



SOFTBALL ASIA

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MINUTES OF THE 1ST SOFTBALL ASIA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING (01/2018-2022)

Date: 20 November 2019

Time: 03.30pm

Venue: 3rd Floor, Fuku Room, Agora Hotel, Sakai, Japan

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

1. Mr. PAN Yi Chuan Chairman (Chinese-Taipei)
2. Dato' LOW Beng Choo President (Malaysia)
3. Ms. Taeko UTSUGI 1st Vice President (Japan)
4. Ms. Susan ZHANG Xuan Vice President (China)
5. Ms. KIM Eun Young Vice President (Korea)
6. Mr. Jean Henri LHUILLIER Vice President (Philippines)
7. Mr. Jimmy FONG Song Kuan Vice President (Hong Kong)
8. Mr. Hiromi TOKUDA Advisor (Japan)
9. Ms. Sally LIM Swee Gaik Secretary-General (Malaysia)
10. Mr. CHANG Chia Hsin Secretary-General (Chairman's Office) (Chinese-Taipei)

COMMITTEE CHAIRS / MEMBERS

1. Mr. Yutake MIYAKE Coaching Committee Chair
2. Mr. SEE Kok Wooi Technical Committee Chair
3. Ms. Heidi IP Ching Kit Technical Committee Co-Chair
4. Mr. Paulo TABIRARA Umpire Committee Co-Chair

AFFILIATES

1. Dr. YANG Xu China - President
2. Mr. Patrick NG Ka Him Hong Kong - President
3. Mr. Cherfy LEE Chong Fai Hong Kong – Council Member
4. Dr. Pravin ANAOKAR India - CEO
5. Mr. Ali BALDAWI Iraq-President
6. Mr. Sugao TAKAHASHI Japan – Executive Director
7. Mr. Hiroyuki YOKOTA Japan – Secretary-General
8. Ms. KIM Eun Young Korea – Vice President
9. Mr. SEE Kok Wooi Malaysia - President
10. Mr. Jose Miguel JIMENEZ ASAPHIL Vice President
11. Ms. KOH Hwee Mien Singapore – Treasurer
12. Mr. CHANG Chia Hsin Chinese-Taipei – Secretary-General
13. Mr. Phakpoom SAKULWONG Thailand – Secretary-General

OBSERVERS

1. Ms. Taeko ONO JSA Staff/Interpreter
2. Ms. Akiko ITO JSA Interpreter

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| 3. | Mr. Tomohori HISAKA | JSA Staff |
| 4. | Ms. TSAI Yi-San (Justin) | CTSA Staff/Interpreter |
| 5. | Ms. CHANG Shuo-Chun | CTSA Staff/Interpreter |
| 6. | Mr. WOO Jisuk | KBSA Staff/Interpreter |
| 7. | Ms. LUYEN Thi Hong Hanh | Vietnam Sport Authority |
| 8. | Mr. Mahmoud TAFESH | Palestine Baseball/Softball Committee |
| 9. | Mr. Amani MANKO | Palestine General Secretary |
| 10. | Ms. Laura LAYOUSE | Palestine Delegate |
| 11. | Mr. Takeharu NASU | Zone Director/PONY: Asia-Pacific Zone |

ABSENT WITH APOLOGIES

1. Mr. Kosol YIMPAIBOON SA Vice President (Thailand)

Prior to the start of the Meeting, there was a brief presentation by the organiser of the World Masters Games (WMG) to be held in Kansai, Japan from 14 May – 30 May 2021. Members were requested to support the WMG by encouraging their local teams and athletes to participate in the softball and baseball competitions in the WMG 2021.

1. ROLL CALL

- 1.1 The Meeting was called to order by the Softball Asia (SA) President, Dato' LOW Beng Choo, who welcomed all present and thank them for their attendance. She introduced briefly the SA Executive Council (EXCO) Officials to the attendees.
- 1.2 SA Secretary-General Ms. Sally LIM completed the Roll Call and confirmed that a quorum was present for the Meeting to proceed.
- 1.3 SA President Dato' LOW welcomed the delegates from the Palestine Baseball Softball Federation (PBSF)> She informed that PBSF was a new member of WBSC at this 2019 WBSC Congress, and that Palestine would come under the Asia continent. She requested the PBSF delegates to make an application to become an SA affiliate-member as required by the WBSC Statutes.
- 1.4 She also welcomed the delegate-representative from Vietnam Sports Authority, who was a special invited guest. SA President Dato' LOW informed that she has contacted the Vietnam Olympic Committee and Sport Authority to discuss the establishment of the Vietnam Baseball Softball Federation.
- 1.5 SA President Dato' LOW then requested all the attendees to make a brief introduction of themselves.

2. CHAIRMAN & PRESIDENT'S WELCOME REMARKS

- 2.1 SA Chairman Mr. PAN Yi Chuan thanked everyone for coming to the WBSC Congress and to this SA EXCO Meeting. He stated that as it was cold in Osaka, he advised everyone to keep warm and be safe. He said that 2019 was a busy year for Asia and wished everyone a very happy new year ahead. He stated that 2020 would be a more busy and exciting year as Baseball and Softball make their return to the Olympic Games in Tokyo 2020, and a number of Asia Cup qualifying tournaments were planned.



2.2 SA President Dato' LOW thanked all SA members who helped to host and organise tournaments and events, and stated that in 2020, there would be even more Asia Cup tournaments as World Cup qualifiers because of the increase in WBSC World Cup events. She informed attendees that although it was a SA EXCO Meeting, she had invited other attendees as guests as SA wished for all to share in the promotion and development of Softball in Asia.

3. MINUTES OF 3RD EXCO Meeting (2014- 2018) held on 15 January 2018

3.1 As there were no amendments, the Minutes of the 3rd EXCO Meeting held in Kuala Lumpur on 15 January 2018 was unanimously approved as proposed by Malaysia delegate Mr. SEE Kok Wooi and seconded by Thailand delegate Mr. Phakpoom SAKULWONG.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF MEETING

4.1 There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

5. SOFTBALL ASIA COMMITTEES

5.1 SA President Dato' LOW informed the EXCO members that upon SA's request, various applications were submitted by the SA affiliate-members for their officials to be appointed to the various SA Committees. After discussion, the SA EXCO unanimously approved the following as Chairs and members of the respective SA Committees.

5.1.1 Coaching Committee

Chair: Mr. Yutake MIYAKE (Japan)
Members: 1. Mr. SONG Qiuyan (China)
2. Mr. Johnny LAU Kwok Yip (Hong Kong, China)
3. Mr. Muhammad Farhan Harahap bin AMIRUDIN (Singapore)
4. Ms. HAN Hsin-Lin (Chinese Taipei)
5. Ms. Nor Hajar ABD. HAMID (Malaysia)

5.1.2 Development Committee

Chair: Ms. Taeko UTSUGI (Japan)
Members: 1. Mr. TANG Changdong (China)
2. Mr. William WONG (Hong Kong, China)
3. Ms. BAE Naehye (Korea)
4. Ms. SHENG Thong Yin (Singapore)
5. Ms. TSAI Yi-San (Justin) (Chinese Taipei)

5.1.3 Scorers Committee

Chair: Ms. TAN Chia Mien (Singapore)
Co-Chair: Mr. CHANG Sy-Chau (Chinese Taipei)
Members: 1. Ms. SHU Rong (China)
2. Mr. Cherfy LEE Chong Fai (Hong Kong, China)

5.1.4 Technical & Competition Committee

Chair: Mr. SEE Kok Wooi (Malaysia)
Co-Chairs: Ms. Susan ZHANG Xuan (China)
Ms. Heidi IP Ching Kit (Hong Kong)
Members: 1. Mr. WOO Ji-Suk (Korea)
2. Mr. HSU Kuo-Hua (Chinese Taipei)



5.1.5 Umpires Committee

Chair: Pending

Co-Chair: Mr. Paulo TABIRARA (Philippines)

Members: 1. Mr. LI Zhe (China)
2. Ms. Zicky LO Wing Yan (Hong Kong, China)
3. Mr. Rosli ISMAIL (Malaysia)
4. Mr. HWANG Jeng-Sup (Korea)
5. Mr. LIN Yu-Sung (Chinese Taipei)

5.2 The EXCO Members agreed to the establishment of the SA **Athletes Committee**, with one (1) male and one (1) female to be the joint Chair. It was discussed that active athletes and retired athletes (not more than six (6) years from date of appointment) be eligible to be nominated as members of that Committee.

5A ESTABLISHMENT OF WBSC-BASEBALL5 COMMISSION

5A.1 SA President Dato' LOW informed the EXCO Members that the development of Baseball5 WBSC as the new discipline has proceeded at a tremendous pace, with the establishment of the WBSC Baseball5 World Cup. She stated that Asia needed to catch up with the Baseball5 events and activities globally, as other continents had already started. As such, she informed the EXCO Members that she has had several discussions with Baseball Federation of Asia (BFA) President Mr. Tom PENG and it was agreed to establish a joint effort for the promotion and development of Baseball5 in Asia since Baseball5 was for both Baseball and Softball.

5A.2 She briefed the EXCO Members of the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between BFA and SA under which it was agreed between BFA and SA would establish the joint WBSC-Asia Baseball5 Commission for the promotion and development of Baseball5 tournaments and events in Asia.

5A.3 She informed that it was agreed that she chair the WBSC-Asia Baseball5 Commission and for SA to organise Baseball5 tournaments and events in Asia. She also informed that she had invited Ms. Hiroko Yamada (Baseball Japan) to serve on that Commission as BFA representative as she is a member of the WBSC Baseball5 Commission.

WBSC-Asia Baseball5 Commission

Chair: Dato' LOW Beng Choo (SA)

Co-Chair: Ms. Hiroko Yamada (BFA)

Members: 2 from BFA affiliates.
2 from SA affiliates.

5A.4 She reminded the SA affiliate-members that Baseball5 was for both Baseball and Softball members. As such, she requested SA affiliate-members in countries and territories that had separate National Baseball and National Softball federations to start working with their Baseball counterparts on the promotion and development of Baseball5 in their respective countries and territories.

5A.5 She also reminded that each country / territory, despite separate National Federations, could only submit participation for one (1) national team per country / territory for Baseball5 tournaments in Asia and at WBSC-level.

5A.6 She stated that WBSC planned to organise the WBSC World Cup for Baseball5 in November/December 2020 (next year) and as such Asia needed to have an Asian qualifier



to qualify the team eligible to participate in the World Cup. She reminded all present that Baseball5 tournaments were for mixed gender teams (each team should have four (4) males and four (4) females as athlete-players).

5A.7 She briefed the EXCO Members of the WBSC-Asia Baseball5 Meeting held earlier where all BFA and SA affiliate-members were invited and informed of the establishment of the joint WBSC-Asia Baseball5 Commission and of plans for the promotion and development of Baseball5 events and activities in Asia, including the organising of the 1st Asia Cup Baseball5 tournament.

6. CHANGES AT WBSC-LEVEL FOR SOFTBALL EVENTS

6.1 SA President Dato' LOW informed the EXCO Members that the following WBSC Softball tournaments were being discussed and would be decided at WBSC-level and that SA affiliates should take note:

6.1.1 World Cup U18 Women Softball 2020

She informed that in the WBSC World Cup tournaments, the WBSC Executive Board (EB) had the right to allocate one (1) wild card entry to any team approved by the WBSC EB. She informed that as there was one (1) available slot for the World Cup U18 Women Softball tournament to be held in Lima, Peru in 2020, she had taken the liberty to apply for the Philippines team and that it was approved. She congratulated Philippines on obtaining the slot and requested that they start making preparations for training and participation.

6.1.2 Future World Cup Softball tournaments

Future World Cup Softball tournaments would no longer be “open” tournaments. She stated that in the past, any team may participate in the Softball World Cups as long as the participating teams paid for their own accommodation, meals and local transport; there was no need to “qualify”. She informed that future World Cup Softball tournaments would be limited to teams that qualify based on a continental quota set by WBSC and the future hosts would pay for all participating teams’ hotel accommodation, 3 meals a day and local transport, as well as other organising costs and expenses. She requested SA affiliates interested to host WBSC Softball World Cups to check with WBSC on the terms and conditions for hosting.

6.1.3 World Cup U15 Girls & World Cup U23 Men Softball tournaments

She informed that WBSC had agreed to the following new Softball World Cup tournaments:

- U15 Girls Softball World Cup starting from 2021; and
- U23 Men Softball World Cup starting from 2021.

As such, she informed that Asia would need to organise the Asian qualifiers for these categories to qualify the Asian teams eligible to participate. She clarified that the WBSC Softball Division agreed that there would not be a U15 Boys Softball World Cup but instead, it would be a U23 Men Softball World Cup; whereas for the Women category, it would be a U15 Girls Softball World Cup but there would not be a U23 Women Softball World Cup.

6.1.4 World Cup U12 Mixed Gender Softball tournament

She informed that WBSC successfully organised the 1st WBSC World Cup U12 Mixed Gender Softball tournament in Tainan earlier August 2019, with four (4) invited participating teams, namely, Chinese Taipei (as host), Czech Republic (Europe), Peru (Americas) and Indonesia (Asia), and that Chinese Taipei emerged as the 1st World Cup U12 Softball champion.

She informed that WBSC intended to continue to organise the event on a 2-year cycle, with the next World Cup U12 Softball scheduled in 2021. She stated that as such, Asia would need to organise the Asian qualifier for that category to qualify the Asian teams eligible to participate in the World Cup.

- 6.2 She informed that for future World Cup Softball tournaments, there was a possibility that the number of eligible teams to participate (and therefore the continental quota would be reduced accordingly) and the number of athlete-players could be reduced to cut down on the cost of hosting for the organiser since it has to pay for hotel accommodation, meals, local transport and organisational costs and expenses.

7. SOUTH EAST ASIAN (SEA) GAMES PHILIPPINES 2019

- 7.1 SA President Dato' LOW briefed the EXCO Members that Men Baseball and both Men and Women Softball would be competed in the South East Asian (SEA) Games in Clark, Philippines in end November / early December 2019. She informed that four (4) Men's teams (Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand) have registered to compete in the Men Softball, and five (5) Women's teams (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand) in the Women Softball competitions.
- 7.2 She informed that she had discussed with WBSC and BFA to assist the organiser as well as Philippines Baseball and Philippines Softball by BFA supplying the Scoring system since the Philippines did not have such system.

8. SOFTBALL ASIA EVENTS & QUALIFIERS FOR WORLD CUPS 2021

8.1 Age Category Competitions

- 8.1.1 The EXCO Members noted that in 2019, as agreed by SA affiliate-members, SA had organised the Asia Cup U17 Women Softball whereas at WBSC-level, the World Cup was for U18. It was the consensus at that time that it would enable the athlete-players from the Asian qualified teams to participate in the World Cup the following year.
- 8.1.2 SA President Dato' LOW stated that since then, there were several requests by SA affiliate-members to follow the age group category set by WBSC (that is, U18), instead of making it one (1) year less although the Asia Cup was a qualifier for the following year's World Cup. The EXCO Members agreed that teams that qualified for the World Cup could always hold their own selection to select new eligible athlete-players for the World Cup, when necessary, if some of the athlete-players were no longer eligible for that age category.
- 8.1.3 After some discussion, the EXCO Members unanimously agreed that all future Asia Cup tournaments would use the same age category as WBSC, that are, U12, U15, U18, U23.

8.1.4 The EXCO Members were informed that Chinese Softball Association (CSA) officials and Chinese-Taipei Softball Association officials had prior discussion and had mutually agreed that China would host the U15 Girls Softball Asia Cup qualifier, and Chinese-Taipei would host the U12 Softball Mixed Gender qualifier in 2020. SA President Dato' LOW thanked the officials for their cooperation and agreement.

8.2 Asia Cup Baseball5 2020

SA President Dato' LOW briefed the EXCO Members of the following Baseball5 events to be held in April 2020, hosted by SA in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in collaboration with the Softball Association of Malaysia. She informed that information was given out at the WBSC-Asia Baseball5 Meeting earlier to all BFA and SA affiliate-members.

8.2.1 WBSC-Asia Joint Baseball5 Technical-Scorers-Umpires Seminar

Dates: 07 – 08 April 2020

Place: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

8.2.2 1st Asia Cup Baseball5 2020

In two (2) categories: U15 and Open

Date: 09 – 12 April 2020 (Check-in – 08 April and check-out 12 April)

Place: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Everyone was again reminded that Baseball5 tournaments were for mixed gender teams and that each country / territory may send only one (1) national team per country / territory.

8.3 Asia Cup U15 Women 2020

Chinese Softball Association (CSA) President Dr. Yang Xu and CSA Secretary-General Ms. Susan ZHANG Xuan confirmed that CSA would host the Asia Cup U15 Girls Softball 2020 as follows:

Dates: 08 – 13 August 2020 (Check-in – 07 August and check-out 13 August)

Place: Pingtan, Fujian, Fuzhou, China.

8.4 Asia Cup U12 Mixed Gender Softball

Chinese Taipei Softball Association (CTSA) Secretary General Mr. CHANG Chia Hsin confirmed that CTSA would host the Asia Cup U12 Mixed Gender Softball 2020 as follows:

Dates: 01 – 5 August 2020 (Check-in 31 July and check-out 06 August)

Place: Taichung, Taiwan.

8.5 Asia Cup Universities Women Softball 2020

8.5.1 Softball Association of Thailand (SBAT) Secretary General Mr. Phakpoom Sakulwong (Ali) informed that SBAT was interested to host the Asia Cup Universities Women Softball 2020 as follows:

Dates: November / December 2020 (Dates to be confirmed later).

Place: Kasetsart University in the campus near Bangkok, Thailand.

8.5.2 Korea Baseball Softball Association (KBSA) Vice President Ms. Kim Eun Young requested some time to check with the Korean authorities and sponsors on the



possibility of Korea hosting the tournament as it has been some time since Korea hosted any Asia Softball tournament.

8.6 Asia Cup Men & U23 Men Softball

The EXCO Members noted that there were no SA affiliate-members that had indicated willingness to host the Asia Cup Men Softball and the Asia Cup U23 Men Softball in 2020. Philippines and Malaysia were requested to look into the possibility of hosting.

9. ASIA SEMINARS

9.1 WBSC-Softball Asia Coaching Certification Seminar (Levels 1 & 2)

SA President Dato' LOW briefed the EXCO Members that WBSC Coaching Commission Chair Mr. Marco Mazzieri and SA Coaching Committee Chair Mr. Yutaka Miyake had agreed to work in collaboration to organise the first WBSC Coaching Certification Seminar. She commended them for their efforts and commitment as it was a challenge in view of differences in games philosophies and methodologies as well as approaches to the sport and coaching. She informed that the seminar would be conducted by a WBSC team of coaches as well as a team of coaches from Japan led by Mr. Miyake. She also thanked Japan Softball Association for their support and cooperation in the seminar, including to sponsor and pay for the air-travel of the team of coaches from Japan.

She informed that the coaching seminar would be held as follows:

Dates: 11 – 14 January 2020

Place: Penang, Malaysia.

9.2 WBSC-Softball Asia Baseball5 Joint Technical-Scorers-Umpires Seminar

The information on this Joint Baseball5 Technical-Scorers-Umpires Seminar is stated in para 8.2 above.

9.3 Other Softball Asia Seminars

SA President Dato' LOW informed the EXCO Members that the following Softball Asia Seminars were also being planned for 2020 and that affiliate-members would be updated in due course.

9.3.1 Technical Seminar

9.3.2 Scorers Seminar

9.3.3 Umpires Certification Seminar.

10. SOFTBALL ASIA BIENNIAL CONGRESS

10.1 By popular request, the EXCO Members unanimously approved for the 2020 Softball Asia Congress to be held in December 2020 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Further dates and information would be sent out in due course to all affiliate-members.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Asia Games Hangzhou 2022

11.1.1 SA President Dato' LOW was happy to inform that Women Softball (as well as Men Baseball) had been included on the sports programme (as a medal sport) for



the Asian Games in Hangzhou 2022. She recorded thanks to the Chinese Softball Association President Dr. YANG Xu and his team (as well as the BFA and Chinese Baseball officials), and the IOC Members from China for their committed efforts in making that possible.

11.1.2 She informed that she is working with partners and stakeholders on the inclusion of Women and Men Softball for the Asian Games in Nagoya in 2026.

11.2 Indonesia Baseball Softball President Mr. Andika Monoarfa

11.2.1 SA President Dato' LOW briefed the EXCO Members of the debt due and owing by Indonesia Baseball Softball Federation (IBSF) and IBSF President Mr. Andika Monoarfa as a result of their not fulfilling and keeping their agreement for payments for International Technical Officials (ITOs) per diem, lodging and meals during the Asia Cup Women 2019 held Jakarta, Indonesia in May 2019.

11.2.2 She informed that the debt was:

- USD5,000.00; as well as
- Indonesia IDR155,940,000.00 (about USD11,444.00).

11.2.3 She stated that despite letters of demand and show-cause notice being issued by SA to him, they have failed to respond or to make the necessary payments to SA.

11.2.4 She informed that SA did not take action earlier as any suspension of IBSF would have affected the eligibility of the Indonesia national softball teams from participating in the Asia-Oceania Olympic Softball Qualifier in Shanghai China in August 2019, and also the coming South East Asian Games in Clark Philippines in December 2019. She stated that SA did not want to penalize the athlete-players and deprive them from competition as they had trained hard for the tournaments, as that would have been unfair to the athlete-players.

11.2.5 There was an open discussion with several EXCO Members recommending for the stern action of as suspension of IBSF and its President. After some discussion, the EXCO Members agreed to form a Panel comprising of Ms. Taeko UTSUGI (Japan), Mr. Jean Henri LHUILLIER (Philippines) and Mr. Jimmy FONG Song Kuan (Hong Kong) as members, for the inquiry and hearing of the matter.

11.2.6 Pending the inquiry, the EXCO Members agreed for IBSF and IBSF President Mr. Andika Monoarfa to be suspended from all further SA events and activities.

11.3 Asia-Pacific Cup Softball tournament organised by Australia Softball

11.3.1 The EXCO Members as well as the representatives from Japan Softball Association, Chinese Softball Association and Chinese-Taipei Softball Association expressed regret that Australia Softball is again naming their tournament in February 2020, the "Asia Pacific Cup", and using the "Asia" name without SA's prior approval and that the tournament involved teams from outside the Asia and Pacific-Oceania region Australia had invited, namely, Italy and Mexico.

11.3.2 SA President Dato' LOW informed the EXCO Members that Australia Softball has yet to apply for sanction, and has not obtained WBSC sanction for the tournament. She informed that WBSC has asked SA whether SA agreed to the use of the name

“Asia” for the tournament, and that WBSC also asked Australia why the name was “Asia-Pacific” but it had teams from outside those regions participating.

11.3.3 China confirmed that it would not be participating in the tournament. After some discussion, the Japan and Chinese-Taipei teams confirmed that if Australia did not change the name of the tournament and not use “Asia” in the name, they would withdraw their participation.

11.3.4 Chinese-Taipei Secretary General CHANG stated that Asia and Oceania ought not to be put together to qualify for only one (1) slot in the Olympic Games whereas the Americas have two (2) slots. He stated that to put “Asia - Oceania” together was not favourable to both Asia and Oceania. He pointed out that for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, of the six (6) teams, three (3) are from Americas, namely, United States, Mexico and Canada; whereas Asia has no representative as Japan’s slot is as host and not as representative for Asia.

11.5 Baseball5 & Youth Olympic Games

SA President Dato’ LOW informed the EXCO Members that WBSC is making all efforts for the inclusion of Baseball5 in the Youth Olympic Games to be held next in Dakar – Senegal in 2022, and requested all to support the campaign.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other matters arising, the meeting was adjourned at 05.45 pm with a vote of thanks to the Chair of the meeting.

Minutes confirmed by:



DATO’ BENG CHOO LOW
President, Softball Asia

20 November 2019

(Minutes prepared by Ms. Sally LIM Swee Gaik, Secretary-General)