



SOFTBALL ASIA

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REPORT OF SA PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY-GENERAL (For period 1 December 2018 to 31 October 2019)

1. **05 DECEMBER 2018**

24TH 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 5 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 competitions 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 competitions in 2020.

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

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

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 for the term 2019 – 2022 and the new Softball Asia EXCO 2019 – 2022 as follows:

Chairman:	Mr. PAN Yi Chuan (TPE)
President:	Dato'LOW Beng Choo (MAS)
1 st 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. Sally LIM Swee Gaik (MAS)
Secretary-General:	Mr. CHANG Chia Hsing (TPE) – Chairman's Office

1.3 The following were appointed to serve Softball Asia:

2. 02 MARCH 2019**OCA GENERAL ASSEMBLY – Bangkok, Thailand**

SA President Beng Choo Low and SA Secretary-General Sally Lim 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 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 – 1 APRIL 2019**SOFTBALL ASIA LEVEL UMPIRE CERTIFICATION COURSE: Busan, Korea**

Korea Baseball Softball Association (KBSA) organised an Asian-level Umpires Certification Seminar from 23 – 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 recertification 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 & Mr. Paulo Tabirara, and KBSA for the success of the Seminar.

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

9 teams, namely, China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, participated in the Asia Cup Women Softball 2019 which was held at Jakarta, Indonesia. The competition was also the qualifier for the following World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) competitions:

- 4.1 The top 6 teams (other than Japan) to participate in the WBSC Asia-Oceania Tokyo Olympic Games 2020 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 to be held in 2021.

The final standings of the teams were as follows:

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

China, Chinese Taipei, Philippines, Korea, Indonesia and Hong Kong 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: Missaka Katsumata
- Best Hitter: Angelie Ursabia
- Best Slugger: Angelie Ursabia
- Most Stolen Bases: Mikiko Eguchi
- Most Runs Batted in (RBI): Chen, Chia Y

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 competition and Softball Asia had to settle 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 who served at the competition despite the shortcomings of the host Organiser to make the competition a success.

5. 8 & 9 JULY 2019 – KLANG

BASEBALL5 COACHING CLINIC: Kuala Lumpur/Klang, Malaysia

Softball Asia, with the support of WBSC, and in collaboration with Softball Assiciuation of Malaysia, held the inaugural BB5 Coaching Clinic for Asia in Kuala Lumpur/Klang, Malaysia, on 08 – 09 July 2019, to introduce the new event of Baseball5. The 3 Course Conductors provided by WBSC were:

- Mr. Liu Ran (China)
- Ms. Ayako Rokkaku (Japan)
- Mr. Itsarapong Oyaree (Thailand)

62 participants, mostly teachers, (50 male & 12 female) attended the Clinic to learn about Baseball5. Asian participants included 2 from Vietnam, 2 from Pakistan and 1 from Singapore. It was a very successful Seminar as the participants learnt the rules of the event and how to play it – anywhere (on any surface) and 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 hosting the Clinic.

6. 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 (SAT) at the Saem Palm Training Hotel and Kasetsart University in Kamphaeng (Bangkok). Thailand:

6.1 WBSC-Softball Asia Technical Commission Seminar

Dates: 20 – 22 July 2019

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

12 participants attended the course (1 each from Hong Kong, 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 competitions.

6.2 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, 24 from Thailand). The participants learnt of the new revamped 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.

6.3 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 and Malaysia, 2 from Chinese-Taipei, 3 from Singapore and 4 from Thailand). The objective of the seminar for these senior umpires was learn the role, duties and responsibilities of a chief umpire or umpire-in-chief of a tournament and functions as 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.

6.4 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 and had to undergo the practical field-actual competition assessment from 25 – 28 July, 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 WBCS-certified umpire and the Chief Umpire of Philippines.

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

Softball Asia extends its heartfelt 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 excellent training facilities at the Saen Palm Training Home. While there was participation from Chinese-Taipei, Pakistan and Singapore, Hong Kong, Korea, India, Malaysia and host Thailand, Softball Asia hopes more federations in Asia would take the opportunity to send their candidates for future courses.

7. 08 – 12 SEPTEMBER 2019

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

The Asia Cup U17 Men Softball 2019 competition 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, state Johor Softball Association supported in the organisation. 6 teams participated, namely, India, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines and Thailand. The competition 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:

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

The winners of the individual awards were as follows:

- Most Valuable Player: Rui Mimoto (Japan)
- Best Pitcher: Takuro Ingaki (Japan)
- Best Batter: Hitto Nagayoshi (Japan)
- Best Slugger: Ibuki Inoshi (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.

Softball Asia would like to thank Mizuno for providing the competition balls and Softball Association of Malaysia as well as Johor Softball Association for assistance in organising the event and for its success.
