



The International GO Federation

c/o the Nihon Ki-in, 7-2, Gobancho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0076

E-mail: igf@nihonkiin.or.jp Fax: 03-3239-0899

27th General Meeting of the International Go Federation Minutes

Time: 13:00–14:30, Tuesday, 27 May 2008

Venue: Conference Room, 3F, The Nihon Ki-in, Tokyo (Gobancho, Chiyoda-ku)

Agenda

1. Confirmation of the minutes of the 26th IGF GM
2. Reelection of seven directors and election of one new director
3. Report by the Secretary General
4. Report on operations
 - (a) The 28th World Amateur Go Championship in Tokyo (28~31 May 2007)
 - (b) The 2nd Korean PM's International Baduk Tournament held in Suwon City (12~17 October 2007)
 - (c) The 18th International Amateur Pair Go Championship (10, 11 October 2007)
 - (d) The 1st IGF Go Promotion & Support Activity
5. The World Mind Sports Games
6. Report on IMSA activity
7. Future policy of the IGF
 - (a) Review of the IGF Statutes
 - (b) Application for affiliation with World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)
8. Financial report for 2007 and budget for 2008
9. Scheduled operations this year and next year
 - (a) 29th World Amateur Go Championship in Tokyo (28~31 May 2008)
 - (b) 19th International Amateur Pair Go Championship (October 2008)
 - (c) 3rd Korean PM's International Baduk Tournament (7~12 November 2008)
 - (d) 30th World Amateur Go Championship (26~31 May 2009)
 - (e) 2nd Go Promotion & Support Activity
10. Application by the Macao Go Association for affiliation with the IGF
11. Founding of the World Pair Go Association (WPGA)
12. Concerning the nonparticipation by the DPR Korea in the WAGC.
13. Other

Minutes

Eduardo LOPEZ, IGF President, was appointed by IGF President, Hiromu OKABE, who was unavoidably absent because of other business, to take the chair. At the beginning of the meeting, Mr. Lopez called for a silent prayer for the repose of the souls of the many persons who lost their lives in the Szechwan earthquake in China.

There were 68 IGF members in attendance, with the two members absent being DPR Korea, which was not participating in this year's tournament, and the Ukrainian representative, who was unable to participate because of a sudden illness. The representative from the Philippines, which had rejoined the IGF the previous year, was introduced.

1. Confirmation of the minutes of the 26th IGF GM

The minutes of the previous GM were confirmed.

2. Reelection of seven directors and election of one new director

The terms of office of seven directors terminated as of this meeting. They were; Eduardo LOPEZ, Erik PUYT, Martin STIASSNEY, Neville SMYTHE, Sang-yul HAN, Thomas HSIANG, Runan WANG. They had all declared their candidacy for another term (2008~2010) and had been recommended by the Board of Directors. The meeting approved their reelection.

Korsak CHAIRASMISAK, President of the Thai Go Association, was the candidate the Asian zone directorship that had been vacant since the year before last. His candidacy had been approved by the Board of Directors, and the General Meeting elected him to the post. Mr. Chairasmisak, who had been in attendance as an observer, gave an acceptance speech.

It was reported that the Board of Directors had reappointed Eduardo Lopez, Erik Puyt, and Runan Wang as Vice Presidents.

3. Report by the Secretary General

Secretary General Yuki SHIGENO reported that it was expected that the 1st World Mind Sports Games would be the largest-scale event yet held, with a total of 650 competitors from 60 countries, including top professionals from Japan, China, Korea and Taiwan, taking part. It was hoped that not only would the WMSG be a success but that it would strengthen the bonds among member countries of the IGF and have a beneficial influence on the popularization of go in each country. The understanding and cooperation of all members was requested.

Recently, opportunities for exchanging information with bodies enthusiastic about promoting international go activities other than IGF members, such as the Ing Foundation, the Taiwanese Go Association, the Korean Amateur Baduk Association, the Japanese Pair Go Association, etc., were increasing. The IGF hoped to strengthen our relationship with these bodies and expand its own activities with the aim of achieving our joint goal of further spreading go internationally.

4. Report on operations

(a) The 28th World Amateur Go Championship in Tokyo (28~31 May 2007)

This tournament was held at the Nihon Ki-in in Tokyo. Because of the nonparticipation of the DPR Korea, a total of 68 countries and territories took part. As one of our support activities, as mentioned in item (d) below, we invited Go Seigen 9-dan to attend as a special guest of the IGF.

(b) The 2nd Korean PM's International Baduk Tournament held in Suwon City (12~17 October 2007)

This tournament, which is organized by the Korean Amateur Baduk Association (KAB), was held with 58 competitors, mainly IGF members, taking part. The IGF has acted as supervisor since the first tournament, and, as for that tournament, it received from KABA a supervisory fee of 700,000 yen. During the tournament, a Special Directors' Meeting of the IGF was held.

(c) The 18th International Amateur Pair Go Championship (10, 11 October 2007)

This tournament was held at the Edmont Hotel in Iidabashi, Tokyo. The IGF acted as supervisor and received a supervisory fee of one million yen.

(d) The 1st IGF Go Promotion & Support Activity

We planned to send a professional for go instruction to Brunei, where a new go group had been formed centring on students, but during the planning stage we received a request from the Brunei Go Club to put off the trip, as 'the principal members were students, who found it difficult to make adequate preparations.' This activity was therefore postponed.

We invited Go Seigen 9-dan to the Opening Ceremony of the 28th WAGC.

5. The World Mind Sports Games 2008

Ms. Shigeno gave a report, centring on the WMSG conference held in Beijing on 22 and 23 May.

(a) Confirmation of number of participants

Men's individual: 227

Women's individual: 97

open: 93

men's team: 40 countries/231 competitors

women's team: 24 countries/89 competitors

Pair Go: 47 pairs (39 amateur, 8 professional)

Total scheduled for both first and second weeks: 420 competitors + 70 coaches + 10 staff = 500. The cost of accommodation and meals during the period of the games to be borne by the WMSG Organizing Committee.

(b) Tournament venue, schedule, rules, etc.

The go section is to use the 3rd floor of the Beijing International Convention Center. Chess is using the 1st floor, Chinese chess and bridge (the youth tournament) the 2nd floor. The Chinese International Convention Center is to be used for bridge and checkers. Details of the schedule, rules etc. can be obtained from the WMSG materials page on the Web and should be confirmed by associations and individual players.

(c) WMSG entry fee

The entry fee for participation should be paid in advance. In principle, payment will not be accepted on the spot.

(d) Final application deadline

The final deadline for applications is the end of June; the deadline for ID card applications is 20 July. From now on, all information and application forms will be sent to the official responsible in each go association by e-mail, so please check your mail frequently.

6. Report on IMSA activity

Thomas Hsiang gave a report in place of Erik Puyt, IMSA Office Director, who was unable to come at the last minute.

Mr. Hsiang indicated that in order to carry out the Olympic activity that is the joint goal of the members of IMSA it is necessary for the IGF to become a member of the IOC. For this, it's necessary to affiliate with the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and also to organize a wide range of events aimed at young people and women.

7. Future policy of the IGF

(a) Review of the IGF Statutes

A report was made by Ichiro Tanioka.

It was proposed by the Board of Directors that the category of Association Member be established, and this was approved by the GM. Association Members would have no voting rights; current members would be called General Members and would retain the rights and qualifications they possess at present. In response to an objection by China to a part of the wording in the English version of the statutes, it was decided to make a report at a later date after adjusting this matter.

(b) Application for affiliation with World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)

A report was made by Thomas Hsiang.

Because a letter from GAISF was received urging the IGF to join WADA, this question was examined by the Board of Directors, and, as a result, it was proposed to the GM that the IGF apply to join WADA. This proposal was approved. Doping tests would not be held at the 1st WMSG and, at the earliest, would be put into effect at next year's WAGC.

8. Financial report for 2007 and budget for 2008

These items were approved.

9. Scheduled operations this year and next year

(a) 29th World Amateur Go Championship in Tokyo (28~31 May 2008)

This event would begin tomorrow at the Tokyo headquarters of the Nihon Ki-in and run for four days, with 68 countries participating.

(b) 19th International Amateur Pair Go Championship (October 2008)

This event would be held in conjunction with the Pair Go event at the WMSG and would be held in October in Beijing. The amateur pair with the best results at this event would be awarded a prize as the 19th International Pair Go Champions.

(c) 3rd Korean PM's International Baduk Tournament (7~12 November 2008)

This event is to be held in a suburb of Inch'on in Korea, with mainly IGF members being invited to compete.

(d) 30th World Amateur Go Championship in Shizuoka (26~31 May 2009)

The 30th tournament is scheduled to be held in Fukuroi City in Shizuoka Prefecture.

(e) 2nd Go Promotion & Support Activity

In response to a request from the European Go Federation, the IGF dispatched Masataka SAIJO 9-dan for two weeks to the European Go Congress being held at Leksand, Sweden. We also invited Ms. Yumi HOTTA, the original author of 'Hikaru no go', to the WAGC as a special guest of the IGF.

10. Application by the Macao Go Association for affiliation with the IGF

The Macao Go Association applied to the IGF for membership, and this was approved by the GM. That took the total of IGF members to 71. A representative of the Macao Go Association, in attendance as an observer, gave an address.

11. Founding of the World Pair Go Association (WPGA)

The IGF has been informed by the Japan Pair Go Association, the sponsor of the International Amateur Pair Go Championship, that on the occasion of the 20th tournament next year they plan to establish the World Pair Go Association (WPGA) with the aim of further popularizing Pair Go on an international level. We confirmed our wish to cooperate with the WPGA in striving to spread go internationally.

12. Concerning the nonparticipation by the DPR Korea in the WAGC.

For the second year in a row, the Nihon Ki-in received a notification from the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs that it would not permit the use of the national name and national flag of DPR Korea. In response, DPR Korea decided not to participate in the WAGC. This is very regrettable, but it is an unavoidable problem in view of the circumstances of the host country. We hope that all IGF members will be able to take part in the 30th WAGC next year.

13. Other

There was no other business.

The meeting concluded at 14:20.