



Asian Chess Journal

Asian Chess Federation Magazine * February 2025



Asian Chess Federation Executive Board meeting

9 February 2025



Asian Chess Federation president Sheikh Sultan bin Khalifah Al Nahyan (top row, second from left) chaired the first quarterly meeting of the ACF Executive Board held online 9th February 2025.

Attending the meeting were President Sheikh Sultan bin Khalifah Al Nahyan (UAE), Deputy President Bharat Singh (IND), General Secretary Hisham Al Taher (UAE), Treasurer Sahapol Nakvanich (THA), Vice President for North/Central Asia GM Dermen Sadvakasov (KAZ), Vice President for South Asia Luxman Wijesuriya (SRI), Vice President for West Asia Othman Al Qasabi (KSA), Vice President for Oceania Gary Wastell (AUS), Zone 3.1 President Dhafer Madhloom (IRQ), Zone 3.2 President Syed Shahab Uddin Shamim (BAN), Zone 3.4 President Hussein Turdialiev (UZB), Zone 3.6 President Shaun Press (PNG),

Zone 3.8 Representative Artem Pugachev (RUS), Executive Director Casto Abundo (PHI) and FIDE Continental Advisor for Asia Sami Khader (JOR).

The Executive Board confirmed the Asian Calendar for 2025.

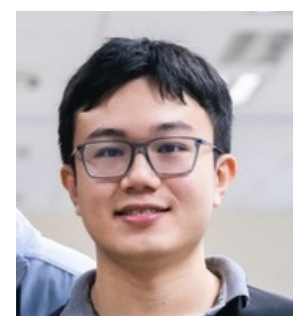
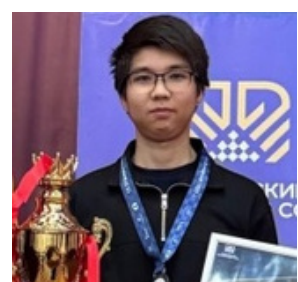
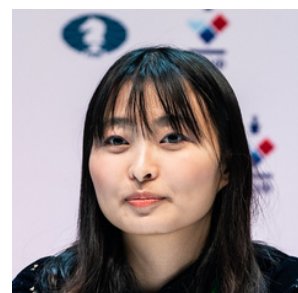
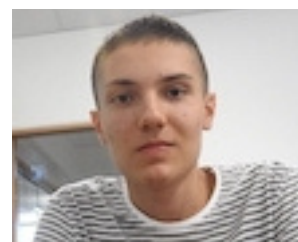
Executive Board confirmed the ACF President's appointment of Dr. Ismaeil Alkhoury (UAE) as Assistant General Secretary for West Asia.

Executive Board approved nominations to the World Cup Under 8, 10, 12 scheduled 22 June to 3 July 2025 in Batumi, Georgia. Executive Board resolved that from 2026 the organizer of the Asian Individual Championship shall have priority to bid for the Asian Youth Chess Championship.

CONTENTS



- 1** First Quarter ACF Executive Board Meeting
- 3** \$80,000 Asian Individual Chess Championship
- 4** Oceania Zone 3.6 Zonal Chess Championship
- 5** Tolerance Games - Asian Chess Women's Contest
- 6** FIDE Infinite Project in Abu Dhabi
- 7** 2025 FIDE Women's World Championship Match
- 8** FIDE Grand Swiss Slated 3-15 Sept. in Uzbekistan
- 9** ACF Holds FIDE International Organizers' Seminar
- 10** 178th FIDE Arbiters' Seminar (Arabic)
- 11** FIDE Arbiters' Seminar (Russian) in Uzbekistan
- 12** 172nd FIDE Arbiters' Seminar (English)
- 13** FIDE Rapid and Blitz Championship in Qatar
- 14** Asian Mind Sports Association Formed
- 15** Oceania Chess Confederation Meeting
- 16** Kyrgyzstan National Chess Championships
- 17** Tin Jingyao, Gong Qianyun win in Singapore
- 18** New Zealand Chess Congress
- 19** Pakistan Youth Chess Championship



Road to the World Cup

\$80,000 Asian Individual Chess Championship 6-16 May 2025 in Al Ain

The 2025 Asian Individual Chess Championship is more than just a tournament—it's a gateway to the FIDE World Cup, where the world's best players compete on the global stage. Be ready to take the challenge and claim your place among the elite!



Top 10 men qualify into the FIDE World Cup

Hosted at the luxurious 5-star Danat Hotel & Resorts, providing world-class hospitality.

Top 2 women secure their spots in the Women's World Cup

Professional tournament setup ensuring the best playing experience.

The UAE Chess Federation and Al Ain Chess and Mind Games Club on behalf of the Asian Chess Federation and FIDE invite Asian National Federations to participate in the Asian Individual Chess Championships (Open and Women's) from 6th (arrival) to 16th May (departure) 2025 in Al Ain, UAE. Total prize fund is \$80,000 for Men and Women. Visit asianchess.com

Place	Men	Women	Blitz Men	Blitz Women
1st	\$10,000	\$7,000	\$2,500	\$1,500
2nd	\$8,000	\$6,000	\$1,500	\$1,000
3rd	\$6,000	\$5,000	\$1,000	\$500
4th	\$5,000	\$4,000		
5th	\$4,000	\$3,000		
6th	\$3,000	\$1,000		
7th	\$1,000	\$900		
8th	\$900	\$800		
9th	\$800	\$700		
10th	\$700	\$600		
11th	\$600	\$500		
12th	\$500	\$500		
13th	\$500			
14th	\$500			
15th	\$500			



GM Temur Kuybokarov and WGM July Ryjanova Top Oceania Zone 3.6 Zonals



GM Temur Kuybokarov (left) and WGM July Ryjanova (right), both of Australia, receiving their trophies from Chief Organizer Peter Tsai in the 2025 Oceania Zonal 3.6 Open and Women's Championships, respectively, held 24th to 29th January, 2025 at the Huntingdale Golf Club, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

OPEN		
GM Kuybokarov, Temur (AUS)	1st	8/9
IM Morris, James (AUS)	Eq 2nd	7/9
IM Sardana, Rishi (AUS)	Eq 2nd	7/9
FM Bayaca, Sterling (AUS)	Eq 2nd	7/9
IM Cannon, David (AUS)	Eq 5th	6.5/9
FM Wallis, Christopher (AUS)	Eq 5th	6.5/9
FM Ang, Alphaeus Wei Ern (NZL)	Eq 5th	6.5/9
FM Soo, Kai Jie (AUS)	Eq 5th	6.5/9
FM Liu, Yi (AUS)	Eq 5th	6.5/9

WOMEN'S		
WGM Ryjanova, Julia (AUS)	1st	8.5/9
WFM Shen, Zhiyuan (AUS)	2nd	8/9
WCM Cheng, Chao Xin (AUS)	3rd	7/9
Qian, Zhiling (AUS)	4th	6.5/9

BLITZ		
IM James Morris (AUS)	1st	8.5/9
FM Yi Liu (AUS)	2nd	7.5/9
FM Luis Chan (AUS)	3rd	7/9
WFM Alana Chibnall (AUS)	Top Female	5.5/9



Oceania Zone 3.6 President Shaun Press of Papua New Guinea (third from left) and Chief Organizer Peter Tsai (second from right) with the Arbitration team

The Tolerance Games – Asian Chess Women’s Contest



From left are H.E. Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahayan, IA Abdulrahim Mahdi, Dana Reizniece (FIDE Deputy Chair of the Management Board and Woman Grandmaster) and Asian Chess Federation General Secretary Hisham Al Taher.

On February 5-6, 2025, Abu Dhabi hosted the Tolerance Games – Asian Chess Women’s Contest. Co-organized by the UAE Ministry of Tolerance and Coexistence, the International Chess Federation (FIDE), and the Asian Chess Federation (ACF), this event brought together players and speakers to celebrate how chess promotes inclusivity, empowerment, and coexistence.

One of the biggest highlights was the Little Chess Star tournament, a special competition designed to promote young female talent, organised by the Asian Chess Federation, FIDE, the FIDE Trainers Commission (TRG), and the FIDE Commission for Women in Chess (WOM).

Visit asianchess.com for full story.

FIDE Infinite Project concludes educational visit in Abu Dhabi, UAE



The International Chess Federation (FIDE), in collaboration with the Asian Chess Federation and the Zayed Higher Organization for People of Determination (ZHO), successfully concluded its educational visit to Abu Dhabi, marking a significant milestone in the global expansion of the FIDE Infinite Chess project. The initiative, designed to integrate chess into the learning environment of children with autism spectrum disorders, was held from February 2-6, 2025, with the support of the International Olympic Committee, FIDE Planning and Development Commission, and FIDE Social Commission. The visit provided an in-depth exploration of the official Infinite Chess methodology, providing a structured, step-by-step guide for teachers working in special needs centers and schools, equipping them with practical strategies for integrating chess into special education. Educators and trainers from around the world shared their expertise, offering insights into the unique training program



developed in 2021.

The seminar also featured hands-on sessions on how to effectively use the Infinite Chess Handbook.

The educational visit also included interactive sessions at the Abu Dhabi Autism Center, where participants engaged directly with students and staff. Practical workshops explored key aspects of teaching chess to children with autism, from behavioral management to structuring engaging lessons.

FIDE President Arkady Dvorkovich highlighted the project's global impact. Visit [fide.com](https://www.fide.com).

2025 FIDE Women's World Chess Championship Match



World Championship Matches are the pinnacle of chess, and this year we will witness the 2025 FIDE Women's World Chess Championship, featuring a highly anticipated rematch between two of China's top Grandmasters: the reigning Champion, Ju Wenjun, and the Challenger, Tan Zhongyi. With regulations set to be finalized soon, here is all the information you need to know about what the match entails.

The Match

The 2025 FIDE Women's World Chess Championship match between Ju Wenjun and Tan Zhongyi will follow a 12-game format. The first player to score 6.5 points will be declared the winner. The time control for each game is 90 minutes for the first 40 moves, followed by 30 minutes for the rest of the game, with an increment of 30 seconds per move starting from move 1.

If the match is tied at 6-6 after all 12 games, a tiebreak will determine the champion. The tiebreak procedure typically involves a series of rapid and, if necessary, blitz games to ensure a decisive outcome.

Schedule and Venues

The title match is scheduled to take place from April 1 to 23, 2025, across two Chinese cities: Shanghai and Chongqing. Shanghai, the hometown of Ju Wenjun, is a global financial hub with a rich history of hosting international chess events. Chongqing, Tan Zhongyi's hometown, offers a contrasting yet complementary backdrop to Shanghai. The city has gained recognition for its contributions to the chess community, having hosted significant tournaments such as the 2023 FIDE Women's Candidates Final. Visit asianchess.com

FIDE Grand Swiss Scheduled 3-15 Sept. 2025 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan



The 2025 edition of the Grand Swiss – one of the strongest open chess tournaments in the world – will feature a significant prize fund boost, along with six additional spots in the Women’s.

FIDE has introduced key updates to the regulations for the 2025 Grand Swiss and Women’s Grand Swiss, which will take place in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, from September 3 to 15 this year. The changes include a significant increase in the prize fund in both competitions, and providing more spots for players in the Women’s event.

A substantial rise in prize money

In a significant step towards elevating the prestige of the event, both tournaments will see a substantial increase in the prize money, compared to the previous editions.

The Open prize fund will rise from \$460,000 to \$625,000, a 36% increase, while the Women’s fund sees an even bigger leap, from \$140,000 to \$230,000—up 64%.

The Women’s Grand Swiss will expand to 56 players, with six new spots added to the lineup.

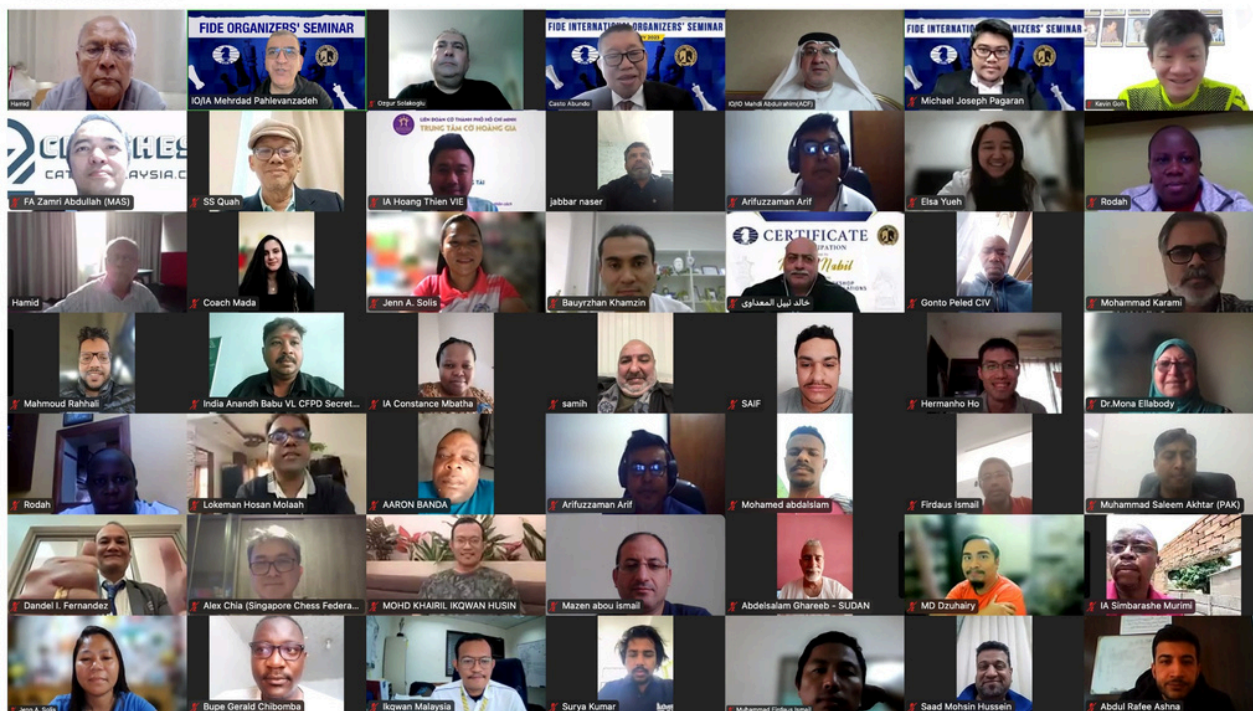
Of the six new spots – four players will qualify based on the June 2025 FIDE Standard Rating List, while two wild cards will be awarded by the organizers. Apart from being the gathering point for the world’s strongest Grandmasters, the Grand Swiss remains a crucial qualification event, with the top two finishers in both the Open and the Women’s competition securing places in the 2026 Candidates Tournament.

Visit asianchess.com.

Visit fide.com.



Online FIDE International Organizers Seminar 27 -30 December 2024



A FIDE IO Online Seminar was held via Zoom from 27th to 30th December 2024.

It was held under the auspices of the FIDE Events Commission and organized by the Asian Chess Federation supported by the Planning and Development Commission .

The event was opened by the Honorary Chairman of FIDE Events Commission, FIDE Lecturer Ozgur Solakoglu. On behalf of the Events Commission Mr. Ozgur Solakoglu welcomed the participants of the Seminar and wished them full use of the information that the lecturer would provide and wished good luck to everyone. FIDE Lecturer Casto Abundo, ACF Executive Director, welcomed every participant and wished participants success. The other Lecturers of the Seminar were FIDE Lecturer IO/IA Mahdi Abdulrahim (UAE) and FIDE Lecturer IO/IA Mehrdad Pahlevanzadeh (IRI).

The Language of the Seminar was English. Daily lectures were from 10.00 to 14.00 Dubai Time (+4 GMT).

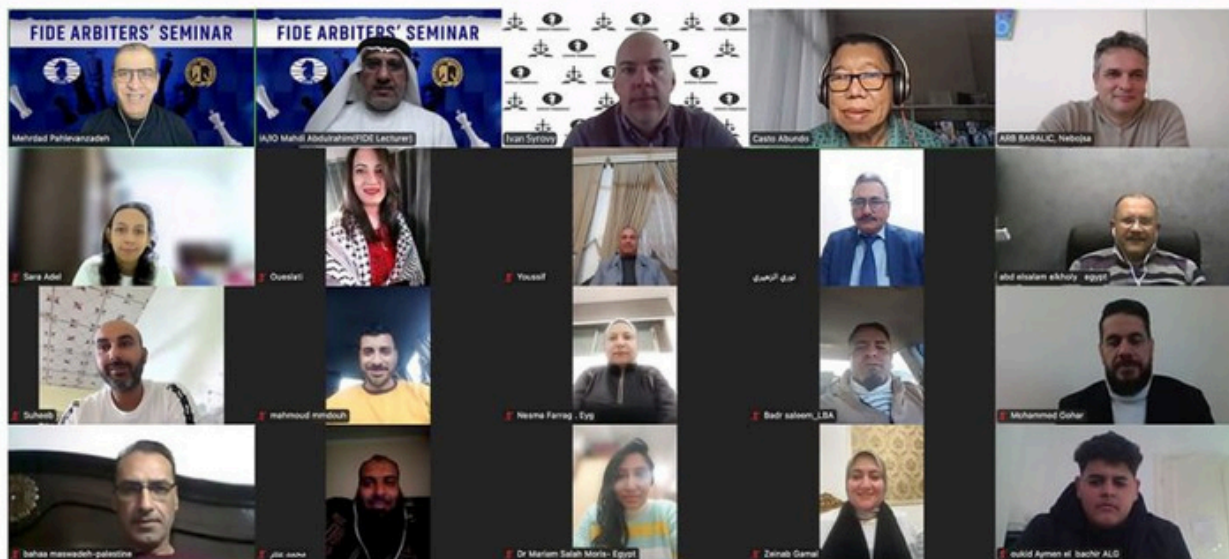
The seminar examination test (3 Hours) was held 30th December 2024. Thirty-seven (37) participants from Twenty-two (22) federations registered, namely BAN, CIV, EGY, IND, IRI, IRQ, KAZ, KEN, LBA, LBN, MAC, MAR, MAS, PAK, PHI, SGP, SUD, SYR, TUN, VIE, ZAM and ZIM. All of them attended the exam, and Twenty-six (26) of them passed the examination test. The students who passed the exam will be awarded a norm certificate by the FIDE Events Commission.

Students learned how to organize Chess Tournaments and steps necessary for the International Organizers' title and the new Associate and Premier Organizers' titles. Visit asianchess.com for list of successful students.



178th Internet Based FIDE Arbiters' Seminar

29th January - 2nd February 2025



The 178th Internet Based FIDE Arbiters' Seminar (Asian Chess Federation), in Arabic, was held under the auspices of FIDE from 29th January to 2nd February 2025. It was organized by the Asian Chess Federation supported by the Planning and Development Commission.

The Lecturer was IA/IO Abdulrahim, Mahdi (UAE), FIDE Lecturer. The Language of the Seminar was Arabic.

Eighteen (18) arbiters from six (6) national chess federations (ALG, EGY, IRQ, LBA, PLE, and SYR) participated in the Seminar, and all of them participated in the examination test, held after the end of the lectures.

The following succeeded in the test and they will be awarded a norm for the title of the FIDE Arbiter, after the approval of the next FIDE Council.



FIDE ID	Name (as on FIDE Profile)	FED
54235499	Salah, Mariam	EGY
10636625	Elhamamsy, Mahmoud	EGY
54264057	Farrag, Gehan	EGY
9201262	Elnaami, Hashem A.K.	LBA
10646922	Elkholy, Abdel Salam	EGY
10616764	Adel, Sara	EGY
11501448	Sharif, Salem	PLE
54264065	Farrag, Nesma	EGY

FIDE Arbiters' Seminar in Russian held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan

A FIDE Arbiters' Seminar was organised from 25.11.2024 to 27.11.2024 in Tashkent, under the auspices of FIDE and the Asian Chess Federation supported by the Planning and Development Commission. The Lecturer was IA Vardapetyan, Ashot (ARM), FIDE Lecturer, and Assistant Lecturer was IA/IO Turdialiev, Husan (UZB), FIDE Lecturer. The language of the Seminar was Russian.

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Arbiters' Workshop in Russian Language



An Asian Chess Federation Arbiters' Workshop was held in the Chess Academy of Uzbekistan on 28th and 29th November 2024 with participants from Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Russia and host Uzbekistan. Lecturer was IA Ashot Vardapetyan of Armenia. Lecturer's Assistant was President of 3.4 Asian Zone, FIDE Lecturer IA Husan Turdialiev of host Uzbekistan. Visit asianchess.com

Arbiters' Workshop in Tashkent
28-29 November 2024

No	FIDE Id#	Surname, name	Country
1.	14204258	Vahidov Abduvahob	UZB
2.	24141429	Balgabaev, Berik	RUS
3.	14200872	Sattarov, Fakhriddin	UZB
4.	14200155	Vahidov, Tair	UZB
5.	14219859	Ergashev, Ilkhom	UZB
6.	14200830	Kholmiraev, Bakhodir	UZB
7.	14700204	Hotami, Mutriba	TAJ
8.	13731394	Dauletov, Bekzat	KAZ
9.	14229706	Esanboeva, Zebunniso	UZB
10.	14201194	Shkurov, Ravshan	UZB
11.	14205246	Alibekova, Dinara	UZB
12.	14203278	Abdusaitov, Rustam	UZB
13.	14203340	Baniyazov, Sunnat	UZB
14.	14204983	Zayniddinova, Sabokhat	UZB



172nd Internet Based FIDE Arbiters' Seminar

22- 24 November 2024



The 172nd Internet Based FIDE Arbiters' Seminar (Asian Chess Federation) was held under the auspices of FIDE from 22nd to 24th November 2024. It was organized by the Asian Chess Federation supported by the FIDE Planning and Development Commission.

The Lecturer was IA/IO Abundo, Casto (UAE), FIDE Lecturer, and the Assistant Lecturer was IA Pahlevanzadeh, Mehrdad (IRI), FIDE Lecturer.

The Language of the Seminar was English. Visit asianchess.com Twenty (20) arbiters from nine (9) national federations (AUS, BAN, EGY, IND, KEN, MGL, NEP, RSA, and SVK) participated in the Seminar, and all of them participated in the examination test, held after the end of the lectures. The following succeeded in the test and they will be awarded a norm for the title of the FIDE Arbiter, after the approval of the next FIDE Council:

FIDE ID	Name (as on FIDE Profile)	FED
5090075	Abhishek V	IND
48721050	Arun Seshadhri S R	IND
4904591	Nyamtemuulen, Khaltar	MGL
12346098	Prajapati, Kiran	NEP
3254119	Dwyer, Lachlan	AUS
10833676	Maina Linda Nyaruai	KEN
73617121	Paluska, Karol	SVK
4903463	Gan-Erdene, Sukhbaatar	MGL
534004629	Theunissen, Kerrie Jane	RSA
10801464	Mboya, Audrey Tracy	KEN



FIDE President Arkady Dvorkovich (left) awarding plaque to IA/IO Casto Abundo at the FIDE Congress in Budapest, Hungary

FIDE Rapid and Blitz Championships 2025 to be Held in Doha, Qatar



Following the resounding success of the 2024 FIDE World Rapid and Blitz Championships in New York City, FIDE is excited to announce that the 2025 edition of these landmark tournaments will return to Doha, Qatar. The event is scheduled from December 25 to December 31, 2025, with the Rapid Championships taking place from December 26 to 28, followed by the Blitz Championships on December 29 and 30.

This marks the second time Qatar will host the FIDE World Rapid and Blitz Championships, having previously done so in 2016. In the Open section, Vassily Ivanchuk clinched the Rapid title, while Sergey Karjakin secured the Blitz title. In the Women's section, Anna Muzychuk delivered an outstanding performance and achieved victories in both the Women's Rapid and Blitz categories.

The FIDE World Rapid and Blitz Championships are among the most exciting and popular events in the chess calendar, attracting top players and fans worldwide. The faster time controls and dynamic gameplay lead to thrilling and unpredictable matches, captivating audiences and keeping them on the edge of their seats. The 2024 edition in New York City, for instance, drew millions of online viewers, underscoring the event's global appeal.

Qatar's commitment to chess is further exemplified by its experience in organizing major chess events, most notably the Qatar Masters Open in 2014, 2015, 2023, and 2024. The nation's dedication to attracting top-tier talent makes it a fitting venue for the upcoming championships.

FIDE looks forward to collaborating with the Qatar Chess Association to deliver an exceptional event for players and fans worldwide. Visit asianchess.com

Asian Mind Sports Association Formed in Bangkok



A decision to form the Asian Mind Sports Association was taken at the foundation meeting held 25th of February 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand. The meeting was attended by the duly accredited representatives of the affiliated Asian national federations / organisations recognised by their respective Asian national Olympic committees in charge of mind sports at the national level. The Asian Mind Sports Association is a recognised Asian sport organisation by the Olympic Council of Asia. In photo are Philippine Olympic Committee president Abraham Tolentino (left) and Turkmenistan Chess Federation president Vepa Malikgulyyev.

Tolentino, Former FIDE GenSec, Re-elected Philippine Olympic Committee President

Abraham 'Bambol' Tolentino has been given a new mandate as Philippine Olympic Committee president. Tolentino soundly beat his opponent 45-15 (with one abstention), in elections among 61 voters. Tolentino's victory was the icing on the cake as his teammates all won. Visit asianchess.com.



Sahapol Nakvanich Elected President of ASEAN Chess Confederation



Sahapol Nakvanich, president of the Thailand Chess Association, has been elected president of the ASEAN Chess Confederation.

Visit FIDE Directory for full list of officers.

Oceania Chess Confederation Meeting



Zone 3.6 President Shaun Press held an online meeting of the active Oceania Chess Confederation today, 21st February 2025, via Zoom. Oceania recently held its Zonal chess championships. See [GM Temur Kuybokarov](#) and [WGM July Ryjanova](#) [Top Oceania Zone 3.6 Zonals](#).

Oceania is composed of the following federations: Australia, Fiji, Guam, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.

Attending the meeting were Zone President Shaun Press (PNG), Casto Abundo for Asian Chess Federation, Gary Wastell, Kevin Bonham, Peter Tsai and Gary Bekker of Australia, Paul Spiller, Michael Freeman and Craig Hall of New Zealand, Jeremy Ellison of Vanuatu, Bill Sanft of Tonga, Almer Santos and Myra Ollet of Guam, Nicolas

Douyere of New Caledonia and Jamie Kenmure for Nauru.

They discussed the World, Continental and Oceania tournament calendars and projects for developing federations:

Recent events (including 2025 Oceania Zonal)

Future events (including 2025 Oceania Junior and Youth Championships)

Upcoming Asian and World events of interest

Funding and development opportunities for Federations

Although separated by vast oceans, Oceania members exhibited close camaraderie as shown by their readiness to help new federations Tonga and Vanuatu hold a FIDE rating tournament.

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Eldiyar Orozbaev, Begimai Zairbek Kyzy win 2025 Kyrgyzstan Championship



Organized by the Kyrgyz Chess Union in collaboration with the Directorate for Non-Olympic Sports of the Kyrgyz Republic, and supported by the general sponsor, financial company MBulak, the 2025 Kyrgyzstan Chess Championship took place from February 13 to 23 at Kyrgyz State Technical University, named after I. Razzakov.

A total of 92 players participated in the championship, including 65 men and 27 women. Both the open and women's events were Swiss tournaments (eleven and nine rounds, respectively) with classical time control. A panel of arbiters, led by IA Aziz Umarbekov, officiated the competitions.

The open tournament was fiercely contested, culminating in a tiebreaker to determine the national champion. Remarkably, five of the top ten finishers, including the champion, are under twenty years of age.



After IMs Eldiyar Orozbaev, Asylbek Abdyjapar, and Semetei Tologon Tegin tied for first place with 9/11, the top two players based on Buchholz tiebreak scores—Orozbaev and Abdyjapar—competed in a rapid tiebreak match. Top seed Orozbaev emerged victorious, winning both games to claim the title. Despite his excellent performance, Abdyjapar had to settle for second place, while Tologon secured bronze.

In the women's competition, which also featured a very young lineup, WFM Begimai Zairbek Kyzy (pictured below) claimed the national title with a strong score of 7.5 points out of 9.

WFM Nuray Sovetbekova finished second, just half a point behind, while WCM Aizhan Sezdbekova completed the podium with 6.5 points.

This event showcased the high level of competition in Kyrgyzstan. Visit asianchess.com

Singapore Championship 2025: Tin Jingyao and Gong Qianyun retain titles



GM Tin Jingyao (right) and WGM Gong Qianyun (left) receive their trophies from Singapore Chess Federation Chief Executive Officer GM Kevin Goh after successfully defending their titles as Singapore's national chess champions.

The 76th Singapore National Championship, featuring a record prize pool, took place at the Asian Civilisations Museum from February 4–25. Men and women competed in a single event but were ranked separately.

GM Tin Jingyao dominated the tournament, achieving a perfect score of 9/9 with an impressive tournament performance rating of 3000.

GM Siddharth Jagadeesh finished second, 2.5 points behind the champion, while four players—IM Enrique Paciencia, FM Jayden Wong, Tang Yiheng, and Elliot Wong—tied for third place with 6/9. Paciencia claimed bronze thanks to a superior Buchholz tiebreak score.

1	GM	Tin, Jingyao	2582	9
2	GM	Siddharth, Jagadeesh	2496	6½
3	IM	Paciencia, Enrique	2259	6
4	FM	Wong, Zhenyong Jayden	2393	6
5		Tang, Yiheng	1969	6
6		Wong, Yen-Hsiu Elliot	1847	6
7	IM	Susilodinata, Andrean	2359	5½
8	WGM	Gong, Qianyun	W 2297	5
9	WIM	Khegay, Anjela	W 2037	5
10	AGM	Kapoor, Satvik	2116	5

In the women's competition, WGM Gong Qianyun won her 11th National Championship title after defeating WIM Anjela Khegay in an exciting tiebreaker. Both players had finished the tournament with 5/9. This victory marks an extraordinary milestone, as it is also Gong's 10th consecutive title, cementing a decade of her supremacy in Singaporean women's chess.

New Zealand Chess Championship Congress Winners

Overall, this was the largest NZ Chess Championship Congress ever held with a total of 637 entries across all categories which included the NZ Championships, Major Open Championships, NZ Rapid Championships, NZ Lightning (Blitz) and NZ Junior Championships.

The Congress was officially opened by visiting British Chess Champion GM Gawain Jones on 02 January. Tied for first in the NZ Championships were GM Gabor Nagy (Hungary) and FM Felix Xie (NZL) who both finished on 7.5/9. They both share the NZ Open Championship title, but Felix becomes NZ Champion and will have his name engraved on the famous Silver Rook, inscribed with every New Zealand Champion going back to the first, Henry Hookham, in 1879.

In 3rd place was FM Alphaeus Ang on 7/9. 4th equal was shared by overseas visitors IM Herman Van Riemsdijk from Brazil and Chinese FM Yining Chen on 6.5/9. Herman was presented with a special Honorary Friend of NZ Chess Award for participating in his 10th NZ Championship.

The Major Open Championship (for players under 2100) was a success for youth and age with a shared first place between veteran (80+) Ceferino Isaac and teenager Alex Pan who both scored 7.5/9. In 3rd place was 11-year-old Sai Somaraju on 7/9 in a field of 103 players. Visit asianchess.com



FM Felix Xie (NZL) at left and GM Gabor Nagy (Hungary)



Paul Spiller (left) awarding to Ceferino Isaac (center) and Alex Pan



Chinese FM Yining Chen and NZCF president Nigel Metge

Pakistan's Largest Youth Chess Event Concludes Successfully in Karachi



Pakistan's Largest Youth Chess Event Concludes Successfully at Karachi Grammar School Karachi, Pakistan – The 3rd National Youth Chess Championship concluded with resounding success at the Karachi Grammar School (KGS) Saddar Campus, making history as the largest youth chess event ever held in Pakistan. With over 250 young chess players from across the country, the championship highlighted the rising popularity of chess and the Chess Federation of Pakistan's (CFP) commitment to developing young talent. Mr. Hanif Qureshi, President of the Chess Federation of Pakistan attended as Chief Guest. He commended the exceptional efforts of the organizing committee and team, led by Mr. Saleem Akhtar (Senior Vice President, CFP), Mr. Amer Karim GS CFP, Mr. Aijaz Samma, NM Muhammad Shahzeb and his Karpov Chess Club team, Ms. Saba Salahuddin, and Mrs. Saira Leghari for successfully executing this historic event.

Mr. Shahzad Roy praised the young participants for their dedication, encouraging them to strive for excellence. President CFP Hanif Qureshi also acknowledged Mr. Shahzad Roy's transformative efforts in public education and his advocacy for chess as a powerful mind sport in schools.



IM Yu Tian Poh Wins 16th Penang Heritage City International Chess Open

International Master (IM) Yu Tian Poh of Malaysia won the 16th Penang Heritage City International Chess Open 2024 Chess Championship held December 23-27, 2024 at the UOW Malaysia KDU Penang University College (Georgetown) in Malaysia.

Poh who holds a FIDE standard rating of 2444 finished the tournament with 7.5 points.

Shkapenko, Chernyavsky and Polschikov settled for second to fourth placers with 7.0 points each.

Mirano, WIM Chuqiao Wang of China and CM Zaidan Zulkipli of Malaysia wound up fifth to eighth placers with 6.5 points each.

Wei Hom Isaac Tan of Malaysia topped the Challenger section with 7.5 points, followed by 2nd placer Yoggenraj Ramakrishnan of Malaysia and 3rd placer Xin Ran Claire Wang of Malaysia who totes 7.0 points apiece.

10-year-old Gabe Butarbutar Georgio, the newest chess sensation from Jakarta, Indonesia, a student of IM Dede Lioe, split the point with the top seed Almarion Marlon Bernardino Jr. of



the Philippines in the last round to score 6.5 points and finish in a tie for 4th to 10th placers.

After the tie breaks were applied, Georgio took 4th.

Other 6.5 pointers are Yeoh Wei Shen of Malaysia (5th), Wong Kah Meng of Malaysia (6th), Bernardino (7th), Abdur Rahman Mohd Afif of Malaysia (8th), Dhanpal Rajkumar Manish of Malaysia (9th) and Rezuan Khaizuran of Brunei (10th).

The Challenger section saw 110 chess players compete. Visit asianchess.com

