

86th FIDE CONGRESS 2015

Abu Dhabi, U A E

FIDE Development Commission Meeting

held @ the Novotel, Abu Dhabi, al Bustan, 5th September 2015.

The Minutes

Present

Mr A Herbert (Chairman BAR), Mr RW Jones (Secretary PNG), Mr H Bond (Councilor CAN), Mr M Huba (Councilor SLO), Mr S Kisuze (Councilor UGA), Mr J Kenmure (Member SOL), Ms T Lopang (Member BOT), Mr. G L Wijesuriya (Member SRI) Mr J Vega (Continental President Americas), Mr L Ncube (Continental President Africa), Mr N Freeman (FIDE Executive Director).

Also present were Mr T Luther (GER), Ms S Simango (MOZ), Mr T Sitale (BOT), Mr E Smart (RSA), Ms M Murphy (USV), MR I Kangwagye (RWD), Mr H Pees (DGT), Mr S Tserendor (MON), Mr A Alamiri (KUW), Mr G Boxall (GCI), Mr S Rueben (ENG), Mr C Nsakanya (ZAM), Mr Z Chen (QAT), Mr N v d Nat (RSA), Ms C Jarecki (IVB), Mr B Roselli (URU), Mr P Mehrdad (IRN), Mr E Celi (URU), Stefanova (BUL), R Katende (UGA), Mr C Abouwemu (LIB), Mr S Zerdal (ALG), Mr EA Hernandez (ESA), Mr J Junqueira (ANG), Mr A Mikhalchishin (UKR)

1. WELCOME

The meeting began by the Chairman Mr Herbert inviting everyone to stand for a minutes silence in memory of the 45 UAE Soldiers killed in the Yemen on Friday. After welcoming everyone he began by telling everyone that the Commission had met in Barbados on May 4th, 2015. A major goal of the meeting was to further cement collaboration between Commissions who overlap and shared goals. As a result Martha Feirro Baquero Co-Chairperson of the Women's Commission and Mr Darcy Lima, Chairman of the Social Projects Commission were invited along with Continental President Americas Mr Jorge Vega. Sadly Ms Ferriero was unable to make it. Developing shared goals and improving cooperation was to be a priority of the future with such Commissions along with Trainers and Arbiters.

The Chairman mentioned that there was still a lack of clarity surrounding the Commission's role relating to promised funding. There had been promises of African and American Development Funds being established. Further the hosts of the next two Olympiads had promised Travel Assistance budgets and Batumi in their Olympiad bid had promised to establish a Development Fund, to be paid in four tranches. Clarification on these initiatives was needed and Mr Herbert said he hoped that both Olympiad Organizers would report at Executive Board the status.

The Chairman reviewed the successes of the Commission:

- I. The World Youth Travel Grant (however there was a need to make the Organizers of the World Youth more aware of the event).
- II. The FIDE Activity Rebate had been a big success. In 2011 €2,886 were rebated to 23 Federations. In 2012 the total was €3,639 to 24 Federations. In 2013 just €5,811 to 24 Countries. For 2014 this had shot up to €49,116 to 94 Federations. This represented excellent evidence of activity amongst Development Federations.
- III. The restructuring of the budget to include a 10% of the share for Level 3-5 European Federations. For the first time this budget was used to supply DGT Interactive digital boards for the Small European Nations Olympiad played April 2015 in Guernsey. Each one of the ten teams then took back a DGT board each.
- IV. The restructuring of the Development List into 5 categories and that now very few countries remained without a rated player. It was noted that it should be easier to locate on the FIDE Website than at present.
- V. The Commission changed the basis for the recommendations for the list for Olympiad pocket money to the United Nations Human Index.
- VI. FIDE had done a successful concluded a new deal with DGT on a development rate for the pricing of their clocks to development countries.

Finally one thing that was still up in the air was the Orientation Seminar for new Federation Presidents. There was too much going on at the Tromsø Olympiad and with it being an election year it was decided that 2014 was not the best year to begin the project. However it has not been abandoned and needs to be taken on by FIDE.

2. 2015 DEVELOPMENT CORE COMMITTEE BARBADOS MEETING

The minutes of the Barbados meeting were presented. A big issue which would be returned to under the topic of Budget was the shock of discovering that the Development Budget had been more than halved from E400,000 to E200,000. Mr Herbert also updated on the concern raised by the Trainers Commission on communication and collaboration between the two commissions.

3. 2014 STATISTICS REVIEW

Martin Huba presented his very good statistics overview. See attached. The statistics revealed the excellent news that CHESS ACTIVITY had increased significantly. There had been a big jump in the number of rated games played and that India now plays more rated games and Open tournaments than any other Federation. The variety of statistics was also impressive; you can see which country produces the most number of chess tourists, who has the most number of Open and Closed tournaments. It recommended that we look at furthering the statistics available; bringing it down to Development Federations performances, Junior age group top ten lists, even going down to 'Continental & Regional' level and making them all available on the FIDE website. It was also agreed that the analysis would be extended to include gender.

4. 2014 OLYMPIAD PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Rupert Jones presented the 2014 Olympiad performance review. Its purpose was to show performances of every nation who come under categories 3, 4 & 5 (100 countries). This also serves

to highlight who had and had not entered the Olympiad; who was sending a Women's team and pointing out important issues such as hurdles to participation (visas and transit visas). Why had the 5 countries that were listed as playing not turned up? Two things especially stood out. One was the strong participation of Women's teams from Arab / Islamic Nations and the low participation of Women's teams by small nations in Europe. The report also showed a close correlation between the development classifications and participation in the Olympiad. In category 3 there is a 100% participation in the Open which then goes down in category 4 to 93% and to 71% in Category 5. This pattern is followed in the Women's Olympiad. (70%, 59% & 23%) The report also highlights the best performances by Development Federations and ends by proposing that the Commission create a Development Awards.

5. 2015 – 2016 Budget & Funding

It was announced that the Development Budget for 2015 was 200,000 and would remain at 200,000 for 2016. This was disappointing news especially as the fall was even greater than the raw figures as the World Youth, Cadet and Junior Travel grant would now come out of the budget instead of directly from the FIDE budget.

Also the significantly increased Development Activity rebate is to come out of the budget.

Therefore the budget split will be;

Africa: €2,000

America's: €38,750

Asia: €38,750

Europe: €15,500

Core Meeting: €10,000

Rebate: €15,000

Chairman's: €20,000

7. DGT Development Pricing for Levels 3, 4 & 5.

Hans Pees was given the floor to talk about the new DGT Development Pricing. He reminded everyone that the arrangement was that Development countries can purchase the DGT 2010 for €20 each and the DGT 3000 for €26.50 (both prices excluding vat). DGT would like to see more take up of this generous offer. A suggestion from R Jones was to spread the word amongst the small European Federations; Cyprus for example had just recently taken advantage of the offer. Also that they have in development a cheaper plastic interactive board in development.

8. Travel Grants

- a. 2015 World Youth Travel Grant Awardees

See attached list of the new Awardees. Also note that in 2016 the World Youth is splitting into two events which will be a World Youth and World Cadets. Some continental championships are scheduled close to the World Youth and this will make participation in the World Youth tricky.

b. World Junior Travel Grant Proposal

A new proposal, approved in Tromsø, is that we introduce 'travel grants' for players from Development Level 2-5 Federations who have qualified to play in the World Under-20 Championship. (Also those who are too old to play in the under 18's can play in the World Junior Championship).

c. 2016 & 2018 Olympiads in Baku and Batumi

The Chairman said that hopefully the Commission will find out from the Organizers' presentations to the Executive Board what their intentions are regarding the Travel Grant for Developing Federations to attend the Olympiad. We also need to find out what the actual amount promised was in the original bids.

9. Development Goals 2015 and Beyond

Mr Herbert thought that it was a good to brain storm the audience for new ideas. Low hanging fruit was the reduction to zero the number of Federations without FIDE Rated players. Jaime Kenmure said there was an issue with chess sets. He would like to see more equipment distributed to Development' nations. Recommendations are welcome and can be sent to the Chairman and Secretary for further consideration.

10. Any Other Business.

There was no other business and Mr Herbert thanked everyone for attending the meeting and said it was now closed.

Rupert Jones (07.09.15)

FIDE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

CORE Committee Meeting, Bridgetown, Barbados

Divi Southwinds Hotel, 04.05.2015

The Minutes

Present

Mr Allan Herbert (Chairman Development Commission), Mr Rupert Jones (Secretary Development Commission), Mr Hal Bond (Councillor Development Commission), Mr Jorge Vega (Continental President Americas and Development Commission Member for America) and Mr Darcy Lima (Chairman Social Projects Commission).

Apologies: Mr Martin Huba (Councillor Development Commission), Mr Stephen Kisuze (Councillor Development Commission), Ms Martha Fierro Baquero (Co-Chairman Women's Commission) Mr Inthava Vilavane (Councillor Development Commission)

Welcome Remarks

Mr Herbert welcomed everyone. The evening before there had been a dinner where we were introduced to key members of the Barbados Chess Federation.

Two key issues touched on in the introduction were collaboration with other commissions and funding.

In terms of collaboration, the question on how Development Commission should interact with other Commissions as we go forward into the next 4 years needed to be looked at to avoid duplication of effort. We have had a lot of interaction with 'Schools' and 'Trainers' but going forward it would be good to develop our relationship with the Women's and Social Projects Commission. Both seemed to be Commissions where we had lots of common ground. To enable this FIDE Vice-President and Women Co-Chairman, Martha Fierro, and Americas Continental Vice-President and Social Projects Chairman, Grandmaster Darcy Lima, were invited to the meeting. Sadly Martha could not make it.

Mr Herbert noted the various campaign promises on development funds during the recently concluded elections. A Special Development Fund for the Americas had been promised and there was also the African Development Fund of US\$500,000. Information on the constitution of these funds, their operation and relationship to the Development Commission, if any, were yet to be received.

Further there was the Baku travel grant fund for the 2016 Olympiad (similar to the Tromso travel fund and to which the Development Commission were consulted on how best to distribute the grants) and finally Georgia in their bid for the 2018 Olympiad had promised nearly a million for 'development of chess' in four annual tranches over four years. We are yet to receive any indication on the Development Commission's role in relation to these funds.

Mr Herbert then moved onto what the Development Commission have achieved as it is good to reflect on successes when planning a new work plan.

1. The establishment of the World Youth Championship Travel Grant Scheme that takes young players from their continental championships to the World Youth.
2. Collaboration with FIDE Executive Director to significantly restructure and increase the activity rebate scheme to promote greater activity in developing Federations.
3. The restructuring of the Development Budget allocations to include small European Federations. And in relation to this we were very pleased to announce that for the first time this grant had been used by Europe to provide 10 interactive DGT boards for the European Small Nations Olympiad which had just finished in Guernsey in April. Each one of the participating 10 countries then took

- home one of the interactive DGT boards.
4. The restructuring of the Development list to include every country in 5 categories
 5. The establishment of a separate list, based on the United Nations Human Development Index, which helped hosts of the Olympiad to distribute pocket money to the 'poorest' federations.
 6. Special pricing through an arrangement with DGT for clocks. This has proved hugely popular, especially at Olympiads.

However there were still a number of initiatives that were not achieved. These included

1. Development of an 'Orientation Course ' Seminar for new Federation President's at the Tromso Olympiad. Being an election year, the Commission decided that this was better managed at a non-election Olympiad. There was also an alternative possibility of planning a seminar at the FIDE Office in Athens.
2. The Development Commission Website had not progressed as well as it should have.
3. We had not yet got every country to have a FIDE Rated player.
4. Removal of the CACDEC Regulations from the FIDE Handbook. However there was progress in rewording the regulations to reflect the new development list.
5. The idea of focusing on a smaller number of Federations rather than a little bit for everyone was still to be explored. For example do we only have an 'Orientation Seminar for Presidents from Level 5 countries without ELO rated players or for all new Presidents.

DGT DEVELOPMENT PRICING SCHEME

As the DGT Special Pricing Scheme becomes more widely known, the Commission and DGT have started to receive requests from Development Level 1 & 2 Federations for the special pricing, the most recent being a request from Belarus.

DGT has written the Commission requesting review of the eligibility criteria to ensure better compliance to the spirit of the Special Pricing Scheme. The Core Committee agreed to review DGT request and discuss further at the next Development Commission Meeting in Abu, Dhabi.

DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION BUDGET

Mr Herbert informed the meeting that the Development Budget has been cut by 50% to €200,000 for 2015. While variations in budget from year to year was not unexpected, the size of the reduction was certainly a surprise following our biggest ever budget of €400,000 in 2014 and €260,000 in 2013.

He noted however that nearly all Commissions had taken cuts of similar magnitude. The 2014 FIDE budget was for €2,875,000 and the 2015 Budget €1,870,000.

The 2015 Development Budget was therefore:

Africa	€62,000.00
Americas	€38,750.00
Asia	€38,750.00
Europe	€15,500.00
Core Meeting	€10,000.00
Rebate Activity	€15,000.00
Commission Chairman	€20,000.00
	€200,000.00

The Commission Chairman was to seek clarification from FIDE Executive Director as to whether FIDE World Youth Travel Grant Scheme will continue to be directly funded by FIDE or deducted from the Development Commission's budget.

Mr Vega recommended that the Development Commission work closer with the Continental Presidents especially as the budget has been halved for the next year.

Mr Herbert reminded that meeting that based on the current allocation methodology for the Development Budget among Continents that it was the Continental Presidents that spends the lion's share of the money and closer collaboration with the Continents was an imperative going forward.

TRAINERS COMMISSION LETTER

Mr Vega drew to the meetings attention a letter from the Trainers Commission to the Presidential Board saying there was a communication problem between them and the Development Commission.

Mr Vega said that he was very pleased with the work of the Development Commission in the Americas and recommended that the Commission acknowledge the letter and then seek to clarify the situation in Abu Dhabi.

During the meeting's deliberation on how to improve collaboration with the Trainer's Commission, it was agreed that core to the communication breakdown was the gap in expectations on the extent to which Development Budget should be used to cover Trainers Seminars.

Issues around the lack of a Special Development Rate for Trainers Courses, the use out of Continent Lecturers, especially for America which had qualified Senior Lecturers capable of delivering such courses, and the continued emphasis on traditional in person delivery of Trainers Courses instead of internet based courses were concerns also discussed by the meeting.

The meeting therefore noted the concerns raised in the letter to the Presidential Board and welcome the opportunity to improve collaboration between commissions and will seek to clarify the situation in Abu Dhabi. We note the concerns raised by the FIDE Trainers Commission and understand the need for good collaboration between FIDE Commissions.

OLYMPIAD PERFORMANCES BY DEVELOPMENT LEVELS 1-3 FEDERATIONS

Mr Jones presented his paper which showed the performances of every team in levels 3, 4 & 5 at the 2014 Olympiad.

He suggested that like some other commissions we should think about 'Development Awards' where we praise and highlight examples of good development. It was agreed that this would be explored further at the Development Commission Meeting in Abu Dhabi.

Close inspection of the performances revealed things about who participated and who did not participate. For example small European nations almost to a whole did not enter the Women's Olympiad while plenty of Arab countries did enter Women's teams.. Also important in the findings was the big increase in level 5 countries entering the Olympiad.

2015-2016 DEVELOPMENT LIST

The 2015-2016 Development List was circulated and reviewed by the meeting. It was agreed that the list would be forwarded to FIDE for publication on the FIDE Web Site.

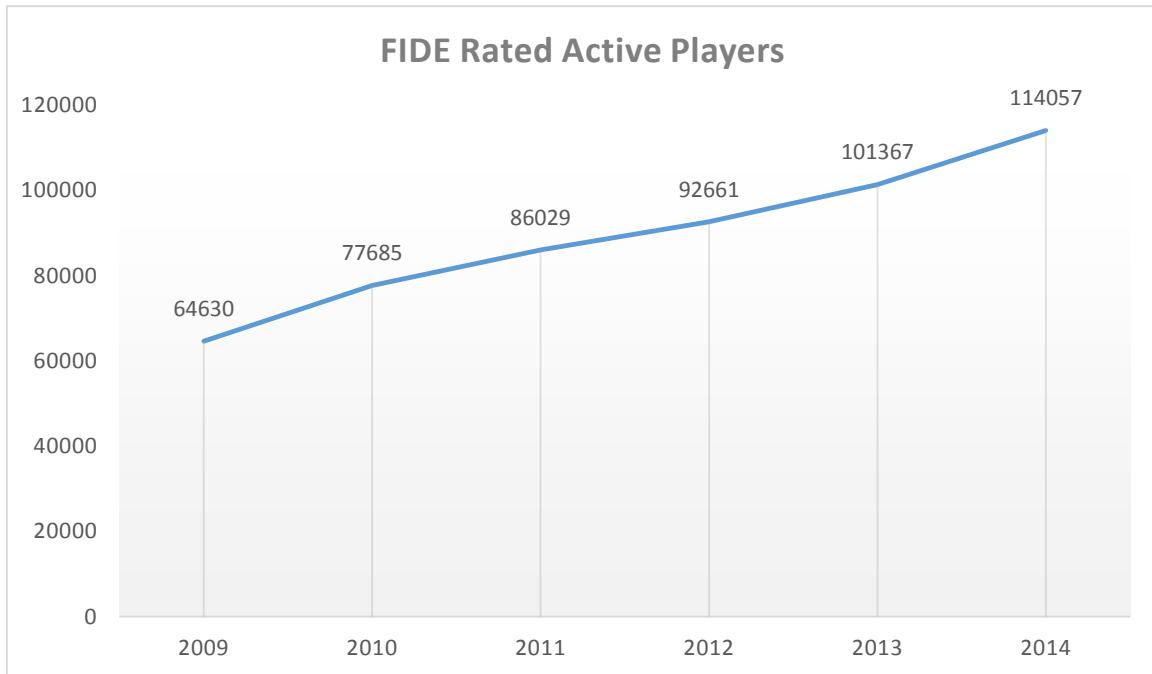
ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The review of the Development Statistics was deferred to the Development Commission meeting in Abu Dhabi.

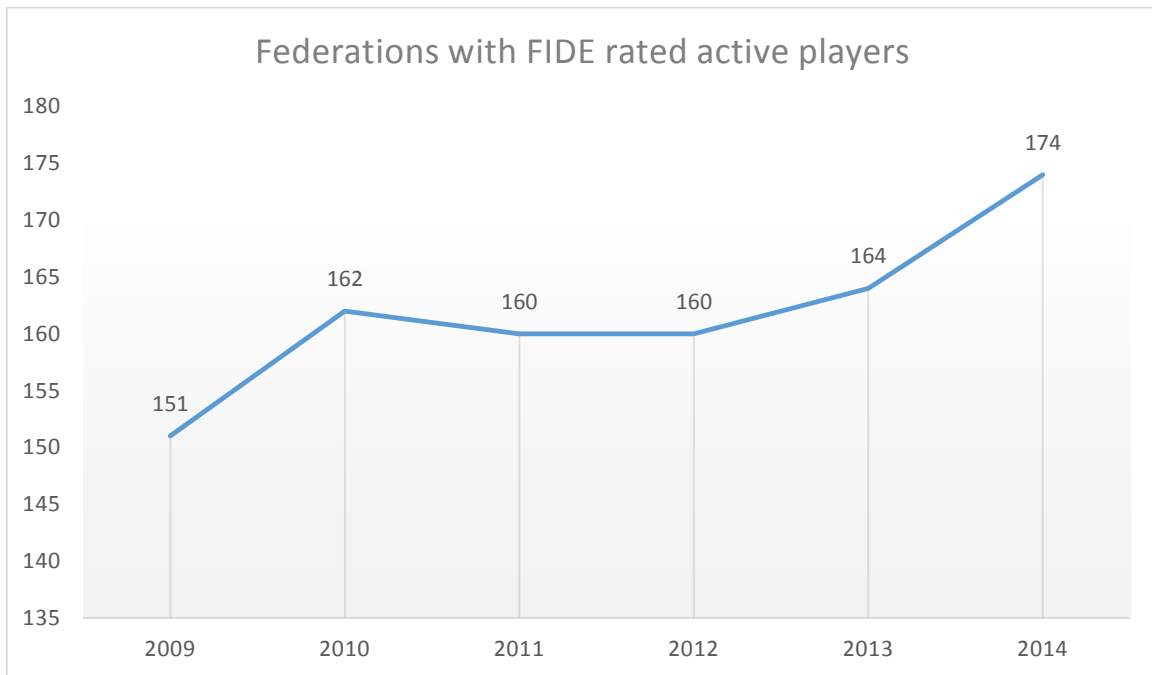
Development Goals 2015 and beyond was also deferred to the Development Commission meeting in Abu Dhabi.

FIDE performance 2014

1. Number of active players with FIDE rating



The trend is very clear and positive. 174 national federations contributed to the 2014 statistics.



There is a clear positive trend also in this aspect.

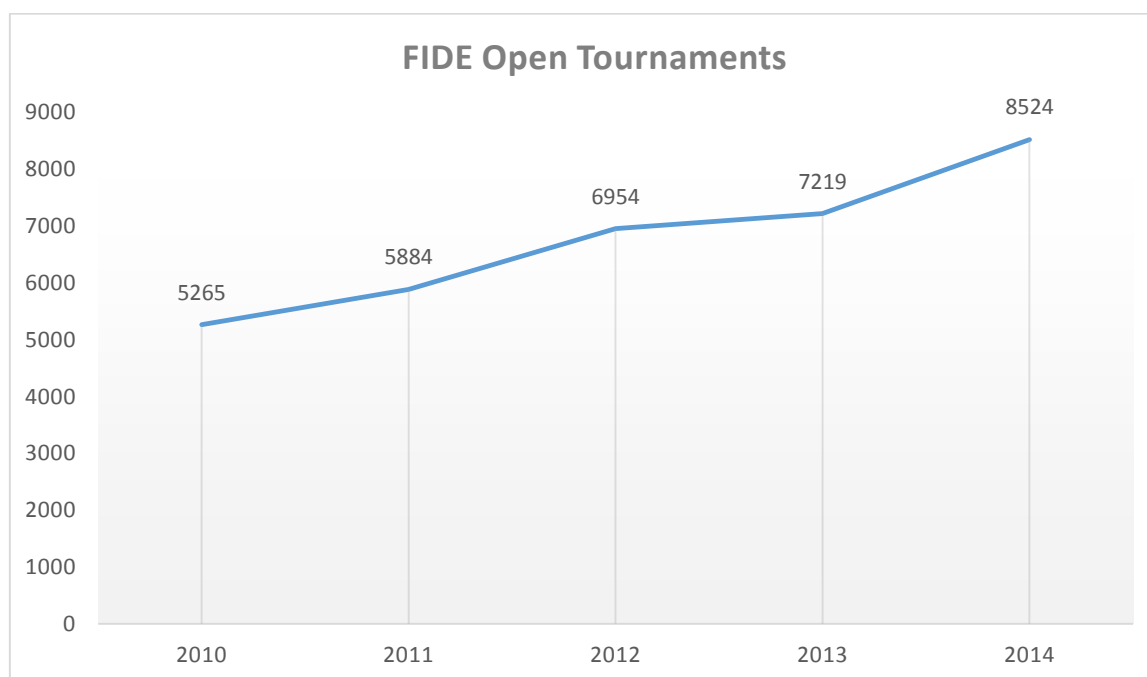
In the table below there are top 20 federations:

Ranking at the end of 2014	Year/ Federation	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
1	India	2 475	3 736	4 735	5 209	7 014	10 306
2	France	5 409	6 684	7 606	7 986	9 019	9 845
3	Germany	7 538	8 258	8 553	8 780	9 384	9 763
4	Spain	6 973	8 430	9 195	9 527	10 149	8 832
5	Russia	5 196	5 704	6 268	6 511	6 649	8 428
6	Czech Republic	2 297	2 879	3 123	3 463	3 703	4 057
7	Italy	2 318	2 811	3 087	3 279	3 437	3 692
8	Poland	2 442	2 788	3 062	3 256	3 385	3 671
9	Hungary	2 534	2 967	3 060	3 150	3 350	3 291
10	Greece	1 214	1 571	1 813	1 985	2 201	2 378
11	Serbia	1 422	1 696	1 825	1 955	2 142	2 332
12	Turkey	660	834	1 000	1 146	1 554	2 136
13	Slovakia	1 126	1 390	1 563	1 734	1 890	2 032
14	Iran	554	731	1 193	1 393	1 528	1 954
15	The Netherlands	1 303	1 553	1 675	1 763	1 840	1 933
16	Denmark	864	1 155	1 284	1 438	1 619	1 926
17	USA	828	1 194	1 415	1 544	1 646	1 794
18	Austria	980	1 203	1 426	1 513	1 662	1 769
19	Croatia	1 184	1 397	1 427	1 474	1 532	1 640
20	Belgium	707	922	1 044	1 155	1 371	1 479

Top 20 federations have around 73% of all active FIDE rated players in the world. Just three federations, India, USA and Iran are not members of the ECU. The share of all 54 European federations is therefore even more crucial.

Top 20 federations are the same as in 2014, **India progressed to the number 1** and also Iran improved its ranking (19. In 2013).

2. Number of open tournaments

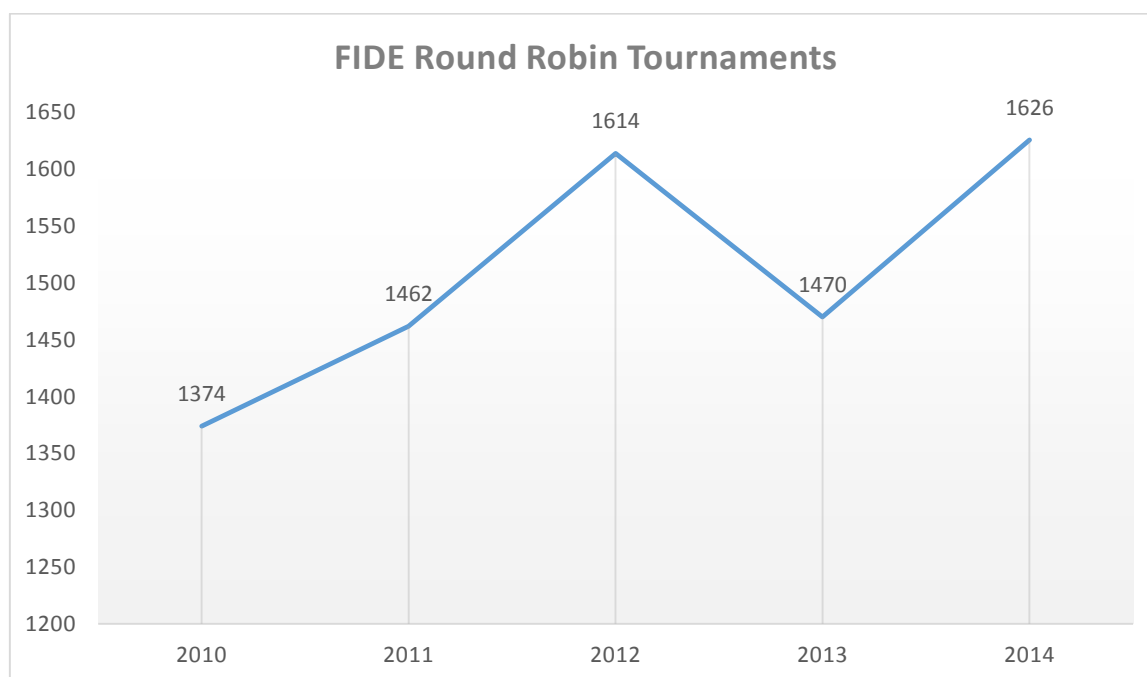


The trend is very positive. Open tournaments are mainly about the mass promotion of chess, about giving possibilities to weaker players to play with stronger ones. The increase is by almost 16% compared to 2013.

Ranking in 2013	Year/ Federation	2011	2012	2013	2014
1	Russia	417	517	503	838
2	France	565	697	703	777
3	Italy	454	515	486	496
4	Germany	311	331	363	473
5	Spain	497	570	512	457
6	Poland	280	325	344	362
7	Hungary	155	172	250	317
8	Greece	212	259	258	262
9	USA	212	245	211	247
10	The Netherlands	168	166	200	238
11	India	132	150	180	211
12	Portugal	118	129	125	194
13	Austria	59	70	103	191
14	Denmark	126	151	168	175
15	Norway	50	65	95	171
16	Turkey	79	82	133	162
17	Czech Republic	114	149	145	147
18	Sweden	35	55	70	136
19	Brazil	118	136	130	134
20	Serbia	67	77	99	118

First 20 federations organised 72% of all open tournaments in the world. England, Croatia and Romania fell out of the top 20.

3. Number of round robin tournaments

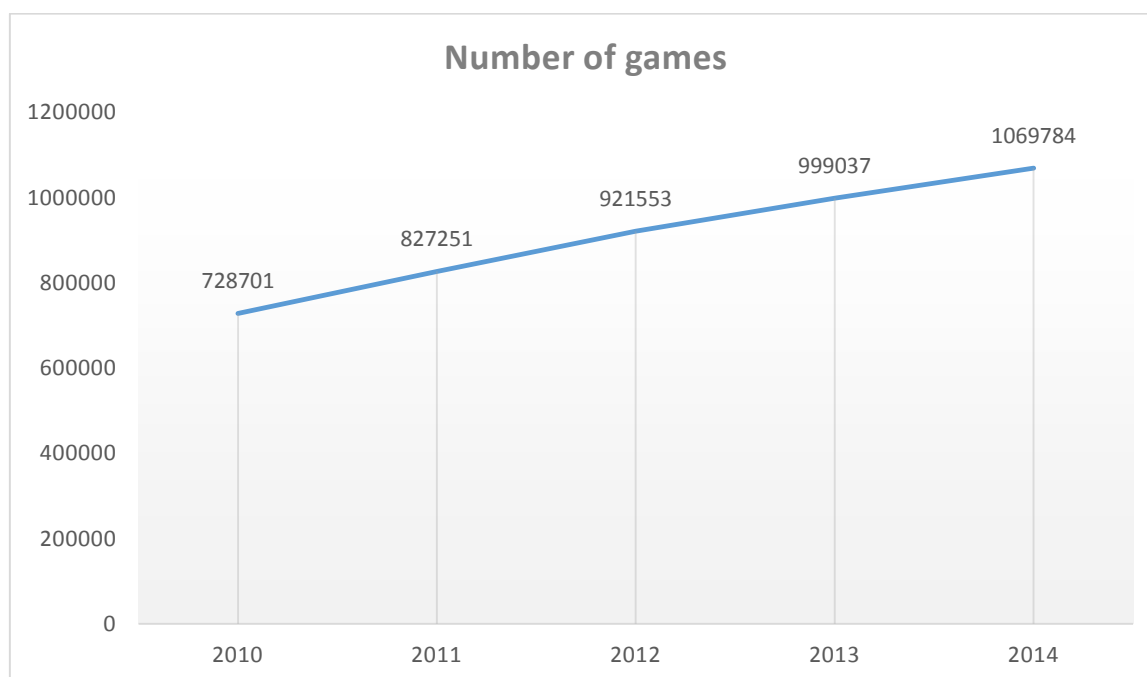


These tournaments are more about the quality (of course not always) and more demanding on sufficient sponsorship. The analysis of the average rating of these tournament and the trend could be another interesting topic for further analysis.

Ranking in 2013	Year/ Federation	2011	2012	2013	2014
1	Denmark	139	155	187	230
2	Russia	171	145	105	198
3	France	79	165	141	157
4	Spain	81	77	82	69
5	Hungary	97	95	76	68
6	Germany	70	56	62	62
7	Sweden	35	34	46	61
8	Ukraine	58	52	56	34
9	USA	44	53	41	32
10	Brazil	61	39	33	30
11	Poland	40	37	35	29
12	Australia	18	24	25	29
13	Mexico	20	19	24	26
14	Argentina	34	39	34	25
15	Colombia	18	26	11	23
16	Norway	7	9	14	20
17	Romania	12	24	17	20
18	Venezuela	5	22	9	20
19	Azerbaijan	11	10	9	19
20	Czech Republic	34	25	26	18

Top 20 federations organised 72% of all round robin tournaments. The number one position of Denmark is again a surprise, but in here again we compare the number of tournaments not their real strength. Stronger tournaments are probably organised more in France and especially Russia. Mexico, Cuba and Yemen fell of the top 20.

4. Number of games



In 2014 there were in total in the world first time over one million FIDE rated games played!!! Each day in average 2931 of such games are played (almost by 200 games more daily compared to 2013!). The trend is also quite positive and it's quite obvious there is still a very promising potential.

Ranking in 2013	Year/ Federation	2011	2012	2013	2014
1	India	125 131	131 830	182 640	228 179
2	France	151 458	160 598	180 281	192 462
3	Spain	163 243	174 018	189 945	169 590
4	Russia	134 884	137 486	137 614	166 935
5	Germany	119 678	121 692	139 928	134 428
6	Czech Republic	67 633	63 577	78 871	80 652
7	Poland	65 598	64 807	81 508	76 711
8	Italy	70 263	74 314	72 702	71 201
9	Hungary	61 747	59 942	71 116	57 969
10	Greece	53 985	52 584	55 841	56 469
11	Turkey	19 241	35 559	34 856	42 187
12	USA	29 442	33 001	33 421	37 151
13	Iran	19 433	26 824	30 665	35 765
14	Denmark	22 934	26 145	31 419	35 711
15	Serbia	28 101	32 759	35 039	33 703
16	Slovakia	27 891	31 479	32 530	32 707
17	Romania	26 678	27 409	32 823	32 296
18	Croatia	24 986	30 603	29 328	30 880
19	Austria	27 894	23 355	34 319	30 359
20	Norway	7 735	10 778	12 840	26 937

First 20 federations played 73% of all FIDE rated games in the world. **India became a leader also in this category overcoming for the first time in a FIDE history 200 000 rated games played in one federation!** England fell of the top 20.

5. Number of games played by foreigners in the country (chess export)

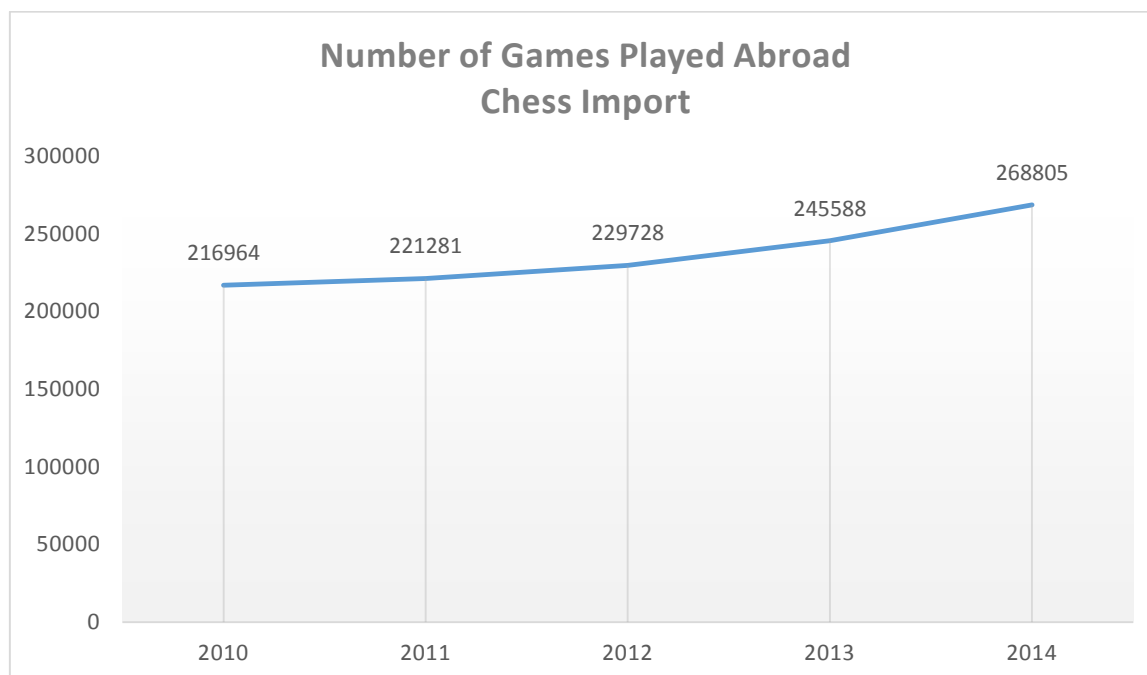


This indicator is interesting from the point of view of organisers of chess tournaments whether they can attract foreign players. The 22% of all games are in average played by foreign players in 2014.

Ranking in 2013	Year/ Federation	2011	2012	2013	2014
1	France	18 936	17 694	17 460	19 106
2	UAE	2 337	4 402	4 608	18 287
3	Spain	14 962	13 881	15 161	17 431
4	Czech Republic	13 740	8 972	15 530	14 765
5	Germany	10 999	13 301	15 837	13 683
6	Norway	1 111	1 981	1 624	12 639
7	England	6 619	8 702	8 565	8 577
8	Georgia	1 388	1 521	1 099	7 767
9	Austria	8 498	5 326	10 270	7 507
10	USA	5 018	6 597	6 179	7 375
11	Greece	14 492	8 748	7 592	7 139
12	Italy	10 562	8 649	6 890	6 873
13	South Africa	926	225	736	6 585
14	Russia	9 576	8 818	7 453	6 489
15	Hungary	6 611	6 948	6 329	6 429
16	Croatia	4 126	6 359	6 359	5 848
17	Switzerland	7 073	6 139	6 409	5 696
18	India	3 227	3 812	4 016	5 187
19	Bulgaria	9 218	8 094	5 508	5 084
20	The Netherlands	4 002	4 827	3 977	4 620

Top 20 federations exported 81% of all FIDE rated chess games services in the world. France, **surprisingly** UAE and Spain are leaders of this group. The Czech Republic ranks the fourth and proves again that belongs to the world's top chess exporters. Poland, Montenegro and Serbia fell of top 20.

6. Number of games of the country players played abroad (chess import)



Chess import reflects travelling of country players abroad.

Ranking in 2013	Year/ State	2011	2012	2013	2014
1	Germany	19 461	15 532	20 403	20 316
2	Russia	14 997	14 730	19 160	18 762
3	Ukraine	9 729	8 476	8 730	9 040
4	India	5 228	7 107	6 734	7 156
5	The Netherlands	6 821	6 123	7 113	7 063
6	France	6 366	5 202	6 664	6 721
7	Poland	6 066	5 570	6 300	6 419
8	Italy	5 072	5 248	5 535	6 038
9	Belgium	4 372	4 446	5 068	6 002
10	England	4 067	4 663	4 955	5 568
11	Serbia	5 359	5 261	5 892	5 394
12	Norway	3 839	3 718	4 715	5 163
13	Hungary	4 736	4 732	5 075	4 709
14	Spain	4 073	3 084	4 258	4 625
15	Azerbaijan	3 383	3 078	3 419	4 513
16	Czech Republic	4 199	4 439	4 462	4 333
17	USA	3 448	3 746	3 433	4 299
18	Slovakia	4 223	2 956	4 017	4 265
19	Romania	4 631	3 897	4 660	4 160
20	Sweden	2 817	3 044	3 622	4 058

Top 20 federations imported 52% of all FIDE rated chess games services in the world. Germany, Russia and Ukraine are leaders in this group. Slovenia and Bulgaria fell of the top 20.

FIDE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

FINAL PERFORMANCES IN THE OLYMPIAD BY DEVELOPMENT 3,4 & 5

Tromsø, 01-16 Aug 2014

Welcome to the Development Commission Olympiad report. Before I continue let us remember Kurt Meier and Alisher Anarkulov who sadly passed away on the final day of competition. This report aims to see how countries within levels 3, 4 and 5 performed in the Olympiad; to see the winners (& disappointments) as well as identify relevant issues. 177 teams entered the Open Olympiad. 5 countries failed to make it. They were DR Congo, Gabon, Mali, Timor Leste & Turkmenistan. What were the reasons for this? Were 'visa' and 'transit visa' issues involved? After taking out Norway's 2nd and 3rd teams, and the three 'disability' teams you are left with an entry of 167 countries. This is a record entry, the biggest ever at an Olympiad. Congratulations to every Federation who entered.

A big reason for the record entry was the generous provision of travel grants for nearly 100 countries. 'Travel grants' are a new development (replacing plane charters) but one that is set to continue as it is in the budgets of the next two Olympiads. Debuting for the first time were Kuwait, Lesotho, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Swaziland and Tanzania. Returning after long absences were the Bahamas, Gambia, Guyana and Senegal. Many of these countries brought their Women's teams. Before the Olympiad only Chinese Taipei had brought a Women's team to the Olympiad from level 5. This time seven more countries came with a Women's team.

As for the results I have included the following 'critical' information. Firstly did they enter? Then the final points total, followed by seeding and final position. The last figure is how many places, plus/ minus the country finished above seeding in both events. The information is provided by 'development level category'. After each category the countries absent are listed as well as the big climbers in both sections.

TROMSO OLYMPIAD DEVELOPMENT RESULTS

	<u>Played</u>	<u>Pts</u>	<u>Seeding</u>	<u>Final</u>	<u>+/- (seeding)</u>
<u>Open / Women's</u>					
<u>Level Five</u>					
147. Haiti	Y/N	8	157	144	+13
148. Ghana	Y /Y	8/ 6	156/ 126	143/ 129	+13/ -3
149. Palau	Y/Y	4/ 7	149/ 110	168/ 125	-19/ -15
150. Macau	Y/N	7	139	151	-12
151. Bahamas	Y/N	10	158	118	+40
152. Bhutan	Y/N	4	169	170	-1
153. Brit. Virgins	Y/N	3	167	171	-4
154. Chinese Taipei	Y/Y	8/ 10	148/ 116	135/ 92	+13/ +24
155. Guam	Y/N	6	160	162	-2

156. S Tome &Prin	Y/N	8	168	147	+21
157. US Virgin's	Y/N	7	146	154	-8
158. Guyana	Y/N	6	151	160	-9
159. Burkina Faso	N/N				
160. Burundi	Y/Y*	6/ 2	164/ 124	166/ 134	-2/ -10 **
161. Cambodia	N/N				
162. Cent Af Rep	N/N				
163. Comoros	N/N				
164. Congo (DR)	N/N				
165. Cote d'Ivoire	Y/N	8	172	138	+34
166. Gabon	N/N				
167. Gambia	Y/N	6/-	153/-	165/-	-12
168. Laos	N/N				
169. Lesotho	Y/Y	7/ 7	163/ 128	156/ 127	+7/ +1
170. Maldives	Y/N	6	162	163	-1
171. Mali	N/N				
172. Oman	Y/N	8	173	141	+32
173. Rwanda	Y/Y	7/ 3	166/ 133	159/ 132	+7/ +1
174. Saudi Arabia	Y/N	7	145	157	-12
175. Senegal	Y/N	8	174	148	+26
176. Sierra Leone	N/N				
177. Solomon Is	Y/N	3	175	172	+3
178. Swaziland	Y/Y	4/ 3	176/ 135	169/ 133	+7/ +2
179. Tanzania	Y/N	5	152	167	-15
180. Timor Leste	N/N				
181. Togo	Y/Y	6/ 7	165/ 136	164/ 124	+1/ +12

35 countries in level 5 (after taking out Belize) 25 participated in the Open Olympiad.

Not playing in the Open: Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Comoros, DR Congo, Gabon, Laos, Mali, Sierra Leone, & Timor Leste.

Level 5 countries entered the Women's Olympiad. They were; Burundi, Chinese Taipei, Ghana, Lesotho, Palau, Rwanda, Swaziland & Togo.

Star performers in Level 5:

Open: 1. The Bahamas +40; 2. Cote d'Ivoire +34 & Oman +32 (places above seeding)

Women's: 1. Chinese Taipei +24; 2. Togo +12; Swaziland +2

Combined: 1. Chinese Taipei +37; 2. Togo +11; 3. Ghana +10.

Level Four

120. Bermuda	Y/N	7	147	158	-11
121. Palestine	Y/Y	9/ 9	126/ 123	125/ 103	+1/ +20
122. Kuwait	Y/Y	8/ 4	135/ 127	142/ 131	-7/ -4
123. Nepal	Y/Y	10/ 8	128/ 100	114/ 115	+14/ -15
124. Qatar	Y/Y	13/ 8	57/ 114	45/ 110	+12/ +4
125. Malta	Y/Y	7/ 10	118/ 106	152/ 91	-34/ +15
126. Hong Kong	Y/N	8	136	139	-3
127. Liechtenstein	Y/N	10	121	119	+2
128. Malawi	Y/Y	10/ 6	134/ 130	113/ 128`	+21/ +2
129. Neth Antilles	Y/Y	10/ 8	131/ 107	115/ 109	+16/ -2
130. San Marino	Y/N	9	133	129	+4
131. Sudan	Y/Y	10/ 7	115/ 134	110/ 122	+5/ +12
132. Namibia	Y/Y	9/ 7	117/ 131	131/ 119	-14/ +12
133. Madagascar	Y/Y	10/ 8	114/ 129	116/ 116	-2/ +13
134. Suriname	Y/Y	8/ 8	124/ 101	140/ 106	-16/ -5
135. Somalia	N/N				
136. Seychelles	Y/Y	7/ 5	150/ 121	150/ 130	=/ -9
137. Papua N Guinea	Y/N	6	155	161	-6
138. Pakistan	Y/Y	11/8	159/132	92/111	+67/+21
139. Cameroon	Y/Y	8/7	154/125	145/126	+9/ -1
140. Afghanistan	Y/N	9	138	133	+5
141. Bahrain	N/N				

142. Mauritania	Y/N	7	132	155	-23
143. Aruba	Y/Y	8/ 8	144/ 117	146/ 113	-2/ +4
144. Mozambique	Y/Y	9/ 7	112/ 119	126/ 123	-14/ -4
145. Guernsey	Y/N	8	127	137	-10
146. Fiji	Y/Y	7/ 8	142/ 115	153/ 112	-11 /+3

27 countries in level 4. 25 participated in the Open Olympiad. Not entered were Bahrain & Somalia
16 entered teams in the Women's Olympiad (not entered were Afghanistan, Bermuda, Guernsey, Hong Kong, Liechtenstein, Mauretania, Pakistan, PNG & San Marino).

Star performers in Level 4

Open: 1. Pakistan +67; 2. Malawi +21, 3. Netherlands Antilles +16...

Women's: 1. Pakistan +21 2. Palestine +20; 3. Malta +15...

Combined: 1. Pakistan +88; 2. Malawi +23, 3. Palestine +21...

Level Three

80. Costa Rica	Y/Y	11/ 10	70/ 86	88/ 86	-18/ =
81. Morocco	Y/N	9	77	121	-44
82. New Zealand	Y/Y	10/ 11	76/ 73	98/ 73	-22/ =
83. Albania	Y/Y	13/ 10	63/ 80	60/ 81	+3/ -1
84. Faroe Islands	Y/N	11	73	81	-8
85. Tunisia	Y/Y	12/ 8	88/ 98	76/ 105	+12/ -7
86. Syria	Y/N	11	105	86	+19
87. Andorra	Y/N	11	97	93	+4
88. Mauritius	Y/N	9	123	130	-7
89. Malaysia	Y/Y	12/ 12	103/ 78	72/ 54	+31/ +24
90. Bolivia	Y/Y	12/ 10	85/ 71	77/ 83	+8/ -12
91. Nicaragua	Y/Y	10/ 9	109/ 79	97/ 93	+12/ -14
92. Jordan	Y/Y	11/ 11	87/ 69	85/ 71	+2/ -2
93. Angola	Y/Y	10/ 8	101/ 108	103/ 107	-2/ -1
94. Puerto Rico	Y/Y	9/ 10	99/ 99	128/ 89	-29/ +10
95. Zambia	Y/Y	11/ 10	89/ 109	94/ 77	-5/ +32

96. Japan	Y/Y	12/ 9	90/ 104	73/ 97	+17/ +7
97. Lebanon	Y/Y	12/ 10	108/ 60	75/ 78	+33/ -18
98. Libya	Y/N	10	102	106	-4
99. Monaco	Y/N	9	86	123	-37
100. El Salvador	Y/Y	10/ 12	104/ 66	102/ 60	+2/ +6
101. Guatemala	Y/Y	11/ 10	93/ 74	96/ 80	-3/ -6
102. Honduras	Y/Y	8/ 8	125/ 113	136/ 114	-11/ -1
103. Zimbabwe	Y/Y	10/ 8	141/ 97	104/ 108	+37/ -11
104. Nigeria	Y/Y	10/ 8	107/ 120	117/ 104	-10/ +16
105. Panama	Y/N	11	110	91	+19
106. Thailand	Y/Y	10/ 10	113/ 111	111/ 90	+2/ +21
107. Uganda	Y/Y	11/ 7	92/ 102	95/ 117	-3/ -15
108. Yemen	Y/N	11	100	80	+20
109. Botswana	Y/Y	11/ 10	111/ 94	90/ 88	+21/ +6
110. Jamaica	Y/Y	11/ 10	122/ 88	89/ 87	+33/ +1
111. Ethiopia	Y/Y	10/ 7	129/ 122	112/ 121	+17/ +1
112. Jersey	Y/N	9	137	134	+3
113. Sri Lanka	Y/Y	12/ 10	120/ 96	74/ 79	+46/ +17
114. Barbados	Y/Y	9/ 7	106/ 112	127/ 120	-21/ -8
115. Brunei	Y/N	10	140	120	+20
116. Trinidad & Tobago	Y/Y	9/ 9	116/ 103	132/102	-16/ +1
117. Cyprus	Y/N	11	119	87	+32
118. South Korea	Y/Y	9/ 9	143/ 105	124/ 98	+19/ +7
119. Kenya	Y/Y	7/ 7	130/ 118	149/ 118	-19/ =

40 countries in level three. All participated in the Open.

28 entered teams in the Women's Olympiad. Not entered in the Women's Olympiad were Andorra, Brunei, Cyprus, Faroe Islands, Jersey, Libya, Monaco, Mauritius, Monaco, Morocco, Panama, and Syria.

Star Performers in Level Three

Open: 1. Sri Lanka +46; 2. Zimbabwe +37; 3. Jamaica +33

Women's: 1. Zambia +32; 2. Malaysia +24, 3. Thailand +21

Combined: 1. Sri Lanka +63, 2. Malaysia +55, 3. Jamaica +32

Matters Arising and Conclusion.

Congratulations to all the countries who excelled. Pakistan take all the plaudits for their excellent combined performance and a combined staggering 88 place above seeding. Also congratulations to Sri Lanka and Malaysia. Sri Lanka finished 46 places above seeding in the Open and the Women's team 17 places above seeding. Congratulations also to Kuwait, Oman, Lesotho and Swaziland who debuted by bringing both teams. Very praiseworthy indeed.

The first issue raised is the case of the Burundi Women's team. Where did they vanish along with two members of their Open team after round 2. One conclusion is that it can only have been to seek political asylum. What happened to the five countries that entered and did not appear? What were the reasons why the likes of Timor Leste did not arrive and is there anything that we can do about this. Had they bought air tickets and made travel plans? Were any of the issues due to 'visas' and maybe 'transit visas' which made travel for Swaziland very difficult and caused them to be two days late. It also resulted in them very nearly not getting back home.

Many Federations still do not bring Women's teams. Many small European countries do not enter Women's teams such as Andorra, Cyprus, the Faroe Islands, Guernsey, Jersey, Liechtenstein and San Marino. Only Albania and Malta of our European development nations entered Women's teams. By contrast Arab countries excel in entering a Women's team. Clearly development of Women's chess in Arab countries is very successful and has huge potential. There is also an urgency in sorting out the issue of getting more qualified English speaking women coaches. African countries are also to be congratulated on their efforts in bring a women's team.

The top 10 average ratings for each 'Development Federation' also needs to be checked before publication of the next 'Development list' in 2015. Are we eliminating inactive players etc. so that the Federation then gets placed into its correct category, anomalies do emerge. For example Mauritius has the second highest average rating in level 3 but are clearly more suited to the top of level 4. Qatar needs to be looked at as well and on a personal level I am curious about PNG whose average is higher than my ELO and yet I can only think of three players stronger than me.

In concluding these excellent performances need to be shouted out from the rafters. There is overwhelming concentration in the chess media on the elite players and top 10 countries to everyone else's exclusion. An exception is John Speelman in his Independent column who highlighted the performance of the young Cypriot, Andreas Kelires playing board 1; who perhaps put in the best performance of the Olympiad. He achieved a GM norm with a rating performance of 2540, scored 9/11 and gained over 120 rating points. We miss out on the efforts of those countries who excel but do not yet have players consistently over 2300 / 2400. It is up to us to start to highlight such performances. If cricket can shout about the Afghanistan team qualifying for the 20-20 world cup (documentaries were made about it) then we have to publicise the achievements of our chess developing Federations. Let us instigate 'The Development Commission Awards'.

Rupert Jones (Oct 2014)



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2015 WORLD YOUTH TRAVEL GRANT

The primary aim of this programme is to encourage greater participation by Developing Levels 3-5 Federations in the Continental Youth Events by rewarding the top performers with assistance towards attending World Youth.

The selection criterion for the winning candidate in each age group is the highest placed player from a Developing Levels 3-5 Federation ranked in the top 20% of the final standings. Based on the above criteria and the players' performance in the two Continental Youth Championships completed, Africa, America and Asia, the following 10 players have qualified for 2015 World Youth Travel Grants:

Rk.	Title	Name	FED	Rtg	Pts.	Category	Continent	Venue	Players	20%	Point Group
13		Mayta Aiza Maveric	BOL	1301	5.5	U08	America	Cali, Colombia	52	10	7
19		Leano Yarit	BOL		5.5	U10	America	Cali, Colombia	91	18	18
2	WCM	Condori Ana Paula	BOL	1602	7	GU12	America	Cali, Colombia	45	9	2
18		Mollo Jhoan	BOL	1750	6	U12	America	Cali, Colombia	103	21	12
3	WIM	Monroy G. Nataly A.	BOL	1800	6.5	GU16	America	Cali, Colombia	46	9	3
14	FM	Poon Yu Tien	BAR	2135	5.5	U16	America	Cali, Colombia	75	15	14
7	FM	Husbands Orlando	BAR	2234	6	U18	America	Cali, Colombia	46	9	7
2		Dahmani Sami	TUN		5	U08	Africa	Tunisa	8	2	2
1		Miladi Amen	TUN	1234	4	GU10	Africa	Tunisa	8	2	1
2		Houimel Omar	TUN	1883	6	U18	Africa	Tunisa	9	2	2
4	FM	Wong Yinn Long	MAS	2097	6	U14	Asia	Suwon, South Korea	24	5	4

It is recommended that the above list be immediately circulated to the Federation of each winner so they may commence planning of their participation and to the World Youth Organizer.

The World Youth Travel Grant must be used in the same year it was won for the World Youth of that year and is provided for the player not the Federation, i.e. the Federation cannot substituted the player with another player from the Federation. For 2015, the grant will be a maximum of Euro 1,500 per player.

Obviously, we would like to encourage the Federation of grant winners to use this opportunity to generate good publicity for the players and the Federation. We recommend that they feature these players in their local press by arranging a press conference to announce the award.

We would also like to ask each Continent to publish a formal announcement of these awards on their Web Site. To facilitate this, the Federation should send a photo and brief bio of their grant winners to the General Secretary of the Development Commission by September 30th 2015.

Count of Federation	Level					
Continent	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Africa		4	10	13	19	46
America	5	10	10	6	3	34
Asia	4	11	13	14	9	51
Europe	30	15	4	6		55
Total	39	40	37	39	31	186

Development List 2015-2016

Rank	Federation	Level	Continent
1	Argentina	1	America
2	Armenia	1	Europe
3	Azerbaijan	1	Europe
4	Belarus	1	Europe
5	Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	Europe
6	Brazil	1	America
7	Bulgaria	1	Europe
8	China	1	Asia
9	Croatia	1	Europe
10	Cuba	1	America
11	Czech Republic	1	Europe
12	Denmark	1	Europe
13	England	1	Europe
14	France	1	Europe
15	Georgia	1	Europe
16	Germany	1	Europe
17	Greece	1	Europe
18	Hungary	1	Europe
19	Iceland	1	Europe
20	India	1	Asia
21	Israel	1	Europe
22	Italy	1	Europe
23	Latvia	1	Europe
24	Netherlands	1	Europe
25	Norway	1	Europe
26	Peru	1	America
27	Poland	1	Europe
28	Romania	1	Europe
29	Russia	1	Europe
30	Serbia	1	Europe
31	Slovenia	1	Europe
32	Spain	1	Europe
33	Sweden	1	Europe
34	Switzerland	1	Europe
35	Turkey	1	Europe
36	Ukraine	1	Europe
37	United States of America	1	America
38	Uzbekistan	1	Asia
39	Vietnam	1	Asia

Development List 2015-2016

40	Albania	2	Europe
41	Algeria	2	Africa
42	Australia	2	Asia
43	Austria	2	Europe
44	Bangladesh	2	Asia
45	Belgium	2	Europe
46	Canada	2	America
47	Chile	2	America
48	Colombia	2	America
49	Costa Rica	2	America
50	Dominican Republic	2	America
51	Ecuador	2	America
52	Egypt	2	Africa
53	Estonia	2	Europe
54	Finland	2	Europe
55	Former YUG Rep of Macedonia	2	Europe
56	Indonesia	2	Asia
57	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	2	Asia
58	Iraq	2	Asia
59	Ireland	2	Europe
60	Kazakhstan	2	Asia
61	Lithuania	2	Europe
62	Luxembourg	2	Europe
63	Mexico	2	America
64	Moldova (Republic of)	2	Europe
65	Monaco	2	Europe
66	Mongolia	2	Asia
67	Montenegro	2	Europe
68	Morocco	2	Africa
69	New Zealand	2	Asia
70	Paraguay	2	America
71	Philippines	2	Asia
72	Portugal	2	Europe
73	Scotland	2	Europe
74	Singapore	2	Asia
75	Slovakia	2	Europe
76	South Africa	2	Africa
77	Turkmenistan	2	Asia
78	Uruguay	2	America
79	Venezuela	2	America

Development List 2015-2016

80	Andorra	3	Europe
81	Angola	3	Africa
82	Barbados	3	America
83	Bolivia	3	America
84	Botswana	3	Africa
85	El Salvador	3	America
86	Faroe Islands	3	Europe
87	Guatemala	3	America
88	Honduras	3	America
89	Jamaica	3	America
90	Japan	3	Asia
91	Jordan	3	Asia
92	Kyrgyzstan	3	Asia
93	Kosovo	3	Europe
94	Lebanon	3	Asia
95	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	3	Africa
96	Malaysia	3	Asia
97	Mali	3	Africa
98	Myanmar	3	Asia
99	Nicaragua	3	America
100	Nigeria	3	Africa
101	Panama	3	America
102	Puerto Rico	3	America
103	South Korea	3	Asia
104	Sri Lanka	3	Asia
105	Sudan	3	Africa
106	Syria	3	Asia
107	Tajikistan	3	Asia
108	Thailand	3	Asia
109	Trinidad and Tobago	3	America
110	Tunisia	3	Africa
111	Uganda	3	Africa
112	United Arab Emirates	3	Asia
113	Wales	3	Europe
114	Yemen	3	Asia
115	Zambia	3	Africa
116	Zimbabwe	3	Africa
117	Afghanistan	4	Asia
118	Aruba	4	America
119	Bahrain	4	Asia

Development List 2015-2016

120	Bermuda	4	America
121	Brunei Darussalam	4	Asia
122	Cameroon	4	Africa
123	Chinese Taipei	4	Asia
124	Côte d'Ivoire	4	Africa
125	Cyprus	4	Europe
126	Ethiopia	4	Africa
127	Gambia	4	Africa
128	Ghana	4	Africa
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140	Mauritania	4	Africa
141	Mauritius	4	Africa
142	Mozambique	4	Africa
143	Namibia	4	Africa
144	Nepal	4	Asia
145	Netherlands Antilles	4	America
146	Oman	4	Asia
147	Pakistan	4	Asia

Development List 2015-2016

148	Palestine	4	Asia
149	Papua New Guinea	4	Asia
150	Qatar	4	Asia
151	San Marino	4	Europe
152	Saudi Arabia	4	Asia
153	Somalia	4	Africa
154	Suriname	4	America
155	US Virgin Islands	4	America
156	Bahamas	5	America
157	Bhutan	5	Asia
158	British Virgin Islands	5	America
159	Burkino Faso	5	Africa
160	Burundi	5	Africa
161	Cambodia	5	Asia
162	Central African Republic	5	Africa
163	Comoros	5	Africa
164	Congo (Democratic Republic of the)	5	Africa
165	Djibouti	5	Africa
166	Eritrea	5	Africa
167	Fiji	5	Asia
168	Gabon	5	Africa
169	Guyana	5	America
170	Lao People's Democratic Republic	5	Asia
171	Lesotho	5	Africa
172	Liberia	5	Africa
173	Macau	5	Africa
174	Maldives	5	Asia
175	Nauru	5	Asia
176	Palau	5	Asia
177	Rwanda	5	Africa
178	Sao Tome and Principe	5	Africa
179	Senegal	5	Africa
180	Seychelles	5	Africa
181	Sierra Leone	5	Africa
182	Solomon Islands	5	Asia
183	Swaziland	5	Africa
184	Tanzania	5	Africa
185	Timor-Leste	5	Asia
186	Togo	5	Africa