

TD Evaluation Report on the 2009 Asian & Oceania Table Tennis Championships

1. TD Inspections

Two visits were made to Amman. First by Mr. Danek Jiri, the former Tournament Officer in 2007 when he was in Jordan for a table tennis event. The second visit/inspection was conducted by myself in December 2008. I took the opportunity to organize a table tennis workshop for nations in the West and Central Asia. The Workshop was cancelled due to lack of participants. The visit confirmed all the items required for a regional championships, including the following :-

- 1.1 Appointment of Technical Officials, local and from outside Jordan, the guests to be invited;
- 1.2 Programme & schedule of the Championships;
- 1.3 Dates of 1st and Final Entry;
- 1.4 Competition Venues
- 1.5 Equipment and Facilities in the Venue including Tables, Nets, Balls, Umpires Tables, Score Boards, Toilet & Wash Rooms, Players Rest Area, Rooms for Meetings, Seminar, Doping Control, Classification of Players, Gluing; Air Flow and Lighting;
- 1.6 Medical Support;
- 1.7 Transportation;
- 1.8 Accommodation and Meals;
- 1.9 Computer Support;
- 1.10 Match Presentation and Other Protocol;
- 1.11 Doping Control;
- 1.12 Racket Control;
- 1.13 Arrangement of Classification seminar and Classification of Players;
- 1.14 Para Table Tennis Awards;
- 1.15 General Meeting of Asian & Oceania member nations/territories;
- 1.16 Contract/Agreement with ITTF Para Table Tennis Division;
- 1.17 Budget, Entry Fees and Capitation Tax; and
- 1.18 Expenses to be borne by the Organizer;

2. Officials of the Championships

As the JSFH did not print a souvenir handbook and there is no list of local officials available, only those that their names were given to me were included in this Report. In fact, only a few officials from the local Organizing Committee were among our contacts during the Championships. The only two contacts were Mr. Jasser Nuwairan and Mr. Ahmad Hyasat, other officials were working on their own and seldom in contact with other officials, maybe, due to language barrier.

The Officials of the Championships were as follows :-

Technical Delegate	:	Mr. Silas Chiang (Hong Kong)
Deputy Technical Delegate	:	Ms Cindy Leung (Hong Kong)
Competition Officials	:	Mr. Jasser Nuwairan (Jordan) Mr. Daoud Shedaheh (Jordan)
Computer Controllers	:	Mr. Musamad Smadi (Jordan) Mr. Ammar Al-Qadi (Jordan)
Referee	:	Mr. Cyril Sen (Malaysia)
Deputy Referees	:	Mr. Marrie Poole (Australia) Mr. Qais Kharisat (Jordan) Mr. Khames Ahmad (Jordan)
Classifier Chief	:	Dr. Aart Kruimer (Netheland)
Classifiers	:	Mr. Mawan Dia (Jordan) Dr. Hong In-Gyu (Korean) Ms Seto Phui Lin (Malaysia) Ms. Lin Jau-Jia (Chinese Taipei)
Racket Control Officier	:	Mr. Bauangart Jorg Ulrich (Germany)
International Umpires	:	Ms Kim Kil Ja (Korea) Mr. Hwang Chun Soo (Korea) Mr. Powell Leanard (Australia) Mrs. Powell Barbara (Australia) Mr. Ku Tin Wai (Hong Kong) Ms Mirbabay Zahrabeigor (Iran) Mr. Chamie M. Mounir (Syria)
Doping Control Officer	:	Mr. Kamal Al-Hadidy (Jordan)

As for the local officials from Jordan, not many were seen to be active during the Championships period though we met many of them in the Venue, probably they were doing other things not quite related to the Championships.

There were not enough umpires from local and overseas. The local umpires did not all turn up every day. The match schedule was tight so everyone had to work very long hours without any rest throughout the tournament. Time keeping was not the best and sometimes the Referees had to run around to find the umpires back from their rest / smoking spots.

From the ITTF Para Table Tennis we had Mr. Oeivind Eriksen, the Chairman, Mr. Nico Verspeelt the Vice-Chairman, Ms Alison Burchel, the Secretary-General, and Dr. Stafak Juraj, Medical Officer who was also helping in classification of players during the Championships period.

3. Participation

Kazakhstan and Kuwait which participated in the last championships in Seoul did not compete this time. A total of 134 players from 13 member nations/territories participated, and details are as follows :-

Member	Men's Wheelchair Players	Men's Standing Players	Women's Wheelchair Players	Women's Standing Players	Supporting Staff & Officials	Total
Australia	-	2	-	3	2	7
China	4	10	5	4	5	28
Hong Kong	2	-	4	-	4	10
Indonesia	1	-	-	-	1	2
India	1	6	5	2	-	14
Iran	2	1	2	-	5	10
Jordan	6	6	5	-	4	21
Japan	4	5	1	2	3	15
Korea	10	7	10	2	8	37
Malaysia	-	4	-	-	2	6
Qatar	1	1	-	-	2	4
Thailand	-	2	-	-	1	3
Chinese Taipei	6	5	3	-	6	20
Total	37	49	35	13	43	177

4. Reception at the Airport

All participants and officials were received at the airport and transported to hotels,

though some delays were reported from some teams.

5. Accreditation

Passes were prepared only on arrival and distributed to teams and officials a few days later.. As officials were not informed to bring along their photographs some passes did not process photographs on them. Passes however were of little use in the control of entry to the Venue.

6. Souvenir Book for the Championships

No souvenir or programme book for the Championships was printed and except the players list which were required for competition uses, no list of officials for the Championships were available.

This is the first time that the Organizer did not print a Souvenir Book for the regional championships. Participants would have no record of the event they had participated. We shall for future regional championships to stress that the Organizer must print the souvenir book for the event, for easy contact with relevant officials as well as for future reference as document.

7. Accommodation

Teams were accommodated in 4 hotels of 4 stars. Umpires and most teams were housed in the Regent Hotel. Korea and China, being the two biggest teams, were housed in two separate hotels. The Japan team and all International Officials and ITTF Para TT guests were in the Jerusalem International Hotel, Officials were all in singles rooms;

The so called 4 star hotels were more of 3 star status. There was a general feeling among the teams that the accommodation was over-priced. Teams also complained about the basic services of the hotels, such as water supply, toilet facilities, accessibilities in the rooms, etc.

As the Regent Hotel was not quite accessible to wheelchair users and with some basic service problems, some teams were not happy. Hong Kong team requested to transfer to a 3 star hotel as to suit for their wheelchair players using wash rooms. It seemed that the allocation of teams with wheelchair bound players were not done with care.

8. Transportation

Shuttle buses were arranged in between hotels and Venue. Due to insufficient communication to teams in schedule and accessible buses arrangements, teams experienced extended waiting time in many occasions.

9. Competition Venue

9 competition tables were arranged in the Main Hall, with 2 in the Practice Hall as reserve for competition use. 8 Practice tables were available in the Practice Hall next to the Main Hall. Lighting in the Main Hall had been improved, yet some other lighting problems occurred as sun light kept coming in from windows from different directions of the Training Hall at different times of a day. Improvements were made from time to time in the Practice Hall and once in the Main Hall.

Ball Persons and Volunteers

Ball persons and Volunteers were mainly from Universities and local schools. All very cheerful and happy young persons, however, there were times that they were not around or not having enough for the tasks.

Toilet facilities

For wheelchair users: very inadequate and not quite accessible to wheelchair users, and also not enough in the venue. The one in the Swimming complex was better, yet it was still too high for general wheelchair people. The IPC President had such experience during his visit to the venue.

Field of Play

Control was set up in the Main Hall and the Practice Hall. Security police were arranged to be there to keep order. Those voluntary police needed to be constantly reminded to carry out duties there, the control was regarded as effective throughout the Championships.

Office and Rooms for Officials

Offices for TD, Referees, Umpires, Racket Control, Doping Control as well as meeting rooms and rooms for classification seminar and classification for players were assigned in the Hall. Marshall and Control area were identified to be outside the player Hall.

10. Meals

Buffet was provided for breakfast and dinner in hotels while lunch boxes at Venue on competition days. No snacks were provided and only drinks for officials. Lunch boxes were late for the first two days and improved later after repeated urge. Variety however was limited.

11. Communication

Notices to teams were served to hotels by volunteers and posted in Notice Board in the Venue and also in pigeon holes. No bulletin/newsletter were arranged. Yet the TD and Referee had written two articles on the Championships to be posted in the ITTF website together with some photographs.

12. Programme & Schedule

21 Oct	Arrival of Classifiers, TDs and Referees
22 Oct	Classification Seminar / Classification of Players Free Practice
23 Oct	Classification Seminar / Classification of Players Scheduled Training Umpires Seminar/Briefing Team Managers Meeting & Draw for Open Events
24 Oct	Open Events Opening Ceremony
25 Oct	Open Events & Medal Ceremonies Class Single Events
26 Oct	Class Single Events Medal Ceremony
27 Oct	Team Events Asian & Oceania General Meeting
28 Oct	Team Events & Medal Ceremony Closing Ceremony / Banquet Awards Presentations
29 Oct	Departure

13. Presentation of Players

Presentation of players and umpires for the first sessions of the day, semi-finals and finals were planned. However, this was impossible due to the very tight schedule of competition. The fact that local umpires were insufficient and not easy to locate had always caused some delay. It is interesting to note that there was no clock in the Main Hall and in the Practice Hall.

14. Umpires from Participating Teams

Invitation of umpires was sent both by the Deputy TD and the Para TT Technical Officer, yet the response was poor. Only 7 turned up. We shall consider to make it mandatory that participating teams must bring along 1-2 international umpires to the championships in future.

15. Equipment

- Tables - 26 new Donic "WALDNER SC" tables, blue in surface;
- Nets - Donic;
- Balls - Donic 3 Star, Orange in colour;
- Umpire Tables - Donic;
- Score Board - Stiga table scores, no wall mounted score board;

16. Racket Control

Racket Control was conducted during the event, and educational session on Racket Control was done during the Umpires briefing session, players and coaches were allowed to visit the racket control office for learning purpose. A report was submitted direct to ITTF.

17. Doping Control

According to ITTF Para Table Tennis Division we needed to conduct 10 doping tests, 4 of which were to be before competition and 6 for champions in Class Singles events. We made some draw for the 4 pre-competition tests to be on 22 and 23 October; one each for Wheelchair Male and Female and for Standing Male and Female. As for the Class Singles champions, draws were made prior to the event started and tests

were conducted accordingly, with no problems except that winners had to rush from the Doping office to the Venue for their medals and rushed back to have the test on 26 October.

Those who were tested were as follows :-

Pre-Competition Tests

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Al Bargouti Maha (Jordan) | Class 1/F |
| 2. Na Yu Rim (Korea) | Class 7/F |
| 3. Al Sharif Hassan Adnan H (Qatar) | Class 4/M |
| 4. Ting Ing Hock (Malayia) | Class 9/M |

For Class Singles

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| 5. Kim Byoung Young (Korea) | Class 5/M |
| 6. Thainiyom Rungroj (Thailand) | Class 6/M |
| 7. Ye Chao Qun (China) | Class 7/M |
| 8. Kim Kwang Jin (Korea) | Class 8/M |
| 9. Ge Yang (China) | Class 10/M |
| 10. Zhou Ying (China) | Class 4/F |

As the players from Malaysia and Qatar did not turn up for the practice, the Control Officer had to conduct the tests in their hotel.

18. Classification of Players

33 players were scheduled to be tested and they all finished on the day before Open event commenced on 23 October. There were some changes in classification.

19. Computer and Software used

Dr. Wu's Competition Programme was used for the Draw, scheduling and results management. 2 computer controllers were there to input results and output of score sheets during the competition.

20. Education Programme

Seminar and Briefing for Umpires was held in the morning of 23 October and it was not finished till around 4:00p.m. in the afternoon. The seminar was conducted by the Mr. Cyril Sen, the Referee, with support from Ms Cindy Leung, the Deputy TD. A total of 31 participated.

21. Classification Seminar

Dr. Aart Kruimer conducted the Seminar from 22-25 October, and was followed by an examination on the last day.

22. Ceremonies & Presentation

Opening Ceremony was held in the venue on the first competition day at 5:00p.m. on 24 October.

The Closing Ceremony was held at the end of the last day of play followed by the banquet. As the ceremony was long, dinner was delayed till quite late, resulting in some teams having to leave without dinner so as to be in time for their flights, whilst the others who stayed back were not happy as it was well past their dinner time.

23. Medal Ceremonies

Medal Ceremonies for Open events was conducted on 25 October following the finals, while those for Singles and Teams on 26 October and 28 October respectively in the Main Hall. National anthems were played and national flags were raised. However, due to the different sizes of flag, and the design of the flag raising rack, the medal ceremonies were not satisfactorily organized. At one time, the China flag almost fell from the rack.

24. Selection for the World Championships 2010

Winners of all Singles events would be automatically qualified for the 2010 World Championships to be held in Gwangju of Korea. The players are :-

Female Class 1-2 LIU Jing (CHN) Female Class 3 LI Qian (CHN)
Female Class 4 ZHOU Ying (CHN) Female Class 5 REN Guixiang (CHN)
Female Class 6-8 MAO Jingdian (CHN) Female Class 9 LIU Mei Li (CHN)
Female Class 10 YANG Qian (CHN)

Male Class 1-2 KIM Gong Yong (KOR) Male Class 3 FENG Pan Feng (CHN)
Male Class 4 KIM Jung Gil (KOR) Male Class 5 KIM Byoung Young (KOR)
Male Class 6 THAINIYOM Rungroj (THA)

Male Class 7 YE Chao Qun (CHN)

Male Class 8 KIM Kwang Jin (KOR)

Male Class 9 LU Xiao Lei (CHN)

Male Class 10 GE Yang (CHN)

25. Awards

Best Players Award – Selection of Best Players were based on competition results and the players who had won the most number of matches/sets were selected to receive the Awards, each for Male Wheelchair and Standing, and Demale Wheelchair and Standing Players. Winners of the Best Players Awards were :-

26. Recommendations:

1. Appointment of officials:

Match Officials: The ITTF Directives should be observed for Regional Championships, including

- Number of local and overseas officials
- Language requirements,
- Provision for match officials (lockers, snacks, etc.),
- Competency of match officials in rules, regulations interpretation and match procedures,
- To ensure continuous availability of all umpires
- All umpires should be provided (or reminded to bring along) umpires equipments such as stop watch, toss, cards, etc.

Administrative:

- Organizers: be available when needed, and prepare the event beforehand instead of last minute rush for everything.
- Ball persons: to ensure sufficient numbers to have 2 to a table at all times (including lunch hours when matches are still going on), and to come in on time and leave only when matches are over
- Volunteers to assist TD, Referee, Racket Controller, Doping Controller: to ensure sufficient numbers, and constant availability

2. Venue:

Administrative:

- More efficient and convenient photocopying facility
- More working space in the hall / stage for the Referee team and Results management

- More space for wheelchair spectators / players in the venue
- Platform for prize presentation

Lighting:

- To have a more even distribution of lighting over all the tables
- To ensure no ingress of external light

Crowd control:

To have sufficient in numbers of personnel, and who know what is required of them

Toilets:

- To be sufficient in number to serve the expected number of people
- To be wheelchair friendly according to the requirements

Cleanliness:

- To be more diligent in keeping clean, toilets, field of play, and other areas in playing venue

3. Accommodation and meals:

Quality to be commensurate with the rate charged each participant

4. Racket Control:

All PTT Regional Championships and Factor 40 events should assign Racket Controllers and ITTF to provide the needed testing equipments.

5. Closing Ceremony & Banquet:

To ensure that dinner starts at a reasonable time, say by 8.00pm, as players and officials would be hungry having come from their matches which were completed not too long before.

6. **Some of the issues mentioned in below will need to be considered as mandatory for hosts of regional championships in future : -**

- a) **Souvenir Programme book** for regional championships need to be printed. This is important to those who participated in it and is a document for reference in future;
- b) **Flags of participating nations/territories** need to be uniform in size and the host will need to prepare for them;
The Flag raising mechanism need to be checked and tested prior to the championships;
- c) There should be a **raised platform for winners of the medal ceremonies**; this be considered as a kind of respect to the winning players;
- d) Details of hotels of the championships need to be disclosed to participating nations/territories, and allocation of hotels/rooms, in particular teams with a

- large number of wheelchair bound players, need to be carefully worked out;
- e) Hosts must be able to be contacted and respond at all times some 6 months prior to the date of competition;

Failing the above should be considered for penalty like the host concerned be ineligible to apply for sanctioned event for a few years. As some participating teams did not bring their qualified, we should consider to make it mandatory for teams to bring along at least one umpire for the championships.

By Ms Cindy Leung, Deputy Technical Delegate and
Mr. Silas Chiang, Technical Delegate
On 15th January, 2010