



SOFTBALL ASIA

# SOFTBALL ASIA

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## REPORT OF SA PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY-GENERAL (For period 01 December 2018 to 01 December 2020)

### 1. 05 DECEMBER 2018

#### 24<sup>TH</sup> SCA CONGRESS & ELECTIONS 2018: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The 24th SCA Congress and elections for the Softball Asia Executive Committee for the term December 2018 – 2022 were held on 05 December 2018 at Grand Millennium Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

1.1 Amongst the main items discussed and decided at the Congress were the following:

1.1.1 That the age category for the Asia Cup Men and Women Softball tournaments for 2019 would be changed from Under 18 to Under 17. This would enable the players from the qualified teams to be still eligible to represent their team in the respective World Cup U18 tournaments in 2020.

1.1.2 The following Asia Cup tournaments will serve as qualifiers for the respective World Cups 2020:

- (i) Asia Cup U17 Men Softball 2019 tournament will qualify the top 2 Asian teams for the World Cup U18 Men Softball 2020 tournament; and
- (ii) Asia Cup U17 Women Softball 2019 tournament will qualify the top 3 Asian teams for the World Cup U18 Women Softball 2020 tournament.

1.1.3 The following Softball Asia Seminars would be held:

- (i) WBSC-Softball Asia Baseball5 Coaching Seminar in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (Dates: 08 – 09 July 2019).
- (ii) WBSC-Softball Asia Technical, Scorers & Umpires Certification Seminars in Bangkok, Thailand (Dates: 20 – 24 July 2019).

1.2 The official results of the elections of the new Softball Asia EXCO for the term 2019 – 2022 were as follows:

Chairman:	Mr. PAN Yi Chuan	(TPE)
President:	Dato' LOW Beng Choo	(MAS)
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President:	Ms. Taeko UTSUGI	(JPN)
Vice President:	Ms. Susan ZHANG Xuan	(CHN)
Vice President:	Mr. Jimmy FONG Song Kuan	(HKG)
Vice President:	Ms. KIM Eun Young	(KOR)
Vice President:	Mr. Jean Henri LHUILLIER	(PHI)
Vice President:	Mr. Kosol YIMPAIBOON	(THA)
Secretary-General:	Ms. LIM Sally, Swee Gaik	(MAS)

Secretary-General: Mr. CHANG Chia Hsin (TPE) – Chairman’s Office

1.3 The following were appointed to serve Softball Asia:

Advisor: Mr. Hiromi TOKUDA (JPN)

The Minutes of the SA Congress 2018 and the President & Secretary General’s Report tournament is available on the Softball Asia website ([www.asiasoftball](http://www.asiasoftball.com)) at the following:

- [https://asiasoftball.com/download/congress/Minutes\\_Congress\\_2018.pdf](https://asiasoftball.com/download/congress/Minutes_Congress_2018.pdf)
- [https://asiasoftball.com/download/congress/President\\_Report\\_2018.pdf](https://asiasoftball.com/download/congress/President_Report_2018.pdf)

Softball Asia would like to thank the Softball Association of Malaysia and all SA affiliate-members for their support and assistance to enable Softball Asia to organise the Congress successfully.

## **2. 02 MARCH 2019**

### **OCA GENERAL ASSEMBLY: Bangkok, Thailand**

SA President LOW Beng Choo and SA Secretary-General LIM Sally, Swee Gaik. attended the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) General Assembly (GA) held in Bangkok on 02 March 2019.

It was unfortunate news when it was informed at the OCA GA that Baseball-Softball was not selected by the Organising Committee for the Asian Games Hangzhou 2022. SA President LOW Beng Choo took immediate steps to lobby for the inclusion of Baseball-Softball for the Asian Games and met many important officials on the matter, including the OCA President, OCA Executive Board members, officials from China and National Olympic Committees.

## **3. 23 MARCH – 01 APRIL 2019**

### **SOFTBALL ASIA LEVEL UMPIRE CERTIFICATION COURSE: Busan, Korea**

Korea Baseball Softball Association (KBSA) organised an Asian-level Umpires Certification Seminar from 23 March – 01 April, 2019 in Busan. Ms. Haruhi Goto (Japan) and Mr. Paulo Tabirara (Philippines) conducted the Seminar.

A total of 16 participants attended the Seminar, which served as a certification seminar for new umpires and re-certification for previously certified Softball Asia umpires, and the results were as follows:

#### **Passed Asia-level Umpire Certification**

1. Mr. Han, Sung Sik (Male)
2. Mr. Lee, Jong Soo (Male)
3. Mr. Kim, Tae Sub (Male)
4. Mr. Lee, Jun Ho (Male)
5. Mr. Nam, Youn Sung (Male)
6. Mr. Pi, Chung Hee (Male)
7. Ms. Cho, Hee Young (Female)

#### **Passed Re-Certification for Asia-level Umpire Certification**

1. Mr. Kim, Hyung Suk (Male)
2. Mr. Yoon, Wook (Male)

Softball Asia records its thanks to Ms. Haruhi Goto and Mr. Paulo Tabirara, as well as KBSA and their officials and staff, for the success of the Seminar.

**4. 01 – 07 MAY 2019  
ASIA CUP WOMEN SOFTBALL 2019: Jakarta, Indonesia**

The Asia Cup Women Softball 2019 tournament was held at the Gelora Senayan Softball Stadium in Jakarta, Indonesia from 01 to 07 May 2019, organised by Softball Asia, in collaboration with the Indonesia Baseball Softball Federation.

9 teams, namely, China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong-China, India, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, participated. The tournament was also the qualifier for the following World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) tournaments:

- 4.1 The top 6 teams (other than Japan) to participate in the WBSC Asia-Oceania Qualifier for the Tokyo Olympic Games 2020, which Qualifier was to be held in Shanghai from 24-28 September 2019.
- 4.2 The top 3 teams to represent Asia to participate in the WBSC World Cup Women Softball in 2021.

The final standings of the teams were as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Japan
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: China
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Chinese Taipei
- 4<sup>th</sup> Place: Philippines
- 5<sup>th</sup> Place: Korea
- 6<sup>th</sup> Place: Indonesia
- 7<sup>th</sup> Place: Hong Kong-China
- 8<sup>th</sup> Place: Thailand
- 9<sup>th</sup> Place: Singapore
- 10<sup>th</sup> Place: India

**China, Chinese Taipei, Philippines, Korea, Indonesia and Hong Kong-China** qualified to participate in the WBSC Asia-Oceania **Olympic Qualifier** in Shanghai.

**Japan, China and Chinese Taipei** qualified to participate in the WBSC World Cup **Women Softball 2021**.

The winners of the individual awards were as follows;

- Most Valuable Player: Eri Yamada
- Best Pitcher: Misaki Katsumata
- Best Hitter: Angelie Ursabia
- Best Slugger: Angelie Ursabia
- Most Stolen Bases: Mikiko Eguchi
- Most Runs Batted In (RBI): Chen, Chia Y

A more detailed Report on this Asia Cup Women Softball tournament is available on the Softball Asia website ([www.asiasoftball.com](http://www.asiasoftball.com)) at:

- <https://asiasoftball.com/2019/05/07/11th-asia-cup-women-softball-championship-jakarta-indonesia-2019/>

Unfortunately, Indonesia Baseball-Softball Federation (IBSF) and IBSF President Andika Monoarfa did not fulfil their agreement and commitment to pay for some of the costs and expenses for the officials who served in the tournament and Softball Asia had to pay for them. The debt remains due and owing by them to Softball Asia.

Softball Asia would like to thank Mizuno for providing the competition balls, and the officials and volunteers who served at the tournament despite the shortcomings of the host organiser, to make the tournament a success.

**5. 12 JUNE 2019  
WBSC-ASIA BASEBALL5 COMMISSION**

Baseball Federation Asia (BFA) and Softball Asia (SA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the joint formation of the WBSC-Asia and WBSC-Asia Baseball5 Commission for the joint promotion and development of WBSC's new urban-style discipline of Baseball5. Both agreed to open Baseball5 events and activities to all BFA and SA affiliate-members of all Baseball, Softball and Baseball-Softball national federations/organisations in Asia.

Under the MOU, it was agreed that:

- 5.1 BFA and SA agreed and acknowledged that nothing in the MOU shall affect or diminish the following, and each shall respect and comply with the following:
  - (i) BFA's sole authority on and governance of Baseball and all its related activities and events in Asia and its member-affiliates.
  - (ii) SA's sole authority and governance of Softball and all its related activities and events in Asia and its member-affiliates.
- 5.2 The WBSC-Asia Baseball5 Commission will comprise of the following officials:
  - (i) One (1) Chairman to be mutually agreed upon between BFA and SBA;
  - (ii) Two (2) officials elected/appointed by BFA; and
  - (iii) Two (2) officials elected/appointed by SBA.

Under the WBSC rules and regulations, each country/territory may have only one (1) team representing that country/territory. As such, in countries/territories where there are separate Baseball and Softball National Federations (NFs), those separate NFs would be required to cooperate and work together to jointly form one (1) joint national team.

The current Chair of the Commission as agreed between BFA and SA is the SA President LOW Beng Choo, with Ms. Hiroko Yamada as the BFA representative, as Co-Chair. The Commission, in collaboration with Softball Asia, is looking into organising the first Asia Cup Baseball5 tournaments as qualifiers for the Asian teams to participate in the WBSC World Cups for Baseball5.

**6. 08 & 09 JULY 2019 – KUALA LUMPUR - KLANG  
WBSC-ASIA BASEBALL5 COACHING CLINIC: Kuala Lumpur/Klang, Malaysia**

Softball Asia, with the support of WBSC, and in collaboration with Softball

Association of Malaysia, held the inaugural BB5 Coaching Clinic for Asia in Kuala Lumpur/Klang, Malaysia, on 08 – 09 July 2019, to introduce WBSC's new discipline of Baseball5. The 3 Course Conductors provided by WBSC were:

- Mr. Liu Ran (China) (funded by WBSC)
- Ms. Ayako Rokkaku (Japan) (funded by WBSC)
- Mr. Itsarapong Oyaree (Thailand) (funded by Softball Asia)

62 participants, mostly teachers, (50 male & 12 female) attended the Clinic to learn about Baseball5. Most of the participants were from Malaysia, with 2 from Pakistan and 1 from Singapore. The participants also included 2 from Vietnam (not a BFA or SA affiliate-member) by special invitation. It was a very successful Seminar as the participants learnt the rules of the Baseball5 and how to play it – anywhere (on any surface) and at anytime.

Softball Asia would like to extend our thanks to WBSC for its support, the Clinic Conductors for their contribution, and Softball Association of Malaysia for the joint collaboration and co-hosting the Clinic with Softball Asia and the WBSC-Asia Baseball5 Commission.

**7. 20 – 28 JULY 2019  
WBSC-SOFTBALL ASIA TECHNICAL, SCORERS, CHIEF UMPIRES & UMPIRES SEMINARS: Bangkok, Thailand**

The following Seminars were successfully organised by Softball Asia, with the support of WBSC, and in collaboration Softball Association of Thailand (SBAT) at the Saem Palm Training Hotel and Kasetsart University in Kamphaeng (Bangkok). Thailand:

**7.1 WBSC-Softball Asia Technical Commission Seminar**

**Dates: 20 – 22 July 2019**

**Number of Participants: 12 (3 females and 9 male)**

12 participants attended the above course (1 each from Hong Kong-China, India and Korea, 5 from Malaysia and 4 from Thailand). The participants learnt of the role, duties and responsibilities of the Technical Commission. The TC is the core coordinator between all the tournament officials; from scorers, umpires, secretariat to local organising committee and field officials, as well as broadcast and media personnel; to ensure that all aspects of the tournament run smoothly and efficiently.

The Seminar was conducted by Mr. Chet Gray (Australia) who is the Secretary General of the WBSC-Oceania and has vast experience as Technical Commissioner of international baseball and softball tournaments, including WBSC World Cup Softball tournaments.

**7.2 WBSC-Softball Asia Scorers Seminar**

**Dates: 20 – 22 July 2019**

**Number of Participants: 35 (23 females and 12 males)**

There was great interest in this Scoring Seminar, with participation limited to 35 participants (1 each from Japan, Pakistan and Singapore, 6 from Chinese-Taipei, 2 from Hong Kong-China, 24 from Thailand). The participants learnt of the new revamped electronic scoring system of the WBSC for Baseball and Softball, which WBSC would be making available to all its members, with a view of

standardisation of scoring for Baseball as well as Softball.

The Seminar was conducted by Ms. Jennie Moloney (Australia) who has vast experience as a scorer and statistician at international baseball and softball tournaments, including WBSC Baseball and Softball World Cups.

### **7.3 WBSC-Softball Chief Umpires-Umpires in Chief Seminar**

**Dates: 21 – 23 July 2019**

**Number of Participants: 11 (2 females and 9 males)**

11 WBSC/Asia certified senior umpires attended this seminar (1 each from Hong Kong-China and Malaysia, 2 from Chinese-Taipei, 3 from Singapore and 4 from Thailand). The objective of the seminar for these senior umpires was to learn of the role, duties and responsibilities of a chief umpire or umpire-in-chief of a tournament, as well as that of an evaluator of and instructor for umpires.

The seminar was conducted by Mr. Bob Stanton (Canada), the Chief Umpire and Director of Umpires for softball in WBSC, who has vast experience at international softball tournament, including the WBSC World Cups. and in-depth knowledge of the Rules of Softball.

### **7.4 Softball Asia Umpires Certification Seminar**

**Dates: 21 – 24 July 2019 (Theory & Written Test)**

**25 – 28 July 2019 (Practical/Field Assessment)**

**Number of Participants: 20 (All male)**

20 participants attended the Softball Asia Umpires Certification Seminar (1 each from Brunei and Malaysia, 2 each from Chinese-Taipei, Pakistan and Singapore and 12 from Thailand). The Seminar provided nationally certified umpires to improve their knowledge and shared-experience in the latest Rules of Softball and an opportunity to undergo a written examination and practical field assessment to enable those who pass to obtain certification as Softball Asia umpires. This would enable them to be eligible to serve as umpires in Softball Asia's Asia Cups.

The participants took the written examination on 24 July 2019, and had to undergo the practical field-actual tournament assessment from 25 – 28 July 2019, in conjunction with the Thailand Open Softball (Men and Women) Championship held at the Kasetsart University Softball Arena.

The Seminar was jointly conducted by Mr. Rosli Ismail, who is a WBSC-certified umpire and the Chief Umpire of Malaysia; and Mr. Paulo Tabirara, who is also a WBSC-certified umpire and the Chief Umpire of Philippines.

It was a first for Softball Asia and a milestone for development of softball in the continent of Asia when 4 courses – technical commissioners, umpire in chief, umpire certification and scorers – were held simultaneously and in one (1) venue. It also allowed the officials in different roles to share and exchange experience and knowledge.

Softball Asia extends its thanks to WBSC for its support, Softball Association of Thailand and Sports Authority of Thailand for having worked closely with Softball Asia in making these Seminars a huge success, with the excellent facilities at the Saen Palm Training Home.

It was noted that there were participants from Chinese-Taipei, Pakistan, Singapore, Hong Kong-China, Korea, India, Malaysia and host Thailand. Softball Asia hopes more federations in Asia should take the opportunity to send their candidates for future courses.

**8. 22 – 24 AUGUST 2019**

**SOFTBALL COACHING CLINIC FOR PAKISTAN: Karachi, Pakistan**

Softball Asia, with the support of the WBSC, upon the request and with the cooperation of the Softball Federation of Pakistan (SFP), organised the first ever Softball Coaching Clinic for Pakistan, at the Karachi Gymkhana in Karachi, from 22 – 24 August 2019.

The Clinic was conducted by the following coach-instructors to teach the basic softball coaching skills to more than 50 participants from the different regions of Pakistan:

- Mr. Michael Alan Renney (Canada) (funded by WBSC)
- Ms. Nor Hajah Abd. Hamid (Malaysia) (funded by Softball Asia)
- Mr. Hanafi bin Mohd. Yassin (Malaysia) (funded by WBSC).

The participants had classroom-style theory presentations relating to coaching skills, such as on the roles and responsibilities of a good coach, planning & executing successful effective coaching for teams; as well as on-field practical-practices on basic softball skills, such as pitching & catcher's skills, batting & bunting, catching, throwing, base-running, game strategy, sliding. There was great interest not only from the participants, but also the local media.

**9. 08 – 12 SEPTEMBER 2019**

**ASIA CUP U-17 MEN SOFTBALL 2019: Johor Bahru/Skudai, Malaysia**

The Asia Cup U17 Men Softball 2019 tournament was organised by Softball Asia in Johor Bahru/Skudai, Malaysia, with less than 3 months' notice after Singapore withdrew from hosting it. Softball Association of Malaysia and the local organising committee (namely, the Johor-state Softball Association) gave support in the organisation. It was held at the University of Technology sports grounds (which were converted into 2 softball competition fields), in Johore Bahru/Skudai, Malaysia from 08 to 12 September 2010.

6 teams participated, namely, India, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines and Thailand. The tournament also served as a qualifier, to qualify the top 2 teams from Asia to participate in the World Cup U18 Men Softball 2020.

The final standings of the teams were as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Japan
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Singapore
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: India
- 4<sup>th</sup> Place: Philippines
- 5<sup>th</sup> Place: Malaysia
- 6<sup>th</sup> Place: Thailand

The winners of the individual awards were as follows:

- Most Valuable Player: Rui Mimoto (Japan)
- Best Pitcher: Takuro Inagaki (Japan)
- Best Batter: Hitto Nagayoshi (Japan)
- Best Slugger: Ibuki Inishi (Japan)
- Most Stolen Bases: Ignatius Ong Qi Zhi (Singapore)

**Japan and Singapore** qualified to participate in the **World Cup U18 Men Softball 2020**, to be held in Palmerston North, New Zealand.

A more detailed Report on this Asia Cup U17 Men Softball tournament is available on the Softball Asia website ([www.asiasoftball.com](http://www.asiasoftball.com)) at:

- <https://asiasoftball.com/2019/09/12/u17-mens-softball-asia-cup-johor-bahru-malaysia-2019/>

Softball Asia would like to thank Mizuno for providing the competition balls and Softball Association of Malaysia as well as Johor Softball Association, and all officials and volunteers for support and assistance in organising the event successfully.

#### **10. 05 – 09 NOVEMBER 2019**

##### **ASIA CUP U-17 WOMEN SOFTBALL 2019**

##### **Yilong Baseball/Softball Stadium, Guizhou, China**

The Asia Cup U17 Women Softball 2019 tournament was organised by Chinese Softball Association (CSA) in collaboration with Softball Asia (SA) in Yilong, Guizhou, China. CSA had the support of the joint local organizing committee consisting of the Sport Administration of Guizhou Province and Yilong District Management Committee.

8 teams participated, namely, China A, China B, India, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Chinese Taipei and Thailand. The tournament also served as a qualifier, to qualify the top 3 teams from Asia to participate in the World Cup U18 Women Softball 2020 in Peru. CSA was permitted to field 2 teams, namely, China A and China B, to make up 8 teams for 2 groups of 4 teams each for the preliminary round competition, with the games played against China B, not taken into consideration in the ranking of the teams.

SA adopted WBSC's format of a preliminary round consisting of Group A (4 Teams) and Group B (4 Teams), with the teams within each group playing a single-round robin preliminary round competition. The 2 top teams of each group then advanced to the Super Round - single round competition, but those teams from the same group that played each other in the preliminary round not having to play again against each other in the Super Round. The top 3 teams at the end of the Super Round competition qualified to participate in the WBSC World Cup U18 Women Softball to be held in Lima, Peru.

The final standings of the teams were as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Japan
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Chinese Taipei
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: China
- 4<sup>th</sup> Place: Philippines
- 5<sup>th</sup> Place: Korea



- 6<sup>th</sup> Place: India
- 7<sup>th</sup> Place: Thailand

The winners of the individual awards were as follows:

- Most Valuable Player: Takahashi Mairi (Japan)
- Best Pitcher: Hsia Ai Ke (Chinese Taipei)
- Best Batter: Takahashi Mairi (Japan)
- Most RBI: Ikegami Momoka (Japan)

**Japan, Chinese Taipei and China qualified** to participate in the **WBSC World Cup U18 Women Softball 2020**, to be held in Peru.

A more detailed Report on this Asia Cup U17 Women Softball tournament is available on the Softball Asia website ([www.asiasoftball.com](http://www.asiasoftball.com)). At:

- <https://asiasoftball.com/2019/11/09/asia-cup-junior-women-softball-under-17-guizhou-china-2019-2/>

Softball Asia would like to thank Mizuno for providing the competition balls and Chinese Softball Association, and all officials and volunteers for support and assistance in organising the event successfully.

#### **10.1 Softball Asia Umpires Re-Certification Examination**

**Dates: 04 November 2019 (Written Test)**

**05 – 09 November 2019 (Practical/Field Assessment)**

**Number of Participants: 4 (3 male, 1 female)**

At the request of CSA, Softball Asia held an Umpires Re-certification Examination for 4 umpires from CSA, whose certification in 2016, would expire in 2020. They had to sit for a written test followed by field assessment.

The participants took the written examination on 04 November and had to undergo the practical field-actual tournament assessment from 05 – 09 November, in conjunction with the Asia Cup U17 Women Championship held at Yilong Baseball/Softball Stadium.

The Recertification Exam was jointly conducted by Mr. Rosli Ismail, who is a WBSC-certified umpire and the Chief Umpire of Malaysia; and Mr. Paulo Tabirara, who is also a WBSC-certified umpire and the Chief Umpire of Philippines.

Softball Asia would like to thank Mr. Rosli Ismail and Mr. Paulo Tabirara for their services in conducting the re-certification successfully.

#### **11. 20 NOVEMBER 2019**

**SOFTBALL ASIA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EXCO) MEETING: Sakai, Japan**

In view of most Softball Asia Executive Committee (EXCO) members being present for the WBSC Congress 2019 in Sakai, Japan, and to save costs and travel-time to hold a separate meeting at another time and elsewhere, the SA EXCO took the opportunity to hold its SA EXCO Meeting on 20 November 2019 at the WBSC Congress venue, namely, the Agora Hotel, Sakai, Japan.

Amongst the main items discussed and decided at the SA EXCO Meeting were the following:

11.1 The appointment of the following as Chairs and Members of the following SA Committees:

11.1.1 **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)

11.1.2 **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)

11.1.3 **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)

11.1.4 **Technical & Competition Committee**

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

11.1.5 **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)

11.2 The EXCO 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.

11.3 The EXCO ratified:

11.3.1 The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between Baseball Federation of Asia (BFA) and SA and the establishment of the WBSC-Asia Baseball5 Commission under the MOU.

11.3.2 The appointment of SA President LOW Beng Choo as the Chair of the WBSC-Asia Baseball5 Commission as agreed between BFA and SA, and the composition of that Commission as follows:

**WBSC-Asia Baseball5 Commission**

Chair: Dato' (Ms) Low Beng Choo (SA)

Co-chair: Ms. Hiroko Yamada (BFA)

Members: 2 representatives from BFA  
2 representatives from SA

11.3.3 WBSC-Asia Baseball5 Commission, through SA, would organise the Asia Cup for Baseball5 as a qualifier for the WBSC World Cup Baseball5 tournaments, and the Asia Baseball5 Technical/Umpires/Scorers seminars.

11.4 The EXCO agreed and decided that all future Asia Cup tournaments would use the same age category as the WBSC, that are, U12, U15, U18 and U23.

11.5 The EXCO discussed and agreed on the SA Calendar of tournaments and events/activities for 2020, which include the following:

11.5.1 Asia Cup Baseball5 (Open & U15 categories)

11.5.2 Asia Cup U15 Women Softball

11.5.3 Asia Cup U12 Mixed Gender Softball

11.5.4 Asia Cup Asian Universities Women Softball

11.5.5 Asia Cup U23 Men Softball

11.5.6 Asia Cup Men Softball

11.5.7 Softball Coaching seminars

11.5.8 Technical, Umpires Certification, and Scorers Seminars for Softball.

11.6 The EXCO were happy to note the inclusion of Women Softball and Men Baseball in the sports programme (as medal sports) of the Hangzhou Asian Games 2022, and thanked the Chinese Softball Association, Chinese Baseball Association and all others who worked hard for the inclusion.

11.7 The EXCO noted the debt (USD5,000 plus Indonesia Rupiah IDR155,940,000.00 – about USD11,444.00) still due and owing by Indonesia Baseball Softball Federation (IBSF) and IBSF President Andika Monoarfa to Softball Asia for costs and expenses that they failed to pay for the hosting and organising of the Asia Cup Women Softball in May 2019 in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The Minutes of this SA EXCO Meeting held on 20 November 2019 and the President & Secretary General's Report tabled at that EXCO Meeting is available on the Softball Asia website ([www.asiasoftball](http://www.asiasoftball)) at the following:

- [https://asiasoftball.com/download/meeting/excomtg\\_1\\_2018.pdf](https://asiasoftball.com/download/meeting/excomtg_1_2018.pdf)
- [https://asiasoftball.com/download/report/pres\\_secgen\\_Report\\_Dec2018\\_Oct2019.pdf](https://asiasoftball.com/download/report/pres_secgen_Report_Dec2018_Oct2019.pdf)

## 12. **20 NOVEMBER 2019**

### **WBSC-ASIA BASEBALL5 COMMISSION MEETING: Sakai, Japan**

In conjunction with the WBSC Congress 2019, the WBSC-Asia Commission for Baseball5, with the support and cooperation of the WBSC Baseball Federation of Asia (BFA) and Softball Asia (SA), held a meeting with all the affiliate-members of BFA and SA. The Meeting was chaired by SA President LOW Beng Choo, who is also the Chair of that Commission. Amongst the important matters discussed were:

12.1 Baseball5 was open to all National Federations (NFs) of Baseball and Softball. When there are separate NFs for Baseball and Softball in any one (1) country-territory, the separate NFs would have to cooperate and work together to select only one (1) national team to represent that country/territory. Under the WBSC rules, each country/territory may send only one (1) national team to participate at the WBSC and Asian Baseball5 tournaments.

12.2 Asia would be organising the Asia Cups for Baseball5 as qualifier tournaments to select the Asian teams eligible to participate in the WBSC World Cups scheduled to be held in 2020.

### **13. 21 NOVEMBER 2019**

#### **WBSC CONGRESS 2019: Sakai, Japan**

The WBSC held its 2019 Congress on 21 November 2019 in Sakai, Japan. SA Secretary General LIM, Sally Swee Gaik represented Softball Asia at that Congress. For more details on the WBSC Congress, please refer to the WBSC website.

### **14. 02 – 08 DECEMBER 2019**

#### **30<sup>TH</sup> SOUTH EAST ASIAN (SEA) GAMES: The Villages, Clark, Pampanga, Philippines**

Both Men and Women Softball were included on the sports programme (as medal sports) by the organisers of the 30<sup>th</sup> South East Asian (SEA) Games 2019 held in Clark – Pampanga, Philippines. Both Men and Women Softball tournaments were held from 02 to 08 December 2019, at the Villages, Clark, Pampanga, Philippines.

4 teams, namely, Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, participated in the Men Softball tournament. 5 teams, namely, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, participated in the Women Softball tournaments. To be eligible to participate in the tournaments, the respective National Federations had to obtain the approval and endorsement of their respective National Olympic Committee (NOC) as the SEA Games is a multi-sports event under the authority of the NOCs.

The final standings of the teams were as follows:

#### **Women Softball**

Gold medal:	Philippines
Silver medal:	Indonesia
Bronze medal:	Malaysia
4 <sup>th</sup> Placing:	Singapore
5 <sup>th</sup> Placing:	Thailand

The Malaysia Women Softball team won its first ever medal, bronze, in Women Softball tournament at the SEA Games.

### **Men Softball**

Gold medal:	Singapore
Silver medal:	Philippines
Bronze medal:	Indonesia
4 <sup>th</sup> Placing:	Thailand

The Singapore Men Softball team caused a major upset by beating the Philippines for Singapore's first ever gold medal in the Men Softball tournament at the SEA Games.

For more details Report on this Men and Women Softball tournaments in the 30<sup>th</sup> SEA Games 2019, please refer to the media reports available on the Softball Asia website ([www.asiasoftball.com](http://www.asiasoftball.com)) at:

- <https://asiasoftball.com/2019/12/11/sea-games-philippines-2019/>

Softball Asia would like to thank Mizuno for providing the competition balls, and the local organising committee of the 30<sup>th</sup> SEA Games Philippines 2019, the Amateur Softball Association of Philippines, and all officials and volunteers for support and assistance in organising the event successfully.

## **15. 11 – 14 JANUARY 2020**

### **WBSC-SOFTBALL ASIA COACHING CERTIFICATION SEMINAR (LEVEL 1 & LEVEL 2) – Penang, Malaysia**

Softball Asia, through the SA Coaching Committee, in collaboration with the WBSC, through the WBSC Coaching Commission, with the support of the Japan Softball Association (JSA), and the assistance of the Softball Association of Malaysia (SAM) and Penang-state Softball Association (PSA), organised a joint WBSC-Asia Coaching Certification (Levels 1 & 2) Seminar in Penang, Malaysia, from 11 to 14 January 2020.

It was a first ever certification seminar for coaches for both the WBSC and SA. The WBSC Coaching Commission sent 2 instructors, namely Mr. Andrea D'Auria (Italy) and Ms. Kyla Holas (USA). The JSA funded and sent a team of the following 4 coach-instructors:

Head of Team: Mr. Yutake Miyake (SA Coaching Committee Chair)  
Team Members: 1. Mr. Toshihiro Kuriyama  
2. Mr. Hirotaka Kadomatsu  
3. Mr. Subaru Takahashi

As it was a Certification Seminar, it was open only to coaches with some coaching experience of the SA affiliate-members. A total of 64 participants (57 male, 7 female) took part in the Seminar.

The JSA team worked hard to prepare a written reference-text for the Seminar participants. The syllables included "role of a coach", "fundamental & basic skills in softball" such as batting, throwing, base-running, pitching, planning offensive and defensive strategies. The participants were also introduced to Baseball5 and Mini Baseball.

For the purpose of obtaining official certification, all participants had to undergo practical field sessions, and at the end of the Seminar, sat for a written examination. The results:

- 23 passed WBSC Level 2 Coaching Certification (22 male, 1 female)
- 41 passed WBSC Level 1 Coaching Certification (35 male, 6 female).

SA would like to extend its thanks to the WBSC, JSA, SAM and PSA, and all officials and volunteers for support and contribution to this very successful Seminar.

**16. JULY 2020**  
**REVAMP OF SOFTBALL ASIA WEBSITE**

With the cancellation of many physical activities, including events and activities of Softball Asia and its affiliate-members, Softball Asia revamped its website as an important tool and source of connectivity. The information from the old website were updated and migrated to the new-look Softball Asia website, which may be viewed at <https://asiasoftball.com/>.

SA affiliate-members are encouraged to send in regular reports on their respective events and activities, as well as any related news for posting on the Softball Asia website.

**17. 14 OCTOBER 2020 – 10.00AM**  
**2<sup>ND</sup> SA EXCO MEETING (2/2018-2020): Online Video-conference via ZOOM**

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic that resulted in many movement restrictions on international travels and mandatory quarantine requirements imposed by many governmental authorities, Softball Asia held its first ever online EXCO Meeting via Zoom, on 14 October 2020 for the SA EXCO to obtain a better insight to the effects on the pandemic on Softball events and activities in Asia, and to plan for the SA for 2021. The WBSC lent its technical support through the WBSC executive, Ms. Aki Huang.

Unfortunately, the SA Chairman, Mr. PAN Yi Chuan could not join the Meeting but he sent his welcome speech by way of a video pre-recording. Amongst the matters discussed were:

- 17.1 The approval of a joint Softball Asia – Japan Softball Association (SA-JSA) project for a series of Coaching Webinars for Asian coaches. The project would be led by SA Coaching Chair, Mr. Yutaka Miyake (who is also JSA's new President) and his team of 3 other coaches (namely, Mr. Toshihiro Kuriyama, Mr. Hirotaka Kadomatsu and Mr. Subaru Takahashi), who were the team of coaches funded by JSA to co-conduct the WBSC-Asian Coaching Certification Seminar held in Penang, Malaysia in January 2020.
- 17.2 The postponement of all Asia Cups for the rest of the year of 2020, until there is more certainty and control of the pandemic situation for further planning. The SA EXCO noted the postponements of the WBSC World Cups which were scheduled for 2020, namely, the U18 Women Softball World Cup (Lima, Peru), U23 Men Softball World Cup, U15 Women Softball World Cup, and Men Softball World Cup.
- 17.3 The close cooperation and communication between the Chinese Softball Association (CSA) and the Local Organising Committee of the Hangzhou Asian Games in 2022, and the good progress of works and preparations for the

construction of the new Baseball-Softball competition venues.

The Minutes of this online SA EXCO Meeting held on 14 October 2020 is available on the Softball Asia website (www.asiasoftball) at:

- [https://asiasoftball.com/download/meeting/excomtg\\_2\\_2018.pdf](https://asiasoftball.com/download/meeting/excomtg_2_2018.pdf)

## 18. **CONCLUSION**

The year 2020 has indeed been very uncertain with the global Covid-19 pandemic bringing with its unprecedented challenges. Softball Asia records its appreciation to the WBSC and all its affiliate-members, as well as all athletes, officials, staff and volunteers, for the continued support and cooperation to do their best to ensure that Softball in Asia, regionally and nationally at various local levels, prevailed within the many restrictions and standard operating procedures, whilst ensuring everyone's welfare, safety and well-being.

We thank Mizuno for continuing to support Softball Asia with its iconic band of balls and attire, for our tournaments.

We also thank the National Federations who stepped forward to host our Asia Cup tournaments. It has always been challenging for Softball Asia to find hosts for our events and activities. We hope to have the continued support.

We hope that all Softball Asia affiliate-members, and all our athletes, officials, volunteers and supporters will continue to persevere to promote and develop Softball in Asia and globally effectively, and to continue with the Asia unity and harmony.

We wish everyone and families and loved ones will all continue to take good care, and stay well, healthy and safe – things will get better and we will prevail.

**Report by:**



**(LOW Beng Choo)**  
**President, Softball Asia**



**(LIM, Sally, Swee Gaik)**  
**Secretary General, Softball Asia**

**Date: 06 December 2020**

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