



# Asian Chess Federation

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## **Report of Asian Chess Federation President FIDE Congress, Halkidiki 2009**

This year, the Asian Chess Federation has provided substantial financial assistance to member federations such as subsidizing prize funds of Zonal Championships in the six Asian Zones in the amount of \$30,000.

We have helped as well with financial support for the Asian Schools Championship in Sri Lanka, Asian Individual Championship in the Philippines, Asian Youth Championships in India, Asian Cities in Lebanon and Regional Championship in Uzbekistan, with assistance totaling \$28,000.

At the request of federations for CACDEC support, the Asian Chess Federation funded Arbiters Seminars with \$5,000 each for Mongolia, Uzbekistan, Iraq, Lebanon, Bangladesh and Nepal, and funding coaching assistance as well in the latter four federations in the amount of \$11,000.

We organized the first Asian Club Cup in 5-star hotels at a cost of \$200,000, offering \$60,000 in cash prizes and assisting participating teams with air tickets worth \$100,000, bringing the total organizational cost to \$500,000. We are pleased that this new Club Cup shall be organized again in another country.

We continued to provide Swiss Manager software, giving official passwords to Australia, Solomon Islands, Nepal and Mongolia.

While we encourage federations to be able to stand on their own, we had to bail out, to use a currently popular term, financially strapped federations with their FIDE dues. We did so for Myanmar last year and this year for Afghanistan and Palestine.

We wish to point out that, while organizing federations receive financial support, we encourage them to do their share. For example, we thank FIDE for the prize fund support of \$36,000 for the Asian Continental and Women's Championships, and are pleased that the organizing Philippine federation added \$29,000 themselves to augment the prize fund.

Support of the Asian Chess Federation is not only financial. Asian Chess Federation president Sheikh Sultan bin Khalifah Al Nahyan twice visited Philippine president Gloria Macapagal Arroyo in Manila who recently included chess in schools in the country and, with her endorsement, a contract has been signed between the Department of Education and the National Chess Federation of the Philippines, following the Turkish model.

Sheikh Sultan also visited Syria for the Arab Youth Championship together with former World Champion Anatoly Karpov.

We encourage regional leaders to help neighboring federations and have funded the membership drive in the Oceania Zone through Zone President Gary Bekker. The Asian Chess Federation funded chess set purchases worth \$3,000 and we thank Mr. Stuart Fancy for distributing these to new federations in Oceania.

We have taken note of the developmental meeting in the Oceania Zone and their request for Arbiters Seminars to be organized in Australia and New Zealand in 2010 and for laptops with chess software for small federations in their zone.

They also ask that more official tournaments be held in Southeast Asia to make their travel more affordable, specifically the Asian Youth and the Asian Cities. The Asian Chess Federation has purposely rotated the Asian Youth to hold the next event in Southeast Asia. We have also contacted the newly elected Senator, GM Utut Adianto, Deputy President of the Indonesian Chess Federation which shall bid for the next Asian Cities.

While the Asian Chess Federation helps smaller developing federations, we also support the major federations because it is these organizing federations who show the way in their region, such as the lead taken by the Philippines, Australia, India and now China.

With the help of FIDE Secretary General Ignatius Leong, China has organized a number of FIDE events and notably a big open event to which they invite Asian federations. The old bamboo curtain has opened with more participation by China in Continental championships.

India has led the growth of chess in their subcontinent. Sri Lanka is a most active organizer with many Asian events and recently its first GM title open event. Bangladesh now has five GMs and an annual GM title open. For the past decade, Nepal has been inactive but since the election of their new president, Hari Rajesh Joshi, two years ago, Nepal has produced its first FIDE Master, FIDE Arbiters and, with the support of the Asian Chess Federation, invited a GM coach to give coaching seminars in Kathmandu and held a FIDE Arbiters Seminar and has many more FIDE rated players.

Nepal has participated in official Asian events and with the help of the All India Chess Federation, Nepal sends players to all tournaments across India. Their main sponsor, Ram Thampa, has announced that they shall organize Nepal's first GM title open tournament this December in Kathmandu.

It is the example of Nepal that the Asian Chess Federation is trying to replicate across the continent. A national federation with good leadership, given the impetus of financial assistance from FIDE and Asian Chess Federation and the support of leading federations in the region, can rise and be a progressive member of the Asian family. I thank all Zone Presidents and National Federations for their work.

**Seikh Sultan bin Khalifah Al Nahyan**  
**President**  
**Asian Chess Federation**