



IIHF Asian Strategic Planning Group Meeting #19 Report

**Jonathan Albright
New Zealand Ice Hockey Federation**

The Asian Strategic Planning Group (ASPG) is a subgroup of the IIHF consisting primarily of Asian ice hockey countries. This group works in conjunction with the IIHF World Championship programme, and has Challenge Cup of Asia tournaments.

New Zealand has been a member of this group since 2012.

ASPG Meeting #19 was held in Cologne, Germany on 21-22 May 2017.

ASPG Meeting #19 was organized by the IIHF and World Championships OC and held at The Hyatt Hotel in Cologne. Delegates from over 20 nations, plus Andy Ecker and Thomas Wu from the IIHF attended the meeting.

The delegates for this meeting were Andreas Kaiser (1st day only) and Jonathan Albright.

Jonathan Albright also worked for the IIHF in this meeting as scrutineer and minute keeper.

I have attached the notes of the meeting to this report.

These notes have been used by the IIHF to formulate the formal minutes of the meeting.

The meeting discussed issues that either do not affect NZL (South East Asia Games, Minimum Participation Standards, etc.), but one that did was the Challenge Cup of Asia.

Thomas Wu posted the proposed groups and hosts for the 2018 CCOA Tournaments. NZL U18 originally did not feature on this list.

When questioned, Wu indicated that we 'should' graduate to the World Championship category.

I then began preparing a presentation outlining the NZL stance.

Thirty minutes later, I raised the issue of NZL U18 involvement in the 2018 CCOA.

I focused on the following points:

- ASPG is for development. To exclude a nation is counter-development.
- NZL U18 Women have missed out on 2018 World Championship participation. Therefore, exclusion from the CCOA would eliminate any international competition for 2018.

- NZL U18 Women were outstanding ambassadors at the 2017 CCOA. They assisted with coaching, development and provided free gear to nations such as India.
- The NZIHF received no formal notice of exclusion from the 2018 CCOA.

Wu then asked the participating nations if their thoughts.

SGP, PHI, THA were all in favour of including NZL U18 in the 2018 CCOA.

IND, MAS and UAE were in favour of NZL U18 in the 2018 CCOA, but split SGP, THA and NZL in a different pool.

TPE then added that they wish to join the 2018 CCOA and join the top pool.

MAS offered to host the tournament, and will look into running two separate pools concurrently.

This will be confirmed at ASPG Meeting #20.

NZL appears to be a middle nation in the ASPG. We are too advanced for the developing nations such as IND, MAS, PHI, but not yet developed enough to compete with JAP, KOR, KAZ and CHN. We are equal with PRK and TPE. We are therefore excluded from some basic developmental strategies, and the IIHF is trying to find our place among the more developed nations.

The second day of meetings discussed MNA Strategies for 2017-18, and presentations to follow. Notes on each nation are attached.

The ASPG is still a valuable group for NZL to take part in. With its operating and grant budget of 500,000CHF+, we have an opportunity to use some of these resources. The question is, where do we fit in with ASPG plans?

ASPG Meeting #20 is scheduled for Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 17 to 20 August 2017.

2017 ASPG Meeting #19 Notes (NZL)
Cologne, Germany

International Transfer Regulations: Process

Ashley Ehlert presented her notes and information on the International Transfer Regulations and processes.

New electronic process will commence on 1 July 2017.

NZL- question- what happens to old, unused paper copies of ITC cards. IIHF – To determine, but costs for unused cards will not fall onto the MNA's.

Most likely the MNA account will be credited.

Many MNA's present had questions over the ITC process and player eligibility.

2018 IIHF Ice Hockey Challenge Cup of Asia Tournaments:

2018 Men Top Division

2018 Men Division I

2018 Women Top Division

NZL U18 excluded from initial 2018 planning.

Albright presented reasoning why NZL needs this tournament: NZL have committed to ASPG by:

- Hosting Meeting #18 in Auckland, August 2017
- Development with other Nations at the Women's CCOA, by assisting with coaching and giving equipment (India)
- Providing a lineswoman for the games
- If NZL U18 Women are not invited in 2018, they will not have any international hockey in 2018.

= Anti / Counter Development.

Thomas Wu asked the participating countries of their opinions.

SGP, THA, PHI were in favour of including the NZL U18 in the whole competition.

MAS, UAE & IND were in favour of including the NZL U18, but in two separate divisions.

Was discussion over two pools.

TPE offered to include U18 team to make two pools, and possibly host in 2018.

Discussion to continue at future meetings and by email.

Thailand reported on their 2017 CCOA Tournaments (Men & Women).

Were very successful tournaments.

Women: Many smiles and friendships started.

THA was congratulated for running a successful tournament.

Kuwait was not present to report on their hosting of the CCOA Men's Division I Tournament.

Was discussion with regards to having a U18 CCOA Men.

After discussion and questions, it was decided to run a U20 as a trial event in Malaysia in April 2018 or December 2017.

2018 Schedule:

Top Division Men: Philippines, April 2018.

CCOA Division I Men: Malaysia, March 2018.

CCOA Women: Pool A (NZL, THA, SGP, TPE U18) (TBA)

CCOA Women: Pool B (IND, MAS, UAE, PHI) Malaysia March 2018

U20 Men: Malaysia, April 2018 or December 2017.

Japan presented report on 2017 Sapporo Asian Winter Games:

Men Top Division: Kazakhstan Gold.

Men Division I: Thailand Gold

Men Division II: Turkmenistan Gold

Women Top Division: Japan Gold. Some huge goal differentials in games.

Some problems with Iran eligibility.

Game Officials were supplied by IIHF.

Jindy (IND) asked about funding for IIHF Camps in Asia.

Wu said the budget is stretched, and it hasn't been cost-effective.

Wu suggested that IND present a report / data on how a camp assists Asian development, and he will present to the Asian Committee. Present ideas and how to 'do it well'.

TPE noted that we definitely need more female officials. Possible focus for development.

MNA Presentations

Japan: 3 focus initiatives: 1. Women's National Team, 2. Men's National Team, 3. Review of Federation Management structure.

United Arab Emirates: Listed national team events for 2017-18. Women's National Team will have an internal camp and promote and recruit. Emirati Hockey League is established with 6 teams with 14 games before playoffs.

Plans to create a new league for local players, and add U18 and U20 players as independent teams. President Cup: Promote and market hockey in UAE.

Development Programmes: Coaching, Game Officials and Goaltender Development.

Kyrgyzstan: Focus on grassroots development, cooperation with National Sports Academy & City of Bishkek and international cooperation with Russia & India.

Malaysia: Age level groups achieved. Targeting new equipment for LTP and development of team officials. Recruitment and education of coaches, with development of administrators in Vierumaki. Looking into an Asian Development Camp.

Chinese Taipei: Stuck in the middle in rankings and history. Supports federations around Asia, while participating in IIHF World Championships. Objective is to have a closer Asian community. Attending many Asian tournaments, and run Men, Women and U20 leagues.

Qatar: Aim is to be a full member of IIHF. Focusing on coach development and player recruitment. Dressing rooms and storage rooms are needed at rinks. Chief referee supervisor needed.

Mongolia: Issues with government, to keep hockey. Needs assistance with costs – gather equipment and indoor rinks. Continuing LTP Programmes and development of a new core of players. Becoming an upper-class game because of costs.

Hong Kong: Focusing on Feeder programme, Goalie Training, Local Leagues and Overseas Tournaments. Looking for a new NT head coach.

India: Focus on organization, development, education, communication, medical and equipment.

Started an inline National Championship in 2016-17. Self funded.

Singapore: Focusing on media coverage of SEA Games. Mixing imports with local National Team players for positive exposure and learning. Darren Harold has departed but left a good legacy. Have Head of referees and head of Linesmen. Game official courses run twice a year.

Macau: Youth development is its focus. Can only provide 1 youth training on Friday night. Macau people look for free programmes. Still seeking a head coach.

Philippines: First presentation. Two flag programmes: Pilipinas (locals) and Islanders (imports). Focus is on LTP/Skate, Coaches education, game officials and National Teams. National Teams play in many overseas tournaments and CCOA. Looking to possibly host future IIHF Tournaments & ASPG meetings.

Thailand: 2017 projects include Asian Winter Games, CCOA, SEA games and Junior League development.