

Report of Commission Chairman Ali Nihat Yazici

(CHESS IN SCHOOL COMMISSION)

The period since the last Congress in Istanbul has been marked by a lot of hard work and several landmark events.

There have been four principal areas of activity – The multi-lingual web sites, launched in January 2012, to support both our chess in schools work and FIDE-CiS Student Membership (a synergistic part of the whole), are now available in two more languages, 11 in all; the major sponsorship from Rosneft meant that we were able to do a great deal in 2012, carrying over into this year, albeit, with no renewal of that sponsorship, we are now seriously constrained in our budget; we have now produced more than 70 magazines (almost 600 pages!) for our FIDE Student members; fourthly, the major Chess in Schools projects – the CiS100 modules – are showing their worth, and not only those since several small federations have shown the way to develop Student membership.



1. Rosneft – global sponsor of FIDE-CiS

The objectives laid out at the time:

Under the agreement, Rosneft will be involved in World Chess Federation international educational projects to encourage children and teenagers to play chess. Cooperation envisages seminars and training sessions in schools, as well as educational conferences. Rosneft will focus on providing comprehensive support for young Russian chess players.

Rosneft's involvement in the Chess in Schools programme demonstrates the Company's commitment to international social responsibility, and specifically to supporting Russian and international educational programmes.

Their support meant that we were able to extend our support of chess in schools to many more federations – see our report for the year 2012 (2012 CiS Annual Report).

Rosneft were pleased and impressed by our work and by the publicity generated, including TV, press and internet coverage amounting to more than 5,000,000 page views.

2. Web sites

The original site (cis.fide.com) airs news and views of Chess in Schools projects around the globe, and anyone wanting to establish a chess in schools project that reaches out to *all* children should be sure to read the introduction to the Documents section, with links to the most important explanatory documents.

Within that site we provide a Resource Centre rich in materials for both teaching chess and for its promotion in educational and social environments. We draw your attention especially to the Document section, where you will find our Handbook and pointers to the most useful items in the Information and Resource Centre. Those likely to be of special interest are Patrick McDonald's *Benefits of Chess in Education* and, if 104 pages is too much for you, then Kevin O'Connell's 4-page *Educational Benefits of Chess*, the latter prepared for a FIDE submission to UNESCO. While you are there, do not overlook the teaching materials that are available – do you have any that we can add?

We have placed a lot of material there, but the lack of collaboration from external contributors has been disappointing. We repeat our call for all federations, their chess in schools representatives and, especially, the members of our commission to aid the development of the site, and its increasing usefulness, by sending us new material.



<http://sm.fide.com>



<http://psm.fide.com>

The two sites that we added in 2012 are for children anywhere and everywhere around the world, not just those who are actively involved in a CiS programme. They have now been joined by psm.demo.fide.com, which allows anyone to look around the Premium Member site and see the great value for their annual €10 membership before committing to payment.

3. Magazines

All FIDE Student members receive regular magazines. Basic (free) members receive 12 magazines (96+ pages total) each year. Premium members receive 32 magazines (256+ pages total) each year.

The magazines, like the web sites, are available in English, Arabic, Spanish, Russian, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Turkish, Slovak and Slovenian languages.

4. CIS100 Modules – the special projects

Our first two project countries, Slovakia and Slovenia, are about to commence their third year of operations. Many others look forward to their second year.

We hope that budgetary constraints will not put a stop to these developments.

The projects continue to evolve, especially as they are tailored to each participating country, but the basic outlines are there for all to see in our CiS Handbook.

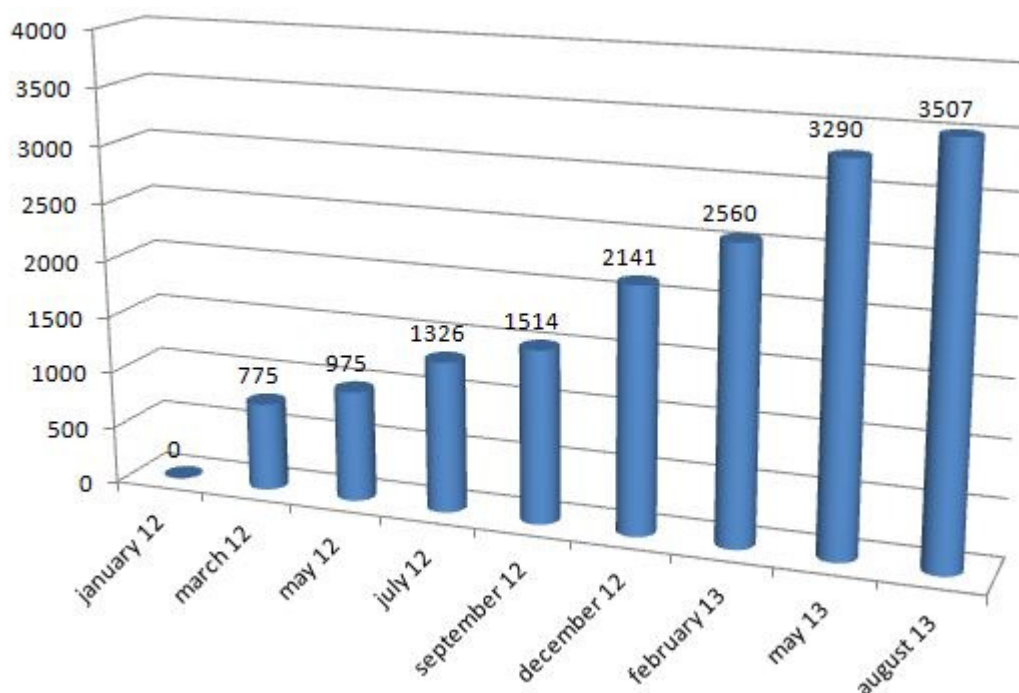
In 2012, 1000 top quality demonstration boards and 16,000 boards and sets were manufactured and most have now been delivered to the recipient countries.

5. FIDE Student Membership

The main features of FIDE student membership can be found in the Handbook. We would like to stress one thing:

- Membership is open to all (under-18) and free of charge.

Premium Membership costs just €10 per year and is always valid for a full twelve months.



Why do we stress the free Basic membership? We do so because the benefit of it seems to have been overlooked by many federations.

The point of free Basic membership is that it can attract a huge number of members, at no cost whatsoever to the federations. Those are the numbers we want in order to impress sponsors, both global and local to you!

Those free Basic members also provide potentially a rich source of new paid members for your federation. As you can see from the chart above, total numbers have more than doubled each year (now 1066 Premium +2441 Basic).

6. Teacher Training

Teachers have been trained in Algeria, Ethiopia, India, Lebanon, Malawi, Moldova, Slovakia and Slovenia.

7. Documents & Statistics

We would also like to draw your attention to some documents full of useful statistics about Chess in Schools worldwide, and we ask you please to ensure that information from your federation is both present (in many cases it is not) and accurate (it is clear that in some cases the figures do not make sense). The documents, which can be found at cis.fide.com, are:

- *CiS Worldwide Statistics* – this gives information about where there are CIS programmes, who runs them, how many schools, children and teachers are involved, all on a country-by-country basis.
- *School Year Worldwide* – this allows you to see at a glance the school year (start and finish) for each country. Most schools work from September/October until June, but there are variations around the world, especially in the Southern Hemisphere, where something like the calendar year is common.

THE FUTURE

Next year will see more International Conferences and a continued roll-out of CiS100 Projects in medium and large federations, with many more of our CiS10, CiS10/100 Projects for smaller federations (10 demo boards, 100 boards and sets, teacher training, teaching materials, promotion and support).

Ali Nihat Yazici, 2013.08.01