ACC ANNUAL REPORT
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The Asian Cricket Council:
Leading Cricket Across Asia

It's cricket.
It's Asian.
ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS
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It was a tremendous honour to find that when I became Chairman of Sri Lanka Cricket at the start of 2008, that I also became President of the Asian Cricket Council.

It is a body that has played a significant part in my playing career over the years. I have played in six Asia Cups, with Sri Lanka winning one of them and being runners-up in four more. I have captained in the Asian Test Championship also, another regional initiative of the ACC. I have found that whichever country wins our regional tournaments, it is always Asia that wins as a whole.

The Asian Cricket Council from the start has helped Sri Lanka feel a part of the fabric of Asian cricket. I dare say that if the Asian Cricket Council had been in existence in the 1970s, Sri Lanka would have been a Test-playing nation much earlier than 1981.

The support in the early years for Sri Lanka, the feeling that all the Asian cricketing countries were united and pulling together for the advancement of Asian cricket was very evident. First Sri Lanka were the major beneficiaries, then Bangladesh and after that, all the member countries who are striving for World Cup qualification and a place on the cricketing map. The facilities and systems that are in place in some Associate countries in many cases are no different to what was present in Sri Lanka, Pakistan or India when I first played international cricket. It shows what can be achieved if proper reforms and improvements are put in place.
We ACC members have been through much together and will continue with our mutually shared goals in the years ahead. Asian cricket has come a long way since I first played representative cricket, and much of the acceleration on the present journey is coming from Asia. New directions are being charted but our principles remain the same, as do our principals. I pledge my support to the cause.

Arjuna Ranatunga

President
Player of the Final Ajitesh Argal and India’s captain Virat Kohli with the ICC Under/19 Cricket World Cup 2008
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
As I come to the end of my year as President of the ICC I can reflect on many positive things that have happened. And many of those positives have come from Asia.

The staging of the first-ever ICC World Twenty20 in South Africa in September 2007 was a triumph, not just because it brought a new audience to the game but also because the final - a thrilling affair that went down the last over - was contested by two of our most populous members, India and Pakistan.

Both teams had struggled during the ICC Cricket World Cup in the Caribbean earlier in the year and that made for plenty of negativity about the game from both the public and the media.

But thanks in a big way to the performances of those two teams in South Africa the level of interest in the game went through the roof and, as I write these notes, the graph continues to rise ever upwards.

Since that September day in Johannesburg, the game has seen the launch of the Indian Cricket League and then the BCCI-run DLF Indian Premier League (IPL).

The latter provides an intoxicating mix of top players and Bollywood glamour and both illustrate the desire that exists for cricket among fans and television channels. Cricket, in Asia especially, rates like nothing else.

I am encouraged by the success of the IPL because it means that to many, many people cricket is or has become top of their agendas but I am also acutely conscious of the need to ensure we continue to maintain the balance between the three formats we now have.

Few sports can boast three successful formats at domestic and international levels but cricket can, and to ensure we retain all three we have to get the mix between them just right.

Let us not forget, Test cricket is more than 130 years old and remains the players’ favourite format, the one that really is the mark of their quality and longevity; and One-Day International cricket also has its own tradition. We have now seen nine ICC Cricket World Cups and five ICC Champions Trophy tournaments and the 50-over format is one that remains popular with broadcasters.

So, our future is all about getting that balance right. But that balance is not just at the elite men’s level, it is throughout our great sport, providing opportunities for players at all levels, and over the recent past and into the future the ACC is doing just that.
At junior level Malaysia successfully hosted the ICC U/19 Cricket World Cup in February of this year, with 16 teams representing the future of the world game coming together and India winning a thrilling final against South Africa.

In South Africa, the Pakistan's women's team, now under the wing of the Pakistan Cricket Board after the International Women's Cricket Council's merger with the ICC in 2005, qualified for next year's ICC Women's Cricket World Cup for the first time.

In Sri Lanka, India's women continued their dominance in the region winning the Asia Cup for the fourth time in a row while, at the other end of the spectrum, last July the Bangladesh women won the ACC women's tournament in Malaysia. That event featured some sides, such as the United Arab Emirates, that had never taken part in any organised event before. It illustrates the strides the game is making away from the men's highest level.

Cricket in China is continuing to make progress with the BCCI, PCB, the ACC and the ICC all making financial contributions to push the game forward. In March this year the ICC Board appointed Mr IS Bindra, the former BCCI President, as its Principal Advisor and one of his tasks will be to try and help realise China's cricketing potential. Mr Bindra played a pivotal role in organising the 1987 and the 1996 ICC Cricket World Cups in the Asian sub-continent and he will again be central to the tournament's success in 2011. We have a good man to help in the development of Chinese cricket.

As I write these notes, the IPL is reaching a climax, the Asia Cup - featuring the UAE and Hong Kong as well as the region's four Full Members - is soon to begin in Pakistan and preparations are moving into top gear for September's ICC Champions Trophy in the same country. These developments serve as another illustration of the way the game is powering on.

But there are other smaller, yet no less significant, barometers of the game's health in the Asian region. Qatar is set to stage its first women's tournament; an Afghanistan Cricket Academy is being established at Kandahar; and the Afghan team, together with Singapore and Nepal are among 12 teams taking part in the ICC World Cricket League Division 5 event in Jersey, an island just off the coast of France and the first step on the road to the ICC Cricket World Cup 2011.

Playing numbers in the ACC region have tripled since 2002 and that, together will all else I have detailed above, is a great sign of progress. But in order to ensure we keep making that progress we must continue to work hard. The ACC is doing just that, I thank them for all their efforts as one of the ICC's five regional offices during my time as President and I have every confidence of that progress being maintained in the future.

Ray Mali
It was a great honour and privilege for me to be the President of the Asian Cricket Council during part of my service as Chairman of Sri Lanka Cricket.

During that time I was truly able to witness development in action and see the part that the Asian Cricket Council plays in improving the cricketing activity of its non-Test playing member countries. I was pleasantly astonished to see the intensity and fervour of support for cricket during the inaugural ACC Twenty20 Cup in Kuwait last year. Around 5,000 spectators saw a thrilling high-quality final between Afghanistan and Oman, the game going down to the very last ball. It was a match worthy of being broadcast.

Afghanistan's rapid climb, from mud and rubble, in recent years is a demonstration of the appeal of cricket once a country has been exposed to it. No less remarkable is the fact that Kuwait, in one of the most extreme cricket climates in our region, hosted the ACC Twenty20 Cup on three turf grounds.

Cricketers will find a way to play wherever they are. It is our job to support them.

Another initiative of the Asian Cricket Council which has significance far beyond what happens on the field, excellent though the play was, is the Afro-Asia Cup series. There we find two regional bodies both looking to spread the game beyond its traditional borders, uniting in an endeavour of mutual support. It was not so long ago that Test cricket in Africa was completely non-existent and cricket in Asia just the privilege of India and Pakistan. The activities of the Asian Cricket Council give its members the confidence and strength to positively influence the affairs of both Test and non-Test playing nations.

Channelling all this cricket activity in a manner appropriate to the task at hand – raising the general standard of cricket across our region – is what the ACC has unequivocally devoted itself to during my term as President. Long may it continue.

Jayantha Dharmadasa
Many of us present at the birth of the ACC in 1983 are still active in cricket administration and those of us that are, stand on the shoulders of giants. The founders of the Asian Cricket Conference as the ACC was initially known, came together because of an idea. The constitution enshrined the principle that “organising, developing and promoting the game of cricket in Asia” as being paramount to our existence but more than that, it was the very notion that Bangladesh, Hong Kong, India, Malaysia, Pakistan, Singapore and Sri Lanka would be united in a single endeavour which was inspiring. And which has been most influential.

In looking back over the past year, I hear echoes of and see parallels with so many events over the past twenty-five years. In September 1983 India had just won the World Cup three months previously and Pakistan were a very strong side. Sri Lanka were new members of the ICC and had played just five Tests (all of them featuring our current President), Bangladesh was at a standard probably on par with, if not below, Malaysia. The intervening years have seen tremendous advances by India and Pakistan but the improvements of Bangladesh and Sri Lanka have been huge. The influence of India and Pakistan initially on Sri Lanka in the 80s and 90s and then all three countries on Bangladesh in the past ten years has been tremendous.

A Sense of Asia

I don’t think any of our Test-playing countries would have done so much if they hadn’t had the support and co-operation of each other and at the same time, the sense of competition with each other that is inherent in the family dynamic. We have held opinions that reflect and consolidate our social consensus. The Asian Cricket Council may not have played the defining roles in each country’s cricket but it has added weight to all their decisions, given them a united front in dealings with other bodies and ensured that no Asian country can ever be thought of as vulnerable in its sovereignty.

As I said earlier, we must remember that this concept of unity was, in the beginning, just that. A concept. There was no Development Program, there were no events and there was no money. The first Asia Cup broadcast rights to be sold were those of the fifth event, in 1995.
Up to then, everything that Asia did was self-generating and self-financing. In times of considerable hardship the sense that Asian unity must be demonstrated and its demands satisfied, kept on winning through. Globalisation only came into being ten years ago once the nexus of media, politics and business could combine. No one has mastered ‘globalisation’, no one has mastered ‘development’. Not the World Bank, not the United Nations and not even the ACC. Twenty-five years, ten years, is nothing in the life of an organisation that trades on ideas and human ability. India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka have all won the World Cup once. What is to ensure one of them wins it again? The ACC came into being when West Indies cricket had the ‘team of the century’. The West Indies have not won a World Cup or even reached a World Cup final since India beat them in 1983.

Our President, Arjuna Ranatunga, knows this all too well. He played at the highest level for almost twenty years, winning a World Cup along the way. Ask him if he can guarantee victory in the next World Cup and he will say he cannot, even with the advisory team of former cricketers he has at Sri Lanka Cricket. What Mr. Ranatunga does know is that he has to revitalise the whole system of Sri Lankan domestic cricket if his country is to produce cricketers of the class that emerged from his youth and earlier. What won in the past will not win in the future. The game has moved on. It always does. It always will. “Thinking wins matches,” he once told me: thinking of the next move, not the ones before.

All this is to say that in development, in our academies and coursework, there is no product except knowledge, and that may take decades to develop, if it develops at all. And it is not an efficient, step-by-step process. There are wins and losses, peaks and troughs and so many, many variables. All throughout though, learning does happen. If I can demand one thing of my colleagues at the ACC it is this: move away from results. Look to the process. Don’t claim credit for an occasional victory in tournament play but on how well cricket is embedded in your country’s culture and society.
Pillars of Development

The ground work has been done. There are enough coaches. Enough umpires and enough curators. Once we have more cricketers we can have more of the above. Our non-Test playing members love us building up their cricketing infrastructure for them. Be a member of the ACC and be guaranteed access to money, manpower and matchplay. However, what I have realised to my regret is that, after we have given them whatever we can, there is too much sitting back and waiting for the next guaranteed instalment of support.

We have done what we thought countries needed and wanted. In many cases even more. Now, if members are to receive more, and there is so much more coming in the next seven years from the ICC Development Program, let alone from us, it is incumbent upon members to deserve it. We are about to move into the world of meritocracy. Development funds will be distributed not on how far you can reach for money but how hard you work for it. As our rankings introduced in 2006 show, we are grading our non-Test playing members on their teams’ tournament performances in all our competitions, and on their administration. The ICC have their own grading system too.

What it boils down to is this: if cricket in your country is growing, your development funding will grow. This growth will be in relation to those of other countries in the ACC region and other ICC regions. How the countries will grow is up to them. The fact of the matter is that take away the ACC and cricket in our member countries, with very few exceptions, is not growing as a result of national cricket associations.

I would strongly encourage our member associations in the next twenty-five months let alone the next twenty-five years, to seek other sources of funding other than the ACC and ICC. We are but missionaries. Dear members, no one can care more for your country's cricketers than you. No one should. No one ever will. So use our funding as the springboard for greater things rather than the ceiling of your ambition.

The Stature of Cricket

The Test-playing nations of Asia have given a stature to the game in recent times that has ensured cricket a place on the front, middle and back-pages of all the world's newspapers. Even a Chinese taxi-driver in Malaysia is aware of the Indian Premier League as is a Malaysian expatriate in China. And by the way, governments read newspapers too.

The game grew on the back of an Empire's trade and its desire to convey the ethos of empire-building values. As then, as now, people and institutions are attracted to sources of power and money. No other sport, apart from basketball, has had the quantum leap in members, funding, and landmass that cricket has had in the past twenty-five years. Not baseball, not American football. As passionately as basketball is followed at present, the game has lost a little bit of its growth momentum in recent years. But like us, they are very keen to expand even further in China.
The predominant culture of Asia is such that government authority is followed willingly by the populace. As such, an aspect of our promotion of cricket in the region should intimately involve the state. The state can provide money, yes, but more significantly it gives a vital element of recognition to a sport which, outside the Test-playing countries, is appreciated by a relative minority.

Our members undeniably suffered in earlier years and still do to a certain extent with the fact that, as immigrants in an alien country and a culture alien to cricket, Association founders had little leverage in society with which to promote their cricket. Now however, I look around, and see not just in the Test-playing countries but in all our members, that it is a characteristic that the individuals at the head of the cricket associations are usually figures of significant influence and authority in their respective countries.

ABC: Afghanistan's Federation head is the Minister of Tribal Affairs, Bhutan's Cricket Council President is their Foreign Minister, the Chinese Cricket Association's head is the Director-General of the state Multi-ball Games Administrative Centre and the man responsible so far for bringing tens of millions of dollars in investment and sponsorship into tennis and golf in China: QED.

Similar profiles are evident in all our members and it is this very access to non-market networks that needs to be developed by our members if they are to grow the game root and branch. Association heads need to be managers who are not afraid of politics, who understand that political engagement is part of their job. We need Associations that recognize the importance of management and we need Associations that bring experts into the core strategy and cricket development process.

Some of our Association heads I know, after getting to the top do not want to relinquish an ounce of power. involving state governments, new sponsors, new sources of players is not giving up authority. It is spreading it. The game in the Gulf would be so much more advanced if there were just one or two indigenous Arabs playing for the national team. If they are not invited, not invested, how can they be interested? Not a single mainstream sport is traditional to the Gulf, yet many are taken up by the indigenous population.

I hope our members will be fully aware that they need to create a network of institutional relationships with public agencies in order to compete successfully for the time of children and their parents against school, employers and other sports and leisure activities. Grow your game through business and politics, dear members, it's what the Test-playing countries do.

Policy and Priorities

The ability to 'connect the dots' - to work the connections between local conditions and outside opportunities, and between the non-profit, private and government sectors - is vital. Irrespective of whatever funding a country receives, it is never enough. It is part of human nature to always want more. Rather than the ACC or ICC simply giving its members more money because the sale of rights has produced more money we would like for the money to be put more in the right areas.
Chief Executive’s Review

The ACC has to limit its focus to those priorities which will make a significant impact. Otherwise one condemns oneself to do just little bits and pieces. The organization is currently in the middle of a process of 'exfoliating' those projects not on the priority list. Within each priority project, the ACC wants to create local programs - with local leaders. We will listen. We will not impose the strategy from above. We will let the strategy emerge from local conditions.

Our Development Agenda at the ACC is structured around the stated key objectives of the ICC. These are:

i) to promote the game within our region by raising cricket participation levels,
ii) raising standards of coaching, playing, curatorship and umpiring and
iii) raising the profile of the game in countries which have little or no cricket culture.

In the last ten years we have spent close to $11,000,000 on development programs. What has been the return? World Cup qualifiers in 2003? No. World Cup qualifiers in 2007? No. World Cup qualifiers in 2011? We don't know yet. I would say that the main reason behind this has been the fact that we started from close to zero, relied too much on hope and the power of personalities, money and the magic of numbers without any awareness of just what needed to be done. Well, we know better now.

Our 2007-2011 Strategic Development Plan is just 2% of the equation. If that Plan is to be anything more than window-dressing the other 98% has to be putting it into action. Rather than announcing good intentions over the next Big Capital Letter Initiatives, we must motivate people on the ground to carry them out. It's been all carrot so far. Some stick must come into play too.

It has been one of the tenets of my career in cricket administration that a 'missionary zeal must triumph over a mercenary attitude' amongst all those who work in cricket development. Human nature is what it is. Fear of loss and greed of gain is what drives all of us, missionary or mercenary. Let us get things done with these motivations. They are, after all, the exact ones used by the other global regions

Development is such a new field no one knows what works in cricket, let alone in any other sport. But the past ten years of liberal funding have shown what does not work. Now that we are humbled enough not to know 'The Answers' in advance, let's admit to an awareness of how trying anything in any country, in any meeting-room, is a complicated tangle of political, social, historical, institutional, and cultural factors. Any answers we find to overcoming obstacles must be through home-grown, trial and error experimentation. Any so called 'project manager' who does not rely on a jargon-filled formulaic Powerpoint presentation to make his points is ahead of the game.

Only insiders have enough knowledge to find solutions, and most solutions must be home-grown. Again, to reiterate, the Asian Cricket Council can provide strategy, orchestrate and act as advocates for our members' needs but we will never have the familiarity with local conditions that our members do. If our members set the targets, we will do our best to ensure the targets are hit.

With your increased activity we will become more active. You will push us into being more active, more alert, more focussed and an all-round better development body. Just because we've done so much doesn't mean we've done it all. Demand more of the ACC, dear members. We are here to serve your cricket.
The Point of Development

Sometimes the targets are removed by powers out of our control. Such was the case earlier this year when the number of teams in line for 2011 World Cup qualification was reduced from six to four. Suddenly years' worth of preparation was undermined. There will be less of a world in the World Cup. It was a matter decided by the ICC for an ICC tournament as is their prerogative, and developing countries have had to accept what the big brothers say.

Having the stumps narrowed halfway through an over is not ideal but as a development body we will live with it and redouble our efforts in the 2011 World Cup qualifying tournaments and in the ones beyond. Currently three out of six - Afghanistan, Hong Kong, Nepal, Oman, Singapore, UAE - can make it to 2011.

Our new Development Manager and his team, along with all of us at the ACC wish to create a situation whereby non-Test playing countries are not seen as a burden to administrators and broadcasters in future World Cups. We would like organisers of future World Cups to be absolutely desiring the presence of Afghanistan, China and Asian qualifiers for their box-office appeal and manner of play.

It will happen. If it's all about money, more quality teams will give more cricket to a bigger audience. If it's about altruism then cricket being played at a higher standard in more countries makes cricket an even stronger sport. Win-win either way.

Cricket is such a simple game - 'see ball, hit ball, run, catch and throw'. Off the field, there is also nothing new under the sun. Shorten it, lengthen it, do what you will with it, cricket is still about scoring more runs than the opposition before you get out. Everything that happens has a precedent and an underlying subtext. What needs to be new are the reactions to them.

The Asia Cup

Since its inception in 1984, the Asia Cup has evolved into a tournament which has four of the world's Test-playing nations. Bangladesh when it played in it from 1984 to 1997 could only aspire to be a Test-playing nation. ODI status - through playing in this tournament acted as a spur and a highly significant development tool.

Today's Bangladesh is tomorrow's Afghanistan, Hong Kong, Nepal, Oman, Singapore, UAE or China. Bangladesh by playing in the Asia Cup, did not itself demand ODI status, but its matches against ODI nations certainly did. Its cricketers, its supporters, its countrymen came to feel they 'belonged', and tried even harder to satisfy their aspirations.

Asia's main asset is its togetherness and it is this very solidarity that leads to the establishment of the Asia Cup, the revenue from which forms a major part of our funding.

Much hard work and planning went into re-establishing the 2008 Asia Cup after another gap of four years and the tournament stands as a jewel in our crown. In years to come the ACC's efforts in administering this premier tournament for the Test-playing countries along with the best teams in Asia will come to be valued even more. The Asia Cup demonstrates the feeling of brotherhood and common purpose we have in showcasing the best that Asian cricket has to offer.
The Asian Games

Becoming a part of the Olympic movement by having cricket adopted into the 2010 Guangzhou Asian Games is something whose significance will soon be very clear. On top of all the money coming into the game from the ACC and ICC, there will be a new source of funding from the Olympic Council of Asia for those teams taking part in the Twenty20 event in Guangzhou. Along with Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka and China as automatic qualifiers, there will be three other countries from across Asia. Teams from the East-Asia Pacific region will take on ACC member countries for the right to play in Guangzhou.

Olympic Council of Asia funding also becomes available to Asian countries as cricket is now a part of the Asian Games.

The countries that get through to Guangzhou in 2010 will receive Olympic-level funding, expose themselves in a new forum and undoubtedly make a name for themselves in the world of cricket where I foresee far more commercial and cricketing interaction on a corporate level with China.

Things are coming into place, momentum is building; critical mass will soon be achieved and we will see developing cricket-nations not asking for money but money being offered to developing cricket-nations.

The Afro-Asia Cup

Surrounded as we are in Asia by the presence of so many building-sites which for 90% of their existence are eyesores and which only instil in the onlooker a sense of, ‘Ah, I see what it is now and it really is quite impressive’ for the last 10% of their construction, the same sentiments apply to development projects. China and the Afro-Asia Cups are ‘Special Projects’ where money spent is laying the foundation for towering results in twenty to thirty years’ time.

The ICC’s ‘Mission’, it’s ‘Vision of Success’ as described in it's Strategic Plan for 2006-2010 is to act in a way so that “cricket will captivate and inspire...while building bridges between continents, countries and communities.” This is why we at the ACC hold the Asia Cup, this is why we and the ACA hold the Afro-Asia Cup.

Our agreement with the African Cricket Association to play one-day international series between an Africa XI and an Asia XI, the second of which was held in India in June last year is indicative of how seriously both bodies take the need to have more countries on both continents playing cricket at a higher standard. The teams in the 2007 Afro-Asia event, led by Mahela Jayawardena, Justin Kemp, Shoaib Malik, Tanmay Mishra, Mithali Raj and Cri-Zelda Brits were amazing. They played at the highest intensity in difficult conditions and that the three ODIs produced 600, 643 and 649 runs was testimony to the skill and hunger for victory shown by both sides and the quality of the wickets in Bangalore and Chennai.

The 2007 Afro-Asia Cup was also the first time that international Twenty20 cricket was played in India.

Our mission is to keep creating better and better conditions for cricket. The example which some of the world's greatest players set in such competitive showcases will undoubtedly inspire many, many more to try and follow them. The Africa Cricket Association and Asian Cricket Council will do their best to support them.
The first Afro-Asia Cup handily raised $2.26 million, with 10% of that amount going to charity, (Sightsavers International). The second was effectively paid for by us as everybody - players, administrators, fans, media, sponsors, television - turned up. Except for the original rights-holders.

We went through with the matches and will hold them in the future because the symbolism, the cause and the idea that the best cricketers of Africa and Asia should come together - to raise funds for the benefit of cricketers they may never meet, in countries they may never go to - is a powerful one. The idea already raised millions, it will do so again. The idea brought Africa and Asia closer. The effects will be long-lasting. The goal, as BCCI President Sharad Pawar said during the launch of the 2007 event is to have “future World Cups where all the qualifiers are from Africa or Asia”. This is where the game is growing most rapidly.

**Twenty20 Cricket**

We have ridden the wave of globalization. It is now time for the tides of change to reach the shore. For our member countries to make a mark in the world of cricket, one-day cricket is what counts. Test-status is a far-away goal. ODI status is nearer. For our non-Test playing members World Cups are a definite possibility, Asia Cup and Asian Games participation a definite reality.

Twenty20 cricket is a great handle for beginners to grasp the game and it is a terrific teaching tool. The Asian Games in 2010 will feature cricket for the first time, in a Twenty20 format. This is a major advance for cricket in Asia and opens up a whole new range of growth and commercial opportunities. We believe that success at this level will translate into success in the fifty-over game. These two formats are how our development-work will be measured. These two formats are what give the majority of our members a place on the international stage.

We are all still learning about Twenty20 cricket yet it is already apparent that good cricket shots bring the most rewards as do good bowling and good fielding. The fundamentals of the game are the same. The longer formats, with their broader and deeper challenges, test cricketers further and thus have a broader and deeper appeal, but Twenty20 performance is a very important measure of a cricketer's ability.

The ACC Twenty20 Cup of 2009 will be an Asian Games qualifier and the top eight from the ten countries taking part in our inaugural event in Kuwait last year have put themselves in line for the Asian Games in 2010. We want to reach a level in ACC competition where every match matters; under our cumulative tournament rankings system, they do.

**China**

The introduction of cricket in China is a remarkably pure test of the game's appeal, as the Chinese come to it free from all socio-cultural shibboleths that led to its adoption in the countries of the former Empire. For them cricket is a pure bat and ball sport. Until just a few years ago China knew cricket as simply, 'ban quio', 'wood-ball'. Now cricket is known as 'shen shi yun dong', 'the noble game'.

Cricket in China is not only a test of whether the game has the ability to actually win over hearts and minds which have zero prior knowledge of cricket, it is a test of our coaching methods and it is a test of China's vaunted sporting system. Can we, can they, with all this pooled sporting knowledge (with much support from Cricket Australia) create a team in the equivalent of a giant sporting laboratory? We are all trying and we very much look forward to seeing the results.
Chief Executive’s Review

The ACC and CCA have established that US$2 million is needed per year if cricket is to make impact of a scale sufficient to create self-sustaining development of cricketers across the mass of China. Cricket Australia and the Mandarin-speaker led Australian government have pledged their support in helping to raise sponsorship. Pakistan and India have been very generous with coaching and equipment funding.

ACC and ICC funding from 2004-2005 to the end of the current financial year has been US$1,682,100 with another $310,000 earmarked for next year. It's creating coaches, players and umpires just like anywhere else. And it is with a purpose.

When ICC Development Manager Matthew Kennedy was in Beijing in 2006, he said that “developing cricket in China is a twenty-year project”. That holds as true as ever but the next 18 months are very significant. The 2010 Asian Games is all about “face” for China. More than being good hosts in Guangzhou, if the team does well on the field, particularly against the other three Asian qualifiers then the authorities will undoubtedly support cricket in China further.

In the short to medium term, at Affiliate and Associate level, China's involvement in cricket will repay investment in them. Countries across the world, let alone Asia, will all find it easier to raise corporate and government funds to play China home and away.

All the money being spent in China is with the aim of investing in cricket's future. It is one thing to offer an existing market a different product e.g. the Indian Premier League, it is another to offer a new market a new product. I've said it before and I'll say it again, China's participation on the global cricket stage will boost cricket's revenues greatly.

Women's Cricket

I am heartened by the uptake of women's cricket by so many of our members. It is like a pent-up dam has finally burst. What BCCI President Sharad Pawar set in motion in 2005 by taking the lead in Asia and amalgamating women's cricket into the national body has had tremendous results.

ICC development funding is in place to support national cricketers and the ACC held its inaugural Women's Tournament last year in Malaysia. Eight teams took part, with Bangladesh beating Hong Kong in the final. Twelve U-19 teams (not including Bangladesh) will play in an ACC event this year.

The 2007 Women's Tournament has put women's cricket on the map across new territories in Asia. We at the Asian Cricket Council sincerely feel that women's cricket in these emerging countries will quickly establish itself as a significant sport with countries finding it easier to reach international standard compared to the men's game.
Age-Group Tournaments

First and foremost the Asian Cricket Council is a development body and that is why age-group tournaments are so important.

At age-group tournaments we are able to see the causal link between what has been and what will be. They also provide a terrific opportunity to assess the level of local coaching. The majority of countries have home-grown cricketers and home-grown coaches at age-group level. There is no reason why some of these cricketers should not represent their countries in World Cups to come.

Ten years from now the participating athletes will still be young men, ten years from now whether their cricket has improved depends not only on them but their administrators.

Age-Verification was a subject that generated much debate amongst our members. Our Sports Medicine Officer Dr. Vece Paes will clarify the issue elsewhere in the Annual Report but let me make this clear now. The determinants on Age Verification - bone-age not chronological age - were agreed upon in 2005. All our members should make note of what has been agreed to. Some do.

Age-Verification

The core principle of introducing Age-Verification is this: when children play cricket in our tournaments we are their guardians. Their parents entrust us with the responsibility to give them good cricket, good playing conditions, good housing, transport and a general good environment. The children's welfare is paramount in our minds and we wish to minimise the chance that any harm may come to the players. As such, age-verification protocols are set to establish limits on how physically developed a child can be when he goes up against another child. Cricket is a game which cannot be played without protective gear. The game is inherently laced with the potential to do some physical harm to its athletes. With established physical parameters to our age-group cricketers we wish to minimise the potential for harm. Like playing against like, not physically advantaged against physically disadvantaged, is what we wish to see.

Bone-age, not height, not weight, not chronological age is what we are using to ensure cricket in our age-group tournaments is played between similar children. Once that is established the cricket becomes a matter of skill. Let us respect the difference between teenagers and build it into the way we teach our young cricketers to train, play and, most importantly, enjoy their sports.
The ACC in 2008

I am keen that our Annual Report reflects the breadth and depth of our development activity. These are significant times for cricket as it seeks to establish itself as Asia's premier sport. Our Annual Report gives substance, identity and inspiration to all those who contribute to cricket in our member countries.

It always comes down to the players, that is where the game starts and ends. I see children lining up from Afghanistan to China to play cricket. They love the game, even if they can't express it fully they want the game to be about building a personality, maybe even a life in the game.

If 21st century cricket is about big profits it must also be about big purposes. When we work for just one, we are less than the sum of our parts. When we work for both, we are unbeatable.

I thank the Presidents and Executive Board for their guidance and support. We are fortunate to be under their leadership.

Syed Ashraful Huq
The Silver Jubilee of the ACC

As we celebrate our 25th year as the ACC, we thought it would be enlightening for members to know how the ACC started.

The ACC was formed in New Delhi on the 19th of September 1983, as the Asian Cricket Conference. The aims and objectives as stated in the original constitution were “organising, developing and promoting the game of Cricket in Asia” Aims to which it has adhered ever since.

The first Office Bearers of the ACC were:
President – N.K. P. Salve MP
Vice President – Gamini Dissanayake MP
Hon. Secretary – A.W. Kanmadikar
Hon. Joint Secretary – Syed Ashraful Huq
Hon. Treasurer – M. A. Chidambaram

The founding members of the ACC were Bangladesh India, Malaysia, Pakistan, Singapore and Sri Lanka. Membership subsequently increased first with Hong Kong, then the UAE, followed by Nepal in 1990. Myanmar is the most recent member, joining the ACC in 2005.

In 1993 the Asian Cricket Conference became the Asian Cricket Council. There are two categories of membership at the ACC - Full and Associate – with the Test-playing countries and ICC Associate countries (Hong Kong, Malaysia, Nepal, Singapore, UAE) being accorded Full Member Status with the rest of the member countries ranked as ACC Associates.

It has been a steadfast policy of the ACC to expand the game and to take it boldly into new territories and thus truly globalise the game. Development activities go hand in hand with tournament activities in order to carry forward the original aims of the ACC.

Fiji, Japan and Papua New Guinea have all been members of the ACC and have competed in ACC Trophies. However, following the ICC’s formation of the East Asia-Pacific Region for development activity in that region, these countries ceded membership of the ACC.

Until December 1999 all administrative positions of the ACC were honorary. Since 1999 the Secretary and Treasurer have been drawing remuneration. Up to 2003 the headquarters of the ACC were shifted every two years with the biennial rotation of the President’s and Secretary’s home country. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia was chosen to be the permanent headquarters of the Asian Cricket Council from the latter part of 2003.

Delegates at the Inaugural ACC Meeting on September 19 and 20, 1983, New Delhi

Standing (left to right): Prof. M.V. Chandgadkar (India), R. S. Mahendra (India), A.Sajjad (Pakistan), Q. Noorani (UAE), A. R. Falaknaz (UAE), S.K. Wankhedhe (India), M.A. Chidambaram (India), P.M. Rungta (India), S.Sriraman (India), M. Jaikishan (India), I.S. Bindra (India), J. Dalmiya (India)

Seated (left to right): A.Abbasi (Pakistan), A.R. Bukhatir (UAE), D.S.Gill (Malaysia), Air Marshal (Retd.) Nur Khan (Pakistan), N.K.P.Salve (India), G.Dissanayake MP (Sri Lanka), S.A. Huq (Bangladesh), N. Mohamed (Sri Lanka), A.W. Kanmadikar (India)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member Countries</th>
<th>ACC Member</th>
<th>ICC Member</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>1983</td>
<td>2000</td>
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<td>India</td>
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<td>1926</td>
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<td>Pakistan</td>
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<td>Sri Lanka</td>
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<td>1981</td>
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<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>2001 (Affiliate)</td>
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<td>Bahrain</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>2001 (Affiliate)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bhutan</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>2001 (Affiliate)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brunei</td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>2002 (Affiliate)</td>
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<td>China</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>2004 (Affiliate)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
<td>1983</td>
<td>1969 (Associate)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>2003 (Affiliate)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kuwait</td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>2005 (Associate)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>1983</td>
<td>1967 (Associate)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maldives</td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>1998 (Affiliate)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>2006 (Affiliate)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>1996 (Associate)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oman</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>2000 (Affiliate)</td>
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<td>Qatar</td>
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<td>1999 (Affiliate)</td>
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<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
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<td>2003 (Affiliate)</td>
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<td>Singapore</td>
<td>1983</td>
<td>1974 (Associate)</td>
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<td>Thailand</td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>2005 (Associate)</td>
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<tr>
<td>UAE</td>
<td>1984</td>
<td>1990 (Associate)</td>
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The ACC was originally formed as the Asian Cricket Conference in 1983, changing its name to the Asian Cricket Council in 1993.

The ICC was originally formed as the Imperial Cricket Conference, changing its name to the International Cricket Conference in 1965 and then to the International Cricket Council in 1989.

Myanmar is the newest member of the ACC. Two of the ACC’s members became Associates of the ICC in 2005.
### OFFICE BEARERS 1983 - 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>President</th>
<th>Vice President</th>
<th>Hon. Secretary</th>
<th>Hon. Treasurer</th>
<th>Hon. Jt. Secretary</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1983 - 1985:</strong></td>
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<td>N. K. P. Salve</td>
<td>Gamini Dissanayake</td>
<td>A. W. Kanmadikar</td>
<td>M. A. Chidambaram</td>
<td>Syed Ashraful Huq</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1991 - 1993</strong></td>
<td>Abdulrahman Bukhatir</td>
<td>Harbans Singh</td>
<td>Qasim Noorani</td>
<td>Mohammad Redha Abbas</td>
<td>Syed Ashraful Huq</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1993 - 1994</strong></td>
<td>Madhavrao Scindia</td>
<td>Tunku Imran</td>
<td>C. Nagaraj</td>
<td>P. R. Mindle</td>
<td>Syed Ashraful Huq</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### OFFICE BEARERS 1983 - 2008

#### 1994 - 1997
- **President**: I. S. Bindra
- **Vice President**: Tunku Imran
- **Hon. Secretary**: Jagmohan Dalmiya
- **Hon. Treasurer**: S. K. Nair
- **Administration Officer**: Syed Ashraful Huq

#### 1997 - 1998
- **President**: Upali Dharmadasa
- **Vice President**: Tunku Imran
- **Hon. Secretary**: Tryphon Mirando
- **Hon. Treasurer**: E. B. K. Weerasuriya
- **Administration Officer**: Syed Ashraful Huq

#### 1998 - 1999
- **President**: Thilanga Sumathipala
- **Vice President**: Tunku Imran
- **Hon. Secretary**: Saliya Ahangama
- **Hon. Treasurer**: Nuski Mohamed

#### 1999
- **President**: Mujeeb Ur Rehman / Zafar Altaf

#### 2000 - 2002
- **President**: Lt. Gen. Tauqir Zia
- **Vice President**: Tunku Imran
- **Secretary**: Zakir Hussain Syed
- **Hon. Treasurer**: Mohammad Naeem

#### 2002 - 2004
- **President**: Mohammad Ali Asghar
- **Vice President**: Tunku Imran
- **Hon. Secretary**: Syed Ashraful Huq
- **Hon. Treasurer**: Habib-Ur-Rehman

#### 2004 - 2006
- **President**: Jagmohan Dalmiya / Sharad Pawar
- **Vice President**: Jai Kumar Nath Shah

#### 2006 - 2008
- **President**: Jayantha Dharmadasa / Arjuna Ranatunga
- **Vice President**: K. H. Imran
ACC EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Arjuna Ranatunga - Sri Lanka Cricket Chairman, ACC President
K.H. Imran - Singapore Cricket Association President, ACC Vice-President
Sharad Pawar - Board of Control for Cricket in India President
Dr. Nasim Ashraf - Pakistan Cricket Board Chairman
Major General Sina Ibn Jamali - Bangladesh Cricket Board President
Kangadaran Mathivanan - Sri Lanka Cricket
Y.A.M. Tunku Tan Sri Imran Ibni Tuanku Ja'afar - Malaysian Cricket Association President
Mazhar Khan - UAE Emirates Cricket Board Administrator
Ravi Sehgal - Cricket Association of Thailand President
Manzur Ahmed - Brunei Darussalam Cricket Association Chief Executive Officer
Syed Ashraful Huq - ACC Chief Executive
Duleep Mendis - Sri Lanka Cricket Chief Executive Officer - Ex Officio
Niranjan Shah - Board of Control for Cricket in India Honorary Secretary - Ex Officio
Shafqat Naghmi - Pakistan Cricket Board Chief Operating Officer - Ex Officio

ACC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Dr. Nasim Ashraf - Chairman
Arjuna Ranatunga
Binaya Raj Pandey - Cricket Association of Nepal President
John Cribbin - Hong Kong Cricket Association Honorary Secretary
Mirza Asad Baig - Kuwait Cricket Association Deputy Chief Executive
Nadeem Nadwi - Saudi Cricket Centre Development Manager
Sultan Rana - ACC Development Manager
Shubhangi Kulkarni - Board of Control for Cricket in India Women’s Committee Convenor
Syed Ashraful Huq - Ex Officio

ACC FINANCE & MARKETING COMMITTEE

N. Srinivasan - Board of Control for Cricket in India Honorary Treasurer - Chairman
Anf Kitchlew - Pakistan Cricket Board Chief Financial Officer
M. A. Momen - Bangladesh Cricket Board Chairman of Finance Committee
P. Krishnasamy - Malaysian Cricket Board Deputy President
Thusith Perera - ACC Finance Manager
Arjuna Ranatunga - Ex Officio
Syed Ashraful Huq - Ex Officio
ACC WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

Shubhangi Kulkarni - Chairperson
Vanessa de Silva - Sri Lanka Cricket
Shamsa Hashmi - Pakistan Cricket Board
Monawar Anis Khan - Bangladesh Cricket Board
Alice Jones - Hong Kong Cricket Association

ACC DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Sultan Rana
Roger Binny - Development Officer
Aminul Islam - Development Officer
Rumesh Ratnayake - Development Officer
Iqbal Sikander - Development Officer
Dr. Vece Paes - Sports Medicine and Physical Fitness Officer
Keith McAuliffe - Consultant, Grounds and Pitch Development
Mahboob Shah - Resource Person (Umpiring)
Khizar Hayat - Resource Person (Umpiring)
Sri K. Parthasaradhy - Resource Person (Umpiring)
Peter Manuel - Resource Person (Umpiring)
K.T. Francis - Resource Person (Umpiring)
Ross Turner - Cricket Australia International Development Program Manager

ACC SECRETARIAT STAFF

Syed Ashraful Huq - Chief Executive
Anna Lalitha - PA to the Chief Executive
Sultan Rana - Development Manager
Ganesan Sundarammoorthy - Development Program Coordinator
Susan Moorthy - Development Program Assistant
Thusith Perera - Finance Manager
Philip Lee - Finance Executive
Noor Faizah Dolah - Finance Assistant
Meenakshy A. Sivaramakrishnan - Accounts & Administration Clerk
K.K. Haridas - Events Executive
Shahriar Khan - Media Manager
Niren Mukherjee - Media Assistant
Farha Nilna Binti Anam - Receptionist
Mohamed Suhaili - Office Assistant/Driver
Devadas Kalidas - Office Assistant/Driver
Development Manager's Report
Sultan Rana

Development Manager Sultan Rana resumed service at the Pakistan Cricket Board in April 2008, after three years as the Asian Cricket Council's Development Manager.

Before his departure he gave an interview to the ACC website, and in place of the regular Development Manager's Report, we submit the piece here.

What did you know about the ACC before you started working for it?

“When I first came I didn’t exactly know of the work being carried out by the ACC to be honest, but I was involved in previous ACC tournaments as a match or tournament referee. When I first started I found it a little difficult and I was uncomfortable but within a few months I picked up and learnt more about the organization and the development they put into the game. Normally when you are from a Test-playing country and work with a Test-playing cricket Board, you do not really bother or discuss about the development of the game in other parts of the world. Hence it was quite new for me but I soon found it interesting and it was a way for me to give back something to cricket, the game I played for more than 20 years.

“I wasn't too aware of the funding part of it either as to where the money came from but gradually I came to know about the inside workings; where the money comes from, how the ICC and ACC generates the funds. I found it encouraging to know that millions and millions of dollars are being ploughed into just the development of cricket. As far as I know and as Asia is concerned, it is money well spent as we have been increasing the number of our member countries. With 18 non-Test countries as our members now, we are still looking to add more to that list.
What are the positives of the game?

“Cricket is actually one of the few sports that has no body contact and yet it teaches you a lot about character and discipline and also to be a team player. I very strongly believe that any team that plays for the sake of its team and not individual gain is going to be very hard to beat. Cricket is a wonderful sport and I hope other countries pick up the game as we've tried to introduce it to the junior and grassroots level but it ultimately comes down to the Associations to get the game started.”

What do you mean by 'grassroots'?

“When I say ‘grassroots’ I am specifically pointing to school cricket; and to start school cricket one needs to join hands with the concerned government departments. It is definitely not easy and because it is not a professional sport, the administrators find it difficult to bring people to the game.

“There is a big gap between administration and players but I think this gap can be reduced through schools and the concerned associations should maintain this as their prime responsibility. Real development is the involvement of the local and indigenous people and not the development of the expatriate game. Expatriate cricket may be important for the growth of the game but it is not true development of cricket.”
What would you do to get locals involved in cricket?

“To make it more attractive to the local people, we may need to modify the game; maybe six or eight a side or even beach cricket. But we encounter problems at the administration level where if you see, all our Middle East members have someone from the royal family in them. What is the use if they're not able to start and develop the game in their own country? The only reason for them being involved that I can see is that there is someone powerful in the association and therefore problems can be sorted out quickly. There are some countries in which these people have not been able to get hold of a piece of land to play cricket. These people are not accessible to the secretaries and members of the Associations and therefore there is no communication as well. There is a lot of money in the Middle East and I feel that once the interest is generated, then they will not hold back on the funding of anything in regard to the game.

“To instill interest into a child who has little or no idea of the game, they must be shown and allowed to play a shorter; more informal form of the game so that they can gain knowledge and interest in cricket. And once they continue with the game, it is certain that they will fall in love with cricket and hopefully go on and continue to play the longer version of the game. Street cricket and beach cricket are forms of the game by which many of today's players have come through. At some point when they were young, the big names in cricket have played either street or beach cricket, sometimes even both. To play cricket you have to either be born in a Test-playing country or into a family that follows the game, but to bring someone out to play cricket is quite difficult. Hence there has to be interesting opportunities that need to be provided. KwikCricket can be played even in recess, a three or four over game can be monitored by the right people in the school who encourage these boys to play.

“A teacher or coach is not only someone who tells you how to hold the bat or ball. The coach needs to inspire and motivate you to play and must have good communication skills to relate to all people around him as well as the ability to command respect. Teachers in school in our days used to teach us cricket and other games but in these developing countries there has to be a start somewhere. KwikCricket is the best solution or maybe even cricket carnivals.

After your three years as Development Manager, what is left for your successor to do?

“Just over a year ago, there was the DLF Tri-nation series in Malaysia. I requested the Malaysian Cricket Association in writing that it was a good opportunity to bring schoolchildren to the grounds. Even at the U/19 World Cup held here recently there were a few uniformed boys who were watching and I was really pleased to see this but there could've been more. Even if they get bored after a while, maybe you can generate interest in five out of fifty of them and it is still a plus.

“Russia's invasion of Afghanistan was a plus for cricket. This is because the Afghani's took refuge in Pakistan and it is in these refugee camps where they were born and grew up and it is also where they picked up the game. They have a huge advantage of having Pakistan next door and they can just cross over into Peshawar and learn and play cricket there. The Afghan boys who are in their twenties now may not have been born with cricket in their blood but were largely exposed to the game.
“In countries like Brunei the local’s interest in the game is not as extensive as football. And because of this to be able to generate interest one needs to shift from the mainstream. With proper training and coaching I am sure they will come up in time because there are boys in Brunei who have an interest for the game. It also depends on the person who is in charge of promoting the sport; he has to be someone who needs to be vigilant and pumped up to push the game to the locals.

“It is very important to have talent to grow in this game and we’ve been trying to help these countries with talent available but internal problems hinder the cause. With things like school holidays and parents not agreeing to let their children play the game extensively for the whole day, there is not much left for the ACC to help out with and there has to be some cooperation coming from the opposite side. The parents and associations must have interest in promoting the game and the ACC is always there with financial support. The ACC has sent very good coaches to these countries and there should be no reason as to why they shouldn’t develop the game swiftly and it ultimately comes down to the association as to how best they utilize the facilities and support provided.

“China has been getting full support from the Association as well as the parents, to immerse the children into the sport and this is very encouraging. With such a huge population, they excel and have proven their sporting prowess, talent and their hunger to succeed in other sports and in the past three years they have formed teams and are competing internationally. Irrespective of them winning or losing, China is an example of true development - bringing a game to people who had no idea of it. It is a great attitude that they have and now thousands of people are picking up the game. It is a huge plus for the ACC and one of our greatest achievements so far is getting cricket to feature in the upcoming Guangzhou Asian Games in 2010. This can change the entire atmosphere of cricket in Asia because most of the governments will support the sports played in the Asian Games or which are a part of the Olympics and they will spend a lot of money on winning medals.

“Now if it catches the interest of the people who watch the game on television, this is going to be huge, not just revenue-wise but in years to come we will have good cricketers coming from China and competing at the highest level. I have watched the team play on a number of occasions and I noticed that they have picked up things about the game quicker than any other team. They are also very determined and focused and have an attitude of never giving up.”
Development Manager’s Report

Asia’s Way to the 2011 World Cup

In a radical and innovative qualifying format, the ICC have made it possible for any one of Asia’s 11 Affiliates and 7 Associates to join the ten Full Member nations at the 2011 World Cup.

The high-stakes system has been set up to allow teams to focus on peaking at the right times for what will be the biggest cricket matches of their lives in the years leading up to 2011. 4 of the ICC’s 87 current global Affiliates and Associates will make it through. All 4 of them could be ACC members.

The ambition to succeed already exists. The platform has been provided. The campaign to qualify must start now.

2006
Finalists of ACC Trophy*
(Hong Kong, UAE)

2007
WCL Division 3 (8 countries)
Argentina, Cayman Islands, Fiji, Hong Kong, Italy, PNG, Tanzania, Uganda
Top Two advance

2009
ICC World Cup Qualifier
(12 countries)
Kenya, Ireland, Scotland, Canada, Bermuda, The Netherlands, UAE, Oman, Namibia, Denmark
2007 WCL Division 3 - 1st and 2nd

2007
WCL Division 2 (6 countries)
Oman, UAE, Denmark, Namibia, Argentina and Uganda
Top Four advance

2009
WCL Division 3 (6 countries)
Uganda, Argentina, Cayman Islands, PNG
WCL Division 4 - 1st and 2nd
Top Two advance

2008
WCL Division 5 (12 countries)
Afghanistan, Bahamas, Botswana, Germany, Jersey, Mozambique, Nepal, Norway, Singapore, USA, and two EAP qualifiers
Top Two advance

2008
WCL Division 4 (6 countries)
WCL Division 5 - 1st and 2nd
Fiji, Hong Kong, Italy, Tanzania
Top Two advance

* At UAE and Oman have pre-qualified for World Cricket League Division 2 through their participation in the 2005 ICC Trophy. The two most successful Asian Qualifiers for World Cricket League Division 3 becomes available to the next ranked team should the UAE and Oman be finalists in the 2006 ACC Trophy. Should only one of UAE and Oman be in the final, then their opponent will be Asia’s qualifiers for World Cricket League Division 3. Two more World Cricket League Division 5 slots are available to the next ranked teams following UAE, Oman and the Division 3 qualifier in the final placings of the 2009 ACC Trophy.
Development Manager’s Report

“China, being the hosts of the 2010 games, doesn’t have to climb the qualification ladder. The main focus has to be on the team and to prepare them. They will play a qualifier round in 2009 and immediately after that tournament the ACC will know where they stand and how to better their skills and see how they match against the Test-playing nations. They may not win against any Test side because the level of competition is so high but if they can put up a resistance and bat out all their overs, it is good enough for both the ICC and ACC. Both the ICC and ACC are looking at China as an investment as well. If the Chinese take up the game officially there will be a significant financial boost for the world of cricket.

“I am confident our members can represent us at the upcoming World Cup. Both UAE and Oman have qualified for the ICC Trophy and there are four more teams who are playing in the World Cricket League. I have high hopes for Afghanistan and hope they can be there in the ICC Trophy. Nepal and Singapore too are good sides but I feel Afghanistan would be the team to pull off a few shocks.”

“The ACC can take some credit for these qualifiers. We are a big financial support; we provide them expertise and give them whatever assistance is required. We help guide them how to go about handling pressure and how to get on top of hard situations and this is all done by the advice given by top class Development Officers who have played at the highest level. ACC can also muster support from the Test-playing nations and we have sent countries like Afghanistan over to Pakistan to play a more competitive level of cricket and at the same time Singapore has gone to India for training.”

How do you feel about the global development program?

“I am pretty hurt regarding the reduction in the qualifiers for the 2011 World Cup from six to just four. It has basically undermined the entire development work that has been carried out for so long by so many in the ICC. When there are six non-Test playing countries there are more chances of getting into the ICC Trophy and the World Cup. Now with four qualifiers it is going to be very tough for these four teams to get into the World Cup. The other regions have expressed concerns as well. From a development point of view, six teams was just right and justified the work done by the development side. Teams like Scotland, Ireland and Netherlands play a more semi-professional style of cricket and so Asian teams might struggle. Having said this, I still feel that Afghanistan, Oman or Nepal can probably make it alongside UAE.”
I have enjoyed working for the ACC because the atmosphere in the office itself is very jovial. There have been challenges and it has made it very interesting. I am lucky to have a good development team to help me though the times. All the staff have helped stand beside the development team and it is us who come under pressure when teams are not performing well. Now that there are six teams vying for qualification to the World Cup I can say my team has done a very good job. Also having the Chief Executive who is a former cricketer has helped and will help a lot because he knows what should really be done to see cricket develop.

I think my working in the ACC will help me with my new job but only in certain ways. It is a completely different scene with a Test country because there are various things you encounter and to me if you don't have a good domestic structure, you don't get good national players. It is going to be a challenge but I’ve worked for the PCB earlier and I was a member of the committee which restructured the cricketing system in order to develop regional cricket. I may not be directly involved with the ACC but should there be anything I can help with, I am always readily available.

I think in ten years from now if we are able to pull in the Arabs, I would like to see them competing in a real cricket game. If the ACC can bring out these people onto the cricket grounds it will be a great achievement.

What are the development strengths of the ACC?

Any organisation that has talent like two World Cup winners in Roger Binny and Iqbal Sikander, a Sri Lankan legend in Rumesh Ratnayake, our newest Development Officer, a national hero in Bangladesh, Aminul Islam and the tireless Doc Paes as the Sports Medicine Officer is very lucky. Plus we have top umpires conducting our courses like K.T. Francis, Khizar Hayat, Peter Manuel, Sri K. Parthasaradhay along with Mahboob Shah.

The team have taken on more and more responsibility and are running a number of courses themselves. Having been through so many Cricket Australia courses they know the science of communication as much as the science of cricket now and they are going to be doing an even better job in the future. Sometimes I think the countries don’t realise how lucky they are to have such experts guiding them.

We could get them more active at the highest level in each country they work in but a lot of that depends on how much the countries can make use of our Development Officers’ input. What is most heartening to see is that the youngsters in our member countries are playing so well and so correctly. Their coaches have been coached and now they are coaching the youngsters well. Quality youth cricket will mean quality senior cricket and that will give Asia more chances at ICC world level.

Any final thoughts?

“May God be with you all.”
The cream of the crop: Players and coaches from the six ACC countries in line for World Cup 2011 qualification (Afghanistan, Hong Kong, Nepal, Oman, Singapore, UAE) and Malaysia U-19 cricketers, at the MRF Academy with the ACC Development Officers, June 2007
The ACC Non-Test Playing Countries Tournament Rankings 2005/06 – 2006/07

The Purpose of Rankings:
* To categorize the member countries by performance in competitions.
* To motivate the member countries to have performance competition goals.
* To reward the member countries for their competition performance.

Method:
* The ACC ranking system is based on a 2 year cycle due to the age-group tournaments being completed every 2 years.
* The rankings will be determined on the teams’ placing/ranking in the ACC Trophy, ACC U-19 Cup, the ACC U-17 Cup and the ACC U-15 Cup.
* The teams with the minimum aggregate ranking points in the tournaments will be ranked higher, as in golf.
* The top ten teams in each age group will participate in the Elite division, while the rest will participate in the Challenge division.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ranking/Points</th>
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<th>Ranking/Points</th>
<th>Ranking/Points</th>
<th>FINAL COMBINED</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 UAE</td>
<td>1 Nepal</td>
<td>4 Singapore</td>
<td>1 Nepal</td>
<td>1 Nepal (10 pts)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>2 Malaysia</td>
<td>4 Bahrain</td>
<td>2 UAE</td>
<td>2. UAE (14 pts)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Afghanistan</td>
<td>3 Kuwait</td>
<td>4 Kuwait</td>
<td>3 Malaysia</td>
<td>3 Malaysia (19 pts)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Nepal</td>
<td>4 Qatar</td>
<td>4 Nepal</td>
<td>4 Bahrain</td>
<td>4. Bahrain (21 pts)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Singapore</td>
<td>5 UAE</td>
<td>5 Qatar</td>
<td>5 Afghanistan</td>
<td>5. Kuwait (22 pts)</td>
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<td>6 Hong Kong</td>
<td>6 UAE</td>
<td>6 Kuwait</td>
<td>6. Singapore (24 pts)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>7 Bahrain</td>
<td>7 Malaysia</td>
<td>7 Singapore</td>
<td>7. Hong Kong (26 pts)</td>
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<td>8 Singapore</td>
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<td>8 Hong Kong</td>
<td>8. Afghanistan (33 pts)</td>
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<td>9 Afghanistan</td>
<td>9 Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>9 Oman</td>
<td>9. Qatar (34 pts)</td>
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<td>**16 China</td>
<td>*** 16 Afghanistan</td>
<td>18 Brunei</td>
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</table>

Countries who have not participated or are disqualified are given 16 points for each tournament missed
(“**”) Did not participate  (”***”) Disqualified
# Provisional ACC Non-Test Playing Countries Tournament Rankings – 2007/08 to 2008/09

## Ranking/Points for the year 2007-2008

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<td>*** 18 Nepal</td>
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## ACC Trophy Challenge 2009

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<td><strong>18 Iran</strong></td>
<td><strong>18 Myanmar</strong></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The ACC Women’s Tournaments are not included in the rankings system as not all members are participating in them.
The ACC Twenty20 Cup is played biennially only by the top ten teams in the Final Combined Rankings of the preceding two-year cycle.
Countries who have not participated or are disqualified are given 18 points for each tournament missed.
The 2009/10 U-15 Elite and Challenge participants are yet to be determined by the ACC Development Committee.

(**) Did not participate  (*** Disqualified
Asian Cricket Council Champions

**Asian Cup**
- **1984**, Sharjah: Champions India, runners-up Pakistan
- **1986**, Sri Lanka: Champions Sri Lanka, runners-up Pakistan (India absent)
- **1988**, Bangladesh: Champions India, runners-up Sri Lanka
- **1991**, India: Champions India, runners-up Sri Lanka (Pakistan absent)
- **1995**, Sharjah: Champions India, runners-up Sri Lanka
- **1997**, Sri Lanka: Champions Sri Lanka, runners-up India
- **2000**, Bangladesh: Champions Pakistan, runners-up Sri Lanka
- **2004**, Sri Lanka: Champions Sri Lanka, runners-up India

**Asian Test Championship**
- **1999**: Champions Pakistan, runners-up Sri Lanka (Bangladesh absent)
- **2001-2002**: Champions Pakistan, runners-up Sri Lanka (India absent)

**Afro-Asia Cup**
- **2005**, South Africa: The three-match ODI series between Africa and Asia was tied
- **2007**, India: Asia beat Africa 3-0 in the ODI series, Asia beat Africa in the Twenty20 international, Asia Women beat Africa Women in their Twenty20 international

**ACC Trophy**
- **1996**, Malaysia: Champions Bangladesh, runners-up UAE
- **1998**, Nepal: Champions Bangladesh, runners-up Malaysia
- **2000**, UAE: Champions UAE, runners-up Hong Kong
- **2002**, Singapore: Champions UAE, runners-up Nepal
- **2004**, Malaysia: Champions UAE, runners-up Oman
- **2006**, Malaysia: Champions UAE, runners-up Hong Kong

**ACC Twenty20 Cup**
- **2007**, Kuwait: Champions Afghanistan and Oman

**Fast Track Countries Tournament**
- **2004-2005**, Champions UAE, runners-up Hong Kong
- **2005-2006**, Champions Nepal, runners-up UAE

**Premier League**
- **2006-2007**, Champions Nepal, runners-up UAE

**Emerging Nations Tournament**
- **2004**, Kuwait: Champions Oman, runners-up Bahrain
- **2005**, Thailand: Champions Maldives, runners-up Thailand
- **2006**, Kuwait: Champions Bahrain, runners-up Afghanistan
- **2006**, Thailand: Champions Maldives, runners-up Thailand
Asian Cricket Council Champions

**ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL CHAMPIONS**

**U-19 Afro-Asia Cup**
2005, India: Champions India, runners-up Sri Lanka

**U-19 Asia Cup**
1997, Hong Kong: Champions Bangladesh, runners-up Papua New Guinea
1999, Singapore: Champions Bangladesh, runners-up Nepal
2001, Nepal: Champions Nepal, runners-up Malaysia
2003, Pakistan: Champions Nepal, runners-up Malaysia

**ACC U-19 Cup**
2005, Nepal: Champions Nepal, runners-up Malaysia

**ACC U-19 Elite Cup**
2007, Malaysia: Champions Nepal, runners-up Afghanistan

**ACC U-19 Challenge Cup**
2008, Thailand: Champions Saudi Arabia, runners-up Bhutan

**U-17 Junior Asia Cup**
2000, Pakistan: Champions Sri Lanka, runners-up Pakistan
2001, Bangladesh: Champions India, runners-up Bangladesh
2004, India: Champions Pakistan, runners-up India

**ACC U-17 Cup**
2005, Malaysia: Abandoned at semi-final stage due to inclement weather

**U-15 Asia Cup**
2000, Malaysia: Champions India, runners-up Pakistan
2002, UAE: Champions Pakistan, runners-up Sri Lanka

**ACC U-15 Cup**
2005, UAE: Champions Nepal, runners-up Afghanistan

**ACC U-15 Elite Cup**
2006, Malaysia: Champions Nepal, runners-up UAE
2007, Nepal: Champions Singapore, runners-up Kuwait

**ACC U-15 Challenge Cup**
2006, Thailand: Champions Oman, runners-up Bhutan
2007, Thailand: Champions Qatar, runners-up Bhutan

**ACC Women’s Tournament**
2007, Malaysia: Champions Bangladesh, runners-up Nepal
Afro-Asia Cup

ASIA ODI SQUAD

1. Mahela Jayawardene - Captain (Sri Lanka)
2. Sanath Jayasuriya (Sri Lanka)
3. Sourav Ganguly (India)
4. Virender Sehwag (India)
5. Mohammad Yousuf (Pakistan)
6. Yuvraj Singh (India)
7. Mahendra Singh Dhoni (India)
8. Harbhajan Singh (India)
9. Zaheer Khan (India)
10. Mashrafe Mortaza (Bangladesh)
11. Mohammad Asif (Pakistan)
12. Mohammad Rafique (Bangladesh)
13. Dihara Fernando (Sri Lanka)
14. Upul Tharanga (Sri Lanka)

Manager: Sultan Rana (Asian Cricket Council)
Coach: Roger Binny (Asian Cricket Council)
Physio: John Gloster (Board of Control for Cricket in India)

Big partnerships between big players. Three excellent tracks in Bangalore and Chennai produced some exceptional cricket, all the more creditable for the conditions in which the matches were played. Even with temperatures in the mid-30s and humidity in the high 80s, the players’ competitive instincts rose to the challenge.

All three of the men’s ODIs produced over 600 runs. Bring cricketers of this caliber together and irrespective of the conditions, you’re going to see some hard-fought competition. Even before the sizeable prize-money there were personal pride and team-mates to play for.
The way Africa fought in all three matches, chasing huge totals after losing the toss every time was highly creditable. Shaun Pollock's 130 off 110 balls in the first match as he hunted down 317 in partnerships with Elton Chigumbura and Thomas Odoyo was a brilliant demonstration of pacing and controlling a run-chase. It was his first century after close to 300 ODIs and the all-time highest ODI score by a Number 7 batsman.

Asia posted an even bigger score (337) in the second match, in Chennai, and Africa weathering Dilhara Fernando's superb 4-36, themselves made over 300.

The third match was even closer. Asia, recovering from 72-5 after some exceptional African bowling and fielding made 331 thanks to two contrastingly sublime centuries from Mahela Jayawardene (107 of 106) and Mahendra Singh Dhoni (139* off 97). Africa came within 13 runs of victory thanks to a 122-run partnership off 88 balls from Justin Kemp and Shaun Pollock.

Asia won the Twenty20 match, the first international of the kind to be played in India, by six wickets in Bangalore. Chasing 109, they reached the target in the 16th over thanks to Tamim Iqbal's opening 30 (22 balls, three 4s and 1 six) and Tillekaratne Dilshan's 47* (36 balls, six 4s and 1 six).

Asia Women beat Africa Women by 60 runs in their curtain-raising Twenty20, as medium pacers Rumeli Dhar (4-8) and Jhulan Goswami (3-8) did the damage for Asia. Sulakshana Naik made 31 in Asia's 105.

Rumeli Dhar and Jhulan Goswami
ACC Tournaments

ACC TWENTY20 CUP

Kuwait: October 27 to November 7, 2007
Afghanistan, Hong Kong, Kuwait, Malaysia, Nepal, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, UAE
3 venues, 24 matches

Twenty20 Thrillers

The inaugural ACC Twenty20 coming just weeks after the ICC World Twenty20 cemented the format's appeal for tournament organisers.

The cricket was high-quality on three high-quality grounds. Every match Afghanistan played in the competition drew large crowds. They simply overwhelmed the opposition - until they reached the final.

Oman's pedigree cricketers took all the blows Afghanistan hurled at them in the Final and came back fighting every time. Afghanistan got off to a great start thanks to Mangal and Karim Sadiq, putting up 50 in the 7th over but three wickets fell in four deliveries and thoughts of 160 and above had to be tempered with the need to bat out the overs. Some enterprising hitting by Raees Ahmadzai towards the end of the innings saw Afghanistan finish on 151 for 9.

Afghanistan took an Omani wicket first ball. And another three balls later. Nilesh Parmar and Adnan Ilyas then rebuilt superbly, stealing singles, rotating the strike, striking boundaries whenever possible. Oman were always up with the rate but never ahead of it.

The hundred partnership, the second of the tournament, came up in the 14th over. The crowd, 99.9% Afghani, the others neutral, was very quiet.

Oman's Farhan Khan bowls, Afghanistan's Nowroz Mangal cuts; 2007 ACC Twenty20 Final, Kuwait

Nilesh Parmar and Adnan Ilyas batted superbly, under great pressure, to put on 114 and take Oman to the brink of victory
Then Iylas fell for 52, Amer Ali went soon after to a pressure catch by Mangal and Parmar was run out for 66. The match was going down to the wire. Farhan Khan came in to bat in the 19th over with 12 wanted. He hit his second ball for a massive six.

Five were needed off the last over by Oman for what would have been a classic run-chase victory. Hemal Mehta was run out going for a second run off the first ball, a brilliant throw from the deep. Four runs now wanted. Next ball, Farhan Khan was caught a couple of yards in from the boundary. Another wicket falls next ball. Oman are snatching defeat from the jaws of victory. The Afghan fans were more than banging their drums, it sounds like they're jumping on them. Four runs still wanted, three balls left. Dot ball from the off-spinner Mangal. Two leg byes are then scrambled; Oman are on 150 needing just two to win. And then, with the crowd gathered on the edge of the boundary, in came Afghanistan's captain Nowroz Mangal to bowl the last ball.

Awal Khan came down the wicket, heaved, missed and Afghanistan's massed supporters ran on to the field to celebrate. Khan was rooted at the crease, with his partner half-way down the wicket. The ball was still in play as the umpires had not called “over” or declared the ball dead and the match complete.

Afghanistan's wicket-keeper Karim Sadiq was doing a victory-lap of the infield, the ball still in his possession, the Oman batsmen were leaving the wicket and the crowd were running on the field. Afghanistan thought they'd won by a run. Oman thought they'd lost.

With no further delivery, run or dismissal possible, a tie was declared by the match officials once the players and umpires reached the sanctity of the dressing-room.

"I don't know whether to be happy or sad," said Afghanistan's coach Taj Malik. "We could have won, we could have lost. We should have won!"

A bowl-out deemed impossible with the crowd still gathered on the pitch and the square in some disrepair, match officials declared that the trophy be shared between the two teams. Oman's manager Madhu Jesrani said, "It was such a great game of cricket, it would have been a shame if anyone had lost. Ultimately cricket was the winner."

The 3rd and 4th Place Play-off also went down to the wire, Kuwait's Hisham Mirza taking a catch on the boundary's edge off the last ball of UAE's innings to ensure his team's victory by three runs.
ACC Tournaments

2007 ACC TWENTY20 CUP
TOP PERFORMERS:

BATSMEN
Qualification: 150 runs

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<tr>
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<th>HS</th>
<th>Avg</th>
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<tr>
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<td>158</td>
<td>88</td>
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<tr>
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<td>263</td>
<td>66*</td>
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<td>256</td>
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<td>Buddhika Mendis</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>66*</td>
<td>50.33</td>
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<td>Prasanth Braggs</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>64</td>
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<tr>
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<td>181</td>
<td>52</td>
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<tr>
<td>Khalid Butt</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>29.00</td>
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<td>135.94</td>
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BOWLERS
Qualification: 10 wickets

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<td>Shadeep Silva</td>
<td>15</td>
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ACC U-19 ELITE CUP

Kuala Lumpur: August 20 to 29, 2007
Afghanistan, Hong Kong, Kuwait, Malaysia, Nepal, Oman, Qatar, Singapore, Thailand and UAE
4 venues, 27 matches

Nepal Are Elite

Four finals, four wins; unbeaten for six years at this level, Nepal showed once again why they are the best team in Asia at ACC U-19 Cup level, by winning the tournament for the fourth successive time at the Kinrara Oval. They beat a strong Afghanistan side by 48 runs, "but it wasn't easy," said their coach Roy Dias, "the boys had to work hard for their victory."

The match-up was tantalising. Afghan fire against Nepali grace. Afghanistan desperate to win their country's first ever international team trophy, against Nepal who've won many. The deciding factor wasn't who most wanted to win, it was who best knew how to.

Choosing to bat first on a sunny morning and looking to score at least 200, Nepal were in trouble from the start losing Shashi Kesari, caught behind, in the first over and then just three balls later, Gyanendra Malla played on to Izatullah Khan. None of the Nepali batsmen found it easy against a good Afghan attack on a wicket of variable bounce which was taking spin; the one consolation for Nepal in their struggles with the bat was that conditions wouldn't be any easier for Afghanistan during their innings.

Nepal's total of 172 was going to be a challenging one and Afghanistan would have to be at their best to chase it down. "Cricket is a game played 70% with the head and heart" said Roquibul Hassan of Bangladesh, an ACC Match Referee during this tournament. Nepal showed they still have the edge on Afghanistan in those departments.

Nepal's new-ball bowlers pegged back Afghanistan's top-order. Paras Khadka in particular bowled beautifully from the Kinrara Road End and could have taken any number of wickets. At 21 for 2 Obaidullah Kunari walked in, practically a folk-hero in Afghanistan thanks to his all-corners big-hitting. He'd gone from the bottom to the top of the order during the course of the tournament thanks to a six he'd struck against Qatar in Afghanistan's second group match. His coach puts a lot of faith in hitters.
Kunari smacked his first ball for 2, picked up his first boundary four balls later but was relatively subdued. Nepal’s attack - the best he’d faced so far - didn’t make it easy for him and when he fell to the spinner Rahul Kumar for 10, Nepal had a big breakthrough.

Worse was to follow for Afghanistan, and by the time the sixth Afghan wicket fell the run-rate had climbed to over a run-a-ball and the task was just too much for the remaining batsmen. Raj Shrestha took a smart catch off his own bowling, moving to his left to dismiss Izatullah Khan and Nepal had won by 48 runs.

Nepal’s captain Paras Khadka, a veteran of three ACC U-19 Cup finals said, “The whole team played well. We’ve been together for a long time, new players have come as the game’s spread across Nepal. It’s been a great effort by the team, the coach, the Association and all those supporting cricket back home.”

With this victory in the ACC U-19 Elite Cup, Nepal qualified for the ICC U/19 World Cup in Malaysia in 2008 where they would be defending the Plate Trophy. Speaking straight after the victory, Paras Khadka reckoned, “We’ve beaten Bangladesh, Pakistan, New Zealand and South Africa in other World Cups, we’re up for it again.”

The tournament’s Spirit of Cricket Award went to Thailand.
2007 ACC U-19 ELITE CUP

TOP PERFORMERS:

Best Batsman: Anish Param (Singapore)
Best Bowler: Owais Hameed (UAE)
Player of the Series: Paras Khadka (Nepal)

TOP BATSMEN
Qualification: 150 runs

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>R</th>
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<th>Avg</th>
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TOP BOWLERS
Qualification: 10 wickets

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<td>10.80</td>
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<td>Rizwan Madakia</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11.00</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3-17</td>
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</table>

Hat-Tricks (1): Noppon Sennamontree for Thailand, v Kuwait

Highest Partnerships for each wicket:

1st wicket : 96 - Shoeb Mohammed and Syed Abdul Munaf for Kuwait, v Thailand
2nd wicket : 99 - Arjun Lamba and Mehtab Ali for UAE, v Afghanistan
3rd wicket : 126 - Sajed Khan and Obaidullah Kunari for Afghanistan, v UAE
4th wicket : 100 - Anish Param and Prem Dadlani for Singapore, v Thailand
5th wicket : 59 - Prem Dadlani and Timothy Singham for Singapore, v Qatar
6th wicket : 77 - James Atkinson and Nicholas Lau for Hong Kong, v Qatar
7th wicket : 71 - Shihan Dharmasena and Owais Hameed for UAE, v Oman
8th wicket : 75 - Faheem Sajjad and Mohammad Faiz Khan for Qatar, v Hong Kong
9th wicket : 31 - Ashish Gadha and Zafaran Ali for Hong Kong, v Afghanistan
10th wicket : 25 - Gulraiz Jamshaid and Deepanshu Kalra for Thailand, v Oman
ACC U-19 Challenge

Chiang Mai: January 10 to 19, 2008
Bhutan, China, Maldives and Saudi Arabia
2 venues, 10 matches

Saudis Fly High

Saudi Arabia played some surging, dynamic cricket to win the 2008 ACC U-19 Challenge Cup. They beat Bhutan by 59 runs at the Prem Oval. It was Saudi Arabia’s first ever international tournament victory.

Batting first Saudi were reduced to 109 for 4 after 29 overs with their captain and premier batsman, Mohammed Imran back in the tent, run out for 22 going full-tilt for a single to break the hold which Bhutan’s spinners had on his team. The game could have gone either way then.

It went Saudi Arabia’s way thanks to Hussain Anwar. He had played second fiddle to Imran in their partnership for the fourth wicket. From then on, Anwar took the fight to the bowlers, he drove, he glided, he glanced and guided, taking runs at every opportunity. Bhutan’s bowlers weren’t allowed to dominate, and when Anwar was joined at the crease by Waqas Obeidy, Saudi Arabia started to race away with the game.

"Waqas has a very good cricket brain," said his coach former Pakistan international Mansoor Akhtar from the sidelines, during Waqas’s innings. Waqas sensed the game was turning Saudi Arabia’s way and pressed home the advantage. He hit the first six of the Saudi innings and with Anwar put on 50 runs in just half-an-hour’s play. By the time Waqas was seventh out in the 46th over, with the score on 213, Bhutan were in a damage limitation exercise.
Bhutan missed some stumpings and catches which would have hurt Saudi Arabia but the Saudis bat deep. "We had a target of 250 at the start," said Mansoor Akhtar, "in a pressure game it will be enough." Saudi Arabia were all out for 247 in the 50th over.

Bhutan didn’t get the start they wanted. Tandin A. Wangchuk was out in the third over, fending off a lifter from Nasir Anwar and though the Saudi bowlers were generous with their wides and no-balls, they bowled enough penetrative deliveries to keep Bhutan under pressure. "We targeted Manoj Adhikari and the skipper Jigme Singye," said the Saudi captin afterwards, "they made runs against us in the group-stage match. Once we had them both out" - Jigme to one that lifted and turned from Bowler of the Tournament left-arm spinner Ejaz Sageer, Manoj castled by Hussain Anwar - Saudi Arabia felt they "had it won."

Thinley Jamtsho’s a spunky cricketer however, and as long as he was out in the middle Bhutan had a chance. He made a forthright 26 but once he was run-out by a superb direct throw from Nasir Anwar, it was pretty much guaranteed not to be Bhutan’s Challenge Cup.

It had been an excellent final played in great spirit by two highly competitive teams. Conditions at Prem suited the Saudis who play all their cricket on concrete back home but Saudi Arabia always had more balance, depth and weaponry than Bhutan and have a team which would have done very well in the U-19 Elite group. Mohammed Imran was given an incentive for victory prior to leaving Jeddah, being told that "If this team wins the U-19 Cup all of us can be in the senior squad for the 2008 ACC Elite Trophy."

Bhutan confirmed their promise with their second successive age-group final of the season and Maldives looked to be a team with much promise too. China looked sound and given practise against spin will offer much more competition to their opponents.

The Tournament’s Spirit of Cricket Award went to Maldives.
ACC Tournaments

2007 ACC U-19 CHALLENGE CUP
TOP PERFORMERS

Best Batsman: Mohammed Imran (Saudi Arabia)
Best Bowler: Ejaz Sagheer (Saudi Arabia)
Best All-Rounder: Mihusan Hamid (Maldives)

TOP BATSMEN
Qualification: 150 runs

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Avg</th>
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TOP BOWLERS
Qualification: 8 wickets

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</tbody>
</table>
ACC U-15 Elite Cup

Kathmandu: November 25 to December 3, 2007
Afghanistan, Hong Kong, Kuwait, Malaysia, Nepal, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Thailand and UAE
4 venues, 21 matches

Singapore Wins ACC U-15 Elite

Singapore won a keenly contested match against Kuwait at the Army School ground in Bhaktapur to claim the ACC U-15 Elite Cup.

Watched by a crowd growing in numbers all day as the lure of two elite teams proved irresistible, Singapore didn't really get a firm grip on the cup until the very end of the match.

Kuwait won the toss and batted, but were off to the most sluggish of starts. The Singapore bowling was accurate, the pitch low and two-paced and the batsmen very much had preservation on their minds. The first Kuwaiti wicket fell in the sixth over with the score on 8, the first boundary was struck two overs later. The crowd had to wait until the 22nd over to see another boundary.

In between, Singapore's bowlers were a little wayward on occasion (19 wides) but they bowled to a field and their fielders backed them up. Wickets were being taken. It may have been Kuwait's gameplan to not play loosely at the start but by the time of the 18th over with his team on just 37 for 2, the Kuwaiti coach Tahir Khan was shouting to his batsmen to play more positively.

The ball hardly left the square until the final overs of their innings. Apoorv Gaur carried his bat for 43 off 114 balls as Kuwait finished on 121 for 7 off their 40 overs.

Many were saying that it would be enough, as Singapore had been bowled out by Kuwait for 119 in the group-stage of the tournament, but that was when they were chasing 176. Singapore felt they could get 122 with the Final at stake.

But for a long time they were forced to have doubts. Jassim Aboobucker bowled his left-arm seam beautifully to get Singapore's Ilshaan Shekhar in the first over and then in his next had Shekhar's partner Anvesh Bulusu caught behind and next ball knocked back Yusuf Aslam's off stump with a beauty.
5 for 3 became 17 for 4 when Rezza Gaznavi for all his bluster spliced a dolly to silly mid-on in the sixth over. Mohit Kulkarni had taken two excellent catches during the Kuwaiti innings and he now showed that he can bat a bit too. He was solidity personified as he went forward and back, worked the ball to both sides of the wicket and made batting look easy.

Singapore lost Varun Shiuvaram in the 16th over with the score on 37. With Prasheen Param and Kulkarni, Singapore got the run-rate up and were just wresting the game back their way when Kulkarni fell in the 25th over to leave them at 65 for 6. From then on it was all Singapore.

In increasingly chilly late-afternoon conditions they pinched singles, caused fumbles, escaped with chances, used their feet and took the fight to the spinners. And that was the difference between the sides in the end. Kuwait's batsmen made Singapore's spinners look good. Singapore's batsmen made Kuwait's spinners look worse.

Prasheen Param swung the winning runs to the mid-wicket boundary and his team-mates rushed on to the field. It was Singapore's first major age-group tournament victory and their first ACC triumph.

“We came today to win the Final and we are proud to say that we did it,” said Singapore's captain Rezza Gaznavi.

He's a definite U-15 star and will be one of the future along with the rest of his team-mates. Some of the Kuwaiti players were in tears at the end but they too will shine in future events. All things considered, it was a final of great merit.
U-15 ACC ELITE AGE-VERIFICATION PROGRAM RESULTS ISSUED

From the ACC website, December 1, 2007

The results of the Age-Verification Program conducted in Nepal during the ACC U-15 Elite Cup have been released. 140 radiology examinations have been conducted in Nepal since the teams' arrival with all the players from the ten participating teams.

The Asian Cricket Council Age-Verification Program has been in place for all age-group competitions since May 2005. It was introduced to ensure that all competitors would be meeting on a fair and equitable basis on the criteria of actual age. Age-discrepancies among competitors lead to performance advantages for older players and injury-risks for the younger ones. The Asian Cricket Council's U-15 Tournaments, as with its U-17 and U-19 tournaments are held to be just that - for those players who are the appropriate age.

As it is commonly understood that in Asia, many players and Associations are unaware of their actual date of birth, the Age-Verification program establishes a player's bone-age maturity using the Assessment of Skeletal Maturity-TW3 method.

The cut-off date for players' birthdates is July 1, 1992 for this tournament. No player with a physiological or administrative age earlier than this date is eligible to play in the 2007 ACC U-15 tournament.

All countries were asked to provide the appropriate medical data on each of their players before the tournament started. They did not comply. Following bone-age examinations of all players on arrival in Kathmandu, a number from all ten participating teams - Afghanistan, Hong Kong, Kuwait, Malaysia, Nepal, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Singapore and Thailand, UAE - have been found to be over the age-limit criteria.

Each participating country consists of 14 squad-members. In the instances where more than two players in each squad have been found to be over-age, those teams have been disqualified from the competition.

Following the conclusion of the group stage on November 30, the only two countries at this stage found to be with less than three over-age players in their squads are Kuwait and Singapore. In some instances, participating squads have had seven, eight and nine over-age players.

With the tournament having passed the group-stages, that left only Kuwait and Singapore eligible for further competition. It is they who contested the Final.

Syed Ashraful Huq the Chief Executive of the Asian Cricket Council said, "Our Age-Verification protocols have been tested and proven to work many times. We stand by the results found and take heart that the integrity of our tournaments is assured. In the long-run cricket in Asia will benefit. Results such as this should act as an eye-opener to all our members. Our principles will always remain true to the secure development of cricket."

After subsequent re-examination of all TW3 data following the conclusion of the tournament, Saudi Arabia and Thailand were found to have sufficient under-age players and their disqualifications were lifted.
ACC Tournaments

ACC U-15 Challenge Cup

Bangkok and Chiang Mai: December 8 to 16, 2007
Bhutan, Brunei, China, Maldives, Myanmar and Qatar
5 venues, 17 matches

Qatar Capture The Prize

Qatar won the Challenge Cup with an elite performance. Playing an incredibly high standard of cricket, they beat Bhutan by eight wickets in the Final at the RBSC Polo Ground in Bangkok.

"We knew we had the team to win, strong in batting and bowling", said Qatar's manager Gul Mohammed Khan. "The boys are dedicated to cricket as much as their studies and they are getting the reward for much hard work," he added.

Qatar really played well, never giving Bhutan a sniff of victory. And what looked as if it might be a close match prior to the start simply went all Qatar's way once they got going. They played percentage power cricket, every action focussed on hurting the opposition. "Our plan was always to attack, first with the ball and then make sure that we didn't make it easy for the Bhutan bowlers when we batted," said Qatar's awesomely talented wicket-keeper batsman captain Taha Mohamed.

Bhutan didn't really do anything wrong, they were just outplayed by a team which was in control of the game from the moment the first two Bhutan batsmen fell in three balls in the eighth over. Kencho Norbu was the second batsman out and his dismissal was a big blow. In his innings in the semi-final he showed himself to be the rock upon which a Bhutan score of substance could be built.

Much rested on Bhutan's captain Jigme Singye but when he fell, caught and bowled to one that bounced on him, from Ali Ishtiaq, the game was firmly tilted Qatar's way. "It was the turning point," said Taha, "Ali floated one up and Jigme Singye was deceived. Once we had him we knew the game was ours."
"Our target on batting first was 140-150," said Bhutan's manager Ashish Chhetri. "If Qatar batted first our target was 200-plus," said Qatar's manager. "Bowling first, we wanted to keep Bhutan to below 100." The difference in attitude may explain why Qatar just ran through anything Bhutan put in their way. Thinking bigger, maybe even thinking better, they had Bhutan beat even before play started.

Bhutan finished on 121, all out in the 36th over, Qatar's spinners really turning the screws on the batsmen.

Qatar's openers were immaculate in their strokeplay. They pushed ones and twos, despatched anything loose and put on 63 for the opening wicket without any trouble. Faisal Rauf fell to a well-worked run-out by Bhutan just two balls later and Qatar were 65 for 2 in the 20th over.

It was the closest Bhutan came to victory. Bhutan fielded like tigers, throwing themselves at the ball but three chances were missed. Ali Ishtiaq made a breezy 31 while his captain, Taha, held firm. Taha without a helmet throughout his innings, looks a fine cricketer. Good with the gloves, judicious in his strokeplay and positive in outlook, he should be a mainstay of Qatar's cricket for some years to come. This side is packed with all-rounders, "more than half of this team will be in the Under-17 squad," says Taha confidently. He's sure to be one of them.

China lost narrowly to Maldives in the 3rd and 4th Playoff but won the tournament Spirit of Cricket Award. Myanmar showed promise in the group matches where Brunei pulled off a gutsy victory against Maldives.

TOP PERFORMERS:

Player of the Tournament: Ali Ishtiaq (Qatar)
Batsman of the Tournament: Jigme Singye (Bhutan)
Bowler of the Tournament: Faisal Rauf (Qatar)

TOP BATSMEN
Qualification: 100 runs

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<tr>
<td>Jigme Singye</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>59.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ali Ishtiaq</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>44.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Muhammed Taha</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>39*</td>
<td>28.00</td>
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TOP BOWLERS
Qualification: 10 wickets

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<td>Ahmed Mauroof</td>
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<td>4.90</td>
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ACC WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT

Johor Bahru: July 11 to 18, 2007
Bangladesh, China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Nepal, Singapore, Thailand and UAE
2 venues, 15 matches

Bangladesh Women Win

The inaugural ACC Women's Tournament put women's cricket on the map across new territories in Asia. It is felt that women's cricket in these emerging countries will quickly establish itself as a significant sport. Four more ACC members - Bhutan, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar - took up national women's cricket after the event.

Bangladesh and Nepal contested the Final. China, Hong Kong and Malaysia all impressed in patches, with Singapore, Thailand and UAE showing plenty of heart. "It was a start," said ACC Women's Committee Chairman Shubhangi Kulkarni, "some of the players were obviously very new to the game but now that the countries are taking it seriously, women's cricket is really going to go forward."

In the Final, Bangladesh overpowered Nepal by eight wickets. "It is a victory for the whole nation and the cricket system," said their captain Tajkia Akhtar.

Nepal chose to bat under cloudy skies hoping against hope to put some kind of defendable total against the strongest bowling attack in the competition. The express pace of Panna Ghosh was kept out but at the end of the eighth over, Shamima Akhter pierced Ritu Kanoujiya's defence with a yorker and and two more wickets fell soon after. Thunder rumbled intermittently and the moment lightning was seen, the umpires suspended play at the end of the 12th over with Nepal 12 for 3.

Heavy rainfall meant play was held up for more than four hours, the two dressing-rooms vying with each other to sing the loudest songs to pass the time. When play resumed, the match was scheduled for 18 overs a side.

In the six overs they had left, Nepal showed they could play shots. In doing so, wickets fell (Panna Ghosh taking three fine catches) and they were all out for 26. "We're going to get better," said Nepal's manager afterwards. "We have the right spirit and want to succeed. We didn't know what to expect when we came to Malaysia now we know that to reach the level of Bangladesh we have to be more attacking."

Nepal's bowlers certainly attacked in defending 26. Bangladesh's captain fell in the first over and the bowlers bowled a tight line with Nary Thapa getting a little late left-arm swing. Batting wasn't easy but two peachily timed off-drives from Chamely Khatun - the first, in spite of a heavy outfield simply skated to the boundary - saw Bangladesh home.

"The team have all worked so hard and done so much in preparation for this tournament that we really deserve to win," said Tajkia Akhtar afterwards.
Nepal won admirers too, and "they could reach Bangladesh's level within two years" said Rumesh Ratnayake, the ACC's Development Officer for Nepal.

By virtue of winning this tournament Bangladesh qualified for the 2008 Women's Asia Cup in Sri Lanka.

**TOP PERFORMERS:**

Player of the Tournament: Panna Ghosh (Bangladesh)
Batter of the Tournament: Neisha Pratt (Hong Kong)
Bowler of the Tournament: Nary Thapa (Nepal)
Wicket-keeper of the Tournament: Mina Khatun (Bangladesh)

**TOP RUN-SCORERS**

Qualification: 50 runs

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<tr>
<td>Hu Ting Ting</td>
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<td>57</td>
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**TOP BOWLERS**

Qualification: 9 wickets

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Cricket Initiatives

Cricket to Be in Asian Games

Cricket will be played for the first time at the next Asian Games in Guangzhou in 2010. The decision to approve a proposal to include cricket in Guangzhou was taken at the Olympic Council of Asia's General Assembly in Kuwait in April 2007.

OCA President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah said, "India and Pakistan were the drivers. Pakistan and India will come with their best teams because it will be a big competition." Asia's four-Test playing nations have committed to sending their "best available teams."

The first Asian Games was held in Delhi in 1951 and Guangzhou will be the sixteenth Games. Forty-two disciplines will be featured in Guangzhou, three more than in the 2006 Doha Games, including some uniquely Asian sports as kabaddi, sepaktakraw, chess and wushu. The Olympics have 28 disciplines.

OCA General Secretary Randhir Singh, also the Secretary of Indian Olympic Association, said China, although not a cricketing country, was keen to have cricket in Guangzhou. "As far as we are concerned we are ready," he said.

The Guangzhou Games will be played from November 12 to November 27 in 2010. Though India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka will be involved in home Test and ODI series during that month according to the ICC's Future Tour Program, it is believed that once a schedule for the Twenty20 competition in Guangzhou is developed, truly the best players for that format will be available.

News of cricket's expected inclusion at Guangzhou follows an announcement late last year that the 2008 South Asian Games in Bangladesh will feature cricket for the first time.

"Cricket will receive a major boost across Asia and in particular China, as a result of this enlightened decision. The Asian Cricket Council pledges its support to the Guangzhou games organizers in order to make the event a success," said ACC Chief Executive Syed Ashraful Huq.

Sharad Pawar Launches Afro-Asia Cup 2007

The second Afro-Asia Cup was held in Bangalore and Chennai in June 2007. Three day-night matches were played on June 6 (Bangalore), June 9 and June 10 (Chennai).

Sharad Pawar, President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India and Chairman of Afro-Asian Cricket Co-operation, who launched the event at a press conference in Delhi said, "We are delighted that India should play host to this auspicious event. The match-up of the best players of Asia against the best players of Africa is a proven formula for success. I expect there to be tremendous interest in the tournament."
Cricket Initiatives

Syed Ashraful Huq, Chief Executive of the Asian Cricket Council said, "To have the best available cricketers of India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh come together in one team to represent the spirit of Asian fraternity and co-operation is hugely significant in itself. We can expect the Afro-Asia cricket at the great venues of Bangalore and Chennai to be intensely competitive."

Peter Chingoka, President of the Africa Cricket Association said that, "There is no doubt that the Africa team take these matches very seriously and the 2005 Afro-Asia Cup was a hard-fought contest. Thanks to the players and respective boards a great deal of development money is raised which goes a long way in strengthening the game in Africa."

The first Afro-Asia Cup was held in South Africa in August 2005. Afro-Asia Cups are set in the ICC Future Tours Program and are official ODIs.

Total prize-money for the three 2007 Afro-Asia Cup matches is $USD 100,000. The winning team in each match receives $25,000, the Man of the Match $5,000 and the Man of the Tournament $10,000. Participating players will be paid $5000 for each match.

In addition to the three Afro-Asia Cup matches there was a Women's Asia v Africa Twenty20 match and a men's Twenty20 Asia v Africa match in Bangalore.

It was to be the first time that International Twenty 20 cricket was played in India.

Players for the two separate Asia teams were selected at a meeting in Dhaka, Bangladesh on May 11. Asia's selection panel consisted of Chetan Chauhan (India), Majid Khan (Pakistan), Lalith Kaluperama (Sri Lanka) and A.S.M. Farooque (Bangladesh).

The selectors for the Women's match were Shubhangi Kulkarni (Women's Cricket Association of India) and Shamsa Hashmi (Pakistan Cricket Board).

Cassim Suliman, Chief Executive of the Africa Cricket Association (ACA) said: "We are thankful to the Boards for making their players available and the potential line-up of talent is remarkable. The funds raised by those in the public eye at the very top will go a long way in securing the future growth and development of the game. Since 2005 the Afro-Asia funds have been used across Africa in setting up coaching programs and competitions for girls and boys and in providing facilities and equipment to numerous countries and clubs across Africa. The same is true for Asia. In fact, with this Afro-Asia Cup being held in India, the benefits to our cause will be even greater and ensure that both Africa and Asia will continue to spread the game over the two continents."

The Afro-Asia Cup is owned by the Africa Cricket Association and Asia Cricket Council, the development bodies for cricket in both continents. They came together in 2005 to form Afro-Asian Cricket Co-operation. 70% of all net proceeds from each tournament go to the host continent's cricket development body, 20% to the visitors, and 10% to Sightsavers International, a charity specialising in the eradication of blindness. In 2006 a donation was made to Sightsavers by Afro-Asian Cricket Co-operation of USD$226,485.

Former PCB Chairman Shaharyar Khan presenting John Bines of Sightsavers with the 2005 Afro-Asia Cup donation
Cricket Initiatives

MRF Provides Bounce

The five ACC members who will be taking part in the ICC World Cricket League divisions from 2007-2008 each sent seven national players to the renowned MRF (Madras Rubber Foundry) Pace Foundation which is helmed by one-time Test-leading wicket-taker Dennis Lillee and former Indian pace-bowler T.A. Sekhar. The best three pace-bowlers from Afghanistan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Oman, Nepal and the UAE were in attendance with three spinners and a batsman. They were joined by the same number from the U-19 squad of Malaysia during the ten-day session in June 2007.

"It is the ACC's intention that these teams do well in the World Cricket League and the MRF camp in Chennai is to prepare the five qualifiers for World Cup qualification. An invitation was extended to the Malaysian Under-19 squad to train at MRF as they have pre-qualified for the 2008 U/19 World Cup next February and can benefit from the opportunity to train from this year," said ACC Development Manager Sultan Rana.

From l to r: ACC Development Officers Roger Binny, Iqbal Sikander, Rumesh Ratnayake and Dr. Vece Paes with (in white shirts) Dennis Lillee and T.A. Sekhar
Cricket Initiatives

ACC Development Officers will subsequently travel to each country and work with the players. "The players should be tracked after a minimum of five years under the program as it will give a fair idea of the progress made," says Roger Binny. At the conclusion of the camp the MRF Foundation's head coach T. A. Sekhar said, "There was a marked improvement in the players' skill and the outlook. It is a big success as far as ACC is concerned. Such camps could take these cricketers to the next level."

19 For U-15 in UAE

19 schools from Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Sharjah took part in a new U-15 Inter-School cricket tournament in April 2007.

Aimed at identifying talent and streamlining cricket at grassroots level, the tournament was run by the Emirates Cricket Board at the Sharjah cricket stadium and Al Dhaid cricket village.

In line with its policy to encourage and motivate the promising youngsters, the Emirates Cricket Board will provide scholarships to top players in the tournament and is being supported by the Asian Cricket Council and local sponsors.

ECB Administrator Mazhar Khan says his board will spare no effort to ensure junior cricketers are exposed to a healthy-level of competition by creating further opportunities for them to showcase their skills.

UAE Women First To Pad Up In The Gulf

The Emirates Cricket Board confirmed plans to establish a national women's cricket team. They are the first Gulf country to do so.

The team was formed to take part in the ACC women's tournament, to be held in Malaysia in July 2007.

Smitha Harikrishna and Pramila Korikar, two former national cricketers of India, worked with the players in the lead-up to the tournament. Close to 2000 girls and women took part in a cricket carnival in Sharjah earlier in the year.

Bhutan Does The Groundwork

Cricket's spread to the south of Bhutan in 2007 led to the introduction of their first inter-school cricket tournament in Gelephu in the middle of the year. The schools of Gelephu and Sarpang district played between themselves on a freshly resurfaced ground, recently cleared. A square was dug "and a mixture of red soil and clay" according to the BCCB's curators, compacted in preparation for the event. Adjoining nets were also renovated.

Cricket enthusiasm in Bhutan's southern schools has increased greatly following the visit of ACC Development Officer Roger Binny in April 2007, on the back of concerted efforts by the BCCB to promote the game. Eight schools took part in the inaugural event at various age-groups and girls' teams are on the way.
PEACE in Afghanistan

Afghanistan's cricket season started in May 2007 with a 'national Grade 1 tournament' called PEACE. The tournament was inaugurated by the Afghanistan Cricket President Shahzada Masoud and British Ambassador Stephen Evans, with Mr. Masoud bowling to Mr. Evans (who played a diplomatic forward defensive).

The British Embassy donated a significant amount of cricket equipment to the Afghanistan Cricket Federation and pledged its continuing support for the development of cricket in Afghanistan.

Distribution of Funds to Non-Test Playing Countries Underway

With the postponement of the 2006 Asia Cup, member countries did not receive any financial assistance from the ACC last year. It was subsequently decided at the 2006 AGM to grant US$1.5 million to all non-Test playing countries to allow them to fulfill their scheduled development programs. The above amount was funded from 2004 Asia Cup revenues.

After satisfying certain conditions, each country is to receive a base amount of $42,000, with the seven full members (Hong Kong, Kuwait, Malaysia, Nepal, Singapore, Thailand, UAE) receiving an extra $30,000. Subsequent amounts are awarded on the basis of ACC tournament performance and the meeting of governance criteria.

Nepal's Women Play First National Championship

Women's cricket in Nepal drew top-ranking athletes from other sports in the country to the extent that four 14-member squads from Baitadi, Nepalganj, Bhairahawa and Kathmandu took part in the first-ever national championship.

Nepalganj, with teenage track-and field stars and captained by the national badminton captain Nary Thapa, were the winners. Nepalganj's women's cricket was awarded the ICC Global Development Award last year.

“I am very happy to lead a regional team and we are delighted that we can win,” says Nary, a member of the Nepali badminton team at the Tenth South Asian Games in Sri Lanka. “We have been playing this game for three years now - more than any other team.”

“At first, when I told my college friends that I play cricket, they were surprised and didn't believe me,” 17-year old Shradha Aryal of Bhairahawa, says. “I had to bat to the boys’ bowling to prove myself. And then they started encouraging me and wishing me good luck.”

The top performers from the tournament formed the basis of the national team for the ACC Women's Tournament in Malaysia in July.
Cricket Initiatives

Start of The Journey to The Next World Cup

The qualifying path to the ICC Cricket World Cup 2011 started at the end of May in Darwin, northern Australia for the eight countries in the ICC’s World Cricket League Division 3.

Hong Kong are Asia’s representatives in Division 3, with Oman and UAE in Division 2 and Afghanistan, Nepal and Singapore in Division 5.

"The idea of the World Cricket League is to give each of the 87 Associate and Affiliate Members a clearly defined pathway to progress and develop in world cricket," says the ICC Global Development Manager Matthew Kennedy. "Our belief is that by exposing these sides to different opponents and different conditions they will improve and take that improvement back into their own domestic structures thereby helping our strong sport grow even stronger by broadening its base to a significant degree."

ACC Strategy Plan Unveiled

The ACC has prepared a comprehensive five-year strategy for the benefit of the non-Test playing countries in the region.

This has appeared in a document made available to all members, the ‘ACC Strategy Plan 2007-2011’.

The plan is to deliver a specific strategy for ACC activities with regard to its members - the countries, their clubs, institutions, schools and national sports councils to develop and focus on key areas to ensure continued success and to guide members, management and operational teams to set priorities, allocate resources and identify priorities.

The ACC aims to make cricket accessible to all people in Asia irrespective of age, increasing participation by ten per cent during the target period.

Other plans include increasing youth participation by 30%, establishing a coaching structure and increasing the number of coaches by five percent in the region.

The ACC mantra is now ‘Quality and Quantity’ and it plans to ensure that only the most suitable candidates are put forward for ACC courses and that all participants remain active in cricket after certification.

The target is also to have five new umpires from ACC member-countries selected to the ICC Associate and Affiliate Umpires Panel.

Chairman of the ACC Development Committee Dr. Nasim Ashraf with ACC Development Manager Sultan Rana
AGM Seminar - Leading Cricket Across Asia

Following the event in Kuala Lumpur last June on 'The Future Direction of Asian Cricket, the ACC held another seminar in Chennai prior to the 2007 AGM.

This year's theme was 'Leading Cricket Across Asia.'

"Following the success of last year's event it was heartening to see the response from our speakers to the invitations we extended," said ACC Chief Executive Syed Ashraful Huq. "We were very fortunate that people of the calibre of Ray Mali, Dr. Nasim Ashraf, Mahela Jayawardene, Shaun Pollock, Shubhangi Kulkarni, Peter Chingoka, Haider Farman, P. Krishnasamy spoke so cogently on the issues facing us as we strive to promote and develop cricket. The media who were in attendance in numbers throughout also had the opportunity to understand more of what the ACC does."

2007 ACC AGM Held in Chennai

The Asian Cricket Council held its Annual General Meeting in Chennai in June. ACC President Mr. Jayantha Dharmadasa chaired the meeting.

Following due respect paid to the late Mr. Percy Sonn, new ICC President Mr. Ray Mali was invited to attend as an observer.

Matters under discussion were the ACC Development Program for 2006-2007, the audited Financial Statements for the previous financial year as well as the budgets for 2007-2008.

China's Cricket on The Ball

The 2007 domestic cricket season started in China with 64 teams taking part in various competitions, 15 of which are women's teams. Age-group teams ranging from U-12 to seniors played in Beijing, Shanghai, Shenyang and Guangzhou.

National coach Rashid Khan went on a talent-search across Beijing, Shanghai and Shenyang looking for suitable players for the women's team which started centralised training in June for the ACC Women's Tournament.
Cricket Initiatives

Myanmar Starts on The Road Beyond Yangon

The Myanmar Cricket Federation organized a Basic Cricket Coaching Course at Taungyi in the southern states. Three MCF coaches took 33 participants through the five-day program. Male and female school teachers, members of the State and District Sports Councils, the Army, Red Cross and sports clubs took part.

Bhutan's Thimphu And Sarpang Schools Compete

Bhutan’s capital Thimphu started its post-monsoon season with a month-long schools-tournament for seniors and juniors. The schools participating were Motithang Higher Secondary School, Yangchenphu Higher Secondary School, Khasadrachpu Middle Secondary School and Dechencholling Middle Secondary School.

A Sarpang District U-19 school tournament was held in May with four schools taking part: Sarpang Middle Secondary, Gelephu Higher Secondary, Norbuling Middle Secondary and Perlithang Lower Secondary. These were the schools which Bhutan's development officers worked with earlier in the year.

Shenyang Clinch The Crown

The following report was submitted by the Chinese Cricket Association.

Shenyang Sports Institute became national Chinese champion after three rounds of highly competitive games against Shanghai Tongji University, Shenzhen University and Beijing Li Ze Secondary School in the two-day finals of the 2007 CCA Schools Tournament for Women.
Cricket Initiatives

With a tough defense line-up, Shenyang was successful to limit the strong batting Shenzhen University team to 60 runs and took over control of the match. Shenzhen University achieved 103 runs during match against Shanghai.

Shenyang completed a hat trick by winning all the matches in the single round final. Shenzhen came second by taking over Shanghai and Beijing, while Shanghai took Beijing but lost in the other two heated matches with Shenyang and Shenzhen.

Shenyang won two of their matches by one run as they held their nerve amidst much tension.

Shanghai captain and bowler Mei Chun-Hua was selected the best bowler of the match, Shenzhen player Liu Biyu won the best batsman award and Shenyang player became the best fielder overall.

"I was very pleased with the enthusiasm and performance of the Chinese women players and I am sure that they will prove themselves a competitive force in the upcoming ACC Women's Tournament," said Rashid Khan.

The CCA has made an arrangement to play some warm up practice matches with Hong Kong during June as preparation for the ACC Women's Tournament in July.

The 2007 Chinese National School Tournament was in the second year of operation. Overall, 19 women's teams took part in the 2007 competition. They were from four regions: Beijing, Guangdong, Shanghai and Shenyang. There were only 5 women's teams playing in the 2006 school tournament.

Nepal Lays The Foundation

A project conceived five years ago by the Cricket Association of Nepal for a National Cricket Academy has now laid its foundation stone. In a ceremony at Mulpani on the outskirts of Kathmandu, the ACC Chief Executive along with the Nepal National Sports Council Secretary Jeevan Ram Shrestha and CAN President Binaya Raj Pandey laid the first marker on the 140,000 sq. metre site.

The ACC has provided the initial US $100,000 for the project with the remainder to be sourced by the Cricket Association of Nepal. "CAN will start the work to prepare the playing ground and pavilion", said Mr. Pandey. "We will also try to seek sponsors for the project," he said, estimating the project to be completed in 2009.
Cricket Initiatives

Nepal's Women Receive Stamp of Approval

Prior to departure for the ACC Women's Tournament, Nepal's women received a boost when the Nepal Philatelic Society lent its support by bringing out 500 commemorative stamps to mark Nepal's first-ever international women's match. The cover also includes an inset of the Nepal men's side. Earlier this year a five-rupee stamp was issued to celebrate the success of the men's team.

Shreedhar Gautam, the Director General of the Postal Service Department, wished the women's team success in the ACC tournament. "Sports, especially cricket, has played an important role for the pride of the nation," he said.

Myanmar's Movement Magnifies

Participants in last year's Olympic Cricket Movement in Myanmar in July were three times as many as the previous year. "Bright sunshine helped us through and there were 163 children from 12 schools", says Myanmar Cricket Federation President Nyunt Win. They took part in a series of events involving bowling and batting and fielding demonstrations and trials.

ACC Starts Being Heard

The Asian Cricket Council started broadcasting live audio commentary for its tournaments via a website called www.hearcricket.com. The first tournament to be broadcast was the ICC U/19 World Cup qualifier, the ACC U-19 Elite Cup.

"There has been growing interest in our tournaments as hits on our website, fans’ correspondence and global media coverage has shown," says ACC Chief Executive Syed Ashraful Huq. He added "Our Women's Tournament in July was a global phenomenon. Such is the level of interest that, in order to bring all those who follow the fortunes of their national cricketers in ACC tournaments closer to the game, we have decided to embark on this course of broadcasting live internet radio commentary."
Mr. Huq continued, "For the first time in the history of cricket broadcasting, non-Test and ODI level Asian cricket is finally receiving the recognition it deserves. Our cricketers are dedicated, skilled and talented. In many of our member countries they are already national heroes. Their fortunes are followed by many of their countrymen. We believe that their cricket will further develop and initiatives such as hearcricket.com, truly reflect the growing interest in the game."

Hits to the ACC website www.asiancricket.org for the 2006 ACC Trophy numbered 74,000 over a two-week period. The users were logging on from all over the world, with matches featuring Afghanistan, Kuwait and Nepal being particularly popular.

Gopal Sreenevasan, founder of hearcricket.com is a Malaysian cricket enthusiast and says, "We know the ACC have high-quality cricket, we know there is a lot of interest in cricket, we believe that top-quality audio commentary through the internet via hearcricket.com is a superb way to reach fans of Asian cricket across the world."

Guangzhou Gets on The Map

The Guangzhou Asian Games Organising Committee (GAGOC) have started work on outlining three sites for the construction of grounds to be used for men's and women's cricket in the 2010 event.

The grounds are to be on the eco-island of the Guangzhou Higher Education MegaCentre and are one of five venue clusters to be used for the Games.

Tian Xinde, GAGOC Director of Sports says "We have placed this new sport of cricket in the 'University City' because of the 10,000 students resident in the area. Cricket is a new sport in China and we think the young will most appreciate the development. The government of Guangzhou has a youth focus and it is in the young that we wish to encourage the cricket spirit."

Following the site inspection, in a key meeting with the ACC Chief Executive Syed Ashraful Huq in August 2007, Mr. Xinde and GAGOC personnel were briefed on the benefits and opportunities that cricket would bring to Guangzhou. "Guangzhou has so much to offer the world of cricket that I had to do nothing more than affirm the enduring appeal of the game to people in Asia and all those from cricket-playing countries already resident in China (about 150,000). Guangzhou's climate and location give it a long-playing season and I envisage the ACC, Hong Kong and the CCA all making use of the facilities. In addition, once these top-class venues are constructed, full internationals could easily be staged here."
Cricket Initiatives

Cricket is one of the 15 sports in 22 venues in the Higher Education Mega Centre. Ninety venues in total will be used for the 42-event Games, a mixture of training and competition sites. Many are in use already and, along with an extended subway-system linking all venues, the remainder will be completed by December 2009.

"There is much expert preparation to be done. We knew very little about cricket (ban quio) up to meeting the ACC," says Mr. Xinde. Adding, "Most important, we can see the future of the commercial market which cricket will bring to China. More and more China will like this game thanks to 2010."

China's Newest Champions

The 2007 cricket season in China reached its climax with the finals of the National Tournament following preliminary matches held in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangdong and Liaoning.

The Finals were held in Beijing in August. 59 men's teams in three age-groups and 19 women's teams took part in the tournament.

Shenyang Sports Institute must be doing something right because as with the women, they captured the premier Group A prize this year, while the Men's Group B winners were Shenzhen Tong Le School, and the champions of Men's Group C were Shenzhen Yu Cai Primary School.

Cui Zhiqiang, Deputy Director of both the Multi-ball Games Administrative Centre of State Sport General Administration and the Chinese Cricket Association (CCA) said, "Cricket is an emerging sport in China. In the past two years, we have developed and promoted cricket through close cooperation with international cricket bodies. Competition is an important linkage in our work. Through matches, we have developed many good young cricket players. Recently, we made a breakthrough with women's cricket by coming third in the ACC Women's Tournament held in July at Malaysia."

Syed Ashraful Huq, ACC Chief Executive, said, "Cricket's emphasis on hand-eye skills, athleticism, teamwork and playing tactics suits China well. The ACC is delighted to see China actively developing the game and starting to achieve that critical breakthrough in team building. We are going to continue to work hand-in-hand with the Chinese Cricket Association to further the promotion of cricket in China."

Mohammad Nabi Becomes Second Afghan To Play For MCC

22-year old Afghani Mohammad Nabi has followed his compatriot Hamid Hassan in playing for the MCC. In a three-day match at Arundel in Sussex against the visiting Sri Lanka A side, which contained six full-internationals, Nabi top-scored with 43 out of 167 in the first innings and took a wicket.

Indian Test-player Aakash Chopra who opened for the MCC, said “Nabi did really well and is an excellent cricketer.” Nabi is currently on the MCC's Young Cricketers programme.
Aminul Islam Is New ACC Development Officer

Aminul Islam, an international cricketer for Bangladesh for 17 years, joined the ACC as their fifth Development Officer in September 2007. In Test cricket he is best known for making 145 against India in the first innings of Bangladesh's inaugural Test in November 2000. He captained the national team in the 1999 World Cup and played 13 Tests and 39 ODIs in all.

The countries under his remit as ACC Development Officer are Brunei, China and Myanmar.

PCB Donates Equipment to China

Cricket equipment worth US$20,000 was formally donated by the Pakistan Cricket Board to the Chinese Cricket Association in September 2007. Rashid Khan, China's national coach said that the equipment was sent by Pakistan as a good-will gesture for the promotion of cricket in China.

Jiang Zhenyuan, Director of Cricket at the Multi-ball Games Administrative Centre, thanked the PCB and said 'We badly needed this equipment because the CCA wanted to fulfill the needs of different teams for holding tournaments.'

The bats, balls, pads, helmets, gloves and stumps will be sent first to schools across China, with the remainder used for national tournaments.

Bangladesh's Women Cricketers Receive Further Rewards

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) awarded 50,000 Taka (US$ 730) to each of the members and officials of the national women's cricket team in September for winning the ACC Women's Tournament.

BCB President Major General Sina Ibn Jamali personally handed over the cheques. Major General Jamali, also Army Chief of General Staff said: "It's a great achievement for the women's team. I want to thank everyone related with this success. I wish them further success in the future. Our main target is the development of cricket and also to work maintaining transparency."
Cricket Initiatives

Bangladesh and Pakistan Show Spirit of Cricket

Following the Afro-Asia Cup and its 'Cricket for Unity' theme in Chennai this June, in a gesture which demonstrated the continuing support of the playing squads of Bangladesh and Pakistan for African cricket, a US$5000 donation was made to Ugandan cricket during the Twenty20 quadrangular series in Nairobi, which served as a warm-up for the ICC World Twenty20.

ICC Emirates Elite Panel Match Referee Mike Procter who officiated in Nairobi said, "When you talk about the Spirit of Cricket, well, the players from Bangladesh and Pakistan really displayed it with their gesture. It is about respect for your opponents and that is exactly what the players of these two sides showed with their generosity. They are among the big boys of world cricket and to help out a country that is still developing in the game is a superb effort."

The Man of the Match cash awards along with the Player of the Series award were pooled and the proceeds handed over at the end of the tournament.

Bangladesh fast bowler Mashrafe Mortaza, explained why the players acted in the way they did. "We donated the money to help Uganda's cricket development," he said. "They are trying hard to improve their game and so far the signs have been encouraging. In a small way we wanted to be a part of the effort to take cricket forward in Uganda. As a Full Member of the ICC I feel we have a responsibility to try and help Associate countries in any way we can."

Rod Marsh Introduces The ICC Global Cricket Academy

Rod Marsh, Australia's legendary wicket-keeper, who is currently the Director of Coaching at the ICC Global Cricket Academy briefed team and tournament officials during the ACC Twenty20 Cup in Kuwait about the on-going work at the Academy.

Marsh said, "The ICC Global Cricket Academy will soon be a central, state-of-the-art facility which will focus on the development of not only the players, but coaches, umpires, curators and administrators. The Academy will not only be open to Test-playing nations but to associates as well as schools."

He went on to say that at any given point of time, associate teams and schoolchildren may well have the chance to train alongside the very best in the game. Coaches too, will have the opportunity to mix with their Test-playing nation counterparts, providing them with an invaluable experience.

There was a lot of interest shown from the team and tournament officials during the question and answer session after Marsh's talk. ACC Development Officer Iqbal Sikander said, "I've been briefed on all that the Academy has to offer and I am very impressed. It is a wonderful opportunity for ACC members to take advantage of the facilities. Our only concern is the cost of using these top-class facilities."

The facilities to be installed include Hawk Eye and Jugs cricketing machines, Iron Mike Pitching machines and high speed cameras, to name a few. With a plan to craft the world's top cricket training facility, the Academy is set to reproduce a variety of pitch types that replicate conditions found in different countries. This requires the importing of specific types of turf, soil and clay from various parts of the world.
Cricket Initiatives

With the goal of trying to improve the standard of cricket worldwide and the duty to ensure the growth of the game, Mr. Marsh defines the ICC Global Cricket Academy as "a complete cricket centre."

The ICC Global Cricket Academy will be in operation by the end of 2008.

Oman and UAE Go Direct To 2009 ICC World Cup Qualifier

Oman and UAE have finished as first and second in World Cricket League Division 2 played in Namibia at the end of November. UAE, having lost to Oman in the group stages, beat them in the Final. This means that they are promoted to the ICC World Cup Qualifier (formerly the ICC Trophy) to be played in the UAE in 2009. Should Oman and UAE finish in the top four there, they will qualify for the 2011 World Cup.

Afghanistan, Hong Kong, Nepal and Singapore are also in the World Cricket League qualifying stages.

Afghan Players Train with England

The six members of the Afghanistan senior squad who were playing Premier League cricket in Sri Lanka practised with the touring England side in Colombo in December 2007.

The Afghans took part in a three-hour net session at the Max Cricket Academy, as England prepared for the first Test in Kandy. Afghanistan's coach Taj Malik reported, "The players are very happy the way they were treated by England's players, Kevin Pietersen especially. It was a very good experience for Afghan players."

Former England international and current MCC Committee member Matthew Fleming, after his own visit to Afghanistan during the year, said that, "If Afghanistan played England in Twenty20 cricket, they would win at least one match out of ten."

Old Ways to Be Canned

The Cricket Association of Nepal vowed to hold the first elections in its 60-year history in December 2007. Cricket in all this time has been run by ad-hoc committees.

The National Sports Council directed all national sports associations to hold elections after the end of the royal regime, following democratic parliamentary elections in Nepal in November.

It was also decided that, for the first time, the captains of Nepal's representative sides would be included in selection committee meetings, a policy which will continue at all representative levels.
**Cricket Initiatives**

**ICC U/19 World Cup Launched In Malaysia**

The 2006 DLF Tri-Series in Malaysia between Australia, India and the West Indies was big. The ICC U/19 World Cup in 2008 was going to be bigger. 16 nations, eight venues, at stake the biggest youth prize in cricket.

Malaysia was ready.

“The International Cricket Council U/19 Cricket World Cup is the leading development tournament for international cricket,” says Malaysian Cricket Association President Tunku Imran. Hosting this event, and having a team competing in it, “gives Malaysia, as a developing cricket country, the opportunity to showcase the fruits of our labour through the aggressive development programmes that we have undertaken.”

International Cricket Council President-elect David Morgan was also at the well-choreographed launch for the tournament in Kuala Lumpur in November and said, “This event is a launching pad for the best young cricketers.” Piyush Chawla and Rohit Sharma were both in the 2006 U/19 World Cup final for India and Sarfraz Ahmed, captain of the 2006 winners Pakistan, made his full international debut just a few days ahead of the launch. They will be following many others, including Brian Lara, Inzamam-ul Huq and Graeme Smith.

In a press conference Mr. Morgan added, “Malaysia has the confidence of the ICC. We are sure they can deliver. This tournament is critical for cricketers’ development and the ICC believes in it strongly.”

Malaysia’s “enthusiasm and desire to make the tournament a success, is exactly what the ICC is looking for in all our hosts and it should ensure that the fifteen overseas teams...will have a fantastic experience whatever the result,” said Mr. Morgan.

**Iran Cricket Federation Launch Website**

A dual language (Farsi and English) website has been set up by the Baseball-Cricket Federation of Iran:  [http://cricket-iran.blogfa.ir/](http://cricket-iran.blogfa.ir/). The aim is to convey domestic, international and ACC news to those involved with Iranian cricket. Iqbal Sikander, the country’s ACC Development Officer said that, “Iran have done a remarkable thing here. While English is the universally accepted language of cricket having local and international news conveyed in native languages is tremendously helpful in reaching different kinds of people.”
Singapore Score Two New Grounds

The Singapore Cricket Association (SCA) has secured two new grounds for cricket activity in the suburb of Jalan Kayu. The grounds have Astroturf wickets and will be available year-round from January 2008.

SCA President Imran Khwaja said that "In land-scarce Singapore, the acquisition of the two grounds is a great achievement. While it will place great financial strain on SCA's reserves, this challenge will have to be met if cricket is to grow and its enjoyment to be spread to the masses".

Cricket to Make Big Impact in Asian Games: OCA

Speaking at the conclusion of the Asian Indoor Games in Macau in November, Director General of the Olympic Council of Asia Husain Al-Musallam said that "Men's and women's cricket will make a huge impact in the 16th Asian Games being organised in Guangzhou, China in 2010, and its inclusion has already given a significant boost to its development in Asia."

Bhutan's Women Catch Up

Cricket has caught on amongst Bhutanese women with thrice-weekly coaching camps conducted by the Bhutan Cricket Council in Thimphu. National coach Damber Singh Gurung along with senior men players took the girls through a coaching skills program. ACC Development Officer Roger Binny started things off during his visit in November.

"The girls are keen on playing cricket and very much interested in the game as they come forward to know new things," said coach Sonam Tobgay. Similar coaching is organized in the Gelephu District by Dorji Dakpa. "The main aim is to prepare for the ACC Under-19 Women's Cricket Tournament to be held in 2008," said Mr. Gurung.

Iran's First Women

The first Iranian women's cricket tournament was held in Kermanshah, in the west of the country in December 2007. Four teams, including two from Tehran, took part with Kerman coming through as the winners.

Fatemeh Nourie, an umpire for three years, was the convenor of the tournament and said that "In these pictures you can feel the passion for the game in Iranian girls. We love to grow the cricket family in Iran."
Cricket Initiatives

Qatar Gets Serious About Women's Cricket

National Coach Aruna de Silva, head of the Women's Cricket Development Program at the Qatar Cricket Association (QCA) has been at the forefront of setting up a QCA Women's Committee for the development of women's cricket. Maryam Gul Khan has been appointed as women's cricket co-ordinator.

Representatives from schools have been incorporated on the committee. They will arrange the cricket practice in their respective schools through the school coaches who are qualified by the QCA. "Nine schools have already expressed their interests to form teams," said Mrs. Khan.

"The QCA is willing to support girls' cricket in schools with whatever help possible. We would like to prepare our women cricket team for tournaments and we have set into motion our planning with the formation of the Women's Committee. We have a huge task ahead of us to accomplish," said Mr. de Silva.

Myanmar's Inter-School Gets Interesting

There were six teams last year, this year there were fifteen. Ten boys and five girls teams took part in the second Myanmar Inter-School cricket tournament in Yangon last week.

Batting first and scoring 121, BEHS(4) Ahlone beat BEHS(1) Lamadaw by 49 runs in the final of the boys tournament, which was played over 20 overs at the Bahan ground.

Ahlone's Saw Phone Tet Paing, fresh from helping his country record their inaugural victory in international competition at the ACC U-15 Challenge Cup, was voted All-rounder of the Tournament. His international team-mate Myat Min Hein of Lamadaw was Best Batsman. Ahlone's Aung Pyae Phyo Min was Best Bowler.

Girls took part in Inter-School Cricket for the first time. A round-robin series of ten-over matches were played, after which BEHS(3) Kyimyindine beat BEHS(4) Ahlone in the final. Ahlone's Mya Myat Chey was All-rounder of the tournament, with Aye Sandar Linn voted as Best Bat. Linn Linn Tun's 17 wickets won her the Best Bowler Award.

Winning Teams received cash and cricket equipment for the school from the Myanmar Cricket Federation (MCF). MCF President U Nyunt Win said, "From a modest start, in a very short space of time these children have not only learnt the game, they have learnt to enjoy it. The matches were very popular in the schools and were played very enthusiastically. I was truly delighted with the way the schools supported the games and I expect to see more interest and participation next season."
UAE Women Play Twenty20 Cricket

The Emirates Cricket Board (ECB), held a Twenty20 tournament for women in the UAE in February 2008. Matches were played at Sharjah Cricket Stadium.

"Our objective in organising this tournament is to attract more women into the game. Schools, colleges, cricket academies and even institutions can participate in this tournament," said ECB Administrator Mazhar Khan.

"If the game has to get popular among the women it is very important that we create opportunities at the grass root level. They need a platform to display their skills and through this interesting form of the game, we could achieve our objective," added Mr. Khan.

"This Twenty20 tournament is part of ECB's development programme. We know these are early days, but there is no dearth of enthusiasm for the game among the girls in the UAE. What they need is a healthy competition."

The UAE were the first Gulf country to play international cricket, sending a team to the 2007 ACC Women's Tournament in Malaysia. "We are also working out on organizing special coaching clinics for the girls. The first step, however, is to encourage the girls to come to the ground. This tournament will help create the right atmosphere for women's cricket to flourish in the UAE," said Mr. Khan.

Singaporeans Find Berth in Perth

Singapore national cricketers Chetan Suryawanshi, Shoib Razzak and Pramodh Raja spent three months in Perth playing in the Western Australian Cricket Association League in order to fast-track their improvement.

"We are committed to raising the standard of the national team and one of the best ways is to send them off to Australia where the competition is stiff," said Singapore Cricket Association Deputy President Mahmood Gaznavi.

"In the coming years, we hope not only to repeat this program but also to extend it to more players," added Mr. Gaznavi. "We also hope to tie up with some Australian schools and let our younger players participate in their competitions."

"This exposure will be good for us," said Pramodh Raja, 27, prior to departure. Shoib Razzak, 30, said: "Playing better teams is always a way to improve." And Suryawanshi, 22 said: "We know we have to work hard because there is the important World Cup League Division 5 next May."

Hong Kong Airs Views on New Grounds

With the secession of the two cricket grounds at Po Kong in December back to the state, the Hong Kong Cricket Association (HKCA) have been working with the local authorities to secure some long-term solutions to the problems of ground usage and to finding the holy grail: a ground fit to stage ODIs.
Cricket Initiatives

There have been numerous discussions with the government and five new sites are in the pipeline. In April 2008 a grass square was laid at the existing Mission Road ground and is expected to meet international standards by the end of the year. A new short term tenancy site has been found at Tseng Kwan O. "It is not a large ground but will be ideal for school, youth and ladies cricket," says HKCA executive Tony Turner. A lease could be secured for three years.

An application for a site on the old Kai Tak Airport in the middle of Hong Kong has been made. It is hoped that a site for development can be arranged in time for the 2008-09 season. A landfill site offers the possibility of long-term use and a site at Gin Drinkers Bay on the outskirts of Hong Kong is a possibility.

BCCI to Boost School Cricket

Promoting school cricket has been a priority for the BCCI President Sharad Pawar and it appears that a national school competition will be in place for the 2008-09 season.

The Junior Cricket Committee of The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has recommended that the BCCI conduct school level competitions with support from the State associations. All State associations are being requested to adopt five schools in urban areas in addition to five in rural areas. The State associations are being asked to establish an inter-school competition.

There is a possibility that the champion school in each State will play leagues at the zonal level and thereafter an all-India knock out for the top two teams from each zone. The Junior Cricket Committee has also recommended that the U-15 and U-17 inter-State competition be converted into a single U-16 tournament.

New ACC President Feels at Home

Arjuna Ranatunga, the Chairman of Sri Lanka Cricket, became the 18th President of the Asian Cricket Council at the start of January. He met with the Chief Executive, Vice-President and Finance Manager in Colombo where he was briefed on the activities of the Council.

"The President is a great supporter of development and promised his full support to the cause of the ACC. He stressed throughout our meeting how much he looked forward to working with all the members to ensure the successful achievement of our mutual goals,' said ACC Chief Executive Syed Ashraful Huq. Mr. Ranatunga is the first former professional cricketer to hold the post of ACC President.
Afghans: Cash And Karzai

Such was the joy unconfined amongst Afghans after their team jointly won the ACC Twenty20 Cup with Oman last November in Kuwait, that only in January had the overwhelming number of gifts of appreciation for the team stopped coming in. The final tally: US$ 23,000 for the team from President Hamid Karzai, the Governor of Nangrahar, the National Sports Committee and local businesses. Another US$ 40,000 was given by the Afghans in Kuwait to the team.

Furthermore, the Education Minister Haneef Atmar has pledged to construct a ground in Kabul for school cricket and the Afghanistan parliament has promised a parcel of land for each player. In addition, Afghanistan's captain Nowroz Mangal (in many people's eyes the Player of the ACC Twenty20), was also awarded a piece of land in Khosh province worth US$ 60,000. Taj Malik, the Afghanistan Cricket Federation's Secretary-General said "there are so many other awards, medals, cash prizes, gifts, free mobile phones, watches, certificates, it was very useful for Afghan cricket. Now cricket is flying high in Afghanistan."

Cricket Inches Towards Olympics via Indo-Bangladesh Games

The 2nd Indo-Bangladesh Bangla Games which carried the slogan 'Sports for Friendship' had cricket as one of its nine disciplines. As the event is being partly supported by the Olympic Council of Asia, it marks the game's first step into the Olympics themselves.

Talking about the background of the Games, Bangladesh Olympic Association acting Secretary-General Kutubuddin Ahmed said: "Olympic Council of Asia boss Ranbir Singh initially proposed us to be associated with such kind of Games…and has donated US$ 20,000 to BOA for the Games."

Qatar's Prime Minister Takes an Interest

Qatar's win in the ACC U-15 Challenge Cup in December 2007 led to an upsurge of cricket activity in the country. A delegation from the Qatar Cricket Association (QCA), headed by Vice-Chairman Fahad H Alfardan, met in January with Qatar's Prime Minister Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassem Bin Jaber Althani who is also the Chairman of Qatar Cricket Association.
Cricket Initiatives

High on the agenda was the construction of a new ground for the QCA. The West Bay ground is to be re-assigned by the government, this being the last season that QCA league matches will be conducted at the venue.

The delegation updated the Prime Minister on the progress of cricket activities in Qatar. "The issue of having a cricket ground with turf wicket, grass outfield and facilities, was discussed at the meeting," said QCA President M. A. Shahid.

The Prime Minister was reported to have said that the government is actively promoting sports activities in the country and promised to provide a cricket ground with facilities to the Qatar Cricket Association.

The Qatar Olympic Council (QOC) is also keen to support cricket and has pledged to build a ground in the industrial area on the outskirts of Doha. "Work on the cricket stadium will begin soon. It is the dream of the Emir of Qatar to provide recreational facilities for all communities based here in Qatar. As cricket is loved by Asians, it is one way of returning back the services rendered by the Asian countries in developing Qatar," said QOC Secretary-General Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al Thani.

Qatar's Women Get Active

Following the first-ever camp for women cricketers in Qatar, where 150-lady cricketers showed up at the West Bay Ground in January 2008, National Coach Aruna de Silva reported that he has "just started a Women's Coach Educator Course for School Teachers and Outside Ladies who can do the Coaching for Qatar's National and Under-19 Women's teams."

Umpiring and coaching as well as fitness programs will be demonstrated. "It was a very good response from Ladies and there are more than 20 participants on the ground," said Mr. de Silva, adding "many more newspapers are behind us now for these events and cricket is more and more popular in Qatar."

Global Development: Up, Up and Away

The latest ICC annual research performed by the ICC Development Program has shown that the number of people actively participating in cricket outside the Test-playing countries increased by 17 per cent in 2007.

338,051 people across the five ICC global development regions are now involved in the game. The ICC reports that in comparison to the 2002 figures - when there were 144,047 participants - this demonstrates a 135% increase over the past five years. The ICC's Global Development Manager Matthew Kennedy said: "These are impressive figures and confirm that the ICC Development Program is heading in the right direction."

What is most encouraging is that of the 338,051 cricketers active last year, 264,991 of them were juniors.

Other significant findings by the ICC Development Program are:

- Grounds - 5% increase in 2007, a 45% increase since 2002
- Qualified Coaches - 5% increase in 2007, a 143% increase from 2002
- Qualified Umpires - 7% increase in 2007, a 141% increase from 2002
Mr. Kennedy went on to say: "They are also evidence of the dedication and commitment of cricket-lovers around the world. It is a tribute to the local workers who have shown enormous devotion - in many instances unpaid - to the development of cricket within Associate and Affiliate Member countries. Together with our members we will now look to build upon these results to ensure that the growth and improvement of cricket outside of the ICC's Test-playing nations in sustained in the long term."

Asia's playing numbers have almost tripled since 2002 and while much of that may be due to better record-keeping, ACC Development Manager Sultan Rana said, "Much of the rise in player numbers worldwide is undoubtedly due to the increase in women taking part in the game and is a great example of cricket's potential for future growth."

India Win a Thriller in Malaysia

India won the ICC U/19 World Cup with an all-round team display that just pipped South Africa in a gripping final at the Kinrara Oval in Kuala Lumpur. India made just 159 off 45.4 overs after being put in, due to some terrific South African bowling and fielding but came back strongly to have South Africa at 17 for 3 before a burst of heavy rain suspended play. Set a revised target of 116 in 25 overs, South Africa fell 12 runs short.

Speaking after being presented with the U/19 World Cup by ICC President Ray Mali, winning captain Virat Kohli said, "We had belief in ourselves and we played as a unit and we have won. Everyone complemented each other. When the batsmen failed, the bowlers came to the fore," adding that the rain was "unfortunate" for South Africa. "I think the South Africans were marvellous. They played well. It was a dream final and we came out winners," he said.

ACC Development Manager Sultan Rana commented: "The standard of play and physical fitness in this tournament has improved immensely from previous years. Countries are taking this tournament very seriously. The bench-strength of the Test-playing countries is very strong - many of these U/19 boys have already played first-class cricket and most of them will end up playing for the national side. Fielding has improved tremendously all around and there are some very good quick bowlers on the map. Coaches all around the world are doing a wonderful job in bringing youngsters forward."

Defending Plate Champions Nepal were beaten in this year's Plate Final by the West Indies.

Qatar Holds First Women's Cricket Tournament

The country's first ever women's cricket tournament was held in March 2008. "The QCA Challenge Cup will be a good opportunity for women cricketers to showcase their skills," said Qatar Cricket Association (QCA) President M. A. Shahid. "Our ultimate aim is to build a solid foundation for women's cricket so that we can have teams representing Qatar in various international tournaments."

The QCA said that they had the permission of the Qatar Olympic Committee (QOC) to conduct cricket tournaments for women because it was the "need of the times."

"Qatar wants to promote women's participation in all spheres of life and cricket is also a part of this policy. There is tremendous enthusiasm amongst the girls about this tournament," added Tournament Director and QCA General Secretary, Manzoor Ahmad.
Cricket Initiatives

With an attendance of over 150 participants at recently held coaching camps, the tournament, featured three teams - MES School Team, QCA-1 and QCA-2. “About 45 ladies have been selected and three teams have been formed after we had identified talent at our coaching clinics,” said senior QCA Coach Aruna De Silva.

QCA are also planning under-15 and under-19 tournaments so that a team can be sent to represent their country in the upcoming ACC U-19 Women's Cup in Thailand.

Kuwait Starts Work on New Ground

The Kuwait Cricket Association (KCA) have started work on their fourth fully-turfed ground. The land is at Sulaibiya in the suburbs of Kuwait City and is expected to be operational by May 2008. Sodding has started and the wicket-block is almost complete. The outfield was grassed during the course of March.

The KCA's Asad Baig says, “The challenges in this part of the world, as everyone knows, are enormous. The Sulaibiya ground was started in the middle of the Kuwaiti winter with close to freezing temperatures overnight and hot sun during the day. We have ensured that the ground will have a good water supply as well as excellent drainage.” The wicket-soil has been brought into Kuwait from Nandipur, near Gujranwala, in Pakistan and is the same soil already used at Kuwait's Ahmadi and KEC grounds as well as in Sharjah, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain and Qatar.

A fifth turf ground, in Salmiya, is also in the pipeline and is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Academic Afghans

The Afghanistan Cricket Federation has started training at a modern cricket centre in Kandahar in the south of the country. The building of the Kandahar Cricket Academy has been supported by the local sports council, a local cricket enthusiast Wali Amin and the Iranian embassy.

Kandahar currently has two concrete wickets and plans to install turf wickets and lights along with a bowling machine.

ICC Chief Executive - “Cricket and The Olympics: A Potential Legacy”

ICC Chief Executive Malcolm Speed was a keynote speaker at a symposium held by the South Asian Studies Program of the University of Oxford at the end of March 2007 on the topic of 'Olympic Legacies'. His address was titled: ‘Cricket and the Olympics: A Potential Legacy.'

All recent Olympic Games have had their own distinctive 'legacy' plans, from facilities development to inner-city regeneration, to internal nation-building and international promotion. Legacies are how the true worth of an Olympics are measured because the benefits from hosting them are what remain long after the medals have been presented.
Cricket Returns to The Olympic Movement

Cricket has taken the first step on the long road to inclusion in the Olympic program by winning provisional recognition status from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) The IOC said that cricket won recognition due to its youth-development programs.

The Olympic program is determined seven years ahead of every Games. As cricket will not have completed the mandatory two-year provisional Olympic status by the time the 2008 Beijing Olympics are over, its case will be reviewed following the 2012 London Games. Therefore the earliest cricket could be seen at the Games is 2020.

International Cricket Council (ICC) President Ray Mali said, "This is great news for cricket. The Olympic Movement is instantly recognisable around the world and for cricket to be a part of that again has to be a good thing. The ICC and IOC share similar values, such as a spirit of fair play in a competitive but ultimately friendly environment."

Mr Mali, along with ICC Directors David Morgan and Tunku Imran, met with IOC President Jacques Rogge in Lausanne in October 2007. Cricket last featured in the Olympic Games in 1900. It will be played at the Asian Games, a part of the Olympic movement, in 2010.

"We want to play an active role in the Olympic Movement and we will be looking at ways in which we can work with the IOC for the benefit of cricket, sport and society in general," said Mr. Mali.
AGE VERIFICATION PROGRAMME
The TW3 Method of Bone Age Maturity

Dr. Vece Paes MBBS (Calcutta), Dip. Sports Medicine (Calcutta)
THE ACC AGE VERIFICATION PROGRAM (AVP)

In November 2007, at the ACC Cup U-15 Elite in Kathmandu, Nepal, seven teams were disqualified due to over-aged players. This led to discontent and queries by the concerned member national cricket associations as to the determining factor of the ACC Age Verification Program and the accuracy of the TW3 system (a progression of the TW2).

A. Introduction

The Importance of Age Verification.
To identify the:
- Ideal age to introduce sports
- Ideal age for sports selection
- Ideal age for learning different sports skills
- Ideal age for various physical skills and peak performance
- To prevent injuries and burn out
- To prevent age manipulation for competitive advantage

In other words, to help in the long-term development of the athlete and to ensure a level playing field. Assessing athletes' potential by chronological age only, is not sufficient, bearing in mind that physiological maturity is likely to vary in individuals of the same age group. Boys assessed at the age of 12 or 13 years can show physical maturity levels typical of boys 10-15 years of age. It is obvious that the performance levels in a wide variety of physical activities will be affected by such differences as maturity, height and weight.

Since the chronological age by birth certification can be manipulated, the ACC development committee represented by the member national cricket associations, adopted the TW2 method of bone age maturation in 2005.

B. Chronology of the ACC Age Verification Programme:

- **2001-2004** ACC Age Group Tournaments:
  Discontent expressed by Member NCA's on over aged players and the absence of a 'level playing field'. The ACC medical team reported an excessive number of cricket ball contusions in smaller and younger teams.

- **2005:** the ACC held the age group tournaments ACC Cup U-15, U-17 and U-19 which provided a unique opportunity to study and solve the vexing problem of age verification. The ACC decided on a trial study using the TW2 Method of Assessment of Skeletal Maturity and a Height/Weight Point method of player groups.

  a) **The ACC Cup U15 April 2005, UAE.**
  Consultants: Dr. Ashok Kumar, and Dr. Vijay Bhatia, consultant radiologists of New Medical Centre, UAE.
  Facilitators: Dr. Vece Paes, ACC and C Sudhakar, ECB Physio.
  Results (AVP):
  Limited targeted random bone age testing was done.

  14 of the 22 finalists were over-aged.

  b) **The ACC U-17 Cup, August 2005, Malaysia**
  Consultants: Dr. Ashok Ahuja, Head Department of Sports Medicine, National Institute of Sports, Patiala, India and Dr. Shahrin Merican, Consultant Radiologist, Gleneagles, Intan Medical Centre, Kuala Lumpur.
  Facilitators: Dr. Vece Paes, ACC and Dr. Amarjit Singh Gill, MCA
  Results (AVP):
  No. of Teams: 14  Players age verified: 196  Players bone tested: 52  Not eligible: 15.
  Limited targeted random bone age testing was done.

  Afghanistan suspended from further participation in the tournament, due to more than 2 players being over-aged.
c) The ACC U-19 Cup November 2005, Nepal
Consultants: Dr. Ashok Ahuja, Head Department of Sports Medicine, National Institute of Sports, Patiala, India
Dr. Satish Bajaj, Consultant Radiologist, Siddhartha Hospital Ltd, Kathmandu.
Facilitator: Dr. Vece Paes, ACC.
Results (AVP):
No. of Teams: 12    Players age verified: 189   Players bone tested: 32   Not eligible: 5
Limited targeted random bone age testing was done.

C. The Methods considered for the ACC Age Verification Programme:

1. **Chronological Age**: this is based on the birth date registration on the birth certificate, school certificate, passport, Identity Card (ID) and registration with the National Cricket Association.

2. **Height-Weight Points system**: This was researched by the ACC in the 2005 Age Group tournaments. It was found to vary significantly in individuals of the same age group and was discarded.

3. **Physiological Age**: This is based on height and weight, body structure and secondary sexual characteristics. The accuracy rate is +/- 4 years.

4. **Dental Age**: This is based on the eruption of teeth. Non eruption due to impaction of teeth particularly the 3rd molar is a problem and would require dental X-rays for clarification. The accuracy rate is +/- 4 years.

5. **Bone Age Maturation Methods**: There are various methods of Bone Age Maturation for age verification, the most familiar being the GP System and the TW2 system. The ACC radiological consultants recommended the latter and hence this was researched and used by the ACC from 2005 onwards in the U15 & U17 age group tournaments. The accuracy rate is 1 to 2 years in expert hands.

The BCCI and PCB are using the GP Bone Age Maturation method as the determining factor
FIFA and the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) are using a MRI based bone maturation system as the determining factor.

The AFC banned North Korea, Iraq and Tajikistan from the Asian U16 Soccer Championship in February 2008 for fielding over-aged players based on the MRI Bone Age System only.

The ACC selected the TW2 method as its consultants were familiar with the method and felt that it was marginally more accurate than the GP method. The MRI Bone Age system was expensive and practically cumbersome with marginal age verification advantage.

d) December 2005: Development Committee Meeting in Kuala Lumpur: A summary of results of the ACC Age Verification Program for the ACC U-15, U-17 and U-19 Cups was sent to the ACC Development Committee. Recommendations by the consultant radiologists and Dr. Vece Paes were to implement the TW2 Method of Bone Maturity for the U-15 and U-17 age group tournaments. The TW2 method identifies bone maturity up to 18 years and hence it was decided to discontinue the TW2 method for U-19s.

**Minutes of the Meeting of the ACC Development Committee, ACC Secretariat, Kuala Lumpur, 27.12.2005.**

Item 5: Age Verification Program results (U-15, U-17 and U-19). The Chairman was very impressed with the results and pleased with the programme. It has been agreed upon that this programme would be implemented in all future age group programmes. The Chairman congratulated Dr. Paes and his medical team and ACC for making it a success.
The following attended:
Mr. Mohammad Ali Asghar - BCB President and Chairman ACC Development Committee.
Mr. John Cribbin - Hong Kong Cricket Association
Mr. Anil Kalaver - Singapore Cricket Association
Mr. Mazhar Khan - Administrator, Emirates Cricket Board
Mr. Syed Ashraful Huq - Chief Executive, ACC
Mr. Sultan Rana - Development Manager, ACC
Mr. Thushith Perera - Finance Manager, ACC
Mr. Ganesan Sundarammooorthy - Development Programme Coordinator, ACC

2007
The ACC Cup U15 Elite, November 2007, Kathmandu
Consultants: Dr. Ashok Ahuja, Head Department of Sports Medicine, National Institute of Sports, Patiala, India
Dr. Satish Bajaj, Consultant Radiologist, Siddhartha Hospital Ltd, Kathmandu.
Facilitators: Dr. Ashish Shrestha, Medical Officer, CAN and Dr. Vece Paes, ACC SMFO

Results (AVP):
No. of Teams: 10   Players age verified: 140   Players bone tested: 126   Not eligible: 35
Team suspended: 7.
All players’ bone age tested

CONSIDER THE FACTS:
1. The Method: The TW3 method of bone maturation is the most accurate system available. The ACC, BCCI, PCB and FIFA use bone age maturation systems. The ACC has been benevolent. It expanded this margin of accuracy to plus/minus 1 year. Besides, if there is a disparity between the two consultants, the lower bone age is recorded. In other words the double blind study is further strengthened in its legitimacy by ensuring that the player gets the benefit of the doubt. Taking into account the fact that the experts are independent and that they deal with samples that are completely unidentifiable because the names are blanked out and the samples carry mere codes, the results become more acceptable.

2. The Determining Factor: The documents submitted i.e. birth certificates etc are prima-facie evidence of the age of the person. Bone age maturation would either corroborate or contradict these documents. Where they contradict, the bone maturation determines the age. If bone maturation was secondary, then why do it. All the participating players had legitimate birth documents. Players could be unsure of their age by reason of the system of the country they spent their initial years or worse, their age could be manipulated. The TW3 method was initiated to sieve out the eligible from the non-eligible. Countries like Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Thailand and the UAE were prime movers of using the idea of the TW3 method. This was agreed by all member countries in 2005.

3. The Process: The TW3 method was conducted by two experts, unrelated to the ACC, completely independent, unknown to each other, with no interest to anyone in the program. It was done by a double blind study, in a coded manner but with secure identification at each stage of the process. It was a scientific, transparent and neutral process. The consultants did not know the name, date of birth, country or any other detail of the players. The ACC was detached from the process and served as facilitators.

The pre-tournament data processing and bone age verification needs to be improved by the member countries and ACC. Most participating countries did not fill in their age verification data and this caused delays in processing the TW3 program. Due to this, it was emphasized at the team managers meeting that the results of the age verification could only be completed prior to the knockout stage of the tournament.

4. Professionals: The results rest on interpretation of data. The two consultants even on a double blind study were able to interpret most of the bone age verification within 6 months of each other. The margins of accuracy in the TW3 Method is +/- 6 months as a stand alone test for bone age.

The two consultants are experts in this field of bone age verification.
i. Dr Ashok Ahuja: Head - Dept of Sports Medicine, National Institute of Sports, Patiala since 1978. Dr Ahuja conducts PG courses for doctors pursuing sports medicine. It is the only institute in Asia recognized by the Medical Council of India. Dr Ahuja specialized from the Sports Medical Institute in Moscow (1983) and Frankfurt/Cologne in 1985. He has done over 5000 bone age verifications.

ii. Dr Satish Bajaj: Executive director and consultant radiologist, Siddhartha Hospital, Kathmandu. Dr Bajaj was Professor of Radiology at the University of Munster, Germany for 8 years. He has worked with bone age estimation for sports, orthopedics, pediatrics and endocrinology since 1990.

CONCLUSION:

The facts are clear:-
1. Birth certificates are the first step.
2. If these are to be the determining factors, then full stop. Nothing further needs to be done. We take the numbers shown in the birth certificate as conclusive and do not open to any form of challenge.
3. This was obviously unacceptable. Many countries had complained that the birth certificates were not reflective of the true age.
4. Hence, a method was required to “test” the age as reflected in the birth certificates.
5. The method employed is the only method known to us which is acceptable given it’s accuracy and methodology.
6. The results of these tests therefore should be “superior” to the documentary evidence as shown in the birth certificates or other documents indicating age.
7. There is definitely no bias.
8. The unhappiness, if any, stems from allegations that the tests are inaccurate.
9. The tests are as accurate as possible.
10. We know of no other better system.

ACC REVIEW MEETINGS ON THE AGE VERIFICATION PROGRAM.

1. The ACC Executive Committee met in Delhi in December 2007 and passed the following resolution through a letter addressed to all Member NCAs by the ACC Chief Executive, Mr. Syed Ashraful Huq.

“I refer to the ACC Cup Under-15 Elite tournament held in Kathmandu, the ACC Age Verification Protocol and the recent correspondence received on this matter. The above was considered by the Executive Board during its most recent meeting, further to which, I am advised as follows:-

1. The rationale behind the call for the introduction of an Age Verification protocol was to implement a commonly accepted criteria for eligibility to participate in tournaments i.e. only those entitled to participate in an event do so;
2. Various methods of age assessment were considered (none in themselves were definitive or conclusive). Pursuant to deliberations and research and since the other factors could not be quantified specifically, the ACC Development Committee in December 2005 elected to rely on the TW3 method of Assessment of Skeletal Maturity by Tanner et al.

The ACC adopted the TW3 method (skeletal age) as the determining factor over and above the chronological age. This verifies the age of a player in the U-15 and U-17 age group tournaments.

i. This method was adopted, agreed to and implemented without objection by members and was:
ii. Utilised by the ACC since 2005
iv. It was noted that the BCCI, PCB and FIFA also utilise similar Bone Age Verification protocols for age assessment.
v. It was also noted that although the membership had adopted the TW3 method, no member country has at any juncture, until the Under-15 Nepal tournament, raised any objection.
The Board noted that the TW3 method is not a definitive method but like all other methods, it has its accuracy parameters. In the circumstances, a study will be undertaken to review if:

a. The present system should be amended, revised or replaced.
b. The objectives for the implementation of the TW3 method can be achieved in any other way. "Until there is a change, the present system will continue."

2. The ACC Development Committee met in Lahore in March 2008 and reiterated the same message as the ACC Executive Committee, as above.

WHERE WE GO FROM HERE
The ACC Executive and Development Committees have requested a review of the qualification rules for ACC Age Group Tournaments (U-15 and U-17) and the Appeals System.

The ACC Age Verification Program; Qualification Rules and Appeals Process for ACC Age Group Tournaments (U15 and U 17)

A. Background:

As the Asian governing body for the sport of cricket, the ACC is responsible for ensuring that appropriate protocols are put in place to ensure players are of the correct age for the ACC age group tournaments (U-15 and U-17), thus maintaining a level playing field.

B. Persons/Matches Covered:

This policy will become a schedule to the Qualification Rules for the U-15 and U-17 ACC Age Group Tournaments and shall apply to all players participating in these events.

C. The Determining Factor:

1. The ACC has decided that the TW3 method of assessment of Skeletal maturity is the overriding determining factor, until a better method is identified.

D. Committees to be formed

1. An expert committee for Medical Age Verification is recommended as below:
   • Dr. Ashok Ahuja, Head Dept of Sports Medicine, National Institute of Sports, Patiala, India
   • Dr. Satish Bajaj, Consultant Radiologist, Siddhartha Hospital, Kathmandu, Nepal.
   • Dr. Ashok Kumar, Consultant Radiologist, New Medical Center, Abu Dhabi, UAE.
   • Dr. Shahrin Merican, Consultant Radiologist, Gleneagles Intan Medical Centre, Kuala Lumpur.
   • Dr. Vece Paes, ACC Sports Medicine Officer

Responsibilities: To research and advise on the methodology and protocol on the ACC Age Verification Method. To be ACC Consultants for the Bone Age Verification x-ray interpretation. Further experts may be added to the panel as and when they are identified.

2. The ACC Tournament Qualification Committee is to consist of the Tournament Director, ACC Development Manager, and ACC concerned CDO, ACC SMFO and ACC Events Executive.

Responsibilities: Players’ eligibility as per ICC/ACC eligibility rules. Age as per birth certification in the passport and tournament cut of date. Review, confirm and communicate the medical age verification results to the concerned players and NCAs.
E. Process to be followed by NCAs:

Pre-Tournament: 3 months
- Once named in the initial squad the Player completes and files the personal data and the chronological age section of the ACC Age Verification Form, together with the supporting documents requested in the Age Verification Form, with his home National Cricket Association (NCA).
- The home National Cricket Association, with the assistance of a doctor, then establishes the Physiological and Dental Age.
- The home NCAs with the assistant of a radiologist specialized in the TW3 method, does the bone age maturation and declares the players ages. This should be done 3 months prior to the tournament.
- The ACC will contribute US$500 to each participating member NCA towards the cost of the X-Rays.
- In case a radiologist specialized in the TW3 method is not available in a particular NCA, then the age verification forms and X-Rays should be sent or emailed to an ACC designated member of the ACC medical age verification committee.
- If digital X-rays are not available then a standard plain X-ray of the left wrist will be accepted.
- The deadline for receipt of the completed age verification forms and X-rays to be sent to the ACC office two months prior to the tournament.

Any NCA which does not send the Age Verification forms and x-rays to the ACC HQ by this designated date will not be allowed to participate in the tournament.

Pre-Tournament: 2 months
- Upon receipt and review of the players Age Verification Forms and X-rays, the ACC retains the right to:
  - Request additional documentation.
  - Request the player to submit to an independent TW3 bone Age examination.
  - Disqualify a player if, upon the evidence in its possession it is reasonably satisfied that the Player is over age and/or if it is not satisfied as to the existence, quality and/or authenticity of the relevant player’s documentary proof. A player disqualified under this provision would be entitled to appeal against disqualification in accordance with Clause F below.
  - The ACC may then refer the age verification data for confirmation to an ACC independent radiological consultant on the ACC Medical Age Verification Committee.

Pre-Tournament: 1 month
- The ACC through the Tournament Qualification Committee will inform the participating NCAs of the results of their review, 1 month prior to the tournament.
  A Player disqualified under this provision would be entitled to appeal against disqualification in accordance with Clause F below.

During The Event
- The chairman of the Tournament Qualification Committee shall be entitled to target select players for examination, review and repeat age verification protocol including the TW3 X-Rays.
- The chairman of the Tournament Qualification Committee may also examine and review the Age Verification protocol including TW3 x-rays of a specific player if he is in receipt of a written complaint from one of the participating NCAs about that specific player.
If the Chairman of the Tournament Qualification Committee is not satisfied as to the existence, quality and/or authenticity of the relevant player's age verification forms and documentary proof, he shall be entitled to request that the Player submit to an independent age verification examination by the member of medical age verification committee.

Results of any independent age verification examination will be carefully considered by the Tournament Qualification Committee and it shall then decide if the player is, in its opinion, over age. A player disqualified under this provision would be entitled to appeal against disqualification in accordance with Clause F below.

Penalties to be imposed

If a player is found to be over age then he will be disqualified from the tournament immediately.

If more than two players from a team are found to be over age then ACC retains the right to disqualify the whole team and the Chairman of the Tournament Qualification Committee shall notify the concerned team players accordingly.

The Chairman of the Tournament Qualification Committee shall be entitled to advise the media of any penalties imposed.

F. The Appeals System

The player will be afforded a right of appeal to an Appeals Commissioner, preferably a lawyer appointed by the ACC using the following system:

a) A player found to be over age shall be permitted to appeal against the ACC independent radiological consultant's declaration that he is over age.

b) The relevant player seeking to appeal against a decision (the appellant) is to lodge with ACC a written notice of appeal setting out the grounds of the appeal within 24 hours pre tournament/3 hours during the tournament, of notification to the player of the ACC independent radiological consultant's declaration that he is over age.

c) Within 12 hours of receiving the appellant's notice of appeal, ACC shall appoint an Appeals Commissioner, from a country other than that of the relevant player, to hear and determine the appeal.

d) The Appeals Commissioner shall hear and determine the appeal as soon as possible.

e) The process for conducting the hearing shall be left to the discretion of the Appeals Commissioner, provided that at all times the hearing is conducted in accordance with the ACC Guidelines on the Principles of Natural Justice. In most cases, he will make his decision on the basis of the written submissions of the appellant and the ACC independent radiological consultant. Where it is available, he shall view all the medical evidence submitted. In his/her absolute discretion he may conduct a hearing in person or by telephone conference. In the event that the Appeals Commissioner elects to conduct a hearing in person or by telephone the appellant and the ACC independent radiological consultant shall be given the opportunity to be present at or listen to all of the evidence and to question any witnesses.

f) The Appeals Commissioner shall provide a written decision to the ACC which shall be forwarded to the appellant, his Team Manager and the Chairman of the Tournament Qualification Committee.

g) Pending resolution of an appeal, a player shall not be permitted to play in a match that is scheduled to commence prior to the announcement of the Appeals Commissioner's decision.

h) The decision of the Appeals Commissioner shall be final and binding.
Radiation Risk:

The WHO guideline suggested 15 years ago that X-rays should be avoided in normal healthy individuals. Since then the x-ray systems are cleaner, faster and with minimum radiation exposure. Besides the wrist and hand is a very small peripheral area and the x-ray radiation is 0.01 msv.

Natural Radiation exposure from external cosmic outer space and Internal Radiation in food and water radionucleids is 0.26 msv and 0.39 msv respectively.

The annual effective dose of radiation is 39 msv.

ACC Age Verification Data Bank

The ACC will be maintaining an Age Verification Data Bank. It is expected that once a player completes his bone age verification he will not be needed to repeat it again.

Dr. Vece Paes
ASIA’S DEVELOPMENT WINNERS

The Asia region winners of the seventh ICC Development Awards were announced at the start of 2008 following the submission of nominations by the Asian Cricket Council. The awards are designed to reflect, reward and encourage development activity throughout the ICC regions.

Singapore were again in line to win the Best Overall Cricket Development Program, with Nepal, China, Hong Kong and for the first time, Bhutan nominated for the other awards. Ahmed Hassan Didi of the Board of Control for Cricket in Maldives was up for the Lifetime Service Award. “On behalf of the Asian Cricket Council, I again commend all the regional winners for their contribution to cricket,” said ACC Development Manager Sultan Rana.

Best Overall Cricket Development Program: Singapore Cricket Association

Best Junior Cricket Initiative: Cricket Association of Nepal

Best Women’s Cricket Initiative: Bhutan Cricket Council Board

Best Cricket Promotional and Marketing Program: Hong Kong Cricket Sixes

Photo of the Year: Sudarshan Ranjit, Nepal

Lifetime Service Award: Ahmed Hassan Didi (Maldives)
Matthew Kennedy, ICC Global Development Manager, said: “These awards recognise the achievements of (those) who work tirelessly to develop this great game in countries where cricket may be relatively young, but definitely on the move.”

Asia’s winners in the 2007 Global Development Awards were the Hong Kong Cricket Association for Best Cricket Promotional and Marketing Program.

2006 Global Development Awards

Asia’s winners in the 2006 Global Development Awards were the Singapore Cricket Association and the Cricket Association of Nepal for Best Overall Cricket Development Program and Best Women’s Cricket Initiative respectively. They were awarded their prizes at the 2007 ACC Seminar ‘Leading Cricket Across Asia’ by ICC President Ray Mali and ACC Development Manager Sultan Rana.
MEMBER COUNTRY QUALIFICATIONS FROM ACC COURSES

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Country Profiles
Recent Achievements:

2005  Finalists, ACC U-15 Cup
2006  Finalists, Middle East Cup
2006  Defeated MCC in Mumbai
2006  Tour of England - won six out of seven matches, defeating Leicestershire 2nd XI, Essex 2nd XI, Glamorgan 2nd XI, Hoddesdon, Ditchling and the Royal Military Academy
2006  Third, ACC Trophy
2006  Winners, ICC Regional Development Awards: Photo of the Year
2007  Finalists, ACC U-19 Elite Cup
2007  Co-Winners, ACC Twenty20 Cup
2007  Qualifiers for ICC World Cricket League Division 5

Personnel qualified from ACC Courses:

- Coaches: Level I - 3; Level II - 1
- Umpires: Level I - 23
- Curators: Module 1 - 2

Afghanistan are the rising stars of Asian cricket. Already with a global following, they play with dash and panache, care only for winning and consider every match played to be a matter of national honour. Since becoming ACC members their progress has been rapid and had it not been for tactical naivety and an ability to countenance anything else but big hits against spinners, it would be they and not Hong Kong who would be in the 2008 Asia Cup.

Had they qualified for the 2008 Asia Cup in Pakistan, they would have had huge support for it is in the North West Frontier Province, in the camps established during the Afghan Wars of Liberation from 1979 onwards that cricket first became popular amongst the displaced Afghans. To this day, Afghan cricketers play in Pakistan domestic cricket and many are proud to claim a common ancestral heritage with their Pakistani brothers. Inspired by success, hundreds of new clubs have started.

Robin Marlar, President of the Marylebone Cricket Club, said in 2006 that there are a couple of Afghan cricketers already good enough to play Test cricket. Current MCC committee member and former England cricketer Matthew Fleming visited Kabul in 2007 and said that "If Afghanistan played England in Twenty20 cricket, they would win at least one match out of ten."

Once a realization that 'one out of ten' actually isn't good enough becomes apparent to the Afghanistan Cricket Federation then deep-rooted improvements can be made. Afghanistan are still vulnerable to teams playing percentage cricket, but they remain among Asia's strongest contenders for a place in the 2011 World Cup.
Afghanistan

Mohammad Nabi bowling in Kabul

Afghanistan’s captain Nowroz Mangal

Noor Ali Zadran encounters W.G. Grace at Lord’s
Bahrain

Population: Population: 1,005,000 (2008 estimate)
Population Aged 0-15: 27.4%
National coach: Azeem ul Haq
National captain: Yaser Sadeq
Cricket clubs: 71
Grounds: 7
Turf wickets: 0
Women's Cricket: No
Playing Season: October to April

ACC Member since 2003

Recent Achievements:

2004  Finalists, ACC Middle East Cup
2006  Winners, ACC Middle East Cup
2006  Semi-Finalists, ACC U-15 Elite Cup

Personnel qualified from ACC Courses:

Coaches : Level I - 15; Level II - 1
Umpires : Level I - 20
Curators : Module 1 - 1; Module 2 - 2; Module 3 - 1

Bahrain consistently put up teams that are positive in attitude and hard to beat. A period out of ACC competition in 2007-2008 while internal administrative affairs were being settled, has set them back.

Assuming all the elements in Bahrain coalesce, the senior team could mount a serious challenge to the top teams in Asia. Should the youth team fulfil their promise, Bahrain's cricket future will be assured.

Prior to their absence Bahrain were in the Elite division of every ACC competition. There are signs that cricket is enjoying a renaissance with news of a new national academy being built in Manama.

Winners of the 2006 ACC Middle East Cup
Work started on a new Academy in Manama in March 2008
Domestic cricket in Hananiya Valley, Riffa

Land for the future home of Bahraini cricket. Fort Riffa (built 1812) looms in the background

ACC Development Officer Rumesh Ratnayake with Bahrain's outstanding young cricketer David Mathias

Asgher Bajwa hits out during the final of the 2006 ACC Middle East Cup against Afghanistan
Country Profiles

Bhutan

Population: 672,425 (2005 census)
Population (Aged 0-15): 38.9%
National Coach: Damber Singh Gurung
National Captain: Damber Singh Gurung
Cricket clubs: 8
Grounds: 6
Turf wickets: 0
Women's cricket: Yes
Playing Season: September to May
ACC Member since 2001

2007 ACC U-15 Challenge Cup Finalists

Recent Achievements:

2006  Winners, Spirit of Cricket Award - ACC U-15 Challenge Cup
2006  Finalists, ACC U-15 Challenge Cup
2007  Finalists, ACC U-15 Challenge Cup
2008  Finalists, ACC U-19 Challenge Cup

Personnel qualified from ACC Courses:

Coaches : Level I - 8; Level II - 2
Umpires : Level I - 29; Level II - 2
Curators : Module 1 - 4; Module 2 - 3; Module 3 - 3; Advanced - 1

Nestled as it is in the heart of the Himalayas, for centuries none but the most intrepid made it through the steep mountain passes to reach proudly independent Bhutan. Archery being the national sport guaranteed the country considerable protection against invaders. But the Bhutanese were helpless before the onslaught of electromagnetic waves carrying television signals.

Starting in 2001, Indian television started threading its way through the highlands and in its wake came an appreciation for movies, soap operas and cricket. “Cricket caught on just because of STAR TV and Doordarshan,” says Roger Binny, ACC Development Officer for Bhutan.

Out of a population of 2.2 million only 200 or so are active cricketers, though the numbers are rising. The biggest ground in the capital Thimphu (2.3 km above sea level) isn’t quite big enough for ICC-sanctioned cricket but serves its purpose in training the national senior and youth teams. They even play in the winter months, braving intermittent sleet and snow.

Wherever they are, wherever they play, the cricketers retain a unique Bhutanese flavour. All batsmen bow their heads in supplication to the cricketing gods before taking the field. “We do not pray for victory,” says national captain Damber Singh Gurung, “we pray for each other to give our best and to emerge complete from the competition.” The Dechephu Lhakhang temple in Thimphu is the spiritual home of Bhutan Cricket and cricketers visit before every tournament to invoke the protecting deities.

The team itself, as evidenced by their performances in Asian Cricket Council age-group competitions last year, are on the up. Finalists in the most recent ACC U-15 and U-19 Challenge Cups, they show the virtues of good skills, sound technique and hunger for victory. When they’re not playing bigger, faster, stronger opponents more versed in cricket, Bhutan inevitably triumph.
Bhutan

Bhutan’s capital Thimphu has space for only half a ground but it is used to its fullest capabilities for matches and training. Here a visiting Australian club side take on the national team.

Bhutan’s coach Damber Singh Gurung with youth team captain Jigme Singye

Bhutan’s openers Tashi and Wangchuk summon the spirits before going out to bat

Bhutan’s capital Thimphu has space for only half a ground but it is used to its fullest capabilities for matches and training. Here a visiting Australian club side take on the national team.
Country Profiles

Brunei

Population: 374,577 (2007 estimate)
Population (Aged 0-15): 28.1%
National Coach: Manzur Ahmed
National Captain: Manzur Ahmed
Cricket clubs: 5
Grounds: 1
Turf wickets: 0
Women's cricket: Yes
Playing Season: Year-round

ACC Member since 1996

Recent Achievements:

2004 First international tournament participation in ACC Trophy

Personnel qualified from ACC Courses:

Coaches : Level I - 3
Umpires : Level I - 9; Level II - 1
Curators : Module 1 - 2; Module 2 - 1; Module 3 - 1

Brunei provides a classic lesson in sporting development. The country came into Asia's sporting consciousness in the early 1990s when the very best available professional talent - Javed Miandad, Viv Richards, Ian Botham - was brought into the country at regular intervals to coach the elite of the country. It was thought that their top-down influence would spread far and wide throughout the country.

Their influence spread near and narrow.

Cricket kept on going at an ad hoc, amateur level during these years as expatriate oil-workers and migrants arranged fixtures for themselves and their children but Brunei is a small country, its total population but a fifth of Kuala Lumpur's alone.

The cricketers that do currently play, however, are dedicated to building a base for cricket and the Brunei Darussalam Cricket Association have pioneered a form of coaching in Asia known as Level 0 - the basics for the base. The focus is on schools and their teachers and the game is slowly spreading.

Following a breakthrough at primary level, the BDCA plans to introduce cricket in secondary schools level as well as conduct a Twenty20 league for juniors.

An 'Education through Cricket' project has been started with the aim to introduce approximately 250 English words to the students who intend to take part in the sport and who are weak in spoken English. All these selected words will be cricket-related but can also be used for day-to-day conversation.
As their elder siblings practised, these two children picked up a bat for the very first time in Bandar Seri Begawan.

Brunei's women take guard.

Manzur Ahmed bowls to Saudi Arabia's Suhrab Kilsingatakam, 2006 ACC Trophy.
China

Population (Aged 0-15): 20.8%
National Coach: Rashid Khan
National Captain: Mei Chun Hua
Cricket clubs: Grounds: 4, Turf wickets: 0
Playing season: April to October

ACC Member since 2004

That China has finally started playing what they call ‘shen shi yun dong’, ‘the noble game’, is a significant step forward for cricket. In the words of former ICC President, Ehsan Mani, “Cricket cannot call itself a global game when one-fifth of the world’s population is not aware of it.”

They are aware of it now. Media coverage of China’s emergence has rivaled that of Afghanistan; with the interest however, has come a lack of understanding of just how large the challenge is to introduce cricket into China. “Developing cricket in China is a twenty-year project,” said ICC Global Development Manager Matthew Kennedy in 2006. It still holds true.

Introducing cricket into China is a threefold testing-ground for: i) the Asian Cricket Council Development Program, ii) the Chinese state sporting machine and iii) the appeal of the game of cricket itself.

Since the ACC formally introduced cricket to mainland China in 2005, much progress has been made. Coaches, umpires and most importantly player numbers in schools, have risen dramatically ever since then.

The CCA’s goal is to have 15,000 cricketers by 2009 with accompanying umpires and coaches, with this number rising to 60,000 by 2012.

By 2020, following the establishment of a national league, international club matches, a national school and inter-city competition as well as a credible Team China, the association expects cricket to be played actively by 150,000 people.

The main initial target is the creation of a men’s and women’s team for the 2010 Asian Games in Guangzhou. As hosts, China are guaranteed entry. There they will take on the four Asian Test-playing countries along with three other pan-Asian qualifiers in a Twenty20 competition. Should China do well enough in the eyes of the world, state support of the game will be boosted considerably.

The Asian Cricket Council and International Cricket Council consider China to be a ‘Special Project’ and have allocated funds specifically to develop cricket in China. In the words of the ACC Chief Executive Syed Ashraful Huq, “Global revenues for cricket will increase by 30-40% in my estimation once China becomes an established cricketing nation, either as a venue, a participant or a breeding ground for future cricketers in the decades ahead.” Malcolm Speed, the ICC Chief Executive, at the end of his personal evaluation of Chinese cricket in October 2006 said that, “I have seen 15-year-olds in Beijing who, if given every chance to continue their progress, will become very good cricketers. I foresee China playing in the World Cup of 2015.”
China

Cricket on the Great Wall

Rolling-out the CCA’s Development Program

ACC Development Officer Aminul Islam debriefs the U-19 squad

Hong Kong

Population: 6,963,100 (2007 estimate)
Population (Aged 0-15): 18%
National Coach: Aftab Habib
National Captain: Tabarak Dar
Women’s captain: Neisha Pratt
Cricket clubs: 27
Grounds: 4
Turf wickets: 2
Playing Season: September to April

ACC Member since 1983

Hong Kong’s cricketers were their country’s Team of the Year in 2007

Recent Achievements:
2005 Winners, ICC Regional Development Award for Asia’s Best Overall Cricket Development Programme, Best Junior Cricket Initiative, Best Women’s Cricket Initiative
2006 Finalists, ACC Trophy
2007 Qualifiers for ICC World Cricket League Division 3
2007 Semi-Finalists, ACC Women’s Tournament
2008 Asia Cup participants
2008 Winners, Asian and Global ICC Development Awards for Best Marketing Promotional and Marketing Program

Notwithstanding the premier performances of the UAE, Hong Kong are pretty much the class act amongst Asian associates. Its status as a former British colony has given it a long-standing foundation for cricket. The Hong Kong Cricket Club was founded in 1851 and succeeding generations have all contributed to the growth of cricket. What was once a purely Anglicised expatriate game now encompasses a significant number of subcontinental migrants who come together at senior and all age-group levels to represent Hong Kong. What is most significant, however, about current cricket activity is that the game has been embedded in the curriculum of primary schools throughout the territory. As such, thousands of native Chinese boys and girls have been introduced to cricket. The Hong Kong Cricket Association has created opportunities to sustain that initial contact and interest not only in the school-system but outside it too. A thriving club cricket scene for men and women provides plenty of playing opportunities.

The popular annual Hong Kong Sixes generates substantial revenue and along with ACC funding and ICC support, the Hong Kong Cricket Association is healthily placed to find, nurture and develop internationally competitive cricketers. One thing that has held them back for a while is the absence of a full-sized international ground but plans (and negotiations with the authorities) are already underway for the creation of two fully-turfed grounds in Kowloon’s Po Kong and Mission Road within the next few years.

Many of their Asian competitors have thought in recent years that Hong Kong are a team ripe for the taking but successive participation in two Asia Cups has shown that when it comes to 50-over match-play on turf, Hong Kong are a match for all but the UAE.
Hong Kong rising

Much coaching is done by national players, in this case Afzaal Haider at Kowloon C.C

Butt Hussain at the 2007 ACC Twenty20

Nadeem Ahmed bowling in the 2007 ACC U-19 Elite Cup
Iran

Population: 71,208,000 (2007 estimate)
Population Aged 0-15: 26.1%
National Coach: Shahid Aslam
National Captain: Nariman Bakhtiar
Cricket clubs:
Grounds: 4
Turf wickets: 0
Women's cricket: Yes
Playing Season: September to April

ACC Member since 2003

Recent Achievements:
2006 Participants in the ACC Middle-East Cup
2006 ACC U-15 Challenge Cup Semi-Finalists
2006 Participants in the ACC Trophy

Personnel qualified from ACC Courses:

- Coaches: Level I - 5
- Umpires: Level I - 39; Level II - 1
- Curators: Module 1 - 1; Module 2 - 1; Module 3 - 2

Iran has been one of the beneficiaries of the globalization mantra that pervaded the cricket development ethos of the late 1990s. Quite cannily adapting the Baseball Federation into the Cricket and Baseball Federation initially, the administrators have subsequently taken advantage of their proximity to Pakistan to create a following for the game.

Much activity is centred around the southern Chabahar and Baluchistan regions of Iran as they border Pakistan and there is increasing evidence, as these regions develop commercially and welcome cross-border interaction, that cricket is being played by more and more people.

Cricket because of its body-covering uniform is seen as something that women can observe and women's cricket is being increasingly encouraged. The majority of accredited umpires in Iran are currently women.

Given more domestic administrative support Iran's cricketers could certainly impress in ACC competition.
Iran

National Championships in Konarak, March 2007

Carpark cricket in Chabahar

Women’s cricket in Kermanshah

The next generation
Kuwait, with a decent team at all age-group levels, sound administration, plenty of domestic commercial support, exceptional facilities and a desire to truly be a vibrant member of the international cricketing community, has plenty of things going for it.

In fact, it is a surprise Kuwait hasn't already gone further on the field. They have some outstanding batsmen but a lack of cutting-edge bowlers have held them back up to now. Third place in the 2004 ACC Trophy and 2007 ACC Twenty20 Cup hints at what they're capable of when they're near their best.

What the Kuwait Cricket Association does have, however, is a desire to maximise their resources in the most efficient manner possible. As they stated to the ICC inspectors when being assessed for Associate status in the summer of 2005, “There are areas where there is still much to be done such as allowing greater access and participation by the Kuwaiti nationals, creating links between clubs and schools, forming of junior sections within established clubs, improving existing facilities and providing public pitches and practise facilities.”

It's a rare Association that 1) admits to its shortcomings 2) on admission, resolves to correct them and 3) actually corrects them. But the KCA’s goal is to be the best possible cricket resource for all its members and to make Kuwait cricket stand as worthy members of the global cricket community. They are dedicated to that cause.

Current indications suggest greater success at ACC level and then ICC level cannot be far away. By the start of 2008-2009 Kuwait should have six fully-turfed grounds; quite an achievement in the circumstances.
In January 2008 work started on Kuwait’s fifth turf ground, Sulaibiya.

Mohammad Rashid hits out for Kuwait, 2007 ACC Twenty20 Cup.

Draped in the national flag and disconsolate at Kuwait’s loss in the Final of the 2007 ACC U-15 Elite Cup Hussain al-Shatti is, along with his elder brother, one of two Arab boys playing cricket for Kuwait.

KCA Secretary Haider Farman with the ‘Father of Kuwait cricket’ Yousef Ali Baksh.

Desert into Turf: Kuwait Entertainment City.
Malaysia

Population: 27,496,000 (2007 estimate)
Population Aged 0-15: 27.2%
National coach: Rohan Vishnu Suppiah
Women's captain: Arina Rahim
Cricket clubs: 30
Grounds: 32
Turf wickets: 8
Playing Season: Year-round

ACC Member since 1983

Recent Achievements:
2004 Host, ACC Trophy
2005 Host, ICC World Cup Qualifier Division 2
2005 Host, ACC U-17 Cup
2005 ACC U-15 Cup Semi-Finalists
2005 ACC U-19 Cup Finalists
2006 Host, ACC U-15 Elite Cup
2006 Host, ACC Trophy
2006 Host, DLF Tri-Series between Australia, India and West Indies
2007 Beat Bangladesh U-19s in a 50-over match
2007 Semi-Finalists, ACC U-19 Elite Cup
2008 Host, ICC U/19 World Cup

Personnel qualified from ACC Courses:
Coaches: Level I - 13; Level II - 2
Umpires: Level I - 41; Level II - 4
Curators: Module 1 - 9; Module 2 - 7; Module 3 - 8; Advanced - 6

Speak to anyone who knows anything about cricket in Malaysia and they'll say, “Malaysia has the best facilities amongst the non-Test countries of Asia.” Its abilities to organise and then deliver a top-class international tournament were demonstrated by the 2006 DLF Tri-Series between Australia, India and the West Indies in September 2006 and the 16-nation ICC U/19 World Cup in 2008. The ACC has found Malaysia an accommodating host for numerous tournaments.

Its ability to deliver on the promise of being an ODI nation well, they’re still far away. Notwithstanding the considerable commercial and administrative acumen that is evident among many of those connected with cricket in Malaysia, cricket has not received its due standing in the national consciousness. Much of that is due of course, to the core national consciousness not being geared to cricket or indeed participatory sport.

Malaysia has produced one outstanding cricketer in recent years, their former captain Suresh Navaratnam, an all-rounder who impressed the visiting Australians mightily in his net sessions with them during the DLF series. To create the next generation, using the revenue from the Tri-Series and U/19 World Cup, a far-reaching development program has been established to harness talent across peninsular and eastern Malaysia.
MCA President Tunku Imran aims high

Nur Aisha Ali: most runs for Malaysia in the ACC Women’s Tournament 2007

Umpires take the field in the golden light of Penang
Maldives

Population: 300,000 (2006 estimate)
Population Aged 0-15: 46%
National coach: Faiz Samad
National captain: Moosa Kaleem
Cricket clubs: 14
Grounds: 2
Turf wickets: 1 (net)
Women’s Cricket: Yes
Playing Season: September to April
ACC Member since 1996

Recent Achievements:

2005  Winners, ACC Emerging Nations Tournament
2005  Winners, Asia Region's ICC Development Award for Best Cricket Promotional and Marketing Program
2006  Winners, ACC Emerging Nations Tournament
2006  Winners, Asia Region's ICC Development Award for Best Cricket Promotional and Marketing Program
2008  Winners, Spirit of Cricket Award, ACC U-19 Challenge Cup

Personnel qualified from ACC Courses:

Coaches: Level I - 13; Level II - 1
Umpires: Level I - 51; Level II - 4
Curators: Module 1 - 4; Module 2 - 5; Module 3 - 4; Advanced - 2

The fact that grass on this coral atoll is a rarity and that the land mass is so disparate are factors which the Cricket Control Board of Maldives has enthusiastically overcome. A nation where over half the population are below 21 years, like Bhutan, makes it a fertile place for the promotion of any sport and cricket has caught on in recent years thanks to television. And more importantly, the success of the national team in international competition.

The Maldives' victory in the 2005 ACC Emerging Nations Tournament was the nation's first ever international sporting triumph. The team received a rapturous welcome on their return from Thailand and a presidential reception. Some will say it was a small tournament but if it had not been held and if the Maldives had not won, cricket would not have received the boost it did nation-wide. The Maldives successfully defended their title in 2006 and have continued to shine in subsequent ACC tournaments.

The age-group cricketers promise much and may indeed deliver on that promise in the next few years as their skills and competitive instincts develop. Cricket is the game to play now in the islands and sponsors and the media are increasingly behind the sport. Development has been managed well by the CCBM with a vibrant tournament structure in place.

Indoor training is the norm in the Maldives
Maldives

Rising star: Husham Ibrahim

Maldives national captain Moosa Kaleem and wicket-keeper Abdulla Shafeeu

Husham Ibrahim against Bhutan U-19 with bat...

Mihusan Hamid: Player of the Tournament 2008 ACC U-19 Challenge Cup

...and ball
Country Profiles

Myanmar

Population: 48.8 million (UN, 2007)
Population Aged 0-15: 28.1%
National coach: Tin Mg Aye
Cricket clubs: 4
Turf wickets: 2
Women's Cricket: Yes
Playing Season: October to May
ACC Member since 2005

Recent Achievements:
2006 Participants in the ACC Trophy
2006 Participants in the ACC U-15 Challenge Cup
2007 First international victory, ACC U-15 Challenge Cup

Personnel qualified from ACC Courses:
Coaches: Level I - 3; Level II - 1
Umpires: Level I - 2
Curators: Module I - 2; Module II - 2; Module III - 1

Myanmar embody the truest spirit of amateur cricket in the ACC and arguably, the world. The Myanmar Cricket Federation is a benevolent parental body which offers holistic encouragement to all who wish to play. That cricket is even played in Myanmar is a cause of celebration.

The MCF have realised that creating the proper conditions for cricket will inevitably lead to creating a proper national team in the years to come, one which truly represents not just the spirit of Myanmar but the spirit of cricket.

To that end since they became ACC members in 2005 and the 97th member of the global ICC family in 2006, cricket has been taken to primary and secondary schools in Yangon. The construction of nets and then a ground for school cricket led to the first Inter-School tournament in January 2007 with six teams taking part. “Not very exciting as yet, but we shall improve,” says MCF President U Nyunt Win.

On becoming ACC members in 2005, the MCF released a song for public consumption which did much to establish cricket in the public consciousness. It’s chorus: “Cricket - Cricket - Cricket - Cricket / Play cricket - Achieve Subtle Supremacy.”

They have players who can put bat to ball as well as a rising star in young left-arm seamer Aung Min Ko. The team, showing plenty of heart, won their first ever international match in the 2007 ACC U-15 Challenge Cup, when they beat Brunei.
Myanmar

School cricket in Yangon, January 2008

Veteran cricketer Michael Moosajee watches over Myanmar’s young
Nepal

Population Aged 0-15: 39.7%
National coach: Roy Dias
National captain: Binod Kumar Das
Women's captain: Nary Thapa
Cricket clubs: 377 (senior), 221 (junior)
Grounds: 72
Turf wickets: 17
Playing Season: September - November; March - May

ACC Member since 1990

Recent Achievements:

2005  Winners ACC U-15 Cup
2005  Host and Winners ACC U-19 Cup
2006  Winners Plate Championship, U-19 World Cup
2006  Winners ACC U-15 Elite Cup
2006  Runners-up, ACC Fast Track Countries Tournament
2006  Winners, Asian Region's ICC Development Award for Best Women's Cricket Initiative
2006  ICC Global Development Award for Best Women's Cricket Initiative
2007  Winners, ACC Premier League
2007  Finalists, ACC Women's Tournament
2007  Winners, ACC U-19 Elite Cup
2007  Qualifiers for ICC World Cricket League Division 5
2008  Plate Finalists, ICC U/19 World Cup

Personnel qualified from ACC Courses:

Coaches: Level I - 21; Level II - 4
Umpires: Level I - 46; Level II - 5
Curators: Module 1 - 4; Module 2 - 3; Module 3 - 4; Advanced - 1

Nepal's cricketers have shown overwhelmingly consistent performances at all levels of competition. At age-group level, they simply clean up. Wins have been based on disciplined, error-free cricket.

Sri Lanka's legendary batsman Roy Dias who took over as coach in 2001 has been the architect of Nepal's triumphs and he has moulded a nation high on enthusiasm and short of experience into a fine competitive force.

The one level they have yet to master is that of the seniors, where they have so far found the seasoned talents of full-strength sides which play a more dynamic form of cricket just that little bit too much for them. But they're pushing, they're certainly pushing and the battle between them and the others should be fascinating in the years ahead.

A regime change at the Cricket Association of Nepal has led to the adoption of a more professional approach to development. Greater sponsorship and more focussed domestic competitions have been the result. Work has already started on a National Academy, felt to be vital given the extremes of Nepal's weather for indoor practise, which will be partly funded by the ACC.

Prospects for women's cricket look very bright and the national team (made up of top athletes from other sports) did very well to reach the final of the 2007 ACC Women's Tournament.
Nepal

The ACC Development Manager with CAN President B.R. Pandey

The National Coach and Captain

U-19 Captain Paras Khadka

Nepal’s big-match venue: Tribhuvan University Ground
Oman

Population: 3,204,897 (2007 estimate)
Population Aged 0-15: 42.6%
National Coach: Awal Khan
Cricket Clubs: 45
Grounds: 5
Turf Wickets: 0
Women’s Cricket: Yes
Playing Season: August - April
ACC Member since 2000

Recent Achievements:
2004   Finalists, ACC Trophy
       Winners, ACC Middle East Cup
2005   Ninth, ICC Trophy
2007   Joint-Winners, ACC Twenty20 Cup
       Finalists, ICC World Cricket League Division 2

Personnel qualified from ACC Courses:
Coaches: Level I - 16; Level II - 5
Umpires: Level I - 46; Level II - 1
Curators: Module 1 - 3; Module 2 - 2; Module 3 - 2

Oman came from seemingly nowhere to finish second in the 2004 ACC Trophy and clinch a place in the aborted 2006 Asia Cup as well as the ICC Trophy of 2005. They have been perilously inconsistent ever since but got their act together to great effect in the 2007 ACC Twenty20 Cup where they contested, and jointly won, an epic final with Afghanistan. Even better though was their performance in ICC World Cricket League Division 2 a month later where they topped the table, against some tough opposition. That booked Oman a place in the 2009 ICC Trophy where they have every chance of qualifying for the World Cup of 2011.

Their rise has been based on having a team packed with all-rounders along with superb team spirit. They have a habit of winning close matches which says much for their competitive instincts. Oman have all the ingredients for success, not least through having a vigorous national association. They have taken steps to introduce artificial turf wickets which simulate grass in order to prepare better for international competition.
Oman

HH Sayyid Haitham bin Tariq Al Said, OCB’s Patron in Chief

Nilesh Parmar and Adnan Ilyas took Oman to the brink of victory with a 114-run partnership in the Final of the 2007 ACC Twenty20 Cup against Afghanistan

A pitch consultant faces the challenge of installing a playing surface in the Omani desert
Country Profiles

Qatar

Population: 841,000 (2007 estimate)
Population Aged 0-15: 23.7%
National coach: Aruna de Silva
National captain: Omer Taj
Cricket clubs:
Grounds:
Turf wickets: 0
Women’s Cricket: Yes
Playing Season: September - April

ACC Member since 2000

Recent Achievements:

2006 Winner, ICC Development Award for Asian Region's Volunteer of the Year: Malik Nazar Mohammad
2006 Sixth, ACC Trophy
2007 Winners, ACC U-15 Challenge Cup

Personnel qualified from ACC Courses:

Coaches: Level I - 9; Level II - 3
Umpires: Level I - 39; Level II - 2
Curators: Module 1 - 4; Module 2 - 3; Module 3 - 2; Advanced - 1

Qatar is one of those countries currently girding their loins in Asia as they seek to capitalise on the talent and resources they have available.

Talent in bundles they do have. Qatar has one of the best young batsmen in seventeen year-old Tamoor Sajjad who played an awesome innings against UAE in the 2006 ACC Trophy but upon one player a team cannot be built so they invariably struggle in the latter stages of every tournament.

The lack of turf for practise and match-play is a handicap for them as players currently practise almost exclusively on matting and cement wickets. An attempt was made recently to produce turf wickets on reclaimed land from the Doha Golf Club which hasn't quite proven successful.

Following the U-15 team's success in the ACC Challenge Cup the state has taken an interest in promoting cricket and negotiations are proceeding for major new cricket facilities development in the country.
Faizan Ahmed hits out: 2007 ACC U-15 Challenge Cup

Ali Ishtiaq takes a Maldives wicket: 2007 ACC U-15 Challenge Cup

Aruna de Silva geeing up Qatar’s women

Practise facilities in Doha
Saudi Arabia

Population Aged 0-15: 38.2%
National Coach: Mansoor Akhtar
National Captain: Nadeem Saad
Cricket clubs: 149
Grounds: 39
Turf wickets: 0
Women's cricket: No
Playing Season: October - April

ACC Member since 2003

Recent Achievements:

2006 - Tournament record of fifty-two 6s in ACC Trophy
2007 - SCC Development Manager Nadeem Nadwi appointed as Asia Region Affiliates representative at the ICC Annual Conference
2008 - Winners, ACC U-19 Challenge Cup

Personnel qualified from ACC Courses:

Coaches : Level I - 12; Level II - 1
Umpires : Level I - 7; Level II - 1
Curators : Module 1 - 2; Module 2- 2; Module 3 - 3

Saudi Arabia's senior side didn't quite live up to expectations generated by their barn-storming performance in the 2006 ACC Trophy in the 2007 ACC Twenty20 Cup, nevertheless future stellar performances look a certainty based on the abilities of their U-19 cricketers.

They won the ACC U-19 Challenge Cup playing superb all-round cricket. Strong in all departments of the game, they would have also done very well in the Elite group. This, coming from cricketers who do not go anywhere near turf in Saudi Arabia.

Cricket is receiving active royal patronage in the kingdom and the Saudi Cricket Centre are active in reaching out to as many as possible who wish to play the game.

Currently just bubbling under the ranks of the top 10 in ACC rankings, should they breakthrough into the elite and manage to hold on to this current generation of teenagers, Saudi Arabia will be a force to reckon with.

The massed ranks of Riyadh's young cricketers
Asia's ICC Affiliate Representative, Saudi Cricket Centre's Nadeem Nadwi

Suhrab Kilsingatakam

Mohammed Imran: Power and grace v Bhutan, 2008 ACC U-19 Challenge Cup
Singapore

Population: 4,680,600 (2007 estimate)
Population Aged 0-15: 18%
National Coach: Venkatramanan Margasahayam
National captain: Chaminda Ruwan
Women's captain: Lorraine Meyer
Clubs: 60
Grounds: 21
Turf wickets: 4
Playing Season: Year-round

ACC Member since 1983

Recent Achievements:

2002  Host, ACC Trophy
2006  Winners, ICC Development Award: Best Overall Cricket Development Award
2007  Winners, ACC U-15 Elite
2007  Qualifiers for ICC World Cricket League Division 5

Personnel qualified from ACC Courses:

Coaches:  Level I - 31; Level II - 6
Umpires:  Level I - 71; Level II - 5
Curators:  Module 1 - 4; Module 2 - 3; Module 3 - 3; Advanced - 2

'A strong team on the field depends on a strong team off the field' is the recognised mantra of cricket development and it is one that is evident in Singapore. Their administration is one of the finest in the world and their national team is making significant progress up the ladder.

They're not world-beaters or even Asia beaters yet but they keep doing just enough in all the ACC tournaments to justify their opponents' respect. If anything, they're like the New Zealand of ACC cricket, always there or thereabouts but never quite present at the final reckoning.

An influx of seasoned new players is adding to the strength of the team and if Singapore can master the transition of junior cricketers to the senior ranks, then they'll have a truly competitive team.

The Singapore Cricket Association are actively engaging with the state in order to seek further state support and funding. They are emphasising cricket's virtues as a character and team-spirit builder in order to do so, knowing full well that these will appeal to the nation-state.

Age-group coaching at Kallang
Singapore

Anish Param and James Muruthi in a rush during the 2007 ACC U-19 Elite Cup

SCA President and ACC Vice President Imran Khwaja

Winners of the 2007 ACC U-15 Elite Cup

Anish Param and James Muruthi in a rush during the 2007 ACC U-19 Elite Cup

The SCA ground at Kallang
Country Profiles

**Thailand**

Population Aged 0-15: 22%
National Coach: Mohideen Kader
National captain: Zeeshan Khan
Women's captain: Sornnarin Tippoch
Cricket clubs:
Grounds: 13
Turf wickets: 5
Playing Season: Year-round
ACC Member since 1996

Recent Achievements:

- **2005** Awarded ICC Associate status
- **2005** Winners, ICC Global Development Awards: Best Spirit of Cricket Initiative
- **2006** Finalists, ACC Emerging Nations Tournament
- **2006** Third, ACC U-15 Challenge Cup
- **2007** Winners, Spirit of Cricket Award ACC U-19 Elite Cup
- **2007** Host, ACC U-15 Challenge Cup
- **2008** Host, ACC U-19 Challenge Cup

Personnel qualified from ACC Courses:

- **Coaches**: Level I - 16; Level II - 4
- **Umpires**: Level I - 30; Level II - 5
- **Curators**: Module 1 - 4; Module 2 - 2; Module 3 - 4; Advanced - 1

Thailand has progressed considerably since the ACC took an interest in them and now stand as one of the true exemplars of cricket development. The game has spread across the large country, spreading out from Bangkok to Chiang Mai and Khon Kaen in the north, Hua Hin in the east and Phuket in the south.

The drivers of change may initially have been the Asian and Anglo-Antipodean expatriates but subsequent progress has all been due to the fact that once the game was taken to the indigenous population, Thai youth cricketing activity has flourished. Local Thai boys make up the bulk of the age-group squads and a number have played for the seniors already. Women's cricket is a significant part of development activity.

Facilities are in place in Bangkok and Chiang Mai to host multi-venue tournaments and the award of ICC Associate status in 2005 was due recognition of the potential that Thailand shows for cricket. Potential that is, to a large extent, being realised.

Greater exposure to competitive cricket will raise playing standards and allow them to climb the ACC tournament rankings.

- U-13 cricketers from Khon Kaen and Hua Hin
- Khon Kaen's U-16 cricketers
Thailand

Weerachai Maneerat: 5-19 v Hong Kong in the ACC U-15 Elite Cup 2007 and an interview in the 2008 Wisden Cricket Almanack

CAT President Ravi Sehgal

Cricketers of Petchabun in north Thailand with Roger Binny

Some of the 2006 U-15 squad

Thailand at the 2007 ACC Women’s Tournament
Country Profiles

UAE

Population: 4,496,000 (2005 est.)
Population Aged 0-15: 25.3%
National Coach:
National captain: Saqib Ali
Women's captain: Natasha Michael
Cricket clubs: 415
Grounds: 80
Turf wickets: 3
Playing Season: September - April

ACC Member since 1984

Recent Achievements:

2004 Semi-Finalists, ICC Intercontinental Cup
2005 Host, ACC U-15 Cup
2005 Winners, ACC Fast Track Countries Tournament
2005 ICC Intercontinental Cup Semi-Finalists
2006 Winners, ACC Fast Track Countries Tournament
2000-2006 Winners, ACC Trophy
2007 Third, ACC U-19 Elite Cup
2007 Third, ACC Twenty20 Cup
2007 Winners, ICC World Cricket League Division 2

Personnel qualified from ACC Courses:

Coaches: Level I - 12; Level II - 4
Umpires: Level I - 21
Curators: Module 1 - 3; Module 2 - 2; Module 3 - 3

The UAE are peerless in Asia when it comes to senior-level cricket. They have the best players and the best grounds as well as deep-rooted cricket patronage. Carrying all before them in the ACC Trophy since 2000 (Bangladesh were the winners in 1998), they have always had the best-balanced and the best-prepared sides on display.

In three-day ACC cricket, only Nepal have beaten them (in 2005 in Kathmandu) and that with what the UAE would say was a second-string side. In the return fixture in Sharjah in 2006, the UAE gained revenge with a 98-run victory. They always have just that more in the tank than the other Asian countries. Oman beat them in the group stage of the ICC World Cricket League Division 2 during the year, but when it came to the Final between the two teams, UAE ran out convincing winners. Their performances in the three-day cricket of the ICC Intercontinental Cup are a cause of concern but the three matches they have lost to the teams of Africa and Europe in 2008 have been close.

There are many reasons, socio-economic ones notwithstanding, why the UAE have the best team in Asia. One of the key factors in their players’ performance however is the UAE's competitive domestic format. It's easy for the national team to play at their best in international fixtures because they have to play at their best in domestic ones.

At age-group level other Asian countries tend to find the UAE beatable but even there, such is the depth of their talent pool, they remain one of the strongest teams.

UAE pioneered the take-up of women's cricket in the Gulf by fielding a team in the 2007 ACC Women's Tournament and have subsequently continued to promote women's participation.
UAE at the 2007 ACC Women’s Tournament

ECB Administrator Mazhar Khan

Saqib Ali

Prasanth Braggs: dynamic new talent

Arshad Ali

Sheikh Zayed Stadium, Abu Dhabi
Corporate Governance embodies the principles of transparency, disclosure and accountability. Primary responsibility for Corporate Governance lies with the members of the Executive Board. However, all of us at the ACC as a team are committed to following sound and ethical financial practices with good governance, driving the organization towards achieving its main goal: developing and promoting cricket in the Asian region.

Executive Board

The Executive Board which has the ultimate authority and responsibility for the financial and operational activities of the ACC comprises the following members:

- Seven representatives from full member countries, out of which four are from the Test-playing countries and three members from non-Test playing full member countries
- One member representing the Associate member countries
- The President
- The Vice President
- The Chief Executive of the ACC, Chairman of the ACC Finance & Marketing Committee and Chief Executives of the four Test-playing countries as ex-officios.

All members of the Executive Board are appointed at the Annual General Meeting by the members, except ex-officios of the Board.

In the context of Corporate Governance, the responsibilities of the Executive Board include:

- approving the annual budget and monitoring performance
- ensuring that appropriate accounting policies are adopted in the preparation of the financial statements circulated among members
- appointing and annually evaluating the performance of the Chief Executive and the managerial staff and fixing their remunerations

During the financial year 2007/08 the Executive Board met twice and the decisions made at these meetings were properly documented and executed.

Sub-Committees

Finance and Marketing Committee

The Finance & Marketing Committee comprises seven members. The President, Chief Executive and Finance Manager are ex-officios of the Committee. The remaining members are elected by the general membership at the ACC’s Annual General Meeting. The main tasks of this committee are reviewing, advising and/or providing recommendations to the Executive Board on financial performance, financial risk management, budgeting, internal controls, operation of bank accounts and marketing-related activities.

The Finance & Marketing Committee met twice during the financial year 2007/08 and the decisions made at these meetings were properly documented and executed.

Development Committee

The Development Committee comprises nine members. The President, Chief Executive and Development Manager are ex-officios of the Committee. Remaining members are appointed by the membership at the Annual General Meeting of the ACC. This Committee provides recommendations to the Executive Board on the activities relating to cricket development in the member countries and reviews and approves the annual development calendar and the development budget of the ACC.

The Development Committee met two times during the financial year 2007/08 and the decisions made at these meetings were properly documented and executed.

Accountability and Compliance

The financial statements of the ACC are prepared according to the accounting standards laid by the Malaysian Accounting Standards Board, based on the established International Accounting Standards. The ACC’s financial statements comply with the International Accounting Standards in all material aspects. Furthermore, the Council recently introduced a Finance & Accounting Manual. Compliance with this manual will be mandatory in the future. The auditors will confirm compliance to the manual at the end of each year’s statutory audit.

A recent step taken by the ACC towards the practice of good governance within the organization has been the drafting of an Administrative and Personnel Policies Manual. This manual will help to remove any confusion in human resources management and administration of the ACC and ensure clarity, transparency, accountability and good governance within the organization.

Syed Ashraful Huq
Chief Executive
Financial Overview

The financial statements for the year 2007/08 of the Council is presented with certain changes to the classification of items in the Income & Expenditure account with a view to improve the quality of presentation. The interest income earned from the deposits of the development fund and expenditure relating to tournaments funded by the Council have been classified as income and expenses of the council respectively. In the last year those items were shown under the Development Fund.

Review of Performance

The revenue for the Council for the year under review consists of interest earned from deposits of the Council and of the Development Fund. Interest income of USD 723,637 represents an increase of 85% over the previous year mainly due to the accounting of interest income received from Development Fund deposits under the Council's Income & Expenditure Account as stated above.

The second Afro-Asia Cup was successfully played in Chennai and Bangalore, India in June 2007. However, it was not a commercially successful event for the Council due to a payment dispute with Nimbus Sport International Pte Ltd ('Nimbus') resulting in a loss of USD 1,088,439 from the Afro-Asia Cup 2007 and USD 159,874 from the Afro-Asia Twenty20 matches.

In the year under review, total operational expenditure of the Council amounted to USD 1,900,558 when compared to the previous year of USD 2,683,327. The most significant expense item for the year is a transfer of USD 1,201,570 to the ICC Special Fund for Asian Region to set off the transfer made to the Development Fund in the previous period from the Special Fund.

Development Fund

Total development expenditure for the year amounted to USD 3,444,624 out of which USD 2,400,228 was used for organizing tournaments and courses. Out of this total, USD 772,000 was used for three tournaments namely the U-15 Elite, U-19 Elite and Women’s tournament. This compares to USD 1,550,992 used in the previous year when five tournaments were held. The tournaments funded by the Council have been taken up under the Council’s accounts as mentioned earlier, resulting in a fewer number of tournaments under the Development Fund which in turn resulted in a reduction of expenditure for tournaments and courses for the current year compared with the previous year.

Under cricket equipment and ground expenses, an amount of USD 222,742 was used and when compared with the previous year, represents a decrease of 30% as less of such items were purchased by member countries during the year.

Operating expenses of the Development Fund amounted to USD 821,654, this mainly comprises salaries of development personnel, travel expenses and office expenses. The major part of the travel expenses were incurred by the Development Officers on their country assignments and as resource persons on various courses. This expense has increased by 22% compared to the previous year and is mainly due to the hiring of additional development personnel and the depreciation of the US dollar.

ICC Special Fund for Asian Region

This fund must be used for non-routine development activities in the Region and must be approved by the International Cricket Council before funds can be released to member countries.

During the year, the ICC contributed an amount of USD 800,000 to the Fund. Further, an amount of USD 1,201,570 was transferred to the Fund by the Asian Cricket Council.

The only disbursements under this Fund during the year were to fund China’s national schools tournament, women's cricket training programs and U-15 and U-19 Challenge Cup training. Ground equipment comprising two bowling machines and five pitches with artificial wickets and stumps were also purchased for China under this Fund. All the funds utilized have been approved by the ICC. The significant increase in the amount spent on China is a reflection of the growing scale of interest in cricket in that country.

The Year Ahead

The year ahead is important for the Council as the Asia Cup is scheduled to be played in June/July 2008 in Pakistan. The revenue generated from the tournament will help to strengthen the financial position of the Council. Further, in the coming year the Council expects to find a viable sponsor for the China Project with the assistance of Cricket Australia.

Thusith Perera
THE ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL
Company No: LL 03608
(Incorporated in Labuan F.T., Malaysia, under the Offshore Companies Act, 1990, as a Company Limited by Guarantee)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008

1034A8/mk
THE ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL
(Incorporated in Labuan F.T., Malaysia, under the Offshore Companies Act, 1990, as a Company Limited by Guarantee)

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<th>Page</th>
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<td>22 - 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACC Development Fund - Detailed Fund Statement</td>
<td>26 - 27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Company No: LL 03608

THE ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL
(Incorporated in Labuan F.T., Malaysia, under the Offshore Companies Act, 1990, as a Company Limited by Guarantee)

STATEMENT BY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

We, Arjuna Ranatunga and Syed Ashraful Huq, two of the Executive Board Members of The Asian Cricket Council, state that, in the opinion of the Board, the financial statements set out on pages 3 to 27 are drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Council as at 31 March 2008 and of the results and cash flows of the Council for the financial year ended on that date in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards.

Signed on behalf of the Executive Board in accordance with their resolution dated 25 May 2008

Arjuna Ranatunga
President

Syed Ashraful Huq
Chief Executive

STATEMENT BY OFFICER PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF THE COUNCIL

I, Thusith Perera, being the person primarily responsible for the financial management of the The Asian Cricket Council, hereby state that the financial statements for the financial year ended 31 March 2008 set out on pages 3 to 27 are, in my opinion, correct.

Thusith Perera
Finance Manager

25 May 2008
REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF
THE ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL
(Incorporated in Labuan, Malaysia, under the Offshore Companies Act, 1990, as a Company Limited by Guarantee)
(Company No. LL 03608)

We have audited the financial statements set out on pages 3 to 27. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Council's Executive Board Members. It is our responsibility to form an independent opinion, based on our audit, on these financial statements and to report our opinion to you, as a body, in accordance with Section 117 of the Offshore Companies Act, 1990 and for no other purpose. We do not assume responsibility to any other person for the content of this report.

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by the Executive Board Members, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Council as at 31 March 2008 and of its results and cash flows for the financial year ended on that date.

PRIC WATERHOUSECOOPERS
(No. AAL-0017)
Chartered Accountants

SRIDHARAN NAIR
(No. 2655/05/10 (J))
Partner of the firm

Labuan
25 May 2008
The Asian Cricket Council
(Incorporated in Labuan F.T., Malaysia, under the Offshore Companies Act, 1990, as a Company Limited by Guarantee)

Accumulated Fund
Income and Expenditure Account
For the Financial Year Ended 31 March 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>2008 USD</th>
<th>2007 USD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td>723,637</td>
<td>391,311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other operating income</td>
<td>20,376</td>
<td>49,345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tournament expenses</td>
<td>(1,836,886)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating expenses</td>
<td>(1,900,558)</td>
<td>(2,683,327)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deficit before taxation</td>
<td>(2,993,431)</td>
<td>(2,242,671)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxation</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(81)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deficit for the financial year</td>
<td>(2,993,431)</td>
<td>(2,242,752)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.
THE ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL  
(Incorporated in Labuan F.T., Malaysia, under the Offshore Companies Act, 1990, as a Company Limited by Guarantee)

ACC DEVELOPMENT FUND  
FUND STATEMENT  
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>USD</td>
<td>USD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFLOWS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions from the ICC</td>
<td>3,250,000</td>
<td>15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution from the ACC</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>395,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest income</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>211,616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL INFLOWS</strong></td>
<td>3,285,946</td>
<td>634,614</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OUTFLOWS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development programmes</td>
<td>(2,400,228)</td>
<td>(3,258,493)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cricket equipment and ground expenses</td>
<td>(222,742)</td>
<td>(319,523)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating expenses</td>
<td>(821,654)</td>
<td>(673,632)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL OUTFLOWS</strong></td>
<td>(3,444,624)</td>
<td>(4,251,648)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET OUTFLOWS</strong></td>
<td>(158,678)</td>
<td>(3,617,034)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ICC SPECIAL FUND FOR ASIAN REGION  
FUND STATEMENT  
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>USD</td>
<td>USD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFLOWS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions from the ICC</td>
<td>800,000</td>
<td>3,885,047</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions for ACC Accumulated Fund</td>
<td>1,201,570</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OUTFLOWS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilisation for China Project</td>
<td>(196,401)</td>
<td>(109,502)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET INFLOWS</strong></td>
<td>1,805,169</td>
<td>3,775,545</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.
Company No: LL 03608

THE ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL
(Incorporated in Labuan F.T., Malaysia, under the Offshore Companies Act, 1990, as a Company Limited by Guarantee)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>2008 USD</th>
<th>2007 USD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NON-CURRENT ASSET</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property and equipment</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>57,601</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CURRENT ASSETS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receivables, deposits and prepayments</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>451,703</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and bank balances</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>15,063,133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>15,514,836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LESS: CURRENT LIABILITIES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payables and accruals</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3,052,113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advance received for Asia Cup 2008</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,650,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advance from the ICC</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>3,250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision for gratuity</td>
<td></td>
<td>260,474</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8,212,587</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NET CURRENT ASSETS</td>
<td></td>
<td>7,302,249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NET ASSETS</td>
<td></td>
<td>7,359,850</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REPRESENTED BY:

| | 2008 | 2007 |
| Accumulated fund | 1,624,196 | 4,617,627 |
| Development fund | 154,940 | 313,618 |
| ICC special fund for Asian Region | 5,580,714 | 3,775,545 |
| | 7,359,850 | 8,706,790 |

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.
THE ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL  
(Incorporated in Labuan F.T., Malaysia, under the Offshore Companies Act, 1990, as a Company Limited by Guarantee)

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUNDS  
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Accumulated fund USD</th>
<th>Development fund USD</th>
<th>ICC special fund for Asian Region USD</th>
<th>Total USD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>31 March 2008</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At 1 April 2007</td>
<td>4,617,627</td>
<td>313,618</td>
<td>3,775,545</td>
<td>8,706,790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deficit for the financial year</td>
<td>(2,993,431)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(2,993,431)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net outflows</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(158,678)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(158,678)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net inflows</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,805,169</td>
<td>1,805,169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>At 31 March 2008</strong></td>
<td>1,624,196</td>
<td>154,940</td>
<td>5,580,714</td>
<td>7,359,850</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **31 March 2007**      |                      |                      |                                       |           |
| At 1 April 2006        | 6,860,379            | 3,930,652            | -                                     | 10,791,031 |
| Deficit for the financial year | (2,242,752)          | -                    | -                                     | (2,242,752) |
| Net outflows           | -                    | (3,617,034)          | -                                     | (3,617,034) |
| Net inflows            | -                    | -                    | 3,775,545                            | 3,775,545 |
| **At 31 March 2007**   | 4,617,627            | 313,618              | 3,775,545                            | 8,706,790 |

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.
CASH FLOW STATEMENT  
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>USD</td>
<td>USD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACC Accumulated Fund</td>
<td>2,993,431</td>
<td>2,242,752</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Deficit for the financial year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACC Development Fund</td>
<td>158,678</td>
<td>3,617,034</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Net outflows</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICC Special Fund for Asian Region</td>
<td>1,805,169</td>
<td>3,775,545</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Net inflows</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adjustments for:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property and equipment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Depreciation</td>
<td>23,064</td>
<td>22,673</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Loss on disposal</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gratuity</td>
<td>86,999</td>
<td>59,811</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest income</td>
<td>(723,637)</td>
<td>(391,311)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxation</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deficit before working capital changes</strong></td>
<td>1,960,440</td>
<td>2,392,987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decrease/(increase) in receivables</td>
<td>732,147</td>
<td>(812,465)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Decrease)/increase in advance from the ICC</td>
<td>3,250,000</td>
<td>6,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase/(decrease) in payables</td>
<td>740,410</td>
<td>2,292,884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash flows from operations</strong></td>
<td>(3,737,883)</td>
<td>1,001,664</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tax paid</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(883)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net cash flows from operating activities</strong></td>
<td>(3,737,883)</td>
<td>1,000,781</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>USD</td>
<td>USD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest received</td>
<td>771,589</td>
<td>409,582</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of property and equipment</td>
<td>(6,293)</td>
<td>(6,332)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net cash flows from investing activities</strong></td>
<td>765,296</td>
<td>403,250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL  
(Incorporated in Labuan F.T., Malaysia, under the Offshore Companies Act, 1990, as a Company Limited by Guarantee)

CASH FLOW STATEMENT  
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008 (CONTINUED)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>2008 USD</th>
<th>2007 USD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Settlement of funds from test playing nations</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(100,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net cash flow from financing activities</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(100,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NET (DECREASE)/INCREMENT IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</td>
<td>(2,972,587)</td>
<td>1,304,031</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR</td>
<td>18,035,720</td>
<td>16,731,689</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR</td>
<td>15,063,133</td>
<td>18,035,720</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.
Company No: LL 03608

THE ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL
(Incorporated in Labuan F.T., Malaysia, under the Offshore Companies Act, 1990, as a Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008

1 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES AND GENERAL INFORMATION

The principal activities of the Council consist of developing, coordinating, regulating and promoting the game of cricket in the Asian region.

The Council is a company limited by guarantee which was incorporated in Labuan F.T., Malaysia under the Offshore Companies Act, 1990, on 31 January 2003.

The address of the registered office of the Council is as follows:

Brumby House
Jalan Bahasa
P.O.Box 80148
87011 Labuan F.T.

The address of the secretariat of the Council is as follows:

8th Floor, Wisma Antah
Off Jalan Semantan
Damansara Heights
50490 Kuala Lumpur

The Executive Board Members of the Council as at 31 March 2008 are as follows:

Mr. Arjuna Ranatunga, President
Mr. K.H. Imran, Vice President
Mr. Sharad Pawar, Member
Dr. Nasim Ashraf, Member
Major General Sina Ibn Jamali awc,psc, Executive Board Member
Mr. Kangadaran Mathivanan, Executive Board Member
Mr. Mazhar Khan, Executive Board Member
Mr. Ravi Sehgal, Executive Board Member
Mr. Manzur Ahmed, Executive Board Member
Mr. Syed Ashraf Ullah, Ex officio
Mr. Niranjan Shah, Ex officio
Mr. Shafqat Naghmi, Ex officio
Mr. Duleep Mendis, Ex officio
Mr. Nizam Uddin Chowdhury –Sujan, Ex officio
THE ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL
(Incorporated in Labuan F.T., Malaysia, under the Offshore Companies Act, 1990, as a Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008 (CONTINUED)

2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies have been used consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the financial statements.

(a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the Council have been prepared under the historical cost convention and comply with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRSs") in all material respects. IFRS 1, First-time Adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards, has been applied in preparing these financial statements.

The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with the IFRSs requires the Executive Board Members to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reported financial year. Although the estimates are based on the Executive Board Members' best knowledge of current events and actions, actual results could differ from those estimates.

(i) Standard effective in 2007 but no significant impact to the Council's operations

The following standard is mandatory for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2008 but have no significant impact on the Council's operations:

- IFRS 7 'Financial instruments: Disclosures' introduces new disclosures relating to financial instruments and does not have any impact on the classification and valuation of the Council's financial instruments.

(ii) Standards, amendments and interpretations effective in 2007 but not relevant for the Council's operations

The following standards, amendments and interpretations to published standards are mandatory for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2007 but they are not relevant to the Council's operations:

- IFRS 4 'Insurance contracts'
- IFRIC 7 'Applying the restatement approach under IAS 29, Financial reporting in hyperinflationary economies'
- IFRIC 8 'Scope of IFRS 2'
- IFRIC 9 'Re-assessment of embedded derivatives'
- IFRIC 10 'Interim financial reporting and impairment'
Company No: LL 03608

THE ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL
(Incorporated in Labuan F.T., Malaysia, under the Offshore Companies Act, 1990, as a Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008 (CONTINUED)

2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(a) Basis of preparation (continued)

(iii) Interpretations to existing standards that are not yet effective and not relevant for the Council’s operations

The following interpretations to existing standards have been published and are mandatory for the Council’s accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2008 or later periods but are not relevant for the Council’s operations:

- IAS 23 (Amendment) ‘Borrowing costs’ (effective from 1 January 2009)
- IFRS 8 ‘Operating segments’ (effective from 1 January 2009)
- IFRIC 11 ‘IFRS 2 – Group and treasury share transactions’ (effective from 1 March 2007)
- IFRIC 14 ‘IAS 19 – The limit on a defined benefit asset, minimum funding requirements and their interaction’ (effective from 1 January 2008)
- IFRIC 12 ‘Service concession arrangements’ (effective from 1 January 2008)
- IFRIC 13 ‘Customer loyalty programmes’ (effective from 1 July 2008)

(b) Property and equipment

Property and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses, if any. Cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition of the items.

Depreciation on property and equipment is made on a straight line basis to write off the cost of each asset to its residual value over its estimated useful life. The annual depreciation rates are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property Type</th>
<th>Depreciation Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Furniture and fixtures</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office equipment</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor vehicles</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computers</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each balance sheet date.

Subsequent costs are included in the asset’s carrying amount or recognised as separate assets, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the Council and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. The carrying amount of the replaced part is derecognised. All other repairs and maintenance costs are charged to the income statement during the financial period in which they are incurred.
2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(b) Property and equipment (continued)

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with carrying amount and are included in profit/(loss) from operations.

At each balance sheet date, the Council assesses whether there is any indication of impairment. Where an indication of impairment exists, the carrying amount of the asset is assessed and written down immediately to its recoverable amount. Refer to accounting policy Note 2(g) on impairment of assets.

(c) Revenue recognition

The Council’s revenue consists of sponsorship and advertising income, sale of commercial rights, sales of tickets and interest income, which are recognised on an accrual basis.

(d) Cash and cash equivalents

For the purpose of the cash flow statement, cash and cash equivalents comprise cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks and short term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

(e) Employee benefits

(i) Short term benefits

Salaries and other staff related expenses are accrued in the financial year in which the associated services are rendered by employees of the Council.

(ii) Defined contribution retirement plan

A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which the Council pays fixed contributions to the national pension scheme, the Employees’ Provident Fund ("EPF"). The Council’s contributions to EPF are charged to the income statement in the period to which they relate. Once the contributions have been paid, the Council has no further payment obligations.

(iii) Staff gratuity

Gratuity is due to an employee, whose employment has been discharged or who has resigned or died after a minimum of one year’s continuous service. A provision for gratuity is made to match the rendering of the services by the employees.
Company No: LL 03608

THE ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL
(Incorporated in Labuan F.T., Malaysia, under the Offshore Companies Act, 1990, as a Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008 (CONTINUED)

2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(f) Foreign currencies

The financial statements of the Council are presented in United States Dollar ("USD"), which is the Council's functional and presentation currency.

Foreign currency transactions are accounted for at exchange rates prevailing at the transaction dates. Foreign currency monetary assets and liabilities are translated at exchange rates prevailing at the balance sheet date. Exchange differences arising from the settlement of foreign currency transactions and from the translation of foreign currency monetary assets and liabilities are included in the income and expenditure account.

(g) Impairment of assets

The Council assesses at each balance sheet date whether there is objective evidence that an asset is impaired. An asset is impaired and impairment losses are incurred if, and only if, there is objective evidence of impairment as a result of one or more events that occurred after the initial recognition of the asset (a 'loss event') and that loss event (or events) has an impact on the estimated future cash flows of the asset that can be reliably estimated.

Assets that have an indefinite useful life are not subject to amortisation and are tested annually for impairment. Assets that are subject to amortisation are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the carrying amount of the asset exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use. For the purposes of assessing impairment, assets are grouped at the lowest levels for which there is separately identifiable cash flow (cash-generating units). Non-financial assets other than goodwill that suffered an impairment are reviewed for possible reversal of the impairment at each reporting date.

The impairment loss is charged to the income statement and any subsequent increase in recoverable amount is recognised in the income statement.

(h) Income taxes

Current tax expense is determined according to the tax laws of the jurisdiction in which the Council operates and includes all taxes based upon the taxable profits.

(i) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Council has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events, when it is probable that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation, and when a reliable estimate of the amount can be made. Where the Council expects a provision to be reimbursed (for example, under an insurance contract) the reimbursement is recognised as separate asset but only when the reimbursement is virtually certain. Provisions are not recognised for future operating losses.
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008 (CONTINUED)

2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(i) Provisions (continued)

Where there are a number of similar obligations, the likelihood that an outflow will be required in settlement is determined by considering the class of obligations as a whole. A provision is recognised even if the likelihood of an outflow with respect to any one item included in the same class of obligations may be small.

Provisions are measured at the present value of the expenditures expected to be required to settle the obligation using a pre-tax rate that reflects current market assessment of the time value of money and the risk specific to the obligation. The increase in the provision due to passage of time is recognised as interest expense.

(j) Financial instruments

Description

A financial instrument is any contract that gives rise to both a financial asset of one enterprise and a financial liability or equity instrument of another enterprise.

A financial asset is any asset that is cash, a contractual right to receive cash or another financial asset from another enterprise, a contractual right to exchange financial instruments with another enterprise under conditions that are potentially favourable, or an equity instrument of another enterprise.

A financial liability is any liability that is a contractual obligation to deliver cash or another financial asset to another enterprise, or to exchange financial instruments with another enterprise under conditions that are potentially unfavourable.

Financial instruments recognised on the balance sheet

The particular recognition method adopted for financial instruments recognised on the balance sheet is disclosed in the individual accounting policy note associated with each item.

Fair value estimation for disclosure purposes

The face values, less any estimated credit adjustments, for financial assets and liabilities with a maturity of less than one year are assumed to approximate their fair values.

The fair values for financial assets and liabilities with a maturity of more than one year are estimated using a variety of methods and assumptions that are based on market conditions existing at each balance sheet date including estimated discounted value of future cash flows, quoted market prices or dealer quotes.
Company No: LL 03608

THE ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008 (CONTINUED)

3 CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND JUDGMENTS IN APPLYING ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with IFRSs requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates and exercise of judgment by management in the process of applying the Council's accounting policies.

Estimates and judgments are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results.

There are no critical estimates and judgments made for the financial statements for the financial year ended 31 March 2008.

4 REVENUE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interest income</td>
<td>723,637</td>
<td>391,311</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Interest income consists of interest in short term placements of the Councils' own funds as well as those contributed by the ICC for development purposes.

5 OPERATING EXPENSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions to ICC Special Fund for Asian Region</td>
<td>1,201,570</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions to ACC Development fund</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>395,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special grant - China</td>
<td>10,772</td>
<td>187,445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial grant to non test playing countries</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting expenses</td>
<td>195,328</td>
<td>187,505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auditors' remuneration (Note 6)</td>
<td>5,287</td>
<td>2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff costs (Note 7)</td>
<td>320,161</td>
<td>262,043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Official expenses</td>
<td>68,786</td>
<td>69,734</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property and equipment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Depreciation</td>
<td>14,957</td>
<td>15,686</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Loss on disposal</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>83,623</td>
<td>63,414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,900,558</td>
<td>2,683,327</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Company No: LL 03608

THE ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL
(Incorporated in Labuan F.T., Malaysia, under the Offshore Companies Act, 1990, as a Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008 (CONTINUED)

6  AUDITORS’ REMUNERATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>USD</td>
<td>USD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PricewaterhouseCoopers Malaysian firm:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statutory audit</td>
<td>3,500</td>
<td>2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-audit fees</td>
<td>1,787</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,287</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,500</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7  STAFF COSTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries</td>
<td>267,235</td>
<td>226,068</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff gratuity</td>
<td>41,293</td>
<td>26,897</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defined contribution retirement plan</td>
<td>4,294</td>
<td>3,117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other staff related expenses</td>
<td>7,339</td>
<td>5,961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>320,161</strong></td>
<td><strong>262,043</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8  TAXATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>USD</td>
<td>USD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current taxation</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Onshore income of the Council is exempted from income tax for a period of 10 years commencing from Year of Assessment 2003 up to Year of Assessment 2012 under Section 127 (3A) of the Income Tax Act, 1967. Income tax on offshore income of the Council will be taxed under Labuan Offshore Business Activity Tax Act 1998. No provision is made for taxation due to tax losses.
THE ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL  
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008 (CONTINUED)

9  PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Furniture and fixtures USD</th>
<th>Office equipment USD</th>
<th>Motor vehicles USD</th>
<th>Computers USD</th>
<th>Total USD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2008</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cost</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At 1 April 2007</td>
<td>19,101</td>
<td>3,415</td>
<td>75,819</td>
<td>26,173</td>
<td>124,508</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additions</td>
<td>921</td>
<td>1,234</td>
<td></td>
<td>4,138</td>
<td>6,293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disposal</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(742)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(742)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>At 31 March 2008</strong></td>
<td><strong>20,022</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,907</strong></td>
<td><strong>75,819</strong></td>
<td><strong>30,311</strong></td>
<td><strong>130,059</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Accumulated depreciation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Furniture and fixtures USD</th>
<th>Office equipment USD</th>
<th>Motor vehicles USD</th>
<th>Computers USD</th>
<th>Total USD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2008</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accumulated depreciation</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At 1 April 2007</td>
<td>(6,220)</td>
<td>(1,974)</td>
<td>(22,745)</td>
<td>(19,123)</td>
<td>(50,062)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charge for the financial year</td>
<td>(1,923)</td>
<td>(895)</td>
<td>(15,165)</td>
<td>(5,081)</td>
<td>(23,064)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disposal</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>668</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td>668</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>At 31 March 2008</strong></td>
<td><strong>(8,143)</strong></td>
<td><strong>(2,201)</strong></td>
<td><strong>(37,910)</strong></td>
<td><strong>(24,204)</strong></td>
<td><strong>(72,458)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Net book value

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Furniture and fixtures USD</th>
<th>Office equipment USD</th>
<th>Motor vehicles USD</th>
<th>Computers USD</th>
<th>Total USD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2008</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net book value</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At 31 March 2008</td>
<td>11,879</td>
<td>1,706</td>
<td>37,909</td>
<td>6,107</td>
<td>57,601</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2007

Cost

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Furniture and fixtures USD</th>
<th>Office equipment USD</th>
<th>Motor vehicles USD</th>
<th>Computers USD</th>
<th>Total USD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2007</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cost</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At 1 April 2006</td>
<td>18,524</td>
<td>3,415</td>
<td>75,819</td>
<td>20,418</td>
<td>118,176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additions</td>
<td>577</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5,755</td>
<td>6,332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>At 31 March 2007</strong></td>
<td><strong>19,101</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,415</strong></td>
<td><strong>75,819</strong></td>
<td><strong>26,173</strong></td>
<td><strong>124,508</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Accumulated depreciation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Furniture and fixtures USD</th>
<th>Office equipment USD</th>
<th>Motor vehicles USD</th>
<th>Computers USD</th>
<th>Total USD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2007</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accumulated depreciation</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At 1 April 2006</td>
<td>(4,339)</td>
<td>(1,291)</td>
<td>(7,582)</td>
<td>(14,177)</td>
<td>(27,389)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charge for the financial year</td>
<td>(1,881)</td>
<td>(683)</td>
<td>(15,163)</td>
<td>(4,946)</td>
<td>(22,673)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>At 31 March 2007</strong></td>
<td><strong>(6,220)</strong></td>
<td><strong>(1,974)</strong></td>
<td><strong>(22,745)</strong></td>
<td><strong>(19,123)</strong></td>
<td><strong>(50,062)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Net book value

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Furniture and fixtures USD</th>
<th>Office equipment USD</th>
<th>Motor vehicles USD</th>
<th>Computers USD</th>
<th>Total USD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2007</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net book value</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At 31 March 2007</td>
<td>12,881</td>
<td>1,441</td>
<td>53,074</td>
<td>7,050</td>
<td>74,446</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008 (CONTINUED)

10 RECEIVABLES, DEPOSITS AND PREPAYMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advances to cricket boards and associations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan Cricket Federation</td>
<td>2,921</td>
<td>2,921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bahrain Cricket Association</td>
<td>8,532</td>
<td>8,532</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh Cricket Board</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>312,476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board of Control for Cricket in Bhutan</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6,869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brunei Darussalam Cricket Association</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>23,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hong Kong Cricket Association</td>
<td>1,022</td>
<td>10,501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Board of Control for Cricket in India</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>312,476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuwait Cricket Association</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysian Cricket Association</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cricket Control Board of Maldives</td>
<td>19,334</td>
<td>4,235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar Cricket Federation</td>
<td>1,973</td>
<td>2,825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cricket Association of Nepal</td>
<td>12,315</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan Cricket Board</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>312,476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qatar Cricket Association</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7,447</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saudi Cricket Centre</td>
<td>12,500</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore Cricket Association</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cricket Association of Thailand</td>
<td>15,595</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>74,363</td>
<td>1,007,698</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Receivable from ESPN STAR Sports                                 | 187,869| -     |
Other advances and receivables                                   | 173,939| 208,105|
Deposits and prepayments                                         | 15,532 | 15,999|

**Total**                                                        | 451,703| 1,231,802|
THE ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL  
(Incorporated in Labuan F.T., Malaysia, under the Offshore Companies Act, 1990, as a Company Limited by Guarantee)  

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008 (CONTINUED)  

11 CASH AND BANK BALANCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>USD</td>
<td>USD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short-term deposits held with HSBC Bank</td>
<td>14,644,845</td>
<td>17,675,685</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank balances:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSBC Bank (A/C No. 201-254562-101)</td>
<td>75,741</td>
<td>23,530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSBC Bank (A/C No. 201-254562-725)</td>
<td>115,415</td>
<td>128,315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSBC Bank (A/C No. 201-254562-102)</td>
<td>57,635</td>
<td>8,938</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSBC Bank (A/C No. 201-254562-726)</td>
<td>33,752</td>
<td>25,484</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSBC Bank (A/C No. 201-254562-710)</td>
<td>99,800</td>
<td>32,270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSBC Bank, Labuan (A/C No. 801-001074-101)</td>
<td>29,507</td>
<td>72,240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSBC Bank, Labuan (A/C No. 801-001074-102)</td>
<td>2,496</td>
<td>66,372</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15,059,191</td>
<td>18,032,834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash on hand</td>
<td>3,942</td>
<td>2,886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>15,063,133</td>
<td>18,035,720</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The weighted average rate of fixed deposits effective during the financial year was as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short-term deposits with a licensed bank</td>
<td>3.82</td>
<td>4.75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Short-term deposits with a licensed bank have an average maturity period of up to 66 days (2007: 70 days).
THE ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL
(Incorporated in Labuan F.T., Malaysia, under the Offshore Companies Act, 1990, as a Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008 (CONTINUED)

12 PAYABLES AND ACCRUALS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount due to cricket boards and associations</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Africa Cricket Association</td>
<td>22,589</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Cricket Australia</td>
<td>92,755</td>
<td>103,464</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Board of Control for Cricket in Bhutan</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Chinese Cricket Association</td>
<td>910</td>
<td>88,889</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Cricket Association of Nepal</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Kuwait Cricket Association</td>
<td>55,280</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- NZ Sports Turf Institute</td>
<td>32,806</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Pakistan Cricket Board</td>
<td>598</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Saudi Cricket Centre</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,703</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Singapore Cricket Association</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,746</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Sri Lanka Cricket</td>
<td>15,793</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Cricket Association of Thailand</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>33,392</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- UAE Emirates Cricket Board</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>228,231</td>
<td>232,297</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other payables

| - Payable to International Cricket Council  | -      | 63,540 |
| - Allocation to ACC members from Asia Cup 2004 | 248,626| 413,626|
| - Provisions for Afro Asia Cup 2005          | -      | 32,270 |
| - Amounts payable in relation to Afro Asia Cup 2007 | 875,000| -      |
| - ACC Special Grant 2006 for ACC non test playing members | 1,236,165| 1,500,000|
| Accrued expenses                             | 464,091| 69,970 |
|                                              | 3,052,113| 2,311,703|

Accrued expenses include an amount of USD325,000 provided for ICC Central Costs. These costs include amount provided for Asia’s share of ICC Central Programs such as the World Cricket League, World Cricket League grants and the U-19 World Cup expenses.

13 ADVANCE FROM THE ICC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advance from the ICC</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>USD</td>
<td>USD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advance from the ICC</td>
<td>3,250,000</td>
<td>6,500,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Advance from the ICC represents funds received from the International Cricket Council for the development activities under the ICC/ACC agreement.
Company No: LL 03608

THE ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL
(Incorporated in Labuan F.T., Malaysia, under the Offshore Companies Act, 1990, as a Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008 (CONTINUED)

14 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Fair values

The carrying amounts of financial assets and liabilities of the Council at the balance sheet date approximated their fair values.

15 GUARANTEE BY MEMBERS

Under Clause 9 of the Memorandum of Association, every member undertakes to contribute (if found necessary upon the winding up of the Council) a sum of not more than USD3.00 in the case of every Full Member and USD1.00 in the case of every Associate Member.

16 RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

Related parties represent ACC members and directors of the Council. Transactions The Chief Executive is the only Executive Board Member to receive remuneration from the council.

The remuneration of the Chief Executive during the year was USD 106,403 (2006: USD 89,666).

17 FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

Foreign currency exchange risk

The Council is not significantly exposed to foreign exchange risk as a significant portion of its assets and liabilities are maintained in the same currency.

Interest rate risk

The Council's income and operating cash flows are substantially independent of changes in market interest rates.

Credit risk

The Council has no significant concentrations of credit risk.

Liquidity and cash flow risk

Prudent liquidity risk management implies maintaining sufficient cash to meet the operating needs and obligations of the Council.

18 APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements have been approved for issue in accordance with a resolution of the Executive Board members on 25 May 2008.
**THE ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL**  
(Incorporated in Labuan F.T., Malaysia, under the Offshore Companies Act, 1990, as a Company Limited by Guarantee)

**ACC ACCUMULATED FUND**  
**DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**  
**FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>2008 USD</th>
<th>2007 USD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interest on bank deposits</td>
<td>723,637</td>
<td>391,311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign exchange gain</td>
<td>20,376</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reversal of over provisions</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>49,345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>744,013</strong></td>
<td><strong>440,656</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENDITURE</th>
<th>2008 USD</th>
<th>2007 USD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tours and tournaments</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afro-Asia Cup (Note i)</td>
<td>1,088,439</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afro Asia Cup Men's/Women's Twenty 20 (Note ii)</td>
<td>159,874</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACC U15 Challenge Cup (Note iii)</td>
<td>178,647</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACC U19 Challenge Cup (Note iv)</td>
<td>140,861</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twenty 20 Cup (Note v)</td>
<td>269,065</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions to ICC Special Fund for Asian Region</td>
<td>1,201,570</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions to ACC Development Fund</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>395,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special grant - China</td>
<td>10,772</td>
<td>187,445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial grant to non test playing countries</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff costs</td>
<td>278,868</td>
<td>235,146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision for gratuity</td>
<td>41,293</td>
<td>26,897</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication expenses</td>
<td>16,243</td>
<td>11,678</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance expenses</td>
<td>5,663</td>
<td>4,972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newspapers and periodicals</td>
<td>551</td>
<td>541</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office maintenance &amp; staff welfare</td>
<td>7,289</td>
<td>4,421</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Official travelling expenses</td>
<td>68,786</td>
<td>69,734</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing and stationery</td>
<td>2,782</td>
<td>3,833</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rents and rates</td>
<td>18,205</td>
<td>15,988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle rent and fuel expenses</td>
<td>8,429</td>
<td>5,130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting expenses</td>
<td>195,328</td>
<td>187,505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal and professional charges</td>
<td>9,467</td>
<td>5,058</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auditors’ remuneration</td>
<td>5,287</td>
<td>2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank charges</td>
<td>3,167</td>
<td>2,773</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign exchange loss</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,492</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>14,957</td>
<td>15,686</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courier and postage</td>
<td>2,192</td>
<td>1,905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entertainment</td>
<td>7,867</td>
<td>4,032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website maintenance</td>
<td>1,768</td>
<td>1,591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss from disposal of fixed assets</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditure</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,737,444</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,683,327</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deficit before taxation</td>
<td>(2,993,431)</td>
<td>(2,242,671)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxation</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(81)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net deficit for the financial year</strong></td>
<td><strong>(2,993,431)</strong></td>
<td><strong>(2,242,752)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### THE ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL
(Incorporated in Labuan F.T., Malaysia, under the Offshore Companies Act, 1990, as a Company Limited by Guarantee)

#### ACC ACCUMULATED FUND
**DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**
**FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008** (CONTINUED)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>2008 USD</th>
<th>2007 USD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(i) Afro Asia Cup - 2007</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income collected by ESPN STAR Sports</td>
<td>187,869</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sponsorship from Sahara Computers</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACC’s share from distribution of unutilised provision of Afro-Asia Cup 2005</td>
<td>6,454</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenditure</strong></td>
<td>294,323</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Match fees</td>
<td>480,013</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broadcasting expenses</td>
<td>320,000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travelling</td>
<td>136,238</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation</td>
<td>116,767</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prize money</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Umpires, match referees and other officials</td>
<td>84,810</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel subsistence</td>
<td>39,033</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local travel</td>
<td>34,833</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cricket ball &amp; equipment</td>
<td>24,508</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selection committee meeting</td>
<td>23,627</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional fees</td>
<td>10,141</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing, stationery, communication &amp; website</td>
<td>9,165</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promotional items</td>
<td>2,416</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other expenses</td>
<td>1,211</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1,382,762</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Top-up</strong></td>
<td>1,088,439</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(ii) Afro Asia Cup Men’s/Women’s Twenty 20 - 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Match fees</td>
<td>48,154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travelling</td>
<td>33,190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel subsistence</td>
<td>24,858</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation</td>
<td>20,066</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prize money</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cricket ball &amp; equipment</td>
<td>8,510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local travel</td>
<td>4,073</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing, stationery, communication &amp; website</td>
<td>971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other expenses</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>159,874</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL  
(Incorporated in Labuan F.T., Malaysia, under the Offshore Companies Act, 1990, as a Company Limited by Guarantee)

ACC ACCUMULATED FUND  
DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008 (CONTINUED)

Note (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>USD</td>
<td>USD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(iii) U-15 Challenge Cup</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditure</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travelling</td>
<td>54,186</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation</td>
<td>48,192</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel subsistence</td>
<td>40,850</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Official dinner &amp; match meals</td>
<td>12,187</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ground expenses</td>
<td>8,342</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Umpires, match referees and other officials</td>
<td>5,075</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing, stationery, communication &amp; website</td>
<td>2,755</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cricket ball &amp; equipment</td>
<td>2,198</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local travel</td>
<td>1,067</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical</td>
<td>1,195</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age verification, prizes &amp; other expenses</td>
<td>2,600</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>178,647</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(iv) U-19 Challenge Cup</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditure</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travelling</td>
<td>53,580</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation</td>
<td>27,579</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel subsistence</td>
<td>26,790</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Umpires, match referees and other officials</td>
<td>7,275</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Official dinner &amp; match meals</td>
<td>11,147</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ground expenses</td>
<td>4,903</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cricket ball &amp; equipment</td>
<td>1,843</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing, stationery, communication &amp; website</td>
<td>2,106</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local travel</td>
<td>785</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical</td>
<td>1,159</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age verification, prizes &amp; other expenses</td>
<td>3,694</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>140,861</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The commercial rights of the Afro-Asia Cup 2007 was sold to Nimbus Sports International (Pte.) Limited ("Nimbus") for a sum of USD5.5 million. Due to a payment dispute, the contract with Nimbus was terminated two weeks prior to the tournament. Due to the limited time period ACC could not find an alternative commercially viable broadcaster resulting in a loss of USD1,088,439 and USD158,874 from Afro-Asia Cup 2007 and Afro-Asia Twenty 20 – 2007 tournament respectively. As at the date of the financial statements, the matter is in arbitration.
Company No: LL 03608

THE ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL  
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ACC ACCUMULATED FUND  
DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008 (CONTINUED)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>USD</td>
<td>USD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(v) Twenty 20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditure</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation</td>
<td>97,405</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travelling</td>
<td>73,675</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel subsistence</td>
<td>38,893</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Official dinner &amp; match meals</td>
<td>17,810</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Umpires, match referees and other officials</td>
<td>13,783</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing, stationery, communication &amp; website</td>
<td>7,983</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical</td>
<td>7,700</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ground expenses</td>
<td>7,380</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cricket ball &amp; equipment</td>
<td>1,476</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prizes &amp; other expenses</td>
<td>2,960</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

|                      | 269,065|       |
|                      |       | -     |
THE ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL  
(Incorporated in Labuan F.T., Malaysia, under the Offshore Companies Act, 1990, as a Company Limited by Guarantee)

ACC DEVELOPMENT FUND  
DETAILED FUND STATEMENT  
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>USD</td>
<td>USD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFLOWS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions from the ICC</td>
<td>3,250,000</td>
<td>15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution from the ACC</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>395,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest income</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>211,616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total inflows</td>
<td>3,250,000</td>
<td>621,616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign exchange gain</td>
<td>35,946</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reversal of over provisions</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>12,998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total inflows</td>
<td>3,285,946</td>
<td>634,614</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OUTFLOWS

Development programmes

Tournaments
- ACC Trophy U15             | -     | 580,856 |
- ACC Elite U15              | 281,254 | -     |
- ACC Elite U19              | 336,481 | -     |
- ACC Premier League         | -     | 297,164 |
- ACC Trophy 2006            | -     | 529,969 |
- Women’s Cricket Tournament | 154,265 | -     |
- ICC – Under 19 World Cup   | -     | 41,003  |
- Intercontinental Cup       | -     | 102,000 |
- Provision for ICC Central Cost | - | - |
Coach assistance             | 265,595 | 314,867 |
Promotional expenses         | -     | 8,666  |
Consultancy fees – Cricket Australia | - | - |
New territories              | 3,988 | 7,371  |
Cricket academies            | -     | 3,150  |
Curators courses             | 64,300 | 53,487 |
Curator visits               | 17,842 | 18,470 |
High performance courses – Player Development | 139,159 | 9,512 |
Level I coaching courses     | 77,819 | 71,186 |
Level II coaching courses    | 50,196 | 89,884 |
Elementary coaching courses  | 70,122 | 96,605 |
Level I coach educator course| 47,170 | 82,421 |
Level I coaching and umpiring course | 53,818 | 238,481 |
Sports medicine and fitness seminar | 87,449 | 64,951 |
Regional umpiring course     | -     | 144,316 |
Level I umpiring course      | 64,226 | -     |
Level II umpiring course     | 92,917 | 92,523 |
Specialist coaching course   | -     | 89,570 |
OUTFLOWS (CONTINUED)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2008 USD</th>
<th>2007 USD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Development programmes (continued)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Performance ICC</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>32,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High performance tours</td>
<td>8,245</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women's cricket expenses</td>
<td>50,861</td>
<td>17,158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting expenses</td>
<td>62,446</td>
<td>35,683</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School cricket development</td>
<td>105,095</td>
<td>111,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate governance</td>
<td>42,000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cricket equipment and ground expenditure</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Cricket equipment</td>
<td>104,229</td>
<td>125,166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Ground equipment &amp; development</td>
<td>118,513</td>
<td>194,357</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Operating expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Personnel expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries</td>
<td>378,557</td>
<td>306,057</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision for gratuity</td>
<td>45,706</td>
<td>58,349</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel subsistence</td>
<td>123,406</td>
<td>93,035</td>
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<tr>
<td>Development officers' travelling expenses</td>
<td>103,127</td>
<td>83,938</td>
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<tr>
<td>Development manager's travelling expenses</td>
<td>36,410</td>
<td>23,370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Office expenses</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Office expenses</td>
<td>120,057</td>
<td>98,897</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>8,105</td>
<td>6,986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auditors' remuneration</td>
<td>6,286</td>
<td>3,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL OUTFLOWS</strong></td>
<td>3,444,624</td>
<td>4,251,648</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET OUTFLOWS</strong></td>
<td>(158,678)</td>
<td>(3,617,034)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As instructed by the International Cricket Council ('ICC'), no inflows have been accounted under the Fund except for the ICC's contributions towards development expenses and currency adjustments. Thus, interest income arising from the short term deposits and placements are included under the ACC Accumulated Fund for the financial year ended 31 March 2008.