

# **Report on the 2013-2014 IGF Activities**

- By Thomas Hsiang

The 2014 IGF Board Meeting and General Meeting were held in Korea on July 5, just prior to the WAGC. Here is a brief report on the key issues.

## **IGF Elections and Office Change**

Starting 2014, Korea is the new presidency country. The new president is now KBA president, Mr. HONG Seokhyun, who is also president of Chungahn News in Korea. Mr. LIU Siming, Mr. WADA Norio (new), and Mr. Thomas HSIANG are elected vice presidents, along with re-elected directors TANIOKA Ichiro, Korsak CHAIMASRISAK, Neville SMYTHE, Martin STIASSNY, and YING Minghaw. Mr. YANG Jaeho is the new office director. Ms. LEE Hajin replaces SHIGENO Yuki as the Secretary General.

## **SportAccord and IMSA**

The 2014 SportAccord Convention in Antalya, Turkey, was chaired by the new president Marius Vizer. He repeated his emphasis on mind sports and promised to make certain that the SportAccord World Mind Games (WMG) will be renewed in 2015, after the current contract with Beijing ends in December this year.

For the 2014 version of WMG, Go will continue to be supported with a \$400,000 prize fund, a \$50,000 management fund, and a full slate of 30 athletes and 15 officials/staff. North America will once again be represented by three male and one female players.

IMSA has been dormant in recent months, with its president Kirsan Ilyumzhinov mired in FIDE election. The contract with Mind Sport Partners (MSP) has been terminated, with MSP paying a termination fee to IMSA.

## **IGF plans for 2014-15**

The 36<sup>th</sup> WAGC will be held around May 2015 in Bangkok, to the great delight of many Go fans. In 2016 and 2017 it will return to China.

The 13<sup>th</sup> Student Oza will be held in February 2015 in Tokyo. Pair Go will enjoy its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in October this year. IGF continues to support Mily Cup and Bailing Cup, both being sponsored by Chinese interest. All American pros are invited to enter the preliminary round at their own expense. One amateur player will also be invited. The new tournament U20 GLOBIS Cup started in 2014 in Japan and will continue in the future, focusing on top young players under 20 years of age.

IGF will enter a new anti-doping code starting January 1, 2015. IGF also promised to initiate the application for IOC recognition within the next two years.