



Minutes of 2023 Asian Rowing Federation (ARF) Congress

Date: Sunday 24th September 2023 Time: 15.00-18.26 hrs

Venue: Zhejiang South China Hotel, Hangzhou, China

Agenda 1. Opening of the session

The President, Chen Chunxin, opened the Congress, welcoming delegates, guests, and observers. He expressed gratitude to the Executive Committee (Excom) members, chairs of Specialized Committees, and Member Federations (MFs) for their ongoing support. He also thanked the Hangzhou Asian Games Organizing Committee (HAGOC) and the venue team of Fuyang Water Sports Center for their significant assistance during the Hangzhou Asian Games.

ARF Executive Committee

1	Chen Chunxin (CHN)	President
2	Fay Ho Kim Fai (HKG)	Senior Vice President
3	Semun Oh (KOR)	Vice President
4	Vahid Moradi (IRI)	Vice President
5	Praparnongs Pochanasomburana (THA)	Vice President
6	M. H. Buchi (JPN)	5 th Vice President
7	Liu Dehai (CHN)	Secretary General

Chairs of Committees

1	Wu Jining (HKG)	Chair of Competitive Rowing Committee
2	Katayoun Ashraf (IRI)	Chair of Development, Women and Youth Committee
3	Edy Suyono (INA)	Chair of Events Committee
4	Wang Yan (CHN)	Chair of Marketing and Promotion Committee
5	Seung Hoon Han (KOR)	Chair of Para-Rowing Committee

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| 6 | Fang Ling (CHN) | Chair of Rowing for All Committee |
| 7 | Mikio Hiura (JPN) | Chair of Sports Medicine Committee |
| 8 | Takao Senda (JPN) | Chair of Umpiring Committee |

Apologies:

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | Semun Oh (KOR) | Vice President | Illness |
| 2 | Katayoun Ashraf (IRI) | Chair of Development,
Women and Youth
Committee | Work-related
issue |

Agenda 2. Identification of the delegates and confirmation of their authority

Among the 36 Member Federations, 41 delegates from 24 MFs registered for the Congress without observers being included, and out of the 24 MFs that registered, delegates from 21 MFs were present.

The registered delegates and the present delegates are listed as follows:

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|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1 CHN | 2 HKG | 3 INA | 4 IND | 5 IRI |
| 6 IRQ | 7 JPN | 8 KAZ | 9 KOR | 10 KSA |
| 11 KUW | 12 MAC | 13 MAS | 14 MYA | 15 PAK |
| 16 PHI | 17 PRK | 18 SGP | 19 SRI | 20 THA |
| 21 TPE | 22 UAE | 23 UZB | 24 VIE | |

* Please be noted that grey indicates absence.

After the roll call, the President introduced the Excom members, Specialized Committee Chairs, and World Rowing President Jean-Christophe Rolland to the Congress, and invited Mr. Bao Guocan, delegate of the venue team of Fuyang Water Sports Center and Mr. Tong Lixin, President of the Chinese Rowing Association (CRA), who had provided significant support for this Congress's organization to deliver speeches.

Agenda 3. Appointment of scrutineers

Three delegates, namely, Michael Scott Tanner (HKG, President), Singh Deo Rajlaxmi (IND, President) and Budiman Setiawan (INA, Vice President) were proposed to act as the scrutineers for the Congress.

This was unanimously approved by the Congress.

Agenda 4. Approval of the Minutes of 2022 ARF Annual Congress

The minutes of the 2022 ARF Congress (held from 16:00 to 18:20 on Saturday 3rd December 2022, at Serene Phla Resort and Restaurant, Rayong, Thailand) were unanimously approved.

Agenda 5. Report of the President

The President expressed gratitude for the support of the MFs, with special recognition given to the CRA for their invaluable assistance, and emphasized the importance of collective efforts to advance rowing and ARF's development. The message concluded with best wishes for everyone to enjoy the Asian Games in Hangzhou, China.

Agenda 6. Reports of the Vice Presidents

As this was the first Congress following their election as members of the new ARF Excom members, the four attending Vice Presidents (VP) greeted the MFs delegates and introduced the main contents of their respective reports.

Besides, Fay Ho Kim Fai, Senior VP, offered open communication for suggestions, and Vahid Moradi, VP, highlighted Excom meetings and the working group's efforts on ARF Statutes and Bye-laws amendments.

Agenda 7. Report of the Secretary General

The Secretary General (SG) briefly summarized his report on Administration and Governance, Excom meetings, and projects. He highlighted events like Hangzhou Asian Games, Asian Para Games, and the 2023 Asian Rowing Beach Sprint. He also covered communications, development, and confederation recognition updates.

Agenda 8. Reports from Chairs of Committees

Eight Committee Chairs submitted their reports, offering insights into the development and challenges in Asian rowing over the past year. Mikio Hiura, Chair of the Sports Medicine Committee, discussed the committee's responsibilities and encouraged participation. Takao Senda, Chair of the Umpiring Committee, shared information about an upcoming International Umpiring Seminar and Exam in Shanghai and encouraged MFs to send candidates.

Agenda 9. Approval of the accounts, financial statement and auditor's report for the preceding fiscal year

During the Congress, the SG presented the 2023 financial statement. The report covered finances from December 1st 2022 to September 5th 2023. Funds were received in USD and Thai Baht, totaling about 132,000 USD, alongside membership fees. The Vice President, Praparnongs Pochanasomburana, monitored transactions. Support from In-Kind Sponsors contributed to the coverage of the expenses related to the ARF office.

A delegate from KSA, who had audited the report, recommended developing a comprehensive procedures manual and staff training. The President explained that due to limited income, there was no in-house financial staff. The Secretary of the ARF office managed daily finances.

This was approved unanimously by the Congress.

Agenda 10. Approval of the budget for the following fiscal year

The SG presented the budget plan, covering from September 6th 2023 to the end of August 2024. It was divided into two parts: Cash and In Kind Sponsor Service, containing similar items. In Cash, a sponsorship of 70,000 USD was anticipated for Training Camps and Regatta financial aid. In the In Kind Sponsor Service section, support was earmarked for daily ARF Office expenses and event-related costs. The budget allocated more funds to Training Camps and events.

The budget was approved unanimously.

A delegate inquired about fund-raising activities, and the President mentioned that while no such plans were in place, MFs interested in making donations could contact the ARF office. The main income

sources for ARF were membership fees and marketing sponsorships. The President urged MFs with unpaid membership fees to settle their dues promptly.

Agenda 11. Determination of the annual membership subscription

The current annual membership fee is 200 USD, and no changes were proposed. This was approved unanimously by the Congress.

The SG provided an update on membership fee payments as of September 19th, noting a delay in collecting fees due to certain reasons.

Agenda 12. Appointment of a member federation to audit the accounts for the following fiscal year

Malaysia volunteered to audit the accounts for the following fiscal year, and this was unanimously approved by the Congress.

Agenda 13. Place and date of the next Ordinary Congress

The President proposed that the location and date of the 2024 ARF Congress be announced when the 2024 Asian Rowing Championships is allocated, as stipulated in the ARF Statutes and Bye-laws.

Agenda 14. Attribution of future ARF Regattas

The President provided updates on Asian rowing events:

- The 2023 Asian Rowing U19 & U23 Championships planned for Uzbekistan were canceled due to financial issues, with Thailand offering to host in December.
- The 2023 Asian Rowing Masters Coastal Regatta may happen, with details to come.
- There are no official bids for 2024 events, but some member federations expressed interest, pending approvals.
- Korea plans to host the Olympic Qualification regattas for Asia & Oceania, in Chongju, Korea in April 2024.

At the Congress, several delegates expressed interests in hosting events in 2024: Korea for the Asian Cup, Malaysia for the Asian Rowing Indoor Championships, and Iran for the Asian Cup 2. Discussions on scheduling followed.

Agenda 15. Reports on future ARF Regattas

The delegate of the Thailand Organizing Committee reported on the schedule of 2023 Asian Rowing Junior & U-23 Championships 2023 Asian Rowing Masters Championships.

Location: Pattaya -Rayong, Thailand

Venue: The Royal Thai Navy Rowing Training Center

Date: December 14th to 18th, 2023

Time: 9:00 am – 4:00pm

Agenda 16 Report on applications for membership and voting on such applications

No applications for the ARF membership had been submitted for consideration by this Congress.

Agenda 17 Proposals for the development of Asian rowing and ARF

No formal proposals had been submitted for consideration by this Congress.

Agenda18 Alterations to the Statutes, Bye-laws and Regulations

The ARF Statutes & Bye-Laws were last revised in 2018, but changes were needed to adapt to evolving circumstances. Early 2023, a working group, consisting of Vahid Moradi, Chris Perry and M.V. Sriram, was formed to explore modifications with the suggestions solicited from MFs.

During the Congress, Vahid Moradi introduced the amendments.

Then, voting was conducted. To make it fair and efficient, the SG counted the number of MFs with delegates present again, and the President proposed that the alterations can be divided into two: those of Statutes and those of Bye-laws & Regulations, so the Congress could vote respectively. At last, 15 out of 21 present MFs supported Statutes alterations (two-thirds majority), and 17 backed Bye-Laws & Regulations changes (simple majority), leading to approval by the Congress.

Some delegates raised new proposals, such as adding Specialized Committee Chairs as the board of ARF administration organization (Section 3 Article 14), and discussed about the mandatory events of

Asian Games and Asian Para Games. These suggestions were recorded but not voted on as the deadline for proposals was in April of the same year.

Agenda 19. Election of the President and Vice-Presidents

No election was conducted at this Congress.

Agenda 20. Individual proposals (received in accordance with Articles 17 and 19 of the Statutes)

No formal proposals had been submitted for consideration by this Congress.

Agenda 21. Award of the ARF Medal of Honor

The Executive Committee proposed awarding the ARF Medal of Honour to Admiral Chainarong Charoenruk for his leadership during the challenges of COVID-19 and his dedication to ARF, notably stepping in to host the 2023 Asian Rowing U19 & U23 Championships when it was unexpectedly canceled by the UZB OC.

The proposal was unanimously approved by the Congress, then the President awarded Admiral Chainarong the certificate.

Agenda 22. Proposal from the Executive Committee

22.1. Compensation claim of 2022 Asian Rowing Beach Sprint Championships

The President addressed the issue of an unresolved compensation claim stemming from the cancellation of the 2022 Asian Rowing Beach Sprint Championships by the UAE Sailing and Rowing Federation. This cancellation led to financial losses for several parties, which were expected to be covered by the UAE. Despite multiple attempts to resolve this through correspondence, the UAE Federation had not taken necessary compensation actions.

The Executive Committee proposed two actions to sanction the UAE, including the disqualification of UAE teams from ARF regattas until the compensation was made. During the Congress, there was a discussion about whether it was appropriate to punish athletes who had no control

over event hosting or cancellation.

The President emphasized the importance of balancing interests and respecting the Congress's consensus through voting. Ultimately, the proposal was voted on, with 5 in favor, 8 against, and 8 abstentions, resulting in the proposal's rejection.

The delegate from the KSA suggested requiring future event organizers to submit a deposit when applying for bids, with the deposit being returned once the event or regatta was successfully held. The VP, Vahid Moradi, pointed out economic concerns in various Asian regions.

While the proposal was not approved by the Congress, the President stressed the importance of ensuring fair compensation to the parties who suffered due to the event's cancellation, to be provided by the UAE OC.

22.2 Address from the World Rowing President Jean-Christophe Rolland

President Jean-Christophe Rolland expressed his gratitude to ARF and CRA, emphasizing the significance of Asia in the world of rowing. He congratulated ARF on achieving WR Confederation recognition. Furthermore, he elaborated on the rationale behind WR's plan to replace two lightweight events with three coastal rowing events in the Olympic Games. President Rolland also highlighted WR's dedicated efforts and confidence in advancing coastal rowing's inclusion in the Olympics. He looked forward to the 2025 World Rowing Championships in Shanghai and encouraged ongoing contributions from ARF MFs to foster rowing development.