



## **ATF AGM- 2007 - BANGKOK** **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. I have great pleasure in presenting my report for the year 2006 - 2007. Audited accounts and Treasurer's Report are appended separately. Tennis in the continent is taking huge steps forward. The introduction of Asian Hopman Cup is a mark of recognition of the growing stature of tennis in Asia. An extremely popular event is now within the reach of Asian players. The excellent performance of the Asian winners in the main event at Perth, has confirmed the faith reposed in us by the ITF. Tennis has been included as a discipline in the 2010 Commonwealth Games at Delhi. With this a long drawn anomaly of not including tennis in the multi sport discipline has been resolved. The Doha Asian Games were conducted very successfully from 1-15 December 2006. Qatar has proved to the world that it is second to none in putting up the best ever show. They have set the highest standards of organizational and cultural excellence. The ITF President Francesco Ricci Bitti who attended the Asian games for the first time was highly impressed with the organisation and the quality of the tennis events as well as the outstanding participation of players in the multi nation competition.
2. Increased tennis activity is taking place in all the regions. The Asian Players, especially women and juniors are making their marks felt both individually and in team competitions in the prestigious international events. In the junior development program the Asian U/14 circuit with the help of AO continues to bloom. We will soon be achieving our President's desire of having at least one Asian U/14 event in each country in Asia. There is a marked improvement in the quality and quantity of the officiating and the coaches. Tennis activities are taking place in China, Chinese Taipei, Japan, Vietnam, Korea, Indonesia, India, Uzbekistan, Qatar, UAE, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Oman, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand and other nations. The surge in West Asia has started gathering mass. ATF is giving grants to officials, coaches, players and National Associations for training, traveling and conducting tournaments. We have renewed our contracts with our sponsors. They have stood firmly with us and our financial position is quite healthy. In the succeeding paragraphs I will give you a brief account of federation's activities during the year.

### **IMPORTANT EVENTS**

3. **ASIAN HOPMAN CUP.** This year we have succeeded in bringing Hopman Cup to Asia. ITF President, Francesco Ricci Bitti, allotted the event to India at the ATF AGM at Seoul on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2006. The winners got entry into the main draw of the A \$1000, 000 'Hyundai Hopman Cup' from 30 Dec-5 Jan 2007 at Perth, Australia. The event carrying prize money of US \$ 70000 was held at Hyderabad, India from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> November 2006. China, Chinese Taipei, India, Japan, Philippines and Thailand fielded their teams in the inaugural venture. Indian team consisting of Rohan Bopanna and Sania Mirza became the first mixed doubles 'Asian Champions' defeating Chinese Taipei pair of I-Hsuan Hwang and Ti Chen. Anil Khanna, President ATF, who was present for the finals said, *"The allotment of Hopman Cup to Asia is indicative of the growth of tennis in the region. The Asian participation at Perth will showcase Asia's burgeoning talent."* Paul McNamee, Tournament Director 'Hyundai Hopman Cup', who was also in Hyderabad for the Finals, was impressed with the success of the inaugural venture, especially the way the home crowd offered great support to India. *"This Indian team will prove their worth in Perth this summer; they won't be all that easy to beat," he said.* This prophecy proved true at Perth where the Asian Duo missed reaching the finals when they lost to 2<sup>nd</sup> seed Spain. They did exceedingly well by beating the reputed teams from Czech Republic and Croatia seeded 3 and 5 respectively.
4. **TENNIS AS A DISCIPLINE IN THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES (CWG).** You would be glad to know that after a hectic round of talks and prolonged presentations at various levels, during the last year. Tennis has finally been included as a main discipline in the 2010 CWG at Delhi. A large number of countries including England, Cyprus, Canada, Australia and New Zealand committed their support and confirmed their participation in the multi sports event. The issue was clinched finally after Anil

Khanna's presentation to the Executive Board of the Common Wealth Games Organizing Committee at Malaysia on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2006. We are grateful to the support provided by Francesco Ricci Bitti, President ITF, Mr. James Jones, President European Tennis (ET) and written support provided by most of the Common Wealth member nations.

5. **XV ASIAN GAMES AT DOHA – 1 - 15 DECEMBER 2007.** 15<sup>th</sup> Asian Games receded into history, with the closing ceremony on 15 December 06. Media from all over the world and sports analysts showered full praise for the organization and conduct of the games and breathtaking cultural shows. The athletes appreciated the warm hospitality and comfort provided to them during the 15 days extravaganza. These in fact were the Games of the Year. The tennis discipline was conducted in an excellent fashion at the newly refurbished Khalifa International Tennis Complex. Top Asian Players enthralled the viewers with their skills and spirit to be the best both in team as well as individual events. 22 nations with 130 athletes participated to contest for 7 events in the tennis discipline i.e. Men and Women, team events and individual events (singles, doubles and mixed doubles). India achieved the top honours with two Gold and two Silver Medals while China was placed at number 2 with two Gold and three Bronze medals. Chinese Taipei, Republic of Korea and Thailand were placed at 3,4, and 5 positions respectively with one Gold Medal each. Leander Paes received the ultimate accolade; athlete of the day on 13<sup>th</sup> December when he won two tennis doubles gold medals back to back after an exhausting schedule and all the while nursing an injured finger. He secured his fourth Asian Games gold that evening. He is the most successful Asian Games singles and doubles tennis player, with four gold, and two bronze medals. Zheng Jie of China also won two Gold Medals in Women's Singles and doubles. The final positions and other details have been given in the 'Tennis Asia' special issue on Asian Games.
6. **ASIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2006** Asian Championships were held successfully at Tashkent from 4–9 Sep 06. 12 countries (CHN, HKG, IND, IRI, JPN, KOR, KAZ, KGZ, KUW, TPE, UZB) participated in Men's events and 8 countries (CHN, IND, HKG, KAZ, KGZ, KOR, TPE & UZB) in women's events. It was a week of scintillating tennis and thrilling and festive ambience. Go Soeda (JPN) and Iroda Tulyaganova (UZB) were crowned as the Asian singles champions in men and women categories. They were awarded wild cards for the Australian Open in Jan 2007. Murad Inoyatov and Denise Istomin both of UZB and Yung-Jan Chan and Chia-Jung Chuang of TPE claimed the Asian doubles championships in men and women categories respectively.
7. **GRAND SLAMS** Asian Participation in the Grand Slam events both in quantity and quality has been improving steadily. In the four Grand Slams last year, our players have won 5 Grand Slam Titles i.e. 3 Women's Doubles titles, one Men's doubles title and one Men's Mixed Doubles Title. Asian participation and performance is analyzed below: -
  - a. **AUSTRALIAN OPEN (AO) JAN 2006** We had a participation of 6 men, 17 women, 8 boys and 10 girls in the AO. Mahesh Bhupathi (IND) along with Martina Hingis (SUI) won his 6<sup>th</sup> **Mixed Doubles** Title (10<sup>th</sup> of his career) whereas Leander Paes (IND) along with Dechy (FRA) reached the semi-finals. Leander Paes (IND) along with Martin Damm (CZE) also reached the finals of Men's Doubles. Yan Zi & Zheng Jie (CHN) won the **Women's Doubles** Title beating the top seed Raymond (USA) / Stosur (AUS) 2-6, 7-6(7), 6-3. Asagoya (JPN) / Srebotnik (SLO) (9) reached the semi-finals. In juniors K. Nishikori (JPN) reached the quarterfinals and A Morita (JPN) reached the semi finals in boys and girls singles respectively.
  - b. **FRENCH OPEN** - At Roland Garros there were 2 men, 11 women, 8 boys and 10 girls. Ai Sugiyama (JPN) along with D. Hantuchova (SVK) won **Women's Doubles** Title beating the top seeded pair of Raymond USA) / Stosur (AUS). The Chinese pair of Yen/ Zheng (4) unfortunately lost to the ultimate winners in QF. In juniors K. Nishikori (JPN) reached the quarterfinals in singles and along with Massa (ARG) won the **Boy's Doubles Title**. In the girls' singles Y Chan (TPE) (3) reached the semi-finals.
  - c. **WIMBLEDON** - At Wimbledon 5 men, 13 women 8 boys and 9 girls participated. Chinese women Yan Zi and Zheng Jie won the **Women's Doubles Title**. Paes (IND) along with M. Damm (CZE) reached the finals of Men's Doubles. N. Li (CHN) reached the quarterfinals of women's singles. In the Mixed Doubles Zheng Jie (CHN) with M Mirnyi reached the semifinals. In Juniors A Morita (JPN) reached the semi finals of girl's singles, Lee (TPE) and Rupesh Roy (IND) reached quarter finals of boy's doubles and Amina Rakhim (KAZ) along with Milevskaya (BLR) reached the quarterfinals in girl's doubles.
  - d. **US OPEN** - US Open was held at Flushing Meadows, New York from 28 Aug to 10 Sept 2006. The Asian players kept up their performances in the final Grand Slam of the year. Both Men and Women had their fair share of success. In **Men Doubles** Leander Paes along with M. Damm

(CZE) won the title. This is Leander's 4<sup>th</sup> Men Doubles Title. He has another 3 Mixed Doubles titles to his credit. In Women's events Na Li (CHN) reached the last 16 stage while A. Sugiyama (JPN) reached the last 32 in the Singles Main draw. Yan / Zheng (CHN) reached the quarterfinals while Asagoe / Morigami (JPN) and Mirza (IND) / Huber (RSA) lost in the pre quarterfinals of the Doubles Main draw.

- e. **AUSTRALIAN OPEN (AO) JAN 2007.** This year a record no of 42 players participated in the AO (5 men, 13 women, 12 boys and 12 girls). Asian Challenge in men reached till doubles quarterfinals where **Mahesh Bhupathi (IND)** and Stepanek lost to Bjorkman and Mirnyi. In women singles N. Li (CHN) lost to M. Hingis (SUI) in pre quarters. Asian women dominated the doubles scene with three pairs reaching the quarterfinals stage and two in semi finals. **Chan / Chuang of TPE** a wild card entry beat the defending champion **Yan / Zheng (2) of CHN** in the semifinals. However they lost in the finals to Blake (ZIM) and Huber (RSA) 6-4, 6-7(4), 6-1.

8.



This year 33 Asian nations participated in the Davis Cup Asia/Oceania ties Group I-IV. We have successfully completed the Asia/ Oceania Qualifying team events.

- a. **Asia/Oceania Zone Group I** In 2006, eight countries i.e. CHN, IND, JPN, KOR, PAK, THA, TPE & UZB participated. KOR & THA carried the Asian Challenge to World Group play offs however, both of them lost out to Romania and Germany respectively by a similar margin of 4-1 in away ties from 22 - 24 September 2006. CHN, IND, JPN, TPE & UZB retained their positions in the Group 1; whereas PAK, was relegated to Group II in the away tie at Beijing 22 – 24 Sep in 2007. KAZ was promoted to Group I from Group II. In the first round of the Group I ties held from 9-11 February 2007 THA beat TPE at Taiwan 3-2. UZB Beat IND at Namangan 4-1, KOR beat JAP 4-1, CHN beat KAZ 5-0. Second round for World Group Play-offs and First round for retention in-group I will be played from 6 to 8<sup>th</sup> April 07.
- b. **Asia/Oceania Zone Group II.** In 2006, eight countries HKG, INA, KAZ, KUW, LIB, NZL, MAS & Pacific Oceania participated. KAZ was promoted to Group I in 2007 when they beat INA in the third round from 22-24 Sep 2006. While, LIB & MAS were relegated to Group III in 2007, PHI and IRI were promoted from Group II to Group III in 2007. In the first round 9–11 Feb 07 PHI beat PAK 5-0 at Manila; KUW IRI; HKG INI; NZL OCN. Second round and Play-offs for retention in Group I will be played from 6 to 8 April 2007.
- c. **Asia/Oceania Zone Group III.** In 2006, eight countries i.e. BRN, BAN, IRI, KSA, PHI, SIN, SRI and VIE participated in the event held at Manila, Philippines from 17 – 23 July 2006. The **final standings** were PHI, IRI, SRI, KSA, VIE, SIN, BRN and BAN. While PHI and IRI have been promoted to Asia/Oceania Zone Group II in 2007, BRN and BAN have been relegated to Group IV in 2007. OMA and UAE have been promoted from group IV. This year group tie would be held at Colombo, SRI from 16 to 22<sup>nd</sup> July 07.
- d. **Asia/Oceania Zone Group IV.** In 2006 nine countries i.e. IRQ, MYA, OMA, QAT, JOR, SYR, TGZ, TUR & UAE participated in the event held at AMMAN, Jordan from 5-9 Apr 2006. OMA & UAE were promoted to Group III in 2007. This year tie will be held at Yangon, Myanmar date (tba).

9. **Fed Cup by BNP Paribas.** Last year 15 Asian nations participated in the Fed Cup competitions.

- a. **World Group.** A record number of 4 Asian nations i.e. CHN, JPN, INA & THA participated in World Group II (22-23 Apr). In the World Group play Offs held on 15 & 16 July CHN created history by defeating GER (4-1) and JPN defeated AUT (5-0). Both ensured a place in world group. INA gave a walk over to ISR. THA lost to SLO. Both will now play in Asia/Oceania Group I in 2007. In the 2007 World Group, CHN will take on Italy, the last year's champions on the outdoor clay courts at Nova Yadinia Castellaneta Marina in southern Italy. JPN will play France on clay indoors at Palais des Sports Beaublanc, Limoges.
- b. **Asia/Oceania Zone Group I.** Asia/Oceania Group I Fed Cup was held at Olympic Park, Seoul from 19 - 22 Apr 2006. Group 1 comprised of 7 teams AUS, IND, KOR, NZL, PHI, TPE & UZB. AUS defeated IND (2-1) in the finals and advanced to World Group II play offs. While PHI & NZL were relegated to Group II in 2007, HKG and KAZ were promoted from group II. In 2007 the

event will be held from 18-21 April 2007, on hard courts at Hotel Tennis Centre, Christchurch, New Zealand. The matches will be played on a round robin format. The winners of each pool will play off to determine which team will be promoted to the World Group II Play-offs in July 2007. The teams finishing in the last two positions in each pool will play-off to determine which two nations are relegated to Asia/Oceania Zone Group II in 2008. 7 Asian nations HKG, IND, KAZ, KOR, THA, TPE and UZB would be participating.

- c. **Asia/Oceania Zone Group II.** In Zonal Group II 4 nations HKG, KAZ, SIN & SYR participated. HKG & KAZ won their ties and were promoted to Group 1 in 2007. In 2007 the event will be held from 17-21 April 2007, on hard courts at Hotel Tennis Centre, Christchurch, New Zealand. The matches will be played on a round robin format. The teams, which finish in first and second place, will be promoted to Asia/Oceania Zone Group I in 2008. 4 Asian nations i.e. JOR, PHI, SIN and SRI would be participating.

## **TOURNAMENTS**

10. The number of Tournaments in Asia is on the increase especially in China and India. During this year the following tournaments are being conducted in Asia: -

|                   |   |  |
|-------------------|---|--|
| <b>Men</b>        | - | 8 x ATP Tours, 9 x ATP Challengers, 57 x ITF Futures & Satellites. |
| <b>Women</b>      | - | 12 X WTA Tour, 49 ITF Women Circuit                                |
| <b>Junior</b>     | - | 70 x ITF Junior Circuit  |
| <b>Seniors</b>    | - | 5 x ITF Seniors  |
| <b>Wheelchair</b> | - | 13 x ITF events  |

### **11. Closed Junior Championships.**

- a. **Asia/Oceania closed Junior Championships (Gr BI).** The Lawn Tennis Association of Thailand (LTAT) hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> Asia/Oceania Junior Championship very successfully at the Rama Garden Hotel courts in Bangkok, Thailand, October 24-30, 2005. It was truly a mixture of junior talent from both Asia and Oceania. 17-year-old Sanam Singh of India won the boys singles title. He was also the winner of the Asian Closed Junior Championship held in April in Korea. Ellen Barry of New Zealand, won the championship beating Indian Sanaa Bhambri 6-1 6-2. Japanese pair of Sho Aida and Shuhei Uzawa won the boys doubles over Indian top seeds Singh and Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan; and the Australian pair of Tyra Calderwood and Jessica Moore beat Jessy Rompies of Indonesia and Dilyara Saidkhodaeva of Uzbekistan to win the girls doubles and made sure that the titles were shared by Asia and Oceania. It was an ideal start to the inaugural Asia/Oceania Junior's event where the honors were equally shared between Asia and Oceania.
- b. **Asia closed Junior Championships (Gr BI).** The 2006 Asian Closed Jr. Championship was successfully held at the Seogwipo City Tennis courts, Korea from April 10 - 16, 2006. 16 year old Bai Yan of China ranked 225 in ITF won the Boy's Singles title over the much higher ranked Bassam Beidas of Lebanon in straight sets 62 62. The Boy's Doubles went to the Taipei pair of Lee Hsin Han and Peng Hsien Yin who turned the tables on top seed Indian Sanam Singh and Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan 63 57 63. In the Girl's Singles top seed Ayumi Morita (JPN) stamped her class over Venise CHAN (HKG) 63, 63. She then joined Chang Kai CHEN (TPE) to win the girls' doubles over Sanaa Bhambri (IND) & Kessnia Polkina (KRZ) 62, 76. It is a great motivation for the development of junior tennis in the region. The 2007 Asian Closed Junior Tennis Championships will be held on hard surface at Chuang-Hua, Chinese Taipei from 10 - 15 Apr 2007.

## **DEVELOPMENT**

12. Our main thrust has been on developmental activities, which includes the training of coaches as well as junior development.
- a. **Junior Davis Cup.** The JDC was successfully organized from 01 - 06 May 2006 in Kuching, Malaysia. 20 Nations participated. Patrick Liew, President Sarawak Tennis Association, took great pains to put up a very well organized Competition. Thailand (5) did very well to beat Australia (1) to no 1 spot, while Japan (2) was placed at No 3 position. JPN and THA participated in the World Finals held on the red clay courts of the Real Club de Polo de Barcelona Spain from 25 September to 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2006. They were placed at 9 and 13 positions respectively. The Asia/Oceania Pre-qualifying was held at Dhaka, Bangladesh in the week of 26 February 2007. BAN, MAL, JOR, PAK and SIN participated in the event. SIN, PAK and BAN qualified for three

available spots at the Final Qualifying event to be held in Thailand in the week of 30 April, (venue TBA).

- b. **Junior Fed Cup.** Lawn Tennis Association of Thailand (LTAT) hosted the Junior Fed Cup from 7 – 14 May 2006. 16 Nations participated; China, Japan and Hong Kong qualified for the World Finals held on the red clay courts of the Real Club de Polo de Barcelona Spain from 25 September to 2<sup>nd</sup> October. They were placed at 6, 15 and 16 positions respectively. The Asia/Oceania Pre-qualifying was held at Dhaka, Bangladesh in the week of 26 February, 2007. BAN, PAK SIN and SRI participated in the event. SRI and SIN qualified for two available spots at the Final Qualifying event to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in the week of 7<sup>th</sup> May 07.
- c. **The World Junior Tennis Competitions.** The Asia / Oceania World Junior qualifying Competition were held in Jakarta (15 – 20 May). 16 boys and 15 girls' teams participated. In boys CHN, JPN and IND represented Asia in the World Junior Tennis Finals held at Prostějov, Czech Republic from 7 – 12<sup>th</sup> August 2006 and were placed at 5, 2 and 11 respectively. The unseeded Japanese boys surprised everyone by reaching the finals. UZB, CHN, THA and INA qualified in the girl's category and secured 5,8,12 and 14 positions respectively.
- d. **Asian 14 & Under Series.** Asian 14/U circuit continues to be a great success. We had started with 8 tournaments in 2004, which increased to 19 in 2005 and 23 in 2006 and is going to be more than 30 in 2007. This year 9 West Asian countries have agreed to hold these tournaments. At this rate President's desire to have at least one tournament per nation will be fulfilled very soon. The championship of the series was held in Bangkok from 17-26, November 2006. ALCANTARA, Francis Casey (PHI) and AGRAWAL, Aishwarya (IND) won the Singles titles in boys and girls respectively. KIM, Ki-Hoon and NOH, Sang-Woo (KOR) won the boys doubles and HUYNH, Phuong Dai (VIE) and BOEY, Adelle (MAS) won the girls doubles titles. Eight boys and eight girls were selected to go to Australia for the 14/Under Asian Masters. In the Masters leg at Australia the final positions were as follows:-

|   | Boys                 | Nation |   | Girls              | Nation |
|---|----------------------|--------|---|--------------------|--------|
| 1 | Liang-Chi Huang      | TPE    | 1 | Na-lae Han         | KOR    |
| 2 | Sang-Woo Noh         | KOR    | 2 | Ankita Raina       | IND    |
| 3 | Vaidik Munshaw       | IND    | 3 | Aishwarya Agrawal  | IND    |
| 4 | Jugal Anoop Marfatia | IND    | 4 | Shweta Rana        | IND    |
| 5 | Nuttorn Tanchainant  | THA    | 5 | Se-won Lee         | KOR    |
| 6 | Ki-hoon Kim          | KOR    | 6 | Yamini Reddy       | IND    |
| 7 | Juan A Los Santos    | MAS    | 7 | A Amreetha Muttiah | SRI    |
|   |                      |        | 8 | Natalia Khaniejo   | IND    |

- e. The performance of our players in Australian Juniors U/14 Nationals was commendable Liang-Chi Huang TPE reached the semi finals in the Boys category, A Aggarwal of IND reached the quarter finals stage. Huang (TPE) and Tanchaiant (THA) won the doubles title while Alcantra (PHI) and Noh (KOR) reached the semi finals stage. All our girls reached the round of 16. **Radhika Tulpule (IND)** and **Chris Perera (SRI)** accompanied the players as coaches.

f. **ITF REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS.**

- i. **ITF 13 & Under Asian Championships 2006 - Group 4.** The Championship was held at the National Tennis Center of Amman in Jordan on **10-21 September 2006**. 31 boys and 11 girls represented ten countries from the West Asian region: **Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, UAE and Yemen**. The feed-in format was used in both tournaments. Kim Sadi of Syria captured all four singles and doubles titles, partnering Keit Sadi (SYR) and Diana Makki (SYR). Husain Ziad (KUW) and Khalil Kamil (LIB) won the boys' singles titles, while Yemen's Hasan Momen and Hasan Hussein won both doubles events. Raiyah Bint Hussein, Princess of Jordan, presented the trophies. Naow Amer (SYR); Momen Hasan (YEM), Husain Ziad (KUW), Khalil Kamil (LIB) Boys and Kim Sadi and Diana Makki (SYR) girls have been selected to form the Group 4 ITF team to participate in the 14 & Under Asian Championships - Group 1 in 2007. *It was nice to see the participation of an Iraqi team this year.*
- ii. **ITF 13 & Under Asian Junior Championships 2006 - Group 3.** Turkmenistan Tennis Federation organized the championship for the third time at Ashgabad, from **28 September to 8 October 2006**. 6 nations participated in the championships i.e. AFG, KAZ, KGZ, TJK, TKM and UZB. It consisted of two tournaments using a feed-in consolation system, leading to a final overall ranking for each player. Uzbekistan players captured a clean sweep of titles. Sergey Shipilov defeated compatriot Sanjar

Fayziev in both boys' singles finals, with Shipilov and Fayziev winning both doubles titles. Karolina Chernaya defeated Alisa Ogorodova to win the first girls' singles event, Ogorodova got back in the second final. Chernaya and Ogorodova won both doubles titles. It was heartening to see a team from Afghanistan participating in the competition. This competition is very important for the Central Asian Region, and more importantly for Turkmen juniors who rarely get the chance to compete at international level.

- iii. **ITF 14 & Under Asian Championships 2007 – Group 2.** After six years Pakistan Tennis Federation hosted the Asian Championships (Group 2) in Islamabad (26 Jan – 6 Feb 07). 9 countries i.e. BAN, BHU, CAM, MAS, MYA, NEP, SRI, VIE and PAK participated. Aung Kyaw Niang of MYA captured both boys' singles titles. Adele Boey of MAS and Trang Hyunh of VIE won the two girls' singles events. Niang repeated his double triumph at the 2006 Championships by defeating Sompanth Orn (CAM) and Nazim Khan (MAS) respectively in the two boys' finals. Boey overcame Hyunh to win the first girls' event, with Hyunh exacting revenge in the second final. Aung Kyaw Niang (MYA), Sompanth Orn (CAM), Nazim Khan (MAS), Ashiq Heera (PAK) and Boey (MAS), Trang Hyunh (VIE), W Sherene (SRI) and H, Zin Mar (MYA) girls have been invited to form the ITF Team (Group 2) to take part in the Group 1 ITF development championships in March in Jakarta.
- iv. **ITF 14 & Under Asian Championships 2007 – Group 1** The **2006 ITF 14 & Under Group 1 Junior Championships** were held at The Tennis Academy of Asia in Bangkok, Thailand from 25<sup>th</sup> March to 8<sup>th</sup> April 2006. Players from India, Hong Kong, China, Chinese Taipei, Indonesia and Philippines participated in the event along with three ITF teams selected from the Zone 4, Zone 3 and Group 2 Championships. Following boys and girls were selected to be part of the **ITF 14/U Touring Team to Europe** to participate in various U/14 events in Europe: - Boys A. Francis Casey (PHI), BHAMBRI Yuki (IND), H Liang-Chi (TPE), S Prakrit (THA) **Girls**, K. Albina (UZB), K. Luksika (THA), N. Kanyapat (THA), T. Rashmi Anand (IND) This year the event is being hosted by the Indonesian Tennis Association at Jakarta, Indonesia from 24<sup>th</sup> March – 7<sup>th</sup> April 2007.
- v. **ITF INTERNATIONAL U/14, U/16 & U/18 TOURING TEAMS** . Asian players had a fair share of participation and exposure in the ITF 14 & Under International touring Teams.
- vi. **ITF 14 & Under International Team**, Four boys i.e. Francis Alcantra (PHI), Yuki Bhambri (IND), H. Liang Chi (TPE) and S. Prakrit (THA), and four girls i.e. Khabibulina Albina (UZB), K. Luksika (THA), N. Kanyapat (THA) and T. Rashmi (IND) players were selected for the Asian ITF touring Team for five weeks in Europe (France, Netherlands, Germany and Belgium) from 7Jul – 12 Aug06. Radhika Tulpule (IND) & Chris Cuorto (PHI) accompanied as coaches.
- vii. **ITF 16 & Under International Team** the following Asian players, were selected for the ITF team to compete in a series of tournaments in Italy and France in June and July from 31 May till 8 July 06. The four boys were L.Theodore (INA), Tsung – Hua Yang (TPE), Chen – Yu Wu (CHN) and Chuan Jiang (CHN), The two girls were Sweta Solanki (IND) and Kai – Chen Chang (TPE).
- viii. **ITF 18 & under Team to Europe** 15 May to 9<sup>th</sup> Jul 06 included two boys i.e. Hsin-Han Lee (TPE) & Sanam Singh (IND) and four girls ie Venise Chan (HKG),, A. Rakhim (KAZ), Denise Dy (PHI) and S. Dilyara (UZB). They participated in a series of Grade A and Grade 1 events in Italy Belgium, France and culminated in the Junior Championships at Wimbledon.
- ix. **ITF 18 & Under International Team to North Africa** selected two Indonesians Christopher Rungkat and Jessy Rompies to participate in ITF Junior World Ranking Tournaments Grades 2,3,&4 in Morocco and Tunisian North Africa from 29 May to 8 July 2006. Our players gained in volumes of exposure and experience.

#### **COACHES EDUCATION IN ASIA**

13. With the rapid growth of tennis in Asia the emphasis on structured coaches education programs continues. A number of ITF Level I coaches' courses and ITF / OS Level II coaches' courses were held

in various countries during the year. The 13<sup>th</sup> ITF Asian Regional Coaches Conference was held at the Tennis Academy of Asia in Bangkok, Thailand from 15<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> October 2006. The conference was held in conjunction with the Asian Tennis Federation (ATF), the Lawn Tennis Association of Thailand (LTAT) and Olympic Solidarity. More than 150 coaches from 17 nations attended the conference. Eminent speakers in various fields updated the participants on the latest information in their fields. Paul Roetert (USTA) and Craig Tiley, Craig Morris (Tennis Australia), made presentations both on-court and in the lecture rooms. The conference provided the coaches a great opportunity to access the latest information related to tennis coaching. In addition to issues relating to high level of player development, professional tennis coaching, applied sciences and coaches education the participants had an opportunity to interact with each other and gain valuable experience and expertise in the field. A number of countries are paying great attention to the coaches' education. Recently (16 - 24 Jan 07), Kuwait Tennis Federation hosted a Level 1 Coaches Course at the Salmiya Club in Kuwait City. Twenty-one candidates from Kuwait, Algeria, Egypt and Iran attended the course, many of whom are working with national teams and national coaching programs. 12 candidates got their Level 1 certificates. The Kuwait Tennis Federation would now like to organize a Level 2 Coaches Course in 2008. An ITF Level 1 Coaches Course took place in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia from 18-27 February 07 at the Sport Academy of Riyadh, and was conducted by Moustafa Naim (Egypt). Twenty coaches from tennis clubs in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait attended the course. ITF Development Officer for West Asia, Karim Saadallah, assisted on the course. Amir Borghei conducted the first "Play Tennis Course" for Iran from 25 – 29 December 2006, at the Enghelab Sport Complex in Tehran. The structure of the course, designed and introduced in 2006 by the ITF, contains valuable information as well as lots of on court sessions on easy methods of introducing tennis at basic levels. The course attracted 53, mostly young and motivated, promising coaches and instructors. The topics were: the methodology of teaching at starter players, important elements of tennis lessons, introduction to the Five Game Situations as well as the principles of teaching through the Game Based Approach, the ITN Number, etc. The course was the 4th educational program for coaches organized by Iran Tennis Federation in 2006 and was a part of the national coaches' education system started in 2005. During 2007, 15<sup>th</sup> world coaches conference will take place at Paraguay on 22 – 28 Oct 2007. The entry forms will be available by mid Mar 07.

## **OFFICIATING**

14. The Officiating program is on right track. Asian Officiating Standard and Quantity has been changing positively under the ITF Officiating 5 Year Plan together with ATF and National Association support. Mike Morrissey (ITF Administrator of Officiating) and Wayne McKewen (ITF/Grand Slam Supervisor and Australian Open Referee) taught a series of officiating schools at Hotel Rama Garden, Thailand from 23 – 27 July 2006. A Level 2 School for Referees was held for former players and coaches in Asia to become tennis officials; Five of them i.e. Ling Derek (HKG) Rama Rao Uttara (IND), Mukherjee Joy (IND), Tao Jun (CHN), Pong Jeremy (HKG), were certified as approved White Badge Referees. Level 3 School was held for current International Referees and Chair Umpires to become certified Chief Umpires. Ten out of 12 passed. Six Asians i.e. Nao Kawatei (JPN), Chen Shu (CHN), Puneet Gupta, Sheetal Iyer, Payal Jain and Nitin Kananwar all from India were approved as Silver Badge Chief Umpires. On behalf of the Asian Tennis Federation, McKewen also spent two days preparing 19 Asian White Badge Officials for the Level 3 School in Doha, Qatar in December 2006. The following officials i.e. Adhi Nugroho Dedy (INA), Ogasawara Naomi (JPN), Bashar Radin (IRI), Rahmat Mulyana Eka (INA), Borghei Adel (IRI), RYU Cheong-Soo (KOR), Hwang Ki-Sik (KOR), Takatsu Yukiko (JPN), Lee Rim-Jae (KOR), Trifunovski Dimitar (NZL), Nakashima Shinji (JPN), Wibisono Dewi Fortunasari (INA), Nakatsuji Mayumi (JPN), Zein M.Maimum Masri (INA) passed Level 2 Referee School. 52 Asian Officials conducted the tennis discipline of the 2006 Doha Asian Games entirely by themselves and in a highly professional manner. The ITF President Francesco Ricci Bitti who attended the Asian Games for the first time was very impressed with the organization and quality of events as well as outstanding participation by top players of the region. Immediately after the Asian Games, Mike Morrissey, Stefan Fransson, Andreas Egli, Fabrice Chouquet and Gayle Bradshaw conducted an ITF level 3 school at Doha from 15 – 18<sup>th</sup> December 06, immediately after the Asian Games. A total of 10 Asian officials passed the Level 3 Officiating School in Qatar and now have a new International Official certification i.e. 7 new Bronze Badge Chair Umpires and 3 new Silver Badge Referees. Asian Officials are getting increasing share of responsibilities in the Grand Slams and ATP/WTA events in the World. In a nutshell officiating is doing well in Asia.
15. Mr. Anil Khanna attended the ATF officiating committee meeting held at Bangkok, Thailand on 27 July 2006. Mr. Koji Watanabe, the Regional officiating representative and ATF Executive Director, chaired the meeting. Mr. Nao Kawatei gave a presentation on the state of officials in Asia and steps being taken for improvement. President mentioned that the idea of involving the National Associations for the selection of Line Umpires for Doha Asian Games 2006 is a step in the right direction and would

bring transparency and credibility to the selection process. Mr. Anil Khanna also appreciated the steps being taken to improve the official situation in Asia. He thanked the officials for doing a wonderful job.

### **MARKETING AND SPONSORSHIP**

16. Wilson, California Products, Australian Open, Yonex & AV Syntec, remain our major sponsors. We have a very cordial and healthy relationship with them. New sponsorship proposals are being discussed with prospective clients and we hope to have one or two to materialize in the near future. We also have Qatar Tennis Federation (QTF), Uzbekistan Tennis Federation (UTF), Lawn Tennis Association of Thailand (LTAT), All India Tennis Association (AITA), Australian Open (AO) and Sri Lanka Tennis Association (SLTA) sponsoring pages in 'Tennis Asia.'

### **AGREEMENT BETWEEN TENNIS AUSTRALIA AND ASIAN TENNIS FEDERATION**

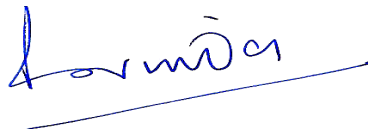
17. During the last three years ATF has developed a very healthy and understanding relationship with Tennis Australia and Australian Open. This is a unique relationship for development of tennis in Asia. The Presidents of ATF & Tennis Australia signed an agreement of cooperation between Tennis Australia and Asian Tennis Federation for the next 3 years. The agreement covers the Australian Support in the following areas: -
- a. Providing wild cards for Australian Open to the singles & doubles champion of Asian Games.
  - b. Conducting Coaching Workshops.
  - c. Conducting Junior Training Camps.
  - d. Exposure to Asian Juniors to work as Ball Kids in Australian Open and Witness the top professionals.
  - e. Provision of opportunities for officials to work at Australian events.
18. We are having an ongoing dialogue with Australian Open regarding methodology in giving wild cards for the Australian Open as well as devising means to improve the structure of tennis which would afford opportunities to players of both regions to reach top 100 rankings in the world.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

19. We are maintaining a continuous communication with all the National Associations. A monthly e-mail newsletter is being sent to all National Associations. Number of pages of the Quarterly magazine 'Tennis Asia' has been increased from 18 to 24. Efforts are being continuously made to improve the design and the quality of the content within the existing resources. Our website [www.asiantennis.com](http://www.asiantennis.com) is giving the latest news, rankings, tournament schedules, results, player profiles & weekly newsletter. The Website is also being redesigned. The new sight will be up shortly. We have a separate website for U/14.

### **CONCLUSION**

20. I would end up my report by saying that tennis is developing fast in Asia. It has become active in all the regions. Asian women and juniors have started making their presence felt in the major international events and are continuously setting new benchmarks. The nations are paying more attention to have their own coaches and officials.



**COL RM SHARMA  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**