

## **SportAccord 2009**

This year's SportAccord was held in Denver, USA. The FIDE delegation was led by the Deputy President, Georgios Makropoulos, and included the President's Assistant, Berik Balgabaev, Commercial Director, Geoffrey Borg, and the Executive Director, David Jarrett.

SportAccord brings together all the sporting family including the IOC, International Federations, event cities, sponsors and media. Several Annual Meetings of Sports' Organizations take place during the event.

FIDE representatives attended the ARISF meeting for non-Olympic recognised sports where David Jarrett was re-appointed as Auditor for a further year.

The International Mind Sports Association elected Jose Damiani (Bridge) as President, Georgios Makropoulos (Chess) as Deputy President, Thomas Hsiang (Go) as Secretary General and David Jarrett (Chess) as Treasurer. There was a review of the 2008 event and it was decided to hold a second edition of the World Mind Sports Games in either 2011 or 2013, to avoid clashes with the Chess Olympiad.

At the GAISF Annual meeting it was announced that in future the organisation would be known as SportAccord. A presentation was made to members by the President of IMSA of the 1st World Mind Sports Games and GAISF indicated that it would offer its support to future Games.

FIDE, led by the Deputy President, had a constructive meeting with representatives of the IOC. There was a review of matters since the previous meeting in Athens and new topics included a discussion of the relevance of chess as a discipline in the Youth Olympics. The Presidential Board in Krakow appointed Vice President Khalifa Al-Hitmi to take this project forward.

For the second year, FIDE had a stand in the exhibition area and this was 'manned' by Polina Tsedenova from the Secretariat, with support from Allan Herbert, Chairman of the Development/CACDEC Commission and Beatriz Marinello of the USCF. Over 30 representatives from different organisations visited the stand and many new useful contacts were made.

SportAccord 2010 will be held in Dubai and FIDE will again have a stand in the exhibition area.