

ASIAN SPORTS INFORMATION ASSOCIATION

PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

Bulletin

No.3

From the editor

The past two years have been a positive move of this provisional regional body in the area of sports information. Despite the difficulties caused by the diversity in religion, language, culture and the complication in communications among us, members of the Asian Sports Information Association Preparatory Committee have put much effort behind the building of a network in order to lay a solid foundation for the establishment of an Asian sports information body.

We are pleased to have received feedback from Sri Lanka, India, Iraq and Taiwan since the publishing of the first issue of the ASIA Bulletin. Knowing the where about of one another is a much-needed first step in getting together specialists of various sport disciplines from around the continent.

To further enhance the reach of this initiative, the Preparatory Committee, through its Secretariat at the Hong Kong Sports Development Board, is working on the development of an Internet web site which we hope could serve as a focal point for interchanges, a focal point to seek help and a base for mutual aids.

In this final year leading up to the establishment of an Asian Association in 2001, we look forward to hearing from you soon and seeing you next year.

LI Tak Nang
Secretary General
A.S.I.A. Preparatory Committee

Neighbourhood

INDIA

Sports Information: A field to be explored

As early as 1948, India participated for the first time as a free independent sovereign nation in the London Olympic Games. The hockey gold and a near-medal winning performance by triple jumper Henry Rebbello are part of the folklore of Indian sports. Yet not many people know these performances by heart. The reason for this is the total lack of a sports database in the country.

Except for cricket for which all kinds of records and information are available, the national sports federations, public libraries, schools and colleges, and even the national Olympic Committee have not kept records of India's performance in sports. Some enthusiasts keep track of statistics for a particular sport. But even these individuals do not number more than a dozen or so.



▲ **Cricket – the only sport with all kinds of records and information are available in India.**

In India, there are libraries in the National Institute of Sports in Patiala and Bangalore. However, they are exclusively for the use of students and trainees taking up sports as a career. The general public does not have access to these centres of sports information.

In the South Asian region, there are government-backed sports-protocol exchanges of teams and coaches among members of the South Asian Regional Cooperation Countries (SAARC). However, sports information, as a discipline, is mostly an unexplored field in this part of the world.

Due to lack of published work on Indian sports, the sports pages of daily newspapers are the main source of information for people at large. The only other source, mainly for cricket, is television. The role of a sports journalist is very crucial in spreading sports information to the masses. The leading national dailies, published from metro cities like New Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Chennai and other major cities, have two or three pages for sports. Not surprisingly, a large chunk of the space is devoted to cricket which most Indians love to talk about.

Neighbourhood

INDIA

India is a very large country with several regional languages. As far as information dissemination is concerned, vernacular press has a special role to play. Some important sports news, not making headlines in New Delhi or Bombay, could only be read on regional papers. News with national importance will be translated and used by English newspapers on the next day.

The recent boom in the information technology has helped in the assimilation of sports information. But despite being a strong base for software professionals, India

is not yet riding on the information superhighway. While not many people have access to personal computers with Internet connectivity, a very large segment of those who own PCs have little interest in sports.

With the exception of, perhaps, Sri Lanka, sport is not an important component of the daily life in the South Asian countries. People do talk about sports, especially cricket. But at least 90% of the population is armchair sports enthusiasts. This is clearly reflected in the standard of sport in these countries.

Norris Pritam
Sports Editor
TVi
New Delhi, INDIA

CHINESE TAIPEI

A big step forward : Founding of the Association for Sports Information and Communication

On March 27,1999, the Sports Information and Communication Association (SICA) with a membership of about 60 was founded by Dr. Wu-Chou Chen and his colleagues in Taiwan.

The SICA is a non-profit organization aiming

at the gathering and dissemination of information concerning physical education, training, research, competition and recreation to professionals in the areas of exercise, sport and health, as well as to the general public.

In year 2000, the SICA will put effort to three main projects:

1. To organize a Sport Technology Conference from 14-16 April. The main theme of the conference will be the application of computer technology in sport.
2. To launch a new journal titled Sports Information Quarterly (SIQ) which provides a comprehensive introduction to new articles published in all kinds of Exercise and Sport related journals worldwide. Information of new books, web sites, computer software and hardware will also be included.
3. To launch a Chinese-based official web site of the SICA around April. Apart from domestic sports information concerning conferences, competitions and teaching videos, the web site will also be connected to our "Sport Records" "Sport Products" "Sport literatures" "1999 College and University Basketball Tournament" "College and University Coach and Referee" databases.

The working group can be reached at:

National College of Physical Education and Sports
250 Wen Hua 1st Rd.
Kweishan, Taoyuan 333
Taiwan
Tel: 3-396-0689, and Fax: 3-328-0592



◀ official web site of the SICA

4. To contribute to the Sport Information Resource Centre (SIRC) with indexes of articles from selected scholarly journals and conference proceedings.

The SICA would like to serve domestic sport professionals as well as the global community of sport. We hope that we may grow and serve with the help from anyone interested in sport information. Starting mid-April, you may visit the web site of the SICA at <http://www.sica.org.tw> and contact us by e-mail to sica@mail.sica.org.tw. We are happy to receive any suggestions and comments.

Dr Wu-Chou Chen (Mars Chen)
Chairman of the SICA
Professor at the National College of Physical Education and Sports
E-mail: ellamars@ms28.hinet.net

The 6th National Sport Scientific Congress of China

To promote the development of sports science and technology all over China, the 6th National Sport Scientific Congress will be organized in December 2000 on the occasion of the Twentieth anniversary of the China Sport Science Society (CSSS).

The Scientific Congress will be held in the Wuhan Institute of Physical Education together with the 5th National Congress of CSSS. The theme for the Scientific Congress is "Innovation, Cooperation and Serving the Practice".

The first announcement and call for papers has been distributed now. Sports scientists, administrators, teachers, coaches, students all over the country, including Hong Kong, Macau, Chinese Taipei, are welcome to participate. The final submission date for papers is July 15, 2000. For detailed information, please contact:

**6th National Scientific Congress Secretariat
China Sport Science Society
5 Tiyuguan Road,
Beijing, China 100061.
E-mail csss@public3.bta.net.cn**

22nd JSPSPE Annual Congress

The Japan Society for the Philosophy of Sport and Physical Education (JSPSPE) will have its 22nd annual congress in August 2000 in Nagasaki, Japan. The Organizing Committee expects about 50 participants from all over Japan and other countries.

JSPSPE was founded in 1978 to encourage national initiatives relating to the philosophy of sport and physical education. The congress will consist of lectures and discussion as well as presentations on

various aspects of sport philosophy and physical education. Those who are interested in this field are welcome to attend the congress. For further information, please contact Takayuki Hata at:

**Nagasaki University
Bunkyo-machi 1-14,
8528521 Nagasaki, Japan.
Tel: 81 95/847 1111-2389
Fax: 81 95/844 0401
E-mail: hata@net.nagasaki-u.ac.jp**

News

HONG KONG

HKSIC online

The Hong Kong Sports Information Centre (HKSIC) has launched its Internet homepage in January.

Operating the only sports specialized library in Hong Kong, the HKSIC is in a process of enhancing its library system and the

installation of a web interface will enable Internet access to its library catalogue. The project is expected to be completed by the end of April. Meanwhile, you are welcome to visit the site of the HKSIC at <http://www.hksdb.org.hk/hksic/index.htm>.

LI Tak Nang
Manager

Hong Kong Sports Information Centre

JAPAN

Sports Information Centre set to open

Opening of Japan's first Sports Information Centre (JSIC) has been scheduled for June 2001.

The centre is part of the Japan Institute of Sport Sciences (JISS) which is being constructed to support the training of top athletes with modern science and technology.

Out of its establishment of over 40 professionals for the JISS, three researchers

will be deployed to the area of sports information and they will be the core members of the JSIC.

The first major project for the JSIC will be the definition of common data format for sports sciences. XML (Extended Markup Language) will be used as the base while other common data format, such as Medical Markup Language or Statistical Data definition will also be incorporated.

Chikara Miyaji
Director

Japan Sports Information Centre

Major Events coming up in Asia

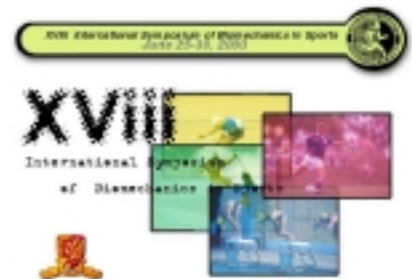
Singapore Library Expo
 26-28 April 2000
 Singapore
<http://www.aibf.com.sg>



2nd Asian Congress on Science & Football
 24-27 May 2000
 Kuala Lumpur
<http://www.asian-football.com>



XVIII International Symposium of Biomechanics in Sports
 25-30 June 2000
 Hong Kong
<http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/spe/isbs2000>



International Conference for Physical Educators
 July 2000
 Hong Kong
http://www.ied.edu.hk/icpe/icpe_eng/index.htm



Dear Reader,

Thank you again for reading the Bulletin.

It is not our only aim to get you to read it. We hope to communicate with you.

Filling in this reply slip and returning it to us would help the progress of our work, whereby we hope the entire region could benefit.

Your contact:

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ **Fax** _____

E-mail _____

The ASIA Preparatory Committee is looking into the feasibility of a mutual aid service. Our objective is to facilitate the distribution of any surplus resources to organizations or libraries in need. Before we go further with this plan, your valuable input would be appreciated. We would be grateful if you could reply to these questions and send back to the Secretariat. Thank you.

1. Is your organization/library/sports information centre in need of free resources?

Yes

No

2. Does your organization/library/sports information centre have access to Internet?

Yes

No

3. Do you normally have surplus (complimentary) resources to give away?

Yes

No

4. If yes, what kind of surplus resources are they primarily?

Official publications e.g. annual report

Research reports

Books

Back issues of periodicals

Others _____

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c/o Hong Kong Sports Information Centre

Hong Kong Sports Development Board

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