

## Report of the 32nd IGF meetings – 5/27-28/2011

– By Thomas Hsiang

For the duration above, I attended the 32nd Board Meeting and the 20th General Meeting of the International Go Federation, held in parallel with the 32nd World Amateur Go Championship in Matsue City, Japan. The important agenda items, as related to AGA, are discussed below.

The IGF Board Meeting was attended by these Directors: Hideo OTAKE, president of IGF and President of Nihon Kiin; 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 EGF; Vanthanee NAMASONTI, proxy for 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; Kyung-moo HEO, proxy for Han Sang-yul, VP of IGF and Executive Secretary of the Korean Baduk Association; Jae-ho YANG, VP-elect of IGF and Secretary General of the KBS; and Martin FINKE, Director-elect; Hiroko TAKI, Director-elect and Vice President of World Pair Go Association; and Yuki SHIGENO, IGF Secretary General. Guest participants included three Nihon-Kiin Directors, Chizu KOBAYASHI, Mr. WADA, and Mr. KANDA.

The first business was the election of the new Directors, Mrs. Taki, Mr. Yang, and Mr. Finke. Australia and Thailand were re-elected as auditors. Yuki Shigeno was re-appointed as Secretary General. Of special note is that Mrs. Taki was elected as Director at large: this election, along with the anticipated election of Mr. Ming-hao YING from the Ing Foundation later this year to the other Director at large position, would provide IGF a forum participated by all the major Go organizations in the world.

### *Future WAGC events*

It was reported that the 2012 WAGC will be held in March 2012 in Guangzhou, China. Nihon Kiin will host the 2013 WAGC event. The priority of hosting the 2014 event is given to Korea.

### *Report of development*

I reported that IMSA, of which IGF is a member, has entered a commercial development contract with Mind Sport Partners (MSP), a company based in Singapore. IGF anticipates receiving at least €25,000 yearly to support Go activities, in addition to the funds for the Go events of the World Mind Sport Games in 2012 and 2016. Further, IMSA has entered into a contract with SportAccord to hold the 2011 SportAccord Mind Games (SAMG), from which IGF will receive a management fee of \$50,000.

Under this contract, IGF is expected to support the formation of several National Mind Sport Associations and to participate actively in all MSP-organized competitions and promotional events.

Mr. Siming Liu reported that he is exploring an IGF-sponsored professional world championship that will be commercially supported.

### ***SportAccord Mind Games 2011***

The SAMG games will be held December 8 through 17 at the Beijing Convention Center. Five sport events will participate: Bridge, Chess, Draughts, Go, and Xiangqi.

For Go, the competition items include two medals, a five-member team competition from six teams and a six- or seven-pair pair-go competition. The former will be held December 9-14, the latter on December 15-16. The six teams will be formed from China, Japan, South Korea, Asian-Pacific region (represented by Chinese Taipei), the Americas (represented by AGA), and European (represented by EGF). Pairs will be chosen from these six teams, plus possibly a seventh pair from the host city. All expense of the players will be borne by SportAccord. Substantial prize money in all places is provided.

AGA is requested to form its team, with at least one female member, before August 31, 2011.

### ***World Mind Sport Games in 2012 and 2016***

WMSG 2012 is not yet under contract. Several locations are under consideration, most notably Manchester, UK, and Madrid, Spain. WMSG 2016 has received preliminary approval by the Brazilian government.

### ***Anti-doping activities***

I reported the discussions between WADA and IMSA officials about anti-doping. IMSA raised the question that there is no scientific proven benefit of performance enhancement drugs for mind-sport players taken prior to the competitions. It was requested that WADA officially exempt mind sports from “out-of-competition testing”.

It was further pointed out that, for now, Go, Bridge, Draughts have suspended their out-of-competition testing programs pending a decision by WADA. Chess uses a separate program, where selected players are tested 24 hours prior to competition to constitute the out-of-competition testing.

In response to this request, WADA agreed to re-visit the issue in their next revision of the anti-doping code starting early 2012, intended for publication in 2013. For now, WADA requested that the three non-compliant IMSA members adopt the Chess model, or continue to be considered non-compliant.

Within IGF, Ms. Shigeno reported that the testing during this year’s WAGC would not be held, because of the refusal of Japanese anti-doping agency to support this activity for Go, the latter being an unrecognized sport in Japan. Instead, the 2011 testing will be done during the SAMG event in December in China. Martin Finke, an IGF Director, has been appointed to organize the anti-doping infrastructure within IGF.

### ***Other IGF-sponsored events***

The 22nd International Amateur Pair Go Championship will be held November 19-21, 2011, in Tokyo.

KBA asked the Go community to join in its petition for the 2014 Asian Games to include of Go as a competition item. Go players can go to the KBA website to sign up.

The Korean Prime Minister Cup, now in its sixth year, will be held in October, 2011; the World University Student Championship (March), the Hi Seoul World Businessman Baduk Fair (November), the Hangzhou World City-Team tournament (November), and the Children’s Team

Tournament (Thailand, February) all will continue at their traditional times.

KBA was asked to investigate the possibility of IGF joining the International University Sports Federation, FISU.

KBA reported that it will support the formation of a professional system in Europe by allowing the latter's members to participate in some of the Korean title competitions.

Mr. Liu reported IGF is supporting European Go activities by sponsoring up to 20 European youths to study Go in China in the summer of 2011. He also commented that China Qiyuan is supporting the European Go Congress by helping EGC secure a third year of support from the Chinese team company, Zhuyeqing. In addition, there will be a large delegation of Chinese professionals and amateurs visiting the 2011 EGC. The Chinese A-League will play one round at the mid-Congress break; eight top professionals from China will participate.

In response, Ms. Kobayashi noted that Nihon Kiin will have a large presence at the 2011 EGC as well; several NK Directors and professionals will participate. Similar comments were made by the Pair Go Association (Mrs. Taki) and Korean Baduk Association (Mr. Yang). Very little was said about the US Go Congress...