

We refer to FIDE's letter of 8 January 2016 to the Singapore Chess Federation (SCF), of which the SCF considers as "FIDE Conclusive Response to the ASEAN Chess Confederation (ACC) Sanctions".

The ACC wishes to draw the following points:-

1. Can we have the correspondence, in writing or in email, in which the SCF claimed to have approached the NCFP (National Chess Federation of the Philippines) to settle the issue PRIOR to the ACC's Management Board meeting on 10 October 2015?
2. The ACC is registered in Singapore. Was there an attempt by the SCF to approach the ACC for assistance to discuss and settle the issue with NCFP PRIOR to the ACC Management Board meeting on 10 October 2015 or even after?
3. The SCF started to put its act together only after the sanctions were announced on 30 October 2015. The SCF challenged the ACC on its Management Board's decision on the matter, and made various unwarranted threats without reasonable basis.
4. When the SCF announced its suspension of Mr Tony Tan on 5 November 2015 for two weeks, did the SCF obtain an apology from Mr Tony Tan and forward it to the NCFP (and ACC)? To our knowledge as of the latest date, neither ACC nor NCFP has received an apology, in any form, from Mr Tony Tan, towards the NCFP.
5. During that period of two weeks' suspension, Mr Tony Tan continued to post announcements of SCF events on his Facebook. In addition, Mr Tony Tan was also actively involved at the SCF's National Inter-School Team Championships held during the said period! Can SCF explain what are the terms that constitute the suspension imposed on Mr Tony Tan?
6. Prior to the issuing of the letter dated 8 January 2016 to the SCF, did FIDE request for an update from ACC and NCFP concerning the same incident involving Mr Tony Tan?
7. The ACC is registered in Singapore. Besides its Constitution, there are Guidelines set forth in the regulations of the Registry of Societies. Common Law prevails. The incident happened in Singapore during a regional chess event that belonged to the ACC, who entrusted the organization of the event to SCF. While FIDE is the umbrella organisation, it should respect its own affiliates – regional and national. The behaviour of Mr Tony Tan was unacceptable – there had been numerous complaints against him in local events – this is the first "international incident" but still, it took place in Singapore – and it had done damages to the relationships between its regional members.
8. It is the inherent right of a body to impose discipline on its members. The fact this right is not spelled out in the ACC Constitution doesn't mean it is precluded from exercising the same.
9. FIDE has threatened to suspend ACC events and its norms and direct titles. This is an unfair retaliation which directly affects the players. It is sad that FIDE has allowed politics to interfere with technical regulations. We hope that sense and sensibility will prevail soon.

MANAGEMENT BOARD, ASEAN CHESS CONFEDERATION