

**Chengdu/CHN 7-21 August 2009**



Report by  
Zita PIDL  
Team Manager



## REPORT ON THE 1ST ACTIVITY OF THE ITTF WORLD HOPES TEAM

Training camp followed by China Youth Open

Chengdu/CHN 8-21 June 2009

*by Team Manager Zita PIDL*

### MEMBERS OF THE WORLD HOPES TEAM:



Girls from left to right

Egle ORLOVAITE (LTU)  
Salma KHALED (EGY)  
Janina NIETO (PER)  
Tamolwan KHETKUEN (THA)  
Angeline TANG (MAS)



Boys from left to right

Patryk ZATOWKA (POL)  
Brian AFANADOR (PUR)  
Christos CHRISTONOF (CYP)  
Jeong Woo PARK (KOR)  
Fermin TENTI (ARG)  
Abderrahmane ALIOULA (ALG)  
Charles DENG (USA)



Team Manager Zita PIDL (HUN) and Head Coach Dejan PAPIC (CAN)



## TIME SCHEDULE

|             |                    |
|-------------|--------------------|
| 07 June     | Arrival to Chengdu |
| 08- 16 June | Training Camp      |
| 17-21 June  | China Youth Open   |
| 22 June     | Departure home     |

## VENUE and ACCOMMODATION



Chengdu is situated in the middle of China, capital of Sichuan province. It could be easily reached from all over the world. The **Chinese Table Tennis Association** has located here its **Western International Training Centre** that proved to be more than a fantastic venue for the first ever ITTF World Hopes Team Project. The climate of the city seems to be better than other Chinese towns, it is less humid, we had luck with the weather too, the sky was most of the time clouded, but only rarely rainy, the unpleasant hot summer has been avoided this time.



We found four star quality rooms, with air-conditioning and high speed internet access for free (!) big, air-conditioned sports hall and proper restaurant in the same building – no one can ask for more! Very comfortable situation if one can have the restaurant on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor, the room on the second floor and the gym on the third floor and this was the case for all of our players and their coaches.





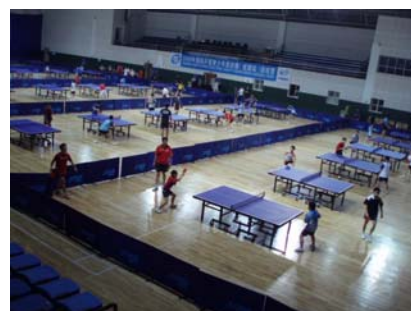
## Food



This is always a crucial point at all table tennis events, especially if youngsters are concerned. Of course, this time it was Chinese food and I am sure some might not like it. However, the quality was excellent and the approach of the kitchen personal was very nice, they've asked every day if we had some wishes and tried to do their best to serve us whatever our group likes. Even French fries with ketchup were on the table beside several vegetables and other dishes. Knowing the Chinese style of cooking and having heard from the Sichuan cuisine already, it was not a big surprise that many of the dishes were rather spicy (hot). Nevertheless, there was always something to find even for the most sensitive stomach. Here shall be mentioned that one of our team member announced very serious food allergy (cannot eat anything contains milk, pepper, soy and anything that is spicy /hot/) and even he could eat properly, what is in my opinion a small miracle considering some important details of the Chinese cooking. Of course, in some cases the food was unusual for us, but objectively said it was appropriate for sports(women), various and the quantity was always more than enough.

## Playing hall

Big sports hall on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor equipped with 30 DHS tables, has wooden parquet floor and good playing conditions. Additionally one more playing hall on the ground floor (in fact that is the permanent table tennis hall, the one on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor is more used for badminton normally), it was very good because our team could use this one when the upper hall settings have been changed for the competition.



## Programme



The program of the training camp has been set up to three parts and after each part some kind of rest was included. The serious and permanent assistance of Chinese coaches has to be underlined here; **Zhang Xun**, **Lin Cong** and **Cheng Jianhua** (see photo on the next page, right side, from left to right) worked with our players during all training sessions focused mainly to multi ball lessons. This was a very good and useful part of the camp; all players could profit from it and learn new things according to their current level. Actually the practice was on very high level for everybody,

the only missing thing was that we could not get better sparring for our best three players (Park, Zatowka, Khetkuen), although we were asking for from the very beginning.





Generally the approach of the Chinese coaches was very positive, much better in my opinion than previously expected. The local Head Coach **Chen Pei Guo** (left photo, middle) kept every day asking if we had some wish concerning practice and also the Deputy Principal **Jiang Jia Zhang** (left) and **Liu Jian Ming** (right) tried to fulfil all of our requests.



On one evening video analysis took place, players and coaches watched the Junior Boys' Singles Final of the WJTTC 2007 (Palo Alto).



Here once again the good will of our hosts, in particular **Fu Bin** the Director of Property Management has to be mentioned who immediately put at our disposal the big conference room of the centre that is equipped with all necessary facilities for such work like video projector and white board.

(We had our very last team meeting also in this room.)

Fu Bin even has served the ITTF officials with Starbucks coffee during competition days.





## Free time activities



On the free forenoon we paid a visit to the famous *Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding*. It was very interesting to see these rare animals in (almost) their own environment. For sure it was nice and useful change of program after 6 hard training days for the players and helped also to build the necessary team spirit. During this day also those cadet and junior players were with us who took part in the camp through Olympic Solidarity support and the team of Congo Democratic Republic has seen the Pandas too.



We had two invitations for dinners – actually one was my invitation; I invited for dinner all those Chinese friends who helped us to make this camp successful, but failed to do so, better to say the dinner took place, only I was not allowed to pay.... The first one was traditional “Sichuan snack” (left), where all WHT coaches have been invited, the second a so called Hot Pot (right) where only ITTF officials (from our side) took part.



## China Youth Open – ITTF Junior Circuit

As said before the start of the tournament, only motivation, positive attitude, fighting spirit and fair play were expected from the players. Any good result was just a plus, but not the main goal this time. No pressure, just pure table tennis what was required.



However, some very good results have been achieved; **Jeong Woo PARK** (KOR) even clinched gold in the Hopes Singles event. Other players to be mentioned - if we talk about outstanding results – are **Patryk ZATOWKA** (POL) who became 3<sup>rd</sup> in the same category. The double of them won bronze medal in the cadet doubles too.

Among girls definitively **Tamolwan KHETKUEN** proved to be the “Unpolished Diamond” (expression by Dejan Papic), she won several matches also in the cadet category (where she faced much elder players) and at the end she finished on the

second place of the Girls’ Hopes Singles podium.

Fermin TENTI (ARG) and Brian AFANADOR (PUR) played the Boys’ Hopes consolation final, while Egle ORLOVAITE and Angeline TANG did the same in the Girls consolation.

Nevertheless all other players did very good job during competition days; they fulfilled the request, it was difficult to find any point that was given “for free” to the opponent. They swat, they fought, and they showed good attitude and motivation. Exactly according to the request! ☺



## Acknowledgements

On behalf of the ITTF World Hopes Team I express my sincere thanks to:

- ✚ BUTTERFLY and in particular Sebastian RANGS for providing not only the background of the whole project, but also beautiful and unique clothing for the team members
- ✚ The Chinese Table Tennis Association in particular Xiao HE for the co-operation
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- ✚ Thomas BUZA for working hard on the presentation of the project
- ✚ Steve Dainton for establishing the first (and most important) contact on the spot
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- ✚ All National Associations of WHT players for their care
- ✚ Dejan PAPIC for his professional approach and co-operation
- ✚ All present national coaches for their contribution and last but not least
- ✚ All WHT players for their enthusiasm, fighting spirit and endless hard work during our two weeks stay in Chengdu.



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Budapest, 25<sup>th</sup> June 2009

Photos by Zita Pidl

