



FEDERATION MONDIALE DU JEU DE DAMES

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Press Release from FMJD

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The World Draughts Federation, FMJD, is very sad to announce that the World Championships for Men and Women that were to take place in Brazil in October-November 2009 were cancelled by the organizers. Two years ago the decision was taken to give the organization of the World Championships to the Brazilian Draughts Federation. They set up meetings with governmental agencies and sponsors. Especially for this WC a playing hall in the form of an acclimatized aquarium was built and it should be placed on the famous beach of Copacabana to ensure maximum attention. Many permissions were necessary to have the aquarium on the beach. Most of them were given and where the ministry of Environment made positive noises earlier on, they refused to give permission on the last moment. This allowed the sponsor to withdraw and brought an end to the dream of having the WC in Rio de Janeiro. The organizers did not see any possibilities to organize the WC in a different way, despite last minute efforts by many people via SportAccord and IMSA and despite financial commitments by some.

The organizing committee has claimed full responsibility and damages for flights etc. booked already should be claimed with the organizational committee and the Brazilian Draughts Federation. Whereas the cancellation is a severe blow for the Brazilian organizers, it is also very disappointing for FMJD. Earlier in the year the FMJD tournament director made a special visit to Brazil to discuss tournaments issues and organizers Lélío Marcos met with FMJD board members in Amsterdam showing prototypes of the Aquarium and discussing various other issues connected to the WC. Via mail there were frequent contacts and nothing could make FMJD believe that there were serious difficulties.

The Executive Board of FMJD will meet shortly to discuss the situation and hopes to come with suggestions for a new venue for the WC. It is, however, unlikely that this will still take place in 2009.

Due to the cancellation of the WC also the General Assembly of FMJD that was to take place alongside with the WC needed to be cancelled. FMJD strives to have a General Assembly before the end of the year, possibly in Berlin.

On behalf of FMJD

Harry Otten, Executive Vice President

