

## **Report of the 31st IGF meetings - 5/24-25/2010**

- By Thomas Hsiang

For the duration above, I attended the 31st Board Meeting and General Meeting of the International Go Federation, held in parallel with the 31st World Amateur Go Championship at Hangzhou, China. Below is a report of the important issues discussed in these meetings.

The IGF Board Meeting was attended by these Directors: Hideo Otake, president of IGF and President of Nihon Kiin; Zhenming Chang, President-elect of IGF and President of China Citic Group; Siming Liu, Executive Director-elect of IGF and President of the China Qiyuan; Thomas Hsiang, VP of IGF and VP of AGA; Eduardo Lopez, VP of IGF; Martin Stiassny, President of European Go Federation; Korsak Chairasmisak, President of Thai Go Association and World Chinese Weiqi Association; Ichiro Tanioka, President of Osaka University of Commerce; Neville Smythe, Vice President of the Australian Go Association; Mr. Heo, proxy for Han Sang-yul, VP of IGF and Executive Secretary of the Korean Baduk Association; Maria Dolores Puerta, President of Venezuelan Go Association; and Viktor Bogdanov, VP of Russian Go Federation. The staff members attending were Ei Kanda, IGF Office Manager, and Yuki Shigeno, IGF Secretary General. Attending as Advisor to the Board was Mrs. Hiroko Taki, VP of World Pair Go Association.

The first business was the election of the new President, Mr. Chang. Four Vice Presidents were elected, Mr. Hsiang, Mr. Han, and Mr. Lopez, and Mr. Otake. Australia and Thailand were elected as auditors. All Directors were re-elected for two years, except Bogdanov and Puerta will have one year remaining on their terms. Yuki Shigeno was re-appointed as Secretary General.

### ***Revision of IGF Statutes***

Director Ichiro Tanioka reported an update of the IGF Statutes that would increase the Director count to 12 and the VP count to 4, including three at-large Directors with no country restrictions. The official language of IGF is now changed to English. These changes were approved by the General Meeting.

### ***New structure and support for IGF***

IGF's Secretary General Yuki Shigeno reported the new three-country support structure of IGF is now in operation. China will take over the first two-year presidency of IGF, with annual budget contribution of US\$90,000; Korea and Japan will assume two of the VP positions and contribute US\$30,000 each year to the IGF budget. In 2012 Japan will take over the presidency, followed by Korea in 2014.

### ***International tournaments***

This year the 31<sup>st</sup> World Amateur Go Championship was sponsored for the first time by a non-Japanese host. The City of Hangzhou, with its deep cultural roots and beautiful scenery, provided an excellent venue for this historical occasion. For 2011, Shimane on the North Coast of Japan's Honshu Island will be host, followed by China again in 2012. (*Thomas Hsiang was the US representative this year*).

International Amateur Pair Go Championship celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary November 14 and 15, 2009, at Iidabashi, Tokyo. (*Yinli Wang and Yuan Zhou represented US*). In addition, a special commemorative event, run in the format of a "World Cup" of pair go, was held in March, 2010 at Hangzhou. This pro-am mixed tournament included the strongest pairs world-wide. (*Representing North America were Yun Feng and Jie Li*).

The 7th World Student Oza, with the new sponsor of NKB, Inc., a Japanese advertising company and the sponsor of JPGA and IGS, was held in October, 2009. (*Jie Li represented US and placed second, the highest a US player has achieved in any international tournaments*).

The 2010 Asian Games has announced the inclusion of Go as a competition item. IGF is working with the Asian Go Federation and the Chinese Weiqi Association to coordinate the Go event.

For other tournaments, the 4<sup>th</sup> Korean Prime Minister Cup was held in October, 2009; the Hi Seoul World Businessman Baduk Fair, the Hangzhou World City-Team tournament, and the Children's Team Tournament (Thailand) all continued at their traditional times.

*(Additional information on international tournaments not related to IGF:*

*Jie Li was the North American representative at the 2010 Fujitsu Cup.*

*In an important success of international diplomacy, the AGA won over the right to select the North American representative to the Chunlan Cup. A selection tournament for the 8<sup>th</sup> Cup was held in February, 2010, and won by Mingjiu Jiang.)*

### **SportAccord, IMSA, and mind sport events**

The 2010 SportAccord Convention was held in Dubai in April. This is the annual meeting of SportAccord (previously known as GAISF, the General Association of International Sports Federations, of which IGF is a member) that provides a forum for international federations to interact with each other and to organize international tournaments. For Go, most important is our engagement with IMSA (the International Mind Sports Association) and WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency) during the week.

This year, IMSA was particularly busy, with six meetings held over nearly twenty hours during the week. Some of the major items for these meetings were: (1) approval of International Poker Federation as a provisional member; (2) hearing the proposed plans by West Nally (a marketing company based in London) and Dentsu (a media company based in Tokyo) to market mind sports, including the 2nd World Mind Sports Games (WMSG) planned for 2012 in Manchester, UK, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> WMSG planned for 2016 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; (3) discussion with Hein Verbruggen (SportAccord President) and his associates their plans for holding an “elite mind sports event” in 2011 in Nanjing, China; and (4) discussion with IOC representatives about their plans for mind sports and anti-doping.

*(IGF has started its official in-competition anti-doping testing program with this year's WAGC. The top five finishers plus one randomly selected player were tested. The out-of-competition testing was suspended, pending WADA decision on the suitability of this type of testing for mind sports).*

The new Executive Director, Mr. Siming Liu, gave a report on the preparation of the 2010 Asian Games. He told us that a brand new \$35M Guangzhou Qiyuan has been built as the venue for the Go and Chess events. Go will include three medals: men team, women team, and pair competition. Chinese Rules will be used; an international referee team is being assembled and trained. In addition, a five-member international arbiter team will be organized to supervise the event. Thomas Hsiang will be the Western representative on this

team.

### ***Miscellaneous***

The IGF Ranka-online team now collaborates with the AGA e-journal team to cover the WAGC news. This year, five Ranka members and two e-journal members (Chris Garlock and John Pinkerton) were in Hangzhou. The news was updated several times daily on the Ranka web page.

New potential IGF members have emerged from Côte-d'Ivoire and Pakistan. The new support of IGF hopefully will allow it to expand promotion in such areas that previously had very little Go activities.

European Go Federation was admitted as a new Association Member of IGF.