2/3 majority required

<p><b>1</b></p> <p><i>proposed by the French Table Tennis Federation</i></p>	<p><u>1.6 ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENT</u></p> <p>To have a collective election of all 6 Vice Presidents following the same procedure. Then the new Executive Committee will allocate to one of the elected Vice-Presidents the finance portfolio. Also the President will nominate one of the elected Vice Presidents as the Deputy President. (to modify 1.5.2.1, 1.5.3.1, 1.6.1, 1.11.1 accordingly)</p> <p><i>Explanation:</i> <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> <i>Concerning the President the procedure is a good one because it confers him with a stronger legitimacy.</i> <i>In contrast the other two particular elections are not justified.</i> <i>Concerning the finance position, the new Executive Committee will allocate to one of the elected Vice-Presidents the finance portfolio.</i> <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>By this the Deputy President and the Executive Vice-President responsible for finance would not be elected separately from the other Executive Vice-Presidents but would be nominated by the President after the election.</i></p>
<p><b>2</b></p> <p><i>proposed by the Hong Kong Table Tennis Association</i></p>	<p><u>1.10 COMMITTEES and 1.12 OTHER APPOINTMENTS</u></p> <p>All Committees &amp; Commissions Meetings shall be opened to all AGM delegates to attend as observers so that more ITTF Member Associations' representatives can have in-depth understanding in ITTF affairs and opportunities to bring up their positive and professional suggestions.</p>

# Propositions to the AGM 2007

## 3/4 majority required

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>3</b></p> <p><i>proposed by the Rules Committee</i></p>	<p><u>2.4 THE RACKET</u></p> <p>To delete current paragraph 2.4.2</p> <p><del>"2.4.2 At least 85% of the blade by thickness shall be of natural wood; an adhesive layer within the blade may be reinforced with fibrous material such as carbon fibre, glass fibre or compressed paper, but shall not be thicker than 7.5% of the total thickness or 0.35mm, whichever is the smaller."</del></p> <p>and to replace it by</p> <p><b>"2.4.2 The blade shall be of any material or shall consist of layers of different materials, other than flexible substances comparable to sponge or rubber."</b></p> <p>At the same time the wording "any layer within the blade" shall be removed from paragraph 2.4.5:</p> <p><b>"2.4.5 The blade, any layer within the blade and any layer of covering material or adhesive on a side used for striking the ball shall be continuous and of even thickness."</b></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i> <i>It was detected that on the market there is a remarkable number of racket blades which do not comply with law 2.4.2 due to the composition and structure of its different layers. Practically the legitimacy of racket blades cannot be checked as far as these specifications of layers are concerned. Moreover it was verified by several other sports (such as badminton, tennis, skiing,...) that the use of new artificial materials or even metal components does not harm the sport but on the contrary could open new fields for suppliers. In the case of table tennis it just has to be made sure that no part of the blade is made of substances similar to sponge or rubber in order to avoid any expansion of the sandwich rubber covering the racket.</i></p> <p><i>By this the racket blade could be made of materials other than wood. Also layers within the racket blade could be non continuous and would not have to be of even thickness.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>4</b></p> <p><i>proposed by the Finnish Table Tennis Association</i></p>	<p><u>2.6 THE SERVICE</u></p> <p>According to 2.6.5 only the arm has to be removed but not the hand. Surely this is not the intention and therefore this law should be completed to read as follows:</p> <p><b>"2.6.5 As soon as the ball has been projected, the server's free arm and hand shall be removed from the space between the ball and the net."</b></p> <p>However, as law 2.6.4 already clearly states that the ball "shall not be hidden from the receiver by the server or his doubles partner or by anything they wear or carry" we suggest, as a second option, that law <b>2.6.5 is totally deleted</b> as 2.6.4 covers the need.</p> <p><i>This would underline that not only other parts of the free arm but also the free hand shall be removed from the relevant space as soon as the ball has been projected.</i></p>

**5**

*proposed by the  
German Table  
Tennis Federation*

2.8 THE ORDER OF PLAY

**"2.8.4 When one player who is in a wheelchair due to a physical disability and a non disabled player (not in a wheelchair) are a pair playing doubles, the requirements of 2.8.3 will apply accordingly."**

*This situation is not regulated, but in many countries non disabled players and players in a wheelchair play together in the same team.*

*This would mean that either player of a doubles pair may make returns (after returning the service) if at least one of them is in a wheelchair due to his physical disability.*

# Propositions to the Board of Directors 2007

## Simple majority required

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>6</b></p> <p><i>proposed by the Japanese Table Tennis Association</i></p>	<p><u>3.2.4 GLUING</u></p> <p>"3.2.4.1.1 Adhesives containing volatile organic solvents shall not be used <b>from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008.</b>"</p> <p><i>Reasons for this proposal:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>1. In accordance with the OLYMPIC CHARTER, Mission and Role of the IOC, clause 9. "to encourage and support measures protecting the health of athletes" and clause 13. "to encourage and support a responsible concern for environmental issues," we have to accomplish a healthy and clean competition for all players, coaches, officials and other participants at the Beijing Olympic Game.</i></li><li><i>2. The players are using adhesives which contain VOC many times a day, in an enclosed space used for practice, without any ventilation. These adhesives should be removed from the players' area as soon as possible.</i></li><li><i>3. Adhesives containing VOC are dangerous substances which are not allowed to be brought onto planes and players aware this air regulation. However, players check adhesives stocked into the vessel such as cosmetics bottle in the baggage. We must rectify this situation as a matter of urgency.</i></li><li><i>4. VOC – free new adhesives have been developed and sold by Japanese manufacturers that is now in a position to sell them worldwide. *ITTF has authorized 5 adhesives with another 2 still waiting approval, of 5 manufacturers. (as of 7<sup>th</sup> February 2007)</i></li><li><i>5. Japanese table tennis manufacturers have developed and sold the new type of rubbers that produce speed and spin and are also in a position to sell them worldwide.</i></li><li><i>6. A machine authorized by ITTF that has the ability to test for adhesive containing VOC has been produced and this is now in a position to make it available for use worldwide.</i></li><li><i>7. I believe that top players can still perform at their peak after using the new VOC-free adhesives through physical fitness and training.</i></li></ol>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>7</b></p> <p><i>proposed by the Rules Committee</i></p>	<p><u>3.4.4 INTERVALS</u></p> <p>To modify current paragraphs 3.4.4.2.4 and 3.4.4.2.5:</p> <p>"3.4.4.2.4 On receiving a valid request for a time-out the umpire shall suspend play and he, <del>while seated,</del> shall <b>either</b> hold up a white card with the hand on the side of the player or pair who requested it till the end of the time-out <b>or shall place a special signboard on the table court of that player or pair.</b></p> <p>3.4.4.2.5 The white card <b>or the signboard</b> shall be removed and play resumed as soon as the player or pair making the request is ready to continue or at the end of 1 minute, whichever is the sooner."</p> <p><i>This would offer 2 alternatives to umpires when indicating a time-out.</i></p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>8</b></p> <p><i>proposed by the Executive Committee</i></p>	<p><u>4.1.5 SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES</u></p> <p>To delete "to the organisers" on the following point :</p> <p>"4.1.5.1 The intention to enter teams or players shall be notified to <del>the organisers and</del> to the ITTF in a preliminary . . ."</p> <p><i>This would adapt the entry procedure at the World Championships to today's electronic communication system.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>9</b></p> <p><i>proposed by the Executive Committee</i></p>	<p><u>4.1.5 SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES</u></p> <p>To delete present paragraph 4.1.5.3</p> <p><del>4.1.5.3 Two sets of these entry forms shall be returned to the organisers and one set to the Secretariat; . . .</del></p> <p>And to replace it by</p> <p><b>"4.1.5.3 One set of these entry forms shall be returned to the Secretariat; . . ."</b></p> <p><i>This would adapt the entry procedure at the World Championships to today's electronic communication system.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>10</b></p> <p><i>proposed by the Executive Committee</i></p>	<p><u>4.1.6 MODIFICATION OF ENTRIES</u></p> <p>To modify 4.1.6.1:</p> <p>4.1.6.1 Additional or modified entries may be accepted by the organisers, if notified by a representative of the nominating Association, at any time up to the <del>date of</del> day before the draw.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>11</b></p> <p><i>proposed by the Executive Committee</i></p>	<p><u>4.1.9 EVENTS</u></p> <p>To modify 4.1.9.7.2:</p> <p>4.1.9.7 Each Association shall be entitled to 5 entries in each singles event, with 1 additional entry in the appropriate event for each place held by its player in the first 10 places of the first issue of the ITTF world ranking list in the year of the Championships, up to 7 players in each individual event.</p> <p>4.1.9.7.1 The host Association may enter up to 7 pairs in the mixed doubles and 7 players in each other individual event.</p> <p>4.1.9.7.2 Different players may be entered in each doubles event. <b>However, the number of players entered in doubles must not exceed the number of players entered in the corresponding singles. In mixed doubles the number of pairs entered must not exceed the number of players nominated in the men's or women's singles, whichever is the lower.</b></p> <p><i>This would clarify the acceptable number of entries in the doubles events of the World Championships.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>12</b></p> <p><i>proposed by the German Table Tennis Federation</i></p>	<p><u>Draw of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Stage of the World Team Championships</u></p> <p>After the 1<sup>st</sup> stage, teams placed 1, 2 and 3 in groups A, B, C and D (12 teams) shall continue in a knock-out competition (last 16, quarter finals, semi-finals and final) in order to decide the final</p>

	<p>positions 1 to 12.</p> <p>The winners of each group (4 teams) will move directly into the quarter finals (they have a Bye in the round of last 16) and will be seeded accordingly (winner of group A seeded 1<sup>st</sup>, winner of group B seeded 2<sup>nd</sup>, winners of groups C and D drawn into positions 8 and 9).</p> <p>The teams placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the groups will be drawn randomly into the remaining positions, with the exception that teams having played against each other in the group stage shall not meet again in the first round of the knock-out competition.</p> <p><i>This would be an improvement of the system used at the World Team Championships in Bremen 2006 where several teams had to play against a team in the first match of the knock-out competition, which they already had met in the group stage.</i></p> <p><i>If this system is adopted, it would be possible, of course, that teams from the same group would meet again in one of the quarter finals, semi-finals or the final.</i></p>																		
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>13</b></p> <p><i>proposed by the Junior Commission</i></p>	<p><u>Qualification System for Junior World Championships</u> to be applied from 2010 until 2014 <i>(According to 4.4.3.2 the system of qualification for team and individual events shall be determined by the Board not later than 18 months before the start of the Championships.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ To increase the number of teams to 20 (compared to the present 16) = 80 players</li> <li>➤ To invite additional 16 individual entries from the U-18 junior world ranking (compared to the present 32) = 16 players</li> <li>➤ To have the same total number of participants: 96 players (80 + 16) for the boy's and girl's category.</li> </ul> <p>This would give the following distribution of team quotas:</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>Europe</td> <td>5 teams (at present 4)</td> <td>1 „NEW” team</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Asia</td> <td>5 teams (at present 4)</td> <td>1 „NEW” team</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Africa</td> <td>3 teams (at present 2)</td> <td>1 „NEW” team</td> </tr> <tr> <td>North America/Latin America combined</td> <td>4 teams (at present 3)</td> <td>1 „NEW” team</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Oceania</td> <td>2 teams (at present 1)</td> <td>1 „NEW” team</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Host association</td> <td>1 team (as at present)</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>No more spot for ITTF U-18 World Ranking position, but in case a quota is not used, it is given to the next highest ranked team from U-18 World Team Ranking, regardless of the continent.</p>	Europe	5 teams (at present 4)	1 „NEW” team	Asia	5 teams (at present 4)	1 „NEW” team	Africa	3 teams (at present 2)	1 „NEW” team	North America/Latin America combined	4 teams (at present 3)	1 „NEW” team	Oceania	2 teams (at present 1)	1 „NEW” team	Host association	1 team (as at present)	
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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>14</b></p> <p><i>proposed by the Sports Science Committee</i></p>	<p><u>ITTF Anti-Doping Rules</u></p> <p><u>5.5.4 Out of Competition Testing</u></p> <p>“5.5.4.1 Out of competition testing may be carried out in any country at any time. ITTF has identified a Registered Testing Pool of those Athletes who are subject to out of competition testing: this pool includes all athletes in the top <del>200</del> 50 places of the men's and women's ITTF world ranking list as well as all athletes qualified for the Olympic games. ITTF may revise its Registered Testing Pool from time to time as appropriate.”</p>																		

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>15</b></p> <p><i>proposed by the USA Table Tennis Association</i></p>	<p><u>Directives for Match Officials at World Title Competitions and ITTF Sanctioned Events</u></p> <p><u>Nomination, Acceptance and Declination of Match Officials</u></p> <p>"All Referee and Umpire nominations must also be accepted – or declined – by the Parent association of the nominee. <b>Age will not be a consideration in the selections of Referees and Umpires."</b></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i> <i>The ITTF URC has developed a standard of officiating for umpires resulting in the best umpires earning a Blue Badge designation. To specify age limits for certain events is arbitrary and discourages those umpires who have demonstrated the highest standards of officiating. In many associations, because of work, umpires are not available to travel until they have passed the present arbitrary age limit used for some events.</i></p> <p><i>This should prevent organisers from inviting only umpires under a certain age limit.</i></p>
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# Resolutions to the Board of Directors 2007

## Simple majority required

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>A</b></p> <p><i>proposed by the Executive Committee</i></p>	<p><u>WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS</u></p> <p>To be added in the World Championships' official prospectus and bulletin.</p> <p>To limit the size of the official delegations to</p> <p>2 coaches, 1 doctor, 2 physiotherapists, 1 chief of delegation, the President of the Association, 2 AGM delegates plus the number of players selected by the Association and eligible for the competition. We could add to that umpires, ITTF officials and spouses of the persons included in the delegations.</p> <p>All the others must be listed separately and dealt separately by the Organising Committee especially concerning the visa request.</p> <p><i>This would limit the number of officials of any national delegation in the same way as the number of players is limited.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>B</b></p> <p><i>proposed by the Executive Committee</i></p>	<p><u>WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS</u></p> <p>To be added in the World Championships' directives, prospectus and bulletin.</p> <p>Policy concerning no show at the World Championships:</p> <p>A cancellation deadline must be fixed by the Organising Committee (between 15 and 30 days, depending on the organisers)</p> <p>a) The OC should not cancel the rooms of the persons taken in charge by them except if they receive official information of the associations concerned</p> <p>b) For the others the OC should not cancel the rooms if</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- they have received the full payment in advance or</li><li>- they have received the confirmation of the date and time of arrival or</li><li>- they have received an official confirmation of the flight tickets by the company or the travel agency.</li></ul> <p>In case the OC does not receive one of these 3 above confirmations on time they are free to cancel the rooms.</p> <p>If there are still cancellations of rooms with cost to the organisers then the participants should reimburse at least the first 2 days of no shows, not the whole period.</p> <p><i>This would introduce an ITTF policy in case of cancellation of participants at World Championships.</i></p>