

Reports of the 33rd IGF board meeting (5/12/2012)

- By Thomas Hsiang

This meeting was held in parallel with the 33rd World Amateur Go Championship in Guangzhou, China.

Attending were these Directors: CHANG Zhenming, President of IGF; OTAKE Hideo, VP of IGF and President of Nihon Kiin; LIU Siming, VP-elect of IGF and President of China Qiyuan; Thomas HSIANG, VP of IGF and VP of AGA; Eduardo LOPEZ, VP of IGF; Martin STIASSNY, President of EGF; Korsak CHAIRASMISAK, President of Thai Go Association and World Chinese Weichi Association; TANIOKA Ichiro, President of Osaka University of Commerce; Neville SMYTHE, VP of the Australian Go Association; SUH Daewon, proxy for YANG Jaeho, VP of IGF and Executive Secretary of the Korean Baduk Association; Martin FINKE; TAKI Hiroko, Secretary General of World Pair Go Association; and SHIGENO Yuki, IGF Secretary General. In addition, three directors-elect were in attendance: MATSUURA Koichiro, President-elect of IGF and President of World Pair Go Association (replacing Chang); KOBAYASHI Chizu, Office-Director-elect (replacing Otake); and YING Minghaw, President of Ing Foundation (taking a previously vacant position on the IGF board). There were also four guests: WANG Yi, Director of Weiqi Department, China Qiyuan; HEO Kyungmoo of KBA; HIRAI Hidekazu and SOTA Keiko of WPGA.

The first business was the election of the three new Directors, Mr. Matsuura, Ms. Kobayashi, and Mr. Ying. Mr. Matsuura was then elected President, pending approval of AGM for his director appointment. Australia and Thailand were re-elected as auditors. With Mr. Ying on board, IGF now includes representation from all major Go organizations.

Mr. Chang and Mr. Otake would retire from the IGF Board. Mr. Otake further announced his retirement from the President position of Nihon Kiin. Mr. Chang vows to continue his support of IGF activities. The Board unanimously voted to appoint him a special advisor to IGF.

The Board also welcomed Mr. Suh, former Korean ambassador to U.N. and former deputy director of Korean National Intelligence Agency, as proxy for Mr. Yang Jaeho. Mr. Suh recently took up Director positions with both KBA and KABA, after he retired from public service. His participation in IGF, along with that of Mr. Matsuura, former Japanese ambassador to France and the Director General of UNESCO, and of Mr. Chang, CEO of CITIC of China, gave clear indication of the growing importance of IGF in international Go and mind-sport development.

IGF operations in 2011-2012 and 2012-2013

In the budget year 2011-2012, IGF operated the 10th World Student Oza (Feb. 28-29, 2012, Tokyo), the 32nd World Amateur Go Championship (May 26 – June 2, 2011, Matsue JP), the 22nd International Pair-Go Championship (Nov. 19-20, 2011, Tokyo), and the 1st SportAccord World Mind Games (Dec. 8-17, 2011, Beijing).

For the budget year 2012-2013, IGF will operate the 11th World Student Oza (Feb. 2013, Tokyo), the 33rd WAGC (May 12-18, 2012, Guangzhou CH), the 34th WAGC (early June, 2013, Sendai JP), the 23rd IPGC (Nov. 3-4, 2011, Tokyo), the 2nd SAWMG (Dec. 12-19, 2012, Beijing), the 2nd World Mind Sport Games (Aug. 9-23, 2012, Lille FR), and the 1st Bailing Cup (Mar.-Sep., 2012, Guizhou and Beijing CH).

The 34th WAGC will be held in Korea in 2014 and hosted by KBA.

IGF announced sponsorship of two new promotional projects: an Argentina-Venezuela collaborative educational program and the first North America Go Symposium (Aug. 4-5, 2012, Black Mountain US).

A new international professional pair-go event will inaugurate October 23-28, 2012. Sponsored by the resort “Three-Nation Ruins Park” in Hefei, China, this event is called the “World’s Strongest Pair Tournament”. China will send Chang Hao and Wang Chenxing (the hero in the latest C-J-K female supergo tournament who won 8 in a row); Korea will select its representative from a tournament, but promised to pair Lee Sedol and Cho Hyeyeon to vie for the representation right; Japan will send a pair of similar quality.

In other businesses, three new members were admitted to IGF: Brunei, Latvia, and Kazakhstan. One is pending: Côte d'Ivoire. The total membership count is now 74.

The Ing Chang-ki Weichi Educational Foundation has applied and was accepted as an IGF Association Member.

The Chinese Taipei Weichi Association now replaces Ing Foundation as the formal representative of Chinese Taipei in IGF.

The IGF anti-doping program for 2011 was declared by WADA to be in full compliance with the WADA code. All testing results were negative. The testing program for 2012 has been approved by WADA. All testing carried out at Guangzhou also gave negative results. IGF continues to work with WADA in trying to exempt mind sports from out-of-competition testing.

The Second World Mind Sport Games (WMSG-II)

I reported that the WMSG-II will be held in Lille, France, August 9 through 23, 2012. While FIDE declined to participate, Bridge, Draughts, Go, and Xiangqi will participate, along with a chess demo event organized by the French Chess Federation.

The Go event will run from Aug. 13 through 23 to avoid conflict with the US Go Congress. Restricted to amateurs, the Go competitions will include men and women singles, team, pair go, and youth (<21) tournaments. European Go Federation was commissioned to organize the event, with IGF financing the operations. The details are available from the IGF website: <https://intergofed.org/archived-news/13-igf-news-feed/159-2nd-world-mind-sports-games.html>.

The Second SportAccord World Mind Sport Games (SAWMG-2)

I reported that IGF is in negotiation of contract with SportAccord to participate in the SAWMG-2 games, to be held December 12-19 in Beijing. Actual venue is yet to be determined. Five sports will participate: Bridge, Chess, Draughts, Go, and Xiangqi.

For Go, the competition items will include three medals, Men's and Women's Singles, and Pair Go. A total of 28 players will be invited. AGA is asked to send two players, one male and one female, while EGF is asked to send three male and three female players. Asian countries will send similar number of players as in the previous year (C-J-K 3-2 each, C-Taipei 2-2), and South America now adds one male player. This distribution is mandated by the sponsors and is different from SAWMG-1 in which AGA and EGF each sent four male and one female players. Although I requested explanation of the reduction of AGA participation, the sponsors declined to give reasons. The contract details are still under negotiation.

The event is planned for three more years, 2012-2014. However, we found out after the meeting that the SportAccord President Hein Verbruggen, a champion of mind sports, will retire in 2013. Further, the City of Beijing has extricated itself as the sponsor, leaving BODA (Beijing Olympic Development Agency) as the principal local host. These events left in doubt whether the 2013-14 events would proceed as planned.