



THE INTERNATIONAL GO FEDERATION

***The 36th Annual General Meeting  
of the International Go Federation  
Meeting Minutes***

Time : 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2017

Place: Sheraton Hotel (Guiyang, China)

**1、 Greeting of President Chang Zhenming**

First of all, on behalf of the International Go Federation, I welcome the directors who come from afar. I am very happy to be able to meet with you in Guiyang, China, by taking the opportunity of the 38th World Amateur Go Championship. Welcome to the councillors, I hope you will make a round trip in Guiyang after the games and free time. The natural environment here is very pleasant.

Last year, China formally became the rotating presidency of the International Go Federation. I also talked about some of our work plans during the director meeting. Now I will give you a brief introduction to our progress in the past years.

As Mr. Yang Jun'an retires, Mr. Luo Chaoyi will take over the office director of the IGF. Mr. Luo Chaoyi has been in charge of competitive sports in China. He is a Ph.D. in sports and has a deep academic career. Now, he is the vice president of the International Gymnastics Federation and the

president of the China Gymnastics Association.

The emergence of artificial intelligence has brought great changes in the Go community. I think that artificial intelligence has three major contributions:

1. More and more people are getting close to Go and the number of Go players is increasing. This is also the purpose of IGF.

2. It narrows the distance between the East and the West and helps narrow the level gap between the East and West.

3. Go AI has proved that it can learn by itself, but also proves the charm of Go. Go can be used as a scientific research project. This year we will host the first World Open of Go AI.

There is a lot of discussion about the rules of the Go game, including disagreement among the directors of our countries. Our staffs are developing a "smart number" program. After the game is over, as long as a photo is taken, the result can be directly calculated by the program.

The establishment of a universal grade system in the world has no doubt about the significance of Go players. The higher the grade, the higher the academic status. The staffs of the IGF did a lot of research. We think that the European grade system is still relatively good and worth learning. The specific program is under discussion.

Regarding the exploration and promotion of the Go culture, we have also done a lot of related work in the past year. Last year, Shao Weigang 9P and

Liao Guiyong 9P visited Europe and the United States. This year, we will send Cao Dayuan 9P, Chen Linxin 9P, and Liang Weijun 9P to Europe and the United States. I have already given an appointment to the IGF Secretariat and this year will also send Chinese professional Go players to go to Qatar for popularization and promotion.

We have received the support and help from the members present here these years. We would like to express our gratitude again.

## **2、 Approval of 37th IGF BM Minutes**

## **3、 IGF Report**

Secretary General, Mr. Wang Yi:

Last year, We planned to do doping testing for the 37th Amateur World Championships. However, at that time, the China Doping Control Center was temporarily suspended by the International Olympic Committee so that it was not implemented. This year we will definitely do the doping testing.

Previously, the official website of IGF has a very sluggish press release. Recently, we have recruited some staffs to write news. We also released relevant content in the Human-AI battle between AlphaGo and Ke Jie. In the future, we will continually increase the investment and increase the volume of reports.

The 38th World Amateur Go World Championship is holding in Guiyang City. We originally worried about the long distances, expensive flight tickets

would result in few participating countries. But the good news is that there are still 51 countries registering for the competition. Although the players from Peru and Colombia could not present due to special reasons, 49 countries participated in the event. The oldest player is 72 years old and the youngest is 12 years old. It is an unprecedented event, thanks to the support of the directors and the players.

Last year, President Chang Zhenming asked us to establish top-level authoritative competitions. This year we will hold the first World Go AI Open in Ordos, China, in accordance with the wishes of the president. The sponsor is CITIC Securities, which is under the administration of our president.

Vice Chairman Mr. Thomas Hsiang:

1. Related to IMSA:

In April, the IMSA conference was held in Denmark. Chen Zelan was elected as the new president of the IMSA for a four-year term. Thomas Hsiang was re-elected as secretary-general, and Marc DePauw from World Bridge Federation continually served as financial controller;

Four international organizations such as IGF, FIDE, WBF, and FMJD have each added an IMSA executive director. Mr. Wang Yi represents IGF to be the director in the IMSA.

The FMJD has become the sixth member of IMSA.

IMSA will establish a new office in Beijing. Financial support provided by Agtech and OurGame.

There have been minor changes to the IMSA charter and a new Associate Member has been added to make it easier for new members to join.

IMSA expects to actively support the development of mind sports in China in several years.

## 2. Progress on various events:

The second IEMG (IMSA Elite Mind Games) will be held in Huai'an City, Jiangsu Province, China in December this year. The original schedule was on December 15-23, but everyone thought that was too crowded and near Christmas. It should be a week in advance, but the schedule was not finalized yet.

Compared to the previous IEMG, the number of Go players has been reduced from 30 to 24, and officials have been reduced from 15 to 5.

The bonus is unchanged (USD 200,000); the management fee is unchanged (USD 50,000).

### SAWMG (SportAccord World Mind Games)

SportAccord hopes to resume the game. The scale of the competition will follow the first IEMG. The time may be in late March 2018 or late May.

The location is uncertain.

The Third World Congress of on Mind Games was originally scheduled to be held in Brazil in 2016, but Brazil cannot be implemented due to

financial issues. Consideration is now being given to re-submitting in 2018.

The location is undecided.

### 3. About the first Latin American Go Games:

The first Go tournament hosted by the IAGF - Ibero American Go Federation will be held in Cancun, Mexico, from October 13th to 16th this year.

In the past, the first Go tournament in Europe and the United States was funded by the Japanese Ki-in. IAGF hopes that the IGF can carry forward this tradition and continue to support the organization of the Latin American organization to hold the first Go tournament.

Yoo Chang Hyuk: I did not know that there were IMSA meetings every year. Why did you both go to Europe to attend the meeting and were elected as the Executive Committee?

Wang Yi: According to the tradition, the IMSA conference was attended by the Secretary-General of the IMSA and the Secretary-General of IGF. The previous representative were Thomas Hsiang and Lee Hajin from Korea, who was the Secretary-General of IGF, so as to Shigeno Yuki. so this year I attended the meeting in Denmark with Mr. Thomas Hsiang on behalf of the IGF.

Yoo Chang Hyuk: Lee Hajin has already emigrated. She did not tell us that she used to go abroad to attend meetings on behalf of the IGF. Now, I have figured out the specific circumstances, I have no objection to Wang Yi's

appointment as the IMSA Executive Committee member and on behalf of the IGF.

**4. Passed the 2016 annual financial report and 2017 annual financial budget;**

**5. Passed the Thailand and Australia audit reports;**

**6. Elect Thailand, Australia continue to serve as 2017 audit member**

**7. Research issues:**

(1) Georgia applies to join the IGF

Mr. Martin explained Georgia's application for membership in the IGF:

The organizing application of Georgia has a national level Go organization. It began to participate in the Go tournament in 2008 and has established some Go clubs and Go classes. Last year, Georgia officially became a member of the European Go Federation and has participated in the Go game on the Pandanet. The Georgia side has completed all the formalities for applying for membership in the IGF.

All agreed.

(2) 2019 WAGC

Mr. Dan stated that Japan hopes to host the World Amateur Go Championship in 2019. As the presidency country of the time, Japan will have the obligation to hold the WAGC. Japan Ki-in has already negotiated with the Shimane government to basically determine the time and place of the WAGC. More importantly, the 2020 Olympics and Paralympics will be held

in Tokyo. Japan hopes that Go can become a performance project. In order to achieve this goal, the two world amateur go tournaments in 2018 and 2019 are crucial. Therefore, although it is very good to hold WAGC in countries other than China, Japan and South Korea, Japan must host the 2019 World Amateur Go Tournament in order to comply with Olympic Games.

President Chang: The IGF side also hopes that Go can enter the Olympic Games. We fully support Japan's proposal. If successful, everyone here will be the witness to the history of Go. President Chang jokingly said that if Go enters the Olympic performance program, beside, we can watch the other events of the Olympic Games and we will no longer have to worry about tickets.

Mr. Yoo Chang Hyuk said that South Korea approves of Japan's hosting of the 2019 World Amateur Go Championship. After Japan, South Korea will assume the rotating presidency and South Korea is willing to let Russia host the 2020 World Amateur Go Tournament.

The Secretary general, Mr. Wang Yi thanked Korea for his generosity and hoped that Go will be successfully transformed into an Olympic performance project, adding glory to the development of Go.

### (3) First Latin American Go Congress

Mr. Thomas Hsiang explained the situation of the first Latin American Go Congress. Last month in Cuba, I saw some Go activities which made me very happy. Mexico is actively preparing for the Latin American Go Congress and



hopes that the IGF can provide support.

Lopez: Latin America is the slowest developing area in the world, but at the same time, it is also an region with a wide development space for Go. If IGF provides funding for the Latin American Go Congress, we will allocate it to the most appropriate place. I hope that everyone will fully support us in hosting the Latin American Go Congress.

Wang Yi: With regard to the question of the IGF's contribution to the Latin American Go Congress, we have reached a consensus after careful discussion and study. That is, for the highest-profile intercontinental competition on all continents, the first year IGF sponsorship amounted to 20,000 US dollars, the second year would be 10,000 US dollars, the third year would no longer provides assistance. The organization must make its own blood and look for sponsorship.

Lopez: Thanks to IGF for its generous assistance. We believed that by the third year, there will be great developments in the activities and it will be possible to solve the financial problems on their own. At the same time, it is hoped that professional organizations will send at least one professional Go player to participate in our activities.

President Chang: IGF, as a non-entity organization with a limited budget, is indeed unable to sponsor every organization's Go activities.

Vanthane Namasonthi: Southeast Asia is not intercontinental. However, some Southeast Asian countries have strong Go organizations such as

Thailand, Indonesia and Vietnam. What is the long-term and medium-term strategy of IGF for intercontinental organizations?

President Chang: IGF supports these countries and regions for developing Go. I visited Thailand just a short time ago and found that Thailand organized a lot of Go activities and there are some Go AI, which made me very pleasantly surprised. President Chang jokingly said that perhaps the 2021 World Amateur Go Tournament will be held in Thailand.

Vanthanee Namasonthi: As far as I know, there are indeed many schools that organize Go activities. This is also true of many social organizations.

Hiroaki Dan: I will go to Thailand in July and I hope to participate in the local Go activities.

#### (4) Go gets into campus activities

Mr. Hiroaki Dan introduced that Japan is making every effort to promote Go into the campus. I hope that the IGF can take the lead and encourage countries to carry out similar activities. We believe that Go gets into schools can attract more young people to love Go.

Mr. Thomas Hsiang: North America is working on training Go teachers. According to my understanding, China's popularization and education for Go are the best. I have seen various and interesting Go events in schools in Beijing and Guangzhou.

President Chang: In the afternoon, we will hold a press conference and ask Mr. Thomas to draft a proposal and announce it at a press conference to

increase publicity.

Mr. Luo Chaoyi: Later I will draft this proposal together with Mr. Thomas.

Vanthanee Namasonthi: I think it is very important to attract people's interest in Go. Taking myself as an example, I am not good at playing Go, but I really like Go. I have been working in the field of Go for 25 years.

Thomas: The United States authoritative magazine "Nature" publishes research articles. Go plays a great help in delaying many health problems such as cognitive decline. Promoting Go is not only the purpose of IGF and our interest, but also our social responsibility.

Hiroko TAKI: I have some experience in the Pair Go activities. I think it is a good idea to promote Pair Go.

## **8、 Election of 2017 IGF Director**

Yoo Chang Hyuk becomes 2017-2018 Vice president of IGF

Hiroaki Dan becomes 2017-2018 Vice president of IGF

Luo Chao Yi becomes 2017-2018 Chief Executive of IGF

Eduardo Loprz continually takes position of Vice president of IGF.

Hiroko TAKI continually takes position of Director of IGF.

Ying Ming Hao continually takes position of Director of IGF.

## **9、 Next Board Meeting will be on 39<sup>th</sup> WAGC.**

Secretary General Wang Yi: Thanks for your listening and advice. Now, it's time for free talking.