

Starting direct after the congress in Bonn the complete EGF-team, supported by the staff of the EGCC, worked hard in Lille to get the 2. World Mind Sports Games running. The EGF took the role normally the IGF should have done. All over this 2. World Mind Sports Games were a big success for Go, while we hosted amateur-players from 30 countries. We could demonstrate that it's possible to set up such an event in four months and earned a lot of appreciation from all Go-organisations in the following international meetings.

Besides the World Mind Sports Games the EGF organized additional special events, twice a qualification-tournament for Europeans to play the SportAccord World Mind Games in Beijing (2012 and 2013). In August 2012 (Lille) and July 2013 (Leksand) top male players were invited by the EGF, partly financed by the prize-money guaranteed to the european team when playing the SportAccord World Mind Games.

Looking on international championships in far-east for the first time two pairs from one European country (Czechia) could start at the World Amateur Pair Go Championship in Tokyo 2012, because Klara Zaroudkova and Jan Hora won their personal participation at the European Amateur Pair Go Championship in Lyon. This year they succeeded again at the Pair-Go-event in Amstelveen to go to Tokyo in November 2013.

Nothing in this report about the IGF World Amateur Go Championship, because the 2013 tournament will be played next month in Sendai (Japan). Again a highlight, the Korean Prime Minister's Cup, organized by KABA, without any costs for the participants.

Probably the most important development of the last 12 months was to strengthen existing contacts and to generate new connections to Japan, Korea and China.

From Pandanet we got a reconfirmation for their sponsoring of the Pandanet Go European Team Championship for 2014ff. The finals on real boards will always be played at the European Go Congress (fixed in the agreement). The third season just ended in Poland with exciting games on the boards, while 30 countries participated in this 3rd European Championship (online and games on real boards).

EGF also signed an agreement with the Japan Pair Go Association about a long term future cooperation, another important step for extending our contacts to Japan and putting them on a higher and safer level.

Looking on Korea the EGF is happy to see (and support) a new initiative driven by the Kido-company (already sponsoring the famous Kidocup-tournament in Hamburg) for a structured style of teaching Go in Europe. In the first step the project is restricted on three countries: Germany, France, Netherlands. Go-teachers will be supported by workshops, material, publications about their experiences, online help functions and some guidelines how to increase the number of teachers, a prerequisite for getting more players and more attention in schools. Also this project should run over many years, with an extension to more European countries in the future.

With the strong support of our new member of the EGF-executive-board, Li Ting, and her private contacts to Go-friends in China we were able to sign a long-term cooperation contract with CEGO, a company just founded only for this project last December. This contract affects several important parts of European Go, from spreading Go all over driven by new cultural activities to supporting promising young players to learn Go in China till new big tournaments

in Europe and the start of „European Professionals“ and a complete system for Professional players in Europe (2014/2015). Additionally the EGF will get a strong financial support for its organisation. These new directions require much more professionalism than in the past.

With this long-term contract we hope to get more attention for Go in all European countries and for the first time we can offer our youngsters something like a vision for many years. After the AGM 2013 the contract will be published on the EGF webpage.

Jana Hricova worked hard again on different levels for youth-projects, with the highlight coming up in August 2013, the Youth World Championship held in Prague, under the lead of the Ing Foundation.

Finally within these last twelve months me and my team in the EGF-board were very busy, not to forget the „normal business“ like supporting organizers of the other important European championships (Youth, Women, Pair, Students), arranging the 5th Transatlantic Youth Match between USA/Canada and Europe, keeping the contacts to the EGCC and working on the daily business, mainly under the control of Tony Atkins (secretary) and Hans Kostka (treasurer). My special thanks go to Tony leaving the board on 1st August 2013 after having worked over far more than 10 years very successfully on the EGF-board.

Many thanks for your cooperation. I am sure that Go in Europe will have a bright future.