

To : Mr. Christian Lillieroos, IPTTC Chairman
Ms Alison Burchell IPTTC Secretary-General
Mr. Raul Calin, Technical Officer, IPTTC
Mr. Gael Marziou, Webmaster, IPTTC

From : Mr. Silas Chiang, Representative of Asia & South Pacific Regions
On : 6th April, 2005

Re : **Seminar on Technical and Umpiring of Table Tennis in Manila, Philippines**
31st March – 1st April, 2005

Background

In Asia there are 5 sub-regions, namely East Asia, South East Asia, South Asia, Central Asia and West Asia. The South East region, also known as the ASEAN, has 11 nations, namely Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Thailand, Vietnam, Philippines, Laos, Myanmar, Indonesia, Cambodia and Timor Leste. ASEAN is a very united region in term of all kinds of activities, and as sports for the Disabled is concerned they have started the ASEAN Para Games in 2001. The first series were hosted by Malaysia, the second in Vietnam in 2003 and the third one in Manila of Philippines in December this year. Among the 10 sports they organize Table Tennis is one.

In 2003 I was asked by Vietnam to assist as I know them from the previous FESPIC Games and Championships, yet I was unable to attend as Hong Kong at the same time was hosting the FESPIC Youth Games.

Philippines is keen to host the Games in December and so far they have organized some six training workshops and seminars for their officials and a few more are coming up. They approached me for assistance and the lecture cum practical were arranged to be between 31st March and 1st April. They are serious and at the Opening ceremony, Mr. Victor U Valbuena, the President of the Philippines Table Tennis Association was also present and spoke. He expressed to fully support the Seminar as well as the Games later in the year. Mr. Michael I Barredo, the Sports Commissioner of Philippines and Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the 3rd ASEAN Para Games was the host of the Seminar and he gave very encouraging remarks to all the participants.

The Content of Seminar

I understand that the table tennis standard in Philippines is not very high and so is their officiating. They have a total of 5 ITTF International Umpires and no International Referee so far in the nation. For regular table tennis competition for the Disabled they have not even started. Yet, they would like to learn and try their best to develop the sport in their nation. I got the participants list only after my arrival, and yet I know the general situation beforehand from their staff. They were all trained umpires in table tennis. Thus, I prepared the seminar materials to base on the IPTTC Umpires Seminar 2003 held in Shanghai and those of the International Umpires & Technical Officials Training course held in 2004 in Malaysia.

The whole afternoon on 31st March was for lecture, including topics as follows :

General Introduction;
Types of Competition, Sanction & Requirements;
Rules and Regulations for Disabled Play;
Entry Form Information;
Events
Format of Play;
Preliminary Schedule;
Principles of Draw for Team, Individual & Open;
Preparation for Draw;
Scheduling;
Results;
Match Conducts and Procedures
Medal Ceremonies;
Introduction of Classification of Players;

and whole day for practical on 1st April. We had invited 2 men and 1 women wheelchair bound players to take part. Rules and regulations concerning umpiring wheelchair play were explained again in play condition. All participants were arranged to take turns to act as players as well as umpires, in order to feel for themselves the problem when playing in a wheelchair. A closing ceremony was held in the afternoon and all participants were presented with certificate of attendance by their president. They all enjoyed the lecture and practical for the two days.

Conclusion

Most Philippine people speak English and they have no language problems as the Chinese, Japanese and Korean. Some of them have displayed both interest and ability of being IPTTC umpires. As they need to organize the ASEAN Para Games later they are also keen in learning to be Technical Delegates too. So, I have persuaded their president to send one or two to the TD seminar to be held in Kuala Lumpur, as then they can organize table tennis for Disabled more properly. Even though sports in the ASEAN Para Games are not yet sanctioned by IPC I do hope that table tennis be the first one to be sanctioned in the near future.

In fact, in order to encourage them to continue, I suggest them to engage in as many table tennis events as possible, and to take part in future IPTTC umpire seminars in the region. I promise to keep their names for record and will consider accepting them first for such courses if they continue to involve. I also promise to arrange their group photograph of the participants in the IPTTC website as a boost to them.

[Names of the 23 Participants in the Seminar are : Mr. Alfonso A Benjamin; Ms Alvarez J Johanna; Mr. Aralar S Norman; Mr. Blacer B Galo (IU); Mr. Bauda V Arnel (IU); Mr. Cabrido C Ireland (IU); Mr. Caraos M Jun; Mr. Castillo G Christopher; Mr. Crisostomo P Erwin; Mr. Dela Cruz O Mario; Mr. Francisco T Rufinito; Mr. Gimena M Saturnino (IU); Mr. Marquez R Panfilo; Mr. Perez A Simeon; Mr. Samson I Renato; Mr. Sebastian A Aner; Mr. Tiburcio D J Mario; Mr. Sarte G Johnny; Ms Concepcion M Nieves; Ms Reyes A Marinel; Mr. Nacario C Rogelio; Mr. Aralar S Sigfredo; Ms Ramos D Rachel (IU)]

Enclosure : A group photograph of all the participants

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