



## Asian Tennis Federation—2016 Annual General Meeting

11th Nov 2016; New Delhi,



2016 edition of the ATF Annual General Meeting was held in New Delhi; India on the 11th November.

25 Delegates represented 17 member nations in the yearly council meeting.

Held at the scenic Hotel Hyatt Regency in the capital city of New Delhi, the Delegates arrived on the 10th November to a traditional Indian welcome in the city.

The day of the Annual General Meeting saw presentations from officers of the ATF and the ITF, the bodies managing the game of tennis across Asia.

The delegates were cordially welcomed to India by the General Secretary of the All India

Tennis Association, Mr. Hironmoy Chatterjee;



Thereafter, various matters pertaining to the development of the sport were discussed and an

action plan for the coming year broadly presented in front of the attending delegates.

One of the most crucial matters brought forward and discussed at length, was that of creating a pathway for the players of the region, which would enable them to stay with the game for a longer duration.

In the words of ATF President Mr. Anil Khanna, 'the players have every right to earn a decent living from the game'



It was observed that due to the lack of earning potential offered by the game; a large number of players were unable to make a smooth transition from the junior to the pro circuits category.

While the ITF was doing its best to provide a competitive structure of tournaments at every stage of development, it was largely up-on arrival in the professional stage, that the players found it toughest to carry on with the game.

It was with this objective in mind, that the ATF had begun working on the Asian regional professional circuit essentially for the development of transitioning players in Asia in 2016.

With consistent efforts and inputs, the Asian Tennis Tour was launched in 2016, which is steadily establishing a transitional pathway for the players moving from the juniors to the professionals category in the region.



Amongst various other development initiatives for Asian players, 2017 would see the launch of ITF 12&Under Team Championships.

The 12&Under Team Championships would see the players progressing through an interesting zonal events, to the finals of the Championships, which would be held in Kazakhstan at the end of the year.



The project is supported by the efforts of Mr. Bulat Utemuratov, the President of the Kazakhstan Tennis Federation and Board of Director of the International Tennis Federation.

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Other reports included a summarization of the development of sport in West Asia, by the Chairperson of the West Asian Development Committee Ms. Sara Baker.



Details of the new 2017 ITF Development Strategy were given out by Exec. Director Development Mr. Luca Santilli



The Asian 14&Under Circuit was summarized the ATF Chairman of the Juniors Committee Mr. Adil Burlibayev who elaborated on the success of the Asian 14&Under Circuit in Asia in year 2016 which saw the number of tournaments increasing substantially from 2015.





Post the presentations and reports, an interactive session saw delegates from various nations discussing the issues faced by them vis a vis the development of the game in their countries. These queries were duly noted and responded to by the ITF & ATF officers for follow up and further action.



Ms. Susan Soebakti (INA), Mr. Sid-diq Al Hashmi (OMA), Mr. Chris Lai (HKG) & Maj. Mohd Yead Ali Fakir (BAN) were some of the contributors to the various topics discussed during the meeting.

The Annual General Meeting was followed by dinner hosted and organized by the All India Tennis Association; at the R. K Khanna Tennis Stadium in New Delhi which provided the delegates a chance to savor Indian curries and spices.

On the 12th of November, the delegates were taken on a guided tour to the historical city of Agra, which hosts the Taj Mahal (A UNESCO World Heritage Site)

Made of ivory white marble & taking more than 20 years to complete, a visit to Taj Mahal ensures memories for a life time.



To download high resolution pictures from the 2016 Annual General Meeting; Please click here <http://bit.ly/2g4RprV>

For high resolution photographs of trip to Agra, kindly click on the following link <http://bit.ly/2h1Mxsd>