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28th General Meeting of the International Go Federation Minutes

The 28th General Meeting of the International Go Federation was held in the Rose Room on the 3rd floor of the Kakegawa Grand Hotel and started at 16:10. Eduardo Lopez, IGF Vice President, was in the chair, having been appointed by IGF President Hiromu Okabe to act in his place. Representatives of 66 of the 71 general member, were in attendance, with those absent being DPR Korea, Panama, Madagascar, Indonesia, and Cuba. The representative of China Macao, which was affiliated with the IGF last year, was introduced.

1. Confirmation of the minutes of the 27th General Meeting

The minutes of the 27th GM, held in Tokyo last year, were confirmed.

2. Election of president and two directors

Hideo Otake, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Nihon Ki-in, was standing as a candidate to succeed Mr. Okabe, whose term was completed as of this meeting, and he was recommended by the Board of Directors. The meeting elected him as the new president, and he was introduced.

The DM recommended the reelection of Maria Puerta, whose term was completed, and this was approved by the GM. As the successor to Erik Puyt, who resigned as European director at the end of last year, the board recommended the election of Victor Bogdanov, who was recommended by the European Go Federation and the Russian Go Federation. The meeting elected him as the new director.

It was reported that the DM had chosen Thomas Hsiang, the North American director, to replace Erik Puyt, who had resigned, as a Vice President.

3. Report by the IGF office

IGF Secretary General Yuki Shigeno gave the following report. The 1st World Mind Sports Games (WMSG), held in October last year, were a success, and the bonds among the IGF and its member and other go organizations were strengthened. The leaders of the international go world, Japan, China, and Korea, agreed to cooperate in supporting the IGF and in working for the promotion of international go.

4. Report on operations

This report was made by Eduardo Lopez. The 1st WMSG was held in Beijing from 3 to 18 October 2008, with 560 competitors taking part in six events. Including officials, 750 people

participated.

The 29th World Amateur Go Championship was held from 26 to 31 May at the Nihon Ki-in in Tokyo. Owing to the nonparticipation of the DPR Korea and the absence for health reasons of the Ukrainian representative, the total number of countries and territories competing was 68.

The 3rd Korean Prime Minister's Cup International Baduk Tournament (KPMC) was held in Goyang City from 7 to 11 November 2008. Sixty-nine players, mainly from IGF general member,, were invited to take part. Since the founding of this tournament, the IGF has been acting as the manager and for each of the first two terms was paid a managerial fee of 700,000 yen by the Korean Amateur Baduk Association (KABA), but last year we were requested to forgo this payment, owing to the large-scale increase in expenses as a result of the sharp rise in fuel surcharge for airfare. The IGF will invoice KABA for two years' managerial fees, including the fee for the 4th term, in 2009.

The 19th International Amateur Pair Go Championship was held from 10 to 17 October in Beijing as one of the events at the 1st WMSG.

At the request of the European Go Federation, the 2nd IGF Go Promotion Activity took the form of dispatching Masataka Saijo 9-dan to the European Go Congress.

5. 2008 financial report and 2009 budget

The 2008 financial report and the 2009 budget were approved by the meeting.

6. Selection of the 2009 auditor countries

The DM recommended the selection of the USA and Australia as the 2009 auditor countries, and this was approved by the GM.

Owing to a mistake by the office, after the recommendation by the DM of the auditor countries last year, the office failed to present this motion to the GM. The office apologized for this error.

7. Report on the GAISF General Meeting and the IMSA conference

The following report was made by Thomas Hsiang. During the General Meeting of GAISF held in Denver in March, an IMSA (International Mind Sports Association) conference was held; a report was made on the 1st WMSG and future events were discussed.

The 2nd WMSG will be held in a separate year and place from the summer Olympics; the goal is to promote participation by youth, and it is scheduled to hold the event from July to August in 2013. Candidates for hosting the event include Dubai, Macao, Abu Dhabi, Hangzhou, Guangzhou, Adelaide, and Moscow. FIDE undertook the responsibility of establishing the criteria and procedures for applying and of drafting plans for contracts for support.

8. IGF Anti-Doping Regulations

This report was made by Thomas Hsiang. In September last year, IGF President Mr. Okabe signed up with the World Anti-Doping Agency. Subsequently, the IGF Anti-Doping regulations were reviewed in accordance with WADA's 2009 revision of its regulations. The latest version of the IGF anti-doping regulations and a list of prohibited drugs, and FAQ and other related materials were put up on our web site and made known to IGF general members.

The IGF anti-doping plan was approved at the previous day's DM. This plan follows WADA's guidance and calls for carrying out two kinds of doping tests: out of competition and in

competition.

The subjects of out-of-competition tests will be 10~15 persons over a period of a year. It's necessary to carry out doping tests on about 70% of this pool. It will be necessary to inform the IGF Medical Committee where one can be contacted for a set hour every day for a period of three months.

In-competition tests will be carried out only at IGF-related international events. Subjects will be top players, who will be tested within 24 hours after conclusion of competition. General member are required to include a passage in their statutes clearly agreeing with the IGF anti-doping regulations.

9. IGF Association Members

It was reported that the Iberoamerican Go Federation and the World Pair Go Association had been approved as IGF Association Members at the DM.

10. Conference of three professional go associations

The professional go associations of China, Korea, and Japan have decided to cooperate within the framework of the IGF to contribute to international go, to hold regular meetings and to fairly support the IGF financially. The DM approved making conferences among these three bodies committee meetings of the IGF Board of Directors. Gratitude to these three associations for their assistance was expressed.

11. Operations this year, scheduled operations next year

The 30th WAGC will be held at the Ogasayama General Sports Park Ecopa in Fukuroi City, Shizuoka Prefecture, beginning on 27 May, with 66 countries and territories participating (countries not participating: DPR Korea, Panama, Madagascar, Indonesia, Cuba). As this year's IGF Go Promotion Activity, Michael Redmond 9-dan was invited to attend the tournament. Mr. Redmond was introduced.

This year, publication of the bulletin *Ranka* was suspended, and a switch was made to *Ranka Online*. The Net bulletin will be used to provide on-the-spot reports at next year's WAGC also.

The 31st WAGC will be held in late May 2010 in Hangzhou, China.

The 20th International Amateur Pair Go Championship will be held at the Hotel Edmont in Iidabashi, Tokyo on 14 and 15 November 2009.

The 4th KPMC will be held in Jeonju, Korea from 23 to 28 October 2009, focussing on IGF general members.

Go will be an official event for the first time at the Asian Games to be held in Guangzhou, China, from 12 to 27 November 2010.

12. Participation by the DPR Korea in the WAGC

Since the year before last, the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs has requested the DPR Korea to make changes in its national flag and country name when participating in the WAGC, which has led to nonparticipation by the DPR Korea. This is truly regrettable, but unavoidable in view of the conditions of the host country.

13. Other

A report from Brunei was introduced.

There were a number of questions by members.

Question 1. 1. How about making the IGF anti-doping regulations compulsory for new general members of the IGF? 2. The nonparticipation of the DPR Korea is a pity. Is there a plan for enabling all general members to take part?

Answers by Eduardo Lopez:

To 1: The matter has not yet been examined. We will do so by the next GM.

To 2: This is a difficult problem. The DPR Korea can take part if it complies with the directives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

To 2, Thomas Hsiang added: This problem probably won't arise next year when the tournament is held in China.

Question 2: You say that the IGF anti-doping statutes have been revised. What are the changes?

Thomas Hsiang : There has been no change since our regulations were approved by WADA, but the plan for carrying out tests has changed.

Question 3: The WAGC is being held in China next year. Are there any other plans for holding it outside Japan?

Eduardo Lopez: No decision has been made yet.

Question 4: Next year players will have to pay for their transport, but what about the other expenses?

Eduardo Lopez: Other expenses will be borne by the organizers.

Question 5: Last year Guatemala had trouble securing Chinese visas to participate in the WMSG. Can the IGF do anything to solve this problem?

Wang Runan (interpreted by Hsiang): In relation to participation in the WAGC, there should not be any visa problems between the two countries.

Question 6: Will paying for one's own transport apply to any other tournaments besides the WAGC?

Eduardo Lopez: This applies only to the WAGC.

The meeting closed at 16:55.