



# 2018 Para Table Tennis Thailand Open

Factor 40

Chiang Mai, THAILAND

18<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2018



## INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION PARA TABLE TENNIS DIVISION

### *TECHNICAL DELEGATE'S REPORT*

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**Name of Tournament:** 2018 PTT Thailand Open

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**Ranking Factor:** 40

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**Name of the National Association/Organizer:** Sports Association for the Disabled of Thailand under the Royal Patronage of His Majesty the King (SADT)

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**Name of Chairperson of the Organizing Committee:** Maitree Kongruang

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**Venue:** Baan Lan Tong Convention Hall, Lotus Hotel Pang Suan Kaew  
21 Huay Kaew Road, Suthep, Muang, Chiang Mai  
50200 Thailand

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**Dates of play:** 19<sup>th</sup> ~ 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2018

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**Name of Technical Delegate:** Cyril SEN (MAS)

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**Name of Deputy TD:** NA

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**Report submitted to ITTF PTTD:** January 2019

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**Airport:**

Chiang Mai International Airport (CNX) is about a 20-minute drive to the place of accommodation and venue, the venue being a part of the hotel complex.

The organisers arranged transport from the airport to the accommodation and back.

**Accreditation:**

Accreditation cards were provided to all teams, officials and volunteers, but all were without photographs. However, this was not found to be a necessity as almost all the people present were those involved in the competition.

**Accommodation:**

All players and officials stayed at Lotus Hotel Pang Suan Kaew, 21 Huay Kaew Road, Suthep, Muang, Chiang Mai 50200 Thailand.

It is a 4-star hotel comprising of a number of wings which contain the convention hall (the playing venue), a second hotel, a department store, food court and other entertainment facilities.

The hotel is within walking distance of some street stalls and shopping areas. The very close proximity of the department store provided everyone with easy access to any additional items they would need.

Free wifi service was available in the lobby as well as in the rooms, though that in the rooms should have been better.

Accessibility within the hotel was good, except for the bathrooms.



Front of Hotel & Part of Venue



Hotel Lobby



Hotel Front Entrance



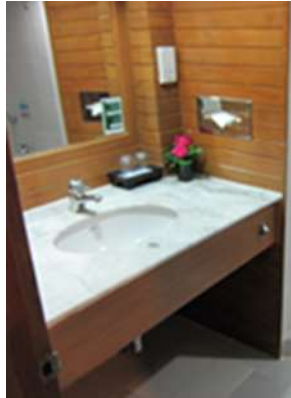
Hotel Side Entrance



Main Lifts



Bedroom



Ensuite Bathroom

### Meals & Refreshments:

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner were at the Dining Hall which is about a 1-minute walk from the Playing Hall.

The quality, quantity and variety of the food was good. However, the menu was almost the same every day and almost all the dishes were Asian.

There was adequate space and facilities for wheelchair users, who were assisted by the hotel staff as and when required.

Breakfast: 06:00 to 10:00

Lunch: 11:30 to 14:30

Dinner: 18:30 to 21:00

An unlimited supply of bottled water was available for all at the venue. Coffee, tea and fruit were available for teams, officials and guests.



Dining Hall

**Transportation:**

The organisers provided suitable transport, including accessible vans and busses, for athletes and officials from the airport to the venue and back to the airport at the end of the championships. However, there were some hiccups during the arrivals when officials and teams found it difficult to make contact with the Meet & Greet personnel.

As the venue and dining hall were in a wing of the building that is a part of the hotel, it was not necessary for transport to be provided. Access to the venue and dining hall was by way of a lift and then some stairs. This thus required those on wheelchairs to use one of the 5 lifts based at the ground floor just outside the hotel proper. I do believe the convenience of having the accommodation and dining so close to the playing hall was welcomed by all, including those on wheelchairs.

**Venue:**

Baan Lan Tong Convention Hall, Lotus Hotel Pang Suan Kaew

The venue for the competition was the convention hall located on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor of one of the wings connected to the hotel. There was a fairly wide corridor that circled the convention hall.

The venue was fully accessible for wheelchair users. All the facilities and rooms were located on the same floor just a few minutes walk of each other. As such, it was very convenient for everyone. Wifi was available throughout the venue.

**Competition Hall:** The banquet hall was used as the competition hall. As it was fairly large, it provided ample space for easy movement around the playing areas.



Lighting was good at about 800 lux all around.

There were 12 competition tables, all wheelchair-compatible, with each having a playing area of 13.5M x 6.5M. The tables were arranged in 2 groups with each group having 2 rows of 3 tables each.

**Practice Areas:** There were 8 tables spread out on the same floor level and around the Playing Hall.  
The heights of the ceilings above the tables were a little low at about 2.6M, but this did not seem to bother the players.

With the exception of Practice Tables 1 & 2, where the lighting was approximately 400 lux, the lighting for the other 6 tables was too low at approximately 250~300 lux. The players did find the poor lighting a disadvantage when carrying out training or warming up prior to their matches.



Tables 1 & 2



Tables 6 to 8

**Call Area:** Located just outside the Competition Hall, the large space available made it comfortable for the wheelchair teams to access the CA tables as well as to assemble for the presentation.

**Racket Control Centre:** This was not setup as there was no official racket control in this competition.

**Spectator Seating:** Spectator seating was arranged on both the long sides of the hall. As there were not too many spectators, there was more than sufficient seating available.

There was a short temporary-built raised platform for spectators, but this was not accessible to wheelchair users. It would have been better if the platform had ramps to allow wheelchair access.



**Medical Services:**

It was good to see that, throughout the competition, medical staff were on stand-by on the field of play whilst an ambulance was available at the ground floor car park.





**Work Areas:**

Technical Delegate & Referee:

A wheelchair accessible room, adjacent to the Competition Hall and equipped with a computer, printers and wifi with sufficient tables and chairs, was made available for the use of the TD and Referee team.

Secretariat:

Having the secretariat next to and connected to the TD/Referee room made it very convenient for both parties in their preparations before the start of the competition.

Wheelchair Service:

This service was provided by Ottobock personnel, and was available throughout the duration of the competition. It was located just outside the competition hall. There were times when the personnel here were kept quite busy.



Classification:

A Classification Seminar was conducted on the 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>, with classifications then being carried out on the 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> for new players from Class 1 to 11, as well as re-evaluations.

Broadcast:

There was live streaming everyday via YouTube. At times 2 tables were streamed and at times only one. This effort to have live streaming is a move in the right direction and was appreciated by many.



Screen Grabs:  
Tables #3 & #4



The Broadcast Team

**Change / Wash Rooms:**

There was one for males and another for females, located close to the competition hall.

In each of these rooms there were showers, toilets and washbasins.

It was good to see that the hotel had carried out the necessary modifications so as to have 4 accessible WCs in each of the wash rooms.



## Lounges:

VIP & TD: Refreshments as well as snacks and fruit were provided throughout the day.

Match Officials: The lounge was conveniently located adjacent to the Call Area. Refreshments as well as snacks and fruit were provided throughout the day.

Players: Refreshments as well as snacks and fruit were provided throughout the day at a space close to the Call Area.



Close by to the refreshments stand, 2 rooms (Male and Female) were made available for those who needed to rest. In each of the rooms, there were a few sofa-beds. It was observed that these rooms were hardly used and it is possible that the players found it more convenient to return to their own hotel rooms to rest.

## Sports Equipment:

Floor	:	Enlio (Red)
Table	:	Double Fish 328A
Ball	:	Sanwei ABS 40+ Pro*** White
Net	:	Double Happiness
Surround	:	Yinhe (blue)
Towel Box	:	Butterfly (Black)
Umpire's Chair	:	DHS
Asst. Ump's Chair	:	Banquet chair
Asst. Ump's Table	:	Yinhe
Score Indicator	:	Double Happiness

## Competition Programme:

17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	:	Arrival day for some; Classifications
18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	:	Classifications; Technical Meeting; Referee's Briefing for umpires.
19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	:	Opening Ceremony; Singles Events
20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	:	Singles Events; Awards Ceremony
21 <sup>st</sup> Dec	:	Team Events
22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	:	Team Events; Awards Ceremony; Farewell Dinner.
23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	:	Departure of teams & officials

## Competition Hours:

19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	:	09:30 ~ 19:00
20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	:	10:00 ~ 18:00
21 <sup>st</sup> Dec	:	09:30 ~ 19:00
22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	:	09:30 ~ 17:30

## Participants:

Countries: 16 : AUS, CHI, FRA, HKG, IND, IRQ, JPN, KAZ, KOR, MAC, NED, RUS, SGP, SRI, VIE, THA  
Male: 113 (Wheelchair: 45)  
Female: 47 (Wheelchair: 14)  
Total: 160 (Wheelchair: 59)

## Events Contested:

Class Singles: SF2-3; SF4-5; SF6, SF7; SF8-10; SF11.  
SM1-2; SM3; SM4; SM5; SM6; SM7; SM8; SM9; SM10;  
SM11  
Class Teams: TF2-5; TF6-7; TF8-10; TF11.  
TM1-3; TM4; TM5; TM6-7; TM8; TM9; TM10; TM11

## Organising Committee:

Tournament Director: Maitree Kongruang  
Asst. Tournament Director: Wilailak Tancharoen  
Venue Manager: Treerawish Khumbanglee  
Results: Saranya Sarivong  
Computer Operator: Kumsarn Songphol  
Announcer: Surang Sriboonruang  
Photographer: Panchamaporn Chaitang

## Match Officials:

TD:	Cyril Sen	MAS
Referee:	Tan Yin Loo	SGP
Deputy Referee:	Xu Yumei	CHN
	Niwat Semangern	THA
Asst. Referee:	Chusakul Varayanon	THA
	Sopon Somnuake	THA
Classifiers:	Wu Sheng Kuang	TPE
	Attarit Srinkapaibulaya	THA
	Se To Phui Lin	MAS

Umpires: 36 International Umpires, including 12 IUs from 6 overseas countries, together with 2 local National Umpires, officiated in this competition. The standard of umpiring was good for most of the umpires





## **Volunteers:**

### **Ball Persons:**

Always more than enough were present and they were efficient and well disciplined. Their quiet contribution was most welcome.



### **Liaison:**

Every delegation was provided with a liaison person (though some delegations had to share where the delegation was very small). These young volunteers did an excellent job, and this was openly expressed by many of the teams.

## **Meetings:**

### **Technical Meeting:**

This was conducted on 18<sup>th</sup> December, beginning at 18:00 at the Huay Nam Kaow (Meeting Room) on the 6th Floor, Lotus Hotel Pang Suan Kaew. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Maitree Kongruang, the Organising Chairman. All teams attended and the good cooperation given by all those present is very much appreciated.



### **Referee's Briefing:**

The briefing, which was held on the same day and at the same room as the Technical Meeting, began at 20:00 hours and ended with a familiarisation tour of the Field of Play and other related areas.

## Information, Communication & Results:

Information and results were communicated via the pigeon holes located in the competition hall. Besides this, information and results were posted on the notice board at the entrance to the hall, as well as by the use of numerous signages.

Twice a day, the 'Live Results' were updated on the IPTTC website.



## Photography Service:

This was provided by Ms. Panchamaporn Chaitang (better known as Bo) who did an excellent job of capturing many good action shots and uploading them twice a day.

## Articles on ITTF Website:

A big thank you to Ian Marshal for publishing the following articles:

<https://www.ittf.com/2018/12/19/seeking-repeat-spanish-success-home-soil/>

<https://www.ittf.com/2018/12/22/korea-republic-outfits-form-title-secured/>

<https://www.ittf.com/2018/12/22/lim-hangsueng-jang-yeongjin-excel-surprise-group-first-place/>

<https://www.ittf.com/2018/12/22/lim-hangsueng-jang-yeongjin-excel-surprise-group-first-place/>

<https://www.ittf.com/2018/12/22/rungroj-thainiyom-adds-title-collection-narrowest-margins/>

<https://www.ittf.com/2018/12/22/major-medal-haul-host-nation-home-soil/>

<https://www.ittf.com/2018/12/22/top-seeds-prevail-korea-republic-dominant-force/>

**Ceremonies:**

Opening Ceremony:

It was a nice presentation which included some traditional dances and lasted for about 45 minutes. However, the time required to clear and reset the playing area took another 45 minutes, resulting in play starting about 30 minutes later than scheduled. It is important that playing time should not be lost in such a way.



Awards Ceremonies:

The awards ceremony for the Class Singles events was held on the second day at the conclusion of the Singles competition, whilst the awards ceremony for the Class Teams events was held on the 4th day at the conclusion of the Teams competition.





## Farewell Dinner:

This was held at a hall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor in the hotel on the night of the 22<sup>nd</sup>. The food was good and there was a live 3-piece band that got everyone in the mood. For those who left early, I believe you did miss some of the fun and camaraderie.



## Evaluation:

Following is a summary of the results of a survey conducted with coaches and team leaders as the participants:

Information:	:	:
○ General	:	Good
○ Internet	:	Average
Sports Venue:		
○ Competition Hall	:	Good
○ Playing Conditions		
○ Practice Area	:	Below average
○ Playing Conditions		
○ Change/Rest Rooms	:	Good
○ Wash Rooms	:	Good
Accommodation:		
○ General	:	Good
○ Accessible Bathroom	:	Below average
○ Meals	:	Average
Human Resources:	:	:
○ Match Officials	:	Good
○ Secretariat	:	Good
○ Ball persons	:	Average
○ Volunteers	:	Very Good
Transportation		
○ Airport / Hotel	:	Average

## Observations and Recommendations:

- Meet & Greet at the Airport: ➤ To avoid arriving teams and officials not being able to meet those waiting to greet them, it is recommended that the terminal of arrival be made known to the volunteers, and that large clear signs be displayed so those arriving can easily identify them.
- Hotel Room Accessible Bathroom/WC: ➤ The recommended modifications were not carried out leading to inconvenience and some amount of difficulty for wheelchair users.

- Although plastic chairs for having a shower were provided upon request, no handrails were installed for the WC. It is a necessity that handrails are provided for the safety and accessibility of wheelchair users.
  - A recommendation was made to install some form of barrier at the door entrance to prevent water ingress onto the room floor carpet as some w/c users will most probably shower on the floor between the shower stall and the tub/WC. This was not done and it did result in some damage to the carpet in at least one room, if not more.
- Practice Area: ➤ It is necessary that the lighting be improved quite substantially.
- Call Area: ➤ It is necessary that the lighting be improved so as to enable umpires to effectively perform racket testing.
- Competition Hall: ➤ If a raised platform could be provided for wheelchair spectators (players and public) this would enhance the ability of the wheelchair users to better follow the action on court.
- Meals ➤ Although the meals were substantial, it would be better if the menu could be varied from day to day, and some additional food other than Asian, be also provided.

**Conclusion:** Overall, the event was well organized, and in my opinion, a success.

What could be attributed to the players satisfaction and success of the competition are probably the following:

- Athletes could conveniently move between hotel and venue without requiring transport as the venue is a part of the hotel.
- All meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner) were served hot and there was no need for packed meals as the dining hall is only a few meters away from the FoP
- Chiang Mai is a city with a lot of tourists and tourist attractions and this provided the additional attraction to foreign teams.

This is a good venue to hold the competition, but if it is to be used again, then what has been highlighted as needing attention, especially the bedroom washroom/WC for wheelchair users, and the lighting in the Practice and Call Areas must be corrected. This does not mean that the other areas are not important, but that the previously mentioned 3 areas are critical.

In closing, I take this opportunity to thank all those involved: the LOC (Thai Para Table Tennis Association) for its patience and cooperation; the Referee, her team and the umpires for their dedication and cooperation; and all the volunteers, especially those young liaison officers, for their commitment and support. Thanks too, to the Table Tennis Association of Thailand for the support and assistance given. A personal thanks to Mr. Maitree Kongruang and Ms. Wilailak Tancharoen for their cooperation, understanding and support from the very start of preparations right up to the conclusion of the event.

Congratulations to all for helping make the 2018 PTT Thailand Open a successful event.