



81th FIDE Congress

Meeting of Chess In Schools Commission (CISC)

24th September 2010 - 11.00 – 13:30 hrs
King Room - Congress Hall
Khanty Mansiysk

AGENDA

01. Welcome
02. Report of President by Dr. Uvencio Blanco (VEN)
03. Speech by Secretary Dr. Alexander Kostiev (RUS)
04. Speech by Mrs. Margaret Murphy (USAVI)
05. Speech by Mrs. Gihan El Sahhar (EGY)
06. Special presentation by Mr. Leontxo García (SPA)
07. Proposals by Dr. Uvencio Blanco
 - Chess as Intangible Mankind's Cultural Heritage
 - Titles for Instructor of Chess In Schools
08. Activities CISC (2011 – 2014) by Dr. Alexander Kostiev (RUS)
09. New Members of Chess In Schools Commission
10. Closing remarks by Dr. Uvencio Blanco (VEN)

AGENDA

Chairman: Uvencio Blanco (VEN)

Present: A. Kostyev (RUS), P. Chan (SIN), Y. D. Abebe (ETH), D. Lima (BRA), V. Gil (STP), A. Burstein (ISR), P. Viner (AUS), K. Phiri (ZAM), H. Cereijo (ARG), Ramon N.V. Barrera (ARG), M. Murphy (ISV), A. Mongiello (ISV), R. Ortiz – Bonilla (PUR), J. Kaamu (UGA), N. R. Mendez (PUR), O. Boytsun (UKR), K. Kelathhilwe (BOT), L. Kagambi (KEN), E. Steenkamp (RSA), G. A. Hearne (IRL), Ab. Alberto Janton (ECU), K. O`Connell (IRL), P. L. Chambule (MOZ), E. Polihroniade (ROU), E.-D. Gabar (ROU), R. Hernandez, (PLW), J.-O. Berglund (PLW), T. Sitale (BOT), L. Ebbin (BER), I. Tabarini (SMR), A. Herbert (BAR), A. El K. Mostafa (EGY), K. Stephen (UGA), R. Katende (UGA), A. M. Benhadi (ALG), S. Mohammed (NGR).

1. Welcome.

The president Blanco welcomed the participants and to appreciate the presence of Mr. Allan Herbert (Chairman of CACDEC), GM Igor Glek from RSUPES&T Chess Chair, delegates and members of the Commission: Dr. Alexander Kostiev (secretary), Mrs. Margaret Murphy (ISV), Mrs. Gihan El Sahhar (EGY), Mr. Leontxo García (ESP) and Lawrence Kagambi (KEN)..

Mr. Blanco said that Mr. Florencio Campomanes (former FIDE President and founder of this Commission near Mr. Nicola Palladino in Dubai 1986), passed away in his year. We observed one minute of silence in his memory.

Remember that in CISC our Mission is *“to promote and disseminate the values and social teaching chess; the teaching and practice of chess as a teaching strategy, in the curricula of schools, high schools and universities and accompany the application and development of various projects in the school chess countries affiliated with FIDE”*.

One more time, welcome and thanks you to all.

2. Report of President by Dr. Uvencio Blanco (VEN).

Dr. Blanco said that this is our last year of 2006 – 2010 period and we worked hard for a better FIDE. In this opportunity present a summary about the most important activities developed during the period October 2009 – September 2010, related to work at front of the Commission of Chess in Schools FIDE. Note, that we have made emphasis in meetings of work with the directors of the national federations interested in initiating projects of scholastic chess such as Egypt, Laos, Vietnam, among others.

Dr. Blanco also described (See Annexes). That is why we have emphasized on developing workshops with the directives of the national federations interested in starting a chess school projects. We have stressed the need to establish committees on Chess in Schools,

dedicated exclusively, to the task of promoting chess in schools from kindergarten to university.

In this way note that our principal interest is: to assist National Federations to introduce Chess in schools; to continue to assist the national federations with less development in chess; to facilitate the incorporation of the new values to the chess of high technical level; to prepare curricula and courseware for Chess Education in schools: to prepare training programs for schools; focused in the generation of the universal project to popularise chess in the schools and universities; to create an international program of formation, qualification and permanent update of the educational applicants to instructors and professors of chess; to start the promotion of supporting the precocious talent in chess; to design a project, in order to stimulate the investigation that relates Education to Chess; and, to make recommendations and propose amendments in its field of competence. Moreover, during this period we have participated in various events to promote chess school, we refer to conferences, seminars, conferences and relevant competitions such as: 1. School Chess European Championship in Moscow – Russia; 2. FIDE support to “Chess for All” and “Chess for Peace” programs in Colombia; 3. Conference on “Chess as a way to improve Hispanic children's academic at the University of Texas - Dallas (USA)”; 4. Incorporation of chess in schools in Laos, 5. III Olympiad Problem Solving chess in the Province of Misiones (ARG), 6. European School Chess Championship in cooperation with the Greek Chess Federation in Thessaloniki, 7. Conference on "Chess and its positive impact on school performance" at the Catholic University of Chile (CHI) 8. Intercontinental Chess Championship Team School in Chicago - USA, 9. Death of Florencio Campomanes, founder of the Committee of FIDE Chess in the Schools, 10. Sixth Anniversary of the National Strategic Project Chess School (VEN) 11. Asian School Chess Championship in Colombo - Sri Lanka, 12. Starting the chess project within the framework of the Virtual School of Sport in Colombia: 13. Delivery of the "Ministerial recognition to teachers in Chess" (Resolution 162/06) under the coordination of Professor Jorge Berigier in Argentina, 14. Closure of the "Our Chess reinserted" by Linux Club de Extremadura (ESP), 15. Home Chess Program in schools of Yucatan - Mexico, 16. World School Chess Championship Individual Kaisen - Turkey, 17. Proposal to FIDE for Chess is considered Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, 18. Chess program broadcast in Nontraditional Environments "The Ranqueles" (ARG) 19. Application for inclusion of chess to schools by the Mexican Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), 20. Pan American School Chess Championship in Peru, 21. Proposed Mandatory Chess in the Schools in Peru by SE Kirsan Iljymzhinov; 22. Central American and Caribbean Championship Chess School in Colombia, 23. Proposed Mandatory Chess in the Schools in Bolivia by SE Kirsan Iljymzhinov; 24. South American Championship Chess School in Bolivia, 25. Conference on "Alzheimer's Checkmate" by the journalist Leontxo Leon Garcia at the Institute of Culture (ESP), 26. European School Chess Championship in Varna - Bulgaria 27. Home of the "Chess in Schools" in the Republic of Vietnam, 28. Proposal Chess Teacher Training in the Digital Age by Professor Sergio Quiroga of Argentina, 29. Chess Ecological Project in Peru led by Prof. Alberto Collazos Ortega Regional 30. Torneo in Santa Fe province of Argentina with schools in Uruguay, 31. Annual Meeting of the Committee on Chess in Schools 81 FIDE Congress in Khanty Mansiysk, etc. Approved,

3. Speech by General Secretary Dr. Alexander Kostiev (RUS).

Mr. Kostiev is one of the more important members of CISC. He reported information related to the International Scholarship Chess Union (ISCU), of which he is chairman. Remembered that the CISC approved in 2007 year ISCU activities on the field of organization World Schools Individual and Team Championships. Mr. Kostyev underlined that International Chess Education Center in Russian State Social University began to work and first distant course (E-learning, in Russian, in English, in Spanish) are starting for school chess teachers.

Mr. Kostiev was the organizer of the following events: His activities in CISC- 2010 is included efforts in the field of organization of school chess competitions on the European and World levels. In particularly, with his assistant were arranged European School Individual Chess Championship in Greece (Thessaloniki, April), World School Individual Chess Championship in Turkey (Kayseri, July), European Children Municipal Team Championship in Bulgaria (Varna, June), InterContinental School Team Championship in USA (Chicago, March). Also School Chess Conference during FIDE Congress in Khanty-Mansiysk. Approved,

4. Speech by Mrs. Margaret Murphy (ISV).

The Ms. Murphy described the activity done by it in Virgin Islands. She indicated her interest to strengthen the work in America. Mrs. Murphy said: This has been a very busy year for chess in the USVI. Chess in Schools has been established in the curriculum in both public and private schools. There were lessons, tournaments and chess activities throughout the year, including the summer available to the students of the Virgin Islands. We are a small federation with approximately 300 members, most of which are students.

5. Speech by Mrs. Gihan El Sahhar (EGY).

We have implemented Chess in Egyptian Schools during last School Year 2009/2010. Some Egyptian Public Schools began teaching school as an activity. We began with the big 10 Governments (out of 29) as a first step. We implemented Chess in Schools also in some private schools, as it was much easier as they have the financial resources and they are holding now special School Chess Tournaments between themselves. The Egyptian Ministry of Education gave us a big building which we began preparing to be dedicated for the Chess in Schools tournaments and extra Chess Teaching activities. But unfortunately the Minister of Education was replaced with a new one during the 2nd term of the school year and we were asked to hold everything until he familiarize himself with the process and we will meet with him by the 1st of November to begin the procedures all over again. We began also to put Arabic Chess Books for Kids as there isn't any available in the whole Arabian Area, but the main problem was finding the financial resources for printing especially in the scope of distributing these books free for the School Kids. During this year, we are planning to do the following: Complete and Monitor the current School program. Begin new communications with the new Minister of Education, to complete the School Chess Building. Look for resources to print the Arabic Chess Books and also for Chess Sets and Chess Clocks for the Public Schools. We have a plan with one of the

Egyptian Private Schools to host the 1st Arabian School Chess Tournament by September 2011, and currently working on the details Thanks for all in this meeting. Approved,

06. Special presentation by Mr. Leontxo García (SPA)

Mr. García from “El País” (SPA), is the most important journalist of chess; he is in the Golden Book of FIDE and member of CISC. Actually his interest is in the influence of chess on mental health; particularity Alzheimer. His lecture is called **“Ten reasons to support chess”**.

Chess is a very good product with the wrong marketing (sometimes, no marketing at all). In order to introduce chess massively in the schools (which should be a priority) we need to persuade somebody first (parents, children, school directors, local authorities, Governments...). After 27 years as a chess journalist and lecturer (plus ten more as a player), I have elaborated the following Decalogue: 1. Chess makes you smarter and teaches to think; 2. Chess improves your brain age.- 3. Other social applications; 4. Chess and Internet, the perfect couple; 5. Universal; 6. Low cost, big value; 7. Excellent corporate image; 8. Very interesting connections: art, music, science, prodigies; 9. Extremely rich heritage; and 10. Enchanting characters.

For example, Chess makes you smarter and teaches to think. Although we do not have an irrefutable scientific study to support that idea, we do have thousands of positive experiences in many different countries all over the world since 1925. The probability of all of them being wrong is practically zero. In Spain, chess has been introduced in more than 1.000 schools all together (extra curriculum, option or compulsory), and the level of satisfaction among children, parents and schools directors is higher than 90%. Also, Chess improves your brain age. This is extremely important because the Governments will be forced to invest more and more money on elderly dependant people. If we improve the physical and mental health of the elderly people, a huge amount of money will be saved. I have been collecting strong indicators on chess and brain aging during the last three years. Here is a summary. Logical connection: memory and concentration are the two more damaged functions during the first phase of the Alzheimer disease. The frequent practice of chess improves memory and concentration dramatically.

Albert Einstein Hospital (New York). A study supervised by Dr. Verghese showed a surprising conclusion: those volunteers, who played chess and bridge, and those who were dancing frequently, got the best results on improving the cognitive capacity. In Valencia Hospital (Spain). A study financed with public funds showed a very impressive result: those who played chess improved their cognitive capacity much more than the others. And, an English chess player was showing some light symptoms of Alzheimer, but he was still able to keep a normal life. Some months later, he died due to a car accident. The autopsy revealed that, actually, he had a very advanced Alzheimer, not an incipient one. Hypothesis: chess can, at least, delay the Alzheimer progression. This has been published in Neurocase, a scientific publication. I had a meeting with more than 40 neurologists in San Sebastian (Spain). According to them, an irrefutable scientific research would be very expensive (more than 3.000 volunteers along five years) and very complicated from the methodology point of view. However, they said I have enough indicators to assure that the frequent practice of chess improves the brain aging, and could prevent Alzheimer and

similar diseases. “You can say chess is the best gymnasium of the mind”, they told me. And they also said: “Improving the brain aging is more important than preventing Alzheimer, because everybody gets older, while only a minority suffers Alzheimer”. Conclusion: We have now a very strong argument, additional to the ones we already had, to introduce chess massively in the schools. To prevent is much cheaper than to cure. And the best way to prevent is starting with the children. Claps.

07. Proposals by Dr. Uvencio Blanco.

7.1. Chess as Intangible Mankind’s Cultural Heritage

Dr. Blanco said that our Vision in CISC is “*a world where children and adolescents have the opportunity to train as freethinkers beings to access the virtues chess, understood this as a right and the cultural heritage of mankind*”. In accordance to important arguments (See Annexed), we please the General Assembly of FIDE, taking place in the city of Khanty Mansyk, to discuss and consider approving the following proposals:

Due to the pedagogical values and the relationship with the development of skills, ***Chess can be considered as a Universal Right: all children in Earth have the right to know about the principles and characteristics of the chess.***

1. Due to its long history and worldwide presence, ***Chess can be recognized as Intangible Mankind’s Cultural Heritage***; that is chess as the result of timeless creation of the human spirit.
2. Consider to include the before mentioned proposals in the ***Handbook FIDE*** (Chapter 01-Status, principles, aims and revenues of FIDE).
3. To introduce the before mentioned proposals before the ***UNESCO*** for its formal acceptance, which implies UNESCO to declare and include ***Chess as an Intangible Cultural Element***.

We consider that taking into account the conditions already described and to fulfill these actions would facilitate the process of recognizing and including ***chess as a right and part of the cultural heritage among the population***. That would permit more followers of the chess to be incorporated to the sports discipline, allowing a more complex understanding of it and enrichment and diversification of the chess cultural influence.

We need too, that federations, chess clubs and grand masters of chess support this proposal in UNESCO.

7.2. Titles for Teachers of Chess In Schools

Dr, Blanco recalls that this issue is being discussed since the 67th FIDE Congress Yerevan - Armenia (1996), without a final agreement. However, the General Assembly of the 68th Congress of Kishinev - Moldavia (1997), awarded the first title of FIDE Instructor for professor Blanco himself, although later it was suggested that this title was used exclusively by the FIDE Trainers Committee, which successfully has happened today.

Remember that 15 years ago filed a license application to the official FIDE Qualification Commission for professionals who have worked or working for the promotion, development, teaching chess to children and youth in schools and colleges. Also, the founder of CISC Mr. Nicola Palladino (+), thought the title of Professor FIDE was best suited to be a more universal and identifiable name and because it represents the world chess organization FIDE. View that has the additional advantage that will greatly facilitate the vocational education and training of staff working with basic education of our sport

Dr. Kostiev speaks of the importance of the Commission begins to generate its own certificates to encourage and recognize all those who work for chess in schools. Said that we must realize this idea in this meeting because urgent need for these titles, something that will incorporate as many practitioners of FIDE chess. Diploma issued reports that the carrier itself is entitled to the basic teaching of chess, which will facilitate attainment of employment as a teacher of chess for children and adolescents.

After the preamble and later discussion, the Commission recommends to the General Assembly that the title is named FIDE Teacher and would be granted five (5) categories, namely: FIDE Teacher I, II, III, IV and V.

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| FIDE Teacher I | For early education teachers and Special. |
| FIDE Teacher II | For primary school teachers. |
| FIDE Teacher III | For secondary and university. |
| FIDE Teacher IV | For teachers who work in the promotion of chess in non-school (prisons, hospitals, public parks, etc.). |
| FIDE Teacher V | For all those people, teachers or not, have exercised or (Honorary), exercise education and promotion of chess and / or have given significant contributions to the spread of chess in schools. |

Blanco states that aspire to each of these titles, the candidate must meet at least a number of requirements (to be active, minimum of three -3- year terms, have attended at least one course training and professional updating and having founded and belong to a school chess club), this to be a consistent title, earned and respected. Approved,

08. Activities CISC (2011 – 2014) by Dr. Alexander Kostiev (RUS).

Dr. Kostiev said that Commission, in accordance with the policy of promoting the FIDE chess in the world, has decided to promote in 2011, the next events:

In 2011 year he will work under organization European School Individual Chess Championship in Turkey (March), World School Individual Chess Championship in Poland (May), European School Team Chess Championship in Greece (April), World School Team Chess Championship in Russia (probably September), European Children Municipal Team Championship in Russia (June).

Concerning task of CISC, for period 2011/2014: 1. In his opinion CISC and our active persons must arrange yearly World School Team Chess Championship in Europe (2011), Asia (2012), America (2013), and Africa (2014). 2. During period 2011-2014 (or early) CISC must realize all residuary proposals which were announced in the letter of Chairman of CISC (Caracas, September 20, 2006). 3. During period 2011-2014 CISC must try to create Continentals Chess Education Centers for Internet teaching chess teaches with giving The Certificate of CISC. Approved

09. Proposals: Allan Herbert proposed that CIS establish and publish a list of universities that offer scholarships for chess excellence.

10. New Members of Chess In Schools Commission

Dr. Blanco remembers that the general structure of the various working committees of FIDE was modified after FIDE Congress in Dresden in 2008, with the aim of improving their performance. The new structure of our Commission 2008 – 2010, was as follows: Chairman: Mr. Uvencio Blanco (VEN); Secretary: Mr. Alexander Kostiev (RUS), Councilors: Jovan Petronik (EST), Alessandro Dominici (ITA), Murat Kul (TUR), Members: Pung Dwi Ambaruk (IND), Gihan El Sahhar (EGP), Margaret Murphy (USAVI), Abigaíl Thiang (CHI), Europe: Leontxo García (SPA), Asia: Saturnino Belen (PHI), America: Beatriz Marinello (USA) and Africa: Lawrence Kagambi (KEN). In at this meeting were incorporated, with new members: Jorge Bergier (ARG), Charles Moura Netto (BRA), Russell Smith (TRI). Kennedy Phiri (ZAM) and Kelapile Kelatlhilwe (BOS). Approved.

11. Closing remarks

The chairman Blanco thanked several communications relating to the development of various projects and programs in different parts of the world and invited everyone to work very hard, and permanently, in favor of strengthening the cause of Chess School in all countries of the world. Finally, I take to acknowledge the support provided by two authorities FIDE: Treasurer Nigel Freeman and continental CEC chairman Jorge Vega Fernandez. I also wish to highlight the great work undertaken by several of our colleagues worldwide movement for school chess; they are: our secretary Alexander Kostiev (Russia), Ali Yazizi (FIDE Vice President). Special recognition to Santiago García Ramos (Mexico), who coordinates our Web Page and Page “ajedrezenasescuelas.com” that from this date, so will in collaboration with the Web site of FIDE.

To all of them and on behalf of the members of our committee, thank you very much for your collaboration.

Dr. Uvencio Blanco (VEN)
Chairman CISC