

# 2021

## ITTF ANNUAL REPORT





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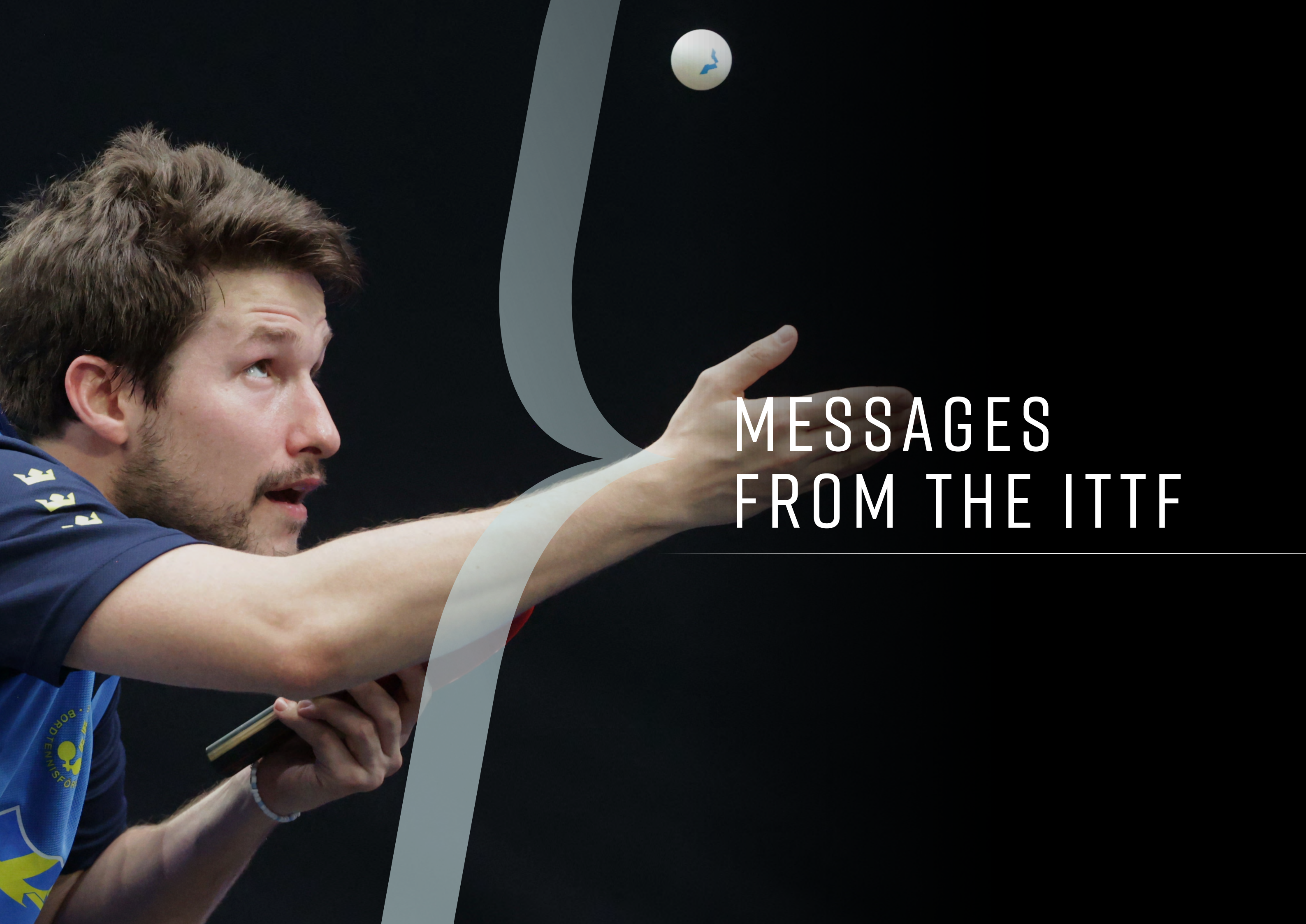
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# MESSAGES FROM THE ITTF



# PETRA SÖRLING PRESIDENT'S REPORT



2021 was certainly another very challenging year in the history of the ITTF.

The COVID-19 pandemic and its evolution meant each country around the world developed different health strategies, impacting our calendar of events and on our organisation. COVID-19 is not over, but 2021 gave us a glimpse of the light at the end of the tunnel as we managed to deliver both the ITTF World Table Tennis Championships Finals and the WTT Cup Finals.

Together with the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, this gave us hope for our 2022 season, and our ability to host more events and meeting in person again.

2021 was also an election year for the ITTF Executive Committee and I am delighted to have received your trust and confidence to become the first ever female President in the history of our Federation.

My manifesto and its four pillars – unify the ITTF Family, Business Growth, Good Governance, and Sustainability – has set the course for our future. We wrote this manifesto after extensive conversations with the ITTF family and are grateful for the mandate you have given us.

## 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

Thanks to the leadership of the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee, the IOC, and the IPC, we were able to stage the Olympic and Paralympic Games in the Japanese capital. Houston, Texas was able to stage the 2021 World Championships, and the year was capped off by the WTT Cup Finals in

Singapore.

Hosting these events set the stage for the ITTF to continue to successfully begin ramping up its in-person events and plan for the future.

We were able to take away lessons from this year to help reimagine and bolster our continental qualifying tournaments for future events.



**COVID-19 IS NOT OVER,  
BUT 2021 GAVE US A GLIMPSE OF  
THE LIGHT LOOKS LIKE AT THE  
END OF THE TUNNEL.**

## FOCUS AREAS

Ever since my election as Executive Vice President, I have been in charge of four major focus areas for the ITTF. 2021 showed the progress the federation can make even with disruptions still causing us to change our events on the fly.

## PARA TABLE TENNIS

It is very positive to see many associations have fully integrated or have a very good working relationship with the discipline and are actively promoting Para Table Tennis. In 2019, we made even bigger plans on how to develop and make use of all our departments and internally within ITTF improve our integration. As a result, the ITTF EC took the decision to create a dedicated strategic plan for Para Table Tennis starting in January 2022.

## FINANCE & STAFF

Throughout the year the ITTF managed to work to minimize the impact on business, its performance results and most importantly staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. Overall, 2021 was still a challenging year given the spread-out nature of our staff, and ever-changing calendar.

The ITTF CFO has continued throughout the pandemic overseeing various scenarios that impact budgets and forecasts for the future, not only during 2020 and 2021 but also into 2022 and beyond, based on the uncertainty due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the ability for international events to take place.



**IT IS VITAL THAT WE STRIVE  
TO IMPLEMENT SUSTAINABLE  
THINKING IN EVERY ACTION WE  
TAKE.**

## ITTF SUSTAINABILITY WORKING GROUP

At the ITTF EC meeting held in Chengdu, China, in October 2019, the ITTF Sustainability Working Group was created, aimed at tackling the key issue of sustainability in table tennis. As one of the largest sports federations in the world from a member perspective, it is vital that we strive to implement sustainable thinking in every action we take. Since launching this working group we have held several online meetings within the group and together we outlined the importance of the "3 P's": planet, prosperity, and people, while identifying key areas

of focus from event, equipment, and operational perspectives. The work the sustainability working group continues, and we are consistently looking for new areas to boost our ambition.

Our family continues to show its resilience and is prepared for overcoming any obstacles in our way.

Table Tennis. For All. For Life.

PETRA SÖRLING  
ITTF PRESIDENT

# STEVE DANTON CEO'S REPORT



This is my fourth year as ITTF Chief Executive Officer, and while the job continues to be challenging, I have to say it may be one of the most rewarding ones yet.

When I started my report on 2020 activities, I realized it was the most complicated and challenging one since I was entrusted with the responsibility to lead the ITTF staff as the CEO. At the time I was writing it, we didn't know the pandemic would still be present in many parts of the world during the next report.

Following the #RESTART in China in November 2020, and the WTT inaugural event in Macao in December, with the support of the always-trusted Qatar Table Tennis Association, we were able to present up to five events in Doha, Qatar to start 2021: three WTT events, and the Asian and World Qualification events for Tokyo 2020.

All other continental federations – besides Oceania – were able to organise their Olympic Qualification tournaments before or after some of the COVID-19 waves that kept affecting the world throughout 2021.

The Olympic and Paralympic Games went ahead, and table tennis shined again, recording impressive figures. The Mixed Doubles Final was the most-watched event in Japan during the Olympic Games.

After many difficulties, the ITTF was able to secure the organisation of the World Individual Table Tennis Championships in Houston, Texas, with the invaluable support of the Harris County Houston Sports Authority (HCHSA). The event, conducted during a national holiday, showed the enthusiasm

and passion of the American market.

The year ended on the competitive side with the first-ever WTT Cup Finals held in Singapore. We were very proud to present on home soil an event of the highest standards, to count on big crowds attending the finals, while still in some parts of the world events were being closed for spectators.

## WORLD TABLE TENNIS

Introducing World Table Tennis in 2021 has helped the skill of table tennis take a leap forward, but also shown how much better our federation is presenting the sport.

WTT was founded in 2019, immediately before the COVID-19 pandemic paused sport. Finally, this year, we were able to witness a glimpse of what we hope for the future to be.

“  
PUTTING ALL  
THE PIECES TOGETHER  
HAS NOT BEEN AN EASY TASK.”

Given how important the role of growing the commercial industry of table tennis, creating the independent company WTT was clearly proven to be the right decision based on the year that we had.

Putting all pieces together has not been an easy task. With continuous cancellations and postponements of events all meant we had to be more prudent rather than the bold and courageous approach that the sport needed.

## THE ITTF FOUNDATION

The ITTF Foundation has continued its mission in supporting the world in different areas in 2021.

Dream Building Fund projects restarted, and the World Table Tennis Day saw its first 24 hours stream to ensure table tennis was celebrated around the globe, despite doing it only virtually.

#TableTennisUnited Fund supported 127 initiatives and individuals affected by COVID-19.

## ORGANISATION AND GOVERNANCE

The ITTF has invested a lot of financial resources in improving Governance standards. The first independent Head of Integrity was appointed in October 2021, and together with the ITTF Tribunal, they are serving our organisation in its growth, and developing the Finances and Audit Committee the Control Mechanisms internally.

## FUTURE WORLD TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2021 AGM awarded Busan the 2024 World Team Table Tennis Championships that was unable to take place in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The new model in the team event will start to come to shape in 2022 in Chengdu.

As COVID-19 slowly disappears, we look forward to developing an exciting qualification pathway, ensuring a full eighteen-month narrative in the lead-up to the Finals.

## PROFESSIONALIZATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

At the end of 2021, we had a much smaller amount of growth in our professional staff that we would have liked to but with some hope that would continue to improve in 2022.

“  
WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE  
WHOLE TABLE TENNIS FAMILY  
SUPPORTING EACH OTHER  
IN DIFFICULT TIMES.”

Sustainability is becoming quickly and importantly part of all we do in the ITTF. There is no other way forward as ITTF President says often and it will be one area we put further attention to in the future.

We look forward to the whole table tennis Family supporting each other in difficult times. Many thanks to the entire table tennis community for their patience as we try to navigate the new world, and to bring back activities in these uncertain times. Most importantly we are extremely excited with the new ITTF Executive Committee and new ITTF President Ms. Petra Söring. We count on your full support so that management can deliver our plans, together with you, for the best interest of table tennis.

Table Tennis. For All. For Life.

STEVE DANTON  
ITTF GROUP CEO

# THE ITTF ACROSS THE GLOBE

 **75+**  
STAFF

 **35+**  
NATIONALITIES

 **20+**  
LANGUAGES



SWITZERLAND

GERMANY



SINGAPORE

## OUR OFFICES

LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND HEADQUARTERS

SINGAPORE WORLD TABLE TENNIS HEADQUARTERS & ITTF ASIA-PACIFIC OFFICE

LEIPZIG, GERMANY ITTF FOUNDATION HEADQUARTERS

# STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

The ITTF Strategic Plan 2018-2024 focuses on five strategic priority areas – Organisation & Governance, High performance & Development, International Events, Promotion & Revenue. Across these five areas there are a total of 55 objectives, with 30 key outcomes.

Although an initial review of the Strategic Plan commenced in early 2020, due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the proposed review was postponed until 2021. Throughout 2021, various work was undertaken to re-start the review process, primarily focused on a realignment of existing objectives, as well as targeting some new areas for future objectives. The review is due to be completed during 2022.

While the review is being undertaken, the target is still for ITTF to achieve its current set of objectives. As the COVID-19 pandemic continued throughout 2021, it was again evident that certain areas of the business could achieve more progress against the objectives than other areas due to the ongoing restrictions in place in various parts of the world.

It should also be noted the formal introduction of World Table Tennis events in 2021, the first official event with rankings points took place in March, after the introduction of the Master License Agreement between ITTF and WTT. The introduction of World Table Tennis helped the strategic priority areas

## SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PROGRESS MADE SO FAR

- 1 Enhancing the organisational capacities of the ITTF, with a focus on recruiting and retaining the best people.
- 2 Ensuring that the best players are consistently playing in the most important events, which have a compelling structure in which every game matters.
- 3 Creating in-demand events that appeal to host cities and countries and convert to hosting fees when circumstances permit.
- 4 Creating attractive, entertaining and exciting events that are engaging and relevant in local markets.
- 5 Improving the quality of broadcast Table Tennis content through higher quality cameras and broadcast production, complemented by more statistics and innovation driven by working collaboratively with broadcasters.
- 6 Developing best-in-class international event structures to create greater media and sponsor interest, local and international engagement, and increased commercial success.

of Events, Promotion and Revenue grow more significantly, compared to the prior year.

Following a significant improvement during 2020 [64%, 2019: 41%] for Organisation and Governance, as part of the reporting process, it was noted that during 2021, the level of progress for Organisation and Governance decreased to 61%. When reflecting on the significant growth during 2020, and the turbulent situation the organisation faced in relation to the lead up to the 2021 ITTF elections, this does not come as a surprise. It is important to learn from this process, to reduce this impact in future ITTF elections years.

In addition, historically the work undertaking in High Performance & Development is based on four-year cycles, with 2021 providing a new beginning towards restructuring ways in which objectives would be achieved. This saw a slight decrease towards achieving overall objectives compared to the prior year, decreasing to 30% (2020: 33%). The newly introduced programs place more focus towards online based participation, and other online activities.

Although two priority areas saw little progress during the year, the introduction of World Table Tennis helped to see positive progress for the other three priority areas.

Although the ITTF has achieved significant progress on various objectives since the implementation of the current 2018-2024 ITTF Strategic Plan, following the introduction of World Table Tennis and the ITTF Foundation, as well as a newly elected ITTF Executive Committee, during 2022 the Strategic Plan will be refreshed and presented for endorsement at the next ITTF AGM. This will allow the ITTF to continue to evolve and develop the sport of table tennis in a strategic way that helps to benefit not only the ITTF Membership, but all table tennis stakeholders.



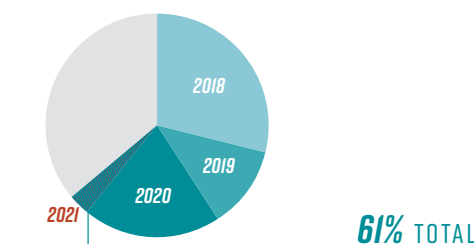
2021 WAS A UNIQUE YEAR FOR TABLE TENNIS, THE ONGOING CHALLENGES OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, A POSTPONED OLYMPIC GAMES, THE LAUNCH OF WORLD TABLE TENNIS.

LOTS OF PLANS BEING ADJUSTED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, BUT ULTIMATELY TO HOST THE WORLD TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS FINALS, FOLLOWING THE CANCELLATION OF THE 2020 EDITION, AS WELL AS BRINGING SEVERAL MEMBERS TOGETHER FOR THE ITTF AGM, WERE KEY MOMENTS.

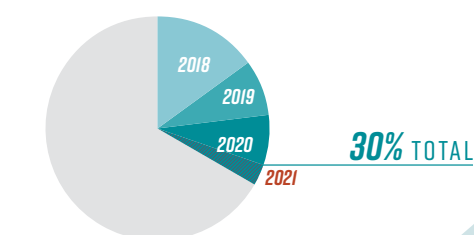
NOT ALL AREAS OF THE ORGANISATION WERE ABLE TO GROW THROUGHOUT 2021, AND WE WILL LEARN FROM THIS FOR FUTURE YEARS, TO ENSURE WE HAVE CONSISTENT AND CONTINUED GROWTH EACH, AND EVERY, YEAR MOVING FORWARD.

STEVE DANTON, ITTF CEO

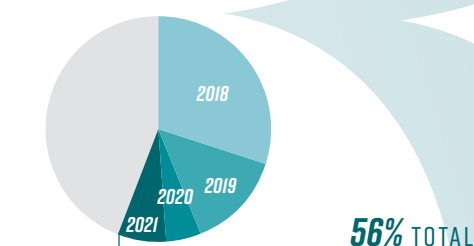
## ORGANISATION & GOVERNANCE



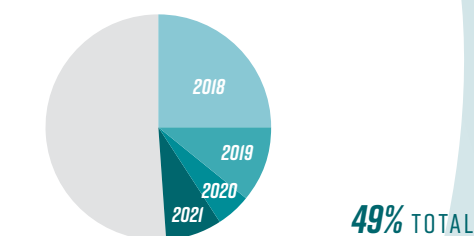
## HIGH PERFORMANCE & DEVELOPMENT



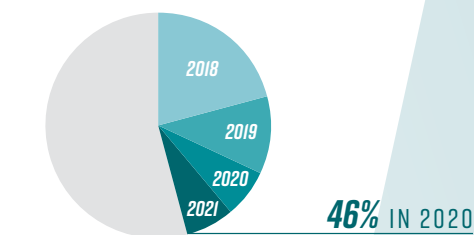
## INTERNATIONAL EVENTS



## PROMOTION



## REVENUE







# 2021 ITTF EVENTS



## 23 JUL – 8 AUG TOKYO, JAPAN

# TOKYO 2020 OLYMPIC GAMES

It may have taken an extra year to come to pass, but the table tennis at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics was as worth the wait.

The Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium in the heart of Shibuya played host to five thrilling competitions showcasing the best the world has to offer. In all five events the number one seed made it to the finals, winning four gold medals and one silver.

Working with the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee, the ITTF was able to see first-hand how the closed-loop system was put in place to deliver an Olympics amid the ever-changing landscape of the COVID-19 pandemic. 2021 was a year when events started to open up, and delivering the largest sporting event on the planet was a signature achievement.

Starting the event was a Mixed Doubles and a moment of glory for the host country of Japan. Second-ranked Jun Mizutani and Mima Ito won a thrilling seven-set final over first-ranked Xu Xin and Liu Shiwen of China.

The tournament was Mixed Double's Olympic debut and proved a thrilling tournament for 16 pairs from around the world. Previewing a potential Paris 2024 run, the French duo of Emmanuel Lebesson and Jia Nan Yuan upset the fourth-ranked Hong Kong pair of Wong Chun-ting and Doo Hoi Kem 11-3 6-11 7-11 11-8 9-11 11-7 13-11 to make the

final four. The pair then ran into Xu and Liu who dispatched them in four sets before making it to the finals against Mizutani and Ito, the eventual champions.

After, the Chinese dominance was on display at Tokyo 2020. Number-two ranked Ma Long stormed to the final prevailing in a six-set match against world number one Fan Zhendong. The pair teamed up with mixed doubles silver medalist Xu Xin to win the gold in the Men's team event without dropping a single set.

Top ranked Chen Meng dropped only three sets on her way to the Tokyo 2020 final against compatriot Sun Yingsha. Meng prevailed in a six-set final to win her first Olympic gold medal. The pair then teamed up with Wang Manyu to replicate the performance of the men's team beating hosts Japan in the finals after having not dropped a game the entire team tournament.

In total China took home the maximum number of medals, seven, a country could earn at the Tokyo Olympics, with four golds and three silvers. Japan won four medals, Germany won two, and both Hong Kong and Chinese Taipei took home one medal.





## 24 AUG - 5 SEP TOKYO, JAPAN

# TOKYO 2020 PARALYMPIC GAMES

Japanese organizers built from the success of the Tokyo 2020 Olympics to stage a more complex, and diverse Para Table Tennis tournament at the 2020 Paralympics.

Featuring 31 events in different classifications, 54 countries were represented at the Paralympics.

China continued its dominant streak winning 16 of the 31 events and winning 26 medals. Its closest competitors were South Korea and France with 13 and 11 medals respectively. The French team won two golds, two silvers, and seven bronze a position they surely look to improve upon as they gear up to the Paris 2024 Paralympics.

Accessibility was a main feature of the Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium as all athletes navigated the venue well even in the Tokyo 2020 closed loop system. Despite the lack of spectators, the packed schedule ensured a raucous atmosphere for those competing drawing off energy from their fellow Paralympians.

Lian Hao won gold in men's team class 9-10 for a third consecutive occasion having won in Rio de Janeiro and London; his partner on both occasions was Ma Lin. The dominant pair closed out the Paralympic tournaments giving China its eighth gold out of ten team competitions.

"All the other Chinese teams before us had won gold; we're the last team of Tokyo 2020. Besides, I didn't make it to finals for the singles event, so all the more I wanted to fight hard for that gold medal." Lian Hao said, showcasing the pressure the Tokyo medallists thrived under.





## 23 - 29 NOV HOUSTON, USA

# 2021 ITTF WORLD TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS FINALS

Table Tennis' return to the United States for its World Championships Finals produced memorable finals, and a medal for the host country for the first time since the 1950s.

The work of the Harris County Houston Sports Authority (HCHSA) to deliver the event under in a challenging landscape was a fantastic accomplishment, showing the growth potential of Table Tennis in the American market.

Lily Zhang from the United States teamed up with Lin Gaoyuan from China in the mixed doubles tournament. The unranked pair stormed to the semifinal beating second-ranked Emmanuel Lebeson and Jia Nan Yuan 11-9 9-11 11-7 11-7 in the quarterfinals to be guaranteed a medal. The pair's run ended in the semifinals, and fifteenth-ranked Wang Chuqin and Sun Yingsha from China won the gold medal over Japanese pair Tomokazu Harimoto and Hina Hayata.

World Number One Ranked Fan Zhendong won the Men's Singles tournament defeating unranked Swede Truls Mörregårdh. Mörregårdh's run to the final included defeating five ranked opponents in seven rounds, and a thrilling match against Lim Jong-Hoon of South Korea where the Swede rallied to win four straight sets to win 6-11 13-15 9-11 11-8 11-2 11-5 11-6.

The Women's Singles tournament saw a Chinese podium sweep of all four medals available. Fourth-ranked Wang Manyu prevailed after defeating World Number One Chen Meng in the semifinals and second-ranked Sun Yingsha in the finals. Wang dropped only one game on her way to the semifinals where she and Chen locked in a seven-set thriller which Wang prevailed 9-11 7-11 11-8 11-6 11-13 11-9 11-8.

Wang and Sun then teamed up for the Women's doubles tournament winning another gold medal for China defeating Mima Ito and Hina Hayata from Japan in a three-game finale 11-9 11-7 11-8. On their path to the final Wang and Sun beat Ni Xialian and Sarah de Nutte from Luxembourg, giving the tiny nation a bronze medal at the World Championships. Ni, made history earlier in 2021 becoming the oldest Olympian in Table Tennis qualifying for the Tokyo Games at the age of 58.

Finally, unranked Swedish duo Mattias Falck and Kristian Karlsson stormed to an upset in the Men's Doubles tournament to deny China a sweep of every gold available in Houston. Beating ranked opponents in their last five matches, Falck and Karlsson dispatched top ranked Chinese duo Liang Jingkun and Lin Gaoyuan in straight sets 12-10 11-8-11-8 in the semifinals before taking down Lim Jong-Hoon and Wang Woo-Jin of South Korea.





## 2 - 8 DEC VILA NOVA DE GAIA, PORTUGAL 2021 ITTF WORLD YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS VILA NOVA DE GAIA

The first World Youth Championships, which replaced the old ITTF Junior Championships, was held in December in Vila Nova de Gaia, Portugal. It was the first reimagined flagship championships for our youth table tennis circuit, which has grown under World Table Tennis.

Organisers helped showcase championships in the U15 and U19 age brackets allowing more of the world's top youth players to get top quality competition.

That competition flourished in Vila Nova de Gaia with 19 countries represented on the medal table in singles, doubles, mixed doubles and team events. Japan and China topped the medal table, with Japan taking six golds and China five.

With the first year of the WTT Youth Series completed, organisers can see how high-quality youth competitions are run, and how working with WTT helps create a high-level atmosphere. The future of WTT is very bright, which a high-quality Youth Championships showing that professional atmosphere goes to every rung of the ladder.







# DEPARTMENT REPORTS





# HIGH PERFORMANCE & DEVELOPMENT

Much has already been said about the many challenges, uncertainties and exceptional circumstances and situations the World continued to face in 2021, but within the High Performance & Development Department (HPD) we tried to stay positive and instead of thinking and longing for onsite activities, more available resources, and less travelling restrictions, we decided to follow a popular quote that states “Small deeds done are better than great deeds planned”.

With this in mind we reviewed the actually still unborn 2021-2024 ITTF Development Plan, adjusted and optimised whatever possible and finally, reacted with the development of new frameworks, concepts and models of our programs and projects.

As a consequence, a number of very customised initiatives were launched and several new incentives were implemented.

One of the highlights and also the biggest novelty was the launch of the brand-new Participation Program, which has been set up with the ambition to support the overall development and growth of Table Tennis globally, with the Member Associations (MA) as the focal point, providing them opportunities, incentives and a very diversified type of support. The way the Member Associations embraced it was overwhelming and never in the past we were able to engage with such a high number of members in a single year (for more details please refer to the Facts & Figures hereafter).

The popularity was very much a consequence of two factors – firstly, the highly customizable content of the Program, which can be adjusted to the specific MA needs and realities, which in 2021 were still very much shaped by the pandemic, and secondly, a comprehensive portfolio of online services that thanks to contemporary technological solutions allowed us to meet, cooperate, educate and also train, at least remotely, even when and where traveling was still not possible.

Modern collaboration platforms contributed significantly also to the Hopes, the flagship Program of High Performance. Thanks to the Hopes Around the Clock, the online addition to the global talent identification scheme, the Hopes spirits kept flying high, culminating in the 2021 World Hopes Week & Challenge, at which 40 U12 girls and boys from all corners of the World finally got together again after the break in 2020.

Global High Performance training camps were reactivated after more than a year and in order to optimize the participants’ resources and opportunities they were normally held in conjunction with the World Table Tennis events, especially the Youth series, which proved to be an efficient formula. Efficiency or better said excellence was also very much the key word for the 30 With the Future in Mind scholarship holders – the success rate to qualify for Tokyo 2020 was more than 90%.

Supporting talented, promising, passionate, and dedicated individuals was very much on the agenda also across all the projects and initiatives that run under the Continents Programme. As in many Regions and also on several Continents face-to-face activities were still challenging, at best they could be implemented on national level, we adjusted the concepts of the initiatives and offered an online version of Mentorship and through application processes supported numerous activities focused on Para Table Tennis, Women’s Development and on other relevant areas and profiles, whilst still keeping the vision and the objectives of the ITTF Strategic Plan as the primary guiding principle.

Slowly, but surely, also the delivery of the Equipment Assistance Program resumed, while some elements of the Program that is developed together with the Continental Federations and incorporated within the Development Objective of the Master Continental Agreements, we unfortunately still had to delay or, whenever possible, they were adjusted to the new realities or rolled out as pilot projects, like the Quick Pathway. Finally, with a deep understanding that in difficult times supporting the members and all the stakeholders is even more crucial and precious we also continued developing and producing online products, of educational and informative nature, hoping that with the plethora of topics addressed each and every interested individual could continue gaining specific knowledge and precious experience.

Overall, 2021 was still far from a normal year, but at the same time it was full of learning experiences and positive take-aways. Thanks to the innovative concepts and technological solutions, we were able to get a much deeper understanding of the many specifics and very diverse realities that our membership is facing; we confirmed that online tools are not convenient only during times when traveling is restricted, which is why we plan to incorporate them in several regular programs in the future, too; as envisioned by the new Development Plan we started systematically collecting feedback and other precious insights from the different stakeholders about our Programs that will serve as input for its review, further polishing and enrichment; and finally, through our projects and initiatives we reached almost 11 thousand participations across the globe.

However, we are already looking forward to putting this bar higher, but above all to continuing engaging, inspiring and aspiring, further globalizing competitiveness, promoting and supporting growth and the overall development our sport, also by making the best possible use of the synergies created through a holistic ITTF Group approach.

**POLONA GEHOVIN**  
HIGH PERFORMANCE &  
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

# HIGH PERFORMANCE & DEVELOPMENT FACTS & FIGURES

## HIGHLIGHTS


- Over 150 Member Associations benefitted from the various projects and initiatives run under the umbrella of the Development Program that cumulatively generated 10,530 participations.
- Launch of the Participation Program, featuring a hybrid model of support to all Member Associations worldwide.
- Percentage of female participants in the Continents program reached highest percentage ever, i.e. 45%.

## PARTICIPATION PROGRAMME

**163**   
NATIONAL PROJECTS  
SUPPORTED WITH  
**4976**  
PARTICIPANTS

**1336 HRS**  
ONLINE SERVICES  
DELIVERED IN  
**5**  
LANGUAGES

## CONTINENTS PROGRAMME

**70+**   
BENEFICIARIES  
OF THE  
CONTINENTAL  
YOUTH GRANTS

RECORD NUMBER  
OF APPLICATIONS FOR THE  
VIRTUAL MENTORSHIP  
(160+)  
+  
"MY GENDER. MY  
STRENGTH" (35)

## HIGH PERFORMANCE

**253 U12 PLAYERS**  
**181 COACHES**  
FROM  
**80 MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS**



took part in the  
Hopes Around the Clock

**7 GLOBAL**  
**HIGH PERFORMANCE**  
**TRAINING CAMPS**  
HELD ON  
**3 CONTINENTS**



**30 WITH THE FUTURE IN MIND**  
**SCHOLARSHIPS DELIVERED**  
with 15 out of 16  
qualifying for the  
Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games  
and additional 2 players  
from the Youth list of 14



## EDUCATIONS - ONLINE TOOLS

**WEEKLY TRAINING LESSONS**  
3 SEASONS + SPECIAL EPISODE

**125K**  
VIEWS

**1.7M**  
IMPRESSIONS

**>100K**  
AVG PER EPISODE

**20 WEBINARS**  
"TT AT YOUR FINGERTIPS"

**36.8K**  
VIEWS

**1.96M**  
IMPRESSIONS

**98K**  
AVG PER EPISODE

## SOCIAL MEDIA

**129 POSTS**  
IN TOTAL



TOP POSTS REACHED  
**95000+**  
IMPRESSIONS





## MEMBER RELATIONS

Amid a year of challenging circumstances, unique opportunities were presented to work to strengthen member relations in the ITTF. We also, have finally started to see the light at the end of the tunnel with being able to host events even under difficult conditions and restrictions.

While not always seeing each other face-to-face, this year provided a chance to improve and develop regular and constructive communications between the ITTF, Continental Federations, and Member Associations, to ensure that the global Table Tennis community is better connected and aligned.

This year was a time to improve the Master Continental Agreement, to allow for new tools to be brought to our Continental Federations and work to identify each one's specific needs. That will allow the ITTF to continually work to support Continental Federations and Member Associations.

Pivoting the way we approach strategic agreements with each Continental Federation, will allow us the implementation a concrete action plan for the next four years starting from 2021 aligned based on the totality of projects the ITTF is currently perusing.

It will be supported by a detailed and dynamic Operational Plan, which sets actions, targets and responsibilities for each of the plan's objectives. These objectives will guide effort and resources for the ITTF, the ITTF Foundation and World Table Tennis toward 2024.

ITTF held meetings with five Continental Federations (Africa, Americas, Asia, Europe, and Oceania) with the aim to have all contracts signed and start the work on different programs available within the MCA based on these three pillars: Governance Grant, Development, Events objectives

We are listening to what our Continental associations

have to say and are repositioning investment to better align to the specific needs of each region. Negotiations are still pending with Asia hopefully to be signed in 2022.

The review of our Continental agreements that will be more focused in the implementation of a common and revamped strategy with the following five key areas

- Organization and governance
- Development (HPD)
- Events
- Revenue
- Inclusiveness

Building a culture of diversity and gender equality at all levels of Table Tennis governance was a priority, in addition to strengthening the capacities of Continental Federations, and in turn their Member Associations, through equitable investment, with clear accountability for recipients.

The preparation of the ITTF World Table Tennis Championships Finals Houston one of the most important event in 2021 helped us to be in touch and contact with the majority of ITTF Member Associations and try to assist them with Visa process and secure their trip to Houston despite different rules and restrictions in different country of the world.

Finally, during the 2021 AGM we had the opportunity to welcome our 227th ITTF Member Associations Falkland Islands.

This work will make our members stronger and our bonds stronger, helping the sport of table tennis grow and develop equitably around the world.

**MOUNIR BESSAH**  
ITTF MEMBER RELATIONS DIRECTOR





## HUMAN RESOURCES

Human Resource was a key area of focus for the ITTF during a time of uncertainties with a global pandemic in 2021.

We ensured the safety and security of our employees in supporting them globally:

- In ensuring they were able to receive their necessary vaccinations and boosters
- All full-time employees were entitled paid medical leave and time off to attend an appointment and recover from any side effects related to COVID-19 vaccinations

Employees were also supported with the provision of testing kits at the main offices and events for their own daily use.

During the year, the ITTF was resilient in retaining our employees through several mitigating approaches and in providing opportunities for expansion through new hires. We had a 5% increase of the number of employees from the previous year [2020] and with total number of employees coming to 84 at the end of 2021.

We were able to do this through economical and efficient recruitment practices which did not require exorbitant expenses.

In 2021, we were also able to implement an employment policy on rolling contracts for full time employees based in registered ITTF offices globally. This is to streamline processes and to ensure that full-time employees in registered ITTF offices are not having to renew their contracts on a yearly basis.

The ITTF prides itself in continuing to remain and retain our diverse representation of cultures in the organization across the globe. Especially with decreased travel because of the pandemic, Management ensured continuous communication and updates to all employees through bi-annual staff townhalls and in ensuring the team is updated on the key issues.

Given that the ITTF is represented by more than 25 Nationalities globally, the need for us to stay connected via technology during lockdowns in different countries, was important in supporting and encouraging each other.

The ITTF has made strides in the gender diversity representation compared to 2020 and is proud to have a significant increase in female representation of employees as a sporting federation. We will continue working on balancing our gender representation ratio in the organization for the coming years ahead.

We currently have approximately 35% Female\* representation to 65% Male\* representation in our employee population.

The focus in 2021 for Human Resources was to support, encourage and provide clear directions and recommendations on travel, quarantine matters and advice on using technology to continue with HR best practices such as recruitment, compensation and employee relations.

**CHARLOTTE LOURDES**  
HR MANAGER

\*Gender as identified by employees - acknowledged and respected by the ITTF



# ITTF FOUNDATION

While many did not anticipate the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the world in 2021, the ITTF Foundation used the current situation to bolster many of its developmental activities around the world even with these setbacks.

After focusing on human relations during 2020, the ITTF Foundation has expanded on initiatives offered, and pushed for a very health-centred approach.

"Once again the ITTF took the lead on helping to guide the foundation to expand its offerings, while capitalizing on the opportunities afforded to once again resume a full-slate of in person offerings. 2021 was a learning year in how to manage the ongoing global situation, while ensuring our sport has been used for peace and educational opportunities." -Leandro Olvech, ITTF Foundation Director.

In 2021 a full slate of events were completed including World Table Tennis Day and Tables 4 All under the TT4All program. For the first time the ITTF Foundation shared a 24-hour livestream for World Table Tennis Day, with this year's program being dedicated to empowering women and girls. Tables 4 All expanded opportunities into Côte D'Ivoire and Ghana with new educational institutions. Ping Pong Diplomacy celebrated its 50th anniversary at the 2021 ITTF World Championships in Houston showcasing how this sport has been at the forefront of crossing borders and bringing people together.

Our Dream Building Fund provided emergency assistance to Member Associations still dealing with the strain of COVID-19, natural disasters or war.

Health programs were expanded including the Parkinson's World Championships held in 2021 in Germany, with ITTF Foundation support. An expansion of the #TableTennisUnited Fundraising campaign allowed for small projects to be considered if they promoted global solidarity in the table tennis community.

The Sustainability Working Group launched by the ITTF Group in 2021, of which the ITTF Foundation is a member. The group has set itself the goal of making table tennis accessible to everyone, to life and to future generations, which the Foundation plays a huge role in executing. We have started discussions on how to add a legacy component to the 2023 ITTF World Championships and beyond, while working on programming with different government authorities and the National Association of South Africa.

In addition to programming this year, the ITTF Foundation developed a framework for humane, inclusive and empowering coaching and for sports clubs that promote psychological well-being with the European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation (ENGSO). We also worked with the International Association of Sport for All (TAFISA) to developing a method to support international sport organisations in their sport for all offerings. Finally, the Foundation worked to develop a networking platform for the integration of refugees throughout all sport with the International Sport and Culture Association (ISCA).



# WORLD TABLE TENNIS

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World Table Tennis, the event and commercial platform of the International Table Tennis Federation finally began its journey into modernizing the professional side of the game and helping the sport reach new audiences at new heights.

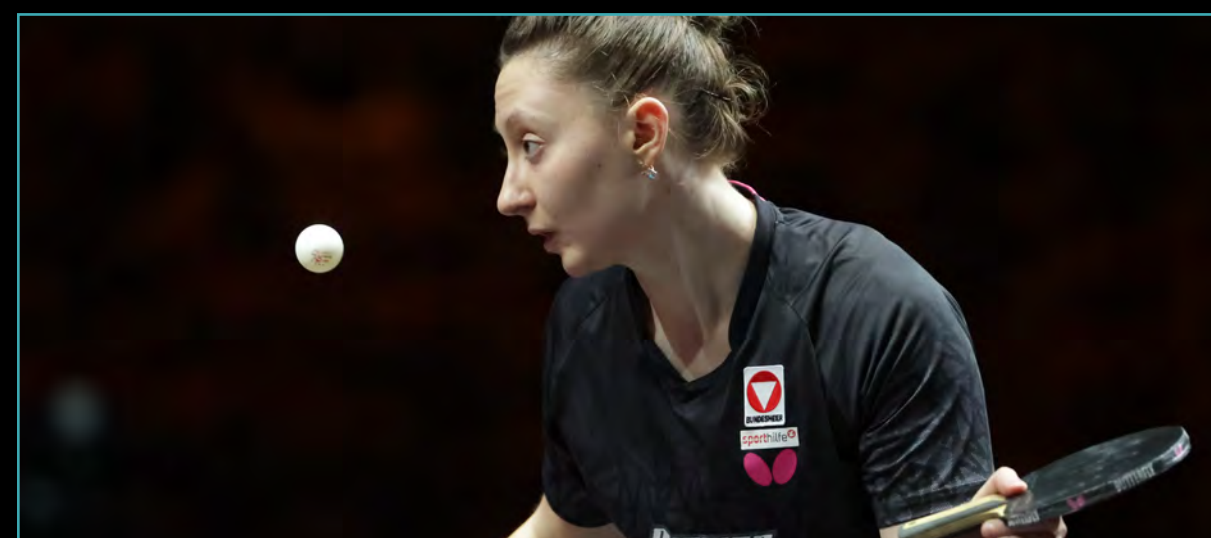
Beginning World Table Tennis before the Tokyo 2020 Olympics happened was always going to be a challenge for the federation, and factors such as being unable to hold events in China meant a limited slate of events for the world's top table tennis players to compete in. However, bright spots such as the success of the 2021 ITTF World Championships in Houston, Texas showcased the sport in a major market in the United States, and successful ITTF elections have brought a new board fully aligned with the mission of World Table Tennis.

2021 was the year that ITTF has been working towards for the past four years. A clean slate of commercial rights, and a chance to reimagine the way Table Tennis is presented, commercialised and showcased. A chance for the ITTF to ensure that Table Tennis could bring more money into the sport, by activating the 500 million strong global fanbase.

The accomplishments made by World Table Tennis are plenty, and substantial. We have launched a full suite of events in WTT Series, WTT Feeder Series and WTT Youth Series, while staging a successful WTT Cup Finals in Singapore.

On the media rights landscape, World Table Tennis signed two of the largest media deals ever for the spot in China and Japan and have launched internal broadcasts of all WTT events. The staff structure has been professionalised and inroads have been made in sports betting, gaming, and NFTs.

World Table Tennis successfully held eight events on three continents in 2021, showcasing the future of the sport. Over 500 players competed throughout the entire series, and each event featured a winner from a different member association. Five age groups debuted for the WTT Youth Series. A total of 15 events took place across four continents. Young athletes competed from around the world, with 76 ITTF Member Associations participating, with more than 1,100 players making their mark in World Table Tennis.



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#### WTT CUP FINALS SINGAPORE

China's Fan Zhendong and Sun Yingsha were crowned the inaugural WTT Cup Finals Champions, which were held in Singapore in early December 2021. The WTT Cup Finals is the season-ending event, and the first version was arranged exclusively by World Table Tennis, with support from Sports Singapore. The best 16 men and women took part for a \$600,000 prize pool.

The WTT Cup Finals were a resounding success in establishing Singapore as a future table tennis market and showing the world the new future of table tennis.

#### 2021 ITTF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS FINALS

The Table Tennis World Championships went to the United States for the first time in its history, and was the first World Table Tennis Championships in which World Table Tennis was responsible for managing the commercial rights of the event. This included world-class TV Production, managing the distribution of the broadcast rights globally, as well as selling the sponsorship inventory.

China's Fan Zhendong claimed his first Men's Singles World Championships title, while Wang Manyu (CHN) caused an upset in the Women's Singles event and claimed her first Singles World Championships title. The Men's Doubles crown was claimed by the Swedish pairing of Matthias Falck and Kristian Karlsson, the first Men's Doubles World Championships title for Sweden since 1991. The Women's and Mixed Doubles saw Sun Yingsha partner with Wang Manyu (Women's) and Wang Chuqin (Mixed) to claim a further two World Championships titles for China.

The event celebrated the 50th anniversary of Ping Pong Diplomacy between the United States of America and China, and witnessed two mixed nation pairings in the Mixed Doubles with Wang Manyu pairing up with Kanak Jha (USA) and Lin Gaoyuan of China teaming up with Lily Zhang of the USA.

#### WEB PRESENCE

The World Table Tennis website was re-launched in March 2021 at the timing of the WTT Middle East Hub. The new website has generated over 5 million page views during 2021, from 560k unique users.

The key goal of World Table Tennis is to entertain, educate and excite table tennis fans across the globe, through the promotion of the sport across various social media platforms. The content strategy continues to evolve and become more innovative in ways to achieve further fan engagement, while also looking to create new, outside-the-box content strands.

Alongside featuring content to highlight our athletes' traits on the table, campaigns such as #TheArtOfCho and #FEMpowerment showed successful, diverse content strands to highlight other equally captivating aspects of the sport and the players.

#### BROADCAST

Launching World Table Tennis brought a new, important dimension to how the ITTF grew the game: selling media rights directly for the first time in the federation's history. As World Table Tennis is still a start-up, with limited resources, it still needed a partner to be assisting with these areas. World Table Tennis decided to partner with IMG on the sales and production, but always ensuring that World Table Tennis had the full control on both items to ensure that they were always meeting strategic objectives.

A result of this partnership saw significant increases in the media rights deals in China and Japan, with Migu and TV Tokyo winning a competitive process to secure the media rights in the respective markets. Other significant deals were done in Korea, Chinese Taipei, South-East Asia, Latin America, Germany, Austria and Switzerland. A limited suite of events prevented full media sales around the world, but WTT is confident this can be achieved soon.

The main change for the way the events were produced was changing the main camera angle to the side instead of the back. WTT has the belief that this angle better portrays the speed and athleticism of the sport. WTT will continue to monitor whether this is the best angle for the TV product in the long term.

Overall, World Table Tennis generated a total revenue of US\$10.8 million from commercial rights, event and other miscellaneous income and incurred total expenses of US\$12.6 million from general & administration expenses and a US\$2 million license fee to holding entity. Although there was a significant reduction in revenue, income, investments, and expenses were still incurred, but in line with the new reality of the reduced income. This approach allowed us to minimise the overall loss and as a result, the deficit for the year was US\$3.9 million.







# FINANCIAL UPDATES



# FINANCES

With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, 2021 had been a challenging year, especially from a financial perspective, as the ability to host international events were affected. In 2021, ITTF realised revenue of US\$20.2 million compared to US\$14.6 million in FY2020, corresponding to a growth of 38%.

The majority of the revenue was generated through commercial means, under World Table Tennis, with an increase in revenue also attributed to the release of Olympic Games revenue share following the completion of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. In total US\$6.4 million of funds were released, made up of the remaining amount from the 2017-2020 Olympic cycle, as well as an initial US\$3.0 million from the 2021-2024 Olympic cycle. This results in more than US\$13.5 million remaining of Olympic Games revenue share to be released between 2022-2024.

During the last quarter of 2021, the ITTF held the biggest event of the year – the 2021 ITTF World Table Tennis Championships Finals in Houston, Texas, USA. It was a complex event to prepare and manage during the ever changing environment of the pandemic, with easing and worsening of the situation taking place in the months preceding to the first ever World Table Tennis Championships held in USA. Nevertheless, the event was delivered successfully despite the pandemic.

With the events that took place in 2021, US\$10.3 million revenue from Commercial Rights were generated, which includes sponsorship, media, event hosting and data and streaming rights. However, the contracted Commercial Rights income were not maximised as the number of events that were delivered were less than expected due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which included no events during the second quarter of the year.

From an expenses perspective, there was an increase of US\$8.8 million compared to 2020, which relates to expenses required to implement events, projects, governance and regulatory expenses, as well as general and administrative expenses. Investments have also been made to deliver a top-tier event and experience to our fans with the Event and Operating Expenses amounting to US\$10.3 million in 2021. This relates to increased event expenses such as the Prize Money, TV Production, Event Presentations and Event Operations expenses.

Other significant costs incurred by the ITTF relate to the day-day-operations such as staff costs, professional and consultancy fees, as well as other office and administrative expenses. During the initial stages of the pandemic, a very prudent approach was taken to reduce such expenses, and during 2021 these expenses stabilised back to more regular activity. Due to the uncertainty of events taking place throughout the year, day-to-day oversight of spending was maintained to balance the overall expenditure.

Taking into consideration the above figures, the net results for the period was a deficit of US\$3.9 million, compared to deficit of US\$0.7 million in 2020. Following the introduction of World Table Tennis, which was approved by the ITTF AGM to make significant losses in its early years, these losses are still well within the approved budgets presented at recent AGM's. However, depending upon the performance in coming years, most likely these losses will need to be offset with external investment being made into World Table Tennis to stabilise the overall financial position.

## FOUR YEAR OVERVIEW

Traditionally the ITTF has operated on a four-year Olympic cycle, heavily relying on the Olympic Games Revenue Share as the main income. 2021 is a fresh start of a four-year Olympic cycle with over US\$13.5 million Olympic Reserve to be released over the remaining three years of the current four-year period.

With the commercial rights being in-house, managed through World Table Tennis, we look to see a significant increase in the Commercial Rights Income in the coming years. Moreover, with more and more events starting to take place, the ITTF expects to see a continued growth in staffing, and operations in general. Though the COVID-19 pandemic is still ongoing, it is hopeful that the end of this pandemic is in sight. To keep growing the sport of table tennis in the coming years and to reach out to a wider fan base, which will ultimately support in the overall growth of finances as well.

MICHAEL BROWN  
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

**US\$20.2M**

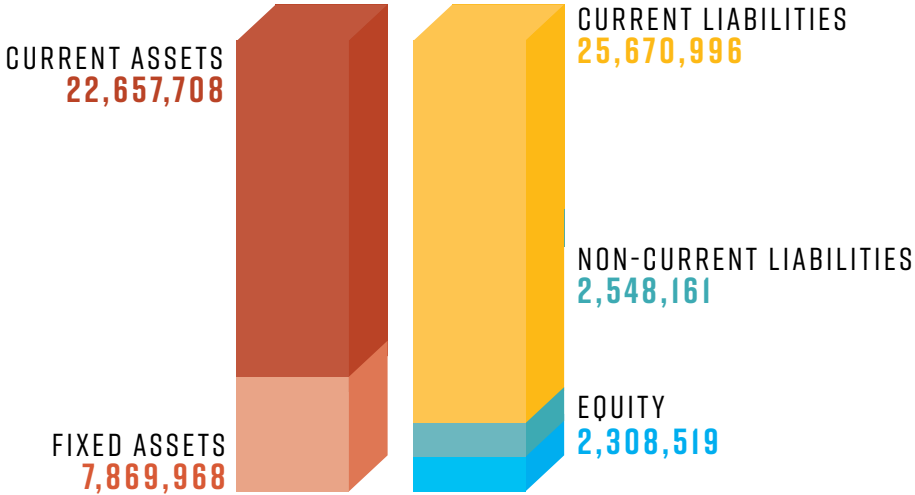
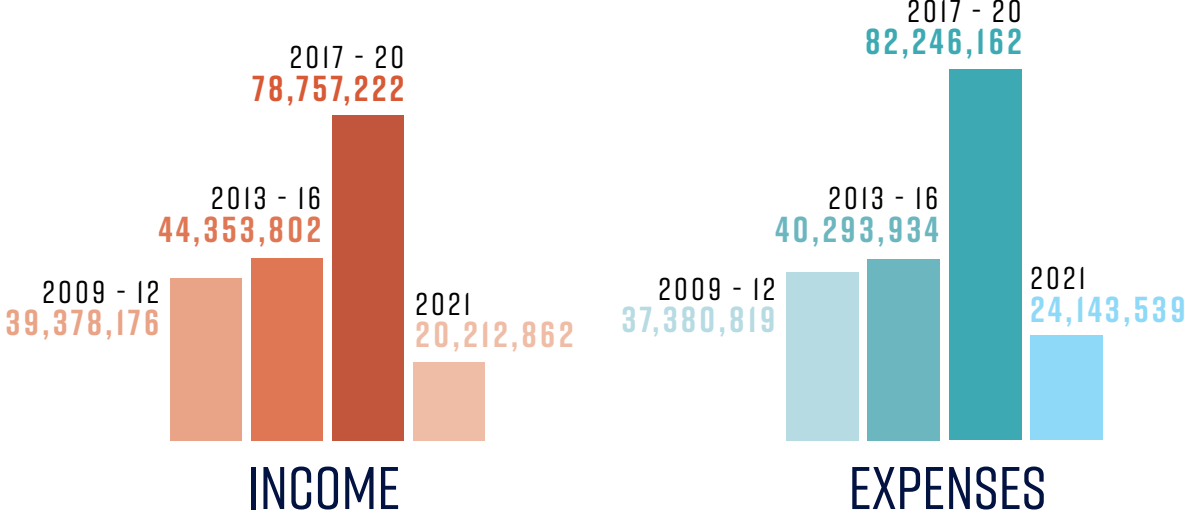
RECORD REVENUE - 38% INCREASE FROM PRIOR YEAR

**US\$24.1M**

INVESTED TO GROW THE SPORT OF TABLE TENNIS

**>US\$13.5M**

OLYMPIC RESERVE





## CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021 (IN USD)

	2021	2020
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	15,079,936	6,701,708
Trade and other receivables	4,444,056	4,052,390
Contract assets	3,133,716	48,354
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>22,657,708</b>	<b>10,802,452</b>
<b>Non-current Assets</b>		
Property, plant and equipment	4,435,434	4,190,686
Intangible assets	1,284,534	703,586
Term Deposit - Museum Fund	2,000,000	2,000,000
Other receivable	150,000	-
<b>Total Capital Assets</b>	<b>7,869,968</b>	<b>6,894,272</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>30,527,676</b>	<b>17,696,724</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Trade and other payables	7,508,346	2,922,429
Lease liabilities	307,878	255,605
Deferred revenues - Olympic funding	12,600,000	3,269,868
Contract liabilities	2,393,807	1,589,108
Loans from third parties	2,860,965	1,000,000
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>25,670,996</b>	<b>9,037,010</b>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>		
ITTF Museum Fund	2,000,000	2,000,000
Bank loans	548,161	113,025
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>	<b>2,548,161</b>	<b>2,113,025</b>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>86,969</b>	<b>335,556</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Unrestricted funds	2,259,135	6,189,812
Currency translation adjustments	(37,585)	21,321
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>2,221,550</b>	<b>6,211,133</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>	<b>30,527,676</b>	<b>17,696,724</b>

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021 (IN USD)

	2021	2020
<b>Income</b>		
Revenue	10,982,474	9,391,780
International Olympic Committee	6,497,702	2,900,920
Governance & Regulatory Income	1,178,879	873,505
Other Income	-	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>20,212,862</b>	<b>14,640,141</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Event and Operating Expenses	(1,0285,452)	(7,098,234)
Project Expenses	(1,950,156)	(271,251)
Governance and Regulatory Expenses	(678,655)	(509,998)
General & Administrative Expenses	(10,048,588)	(7,243,054)
Depreciation and amortisation Expenses	(796,813)	(254,687)
Finance Expenses	(383,875)	-
<b>Total Capital Assets</b>	<b>(24,143,539)</b>	<b>(15,377,224)</b>
<b>Net results for the period</b>	<b>(3,930,677)</b>	<b>(737,083)</b>



Photography by Alvaro Diaz, APAC Sports Media, Christian Martinez, Christian Neuville, Jan Brychta, JIOJI Productions, Hideyui Imai, Hussein Sayed, Kolade Aremn, Remy Gros, and Richard Kalocsai.

Design by Amanda Lam





