

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

International Suite, Hotel Westin Bayshore, Vancouver, Canada  
09h00, Saturday 19 September 2015

### AGENDA

#### 1. **President's welcome and opening remarks**

The President welcomed all of the EC members and staff and thanked Table Tennis Canada and TMS for making all the necessary arrangements at a very high level. The EC agreed that Mrs. Melanie Ostashek would take the Minutes as recording secretary.

#### 2. **Roll call**

Thomas Weikert	President
Khalil Al-Mohannadi	Deputy President
Bruce Burton	Executive Vice-President
Patrick Gillmann	Executive Vice-President
Chérif Hajem	Executive Vice-President
Masahiro Maehara	Executive Vice-President
Melecio Rivera	Executive Vice-President
Petra Sörling	Executive Vice-President (Finance)

Ashu Jain                      Athletes Commission Deputy Chair

#### **In attendance**

Judit Faragó	CEO
Glenn Tepper	Deputy CEO
Steve Dainton	Director (Marketing)
Raul Calin	Director (Operations & Olympic Games)
Anders Thunström	Managing Director (TMS)
Melanie Ostashek	Recording Secretary

Adham Sharara              Chairman & Honorary President  
(Agenda items 5.8, 7.5.2, 7.9 and 8.5)

#### **Absent with regrets**

Shi Zhihao                      Executive Vice-President

#### 3. **Approval of the agenda**

The Executive Committee approved the agenda with the addition of 2 new items:

8.5    Conditional MoU with Tony Lin, Singapore

15.5   Financial request for Film project

Since Adham Sharara would only be attending the start of the meeting, agenda items 5.8, 7.5.2, 7.9 and 8.5 were to be discussed at the outset of the meeting (*appears in proper numerical order in these minutes*).

#### 4. Minutes

- 4.1 Approval of the minutes of the previous meetings (held 25 April and 3 May 2015) - The minutes were approved and signed by the President.
- 4.2 Business arising from the minutes not otherwise covered by the agenda
- 5.3 URC hand-signals experiment: The results obtained from the last test held in Paraguay were not sufficient. The URC asked permission to test again at another event. The EC agreed that the next test would take place at the upcoming ITTF-Asian Championships in Thailand. The survey results will be distributed at the next EC meeting in December.
- 12.4 Discussions were held with the URC about the umpire clothing to introduce "less formal" uniform and the entire "march-in" process should be reviewed. The Promotion and Marketing staff will prepare guidelines, Bruce Burton will report on this issue at the next EC meeting in December.
- 12.5 World Veteran Championships – The President will discuss this matter with the Swaythling Club International (SCI) and report at the next EC meeting in December.
- 4.3 Report and review of tasks from past EC meetings
- the opening of bids for the 2017 and 2018 Men's World Cup
  - inform IOC on misuse of Olympic Games logo as equipment supplier reference by a Chinese company
  - to identify another event for testing the new hand signals (at the ITTF Asian Championships)
  - a Working Group to propose the Code of Ethics for the ITTF
  - the travel policy document has to be modified after decision at previous EC meeting.

#### 5. Operations Program

- 5.1 Risk Assessment & Finance Committee
- An ITTF Risk Assessment Seminar was held on 11 June 2015, moderated by an external expert and attended by the President, Vice-President Finance, Mr. Choudhary (BoD member on the Finance Committee), the CEO and Operations staff. Petra Sörling explained the process and presented the Risk Identification List along with the resulting action plan.
  - All in all, it was a very useful experience and awareness practice and good combination with the yearly final audit assessment report.
  - Concern was raised about coach-athlete relations. The ITTF does have an under-age policy that has been distributed to all National Associations. Perhaps in line with point #1 of the risk assessment action plan, a suggestion should be made for all National Associations to require a background/criminal records check for all coaches.

- Discussions ensued on how to focus on the points that the moderator had suggested (action items). With budgetary concerns raised, it was suggested that all points not requiring implementation costs should be addressed immediately.

#### 5.2 Updates on ITTF offices

- Singapore - With the lease of the present office expiring, renovations are under way at the new location (close to Singapore TTA). The renovation costs are quite high, but it will pay off with the long-term lease agreement (4.5 years) and low rental rate. Move-in date to the new office is set for 1<sup>st</sup> November at the latest.
- Lausanne - Renovations on the exterior of the building of the Lausanne headquarters are progressing rapidly with about 80% of the work completed. The work should be finished in November. The Museum curator is currently working from home (Pennsylvania, USA).

#### 5.3 Museum update

- The ITTF Honorary Curator, Chuck Hoey is communicating with Museum officials in Shanghai, but it would help to have a local person to liaise between the Museum and ITTF. Shanghai will nominate someone at their end.
- There will be no traveling Museum exhibition to the 2016 WTTC in Malaysia this year, as space is limited, and the security and safety of the collection would not be guaranteed.

#### **1-EC-09-2015**

The Executive Committee decided to officially appoint Mr. Yao Zhenxu as ITTF coordinator for the Museum in Shanghai as the ITTF contact person effective immediately.

#### 5.4 Merit Award applications

In June, the ITTF sent to all associations the request for candidatures to be submitted by 31<sup>st</sup> July. Four applications were received by the deadline. Expectations were for a much higher number of nominations, therefore, it was proposed to extend the deadline to 31<sup>st</sup> October. This item will be added to the December EC meeting agenda, and the candidate(s) to be selected at that time.

#### **2-EC-09-2015**

The Director of Operations was asked to re-send the call for Merit Award nominations with an extended deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015.

#### 5.5 Code of Ethics

A working group was formed to adopt a new Code of Ethics (CoE). Samples from different sources were collected (IOC, IFs). It was agreed to refer to the IOC's CoE with necessary adjustments made to comply with the ITTF. The IOC will be consulted for advice/remarks to the proposed wording. The ITTF's proposed "Code of Ethics" to be

presented for approval at the December EC meeting to be ready for adoption at the 2016 BoD.

### **3-EC-09-2015**

The Director of Operations was asked to coordinate with the working group to finalize the proposition for the ITTF Code of Ethics and to submit to the EC meeting in December 2015.

#### 5.6 National Associations recognition issues

Disputes between National Associations recognized by the National Olympic Committee and National Associations recognized by Government, as well as autonomy issues for NOC's and NA's remain an ongoing problem. These include 5 cases since the last EC meeting:

- **Uganda** - Uganda TTA had terminated the presidency at a Special General Meeting and provided documentation with reasons. ITTF has requested written confirmation of any changes from the NOC, and asked Africa TTF and ITTF BoD member, Tom Kiggundu to follow up on this matter and advise ITTF accordingly.
- **Gabon** - due to a dispute between Gabon TTF (FGTT) and the Government Ministry; FGTT was suspended prior to the All Africa Games. ITTF requested that the suspension not affect the athletes and that any disputes are finalized after the Games, but no response was received.
- **Indonesia** - despite resolving that the NA recognized by KOI (NOC) and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) was also the NA recognized by ITTF prior to the 2015 World Championships, the other group recognized by KONI (Government) continues to try and enter events, most recently being the Asian Championships. Since they were clearly advised by ITTF that only KOI is recognized, their request for reimbursement was denied.
- **Kuwait** - Kuwait NOC and Kuwait TTA were suspended in 2010 due to autonomy issues relating to sports laws imposed by the government. Later the government rescinded the sports laws and the NOC-NA were re-instated. Recently the government again imposed similar sports laws. The IOC has ongoing discussions with the Kuwait government and has given an October 15 deadline to revoke these laws. At the request of IOC, ITTF sent a letter of support asking that the sport laws affecting the autonomy of Kuwait TTA be changed. Final decisions will be made after 15<sup>th</sup> October 2015.
- **Sri Lanka** - dispute continued on the government imposing sports laws, which affected the autonomy of the NOC and the NA's. Each NA has been asked to send their statutes to their International Federation for approval, which has been done in the case of table tennis. The remaining obstacle for TTASL is that elections were held

in spite that they were advised not to hold elections in the interim period, awaiting the confirmation of the NOC on whether the elections are recognized or if a new election must be held.

#### 5.7 Anti-doping program

- A letter was sent to all Continental Federations by the ITTF CEO about the doping test procedure after it was found that some NADOs do not follow the current WADA regulations regarding Sample Collection, Testing and Result Management Authority. Similar communication will be sent to organizers of the 2016 ITTF events.
- Testing program for the rest of 2015 is planned to have sufficient number of in-competition and out-of-competition tests, first of all on the Registered Testing Pool players.
- The anti-doping activity has to focus on being fully compliant to the new WADA code; oriented to "smart testing" by reducing number of RTP players, at the same time improving the quality of whereabouts and focusing more on out-of-competition tests.
- As suggested by WADA, the first step is to make an anti-doping risk assessment. An expert consultant for this task and for the transition period would be needed.

#### **4-EC-09-2015**

The Executive Committee requested the CEO to conclude a service-provider agreement with an expert consultant until the end of the year of 2015 to support the ITTF anti-doping program.

#### 5.8 P5 plan – DBI update

- Mr. Sharara presented a detailed power-point presentation showing the status of the project and showing the progress made by the ITTF in several areas to reach the Top-5 status, in comparison with a year ago. He also explained the progress in the structure of the databases (DBI) and what still needs to be done.
- The status of the project has reached the point where professional staff or a dedicated staff is needed to complete the process. Although the database is designed, we need to prioritize the over 800 proposals and suggestions received. This takes time and needs a staff member to take over this task.
- Mr. Sharara also suggested that the actual plan implementation does not start till 2017 in view of the financial restraints facing the ITTF in 2016, and only after having full knowledge of the ITTF's finances after receiving the new Olympic Fund for 2017-2020.
- He also stated that the Volunteer Database in the DBI system is a huge task, and also needs to be perfected with the help of a staff member.
- Ideally the P5 Plan if implemented correctly should not be a financial burden to the ITTF. The financial proposal made by Mr. Sharara to the ITTF's EVP of Finance is to use the excess IOC fund for the P5 Plan implementation. First the ITTF should secure between \$11 and \$12 million as a reserve fund, and then any

excess to that amount generated from the IOC fund should be earmarked for the P5 Plan.

- All new plans and proposal should systematically be included in the DBI to be prioritized and for financial allocation according to the order of priority.
- The CEO will try to find either a staff member or temporary help to assist the Chairman in completing the DBI-P5 project.

*The Power-Point presentation is attached to these Minutes.*

#### **5-EC-09-2015**

- The Executive Committee requested the CEO to appoint a staff member to assist the Chairman in completing the DBI-P5 project.
- The Executive Committee decided to start the action plan implementation as of January 2017, after the 2015 financial statements are available and the income shortfall recovery plan for 2016 is implemented.

## **6. Olympic movement and IFs**

### **6.1 Update on meetings**

- On 11<sup>th</sup> June the IOC Sport Department staff were invited to meet the ITTF President, the CEO and the Director of Operations & Olympic Games at the ITTF Headquarters. Discussions were on actual issues including requesting IOC to add Mixed Doubles to the table tennis events in 2020. Decision on the Tokyo OG program will be made after the Rio OG.
- The IOC Session was held in Kuala Lumpur on 31<sup>st</sup> July – 3<sup>rd</sup> August, where the President and the CEO represented the ITTF. Main topics on the agenda were allocation of the 2022 Winter OG (Beijing) and the 2020 Youth OG (Lausanne); introducing the Olympic Channel; stronger IFs' role in planning and delivering Olympic Games; recognition of South Sudan NOC.
- On 1<sup>st</sup> September the ITTF President visited the Tokyo-2020 Headquarters during his stay in Tokyo, where he was welcomed by Tokyo-2020 President, Mr. Yoshiro Mori. Accompanied by Japan TTA officials and EC colleague, Mr. Maehara, Mr. Weikert explained the ITTF proposal to IOC to include Mixed Doubles in the Tokyo OG program.
- ITTF will send a letter to IOC to reconfirm its application and will ask for a support letter from TOCOG to attach to it.
- A long discussion ensued on the strategy to secure an additional event, or events, for the Olympic Games for table tennis.

### **6.2 SportAccord status**

The EC decided to join in solidarity with other Olympic IFs and suspended its SportAccord membership after the controversial speech of the SportAccord President attacking the IOC at the SportAccord General Assembly in April. Since the ITTF officially communicated its decision on 21<sup>st</sup> May, the SportAccord President, Mr. Vizer, has resigned, and the senior Vice President, Mr. Kasper, was appointed as

interim Chairman. A structure change and the new statutes of SportAccord will be proposed at the Extraordinary General Assembly on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2015 in Lausanne.

6.3 Olympic Games accreditation policy

Call for applications for available accreditations and accommodation at the Rio2016 Olympic Games has to be sent out giving a 1-month timeline to ITTF officials and NA President to submit requests. It was proposed to maintain the same policy regarding the order of priority in allocation and the travel/hospitality policy.

**6-EC-09-2015**

The Executive Committee resolved to approve the policy of application for Rio 2016 Olympic Games accreditations and accommodation and requested the Director of Operations & Olympic Games to circulate the information with an application deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

**7. Competition Program**

7.1 2015 World Championships report

Debriefing from staff was received; the evaluation report will be published later. There was discussion between TMS and Suzhou OC on partial compensation claim for breaching sponsorship agreements. In the meantime Japan TTA as 2014 WTTC organizers submitted the most comprehensive report ever, which was shared with partners concerned.

7.2 2016 World Championships update

7.2.1 Location and venues

Ongoing issues about the location, as the originally proposed venue in Kuala Lumpur was no longer available. The ITTF was informed about it in June. Alternatives were offered first in Penang (refused by the ITTF), then venues in Shah Alam, Greater Kuala Lumpur, were identified finally with a stadium with 10,000 capacity as main hall and an exhibition center in 5-10 minute drive as second hall.

7.2.2 Inspection visits update

- Detailed report was sent to EC after all 3 inspections.
- Practice hall will be a temporary construction next to the main hall for the Championships Division and it will be also a big challenge to secure "back of house" facilities. Marquees will be built around the main hall due to lack of space in the hall.
- Lack of manpower and late changes will require permanent staff support in the last 2 months from the Singapore office.
- The CEO thanked the Deputy President for his support and help during the inspection and in key negotiations.
- Athletes Commission insists on providing enough practice tables (18 for the Championships Division), even if it is possible only by reducing the size of the court.

- There was discussion that in the future significant changes to the bidding conditions should not be accepted and that the size and structure of the championships (requiring venues to place about 80 tables) is not sustainable on a long run. A Working Group has to be formed to address these problems.

#### 7.2.3 Hospitality rate

- Organizers proposed a rate of US\$ 170/person/day in double room and US\$ 220/person/day in single room.
- EC has a policy not to exceed the price level of the previous years recorded on a chart.
- The rate cannot be higher than in Suzhou with high-level hotels.

#### **7-EC-09-2015**

The Executive Committee requested the CEO to negotiate with 2016 WTTC organizers a reduction in the proposed hospitality rate at least to match the price level of the last Championships.

#### 7.2.4 Timelines related to WTTC and meetings

Key dates related to the competition, operation and meetings were identified and will be updated from time to time.

#### 7.2.5 Continental participation pre-requisite – ATTF request

- African TTF requested to give exception to Morocco TTF from the World Championships pre-requisite rule due to the fact that Morocco could not take part in the identified continental event, the All African Games for a reason beyond their control (COJA excludes Morocco from the Games for all sports).
- ATTF also requested to increase the available quota for African teams if the exception is granted to Morocco.

#### **8-EC-09-2015**

The Executive Committee resolved to grant an exception to Morocco men's team from the participation criteria at the 2015 All African Games to be eligible to enter for the 2016 World Championships on condition that the quota place is one of the 7 continental spots available for African teams.

#### 7.3 2017 World Championships update

Commercial contract is under negotiations; table sponsorship bids were sent out; all preparations are according to the timelines. Again the date clash with Ramadan was raised, but it was confirmed that a change of dates was not possible. It was also mentioned that other major sport events (such as Olympics and World Championships) have taken place during Ramadan.

#### 7.4 Men's and Women's World Cup update

Entries were closed, there were two cancellations, both from China and next eligible substitutions were also Chinese. The wild card protest from DTTB for the Men's World Cup was discussed and the CEO had replied on behalf of the EC. The debate brought more publicity to the

event, however, the future of the wild card may be discussed to avoid repeated issues.

## 7.5 World Tour

### 7.5.1 GAC Group 2015 World Tour Grand Finals

The Grand Finals will be played in the middle of December in Lisbon. Portugal TTF is very motivated as organizers. A good venue was approved during the second inspection. This will be the last World Tour event sponsored by the GAC Group, as their 3-year sponsorship contract ends at the end of 2015.

### 7.5.2 2016 World Tour sponsorship

- Mr. Sharara reported that unfortunately GAC decided not to renew its sponsorship of the World Tour for a further 3 years. Attempts are being made to at least extend the current contract for another year, due to the fact that the announcement was made very late and there was no prior warning.
- It is too late to find a replacement sponsor for 2016. However, TMS will attempt to find a sponsor for 2017 with the inclusion of the 2016 World Tour Grand finals as part of the overall sponsorship.
- The loss of the GAC sponsorship means a huge shortfall in overall income for the ITTF in 2016.
- TMS and the ITTF Marketing Division are working hard at finding a replacement sponsorship.
- Mr. Sharara mentioned that the ITTF EC should take this matter seriously and reduce expenses, or find new income, to soften the impact of this loss of income in 2016. He also cautioned that financial decisions should not be made now until a clearer picture of the 2015 year-end finances are clear.
- Mr. Sharara also informed the EC about one company, Total Sport Asia, that is seriously in arrears in making payments on TV rights to the tune of over one million dollars. This is a matter that could aggravate the 2016 finances if not resolved.
- Mr. Sharara commended the EC for accepting the expense reduction for the 2016 World Tour as proposed by the CEO. Although he felt that it was a "soft" measure, it was still a step in the right direction, but more needed to be done to counter the loss of the GAC sponsorship.

### 7.5.3 Future of World Tour

The President requested to delay this item and asked the EC to refer it to a smaller group for internal emergency discussion after the EC meeting and based on the available financial resources.

#### **9-EC-09-2015**

The Executive Committee resolved to give the mandate to the following group to discuss internally the necessary modifications to the 2016 World Tour program: the President, the EVP (finance), the EVP (World Tour), the CEO, the Marketing Director, the TMS Managing Director.

## 7.6 Junior competitions

### 7.6.1 Update on 2015 World Junior Championships

Contract points are agreed and waiting for signing. Travel could be a problem, not many connections to fly to Nantes, so some planning is needed. Equipment sponsors are secured for WJTTC until 2018.

### 7.6.2 Ratification of allocation of 2015 World Cadet Challenge

EC agreed by email correspondence to allocate the event to Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. All continents made complete entry. First time mixed doubles is included in the events, in line with the application for inclusion at the Olympic Games.

## 7.7 Reports on Multisport Games

- Most of the Multisport Games took place in 2015; table tennis is on the event program of all.
- Universiade: Technical Delegate report was distributed
- Pan-Am Games: strong representation (3 EC members and senior staff), highly well presented event, but there was no live TV coverage. Discussion on possible table tennis PANAM confederation took place in Toronto.
- Pacific Games: Patrick Gillmann represented EC, first time Para table tennis event was included
- All African Games: Chérif Hajem represented EC, there were 130 table tennis players from 21 nations.
- Specific regulations for Multisport Games could be considered for the ITTF Handbook.

## 7.8 Calendar 2016

The 2016 ITTF Calendar of events was distributed, updated as of 12 September 2015, for information. It will be regularly updated on the ITTF website.

## 7.9 Ranking update

- Mr. Sharara updated the EC with regard to Ranking experiments. Initially the Athlete's Commission requested several experiments to be made with the ranking, mainly to reduce or eliminate the loss of points when a match is lost.
- Several experiments were conducted and the results verified; it finally seems that only one system, without losing points, but maintaining the relational result-based principle would work. This system is referred to as the "No Points Lost" system (NPL). It is based on the same system as the current system, which is 92% accurate in predicting the outcome of a match, but instead of a player losing points when losing a match, those points would be added to the winner instead. This would not reduce the accuracy, it would create an "inflation" effect to the system (continuous gaining points), but would meet the requirements of the Athletes Commission.

- The NPL system is fully operational and the link to the test page, with full ranking features, would be provided to the Athlete Commission, as of 1 October 2015.
- The accuracy of the NPL would be maintained, but there are two concerns: the first is that the total points of the players will always increase, so the actual representation of ranking points as an indication of a specific skill level of a player will not longer be valid. The second set-back is that restricted events held with players from the same region or continent need to be scheduled properly (ideally all continental championships should be held at the same time), to avoid a group of players climbing the ranking while another group lags behind. Therefore, the ITTF calendar becomes a very important factor affecting the Ranking.
- Both of these negative effects could be managed, if it is felt that the new NPL system would have sufficient positive effects that outweigh any shortcomings.
- The test NPL ranking system will be available every month as of October 2015, one day after the publication of the current ranking on the ITTF's website.
- The Athlete Commission representative, Ashu Jain, stated that the Ranking needs to be dynamic and encourages players to play. He also stated that we should avoid systems that only favour active players and not reflecting real playing strength. Therefore, the new Ranking Working Group needs to first identify what is the aim with the ranking change, and to erase any manipulation.
- The Working Group led by the President will consider inputs from different stakeholders and will study several alternatives for ranking changes before making the final proposal after the 2016 Olympic Games.
- The CEO informed the EC that the modified principle for initial players (First Ranking) is in place since August 2015.

## **8. Marketing and Promotion Program**

### **8.1 TMS International update**

- A total US\$ 6.5 million in sponsorship and TV rights was secured so far in 2015.
- Loss from GAC sponsorship could be partially recovered by selling the 2016 World Tour Grand Finals on its own, however, replacement of the overall title sponsorship seems impossible at this late stage.
- Olympic equipment sponsorship for Tokyo (San-Ei and DHS) is very good.
- Equipment for junior events is secured until 2018 with JOOLA and Stag.
- Gerflor is secured as floor supplier for 2017 and 2018 WTTC.
- Renewal till 2020 is negotiated with Tissot and China Unicom, all other major sponsors are secured on long-term basis.

## 8.2 Star Awards Gala 2015

- The nomination and selection process was proposed by the Marketing, Promotion program staff and ITTF Media Committee with the modification that the Para TT Stars have to be selected by the Para TT Division Players' Committee (and not the Athletes Commission).
- Awards will be presented in 8 categories based on outstanding performances and fair play during the year.
- Targeting a balanced budget for the Star Award Gala with the income from sponsoring the awards covering the costs of organization fully paid by ITTF.

### **10-EC-09-2015**

The Executive Committee resolved to approve with one amendment the nomination and selection process for the annual ITTF Star Award Gala.

- At the same time as the Star Award concept, the review of the "Hall of Fame" concept was also submitted for discussion and with the aim that the hand-over ceremony moved to the Star Award Gala instead of the AGM to allow awarded players to attend it.
- It was also proposed to enlarge the group of events with World Cups and World Tour events and to establish a specific HoF point system.
- In order not to devaluate the HoF award, it was recommended to consider only World title events (WTTC, OG, WC).
- The Honorary Curator has to be involved in the discussion.
- The final proposal will be presented to the EC at the next meeting with the aim to introduce the new system in 2016.

## 8.3 New website design and application

Tender is open for the new design and mobile application until end of October, offers will be evaluated after, wide range of proposals is expected in terms of services and prices.

## 8.4 Urban table tennis

- New idea from the Marketing department to bring a new version of table tennis, which is simple, fun, easy and attractive to youth.
- Need another ball and racket for playing outside, research going on with the laboratory in Singapore.
- The first official championship is planned during the 2017 WTTC and promotion plan is in place for Rio 2016.

## 8.5 Conditional MoU with Tony Lin, Singapore

- The Chairman, Adham Sharara, explained the background with regard to a long-term project advanced by Mr. Tony Lin, of Singapore Capital Developments, to create a sports city in China in which the ITTF would have a presence called "ITTF-Forum". This idea was presented to the ITTF several years ago and an agreement was signed by then president Sharara. However, this

project never developed. Mr. Lin has now requested that the ITTF provide him with a guarantee level confirming participation in the project. Adham Sharara advised the EC that this time around it was more prudent to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and request an advance payment of US\$ 500,000 from Mr. Lin.

#### **11-EC-09-2015**

- It was unanimously agreed by the Executive Committee that the Chairman prepare an MoU for the Sport-City & ITTF-Forum project for signature by the ITTF President, TMS, and Mr. Lin's company.
- Mr. Sharara is also requested to prepare a draft ITTF letter giving Mr. Lin and his company the non-exclusive right to source, through TMS, sponsorships for ITTF events on a commission basis.

## **9. Development Program**

### **9.1 Development Agreements 2017-2020**

- The 2017-2020 Continental Development Agreements financial breakdown and guiding principles for funding were tabled and submitted to the EC.
- The 2017-2020 Continental Development Agreements will be presented to Continental Federation Presidents at the Development and Continental Council Meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2015. The agreements will also form a significant part of the Development and Education workshop at the 2016 World Championships, and negotiations will continue with the aim to sign both 2017-2020 Continental Affiliation and Continental Development Agreements at the 2016 Rio Olympic Games.

#### **12-EC-09-2015**

The Executive Committee resolved to approve unanimously the 2017-2020 Continental Development Fund and its principles.

### **9.2 ITTF-Asia Development Agreement 2015-16**

- After the Asian Table Tennis Union signed the ITTF Affiliation Agreement, the ITTF-Asia Development Agreement for 2015-16 was also signed and is being implemented. In the period 2013-14 ITTF directly assisted the National Associations of Asia in the absence of the agreement.
- Asia will join all other continents in following agreements (the next one for 2017-2020).

### **9.3 DCC-Women's Commissioner**

During a women's in sport meeting in Suzhou it was agreed that the most logical target group for the Women's Commissioner is the Development and Continental Council (DCC) where meeting can take place collectively and individually with the Continental Presidents to discuss women in sport projects, as well as the Athlete's Commission Meeting at the World Championships, rather than attending the Women's World Cup.

### **13-EC-09-2015**

The Executive Committee agreed that the ITTF Women in Sport Commissioner is invited to attend the yearly DCC meeting at ITTF costs.

#### 9.4 DET Funding Proposal

- The Development and Education Program presented a funding proposal for 6 areas (new, expanding or updated programs): International Training Centers, ITTF Coaching Films, Table Tennis for All and World Table Tennis Day, Table Tennis for All Manual, ITTF Administration Courses and Manual, and ITTF Coach Accreditation Scheme.
- Due to the financial situation for 2016 being heavily affected by the loss of the GAC sponsorship, a reduced proposal was presented for only 4 of the areas: International Training Centers, ITTF Coaching Films, Table Tennis for All and World Table Tennis Day, and ITTF Administration Courses and Manual totaling US\$ 75,000 for 2016, and US \$55,000 annually for 2017-2020.
- The remaining two projects will be added to the ITTF P5 Plan-DBI to be activated when the financial situation is stabilized.

### **14-EC-09-2015**

The Executive Committee approved the modified budget for 4 specific projects of the Development and Education Program with annual funding until 2020.

## **10. Education & Training Program**

#### 10.1 World Hopes Week – Hopes Team

- The World Hopes Week was very successfully held at CTTC, Shanghai from 29 June to 5 July with Chinese master coach Li Xiaodong as Head Coach. The new model of 16 boys and 16 girls qualifying through Continental Hopes Weeks worked very well.
- The “Hopes Team” was selected representing all 6 continents, they will have 10 days training and education in Slovenia prior to the World Cadet Challenge training camp and competition.
- The philosophy of “ITTF DNA-Developing National Associations” continues to be followed with a strong emphasis on coach education.

#### 10.2 Coaching Films

- The “Spin’s and Skills” first series of films will be progressively released with some delay, but before the end of the year.
- Planning is underway regarding the second set of filming.

#### 10.3 Coaching mentorships

- Coaching Mentorship is a new program whereby young and talented coaches from the developing world are partnered with either an elite coach or an International Training Center.
- Three mentor-coach partnerships are being tried in 2015.

#### 10.4 International Training Centers

- The ITTF HotSpot Program has been updated, and renamed as "ITTF International Training Centers" with 4 levels: 1. Academy, 2. High Performance, 3. Elite and 4. HotSpot.
- New requirements for both attaining and maintaining each level have been developed. Applications close in mid-October and the new structure will be in operation from 2016.

### 11. Professional staff update

#### 11.1 Staff retreat

Meeting of all staff members is important at least once in every quadrennial. The first one would be a facilitated retreat with team building specialist (Leading Teams) and with an estimated budget of US\$ 72,600. Due to financial uncertainty and the busy competition calendar in Olympic year, the first one is proposed in early months of 2017.

#### **15-EC-09-2015**

The Executive Committee approved the staff retreat activity scheduled for early 2017.

### 12. Equipment

#### 12.1 Bounce test project update

- The Equipment Committee submitted a detailed report to the EC on the experimentation on bounce tests with ISR in Singapore. All work was coordinated with the proposer, the Japan TTA.
- The report offered two options for decision: Option1 – program plan to continue the project; Option2 – to terminate the project. However the conclusion of the project summary was to discontinue, because it will not serve its purpose to create an even playing field.
- Athletes Commission is also on the opinion that the bounce test experiment should be terminated as it would not prevent cheating, but on contrary. VOC disappeared, so there is no more health reason, cheating by boosting has to be sanctioned, applying suspension, and not only for players but also for manufacturers.
- Athletes Commission discussed that players would be ready to remove their rubbers but only after the player is out of the competition.

#### **16-EC-09-2015**

The Executive Committee decided to terminate the bounce test experimental project and at the same time asked the CEO to put on the EC task list to find a solution for fair and equal playing environment for athletes.

- Japan TTA wishes to propose in future to revisit the issue.

#### 12.2 New term for plastic ball

Discussion started in Equipment Committee on finding a new term for "plastic ball", because celluloid is also plastic. Equipment Committee will make proposal to the EC once the new definition is agreed.

#### 12.3 Agreement with I.S.R.

The first agreement period ended with the Singapore laboratory, the new cooperation will be on a project-per-project basis and focusing more on research rather than testing.

#### 12.4 Net-camera rule

- A proposal was submitted by the Marketing Division to include the net-camera in the ITTF rules as part of the equipment. All in agreement that it is needed, but different opinions on how to make the wording of the rule proposition.
- In practice the net-camera is in use for the past few years at major events. Players have no problem with it, and Referees are flexible to allow it except for a few cases.
- The Athletes Commission wants to include in the wording: "must not interfere with the play". The final proposition has to be agreed before the next EC meeting in order to be submitted to the 2016 BoD meeting.

### **13. Athletes' Commission report**

- Ball quality and quantity is still a problem, one out of 6 balls is good. Top players get good quality balls, but the majority use balls that are too soft, easily broken and the balls supplied for practice are even worse.
- It is proposed to change balls after 3 games.
- EC agreed that the situation with balls is still not satisfactory, and will be followed up with manufacturers.
- At the same time AC is requested to collect more opinion from Asian players, to report officially the problems to the Competition Manager on site and to make use of its Chair's invitation to visit DHS in China.
- Table surface is not consistent and not the same at many events.
- Competition staff was requested to check if food and drink can be taken from outside to the 2016 WTTC venue.
- It was agreed to include in 2016 World Tour Directives that light meals have to be served in the player's lounge if there is no food served in the venue.
- Practice conditions are often not acceptable at World Tour events, especially that practice tables are not enough.
- Size of the scorers, scoreboards has to be increased.
- World Ranking has to be changed with no points deducted for losses.
- Proposal to give special gifts for the World Championships medalists was discussed at length.
- US Open playing conditions were not according to the ITTF standard. World ranking approval has to be reviewed for those not following ITTF rules.
- AC was requested to discuss and summarize their input and submit definite proposals to the EC instead of sending suggestions by individual players.

#### 14. Para TT Division report

- A short update on Para TT activities was provided.
- There are 23 events in 2015, intense competition program in the year before the Paralympic Games.
- The ITTF was in forefront with integration of Para table tennis, but closer cooperation is needed in marketing, development and education areas.
- The ITTF has to pay attention to requests by several countries for classification and coaching activities.
- The ITTF should reconsider in the future the event allocation process for major Para TT events to delegate the decision to the EC/BoD based on recommendation from the Division (similarly to other ITTF events and to separate responsibilities of the technical evaluation of the bids and the decision itself).

#### 15. Any other business

##### 15.1 Eligibility

###### 15.1.1 Eligibility request – Algeria TTF

The Algeria TTF registered a player to be eligible for world title events on 5 March 2015 and appealed to release the 5 years waiting period on the basis that the delay in registration was due to administrative reasons. As the ITTF has documents to prove that the association was informed on time of the registration process, the appeal was not approved.

###### **17-EC-09-2015**

The Executive Committee decided not to grant exceptional permission to Sannah Lagsir for World title event representation.

###### 15.1.2 Conflict between NA – NOC eligibility

In some few cases there are players entered at Multisport Games who have the same nationality, but representing different NAs and have no NOC. ITTF cannot overrule eligibility at events not sanctioned by ITTF, but in the case that the event is recognized by the ITTF, the results of the specific player would not be counted for World Ranking.

##### 15.2 Junior Commissioner survey

A survey was conducted by Patrick Gillmann (EVP in charge of the junior program), among the Junior Continental Commissioners, to find out why there were not more bids to organize major junior events. The main issue is cost and obligation to provide free hospitality. Many governments will not subsidize these events.

### 15.3 Nominations for WADA Committees

**18-EC-09-2015**

The Executive Committee resolved to submit nominations for WADA Committees as follows: Zoran Primorac for WADA Athletes Committee, Miran Kondric for WADA Education Committee, Shiro Matsuo for WADA Health, Medical and Research Committee.

### 15.4 Next EC meeting

The next EC meeting will take place on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2015 in Vendée, France, during the World Junior Championships.

### 15.5 Financial request for Film project

A request was received by the ITTF President for the ITTF to finance a video and book production introducing the Ping-Pong culture in China. The EC expressed readiness to support the project by buying copies of the final product to distribute it to members and to promote it, but the ITTF does not have the financial resources to finance the production.

**16. Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 17h05.

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Thomas Weikert  
President

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Date