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President of Asian Canoe Confederation (ACC)

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Continent / Committee / Commission / Panel / Working Group: ACC

Activities and progress:

Report to the 40th ICF Ordinary Congress

On behalf of the Asian Canoe Confederation (ACC), it is my great honor to participate in the 40th ICF Ordinary Congress in Antalya, Türkiye. Since assuming the role of ACC President in 2022, I am deeply grateful for the support extended to our members by the ICF, particularly through its development program team, which has made invaluable opportunities available for Asian participants in the TIP camps held in Thailand. We hope that these collaborative camps between ICF and ACC will continue to grow in the future.

In this report, I am pleased to present the significant activities and events in Asia for 2024, in which the ACC has collaborated closely with the ICF to further the development of canoeing across the continent.

1. The ICF Canoe Slalom Training Camp for the Asian Region

Venue: The Royal Thai Navy Rowing and Canoeing Training Center, Rayong, Thailand

Date: February 24 - March 10, 2024

This training camp marked the first cooperative initiative between ICF and ACC to promote canoe slalom in Asia. The camp saw strong engagement, with 15 National Federations participating, each represented by a coach and male and female paddlers. Countries in attendance included Malaysia, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Nepal, China, the Philippines, Mongolia, India, Cambodia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Myanmar, Korea, Indonesia, and Thailand. Expert instructors were provided by ICF, with specialists from Australia, Chinese Taipei, and Thailand contributing their expertise.

The camp was held alongside the 2024 ICF Canoe Slalom World Ranking Competition and the 13th Asian Canoe Slalom Championships. With support from both ICF and ACC, the event was a success and signals promising growth for Asian participation in canoe slalom in the near future.

2. 2024 Asian Canoe Sprint and Paracanoe Championships (Olympic Qualification for Paris 2024)

Venue: Sea Forest Water Way, Tokyo, Japan

Date: April 18 -21, 2024

This championship served as a key qualifying event for the Paris 2024 Olympics for Asian canoe sprint athletes. I extend my gratitude to the Japan Canoe Federation for hosting this event so efficiently. Eighteen countries and over 200 athletes competed at this iconic venue in Japan. The Organizing Committee ensured accessibility and convenience for all participants, including athletes with disabilities, through well-coordinated facilities and transportation.

I congratulate the countries that qualified for the 2024 Paris Olympics, as well as the dedicated paddlers and coaches who showcased exceptional performance. As ACC President, I am proud to witness the achievements of Asian athletes and look forward to their success at the Paris 2024 Olympics Games.

3. The ICF Canoe Sprint Training Camp for the Asian Region

Venue: The Royal Thai Navy Rowing and Canoeing Training Center, Rayong, Thailand

Date: May 31 - June 16, 2024

This second ACC-ICF camp aimed at furthering canoe sprint development in Asia. The camp welcomed 14 National Federations, with each nation represented by a coach and male and female paddlers. Participants hailed from Cambodia, Hong Kong China, South Korea, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, and Vietnam. Expert instructors from Brazil, Poland, Greece, Singapore, and Thailand were engaged by ICF to support athlete development.

Held concurrently with the 2024 Asian Canoe Sprint Junior and U23 Championships, this camp provided a platform for emerging talent across Asia to compete and hone their skills, with the support of both ICF and ACC.

Always moving forward

4. 2024 ICF Canoe Sprint World Championships,

Venue: The Rowing and Canoeing Race Course, Samarkand, Uzbekistan

Date: August 23 – 25, 2024

This year marked the first time the Canoe Sprint World Championships were held in Asia. Representing the ICF as a Jury member for this event was a privilege. With over 500 athletes from 54 countries, the championships received excellent support from the Organizing Committee in Uzbekistan. The venue and accommodations, nestled among historical landmarks, provided an outstanding environment for training and competition. The successful execution of this world-ranking event further underscores Asia's capability to host premier international canoeing events.

5. 2024 ICF Dragon Boat World Championships

Venue: Puerto Princesa, the Philippines

Date: October 31 – September 3, 2024

I had the honor of serving as Chief of the Jury for the 2024 ICF Dragon Boat World Championships in Puerto Princesa, Philippines. Known as "The City in a Forest," Puerto Princesa welcomed participants with its natural beauty and rich cultural heritage. This championship, featuring over 1,300 athletes from 24 national federations, was a successful gathering of the global dragon boat community. As ACC President, I am committed to promoting dragon boat racing throughout Asia through ACC regional and national championships. Our long-term goal is to establish dragon boat as an Olympic event under the ICF.

Strategic Plans for Future Implementation

The Asian Canoe Confederation (ACC) is committed to expanding and promoting canoeing across Asia. Our upcoming events and initiatives will focus on the following objectives:

- **Dragon Boat Promotion and Development:** The ACC will continue its efforts to promote and develop dragon boat racing throughout Asia, with a focus on increasing participation from National Federations and encouraging more paddlers to join.
- **ICF Talent Identification Programme (TIP) Camp in Asia:** In partnership with the ICF, the ACC will further develop the TIP Camp program, which has been ongoing for several years. This initiative will provide valuable training and development opportunities for talented athletes and coaches from all regions in Asia.

Always moving forward

- **Annual ACC Championships in All Disciplines:** The ACC plans to organize annual championships across all disciplines, expanding these events to cover every region in Asia. This ongoing initiative aims to foster growth in Olympic and international canoeing events, providing Asian athletes with high-level competitive experiences on the world stage.
- **Promotion of Canoe Sprint and Canoe Slalom at Major Regional Competitions:** The ACC will actively promote Olympic canoe events in major regional competitions, such as the Southeast Asian (SEA) Games. This will help raise awareness of Canoe Sprint and Canoe Slalom, attract young and talented paddlers, and contribute to the future development of these disciplines.
- **Long-term Development of Canoe Slalom through Regional Competitions:** To support the growth of Canoe Slalom across Asia, the ACC plans to introduce an annual Canoe Slalom Cup with at least two competitions each year. This initiative will help increase participation from all regions and further develop high-performance athletes in the sport.

Items Requiring Board Discussion/Review/Approval: None