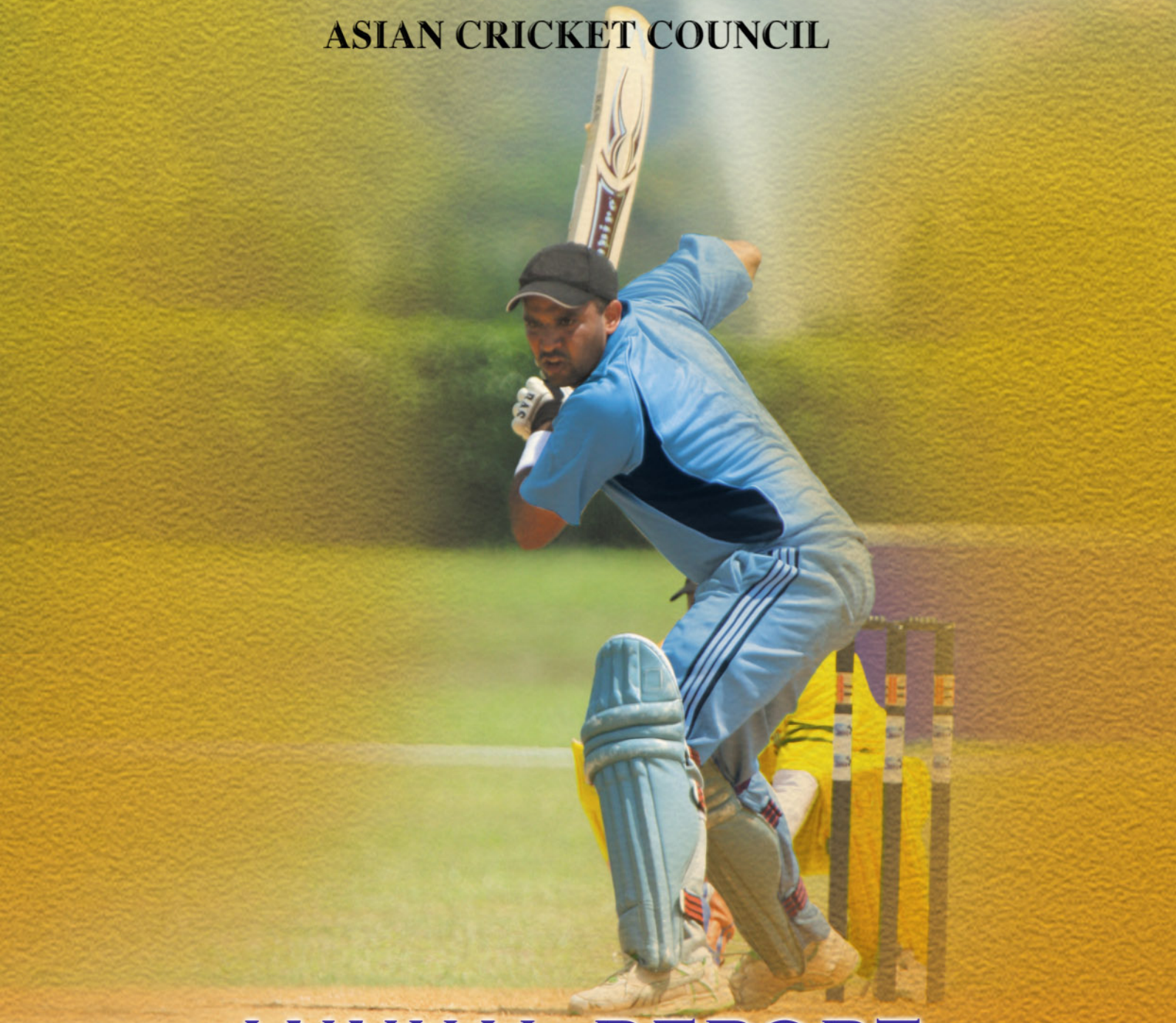
ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT
& ACCOUNTS
2008



Asian Cricket Council

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ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
& ACCOUNTS
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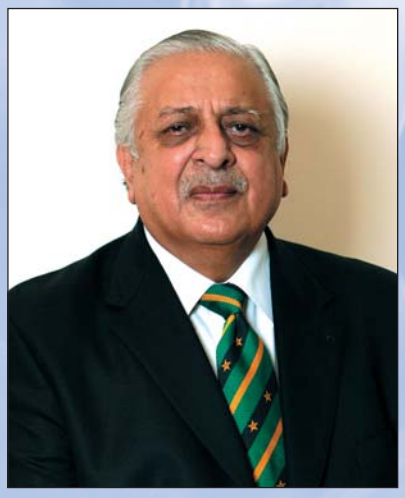
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President's Report
Ijaz Butt





It was more than 20 years ago that I first held a position in the Asian Cricket Council or Asian Cricket Conference as it was then known, as Honorary Secretary. We were a relatively young organization then, just two Asia Cups old, and it was the first time Pakistan had held the ACC Presidency.

What distinguished us all back then was the complete spirit of mutual co-operation we had and wished to promote amongst all us members. Just the year before, in 1986 the Asia Cup took place without India. Just the year after, in 1988 the Asia Cup took place with India. I am glad to say it was a result of the co-operative spirit between us administrators and our cricketers which made it possible.



Fast-forward twenty years on and we see the same things happening today in order to impress upon everybody the strength and power of Asia as a mutually supportive, interdependent cricketing continent. The ninth Asia Cup which took place in Pakistan was a terrific demonstration of that unity. It was also, not just the biggest ODI tournament in Asia last year, it was the first time that the Asia Cup was held in Pakistan. Pakistan is ready to serve Asia when its time comes again.

As President of the Council I am glad to see the part it plays in raising the standard of cricket in our developing member countries. My foremost duty at the ACC must be to raise the status of Asian cricket even further. The continent has a special place on the cricketing map and it is a place from where all future World Cup qualifiers can one day come from.

Asia's developing members are improving rapidly. One of the most important tasks I have to do during my tenure would be to help the teams closest to the top to play to the highest standard possible in international competitions.



I note with interest the progress made by countries like Afghanistan, Bhutan, Hong Kong, Nepal and Thailand in various aspects of the game and know that many other ACC members are very close to achieving gains too.

I look forward to working closely with my fellow officers at the Asian Cricket Council along with the Executive Board in order to achieve our aims.

Ijaz Butt

ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL



STAR Cricket Asia Cup 2008 Winners Sri Lanka, Karachi, Pakistan.



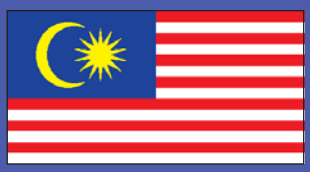





















President, International Cricket Council
David Morgan OBE DL



Looking back over the last year in cricket – Asia has plenty to be proud of as a region and it has illustrated to everyone that the ICC's development programmes are working well within the region.

The rise of Afghanistan from Division 5 of the Pepsi ICC World Cricket League has been one of the highlights of the year, with their hard work proving fruitful in their qualification to play in the ICC Cricket World Cup Qualifier in South Africa this year. The team has come from a nation of limited cricket resources and it has utilised the ICC's Development Programme to its highest level, illustrating the ever growing passion for cricket in Asia.

With the smaller nations such as Hong Kong and Nepal pushing their way onto the cricket scene alongside Afghanistan it is no surprise that the world's most populated country, China, is looking to improve its cricket prowess. I had the chance to visit China this year during their staging of the Olympic Games and it showed the nation's capacity to organise an event on a major scale and I'm particularly looking forward to the country hosting the 2010 Asia Games which will feature cricket for the first time. When I was in Beijing this year I took the opportunity to meet with the Chinese Cricket Association; their plans for cricket in the nation are ambitious and for the long term so I hope that we will see cricket grow and, within the coming decades, see a competitive China cricket team.

The Asia Cup took place last summer in Pakistan and saw Sri Lanka claim victory in the final with their star bowler, Ajantha Mendis, stepping into the spotlight to help his side beat India by 100 runs in Karachi. It is always a pleasure to see a new player unearthed at events such as the Asia Cup and Mendis's arrival on the scene highlights Asia's ever growing population of cricketers.



This year also saw the Women's Asia Cup take place in Sri Lanka – it is exciting to see women's cricket being integrated so well across the region. With all four Full Members from Asia participating, India won the event proving itself to be once again the best women's side in Asia. Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka all took part in the recent ICC Women's World Cup hosted in Australia.

President, International Cricket Council



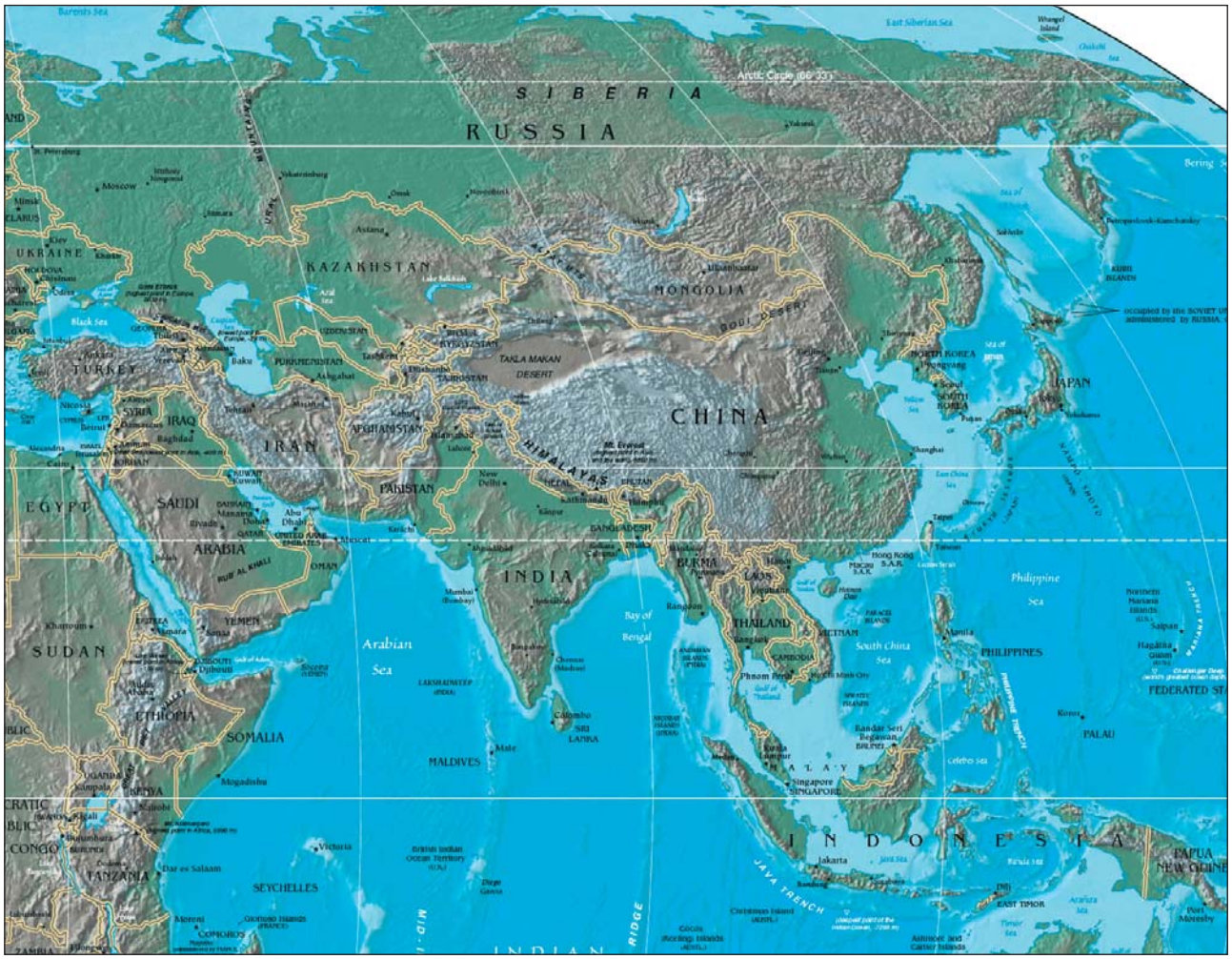
It is unfortunate that Pakistan was unable to host the Champions Trophy this year and the tragic attack on the Sri Lanka team in Lahore was a shocking event for sports-lovers all over the world. I am hopeful that the situation in Pakistan will stabilise soon and that it will be appropriate for international cricket to take place there once again.

We at the ICC are continuing to focus on maintaining the three forms of the game at international levels and in the coming years Asia is set to play a major part. The Asian Games in 2010 is first up and after that comes the ICC Cricket World Cup 2011 which will see Asia play host to the best sides in the world and show the world how great the region is for cricket.

However, this year sees the second ICC World Twenty20 take place, this time in England, where last year's winner, India, and runner-up, Pakistan, will feature again alongside other Asian Full Members Bangladesh and Sri Lanka in a tournament that I have no doubt will showcase the many talents that Asian cricket has and will continue to produce at all levels of the game.

Cricket in Asia is a vital component of the global game and one we at the ICC will continue to cherish.

David Morgan OBE DL





Chief Executive's Review

Syed Ashraful Huq



Half-way through the year under review the Asian Cricket Council completed its twenty-fifth year of existence. This year the International Cricket Council will celebrate its centenary. These landmarks give us a convenient opportunity to draw attention to our achievements. Cricket is still a young sport and in its effect on what were - and still are - young nations in Asia remains highly significant. Individuals can only do so much. It is indeed when individuals, even 'sworn enemies' are united in a common cause against many obstacles that the strongest sense of confederation and mutual reward is realized.

The past months have been momentous for Asian cricket. Rarely before has the game rated mention on the front pages and lead items of non-cricketing nations media – it has recently all too often. First for the quantum leap of the Indian Premier League, second, third and fourth for the terrorist outrages in India and Pakistan and the Stanford situation.

Through it all, the sense that cricket is more than a tournament, more than a country, more than an institution has kept me and everyone else who truly loves the game committed to the cause.

The Development Cause



Lord's, 1983

Everyone involved in cricket in 1983 knew of India and Pakistan, England and Australia, the West Indies. There are cricketers in 2008 who know nothing of them. These cricketers are from Bhutan, China, Nepal, Thailand. They play cricket not because they are in cricket-playing schools, or even because their fathers played cricket. They play because someone sent by the ACC and ICC introduced them to a bat-and-ball game called 'cricket' and they liked it. Some of them are even girls.

Many of them lack proper equipment, facilities or sufficient exposure to the game compared to the majority of Full ICC members but they continue to play nevertheless and local coaches, umpires, curators continue to work with them. I can only think it is because they love the game for what it is, and not for any thought of fame and fortune. Certainly, very few of them have even seen a live telecast of an international game. Some of them are playing international cricket and others following will do the same too.



Kathmandu, 2008

There are those who question the ACC's and ICC's quest to grow the game, seeing that in such a results-oriented world with its emphasis on short-termism, where the hierarchies are so entrenched, there is no room or reason to introduce new players and new territories to cricket. Cricket is what they say it is and there's no reason to change it. In which case, why have floodlit cricket, why have Twenty20, why have innovation?





Every corporation to be successful and sustain its success cannot simply rely on mergers and acquisitions but must invest in research and development. Taking cricket into new places, to go boldly where others have not gone before is our R & D. In a world where many Full members complain about shrinking playing participation the ACC and ICC Development Program is increasing participation and quality of play.

It is important to remember that cricket is about far more than the professional game. For the millions of people who play, coach, umpire, curate, administrate and watch cricket at the grassroots level, the ACC and ICC are about the whole of cricket. The amateur/national game is the lifeblood of cricket in our member countries.



The modern game is about women's cricket as well as men's and it is here that the gap between the traditional centres and the new countries is smaller than in the men's games and also where more native players are prevalent. Development must be about giving as many as possible the chance to play. We have created a whole new generation of national sportspeople with our youth tournaments in the past few years, long may it continue.





We are training 30 or so coaches a year to develop the players of tomorrow. We now have 199 qualified and active coaches and have a huge commitment to improve the level of coaching at all levels of the game.

Along with being a long-established forum for the advocacy of Asia as a united economic and political power in world cricket, the Asian Cricket Council exists to promote and develop the game within the continent. Our earnest desire is to see cricket played to a high-standard amongst all our non-Test members with the ultimate goal of having a World Cup where all qualifiers are from Asia. Our aims must be to do for our members what needs to be done but which they can not, by individual effort, do at all, or do so well, themselves.

To this end our Development Program was set up at the end of the last century and in 2007 we embarked upon a five-year Strategy Plan with the specific aim of increasing the quantity and quality of cricket played in our region.











We are two years into the plan and stand on the brink of some significant achievements.

- At time of writing, three teams – Afghanistan, Oman, UAE – on the verge of World Cup 2011 qualification
- 10 years ago Afghanistan was unknown to the cricketing world. Now they could be in the next World Cup. Membership of the ACC and all that it entails in terms of administrative support, funding, competition has given them a platform for their talent
- Five years ago China was even more isolated than Afghanistan. They have bravely come forward with a great desire to succeed in what they call shen shi yun dong, 'the noble game'
- Just last year, cricket became a medal sport in the Asian Games for the first time. If we are saying that cricket is an Asian game, if Asia is the true home of world cricket, then it is appropriately part of the biggest sporting event in Asia.

In these achievements, let alone so many others, the ACC has played a fundamental role. As individual nations providing inspiration and specific resources, the Test-playing countries are very important, but the fact is individual countries put themselves first. Only a non-partisan body set up specifically for the purpose of developing cricket over all countries can create true overall development.

As with any dynamic management body, the gap between what is aspired to and what is achieved is often apparent. When the ACC was formed in 1983, good governance in member countries was unknown. In 2003, good governance was underwhelming. In 2009, while there is still room for improvement, the importance of managing one's affairs efficiently and for the maximum benefit of one's constituent parts is recognised by all. I am gratified by the standards reached by the ACC's emerging members in this respect.

As for where it really matters, out on the field at time of writing, three ACC members – Afghanistan, Oman, UAE - are in the ICC World Cup Qualifier to be held in South Africa in April 2009. All three could be playing in Asia's World Cup in 2011. Of the 12 teams in the World Cup Qualifier, only two were Affiliates and both were from Asia.

There are now not only more cricketers outside the Test-playing countries, but they are increasingly local – eg. Bhutan, China, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand. And from what is evidenced at all ACC tournaments, the standard of play and the surfaces they play on are all far better than previously.

China will yet surprise us all. China became serious about field hockey after it won the right to host the 2008 Olympics. By 2006, it had defeated traditional powers India, then Bangladesh and then Pakistan in the men's semi-finals at the Asian Games in Doha, before going on to win silver. Their women won gold.

Development is an incremental process, it takes time, it takes money, it takes belief. With the ACC's support, cricketers across Asia have a chance to play our great game to the best of their ability. Whichever way the Development Program is measured it is achieving results and making progress.

The Asia Cup

Since the first tournament in 1984, Asia's combined aspirations have been expressed by the Asia Cup. It remains the only multi-nation regional ODI tournament and the ninth Asia Cup, held in Pakistan last July, was another manifestation of Asia's sense of unity and fraternity.







The tournament exists to raise consciousness of Asia as a cricketing continent and to raise operational revenue for the Asian Cricket Council and its members across the board. The tournament has invariably achieved its aims. In the early days of the competition, Bangladesh took part as a non-Test playing member.

Bangladesh was involved then through being an integral part of the subcontinent with a long history of cricket. Bangladesh's elevation to Test status happened because of all that and the fact that it brought a whole new audience and commercial dimension to the cricket world. We feel that possibilities exist for much of the same to happen again, if not in the next ten years, then in the next twenty, with other countries.



I have been fortunate enough to have seen all the ACC Trophy competitions since inception in 1996 and they have been emblematic of just how much cricket has developed in Asia as a whole in the past twelve years.

ACC Trophy Elite finalists are in line to compete in future Asia Cups and we saw from the 2008 Asia Cup that Hong Kong and UAE were able to put up a decent showing, with the ball in particular.



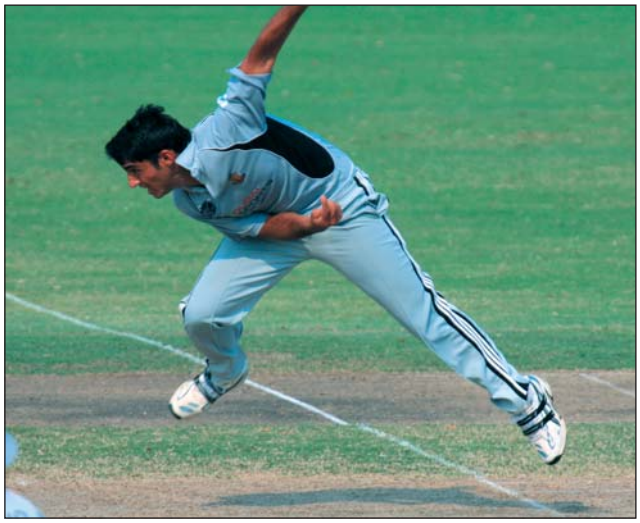


Hong Kong's Afzaal Haider and Nadeem Ahmed strike in Karachi

Without a doubt, the gap between our top-ranked members and the Test-playing nations is substantial but if our members truly wish to bridge the divide and achieve ODI status, then cogent, coherent steps must be taken. We are ready to serve our members, it is why we exist. Our mutual aim is to make cricket in each member country as strong as possible.

Bangladesh won the first ACC Trophy twelve years ago, a significant staging-post on their rise towards Test-status. Since Bangladesh's elevation, post-2000 the Asia Cup has been expanded to include two non-ODI countries. Hong Kong and UAE have featured in Asia Cups twice since then and have shown a considerable improvement over that time. ACC Trophy winners Hong Kong had Pakistan in some trouble at 140-5 and then 161-7 at Karachi in 2008 and of all the batsman to face Ajantha Mendis during last year's Asia Cup, only UAE's opener Amjad Ali with a 77-ball 79 and a strike rate of 160.00 against Mendis himself, prospered. UAE's strike bowler Zahid Shah took six wickets against Bangladesh and Sri Lanka to finish second in the tournament averages.

There is talent in the ranks, and televisual appeal. Perhaps none more so than in Afghanistan who have captured the imagination of the cricketing world and a fair number of neutrals with their mud-to-magic story. We are developing all these countries and all those who are close to them not for any sense of charity but because i) these countries deserve support and ii) these countries will repay support.



UAE's Zahid Shah



UAE's Amjad Ali

Rather than rights-holders broadcasting games between Full members and Associates/Affiliates on sufferance, they will, on the contrary, be thrilled to show a further set competitive matches. Rights-values will go up, more development funds will follow, more development will happen.

The beautiful thing about an integrated strategy such as this when applied to countries like Afghanistan and Nepal i.e. those with 100% native players is that we, the Associations, the broadcasters, the fans can rely upon a far greater thread of consistency than if we were just dealing with economic migrants who may be part of a country's cricketing set-up for just a few years. An Afghan is an Afghan, a Nepali is a Nepali. No one's going to move there long-term for work, let's hope that cricket offers enough reason for the most talented to stay.



Afghanistan take on Nepal in ICC WCL Division 5

The net result is this – none of us expect an Associate nation to defeat a Full member – but if we don't believe in the possibility, if we don't do everything we can to support the concept, then we as sports fans, as administrators, as human beings are the losers. Sport is about contests. Contests are what people pay to watch.

Justifying the commercial viability of 'the best of Asia' versus 'the best of Africa', the Asian Cricket Council and Africa Cricket Association have entered into a new commercial agreement with Nimbus Sport for the 2009 and 2010 Afro-Asia Cups, following on from the 2005 and 2007 edition, where the quality and intensity of cricket on display impressed all onlookers..

Africa's and Asia's administrative closeness has also led to many ancillary benefits too, like the quickly relocated IPL, all of which have been made possible by the original mantra of the Afro-Asia Cup – 'Cricket for Unity'.





China



China features much on the investment/reward metrics amongst the chattering classes of cricket. It is true that in 2008 China's results on the field were not as strong as one would hope for but China is, and always has been, a long-term project. Rather like the Great Wall itself. China indeed represents a tremendous opportunity for the cricket to establish itself as a major global sport and I know that any developmental success there will make the rest of the world take notice.

Mr. I.S. Bindra's appointment as Special Advisor to the ICC with a special emphasis on China along with Javed Miandad's appointment as the Pakistan government's Cricket Ambassador to China mean that there will be considerable support for the development of the game in China. Already the Board of Control for Cricket in India and the Pakistan Cricket Board have provided coaches and equipment to the Chinese Cricket Association and long may it continue.

The Chinese Cricket Association has recalibrated its internal development strategy and made significant strides in the past year and their overwhelming ambition at this point of time is to field a competitive team at the November 2010 Asian Games in the south China city of Guangzhou. They will be up against the four Asian Test-playing nations and other pan-Asian Associate/Affiliate nations in that competition. A creditable showing there will strongly encourage the Chinese state authorities to back cricket in the way they do other medal-sports. We saw in August 2008, as did the ICC President David Morgan himself, just how seriously the Chinese state takes the Olympics.





Women's Cricket



There was much excitement at the prospect of China entering the world of cricket – potentially 20% more population involvement. In all that time up to then 50% of the population was being overlooked – women.

They not only make up half of the world, women make the cricket world a better place. I initially had my reservations whether Asia would take to the women's game, I am delighted to see that they have. The ACC's inaugural Women's Tournament in 2007 was the putting forward of a hypothesis, our U-19 Women's Tournament last year was the demonstration of a successful experiment.

Three Middle East teams joined pioneers UAE in the event, (with Iran last-minute withdrawals) which is culturally extremely significant. Ten teams took part in all and the enthusiasm, competence and at times, sheer skill of the competitors was wonderful to behold. The girls lacked for nothing – they played on quality grounds with quality facilities and had the best available coaching in their countries.



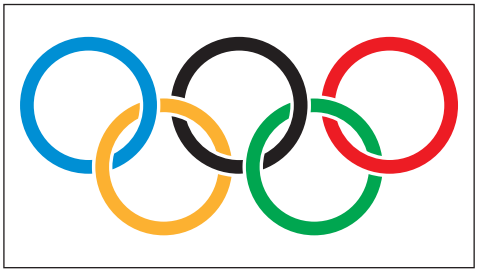


Nepal won the tournament thanks to their well-grooved skills based on several years of practise, and there was immense promise shown by Bhutan, China, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Thailand. The gap between the established and emerging countries is smaller in women's cricket than in men's and some hitherto unheralded countries have a serious chance of making a global impact in the not too distant future.

Plus, there is a greater proportion of native women playing the game than there are men across our member countries which significantly aids the development cause. Seeing Thai girls playing for their country in front of Thai supporters in Chiang Mai last December – that just hammered home the point of development. And the Thai girls were good too, finishing third in our U-19 event.

The Olympics

Cricket's presence in the 2010 Asian Games as well as the 2010 South Asian Games under the auspices of the Olympic Council of Asia has raised the concept of cricket's inclusion in future Olympics. 'Twenty20 in 2020' does indeed have a certain ring to it and attention has been paid to the concept of having cricket in the 2020 Games and beyond by the ICC Board.







The Olympics are constantly re-inventing themselves as they seek to draw in as many viewers as possible. Data I saw prior to the 2008 Games showed that 1% of South Asia watches the Olympics on television which allows plenty of scope for audience growth. Cricket could drive that growth for the International Olympic Council. If an accord could be reached on the format, the revenue-sharing and the control of the game at the Olympics between the 10 full members of the ICC and the 15-member Executive Board of the IOC, then cricket could be played in future Games. As it looks likely that following a probable post-Chicago 2016 Olympics the Games will be located in an Asian city, then Twenty20 could be a very good fit in 2020.

For all its strength, cricket is still relatively ghettoized in having world championships of just 8-14 countries. Cricket's inclusion in such a global body as the Olympics, to be seen by so many others, would undoubtedly have a positive impact in spreading its appeal across an ever-changing landscape, challenged by different sports, and the shifting of resources across the globe. If we can locate a practical and profitable solution and adopt a pragmatic approach then cricket can truly develop.

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

Syed Ashraful Huq

ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL



ACC Delegates at the 2008 Annual General Meeting, Karachi, July 10 2007

The Silver Jubilee of the ACC

On completion of 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. Wankhede (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)

MEMBER COUNTRIES

	ACC Member	ICC Member
Bangladesh	1983	2000
India	1983	1926
Pakistan	1983	1953
Sri Lanka	1983	1981
Afghanistan	2003	2001 (Affiliate)
Bahrain	2003	2001 (Affiliate)
Bhutan	2001	2001 (Affiliate)
Brunei	1996	2002 (Affiliate)
China	2004	2004 (Affiliate)
Hong Kong	1983	1969 (Associate)
Iran	2003	2003 (Affiliate)
Kuwait	1996	2005 (Associate)
Malaysia	1983	1967 (Associate)
Maldives	1996	1998 (Affiliate)
Myanmar	2005	2006 (Affiliate)
Nepal	1990	1996 (Associate)
Oman	2000	2000 (Affiliate)
Qatar	2000	1999 (Affiliate)
Saudi Arabia	2003	2003 (Affiliate)
Singapore	1983	1974 (Associate)
Thailand	1996	2005 (Associate)
UAE	1984	1990 (Associate)

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



1983 - 1985:

President	N. K. P. Salve
Vice President	Gamini Dissanayake
Hon. Secretary	A. W. Kanmadikar
Hon. Treasurer	M. A. Chidambaram
Hon. Jt. Secretary	Syed Ashraful Huq



1985 - 1987

President	Gamini Dissanayake
Vice President	Lt. Gen. G.S. Butt
Hon. Secretary	Nuski Mohamed
Hon. Treasurer	Chandra Schaffter
Hon. Jt. Secretary	Syed Ashraful Huq



1987 - 1989

President	Lt. Gen. G.S. Butt / Lt. Gen. Zahid Ali Akhbar Khan
Vice President	S. Sri Raman / B. N. Dutt
Hon. Secretary	M. Ijaz Butt / A.A.K. Abbasi
Hon. Treasurer	Fasihuddin Khan
Hon. Jt. Secretary	Syed Ashraful Huq



1989 - 1991

President	Anisul Islam Mahmud
Vice President	Nuski Mohamed / A. A. K. Abbasi
Hon. Secretary	Tanveer Mazhar Islam
Hon. Treasurer	Hafizul Islam
Hon. Jt. Secretary	Syed Ashraful Huq



1991 - 1993

President	Abdulrahman Bukhatir
Vice President	Harbans Singh
Hon. Secretary	Qasim Noorani
Hon. Treasurer	Mohammad Redha Abbas
Hon. Jt. Secretary	Syed Ashraful Huq



1993 - 1994

President	Madhavrao Scindia
Vice President	Tunku Imran
Hon. Secretary	C. Nagaraj
Hon. Treasurer	P. R. Mindle
Hon. Jt. Secretary	Syed Ashraful Huq

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

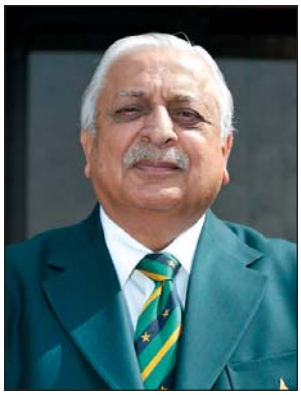
2006 - 2008

President	Jayantha Dharmadasa / Arjuna Ranatunga
Vice President	K. H. Imran

2008

President	Dr. Nasim Ashraf / Ijaz Butt
Vice President	P. Krishnasamy









ACC EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS
at December 31, 2008

Mr. Ijaz Butt – ACC President, Pakistan Cricket Board Chairman
Mr. P. Krishnasamy – ACC Vice-President, Malaysian Cricket Association Deputy President
Mr. Lt. General Sina Ibn Jamali – Bangladesh Cricket Board President
Mr. Shashank Manohar – Board of Control for Cricket in India President
Mr. S. Liyanagama – Sri Lanka Cricket
Mr. Ahmed Hassan Didi – Cricket Control Board of Maldives President
Mr. Khwaja Imran – Singapore Cricket Association President
Mr. Mazhar Khan - UAE Emirates Cricket Board Administrator
Mr. Syed Ashraful Huq – ACC Chief Executive – Ex Officio
Mr. Nizam Uddin Chowdhury – Bangladesh Cricket Board Acting Chief Executive Officer – Ex Officio
Mr. N. Srinivasan – Board of Control for Cricket in India Honorary Secretary – Ex Officio
Mr. Salim Altaf – PCB Chief Operating Officer – Ex Officio
Mr. Duleep Mendis - Sri Lanka Cricket Chief Executive Officer – Ex Officio



ACC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE at December 31, 2008

Mr. Arjuna Ranatunga – Chairman
Mr. Binaya Raj Pandey – Cricket Association of Nepal President
Mr. John Cribbin – Hong Kong Cricket Association Honorary Secretary
Mr. Asad Baig – Kuwait Cricket Director General
Mr. Manzoor Ahmad – Qatar Cricket Association General Secretary
Mr. Shubhangi Kulkarni – Board of Control for Cricket in India Women's Committee Convenor
Mr. Ijaz Butt – Ex Officio
Mr. Syed Ashraful Huq – Ex Officio
Mr. Bandula Warnapura – ACC Development Manager- Convenor

ACC FINANCE & MARKETING COMMITTEE at December 31, 2008

Mr. N. Srinivasan – Chairman
Mr. Ahmed Iqbal Hasan – Bangladesh Cricket Board
Mr. Sujeewa Rajapakse – Sri Lanka Cricket
Mr. Ravi Sehgal – Cricket Association of Thailand Chairman
Mr. Ijaz Butt – Ex Officio
Mr. Syed Ashraful Huq – Ex Officio
Mr. Thusith Perera – ACC Finance Manager – Convenor



ACC WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

at December 31, 2008



Ms. Shubhangi Kulkarni – Chairperson
Mrs. Monowar Anis Khan – Bangladesh Cricket Board
Mrs. Shirin Javed – Pakistan Cricket Board
Mrs. Vanessa de Silva – Sri Lanka Cricket
Mrs. Alice Jones – Hong Kong Cricket Association
Mr. Ijaz Butt – Ex Officio
Mr. Syed Ashraful Huq – Ex Officio
Mr. Bandula Warnapura – Ex Officio



ACC DEVELOPMENT TEAM

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

ACC SECRETARIAT STAFF



Mr. Syed Ashraful Huq – Chief Executive
Mr. Bandula Warnapura – Development Manager
Mr. Ganesan Sundarammoorthy – Development Program Coordinator
Ms. Susan Moorthy - Development Program Assistant
Mr. Thusith Perera – Finance Manager
Mr. Philip Lee - Finance Executive
Ms. Noor Faizah Dolah – Finance Assistant
Mrs. Juhaida Mohd Hata – Accounts & Administration Clerk
Mr. Shahriar Khan – Media Manager
Mr. Niren Mukherjee – Media Assistant
Mr. K.K. Haridas – Events Executive
Ms. Anna Lalitha – PA to the Chief Executive
Mr. Farha Nilna Binti Anam – Receptionist
Mr. Mohamed Suhaili – Office Assistant/Driver
Mr. Devadas Kalidas– Office Assistant/Driver



Development Manager's Report
Bandula Warnapura



Bandula Warnapura became the Asian Cricket Council's third Development Manager in July 2008, succeeding Sultan Rana.

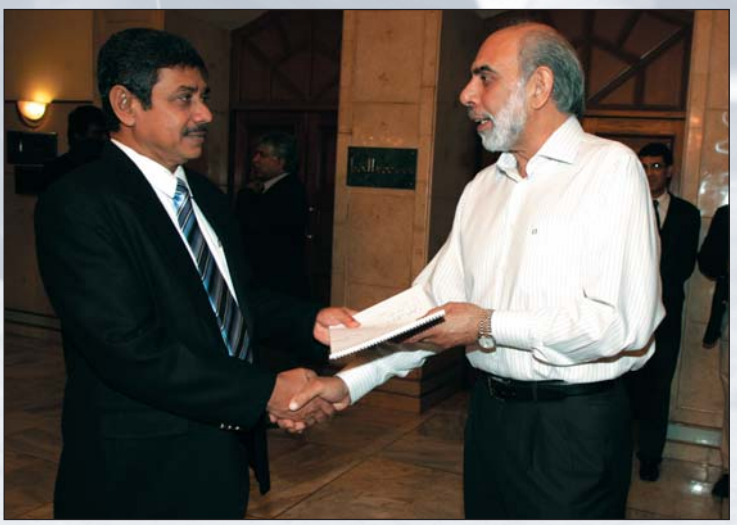
The development ethic of the Asian Cricket Council is at the core of its mission to broaden and strengthen the game. I have been fortunate in doing much of the same work in Sri Lanka for the past ten or so years but that was just one country, here, with 18 member countries the work is quite challenging.

My first challenge on my first day in the office was to get to know the cultures of the countries. Only then is it possible to work on an appropriate program. My belief is that each country has its own tradition and my job is to best apply what I know to them.

Cricket is competing with other sports in every ACC country. Ideally there should be a marriage between different sports to develop cricket on a long-term basis. Fortunately, for countries like Sri Lanka, we didn't have that competition. We have to be a bit careful in introducing cricket into countries so that we don't antagonize the other sporting bodies. We need to work with them rather than against them.

Another issue is arranging the required facilities considering different climatic conditions and this needs a close study of each and every country, which is quite hard to work out but gives a huge satisfaction, once completed.

Before I started I only had a rough idea of what was actually going on in countries as diverse as Afghanistan and China but I have listened closely to the Development Officers: Roger Binny (Bhutan, Oman, Singapore, Thailand, UAE), Aminul Islam (Brunei, China, Myanmar), Rumesh Ratnayake (Bahrain, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal), Iqbal Sikander (Afghanistan, Iran, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia), our Sports Medicine and Fitness Officer Dr. Vece Paes to find out the true state of a country's cricket. I have visited a number of them in tours of the Middle East and South East Asia to speak to the local administrators, umpires, coaches and players to hear their plans.



The passing of the portfolio: Bandula Warnapura with former Development Manager Sultan Rana in Karachi, July 2008



The ACC Development Team, July 2008 (from l to r) Development Officers Aminul Islam, Rumesh Ratnayake, Roger Binny; Development Committee Chairman Arjuna Ranatunga; Women's Committee Chairperson Shubhangi Kulkarni; Bandula Warnapura; Development Officer Iqbal Sikander; Sports Medicine and Fitness Officer Dr. Vece Paes

I am encouraged by what I have seen and heard, and I hope in return to be able to offer the necessary perspective and reality-check that they require to advance. I am keen to promote even greater dialogue between ACC staff and our members and we have taken practical steps in-house to make it even more effective.

The Development Officers are certainly more active and I have instigated a policy whereby they will each visit their countries at least twice a year and depending on needs shown, act and work together to tackle the issues.

These are quite significant times for the developing cricket world. More money is coming in, more personnel, more opportunity. Women are new. Science is new. Discipline is new.

My view is that we are here to do the countries service, give them what they need and want and not the other way around. To make all this possible, all we ask is that the countries use these resources efficiently.

The governance is what is extremely important. All the people working in the governing body must be very, very serious and honest about this commitment. I am still studying the process and will continue visiting the member countries. We need their support because the ACC can't do this on its own. If the office bearer of the country is not interested, then we won't be able to achieve what we and they want.



ICC Funding Scenario

A great deal more in development funding is available to countries that succeed on and off the field and this funding is being granted on a competitive basis, ie. countries at the top of ACC tournament rankings will receive more than those below and countries with good administration will receive funds more quickly than those that do not.

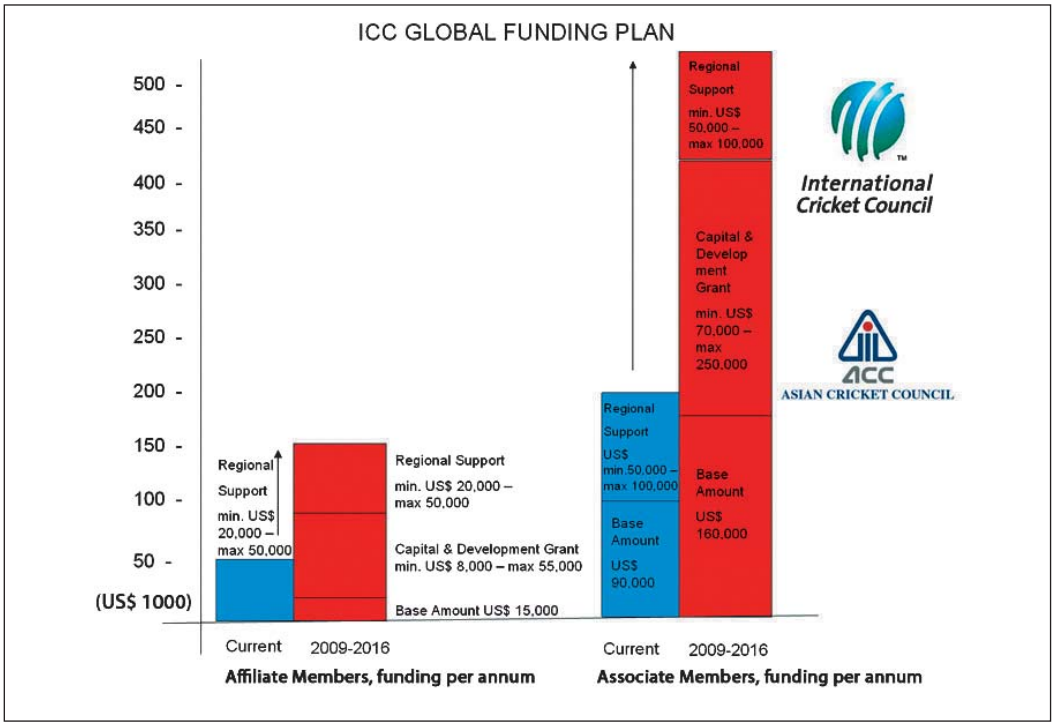
Hundreds of thousands of dollars are available. It sounds a lot, but it can all too easily be wasted. What impresses me most are those plans which act as catalysts for other areas of development. Building stadiums isn't helpful if all that expensively tended grass has no one to play on it. Spending money on facilities isn't effective if there are no plans to use them. Creating coaches and umpires who are inactive is wasted time and money.

it is far better to use the money coming in from the ICC and ACC in terms of an investment strategy. Every country has different goals but all goals should lead to the creation of a stronger national cricket team. Even when I played in my amateur days in Sri Lanka, the game was never just social. It was ruthlessly competitive. Actions matter.



With ICC Development Programmes Manager Tim Anderson

All this money coming in could potentially create the best kind of revolution in Asian cricket – the one where the present lower-ranked teams come up to challenge the established ones. Governance is key. Some member countries are still learning, no matter, it is a process of education but if they don't learn soon enough other countries who have taken on board the virtues of accountability and responsibility will keep beating them every time.



No club, no country, to my knowledge in all my years in the game has ever succeeded outside of the short term without strong, engaged, agile administration. It's the system and the way you work which allows you to win on a continuous basis. You win by remaining concentrated, determined and disciplined. It's not necessarily a rigid sort of discipline. I am talking about disciplined values.

The ICC Funding templates and Development Research Surveys which are being sent out to all countries will be educational for all member countries because they will give us an in-depth knowledge of the countries' plans for 2009 – 2010. First let's get the first things right. The rest will follow.

There is more accountability and transparency with the templates than there was before. This is a huge achievement because now we can see very clearly the real relationship between a country's ambitions, its income and its expenditure.

Developing a Culture

Cricket is unlikely to play the part in popular culture of our 18 non-Test playing members which it does in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka but in Afghanistan and Nepal I feel there is a chance to create a good following for the game. Their passionate fans are one thing, as long as their teams are winning they will be supported but for a good culture to develop the game needs to be embedded in schools, in society, and in government planning.

In Asian countries we tend to have a problem in our culture i.e. normally women tend to give up all sports once they get married. Therefore the amount that we invest might go to waste. We're trying to work out a solution and now are happy to note that countries like Iran and China are very keen in developing too. Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Bangladesh women's teams are playing seriously and it is gathering momentum since the controlling bodies are now showing more support.

Outside of India, women are quite new to cricket in Asia, in the other Test-playing countries there has been some activity over the past five years but the real boost to the game has come in countries where cricket is not only not the major sport, but women playing sport is hardly major. The Middle East countries have impressed with their enthusiasm. I was pleasantly surprised by what I saw in Iran in November with women coaching, umpiring and playing. Our U-19 girls tournament showed some strong performances from the players of Thailand and UAE in a competition eventually won by Nepal. The gap between the developing nations and top ones in men's cricket is far greater than the gap between the same nations in women's cricket.



In order to harness this new-found interest we should encourage the creation of women coaches and women physios to work with the women coming in to the game. Having this kind of personnel will do much to encourage more girls and their parents to take up the sport.



Development Manager's Report

A good way for cricket to be developed is through using other sports as a second game. There are three basic sports – gymnastics, swimming and athletics, and all other sports are built around them. Test and ODI Cricket is played by ten/sixteen countries, therefore it is not yet a global game. We have to make sure we use other sports to help and develop cricket. Athletics develops endurance and speed, swimming helps your breathing and gymnastics sharpens your flexibility and balance; all traits required in every game or sport.





Athletics may not be suitable due to varying weather conditions and facilities, but swimming and gymnastics can be easily taken part in. Cricket gets a lot of assistance from these basic sports. Batting, bowling and fielding involves a lot of running, the hand-eye coordination can be helped with other sports such as table-tennis and badminton, and the balancing part comes not only in batting and bowling but also in fielding, where you have to be perfectly balanced in order to execute it. Hence it is important we combine cricket development with these sports.



Development Manager's Report



Usain Bolt, currently the fastest man on earth, who won the 100m and 200m in the Beijing Olympics, initially came in to play cricket as a fast bowler but was put into athletics when someone saw him running. Had Michael Holding not given up athletics he too would've run in the Olympics. Holding's very smooth action and run-up shows the importance of working with these other sports which will assist and contribute in developing the game of cricket and its players. Only players who are in good physical condition can make the most of their technical abilities.







The game cannot just exist on a few squares of grass once or twice a week to be witnessed by the players and an occasional passer-by. For the game to reach as many as possible it must be broadcast in as many forms as possible. Television is expensive but printed matter, the web, cultural commentary – the materials in each country's language can be made accessible. There are many lessons to be learnt from cricket – an empire was built on the game's values through spreading the word. Cricket truly is a code of life and you don't need to play it at the highest level to know it. There are also many stories coming out of the game which are character-forming. I know some which can even be shared with youngsters.





Developing Infrastructure

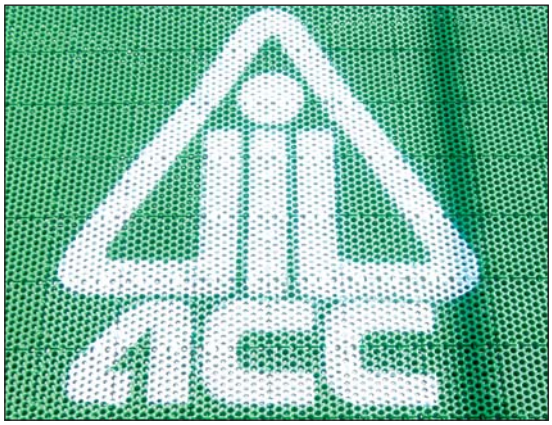


Some countries think that having top-class facilities is an end in itself, which is wrong, but what is certain is that without quality playing surfaces you cannot have quality cricket. We have to be patient with our member countries and work them slowly towards world status. I have seen some countries that do not have the infrastructure but play good cricket. We need to work with them and help them to achieve their development. Some countries have the required infrastructure but it is sad to note, do not play good cricket.

Based on the number of students and clubs playing, we need to have a certain criteria for providing facilities. For instance, if there are 150 children playing, how many side-pitches/ centre pitches/coaches/grounds for matches/umpires and equipment do we need? Once a study is done and a correct number is in our hands we can develop the infrastructure so that there are sufficient facilities for all the players.



Then there is the game development part. Once the game is developing, the qualities of the facilities need to increase and improve. It goes hand in hand and in the game development you also need improvement in the coaches, trainers, physios, etc. It is a combination of these two that will get you to the top. You've got to have some basics first but as I have mentioned earlier, I have seen countries that have the facilities but their cricket is not on par and some countries play good cricket but don't have the facilities. This is what we have to sort out if cricket in Asia is to advance.



The main problem I saw during a tour of the Middle East is the lack of available land to develop. Once the land is there, the Associations are confident of getting the funds required, considerable as they are, which is re-assuring. Still, there has to be a balance between game development and infrastructure development and concentrating on the one at the expense of the other will inevitably lead to shortcomings.



Still, one of the benefits for those countries that can create an international-standard venue is that there is a chance of international matches being played at neutral venues in the future. In the meantime, there is every reason to hope that ACC matches can be played in more countries.

The incentives that can be given are for the countries which are ranked highest based on how much cricket is played and at what level we have to assist in constructing the required amount of grounds. If they have two to four grounds, it will be sufficient because we are looking to play ACC tournaments in our member countries. At the moment we can only play in Malaysia, Nepal, Kuwait and Thailand.

What I want to do is to send curators, based on their performance, on the recommendation of the Development Officers and the controlling bodies, to the Test-playing countries. There they can learn the preparation of pitches for Test matches and ODIs. If we send two curators at a time for three weeks I am sure they will get the experience they and we are looking for. It should be the same for the coaches: local coaches who perform and do well will be sent to the Test nations to work with the academy coaches, for about three weeks. This will be part of a High Performance Program (HPP) for curators and coaches and could be considered an incentive for their hard work. This will also encourage others to perform well.



Umpires in our member-countries are being assessed at each tournament and will receive a chance to work in a structured program whereby they progress from youth to senior matches. I hope that the best of them will get a chance to also experience umpiring somewhere in a Test-playing country.





Developing the Platform

When we talk about junior cricket – the most important thing about it is that the child should enjoy playing cricket. The enjoyment levels must be much higher than compared to other sports. That is what coaches and administrators need to realize. An Under-13 boy would not be as excited telling his parents about forward and backward defensive strokes as much as the number of 6s and 4s he hit and this is the kind of atmosphere he would like to be in at the training session the next day. It is not the technique which will convert them into cricketers who are interested in the game but rather how much they enjoy the game.



This is why cricket should be held in a healthy, friendly and enjoyable mode at that young age. In between all this we can teach them the basics that they need to know. We must not tie them up with the basic technical things from the start; they need to learn all that while enjoying themselves.

School cricket is very important in the development of the game. School cricket has to be carried out under a co-ordinated youth development program or the Ministry of Education or Sports in the country and we need to work hand in hand to move forward. If the ACC is helping in some way; be it financially, facilities-wise or providing coaches, we have to have access to these schools and colleges. So it is important to have the blessings of these departments.



I don't think it is necessary to start early with a leather ball. Children below 12 should enjoy the game and gradually we should bring in the technical side with a leather ball into it and when they're 13 or 14 we move into competitions. This would mean more time spent off studies hence there has to be a balance. We also need to get permission from the parents because if they are not willing to let their children play, then all our hard work is of no use.

This is where personal interaction with our Development Officers who have a stature in the game can be very useful. We are the only region to have a number of ex-Test players as Development Officers, as the Development Manager and a Chief Executive who was a national player. Therefore we have a whole line up of ex-cricketers and I don't think any other region has this level of experience. It provides instant credibility and is very useful in communicating the game to someone who doesn't know it.

I've been impressed with what I've seen of Bhutan these past few months, Thailand's U-19 Women's team too. Nepal I've been aware of since the U/19 World Cup of 2000. Ultimately that's the answer to perform well in the long-term – you need to be developing ethnic children and have locals to be involved at all levels: playing, coaching, umpiring, curatorship and administration.



Next

We have a goal. It is to have qualifiers in the next World Cup. This is our target. Two or three of our members must be better than any other country in the Associates. This is what we want and in order to achieve this we need to work hard. We should stop assuming we have a right to succeed and just make a start from the bottom and make sure that our teams are better than all the teams from the other regions.

If we could achieve this, our member countries will receive even more funds and support from the ICC for development along with High Performance Programs and the future will not only look bright but also stable. With all the investment countries should start to become less reliant on just one source of funding and that is why every dollar received has to create something that will generate a return.

It's been a reasonably steep learning curve for me these past months but it would have been close to unclimbable were it not for the efforts of my Development colleagues: Ganesan Sundrammoorthy and Susan Moorthy at the Secretariat, our Grounds and Pitch Development consultant Keith McAuliffe of the New Zealand Sports Turf Institute, Umpiring Resource Staff K.T.Francis, Khizar Hayat, Peter Manuel, Sri K. Parthasaradhy and Mahboob Shah and our Coaching Consultant Ross Turner.

They have all helped us to help you all.

Bandula Warnapura

ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL



The ACC Non-Test Playing Countries Tournament Rankings

Purpose:

*To categorize the member countries by performance in competitions.
*To motivate the member countries to have performance competition goals.
*To reward the member countries on their performance in ACC competitions.

Method:

*The ACC ranking system is based on a 2-year cycle, as the range of age-group tournaments U-15, U-17, U-19 are completed over 2 years.
*The rankings are determined on the teams' placings in the ACC Trophys, ACC U-19 Cups, ACC U-17 Cups and the ACC U-15 Cups.
*The teams with the minimum aggregate ranking points, based on their finishing positions in the tournaments are ranked highest.
*The top ten teams in each age group participate in the corresponding Elite division, while the rest participate in the Challenge division

Ranking/ Points accrued for tournaments in 2007 and 2008: ACC Trophy, ACC U-19, ACC U-17, ACC U-15 Cups: Elite and Challenge

ACC Trophy Elite 2008 Ranking/Points	ACC U-19 Elite 2007 Ranking/Points	ACC U-17 Elite 2008 Ranking/Points	ACC U-15 Elite 2007 Ranking/Points	FINAL COMBINED Ranking/Points
1. Hong Kong	1. Nepal	1. Nepal	1.Singapore	1. Singapore (18 points)
2. UAE	2. Afghanistan	2. Malaysia	2 .Kuwait	2. Nepal (24 points)
3. Afghanistan	3. UAE	3. UAE	3 .Saudi Arabia	3. UAE (26 points)
4. Nepal	4. Malaysia	4. Qatar	4 .Thailand	4. Kuwait (27 points)
5. Singapore	5. Singapore	5. Bahrain	*** 18. Afghanistan	5=. Malaysia (30 points)
6. Malaysia	6. Qatar	6. Hong Kong	*** 18. Hong Kong	5=. Qatar (30 points)
7. Bahrain	7. Oman	7. Singapore	*** 18. Malaysia	7. Hong Kong (33 points)
8. Kuwait	8. Hong Kong	8. Kuwait	*** 18. Nepal	8. Afghanistan (34 points)
9. Qatar	9. Kuwait	18. **Brunei	*** 18. Oman	9. Thailand (41 points)
10. Saudi Arabia	10. Thailand	18. ***Saudi Arabia	*** 18. UAE	10.Saudi Arabia (42 points)

(**) Did not participate (***) Disqualified

The ACC Non-Test Playing Countries Tournament Rankings

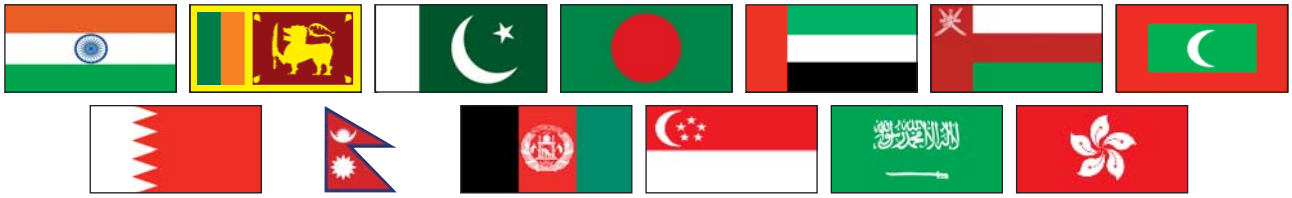
Ranking/ Points accrued for tournaments in 2007 and 2008: ACC Trophy, ACC U-19, ACC U-17, ACC U-15 Cups: Elite and Challenge

ACC Trophy Challenge 2009	ACC U-19 Challenge 2007	ACC U-17 Challenge 2008	ACC U-15 Challenge 2007	FINAL COMBINED
Ranking/Points	**Ranking/Points**	**Ranking/Points**	**Ranking/Points**	**Ranking/Points**
11. Oman	11. Saudi Arabia	11. Afghanistan	11. Qatar	11=. Bahrain (48 points)
12. Bhutan	12. Bhutan	12. Oman	12. Bhutan	11=. Oman (48 points)
13. Maldives	13. Maldives	13. Thailand	13. Maldives	13. Bhutan (54 points)
14. Thailand	14. China	14. China	14. China	14. Maldives (57 points)
15. Iran	** 18. Bahrain	15. Iran	15. Myanmar	15. China (59 points)
16. Brunei	** 18. Brunei	16. Myanmar	16. Brunei	16. Iran (66 points)
17. China	** 18. Iran	18. **Bhutan	** 18. Bahrain	17. Myanmar (67 points)
18. Myanmar	** 18. Myanmar	18. ***Maldives	** 18. Iran	18. Brunei (68 points)

(**) Did not participate (***) Disqualified

The top two teams in each Challenge competition are promoted into the following two-year cycle's Elite Division.
The bottom two teams in each Elite competition are relegated to the Challenge Division in the following cycle.
The current Final Combined rankings stay in place until December 2010.

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.
Countries who have not participated or are disqualified are sanctioned 18 points for each tournament missed.
The 2010 U-16 Elite and Challenge participants (U-15 and U-17 events are being withdrawn) are yet to be determined by the ACC Development Committee.



ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL CHAMPIONS

ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL

Asia Cup

ASIA 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
2008, Pakistan: Champions **Sri Lanka,** runners-up India

ASIAN TEST CHAMPIONSHIP

Asian Test Championship

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

CRICKET FOR UNITY

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

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

Trophy Elite

ACC Trophy Elite

2008, Malaysia: Champions **Hong Kong,** runners-up UAE

Trophy Challenge

ACC Trophy Challenge

2009, Thailand: Champions **Oman,** runners-up Bhutan

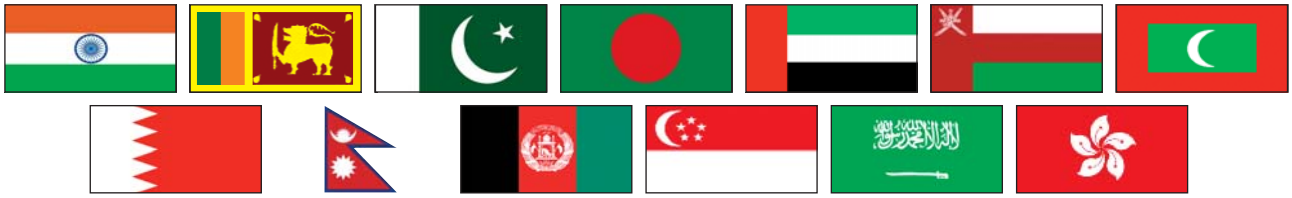
ACC Twenty20 Cup

2007, Kuwait: Champions **Afghanistan** and **Oman**

Fast Track Countries Tournament

Fast Track Countries Tournament

2004-2005, Champions **UAE,** runners-up Hong Kong
2005-2006, Champions **Nepal,** runners-up UAE



ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL CHAMPIONS

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

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

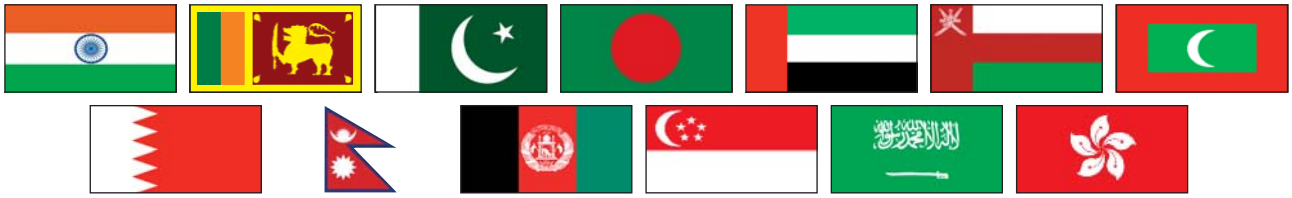
ACC U-17 Elite Cup

2009, Nepal: Champions **Nepal,** runners-up Malaysia

ACC U-17 Challenge Cup

2008, Thailand: Champions **Afghanistan,** runners-up Oman





ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL CHAMPIONS

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

ACC U-19 Women's Championship

2008, Thailand: Champions **Nepal,** runners-up Malaysia


ACC

ACC Tournaments

Asia Cup
ACC Trophy Elite
ACC Trophy Challenge
ACC U-17 Elite
ACC U-17 Challenge
ACC U-19 Women's Championship

STAR Cricket Asia Cup

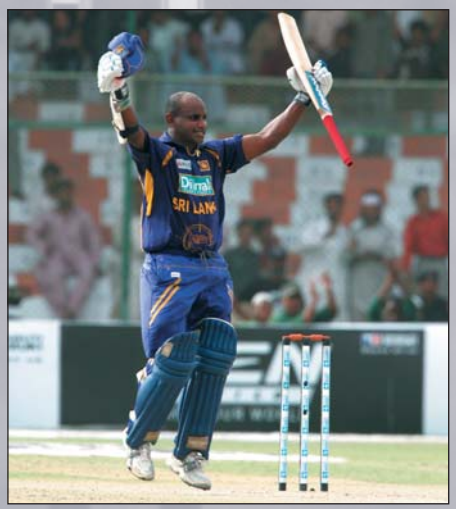


A Star Is Born

Karachi and Lahore, Pakistan: June 24 to July 6, 2008
Bangladesh, Hong Kong, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, UAE
2 venues, 13 matches

The concept of Asia as a cricketing continent full of unique and incredible players was defined by a Final made memorable by two extraordinary Sri Lankans.

First, 39-year old Sanath Jayasuriya. Eight years after making 189 in the seventh Asia Cup Final against India, he came good again with another superb century (125 off 114 balls, nine 4s, five 6s) as Sri Lanka made 273 after being in some trouble at 66 for 4 in the 12th over. Jayasuriya at fault for one of the wickets as he left opening partner Sangakarra stranded by a poor call.



First, Sanath Jayasuriya...



Then, Virender Sehwag...



But Ajantha Mendis had the last word

In reply, India raced to 76-1 after 9 overs, Virender Sehwag reaching 60 off 34 deliveries before Ajantha Mendis came on from the Pavilion End. Mendis had missed the Super Four match three days earlier which India had won by six wickets chasing 308 with 19 balls to spare. Mendis's first ball troubled Sehwag, his second, an absolute half-tracker was given the charge but Sehwag missed it and was stumped. It was Mendis's one and only bad ball of the night and it brought him his biggest wicket. If Sehwag had kept going he would have won the game for India himself.

Two balls later, Yuvraj Singh was skittled by one that skidded on and Sri Lanka were back in the game. Mendis finished his first four-over spell with figures of 4-8 and it had been mesmerizing. No batsman was able to play him with any conviction as he flicked and spun and carromed the ball towards the batsmen. Only India's captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni found the middle of the bat and that was by playing the ball as late as he possibly could.

Muttiah Muralitharan chipped in with a wicket but it was Mendis's show all the way (6-13) and once Vaas had Dhoni (49) caught behind, India's hopes of winning their fifth Asia Cup evaporated. One star – Jayasuriya – shone bright and another - Mendis - was born at Asia's biggest tournament.

Sri Lanka, having retained their 2004 title, have now won four Asia Cups to equal India's hold on the Trophy. Pakistan have won the event once. "It's a tournament we always take very seriously," said Sri Lanka's captain Mahela Jayawardene.



Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf presented the prizes and made a rousing speech thanking Asia's cricketing nations for coming to Pakistan and putting on such a good show. "Pakistan have been the perfect hosts by allowing two visiting teams to play the Final," he said.

In the group stages Hong Kong and UAE had their moments and won considerable respect from their illustrious opponents. In spite of being a tournament dominated by the bat, Ajantha Mendis with 17 wickets at 8.52 was Player of the Series.



Final
India v Sri Lanka at National Stadium, Karachi
SRI LANKA WON BY 100 RUNS
India won the toss and elected to field
Sri Lanka: 273 off 49.5 overs (S. Jayasuriya 125, T. Dilshan 56; R.P. Singh 3-67, I. Sharma 3-52)
India: 173 off 39.3 overs (V. Sehwag 60, M.S. Dhoni 49; A. Mendis 6-13)
Man of the Match: Ajantha Mendis (Sri Lanka)

TOP BATSMEN

		R	HS	Avg	S/R
MS Dhoni		327	109*	109.00	91.34
Shoaib Malik		212	125*	106.00	92.17
Younis Khan		296	123*	98.66	98.01
Misbah-ul-Haq		179	76	89.50	107.83
Sanath Jayasuriya		378	130	75.60	126.00

TOP BOWLERS

		W	HS	Avg	S/R
Ajantha Mendis		17	8.25	6-3	3.45
Zahid Shah		6	16.33	3-49	4.90
Muttiah Muralitharan		11	16.72	5-31	3.83
Abdur Rauf		5	18.00	3-24	5.00

ASIA CUP

Trophy Elite

ACC Trophy Elite



Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: July 25 to August 3, 2008
Afghanistan, Bahrain, Hong Kong, Kuwait, Malaysia, Nepal, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, UAE
4 venues, 27 matches – 50 overs a side

Hong Kong Rise

Hong Kong won their first ever ACC Trophy and their first ever ACC tournament in beating UAE by three wickets at the Kinrara Oval. In doing so, Hong Kong ended UAE's run of four consecutive championships. "It was quite an upset," said Hong Kong's captain Tabarak Dar, "but the team all supported each other and in the end we deserved to win."



UAE's Saqib Ali stood strong



Khurram Khan

At the end of an absorbing Final Hong Kong, drained by the tension, barely found the strength to celebrate. They had played to their limits to beat UAE. UAE had made 243 for 7 in their 50 overs, Saqib Ali making 102 and Khurram Khan 56. Chasing a revised target of 203 off 36 overs after rain interrupted their innings, Hong Kong were indebted to Najeeb Amar's 100 off just 80 deliveries (nine 4s, six 6s) and won with 11 balls to spare, though a late flurry of wickets almost brought the game back UAE's way. The revised target no doubt helped them somewhat but Hong Kong took everything UAE could give them and they were worthy champions of the ACC Trophy Elite 2008.



Hong Kong's Irfan Ahmed



Najeeb Amar

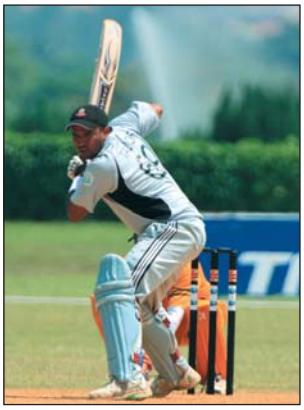
Afghanistan lost a hard-fought semi-final to Hong Kong, their game-sense and ability to play spin still found wanting at this stage and Nepal were just blown away by UAE in the other semi-final.



Qatar and Saudi Arabia never really came to terms with the turf wickets and were a shadow of their former 2006 selves in being relegated to the Challenge Division next time round.

Final
Hong Kong v UAE at Kinrara Oval
HONG KONG WON BY THREE WICKETS
UAE won the toss and chose to bat
UAE: 243 for 7 off 50 overs (S. Ali 102, K. Khan 56; N. Amar 4-61)
Hong Kong: 205 for 7 after 34.1 overs (D/L target 203 off 36 overs)(N. Amar 100; S. Silva 3-39)
Man of the Match: Najeeb Amar (Hong Kong)

Player of the Tournament: Arshad Ali (UAE)
Best Batsman: Suhan Kumar (Malaysia)
Best Bowler: Dinesh Muthuraman (Malaysia)


Arshad Ali


Suhan Kumar


Dinesh Muthuraman

TOP BATSMEN
Qualification: 200 runs

		R	HS	Avg	S/R
Omer Taj		294	82*	98.00	96.39
Suhan Kumar		288	107	57.60	92.90
Arshad Ali		268	68	53.60	57.88
Paras Khadka		210	81	52.50	82.35

TOP BOWLERS
Qualification: 12 wickets

		W	Avg	BB	Econ
Dinesh Muthuraman		18	10.22	6-39	4.28
Abbas Khan		12	15.42	5-20	3.70
Najeeb Amar		12	17.17	4-61	4.09
Irfan Ahmed		12	19.50	5-47	4.88



ACC Trophy Challenge

Chiang Mai, Thailand: January 12 to 21, 2009
Bhutan, Brunei, China, Iran, Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Thailand
2 venues, 18 matches – 50 overs a side

Oman Beat Back Bhutan's Challenge

Oman's World Cup 2011 prospects received a boost with a convincing win in the ACC Trophy Challenge 2009. Oman beat Bhutan by 213 runs in the Final at Prem Oval. "We got better throughout the tournament, all the team contributed and it sets us up for our big matches later in the year," said winning captain and Player of the Tournament Hemal Mehta.



Jigme Singye holds a cracker



Oman's Sultan Ahmed

Bhutan's novitiates were always going to be struggling against Oman's seasoned campaigners. Oman have got proper batsmen and proper bowlers, only on fielding did Bhutan and Maldives better them in this tournament.



Oman stroked the ball around the ground from the start, with Maqsood Hussain smashing them for as long as he was in. He hit his third ball for 6, his second 4 was driven on the up one bounce over the long-off boundary and next ball, now with a man put back, Thinley Jamtsho bowled the same full-length aiming at off-stump. Maqsood hit the same aerial drive, but this time Jigme Singye, jumping, took the catch on the boundary. 72 of Maqsood's 76 runs in this tournament came in boundaries.



Next over Adnan Ilyas was missed by the keeper off Lobzang Yonten. It proved to be a big miss. "We were waiting for the mistakes," said Bhutan's coach Damber Singh Gurung in the interval, "but we made them."

Oman's 50 came in the sixth over, Adnan Ilyas going great guns for his 50 off 38 balls (9 fours) made sure the momentum was maintained and the 100 came up in the 14th over.

Dilip Subba finished a tight-spell (10-1-37-1) but it was penetration Bhutan needed, Oman's batsmen without taking any risks able to score at a run-a-ball overall.

Adnan's 100 came in 95 balls with an exquisite cover-drive, his sixteenth 4 (to go along with his two 6s). Sultan Ahmed, the hero of the semi-final, was caught by leg-spinner Dampo off his own bowling, the ball just holding up on the surface and that, along with the bounce available to the Bhutani fast bowlers Thinley, Phuntsho and Lobzang had the Omani bowlers salivating in the tent as they envisaged getting maximum value for their efforts with the ball.

Oman's batsmen took them to 322.



Realistically, Bhutan knew going in they didn't have a chance. They had made the Final of this year's ACC Trophy Challenge, qualified for the ACC Trophy Elite and that was their victory this tournament.

Bhutan lost three wickets early and had Bowler of the Tournament Farhan Khan been able to attack the stumps more often surely they'd have lost more. The required run-rate at the half-way stage, with Bhutan on 65 for 4 was over 10 an over. Academic really, and even as good as the young Bhutanese might be at their studies, well beyond their reach.

Kumar Subba's doughty innings of 40 was ended by an extra bit of pace from Awal Khan and though the tail-enders stayed around a while, Oman wrapped up victory with ten overs to spare.

Bhutan have made it to the Final of every ACC Challenge group tournament they've played in the past two seasons, bar the Under-17s, but have won none, beaten each time by Middle Eastern countries. "The team are quite the same in all the competitions, we don't have many players and we have very little chance to practice in the conditions at home. Once these players mature a bit more, get match-awareness and the youngsters coming up start pushing them, Bhutan will also do well in the Elite Groups," says their coach Damber Singh Gurung.



Oman may have won the Challenge but Bhutan were up to it too.

Final
Bhutan v Oman at Prem Oval
OMAN WON BY 213 RUNS
Bhutan won the toss and elected to field
Oman: 322 for 9 after 50 overs (A.Ilyas 138, A.Khan 32*)
Bhutan: 104 off 40 overs (K.Subba 40; A.Khan 3-27, H.Mehta 3-22)
Man of the Match: Adnan Ilyas (Oman)

Player of the Tournament: Hemal Mehta (Oman)
Batsman of the Tournament: Adnan Ilyas (Oman)
Bowler of the Tournament: Farhan Khan (Oman)



Adnan Ilyas


Hemal Mehta


Farhan Khan

ACC Trophy Challenge

TOP BATSMEN
Qualification: 130 runs

		R	HS	Avg	S/R
Adnan Ilyas		282	138	94.00	133.64
S. Baloochnezhad		228	119	57.00	86.69
Nariman Bakhtiar		213	120	53.25	117.67
Afzal Faiz		132	93	44.00	94.28
Sinnathurai Induraj		131	90	43.66	95.62

TOP BOWLERS
Qualification: 8 wickets

		W	Avg	BB	Econ.
Dampo		13	9.07	6-17	4.18
Abdulla Shahid		12	7.66	4-13	2.30
Farhan Khan		10	9.30	3-17	2.73
Nishad Rego		9	13.00	3-38	3.16
Ismail Nihad		8	7.50	6-10	3.39



ACC U-17 Elite

Kathmandu, Nepal: February 4 to 12, 2009
Bahrain, Hong Kong, Kuwait, Malaysia, Nepal, Qatar, Singapore, UAE
4 venues, 18 matches – 40 overs a side



Nepal, Naturally

Nepal, playing close to perfect cricket, in front of a raucous partisan crowd estimated to be 8,000 strong, beat Malaysia by 10 wickets in the Final of the ACC U-17 Elite Cup at Tribhuvan University. They have now won ACC age-group championships in all categories, including women's.

"We just couldn't cope with the pressure," said Malaysia's captain Keithan Goonasageran afterwards, "playing in front of a crowd like this for the first time shook a few of our players but really it was the spot-spot-spot bowling of Nepal's spinners that hurt us."

Malaysia's first 50 took 13.2 overs, their next 50 took 20 as the Nepali spinners, backed up by athletic fielding and acute placement choked the life out of the vaunted Malaysian middle-order. "The boys weren't taking enough singles," said Malaysia's coach Haris Abu Baker.





The fothills of the Himalayas and Nepal's fans surround the players at Tribhuvan

Malaysia showed enough talent to suggest that their status as an ACC Elite nation is assured, little wicket-keeper/opener Zubair Norazmi played some sublime drives, as did Goonasageran himself but they were few and far between. A few more game-skills, like the Nepali players have, and Malaysia would not have succumbed so easily. "On talent the teams are quite close," said Nepal's coach Roy Dias, "Malaysia have improved a lot since 2005 (the last time the two teams met, in the ACC U-19 Cup Final). What is most satisfying from the neutral point of view is that two countries with 100% local players have reached the Final and played good cricket."

Nepal had actually been under-performing in this tournament up to the Final, coming through hard-fought games against Hong Kong and UAE not totally convincingly, but when it mattered they played like champions. The bowlers did what they could and the batsmen – just two of them – Sagar Pun and Aakash Pariyar did the rest.



Aakash Pariyar and Sagar Pun

Pun and Pariyar hustled for each other, pressured the fielders, dived, scrambled and did everything they could to win the game for Nepal. They did so much, no one had to do anything else. Pun's was the shot of the day, the 6 with which Sagar Pun reached his 50 and took Nepal past 100 at the start of the 21st over.

The Deputy Prime Minister of Nepal presented the ACC U-17 Elite Cup to winning captain Prithu Baskota in front of the thousands staying on for the prize-giving, the match being carried live from the start by Nepal TV 2. Cricket's big in Nepal and it's going to get even bigger and better.

ACC U-17 Elite Cup
Final: Nepal v Malaysia at Tribhuvan University
NEPAL WON BY 10 WICKETS
Malaysia won the toss and chose to bat
Malaysia: 124 off 37.1 overs (Z.Norazmi 31, K.Goonasageran 28; P.Baskota 3-16)
Nepal: 125 for 0 after 23.3 overs (S.Pun 65*, A.Pariyar 53*)
Man of the Match: Sagar Pun (Nepal)







Tamoor Sajjad

Batsman of the Tournament: Timothy Singham (Singapore)
Bowler of the Tournament: Muhammad Waqar (UAE)
Player of the Tournament: Tamoor Sajjad (Qatar)

ACC U-17 Cup Elite



Timothy Singham



Muhammad Waqar

TOP BATSMEN
Qualification: 125 runs

		R	HS	Avg	S/R
Timothy Singham		165	94	55.00	74.66
Cyrus D'Souza		129	60*	43.00	61.13
Tamoor Sajjad		197	72	39.40	80.08
Sameer Yousuf		131	55	32.75	77.51
Aakash Pariyar		127	53*	31.75	76.04

TOP BOWLERS
Qualification: 9 wickets

		W	Avg	BB	Econ.
Muhammad Waqar		19	4.57	6-27	2.66
Kamarul Azhar		13	7.00	5-15	3.50
Abhiraj Singh		11	8.54	5-14	2.94
Usman Ghani		9	9.66	4-9	4.14
Imran Idress		9	12.22	4-34	4.62



ACC U-17 Challenge

Bangkok and Chiang Mai, Thailand: 17 – 23 November 2008
Afghanistan, China, Iran, Maldives, Myanmar, Oman and Thailand
3 venues, 14 matches – 40 overs a side

Afghanistan Up To The Challenge

It was always likely to be Afghanistan and Oman in the Final, it was always likely to be a good, close match. Afghanistan may have won the ACC U-17 Challenge Cup Final by 42 runs at the RBSC Polo Grounds in Bangkok but should they ever meet Oman again that too will be another cracker of a match.

Games like this Final give credence to the concept of development. You can see the players having a future in cricket, you can see cricket having a future in their countries. Both teams not only came to Thailand to win this tournament, they came to play good cricket. Afghanistan and Oman between them have it all, excellent pace-bowling, quality spinners and dynamic batsmen with Afghanistan just having the edge in terms of fielding, shot-making and bowling discipline.

Oman had the upper hand when the teams met in the group stage at the start of the tournament, but that was a nervy encounter between both teams not quite at their best. The Final was different. Afghanistan lost a wicket in the second over thanks to a terrific direct hit from Nikhil Xavier in the infield but from then on Hashmatullah Sahidi in partnership with Said Abdullah and Raihan Khan took the game away from Oman.



Afghanistan's Hashmatullah Sahidi





Judging by their past performances, everyone who plays Afghanistan expects them to be fallible against spin. So spin it was from both ends, starting with the eighth over of the Afghan innings. Slow turn there was for Karan Pandya, Kshitij Daswal, Nikhil Xavier and Suneet Fernandes. Fast hands, quick feet there were from the Afghan batsmen. Scrambling for the crease on a regular basis they may have been, but pinching singles and keeping the scoreboard moving they were too. Hashmatullah had a close to unerring eye for finding the gap between the fielders and once he passed 50 (off 101 deliveries) he started to aim for the boundaries. And found them.

In the 31 overs the Oman spinners bowled, 140 runs were scored for the loss of three Afghan wickets. In the nine overs the Oman pacemen bowled, 45 runs were scored for no Afghan loss. Afghanistan may not play as freely against spin as they do pace, but they don't play it badly. Everyone in Thailand who plays Afghanistan now knows that they are not so fallible against spin.

"It's a matter of preparation," says Kabir Khan the national coach since October, "in Afghanistan the conditions are not good for spin so there is no familiarity with it. One week of practice against it is enough and we are doing it now."





Oman fancied themselves to chase down 185, how could they not when they have batsmen of the calibre of Fernandes, Gaurav Honavar, Avinash Shekar all with decent scores in the tournament so far? But Afghanistan struck early – a run-out by Zia-ul-Rahman (the first of two by him) – and wicket-to-wicket full-length bowling gave Oman's batsmen no opportunity to play strokes and when they did give chances they were taken. Hashmatullah took two super catches, one a sharp chance at gully to dismiss Oman's Samir Al Balushi, the other at deep extra cover, running in to take a high swirler low down to get rid of Suneet Fernandes (36 off 69, 2 fours and a six) who just looked as if he could take Oman towards their target.

Afghanistan just had more in the tank today, they had more depth, more ability, more desire. "All of the national team are our heroes," said Mohibullah Pak an Afghan squad-member who wasn't playing the Final, "we want to play in the Elite group, we want to play in the national team. In Afghanistan cricket is very hard, we play on mud, stones and concrete. When we play on a beautiful grass like this we just want to do well."



Another one off the middle from Oman's Suneet Fernandes

You could see how much defeat hurt the Omanis. Half the members of this squad had been ecstatic after victory on this ground in the U-15 Challenge Cup Final two years earlier and the difference between defeat and victory is why champions would much rather be winning. Oman'll come back. Still, it was Afghanistan's day. It's been Afghanistan's season.

ACC U-17 Challenge Cup Final
Afghanistan v Oman at RBSC Polo, Bangkok
AFGHANISTAN WON BY 42 RUNS
Afghanistan won the toss and chose to bat
Afghanistan: 185 for 4 off 40 overs (H. Sahidi 89, R. Khan 54*)
Oman: 143 off 35.4 overs (S. Fernandes 35, S. Mehmood 36; S.Sahidi 3-28)
Man of the Match: Hashmatullah Sahidi (Afghanistan)

Player of the Tournament: Najibullah Zadran (Afghanistan)
Batsman of the Tournament: Gaurav Honavar (Oman)
Bowler of the Tournament: Najibullah Zadran (Afghanistan)



Najibullah Zadran



Gaurav Honavar



ACC U-17 Cup Challenge

TOP BATSMEN
Qualification: 100 runs

		R	HS	Avg	S/R
Jai Bhagwat		113	103*	113.00	79.57
Avinash Shekhar		107	107*	53.50	89.16
Gaurav Honavar		208	111	52.00	65.61
Hashmatullah Sahidi		119	89	39.66	64.67
Said Abdullah		100	29	25.00	83.33

TOP BOWLERS
Qualification: 8 wickets

		W	Avg	BB	Econ.
Najibullah Zadran		9	4.33	3-5	1.62
Zabiullah Danish		10	4.90	4-6	2.10
Mughis Juned		13	5.07	4-5	2.09
Said Abdullah		9	7.22	3-8	2.74
Jai Bhagwat		8	6.00	5-2	3.42



ACC U-19 Women's Championship

Chiang Mai, Thailand: 13 – 23 December 2008
Bhutan, China, Hong Kong, Kuwait, Malaysia, Nepal, Oman, Qatar, Singapore, Thailand and UAE
2 venues, 31 matches – 25 overs a side

Nepal Nail It

"We always knew we had the team to win, we've been playing a long time and have enough confidence in matches," said Nepal's captain Nary Thapa after their comprehensive seven-wicket victory over Malaysia in the ACC U-19 Women's Championship. Nary, an international badminton player, was also captain when Nepal were finalists in the inaugural ACC Women's Tournament for seniors in 2007.

Malaysia themselves have improved tremendously since that 2007 tournament. Four of the current U-19 team featured back then; this year's team pulled off a terrific win against pre-tournament favourites Hong Kong in the semi-final. Malaysia may have improved but Nepal still remain a fair distance away. Nepal know what to do and know how to do it. 34 schools in Nepal formed the basis of this squad of 14, some of them have been playing cricket for four years. It shows.

There was a hint of inswing throughout for little left-armer Sonu Khadka from around the wicket at the Lake End and, smart enough to keep the ball right up to the bat, she picked up three wickets. Most significant of her victims was Malaysia's dynamic young captain Nur Aishah, top scorer for her team in the tournament so far. She too was foxed by Sonu and dollied up a catch off the leading edge.





At 15-5 Malaysian hopes then rested on Winifred Duraisingham to mount a revival but she was seventh out on 32, aiming an expansive drive to a well-pitched up delivery from Rekha. Nepal were sharp in the field. The only time Nepal slipped a little was when the last wicket pair of Mariana Lakie and Alice Choo were together, when a catch and run-out were missed.

Malaysia finished on 45. Nepal started cautiously, time, talent and temperament on their side.

A pulled four off Winifred by Maya Rawat and Nepal were away. But as the Malaysians showed in 2007, their gentle smiles cover some fierce competitive fire. With the ball they're dangerous. Winifred bowled Roshani Bohara, beaten for pace, for the first breakthrough and then next over Aishah scalped two in two. Nepal 20-3 and Malaysia were back in it.



Nepal's nuggety cricketers weren't going to let it slip however and Trishna Singh and left-hander Binu Magar stroked the ball around the ground to take their side home by seven wickets. An off-drive for four, shot of the day, sealing the result.

"Nepal played well, no doubt about it," said Malaysia's coach V.Kalidas, "but I am proud of the way my girls tried with the ball. These girls are young enough to keep getting better in future tournaments."

For Nepal it was vindication of their national school-cricket program, "We played very well," said Nepal's coach Jameel Ansari modestly. He's been working with many of his team in school cricket for years in the lead-up to this tournament. He and his players could well end up in the 2010 Asian Games.

Where they could be joined by two others from Bhutan, Hong, Malaysia and Thailand who all impressed at various times with their skill and commitment. Thailand's players shone for their attitude and fielding and can take much credit for finishing third in the event.

Final

Malaysia v Nepal at Prem Oval
NEPAL WON BY SEVEN WICKETS
Nepal won the toss and elected to field
Malaysia: 45 all out off 16.2 overs (S.Magar 2-10, R.Rawal 2-11, S.Khadka 3-11)
Nepal: 47 for 3 off 11.5 overs
Player of the Match: Sonu Khadka (Nepal)

Player of the Tournament: Keenu Gill (Hong Kong)
Batter of the Tournament: Natasha Cherriath (UAE)
Bowler of the Tournament: Priyada Murali (Kuwait)

ACC
U-19 Women's Championship



Keenu Gill



Priyada Murali



Natasha Cherriath

TOP BATTERS
Qualification: 100 runs

		R	HS	Avg	S/R
Keenu Gill		136	35	34.00	74.31
Natasha Cherriath		121	52*	30.25	62.69
Maya Rawat		117	42	29.25	57.35
Siobhan Gomez		144	65	28.80	95.36
Nur Aishah		104	47	17.33	56.21

TOP BOWLERS
Qualification: 10 wickets

		W	Avg	BB	Econ.
Priyada Murali		11	4.27	3-3	1.57
Chan Sau Har		15	4.40	4-3	2.20
Anju Gurung		13	4.53	4-3	1.96
Keenu Gill		15	4.60	5-3	2.42
Alessandra Shunmugam		13	5.07	4-6	2.27



Cricket Initiatives

Sri Lankan Schools Cricket Renaissance

In a metaphor for the case of Asia-wide development, in 2008 Sri Lanka Cricket embarked upon a strategic course to develop youth cricket in Sri Lanka.

For many years schools cricket was the development hothouse for the great stars of Sri Lanka. All of the current side owe their starts to a rigorous system which was far more competitive than even club cricket and at times, even more popular than international cricket.

Recent times, however have seen a slippage in standards to the cost of current youth-team performance and also a potential dearth of replacements for the current international side. “In a few years time, once the seniors in the national side retire there need to be very good players to come in,” says current Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) executive and batting legend Aravinda de Silva, “right now there aren’t any because the schools aren’t producing any. That’s where it has to start.”

Aravinda de Silva should know, he was one of the coaches drafted in for the 2008 U/19 World Cup, where Sri Lanka didn’t get past the quarter-finals. It was a result which had been anticipated and measures to improve upon it are about to be taken. Somachandra (D.S.) de Silva, Sri Lanka’s premier leg-spinner of the 1970s and 1980s, as Advisor and Consultant to President Rajapakse on Schools Cricket embarked upon a study of schools cricket at the start of 2008 and has come up with proposals which have received government and SLC approval.

Under D.S. de Silva’s tenure as coach of the U-19 side, Sri Lanka reached the final of the 1999 World Cup. From that squad the likes of Jehan Mubarak, Kaushal Lokuarachchi, Kaushalya Weeraratne and Prabath Nissanka went onto play for the senior side. De Silva also coached the 2004 side, from which players like Farveez Maharoof, Upul Tharanga and Thilina Kandamby emerged.

Sri Lanka’s aim is first to win the next U/19 World Cup in 2010 leading to the creation of top-class, seasoned performers in Tests and ODIs.



Somachandra de Silva

D.S. de Silva has said that the biggest handicap for Sri Lanka’s cricket development has been the lack of infrastructure in schools around the country, with some of the schools in the rural areas not having even the basic requirements to play the game. That, they are to receive from now on.

One of the key points in his proposals is to ensure that every district has at least one quality cricket ground. In addition to turf wickets of three to four strips, there must be a turf practice area, pavilion and other facilities along with qualified curators to maintain them. Indoor practice facilities have also been stated as required.

D.S. de Silva has strongly recommended that the SLC consider a payment of allowances to school cricket coaches and teachers at less affluent schools to encourage their involvement in the game.

To ensure the meritocratic and informed selection of representative teams, D.S. de Silva has recommended the creation of a Junior School Cricket Selection Committee comprising of five members from the provinces and two more members representing the Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association.

In addition the schools U-19 team will be included in the Inter Provincial one-day tournament and possibly also the first-class Premier Trophy tournament. "In a most professional and systematic manner I want to help develop virtually every cricket playing school in the country," said D.S. de Silva. He also intends to visit all the provinces encompassing around 415 schools and help them with cricket equipment and pitches and in some cases, enable schools which have been forced to give up cricket, due to the lack of facilities and material, revive the game.

“The process is ongoing and over the next few years, I expect the standards of U-15, U-17 and U-19 cricketers to improve,” says Aravinda de Silva, adding, “there was a time that if Sri Lanka played in youth World Cups we would have every chance of winning. Those days can come back, as well as senior World Cups.”

BCCI Lends Support To China

中国板球协会
Chinese Cricket Association

A first consignment of bats, balls and other paraphernalia will be sent to China in a month or two, according to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). The move follows a request from the Chinese authorities.

To help Chinese youngsters India plans to send coaches from the National Cricket Academy in Bangalore, accompanied by umpires and groundsmen.

"China has already taken to cricket at the schools level in a big way," a BCCI spokesman said. "It's time to support a blossoming love of the game."





The Chinese Cricket Association hopes to have 15,000 cricketers — plus enough umpires and coaches to allow them to play — by next year. It aims for 60,000 by 2012.

The ACC hopes to have 150,000 players in the country by 2020. Rashid Khan, the former Pakistan international, whose services have been lent by the Pakistan Cricket Board, has been appointed Chinese national coach until the 2010 Asian Games.



Nepal Reaches Out

The Cricket Association of Nepal's plans to start "playing with better teams" as expressed by their President Binaya Raj Pandey, are taking shape after they neared agreement with Bangladesh and Pakistan. "We are in the final stage of negotiating a three-year exchange programme contract with Bangladesh, while Pakistan and Sri Lanka are positive on the move," said Mr. Pandey. "Pakistan are ready to send A team, junior and Academy teams to Nepal," he added.

Afghans Are A Hit

Mohammad Nabi has become the first Afghan to hit a century in List A cricket. Playing for Pakistan Customs in the ABN-AMRO Cup - Pakistan's premier domestic one-day tournament – against Karachi Zebras, he shared in a 109 run partnership for the fourth wicket with Rehan Rafiq and went on to score 112 not out from 103 balls, including seven 4s and five 6s. Pakistan Customs won the match by five wickets with four overs to spare, chasing 298.



Mohammad Nabi, along with compatriot Hamid Hassan, played for the MCC last year.

Four Afghan fast bowlers took part in a training camp at the PCB National Academy in Lahore in April. The Afghanistan team also played three friendlies in England on their way to Jersey for World Cricket League Division 5 in May.



A bowler from Lungtenzamapa School

Bhutan's Girls Get Going

Bhutan started preparation for the ACC U-19 Women's Championship to take place at the end of the year, by holding its first Girls Tournament. Three schools in Thimphu: Angchenphu Higher Secondary, Lungtenzampa Middle Secondary School and Dechencholing Middle Secondary School compete in the inaugural event.

All the matches are being played at Dechencholing on coir matting and are attracting decent crowds.

Another girl's tournament is planned for the end of the month in Gelephu. "We are taking the U-19 women's event very seriously," said national coach Damber Singh Gurung, "this tournament is a start, the standard has to, and will, get better."

U-19 Women Are Growing

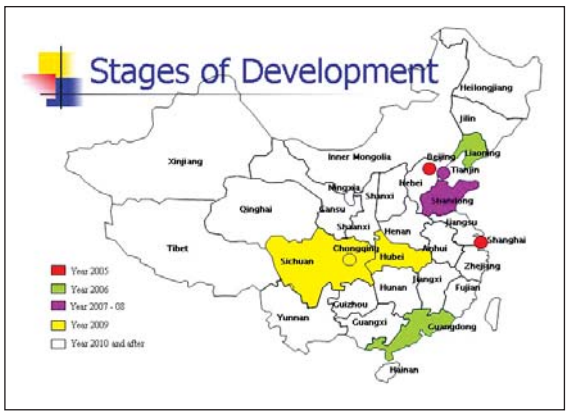


Eight teams played in the inaugural ACC Women's Tournament, and now eleven have confirmed their participation in the ACC U-19 Women's Championship to be played in Thailand at the end of the year.

Bhutan, China, Hong Kong, Kuwait, Malaysia, Nepal, Oman, Qatar, Singapore, Thailand and UAE will take part. "This is all the more remarkable because Bangladesh, who played in the 2007 seniors' event, are not playing at this level so we have four new countries putting up teams," says ACC Events Executive K.K. Haridas. "I'm actually hoping that one more team joins the event as it will make for a twelve-nation event which will make the fixture-setting easier," he adds. Iran have a flourishing women's set-up and may just be able to field an U-19 team in 2008.

"What shows that cricket is expanding in ways which were not imaginable just a few years ago is the presence of four teams from the Gulf. Players and administrators in those countries are to be commended," says ACC Chief Executive Syed Ashraful Huq.

Shandong Seventh Region To Take Up Cricket In China



Shandong, the second-most populous province in China, has become the seventh region after Beijing, Shanghai, Guangdong, Liaoning, Chongqing and Tianjin to officially take up cricket. "The Shandong people are well known for their good physical condition in China. The majority of rugby players are from Shandong," says ACC Development Officer for China Aminul Islam. With cricket being aligned with rugby in the Multi-ball Games Admninistrative Centre in China, the Chinese Cricket Association (CCA) felt a partnership between both bodies to make use of athletes all-year round would be ideal.

CCA Secretary-General Liu Rongyao, has met with the local education bureau in Shandong and they are very keen to promote cricket in this region. "The local education bureau has said that they would organize the local junior students to learn cricket for promotion and then build for high performance," says Mr. Rongyao. The ACC and CCA will hold a training course in Shandong, provide a coach for technical support and give equipment as well. National Coach Rashid Khan was in Shandong in May to work with the teachers and students of about 30 schools.

MES Girls Win Two Out Of Three In Qatar



MES girls dominated the first women's cricket tournament held by the Qatar Cricket Association, winning in the U-15 and U-19 categories. The U-15 final was won by two runs as Pak Sharma chased 142 in 20 overs. MES beat Dukkan in the U-19 final, with wicket-keeper Asma Sodia taking a catch, two stumpings and having a hand in a vital run-out. Matches were played at West Bay. The tournament received extensive coverage in the Gulf Times.



Singapore's Sagar Hits World's First Twenty20 200



28-year old Sagar Kulkarni became the first batsman in the world to hit 200 in a Twenty20 match with an astonishing 219 off 56 deliveries in a league game in Singapore. Sagar's heroics helped his Marina Club team to 368 for 3 off their 20 overs and a mammoth victory. Batting at the other end was his team-mate in the Singapore national side Dharmichand Mulewa (89 off 44) who says, "Sagar's most amazing shot was a six over extra-cover which went out of the Kallang ground into the netball courts." The boundaries were 65 yards either side of the wicket. "Yes, that was quite a good shot, it was my second six," says Sagar.



In total Sagar cleared the ropes eighteen times; he also hit 23 fours after going in at the fall of the first Marina wicket at the end of the second over. "I'm known for ones and twos in regular cricket but I can play shots all around too but even I was shocked by the way I batted. It's a great feeling and never in my wildest dreams did I ever think I would be able to achieve this feat, especially when nobody in world cricket has done it" says Sagar (a native of Pune and Level II ACC/ACA certified coach). Currently a Business Development Manager in a software firm he has been living in Singapore since 2002. He was formerly a Maharashtra U-22 player.



Afghanistan Cricket Takes to the Provinces

Helmand province in south-west Afghanistan held a five-day cricket tournament between eight teams in April. Six local sides as well as one formed by Afghan Telecoms company Roshan played against a representative side of the national team.

"This shows how cricket is spreading into the country outside of only Kabul", said natinal coach a tthe time Taj Malik.

Women's Asia Cup in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka hosted the fourth Women's Asia Cup in May 2008, with the field expanded to include Bangladesh for the first time. India were defending their third title and beat Sri Lanka in the Final by 182 runs. "The overall standard of play was much better in this event," said former Indian captain and Chair of the ACC Women's Committee Shubhangi Kulkarni, "Pakistan have come on strongly in the past two years and have qualified for next year's World Cup. The addition of Bangladesh meant that the competition was very even throughout, though India had the edge."



Talent Search Underway In China



With the specific aim of creating a team in time for the Guangzhou Asian Games in November of 2010, ACC Development Officer for China and national coach Rashid Khan have embarked upon a rigorous search for playing talent. Six Chinese coaches (Level I certified) are assisting Aminul Islam and Rashid Khan as they hold intensive three-to five day training across secondary schools, colleges and universities in May in Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Shenyang and Tianjin.

The best players were fed into the third national age-group and senior tournaments in June and July.

Nepal Prepare for WCL With PCB Academy





The Pakistan Cricket Board Academy team, fresh from a triumphant tour of Bangladesh where they won both 4-day Tests and a triangular series also featuring South Africa, were in Kathmandu in May 2008 to play three one-day matches. Nepal used the matches as preparation for Pepsi ICC World Cricket League Division 5 in Jersey at the end of May.

On the challenge of facing Pakistan, Nepal's Paras Khadka said, "We need to work way above our limits to match the quality of these players. If we can play against teams that are at that high a level constantly, we will raise the standards of our own game."

Pakistan's batting and bowling dominance was apparent as they swept the first two games but Nepal came back strongly in the final game. The Nepal spinners demolished the Pakistani batting order after Pakistan had smashed 47 runs off the first two overs.

Death or Glory for Afghanistan



Never a team to do things by halves, especially when the cameras are trained upon them, the Afghanistan national team were staking their future as cricketers on the ICC World Cricket League Division 5, taking place in Jersey at the end of May.

If they finish in the top two, they move up the ladder and take on Fiji, Hong Kong, Italy and Tanzania in Division 4, where a top two finish gets them to Division 3. Their goal is the 2011 World Cup. "If we don't get there, we have no future," says Raees Ahmadzai, one of the senior members of the team in Out of the Ashes, a documentary being filmed by an English crew who are following them on their quest.



Afghanistan's coach Taj Malik leads the cheers as his team clinch another victory, Kuwait 2007





The Afghans play with a passion unmatched by any Associate team in Asia, all of them have had the benefit of playing for clubs in Pakistan, some have played in Sri Lanka (and trained with England during last year's tour), two have already played for the MCC. To a man, cricket is all they have, cricket is all they know. They may not make it all the way to the 2011 World Cup but non-qualification would set them back years. Their coach for the past five years, Taj Malik, who has a better grasp of cricket than geography, says of the forthcoming World Cricket League clash in the (English) Channel Island of Jersey, "This is do or die. I will put myself in the Atlantic if we lose."

22 Malaysian Teachers Undergo Level 0 Coaching



East Malaysia's Sabah Cricket Association conducted a three-day Level 0 Coaching Course for 22 teachers to introduce them to cricket.

The teachers from Tawau District Schools explored the basics of the game as well as participating in play. With whatever knowledge they gain from the course, they are encouraged to help teach their students about cricket.





"The Elementary Coaching Course introduces PE teachers to the basics of cricket. It focuses on batting, bowling, fielding and wicket-keeping", said ACC Program Coordinator, Ganesh Sundarammoorthy.

Sophiaan Lahidu, a MCA-HSBC Development Coach went on to say that this course is just the beginning for these teachers as there are several programs lined up for the year.

MALAYSIA CRICKET

China Strides Ahead



Twenty-five schools in Beijing, Tianjin, Shenyang and Shanghai welcomed ACC Development Officer Aminul Islam as he began his wide-ranging search to form a men's and women's cricket team to represent China at the 2010 Asian Games.

500 players were initially chosen after comprehensive skills training and game situations. From those, 289 will go forward into specialized training programs.

A database of the players and their standards in batting, bowling and fielding is to be maintained for future planning, development and training purposes. With grading and other input from coaches, Development Officers and China's national coach Rashid Khan, the database will be used to select the best players for the national men's and women's squads.



"The children came with a lot of passion and enthusiasm. The environment for cricket in China has become much stronger," said Mr. Islam, "the authorities have taken a mission to bring China into competitive international cricket."

A New National Coach For Malaysia



In May 2008 Sri Lankan World Cup winner Romesh Kaluwitharana was appointed coach of the Malaysian senior squad on a short-term contract. The Malaysian Cricket Association were banking on Kaluwitharana to boost the national squad in time for the ACC Trophy which took place at the end of July.

Malaysian Captain Rohan Vishnu Suppiah said. "All the players are looking forward to Mr. Kaluwitharana's arrival and it is a tremendous honour for all of us to have a coach of his experience. It was he along with Sanath Jayasuriya who changed the face of one-day batting and I am hoping he will be able to provide us with some good batting tips as Malaysia's downfall in the past has been its batting."

MALAYSIA CRICKET

Mr. Kaluwitharana said that this is a new challenge for him and his main aim is to better the squad and to take them to victory in the ACC Trophy. "I will need to see the Malaysian squad's cricketing standard first and then plan out my strategy. I do not want to make a lot of changes but I will develop them mentally and look to improve their approach to the game"

"I have been in contact with ACC Development Officer Rumesh Ratnayake and he has been providing me with valuable information about Malaysia's cricketing standard. I am very excited and look forward to this task," added Mr. Kaluwitharana.



More Sri Lankans Come To Malaysia



With the aim to prepare Malaysia for the ACC Trophy Elite, the HSS-MCA Franchise League started in May and received a boost with the arrival of seven Sri Lankan cricketers.

"We have all come here to play, have fun and gain a little more knowledge about Malaysian cricket," said Chathura Athukorala, one of the Sri Lankans.

"The introduction of the Sri Lankans is seen as a way of instilling a higher playing standard to ensure that the Malaysian players are ready for the ACC Trophy," said Malaysian Cricket Association Vice-President, Sivanandan Chinnadurai.

Malaysia's leading all-rounder Suresh Navaratnam said, "Having to compete against the Sri Lankan players, we will automatically raise our level of play. They may not be here with us for too long but I feel it is long enough to leave a positive impact on our national squad."

Malaysia's new national coach, Sri Lankan Romesh Kaluwitharana said, "With the introduction of the seven, the level of cricket in Malaysia is sure to get better. Club level cricket in Sri Lanka is played at a very high standard. Although there is a lot more to improve, the Malaysian boys already have more energy and are more positive. With more exposure to this sort of competition, Malaysian cricket will definitely improve."



MCA Vice-President Datuk Shantha Kumar with the seven Sri Lankan cricketers and the Franchise League trophy

The Sri Lankans joined four Kuala Lumpur-based teams: Tenaga Nasional, Klang Mamangam, HSSI and Armed Forces.M

Hong Kong Gear Up Early For The Asia Cup

Hong Kong's Asia Cup squad warmed up for their Asia Cup appearances with three weeks' preparation in Lahore and Karachi where they played five 50-over matches against local opposition.

"A young team has been chosen by the selectors not only for the Asia Cup but the ACC Trophy as well," said Hong Kong Cricket's General Manager, Charles Lau.

Manager Ravi Nagdev says, "It is encouraging to see a good mix of youth and experience in the squad. Hong Kong is looking to climb the cricket world rankings and this same team may just play in the ICC World Cricket League Division 4 in October."



Tabarak Dar in action at the 2006 ACC Trophy

Five of the squad has played in the 2004 Asia Cup and they look to guide the younger players in what will be their very first ODI experience.

"The idea our selectors have is to build a team for the future. The Asia Cup will give the youngsters a chance to prove themselves and playing on such a big stage will be an extra motivator to participate in this tournament again. It will certainly be a day to remember for both Hong Kong cricket as well as the players," added Mr. Nagdev.

Hong Kong's Captain Tabarak Dar was born in Pakistan but migrated to Hong Kong when he was 17. "I've been in Hong Kong since 1994 and have enjoyed playing here. When I was in Pakistan I never really played at the highest level, just school and college cricket but I am very excited to go back and play again in the Asia Cup. Scoring 36 against Pakistan in the 2004 Asia Cup is one of my best memories and I look to better that. This is a great occasion for the newcomers and we will be competitive in all our games," said Tabarak.

Bhutan's 4000

With 4000 schoolchildren in cricket, the Board of Control for Cricket in Bhutan (BCCB) recently concluded its inaugural inter-school tournament in the class VI/VII (U13/U15) and VII/VIII (U15/U17) categories. Jigme Losel and Changgangka came out winners in their respective categories while Dechencholing were the winners in the girls U-19 group.

Bhutan's Youth National Coach, Damber Singh Gurung was very pleased with the quality of cricket in the tournament.

"There were very entertaining games and this school tournament format is of great help in increasing the number of participants in the game. School cricket also assists in identifying future national players and our national U-19 women's team will be selected by the BCCB," said Mr. Gurung. Bhutan hope to do well in the ACC U-19 Women's Championship 2008.



School cricket is growing rapidly in Bhutan





U-15 fielding drills

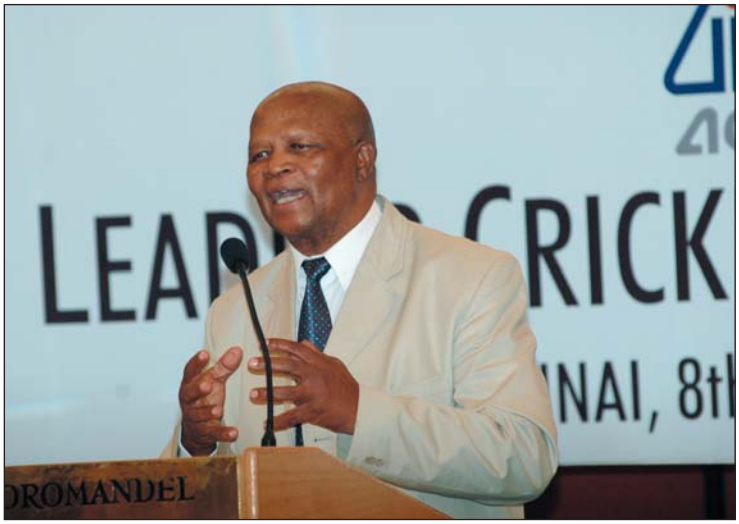
Thirty of the best players from this tournament advanced to training camps in July.

“We have around 800 students playing cricket in each of the five regions and that makes it 4000 children involved in one season. This is a very good sign for the growth of cricket here in Bhutan,” added Mr. Gurung.

The class X/XI and XI/XII tournament took place in June.

Ray Mali: "Asia The Hub"

International Cricket Council President Ray Mali speaking in Sharjah said "India has become the centre of attention and Asia has become the hub of the game. We will make sure in the ICC Future Tour Programme that the Asia Cup should be given more importance. We will make sure that the event is held on a regular basis."



Mr. Mali also talked of the efforts by the ICC to globalise the game and said: “We are trying to take the game to America and in the next 30 years China will be a force to reckon with. The country has a great potential to nurture cricket and the Asian Cricket Council is fully aware of it."



“Countries like India, Pakistan Sri Lanka, UAE and Bangladesh have a huge following. Afghanistan, Oman, Nepal and Kuwait are showing great improvement and the ICC needs to support them in many ways. "We will soon see tall, broad shouldered bowlers emerging from places like Afghanistan," he added. “These countries need all support and attention.”

Speaking of the ICC’s imminent new home in Dubai Sports City, Mr. Mali said that “many nations believe that the UAE should be made a destination for top-class cricket." But he warned that cricket in the UAE could only progress by attracting UAE nationals to the game. "It will be a time-consuming matter, but only if heroes emerge from among the UAE nationals will more UAE nationals take up the game.”

International Cricket Council TM

UAE Aim High At The Asia Cup



After the Emirates Cricket Board selected their squad for the 2008 Asia Cup in Pakistan, newly appointed UAE Coach, Vasbert Drakes was confident his team could perform well.

"This is our best possible team and the Asia Cup is going to be very good exposure for my players. The team and I will set an objective and will work towards it," said Mr. Drakes.



Vasbert Drakes: "UAE's best possible team"

"The entire team is excited about this tournament and can't wait to showcase their abilities. Playing the Asia Cup before the ACC Trophy will have a positive impact on my team. The Asia Cup is played at a very high level and this will teach the boys how to deal with pressure situations," he added.

"Coming to Malaysia for the ACC Trophy in July, I hope the team will carry their experiences from the Asia Cup and play their cricket at the Asia Cup level," said Mr. Drakes.

UAE have Bangladesh and Sri Lanka in their group in the Asia Cup.

Iran's Women Get a Boost



ACC Development Officer Iqbal Sikander and ACC Women's Cricket Committee member Shamsa Hashmi, both former Pakistan internationals were in Iran in July to "chalk out a training program for the women in Iran,' said Ms. Hashmi. "I hear they are very keen and though there may be more umpires and players, I believe that there is a lot of enthusiasm shown by all."

Iqbal Sikander concurs; "for some time now Iranian cricket has been a riddle wrapped around an enigma inside a mystery but there really is quite a lot of cricket played there. The facilities are basic but the players are keen."



Last season was spent out of ACC competition. Iran missed their flight to Thailand for the ACC U-19 Challenge Cup because of heavy snow in Tehran and did not put up a team in the ACC U-15 Challenge Cup the month before. But, says ACC Events Executive K.K. Haridas, "they have just written to me saying 'Iran is ready to participate in all kinds of tournaments in men's or women's games'."

"Iran's cricketers have showed flashes of brilliance before," says Mr. Sikander, "I hope that whatever Shamsa and I can contribute during our time in Iran helps them to realise a bit more of their potential."



Afghanistan Take 5





Afghanistan won a gripping Pepsi ICC World Cricket League Division 5 Final against Jersey by just two wickets chasing 80.

"It is unbelievable. It is a historic day for Afghanistan. I am very happy. The country is very happy," said Afghanistan's coach Taj Malik.

Afghanistan remain on track for a place in the 2011 World Cup.

Afghanistan's bowlers, backed up by some excellent ground-fielding and catching were the architects of Afghanistan's triumph after Jersey won the toss and batted. The seamers Dawlat Ahmadzai, Hasti Gul found swing and movement both ways off the seam and had Jersey in trouble from the start.

Afghanistan's premier spinner Mohammad Nabi then came on to break a 42-run partnership for the 4th wicket between Steve Carlyon and James Gough. From 67 for 4 in the 29th over, Jersey's remaining wickets fell in a rush as Nabi combined with his fellow MCC-representative Hamid Hassan, Afghanistan's fastest bowler, to have Jersey all out for 80.





25 minutes of the Afghanistan reply were possible before lunch. 10 came off the first over but Afghanistan were instantly pegged back by a run-out and a catch behind, and went into the break with the game evenly poised at 25 for 2.

Jersey came out firing with Ryan Driver, Tony Carlyon and Matthew Hague taking wickets and drying up the runs. A slow wicket and heavy outfield played in both teams' bowlers favour all day but even more, tight wicket to wicket bowling with just a hint of movement really made batting difficult. At 38 for 6 in the 19th over and then 42 for 7 at the end of the 24th, Afghanistan were several runs and a whole bunch of stroke-players short of victory.

What they had on their side though was an indomitable passion. That and Hasti Gul and Dawlat Ahmadzai, fire and phlegm. The loss of Asghar Stanikzai at the start of the 33rd over with the score on 62 brought the 9th-wicket pair together with the game hung in the balance. After them came Hamid Hassan, the one Afghan in the team with absolutely no pretensions to batting.
It was all on these two.

Jersey sensed an epic victory.

The over after Stanikzai's dismissal Hasti Gul hit a six and next ball hit a four and then, off the last ball of the over, hit a screamer back to Andy Dewhurst who couldn't cling on. to what would have been a sensational return catch.

Only nine were needed to win by Afghanistan. Jersey just needed two wickets.

Ahmadzai calmly played out the next over for a maiden. Hasti Gul carved through gully three overs later and it was all over. Afghanistan had won. The 500-strong crowd applauded both teams warmly.



52 for 7 and Hasti Gul starts hitting out

Geoff Boycott was on hand to award the prizes and said, "Cricket's not just about fours and sixes, you can have good cricket and excitement in a low-scoring game. Afghanistan with all of what they have been through at home have done brilliantly well in getting up to this level."

Jersey and Afghanistan both go through to ICC World Cricket League Division 4 in Tanzania in October and will no doubt enjoy close matches between each other there too, should they meet.

As for Afghanistan, they return to a heroes' welcome in Kabul. "They will line the streets from the airport for us", says Taj Malik, "cricket is what is helping to make the country happy."

UAE Mobilise Nationals

UAE's national cricket team is to have a minimum of four national players in all its representative squads from now on, with at least two of them being in each playing XI. "It's actually nothing new," says ECB Administrator Mazhar Khan, "there have been Arab nationals playing cricket in the UAE from the days of Abdulrahman Bukhatir but it's the first time that a decision like this has been formalized."



Four of the country's 15-man squad for the Asia Cup - Mohammed Tauqir, Fahad al Hashmi, Alawi Shukri and Salman Farooq - were Emiratis born in the UAE and since childhood have been playing their cricket in the Emirates.

On a recent visit to the Emirates ICC President Ray Mali spoke of the need to "create local heroes" in order to promote the game, and this is "very much a move we should go forward with," says Mr. Khan. "Grass-roots level is where the future of the game will be built. At senior level UAE have been near unbeatable in Asia for a long time" he says, "it is at youth level we can do better and moves such as this are things to go forward with if we are to get more youngsters playing." School cricket competition has yet to be formalized but "I hope it will be the next step," says Mr. Khan.



GAGOC: Grounds for Optimism



The Guangzhou Asian Games Organizing Committee (GAGOC) has set out its plans for the cricket venues for 2010 and beyond. “They will be building a permanent stadium and two training sites at a cost of US$7 million,” said ACC Chief Executive Syed Ashraful Huq.

A site inspection has been made at the campus of Guangdong University of Technology with representatives from the Guangzhou Major Public Construction Project Office and Chinese Cricket Association as well as GAGOC officials. A square of six to eight wicket-strips will be set in the main ground with four strips at both training grounds. The men’s and women’s events will be eight-team competitions with the four Asian Test-playing countries, China and three other qualifiers taking part.

GAGOC officials were invited to attend the Asia Cup in Pakistan and the Sri Lanka-India ODI series in August as well as the ACC U-19 Womens’ Championship in Thailand in December.

ACC and AFC Together on Age-Verification

ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL

ACC Sports Medicine Officer Dr. Vece Paes met with the Honorary Head of the Medical Department of the Asian Football Confederation Dr. Gurcharan Singh in Kuala Lumpur in June 2008 to exchange data and establish the "best-available method" to ascertain players' bone-ages prior to representation and competition.

"It is believed that aberrant age-differentials lead to performance advantages for older players and injury risks for the younger players," says Dr. Paes.

The situation is common across many sports, not least football. The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has been active in establishing its own age-verification protocols for its tournaments and the meeting between Dr. Paes and Dr. Singh was an opportunity to formulate a joint-strategy to benefit the athletes of both bodies’ age-group tournaments. Dr. Singh is also a member of the FIFA (Federation of International Football Associations) Medical Committee.

“It is imperative that we take the lead in establishing protocols which will allow for better and more practical determinants of age than just paper documentation, which, with the best will in the world can be inaccurate,” says Dr. Paes. The desire of both the ACC and AFC is that all their age-group tournaments be events of integrity: ones where the best side wins with no question of them having any unfair advantage.

"The AFC join the ACC in stating that bone-age remains the best available method with which to establish a player's bona-fides, effectively by assessing the fusion of the radius and ulna bones in the wrist. The ACC uses x-rays and the Tanner-Whitehouse Method, the AFC uses MRI (magnetic-resonance imaging) scans," says Dr. Paes.



Dr. Vece Paes and Dr. Gurcharan Singh in Kuala Lumpur, June 2008

The AFC's youth age-group tournaments are Under-16 and U-19, the ACC's are Under-15, Under-17, Under-19. Under-19 players are not assessed by bone-age verification protocols. The AFC's practice is to regard all those with a fused ulna and radius as being over 16, those with unfused as being under 16. The ACC has already established a database for all its players, and once logged and verified it is very easy to assess a player's age for all tournaments.



Fused



Unfused

"New players coming into the U-15 and U-17 categories may fall outside the simple parameters set by the AFC protocols but the ACC has its own panel of consultant radiologists to assess each case to establish as conclusively as possible a player's eligibility, following which MRI-scans will be done. Further to which, the AFC's global MRI consultants' panel will assess the scans," affirms Dr. Paes.
It was a common problem across Asia. There's now a mutual solution for Asia.

Bandula Warnapura: New ACC Development Manager



Bandula Warnapura with Roger Binny, Bangalore, October 2004

Bandula Warnapura, the former Director of Operations at Sri Lanka Cricket and the country's first captain in Tests and ODIs has been chosen to be the new Development Manager of the Asian Cricket Council, starting in July. He replaces Sultan Rana who resumed work at the Pakistan Cricket Board in April.

The ACC received 29 applications from around the world once the position was advertised on the ACC and ICC websites. A selection process followed, with Mr. Warnapura emerging successful.



Mr. Warnapura, 55, played cricket with distinction for Sri Lanka before they achieved Test status and following retirement became closely involved with Sri Lankan cricket administration. He has been an ICC match referee in Tests and ODIs, is a Level IV certified coach as well as being a Board-qualified Umpire.



After a spell as National Coach he has worked for Sri Lanka Cricket since 1994 as Director of Coaching and since 2001 he has been Director of Cricket Operations. He was Tournament Director of the ICC U/19 World Cup 2006. “He has seen it all and done it all,” says the ACC chief Executive Syed Ashraful Huq, “‘Bandu’ brings a wealth of experience to the ACC and I am confident about him.”

Mr. Warnapura has been involved with ACC courses since 2003 and is already well-known to many coaches, umpires and officials in the ACC member countries. His experience in Sri Lanka where he helped to set up a coaching academy and develop school and club cricket will be invaluable when applied to the ACC Development Program.

Speaking from Colombo prior to his arrival in Kuala Lumpur Mr. Warnapura said, that “My first challenge on my first day in the office will be to get to know the cultures of the countries. Then I will start to work on the program I’m planning. My belief is that each country has its own tradition and my job is to best apply what I know to them.”

Mr. Warnapura went on to say, “Cricket is competing with other sports in every ACC country. Ideally there should be a marriage between different sports to develop cricket on a long-term basis. I look forward to seeing the targets the ACC has and meeting with the ACC Development Committee to implement the ACC’s plans.”

Asian Cricket Council Seminar - Asian Cricket: Past, Present and Future

The Asian Cricket Council marked its Silver Jubilee year with a seminar in Karachi on the eve of the Asia Cup Final. The theme was to mark Asia's achievements on and off the field in the past 25 years and to look forward to the next twenty-five.

Asian Cricket Council Chief Executive Syed Ashraful Huq was a founding member of the ACC and said, “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 of “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.”





The seminar was divided into three modules:



Past: The History of Asian Cricket and Asian Legends was led by then ACC President Arjuna Ranatunga and the key note speaker was Wasim Akram.

Present: The impact of Asian Cricket on the Cricket World was led by Pakistan Cricket Board Chariman Dr. Nasim Ashraf and the key note speaker was Kumar Sangakkara.

Future: Asia, The Commercial Centre of Cricket; T20 Scenario was led by BCCI President Shashank Manohar and the key note speaker was England and Wales Cricket Board Chairman Giles Clarke.

Mr. Ranatunga said that the ACC was “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.”

Kumar Sangakkara described Asia as the modern-day custodian of cricket and claimed that the region has pioneered unprecedented globalisation. “Asia has transformed itself from the minnows to being the true powerhouse and we are now the economic driving force behind world cricket,” said Sangakkara during his 30-mninute speech.

Mr. Sangakkara, who came fresh from a training session prior to and played for Sri Lanka in the final against India the day after the Seminar, said Asia was now the spiritual home of the game. “There is no doubt that Lord’s in London has traditionally been accepted as traditional home of the game but, in my opinion, there has been a gradual shift with magnificent stadiums in Asia. The ravages of the 2004 tsunami were soothed by the panacea that is cricket and when I see this all I have to ask has Asia not now become the new spiritual home of world cricket? I think it has.”

The wicketkeeper-batsman said Asia had produced world class players who had revolutionised the game. “Asia has produced teams that have impacted the game in profound ways and cricketers who have individually shaped the way cricket is played and introduced new skills in the game,” he said.

Pakistan Cricket Board Chairman Dr. Nasim Ashraf, who took over as ACC President from Sri Lanka’s Arjuna Ranatunga, said Asian cricket had progressed by leaps and bounds. “If we follow the rules of transparency and integrity there is no reason why Asian cricket does not attain maximum heights,” said Dr. Ashraf.

Mr. Manohar and Mr. Clarke both affirmed the commercial viability of T20 cricket with Mr. Manohar saying, “IPL (Indian Premier League) cricket is more exciting than movies or soap-operas.”



ACC Silver Jubilee Awards

A series of awards were given to cricketers past and present, administrators and an umpire during a gala ceremony in Karachi on the eve of the Asia Cup Final. They were:


Best Asian Test Batsman of the Year – Kumar Sangakarra


Best Asian Test Bowler of the Year – Muttiah Muralitharan


Best Asian ODI Batsman of the Year – Sachin Tendulkar


Best Asian ODI Bowler of the Year – Farveez Maharoof


Best Asian Woman Cricketer of the Year – Mithali Raj


Best Emerging Asian Woman Cricketer – Nary Thapa


Best Emerging Asian Cricketer – Paras Khadka


Best Asian Umpire of the Year – Aleem Dar











Lifetime Achievement Award for Administrators – Syed Ashraful Huq (Bangladesh), I.S.Bindra (India), Nur Khan (Pakistan), Gamini Dissanayake (Sri Lanka), Abdulrahman Bukhatir (UAE)

Silver Jubilee Legends – Akram Khan (Bangladeh), Sunil Gavaskar (India), Imran Khan (Pakistan), Arjuna Ranatunga (Sri Lanka)



New ACC Development Program Approved

The 2008-2009 ACC Development Program was at the ACC Annual General Meeting in July and verified and passed on to all member countries for their perusal.

ACC Development Program Co-ordinator Ganesh Sundarammoorthy said that the development team were happy with the Program and that it was the outcome of a lot of hard work.

"The program emphasizes on a higher level of coaching where Level II and Level III courses are the norm as they feature more strongly than before. We have moved beyond Level I coaching as our members already have their basics in place. There are also more Coach Educators Programs," said Mr. Sundarammoorthy.

The Level III courses will be attended by former internationals.

"Brave New World" For Associates and Affiliates

With a proposal to expand the ICC World Cricket League to Divisions 6, 7 and 8 from the current Divisions 1 – 5, a whole new batch of non-ODI countries, possibly 16 more than at present, will have the chance to play for a place in future World Cups.

"This is a brave new world for us all which will bring about many new opportunities. The current theme of the Development Program is to 'get ready!' says the architect of the proposal, ICC Development Manager Matthew Kennedy. What is at stake is not only competitive glory but increased funding for successful Associates and Affiliates.

Thanks to the billion dollar-plus deal with ICC events' rights-holder ESPN STAR which comes into effect in 2009, the amount allocated for the ICC Development Program is set to substantially increase. "After a 10-year period of essentially capped/set funding the ICC funding/support level to both individual members and Regional Development Programs are set to increase by a factor of 2-3 times," says Mr. Kennedy.

"Countries are in line for more funding but they will have to earn it by what they do on and off the field. Administrative excellence will be rewarded, also competitive performance," says ACC Chief Executive Syed Ashraful Huq.



Matthew Kennedy

The countries to make up the bulk of the new World Cricket League Divisions 6-8 will be initially determined by the ICC Development Committee in November 2008, with countries like Singapore and Malaysia in the frame for inclusion in Division 6. Nepal will be in the next Division 5 to be played in 2010. Hong Kong are at present in Division 4 (to be played alongside Afghanistan) in late 2008. Oman and UAE will be playing in Division 1 (the World Cup 2011 Qualifier) in April 2009.





B.R. Pandey

There were some contrasting responses to the news of this new competitive format. Honorary Secretary of the Malaysian Cricket Association R. Suppiah welcomed the expansion saying, “Amongst the countries outside of Division 5 there is not much difference, this new World Cricket League will give Malaysia a chance to prove itself against them and if we play in Asian conditions as opposed to European we will do well.”

Nepal’s Association President B.R. Pandey rued another of Nepal’s close-but-no-cigar 3rd place finishes in the recently completed World Cricket League Division 5 event in Jersey, “It’s a shame that a rain-affected match which we had every chance of winning should determine our place in the leagues until the next Division 5 in 2010. Nepal could definitely climb the ladder starting today. Our sustained development over the past few years will undoubtedly carry us up in the future and playing global teams can only help our cricket and expose us to the right level of competition. 2011 World Cup qualification realistically was beyond us but 2015 is in our grasp and the World Cricket Leagues give us the platform to achieve that.”



ICC WORLD CRICKET LEAGUE


K.H.Imran

Singapore Cricket Association President K.H. Imran was more reserved in his approval of the basis for determining the Divisional composition. “Looking at the larger picture, merit is not necessarily the way teams are situated in the leagues. A more equitable distribution of talents should be in place. Division 5 2008 winners Afghanistan were convincingly beaten by Singapore in the group stages in Jersey and had every chance of being in the semis were it not for rain. Right now we’re on the up and could play with merit way above our new proposed Division 6 ranking. Singapore aren’t alone, I’m sure other countries across the world could put up individual cases where they merit elevation. We will accept the ICC’s ranking in good grace but really what a country did four years in the past shouldn’t have much import on what it is thought to be capable of doing today and tomorrow.”

At stake is a place in the biggest show in world cricket. If a country’s truly good enough, it will get there. Leagues, in this case seasons of leagues, tend to be won through sustained excellence. Countries with the strongest player base will win through.

However, "cricket development," Mr. Imran says, "should not just be about wins on the field". It is a point Mr. Kennedy affirms. “We continue to very highly focus on measurable outcomes in relation to our five established target areas which were developed in line with the ICC Strategic Plan 2006-10”:

- Member governance and administration
- Junior Involvement to Junior Playing
- Quantity to quality (including players/coaches/umpires)
- Women’s cricket development
- Non-ICC income and support for members

Qualification for World Cup 2011 may have given an undue advantage to incumbent teams, World Cups 2015 and 2019 and 2023 etc.etc. under the new World Cricket Leagues with their promotion and relegation systems will mean that true merit will finally be given its due reward.

Brunei U-19 Girls Start Cricket



The Brunei Darussalam Cricket Association (BDCA) had it's first-ever cricket training camp for U-19 girls in June. 20 of its participants were involved in a series of basic cricketing drills.

ACC Development Officer for Brunei, Aminul Islam, conducted the four-day session and was very impressed with the "enthusiasm and spirit shown by the girls."



"All of them took the game very seriously and also coped fantastically well to their very first cricketing session. They will have to train hard if they are going to enter the ACC U-19 Women's Championship in December but I'm sure they can do well," said Mr. Islam.

Mr. Islam went on to say that it was very encouraging to see that nineteen of the participants were local.

Malaysian Cricket Signs MOU With WACA

The Western Australian Cricket Association (WACA) and Malaysian Cricket Association (MCA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at the Kinrara Cricket Academy today. The MOU will stand for a period of four years and states that both organizations will cooperate and work towards their respective cricketing excellence.



WACA CEO Graeme Wood (L) and MCA President Tunku Imran exchange documents at the MOU signing in the presence of Australian High Commissioner to Malaysia Penny Williams (centre)

WACA CEO, Graeme Wood said that WACA was "very excited to be working with the MCA" and that their aim would be to improve the quality of Malaysia's cricketers.

"There will be many high-skilled training programs as well as regular Twenty20 and 50-over games played against Australian opposition. Training will not be limited to only the senior players as the age-group levels would also be focused on", said Mr. Wood.

Both WACA and the MCA will encourage and promote the sharing of detailed proposals, programs, information and knowledge.



HRH Tunku Imran, President of the MCA, said that the partnership with WACA will surely help better cricket in Malaysia and allow it to prosper in the future.

Speaking about the signing of the MOU, Tunku Imran said, "We have a long and healthy relationship with WACA and I am happy to see it formalized with this signing."

"We thank WACA for their technical assistance in all areas and look forward to our partnership yielding mutual benefits", said Tunku Imran.

Western Australian cricket has produced world-class players such as Dennis Lillee, Rod Marsh, Kim Hughes, Graeme Wood, Damien Martyn, Justin Langer and Adam Gilchrist.

Saudis Translate Laws of Cricket Into Arabic

The Saudi Cricket Centre has translated the Laws of Cricket into Arabic. “We translated the laws of cricket into Arabic mainly to spread awareness about the game. Today we have many Saudis playing at the different age groups,” says the Saudi Cricket Centre Chief Executive Officer Nadeem Nadwi . The intention is to distribute the Laws to Saudi schools. “We realised that once we spread the information about the game, then it will be easier for us to attract them (youngsters).”

Final proofing is being done at the moment, prior to submission to the ACC and Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) for verification in a few weeks’ time. The Arabic Laws will join the versions in Urdu, Bengali and Mandarin on the ACC website. The Arabic Laws will have an impact throughout the Gulf countries.

Oman's Big Plans



Riding a wave of success which had them win the ACC Twenty20 Cup and then top the table of World Cricket League Division 2 last year, Oman have announced plans to significantly develop cricket in the Sultanate.

Two international-standard grounds will be built at Al Emarat along with an academy. The project is expected to be completed by 2013 at an estimated cost of 2 million Oman rials (US $5.2 million).

The Ministry of Sports Affairs donated the land at Al Emarat, outside of Muscat towards the UAE border, to the Oman Cricket Club in 2007. "We are also planning to have facilties for other sports to attract and involve more number of people in cricket. That is our main objective," says Oman Cricket Board Vice Chairman Maqbool Moosa Al Lawati.



Site for the new home of Omani cricket, Al Emarat

Cricket, Somehow, Iran

ACC Development Officer Iqbal Sikander completed a ten-day assignment in Iran in July, his first in two years to the country.

During the visit Iqbal Sikander had an opportunity to visit for the first time the remote villages and small towns where cricket has just started to be played. "It was a pleasant surprise to see so much interest not just in the players but also in the local Government officials who were very excited and optimistic about the future of cricket in their respective towns," says Mr. Sikander.



Cricket, somehow, Iran

Chabahar, around 1000 kilometres outside Tehran towards Pakistan on the Persian Gulf, is a growth area for Iranian cricket. Along with officials from the Iranian Baseball and Cricket Federation (ICF) Iqbal Sikander met with the Governor and the Mayor of Chabahar. The Governor pledged to allocate a plot of land which is already been used for cricket in Chabahar to the Federation for dedicated activity. Work has already started on another ground in Chabahar.



Chabahar

Away from the coast, in a very remote village called Nikshahr cricket has surprisingly taken root. There is little water for the players, let alone for the growth of turf, but cricket has somehow gained a foothold in this impoverished area.





Iqbal Sikander's first-hand account: "Some players and children have to walk down from mountains which at time takes two hours. They have very little cricket equipment and the playing field is rocky and dangerous for fielding. The locals have constructed a concrete pitch and play their matches with very little facilities. At the time this DO visited them, the temperature was 45ºC and they have been playing since morning with no shade even for the players to sit and have a rest. Water is brought in water coolers and they have to ration it so that it would last the day. But the amount of interest they have proves the fact that cricket is here to stay. I requested the ICF officials to ensure that these players get support and help from the Federation. Mr. Juggoo Sawhney who also accompanied me on this visit donated money from his own pocket for the construction of a shade for the players to sit under during the matches. It was indeed a great gesture on his part which all the players and officials very much appreciated."



Nikshahr



The Governor of Nikshahr allocating land for cricket

On the way back from Nikshahr Iqbal Sikander was taken to Konarak, a small town about 35 miles from Chabahar. The Governor of Konarak had already allocated a plot of land for cricket in addition to the one already available for cricket. "The facilities at the ground that is currently being used are very basic but the interest is so immense, that they have survived all the hardships and have carried on playing the game which they dearly love," says Iqbal Sikander. "On this occasion, ICF Vice President Dr. Rezali announced a cash donation on behalf of the ICF and Mr. Juggoo Sawhney also matched that amount from his own pocket for construction of second concrete pitch at another ground. All the officials and the players appreciated this gesture and thanked the officials for their consideration," added Mr. Sikander.



U-15 cricketers of Konarak



The Konarak senior team

"Cricket is definitely on the up in Iran; They had a period where the Federation were a little out of touch with the ACC but somehow the cricketers kept going and it is very good to see that cricket has this basic appeal to so many Iranians," concluded Iqbal Sikander at the end of his tour.

Myanmar: Up From The Bottom

ACC Development Officer Aminul Islam was in Myanmar in July to conduct a Level '0' coaching course designed to increase the basic understanding of cricket. 60 school-teachers from Taunggyi (the fourth largest town in the country) and Yangon attended.

"The MCF (Myanmar Cricket Federation) has only two Level I coaches active in the whole country now. They move around school to school to teach cricket. This is obviously very troublesome and ineffective for a country where cricket is very new," says Aminul.





To address the above issue the ACC and MCF arranged the Level '0' course for primary- and secondary-school teachers. Thirty school teachers attended at both Taunggyi and Yangon. "The teachers did well. They have the potential to be good cricket coaches," says Aminul, "Their progress has to be monitored by MCF."

During his time in Myanmar Aminul Islam, along with the Myanmar Cricket Federation President U Nyunt Win, met with the Ambassadors to Myanmar from Bangladesh and Pakistan. Pakistan is already assisting with the development of hockey in Myanmar and HE Mr. Khalilullah Qazi showed interest in helping Myanmar cricket as well. The Bangladesh Cricket Board provided the services of Nazmul Abedeen as national coach for Myanmar's first international tournament, the 2006 ACC Trophy, and may in turn do something similar again.



ACC Medical Forum Examines Age-Verification Protocols

Eight renowned practitioners of sports medicine and its associated disciplines from India, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan and the UAE gathered in Kuala Lumpur in July to address the issue of best practise for Age-Verification Protocols. "Age-Verification is necessary simply because in many parts of Asia, birth-registration and official certification is not completely accurate." In ACC U-15 and U-17 age-group tournaments, as with the tournaments held by PCB, BCCI, FIFA and AFC, we wish to ensure that 'like plays like'," says ACC Medicine Officer Dr. Vece Paes. "The issue is one of player development, player safety and just as importantly, the development of a national base of cricketers", he said.



The elite panel of radiologists and sports medicine practitioners examined the comparative merits of MRI scans and minimally invasive X-rays in determining as accurately as possible a player's bone age. 30% - 90% disparities have been found between registered ages and actual bone ages in previous tournaments. "It took football four years to clear all irregularities," says Head of the Medical Department of the Asian Football Confederation Dr. Gurcharan Singh, "we worked in an unbiased and scientific manner and I'm sure that the ACC can do the same. After more than 50 years Asian teams are now in a much stronger position to compete in international youth tournaments."



ACC Medical Forum, Kuala Lumpur, August 2008 (from l to r) Dr. Shahrin Merican, Kuala Lumpur Sports Medicine Center; Dr. Bhujang Pai, P.D.Hinduja Hospital, Mumbai; Dr. Vece Paes; Dr. Ashok Kumar, New Medical Centre, Abu Dhabi; Dr. Sohail Salem, Pakistan Cricket Board; Dr. Gurchuran Singh; Dr. Ashok Ahuja, National Institute of Sports, Patiala; Dr. Satish Bajaj, Siddhartha Hospital, Kathmandu

New ICC Development Funding Scenario Outlined



Tim Anderson and Bandula Warnapura

ICC Development Programs Manager Tim Anderson visited the ACC Secretariat at the start of August 2008 to brief the ACC Development team on the funding scenario for ICC Associates and Affiliates. Approximately US$1.5 billion has been generated by the sale of ICC's commercial rights from 2008-2015, with a large proportion of this amount going back to the ICC's Full, Associate and Affiliate Members. Associate and Affiliate members will benefit greatly, with the most successful in line to receive in excess of US$1 million per year during this period. "This increased revenue represents not only a significant positive change to the developing cricket world, but will also turn many countries into significant commercial entities," says Mr. Anderson.

The critical issue is that in order to access this funding "requirements will need to be met," says Mr. Anderson. These include the submission of operational plans, budgets and accounts to ICC Regional Management for approval. In the case of Asia's Members, such submissions will need to be provided to, and approved by, the ACC Development Manager and Finance Manager respectively.

ACC Development Manager Bandula Warnapura says, "The new funding scenario is a process of education for the members, they will need to exert more control over their activities, take more responsibility for their affairs and ensure they maintain good governance. It's a positive move and can only help the development of cricket."

ACC to Assist Eight Bowlers Reported For "Suspect Actions"

Following reports received from the on-field umpires during the ACC Trophy Elite in August 2008, eight bowlers from five countries have been flagged by Tournament Director Charlie Chelliah as having "suspect actions".

These bowlers next undergo two-stages of assessment by means of the naked eye and video analysis by their relevant countries' Development Officers. The player is free to take part in competition until the results of the examinations are comprehensively assessed. If necessary, the relevant bowler will be evaluated by a Human Movement Specialist provided by the ICC prior to final recommendations being made.

Bhutan's Girls Get Physical

Bhutan started its preparations for the forthcoming ACC age-group tournaments by holding an intensive coaching camp for U-19 girls and U-15 and U-17 boys in Thimphu. "The boys know about fitness to some extent but Bhutan have been very smart in getting the girls prepared for the Thailand tournament in December," says ACC Development Officer for Bhutan Roger Binny.



Sit and Reach



Sprint Test



Following the 10-day camp, thirty U-19 girls took part in "the first ever Physical Fitness Test conducted by Bhutan Cricket," and went through some challenging drills under the supervision of the local coaches. The final fourteen – the fit and the skillful - for the ACC U-19 Women's Championship will be chosen at the end of October, says Youth National Coach Damber Singh Gurung.

Further physical training camps will be held in other parts of Bhutan for national squad probables following the end of the monsoon season.



Afghanistan Make New Connections

The Afghanistan Cricket Federation (ACF) have embarked upon a long-term sponsorship program with Etisalat Afghanistan. A telecommunications provider established in the UAE since 1976, Etisalat are the sixth-largest company in the Middle East in terms of capitalization and revenues and are 140th in the world in terms of market capitalization.

“This is incredible support for cricket in Afghanistan,” says ACF Marketing manager Bashir Stanikzai, “Etisalat Afghanistan will be the main sponsor of the national team, and will be sponsoring development of the proposed National Cricket Academy in Kabul among other things including an English-language website and magazine.”



The national team and officials at the MoU signing ceremony with Etisalat



During the ACC Trophy Elite 2008 in Malaysia

The Chief Executive Officer of Etisalat Afghanistan Saeed Alhamli said, “Our aim is to open up more opportunities and to actively help Afghans reach their goals. We always deliver what we say we will.” Afghanistan phone subscribers have risen from 2.2 million in 2004 to 7 million in 2008.

The program runs until 2013 and is worth US $148,500.

ACC, ACA and Nimbus Revive Afro-Asia Cup

The Asian Cricket Council and Africa Cricket Association have entered into a new commercial agreement with Nimbus Sports for the 2009 and 2010 Afro-Asia Cups.



Under the new deal Nimbus will market all commercial rights to the events on a global basis. The parties have agreed to explore new opportunities for the growth of cricket at all levels in Asia and Africa. Both parties have resolved the differences which led to the ending of their previous agreement.

The first Afro-Asia Cup was held in South Africa in August 2005, the two continents sharing the trophy as the third and deciding ODI was rained off. Asia won the three ODIs and the two Twenty20s in 2007.

Last year Nimbus pulled out of the three-year/three-event partnership, for which it had originally bought the rights for $12 million. The Afro-Asia Cup is an ICC-sanctioned event comprising three One-day Internationals between the best players from Asia and Africa. The Afro-Asia Cup 2009 is scheduled to be held in Kenya and in India in 2010.



Africa 2005



Asia 2007

”The Afro-Asia Cup was formed primarily to raise vital development funds for cricket in both continents,” says ACC Chief Executive Syed Ashraful Huq, “Nimbus shares our passion for the Afro-Asia Cup. We have no doubt that together we can contribute significantly to the phenomenal growth enjoyed by our sport in Africa and Asia.”

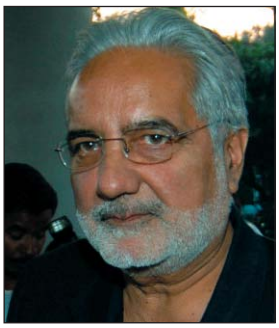
Nimbus Chief Executive Officer Digvijay Singh said, “Our mutual passion for the sport of cricket and its global development has brought Nimbus and the ACC back together to build a stronger, brighter future for the Afro-Asia Cup. The event promises to be a spectacular occasion, with the best international players duelling for the right to be called the ‘Champions of Two Continents’.”

ICC Principal Advisor I.S. Bindra Takes Chinese Role

Inderjit Singh Bindra, a former President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India and a key figure in the present Board, has formalized his role as ICC Principal Advisor up to 2010.

Mr. Bindra, currently also Punjab Cricket Association President, will "focus on developing the game in China, implementing the ICC Vision, assisting relations between the ICC and its members and working with host members to ensure the success of ICC events," say the ICC.

International Cricket Council



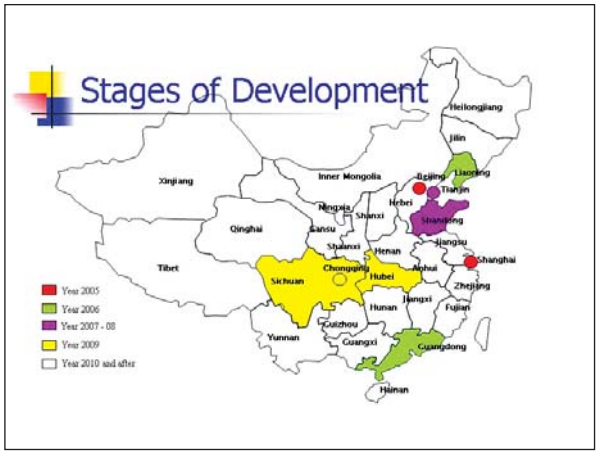
I. S. Bindra

中国板球协会
Chinese Cricket Association



China has been a Special Project of the ICC since 2006. ICC President David Morgan said, "We have already made strides, alongside the Asian Cricket Council, in developing the game in China. With Inderjit now joining us to provide added impetus in this area we have the chance to take the game in China to the next level."

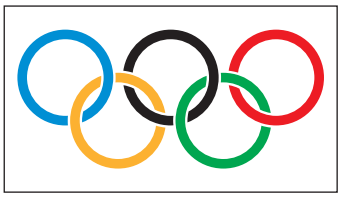
Mr Bindra said: "The work in developing the game in China is exciting. It has a huge potential for growth and, with the Asian Cricket Council, we will explore ways of ensuring cricket is able to get a secure foothold within the country that we can continue to build upon."



China currently has 81 active Level I coaches and umpires and 51 men's and women's teams in national competition. The game has been introduced into some 100 schools and the Chinese Cricket Association estimates that around 10,000 students have had the opportunity to play cricket.

"Mr. Bindra brings a peerless ability to get a job done," says ACC Chief Executive Syed Ashraful Huq, "the ACC warmly welcomes his insight and expertise in contributing to the development of cricket in China."

Twenty20 In 2020?



International Cricket Council President David Morgan was in Beijing during the 2008 Olympics to find out more about the event and make a preliminary evaluation of the possibility of cricket being in the Olympic Games of 2020.

The ICC President's meetings in Beijing with the Chinese Cricket Association and International Olympic Committee personnel built upon the granting of "recognition status" to cricket by the IOC in December last year. The IOC's administrative parameters for future Games mean that 2020 is likely to be the earliest that the sport could make an appearance at the Olympics.



Liu Rongyao and David Morgan in Beijing

"We (the ICC) have to still weigh the pros and cons of making a formal application to the IOC," says Mr. Morgan, "on balance the ICC believes the Olympics present more of an opportunity than a risk." For their own part, the Chinese Cricket Association, part of the national Multi-Ball Sports Administrative Centre, is fully supportive of cricket's presence in future Olympics. "Medals are what motivate the state sports bodies," says CCA Secretary General Liu Rongyao, "cricket will grow even more if we are in the Olympics. China's cricketers have received a big boost from being in the 2010 Asian Games organized by the Olympic Council of Asia in the south city of Guangzhou. We thank the ACC and ICC for their support and will work hard to make a good team for the event. Success will be noticed higher-up."

"If cricket is to be a significantly global game, one that has followers all over the world, generating home-grown players and new sources of revenue, then a place on the Olympic platform could truly help it expand," says ACC Chief Executive Syed Ashraful Huq.

Turf's Up In Kuwait

Not content with three turfed-grounds when all but one of their neighbouring Gulf states have none, Kuwait unveiled their fourth in time for the start of the new cricket season in October in Sulaibiya.

"It has been a great effort by many people but the demand is there for cricket in Kuwait and we are very keen that we satisfy all of them," declares Kuwait Cricket Association's Asad Baig.



Sulaibiya in 2005, The ACC Chief Executive (far left) and ICC Global Development Manager Matthew Kennedy (far right) flank the KCA's Asad Baig (second from left)

Work began at Sulaibiya at the start of the year. Since then, members of the Kuwait Cricket Association (KCA), have done much of the work themselves for the ground prior to handing over work to external contractors. "We aim to have a ground of international-size meeting all international standards eventually. Our first intention is to benefit the local cricketers and then provide an opportunity for other countries to play here as well as hosting ACC and ICC-tournaments," says Mr. Baig, "Sulaibiya is a project fully-managed by the KCA (Kuwait Cricket Association) and that gives us many more options."

A fifth ground, with the radical format of a turf wicket surrounded by artificial turf is also being planned in the plush environs of Salmiya. "A purpose designed cricket stadium, which will include some fixed seating in addition to a quality pavilion," says KCA's Jeff de Lange, will be sited in a new public park. For multi-purpose use and to reduce the need for water, the outfield will be artificial. There have been, and currently are, many instances of the opposite being true – artificial wicket, grass outfield - but Salmiya could be the world's first ground of its kind.





Sulaibiya in June 2008



Sod's floor, Asad Baig

"It's an interesting idea and one that could be a very useful asset to Kuwait in terms of utility and maintenance. The main factor to consider would be the abrasiveness of the artificial outfield as diving and sliding could be hazardous due to the surface friction," says ACC Development Manager Bandula Warnapura.



Kuwait has four, maybe five and there are even plans for ground number six in the pipeline. "The support and passion for cricket in Kuwait is immense. We are lucky to have the support of the ruling family and major sponsors here, once these grounds are completed Kuwait can be ambitious in other areas," says Mr. Baig.



Sulaibiya, July 2008





Sulaibiya, September 2008

Hong Kong's Players Rewarded For Success



HONG KONG CRICKET ASSOCIATION
香港板球總會

As a result of winning the ACC Trophy Elite, Hong Kong's first ever tournament victory, the Hong Kong Cricket Association awarded the squad a bonus of HK$15000 (US$1920) each.

"It's a great gesture by HKCA," said Man of the Match in the Trophy Elite Final Najeeb Amar, "half the players have to give up work to play. It's nice to feel valued." Hong Kong's players have also been on a performance-related bonus scheme this year where century-makers and those to take five-wickets in an innings receive HK$I10000, with 50s and three-fors garnering HK$5000.

Iran's Women Advance

ACC Women's Committee Member and Pakistan Cricket Board Women's Cricket Manager Shamsa Hashmi completed a 16-day assignment in Iran in August. "I was thrilled to see the enthusiasm among the young girls. They were all very motivated and keen to learn the game," says Ms. Hashmi.



An Iranian Level I-qualified lady coach Mujdeh Bavendpour assisted Ms. Hashmi throughout, as the 30 women (U-19 and seniors) were put through a comprehensive training plan specially designed for them.

Each day was divided into morning and evening sessions: fitness and fielding, skill development and net matrix. Classroom sessions were slotted in amidst the field work. The fortnight ended with a hard-fought and passionately supported 20-over match.

"We have never worked so hard in our life," said one of the participants afterwards, "our knowledge of the game increased 1000% and with the strength and conditioning program given to us we are so much better."





"I have found the girls as quick learners not only of what was being taught to them but also by watching others doing the same drills," said Ms. Hashmi. "They were able to make quick adjustments. As far as the physical fitness was concerned I found them very athletic with good fitness standards."

"I have every reason to believe that if these young girls are provided with regular training, practice areas, parental support and encouragement from sponsors, they will definitely become a very good team," concluded Ms. Hashmi.

Iran would have competed in the ACC U-19 Women's Championship in December in Thailand were it not for state-sponsored withdrawal due to the disturbances in Bangkok just weeks before the tournament started. They were the only team that had registered which didn't take part in the tournament. "All the girls were bitterly disappointed by the decision," said Ms. Hashmi.

ACC To Identify And Correct Suspect Bowling Actions

The Asian Cricket Council is to implement a two-stage analysis system to identify and assist bowlers with suspect bowling actions.

Stage One – Should a player come under suspicion during an ACC tournament, following a report from umpires and match referees, the ACC Development Officer for the country of the player will video-record the bowler's action. The video recording of the bowler is to be done from three angles in a match situation or in the nets.

Following analysis using Silicon Coach, the Development Officer reports his views to the player's team management and will assist in providing remedial measures where necessary. Once the player's coach is satisfied with the corrected action, a video recording is to be done from three angles of the 'new action' and is to be re-sent to the Development Officer for further analysis. Remedial measures are to be continuously undertaken until the Development Officer is satisfied with the bowling action.

During the course of the analysis, and until a definitive evaluation is made, the player will be allowed to bowl and participate in competition.

Stage Two comes into effect when the same bowler has been reported again for having a suspect action. The Development Officer is to notify the team management and do the recording and analysis before submitting his views yet again to the player's coach. This time, the remedial measures will be carried out under the supervision of the coach. The video of the 'corrected action' is then sent to the Development Officer for his views and the process is repeated until he is satisfied with the player's bowling action.

If the Development Officer is not content with the action, the bowler is to be suspended from bowling in competition until such time as the bowler's action is cleared by the Development Officer. If necessary, the Development Officer will consult a Human Movement Specialist of the ICC.

After the ACC Development Manager has received a final decision from the Development Officer and if in the opinion of the Development Officer the bowler has an illegal action, the bowler will be banned from bowling in all future ACC competitions with immediate effect.

"A lot of players come to cricket without any formal coaching. The idea of putting this analysis system into effect is to identify these bowlers at the earliest possible stage and correct them. Early on coaches used to only focus on the skills of batting, bowling and fielding but now there is a lot of progression in cricket through technology and biomechanics and given a player's ability and desire to change there is every reason to believe that faults can be corrected", says ACC Development Manager Bandula Warnapura. "The net result has to be quality cricket by quality cricketers."

ACC Development Manager On Middle East Tour Of Inspection





ACC Development Manager Bandula Warnapura embarked upon a six-nation tour of the ACC's Gulf member-countries in September 2008 in order to assess their past, present and future development. The tour started in Bahrain where he met with all the region's officials over two days, in a meeting also attended by ICC Development Programs Manager Tim Anderson. ICC Regional Funding requirements up to 2015 were discussed.

Mr. Warnapura also met officials who are with the countries' Ministries of Sports and/or Olympic Committees.

Kuwait Regenerates



Growth, pruning, regrowth: the Kuwait Cricket Association (KCA) re-modelled itself in October 2008 in an effort "to streamline and cater the growth of cricket in Kuwait, both on domestic as well as at international levels" says General Secretary Haider Farman. First comes a name-change: the Kuwait Cricket Association will be known as Kuwait Cricket from now on.

More significantly, substantial changes have been made to the governing structure of Kuwait Cricket.



If there was one thing that caused the International Cricket Committee's inspectors concern during their assessment of Kuwait's merits for Associate membership in 2005, it was the unwieldiness of the KCA Executive with its 21 members with four Deputy Chief Executives, "each one", as the KCA explained to the ICC inspectors then, "heading a team of supportive individuals to oversee the respective affairs. There are other volunteers in the form of sub-committees to provide regular support for day to day activities and/or special events." Though things would get done, and get done well, getting them done was an effort close to catching water in a net. It was maybe not the most effective version of governance by conventional standards, but in the interests of giving all those who had contributed to the success of Kuwaiti cricket some form of recognition it had its merits.

Kuwait recognizes it operates in a meritocratic world and has necessarily evolved. The Executive Committee has now been condensed into a 13-person body, with an Executive Board and an Executive Council. Sheikh Dhari Fahd Al Ahmed Al Sabah remains President of Kuwait Cricket. Jeff de Lange becomes Chairman of the Executive Council with all day to day affairs of Kuwait Cricket administered by the newly-created Director General Asad Baig.

For the first time women's cricket is represented in Kuwait with a Director of Women's Cricket, Layla Al-Haji. The new Director General said, "We wish to run things more professionally in Kuwait and take a logical approach to conducting our affairs. All the key decision-makers are at the table now and can act with authority and responsibility. This will be good for cricket in Kuwait and for all those who wish to play here."

China Camp It Up



"The execution of the program designed for the 2010 Asian Games has started," says ACC Development Officer for China Aminul Islam. In China during October to prepare teams for three upcoming ACC events, the U-17 Challenge Cup, the ACC U-19 Women's Cup and the ACC Trophy Challenge, Mr. Islam has been seeking out new talent and training the established corps.



Working with China's national coach Rashid Khan and fellow ACC Development Officer Rumesh Ratnayake, the former Bangladesh international spent the latter part of September in Shenzhen at the Tongle School in a camp for sixteen players. The national assistant coach for the women's team Ge Tao, who is also the cricket coach at Shenyang University, was also in attendance. Shenyang were national age-group and women's champions in 2007.

"The players are very enthusiastic and keen to play for China," says Mr. Islam, "their mental fitness is excellent and they are highly disciplined." Training camps for up to 20 cricketers at a time will continue once a month for the rest of the year.

Mamatha Maben, who played for India from 1993 to 2004 and captained them in 2003, has been appointed coach of the China women's team following a request from the ACC to the Board of Control for Cricket in India.

New ACC President



In October 2008, the new Chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Ijaz Butt, became the 20th President of the Asian Cricket Council. He replaced the former PCB Chairman Dr. Nasim Ashraf.

Mr. Butt, 70, steps up from the PCB governing body. He has chaired Pakistan's selectors and is a former Secretary of the Board during which time he served as the ACC Honorary Secretary from 1987-1988.

Mr. Butt played eight Tests for Pakistan between 1959 and 1962. "We are delighted that Mr. Butt has become our President. It has been a position filled with distinction by previous Pakistan Board Chairmen and the Asian Cricket Council looks forward to receiving the benefits of his guidance and leadership," says Chief Executive Syed Ashraful Huq.

The Presidency of the Asian Cricket Council rotates every two years between the heads of the Boards of the Asian Test-playing countries. Pakistan's current term started in July 2008. The sequence is India - Sri Lanka – Pakistan – Bangladesh.

A New Afghanistan, A Fresh Hong Kong



Afghanistan and Hong Kong won promotion to Pepsi ICC World Cricket League Division 3, as a result of being first and second in Division 4.

"It means everything to us," says Raees Ahmadzai, Afghanistan's former captain, who currently plays as a middle-order batsman in the side. "We prepared like never before for this tournament." Afghanistan were in Tanzania by virtue of winning World Cricket League Division 5 in May this year, beating Jersey in a tension-packed final.



© ICC
Afghanistan: WCL Division 5 champions



Hong Kong: ACC Trophy Elite Champions





Hong Kong have improved dramatically since crashing out of 2007 WCL Division 3. They too appointed a new coach, former England international Aftab Habib and he's honed a street-fighting unit that impressed in patches during the STAR Cricket Asia Cup, and which then went on to win Hong's first ever international event the ACC Trophy Elite, knocking UAE off its long-held perch. "Even before the team left for Africa, Aftab was thinking about how to prepare for Argentina in January," says Hong Kong Cricket Association General Manager Charles Lau. Add one more pace-bowler to support Irfan Ahmed and Hong Kong, a side packed with all-rounders, will not only be a great combination of youth and guile but have a more combative attack.

Up against Hong Kong in the semi-final of the ACC Trophy Elite, Afghanistan were out-fought and out-thought. "Afghanistan were just not able to manage their talent back then," says ACC Development Officer for Afghanistan Iqbal Sikander. "Everybody knows they have the necessary skill and passion." Problem was they didn't have much else.

The fear among some senior players after their semi-final loss to Hong Kong in the ACC Trophy Elite, and the dashing of their dreams of an Asia Cup appearance, was that the team would break up, dissatisfied as they were with the way they were being guided. The emphasis had been on boundaries. And boundaries. And boundaries. But big hits only get you so far.

It is no secret that Afghanistan have a new coach, appointed on the specific request of the players, former Pakistan international Kabir Khan. It is now readily apparent how much is new about the team. What Kabir has injected are discipline, fitness and a winning attitude. "He has told us to value our wickets and play the full 50 overs," says Man of the Match in the WCL Division 4 Final Raees Ahmadzai, "to really take control of the game in the last 15 overs. He has said singles are very important. We have all changed our way of batting."

"I hadn't seen Hong Kong play before", says Kabir Khan, "but I knew that whenever Afghanistan played them they lost. This time we went into the games knowing what they do and knowing how to react." Afghanistan beat Hong Kong twice in WCL Division 4.

It was semi-finalists Afghanistan who hit the most boundaries in the ACC Trophy Elite. In WCL Division 4 it was Hong Kong who out-hit Afghanistan, 118 boundaries to Afghanistan's 99. The difference is that Afghanistan are aiming to bat out their overs and giving the fielding side less chance to dismiss them. Plus, their bowlers and fielders are doing an exceptional job. Run-outs and catches going to hand have been a feature of their performance in Tanzania. The bowlers, of whom MCC alumni Hamid Hassan and Mohammad Nabi have been the pick, did brilliantly, nowhere more so than against Tanzania when, with the home team needing just 29 runs to win off the last 15 overs with five wickets in hand, Afghanistan bowled them out to win by 8 runs.



Hong Kong's cricketers return the support of their coach Aftab Habib



©ICC
Kabir Khan

"This was all mental. The team have learnt not just to respect themselves and behave like international crickets on and off the field but also to realise that when they're up against a higher-level of competition, even playing against first-class cricketers, they can't play like they did in the past. They have to respect their ability and that of the opposition," says Kabir Khan.

Aminul Islam, The CCA And The Quest For The Holy Grail

China, where so much attention is being focussed on the Guangzhou Asian Games in November 2010, is looking for a place to train its players to reach a credible international playing standard.

中国板球协会
Chinese Cricket Association

It's like the rest of us having to be fluent, even skilled, in Mandarin within the space of 24 months. From a standing start. If we didn't have access to teachers, libraries and our fellow students for ten of those sixteen months, we'd be struggling. So the Chinese Cricket Association are looking for a place where their players can learn, train and play outdoors for as many days as possible before the 2010 Asian Games: The Holy Grail. They just may have found it in Chengdu.



Aminul Islam with Sichuan Sports Bureau Vice President Wang Dao Xun



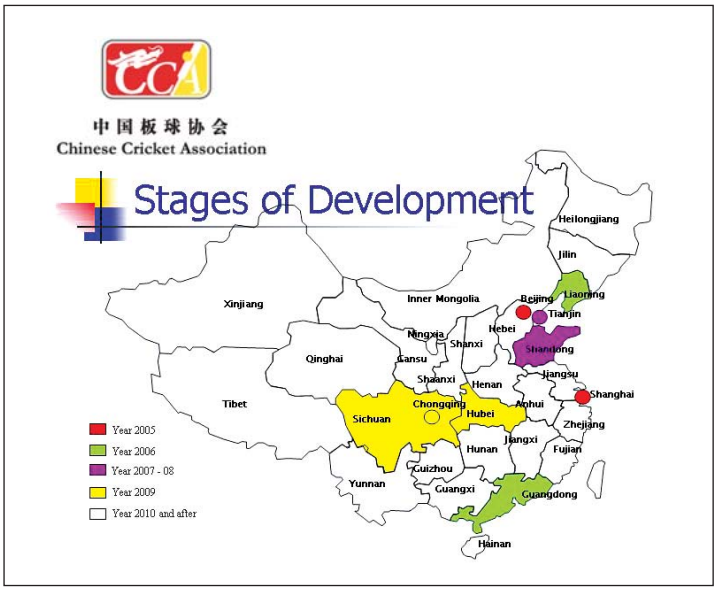
Cricket Initiatives

"The CCA (Chinese Cricket Association) know that Guangzhou will be their time in the spotlight, when all the years of preparation and all the millions of dollars of development funding from the ACC and ICC will be put to the test," says ACC Development Officer for China Aminul Islam. "If it goes well they know it will either be a stepping-stone to the cementing of cricket in China or if it doesn't, more years of fringe activity. The CCA want their cricketers to do as well as possible in the home Asian Games. To achieve that they have been looking for players and a place to train them all around the year, in the winter months and rainy season."

Chengdu in Sichuan Province in south-west central China is the country's fifth most populous city and is an important economic centre and transportation and communications hub. "It is a good place to have a base for cricket in China,' says CCA External Affairs Director Zhang Tian, "Chengdu has a good climate with long summers and quite mild winters. It is possible to play outdoors all they year."

The CCA have long identified warm-weather training facilities for cricket as an ideal, Hainan Island, the southern-most part of China being cited. But other sports (those on the Olympic and global medal-fast-track) have grabbed the facilities. While Guangzhou (also in the south) is currently building their stadia for the Asian Games, whether they will be permanent cricket-centres post-2010 is still being discussed.

With land being at such a premium in China's urban centres, and with so much emphasis on Olympic sports, securing facilities for cricket has not been easy. Chengdu was recently identified by the CCA as potentially fulfilling their needs. Chengdu has responded positively.



In a meeting between Aminul Islam, and Zhang Tian and Jack Mang of the CCA with the Sports Bureau of Sichuan Province and Bureau of Social Affairs it was proposed that Chengdu High Tech Zone with its many schools will provide facilities for year-round training. And with softball no longer a part of the Olympic Games, "the local sports bureau will also provide some softball players for the national women cricket team," says Zhang Tian, "Rashid Khan (China's national coach) has already identified some of them as quite promising."

All things going to plan the women will be in Chengdu this winter, with the men joining them next season. Subject to approval from the final bureaucratic level Chengdu will become the permanent base for cricket in China. "This is a very positive step for us all regarding cricket in China. To have the schools and provinces involved at this level is huge support," says Mr. Islam.

UAE Girls Getting Ready

They take women's cricket seriously in the UAE. With the ACC U-19 tournament coming up in December, the UAE held a weekend coaching camp at Sharjah Stadium to select the fourteen-strong squad.

According to the Emirates Cricket Board "the team, comprising school girls, made a quiet debut in the premier tournament held in Malaysia last year, but since has worked hard to hone their competitive edge."



UAE Women in 2007

A mixture of mothers and school girls, captained by a 12-year old, the team in the inaugural ACC Women's Tournament last year, though losing all their three matches got better and better every time. "We're building for the future," said their manager Sheila Razdan back then, and they still are. Their bowling shows plenty of promise and if their batters back them up, they will be a force.

Like all women's teams in the region, with the exception of Hong Kong, the one thing they lack is regular match practice. As Mrs. Razdan, who managed the UAE team in Malaysia last year says, "the UAE will only be able to field a strong team if regular inter-emirates matches are organised."

The UAE pioneered women's cricket in the Gulf, being the first from the region to field a team in international competition last year. It was a culturally significant move which emboldened their neighbours to follow. All but Bahrain and Saudi Arabia in the region now have women's teams in the ACC U-19 Women's Championship in December. The base is in place for the region to significantly develop women's cricket should they so wish.

There are currently 25 women cricketers active in the UAE. "These are early days for all of us and every match will be good experience for the team. The girls are not short on enthusiasm and all they need is good exposure to boost their confidence. And this Under-19 championship, in a way, is a win-win situation for us, immaterial of the results," says Emirates Cricket Board Administrator Mazhar Khan.



© ECB
UAE's captain Natasha Cherriath in Sharjah



MCA And WACA: The Impact Of Association

Malaysia has shown considerable initiative by entering into a four-year partnership with the Western Australia Cricket Association in 2008, where "both organizations (pledged to) cooperate and work towards their respective cricketing excellence," as stated in the agreement's Memorandum of Understanding.

With the Australian playing season about to start, Malaysia (MCA) and Western Australia (WACA) started putting their strategic plan into practice. "Australia has long been close to Malaysia, with this agreement we bring our cricketers closer for mutual benefit," said Malaysia Cricket Association Deputy President P. Krishnasamy, "we're going to have much better cricketers as a result."



WACA CEO Graeme Wood (L) and MCA President Tunku Imran exchange documents at the MoU signing in the presence of Australian High Commissioner to Malaysia Penny Williams (centre)

MALAYSIA CRICKET

WACA
WESTERN AUSTRALIAN CRICKET ASSOCIATION

Ten **Fields of Co-operation** outline what WACA will assist the MCA with over the course of their association.

- The preparation of Strategic Plans for the overall development of cricket
- The training of cricketers, competition between teams and participation in tournaments
- The education and attachment of coaches, curators and administrators
- The promotion and development of women's cricket
- Exchange programs and visits by sports psychologists and physiologists, strength-and-conditioning specialists and other technical personnel
- Training, exchange and attachment programs for sports sciences personnel and the development of sports sciences relating to cricket
- Training, exchange and attachment programs in the areas of player development, curriculum formulation, sports education and sports management in respect to cricket

- The provision of opportunities for players, coaches, administrators and other personnel involved in cricket to study at applicable Western Australian Tertiary Institutions in selected courses on full fee-paying, part-scholarship and full scholarship bases provided that entry requirements are met by candidates

- Development of cricket grounds, pitches, sport facilities development, maintenance and management

- Training, exchange of technology, infrastructure and programs in the development of information and research in the field of cricket and other fields and subjects deemed fit and necessary for mutual benefits

The Malaysia Cricket Association is the first external national cricketing body that WACA has ever partnered and this is also the first time that an ACC non-Test playing country has formally entered into a long-term agreement with a foreign Association.

Speaking exclusively to the ACC from Perth, WACA CEO Graeme Wood said that WACA decided to work with Malaysian cricket because of its proximity (it is a four and a half-hour flight between Kuala Lumpur and Perth; Perth to Sydney takes five hours). "With Malaysia's location and climate, we will be able to send our teams during the off-season to train there in top-quality facilities. Malaysia has also set future targets like qualification for the 2010 Asian Games and WACA will do all we can to assist them. Our teams will also work with the age-groups and since Malaysia has such a vast expatriate population, the most important thing to do now is to grow the game", said Mr. Wood.

On a macro-level Cricket Australia have been working with the ACC since 2003, managing and consulting on coaching programs for all ACC member countries. Regarding this landmark micro-initiative between a country and an Australian state, Cricket Australia International Game Development Manager Ross Turner says "it is clearly a positive step and there will be stronger cricketing performances from Malaysia as a result." MCA Vice President Sivanandan Chinnadurai is confident that the collaboration with WACA will only yield positives for the future of Malaysian cricket. "WACA has a fantastic structure and an excellent track record and that is why I am sure there will be returns from this partnership with them," he said.



Suhan Kumar, Best Batsman ACC Trophy Elite 2008



Dinesh Muthuraman,Best Bowler ACC Trophy Elite 2008

Tours of Malaysia by the Western Australia state side, the Warriors, who feature six full-internationals in their side, are projected up to 2011. A proposed tour in September 2008 had to be called off at the last-minute, but others will follow.







The MCA's Mr. Krishnasamy, who is also the ACC Vice President, spoke of Malaysia's need to tie up with "a cricketing giant" in order to improve cricketing standards in Malaysia. "We want to maintain this positive partnership with WACA as it will lead to the production of better cricketers here. With WACA players coming to train and play, our boys will be exposed to a higher level of the game", he said.



The Kinrara Oval, Kuala Lumpur. An ODI facility.

Success costs and WACA aren't coming for free, but in aligning themselves with a cricketing force which wants to expand its own horizons and share its expertise, Malaysia are on to a winner. The margins of victory in ICC World Cricket League matches are often small. Small advantages have a big impact. The coming years are likely to see Malaysia making their mark not only in Asia, but the world.

CAT Spins A Web

The Cricket Association of Thailand have created a new website to showcase activity in their kingdom, www.cricketthailand.com.

The site is a significant step forward from the previous web presence of the Association (CAT) and as such is already attracting considerable attention. "One of the main objectives of making this website was to highlight the work being put in by the Cricket Association of Thailand for the development of the game," says CAT Honorary Secretary Zeeshan Khan.

The opening CAT homepage featured news of the upcoming ACC U-17 Challenge tournament as well as a recently completed Basic Coaching Course in Khao Yai in northern Thailand, near the Cambodia border. "It is just such things that are the heart and core of our development work in Thailand. Cricket is spreading outside of Bangkok into the local Thais because of this," adds Mr. Khan.

A Thai language version of the CAT website is planned. "With this website everyone can see what's happening in cricket in Thailand and what will happen. This will help everyone understand more," says Mr. Khan.

Kuwait's Girls Aiming To Be Great

36 school-girls from across Kuwait have started attending a coaching camp in Kuwait Entertainment City in order to prepare for the ACC U-19 Women's Tournament in December. Kuwait Cricket officials were delighted to see a couple of Kuwaiti nationals amongst the hopefuls looking to make it into the final squad of 14.

"Irrespective of whether the girls get through to the national team in December, that so many have come and so many are showing interest is a very good sign for future tournaments" says Kuwait Cricket Director General Asad Baig.



Tahani Abdulrahman



Priyada Murali

Three ACC-trained Level I lady coaches were working with the players under the supervision of the newly appointed Director of Women's Cricket in Kuwait, Layla Al-Haji. She commented approvingly on the level of enthusiasm of the girls and with how well they are responding to training and physical conditioning work.

The tournament will be the first competitive cricket the girls have ever played. Mr. Baig, who was directly involved in supervising the coaching activities, said that, "These are early days for all of us and putting up a team for the first time won't be an easy task, but we're well prepared and know what we have to do to ensure we're all performing at our optimum. Our sincere attempt will result in paving the way for the future generations to form an experienced and fighting outfit to match International teams."





Thais Go High



Cricket is spreading north of Bangkok thanks to the Cricket Association of Thailand (CAT). "More than 400 girls in the provinces of Pak Chong and Khao Yai have taken up cricket", says CAT Chief Executive Officer Mohideen Kader. "There is so much interest that we are looking for more Thais to be trained as coaches and instructors around the kingdom," says Mr. Kader.

Teachers and university students are being introduced to the game. “The girls in the provinces are learning the game so fast that we have to raise the knowledge of our coaches to answer questions. These girls are intelligent and educated so the coaches have to be advanced in knowledge to cope with their questions. They are learning about the history of the game, its finer points and how they were introduced into the discipline,” says Mr. Kader.

ACC Development Officer for Thailand Roger Binny has been working with CAT coaches in taking the game to the north of he country, including Ms. Jeerawadee Duangchakham who has been a Level I qualified coach since 2004 (one of two lady coaches in Thailand) is part of the project.



Cricket Association of Thailand
สมาคมคริกเกตแห่งประเทศไทย

Legendary Thai cricketer Parn Poshyananda, who picked up cricket as a schoolboy in England, is in charge of cricket in the north-western province of Chiang Mai and pioneered indigenous cricket in Thailand. “A few years ago, we would have never thought that cricket could be promoted among Thais,” says Mr. Poshyananda, “but today, our boys and surprisingly, girls, are not only playing cricket, they have taken seriously to the discipline. As an old cricketer, I am naturally happy to be part of this admirable advancement.”

Indian Coach For China's Women

Mamatha Maben, who played for India from 1993 to 2005, captaining them from 2003, has been appointed coach of the China women's team following a request from the ACC to the Board of Control for Cricket in India.

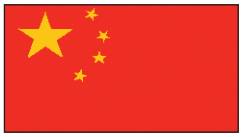
中国板球协会
Chinese Cricket Association



Visas being approved, Ms. Maben is expected to take up her duties in mid-November to prepare her team for the ACC U-19 Women's Championship in Thailand in December.

"Each and every person, no matter what her role, is very important to the team. As a captain, I tried to motivate my team. I think that's my strength. I talk to the girls about the effects of positive thinking. I believe it makes a difference, "says Ms. Maben who has also worked for a number of years as a journalist.





ICC Global Funding: To Each According To Their Merits

The ACC's Middle East members attended a meeting in Bahrain in November with Development Manager Bandula Warnapura and the ICC's Development Programs Manager Tim Anderson, where they were briefed on what the ICC's new Global Funding Plan would mean to them.

From 2009 to 2016, ICC Associate and Affiliate members will receive twice, thrice as much financial support for development of their cricket. With the constant possibility to receive even more depending on their competitive and administrative performance.



(from l to r) ACC Development Officer Iqbal Sikander, Bandula Warnapura, Tim Anderson

- 6 % of the ICC's commercial rights revenues over the next eight years (6% of US$1,500,000,000 ie $US 90,000,000) will be put into development.

- Countries at the top of the ICC non-Test playing rankings could receive US$1 million plus per year, by qualifying for World Cups.

The Associates and Affiliates in Bahrain drew up their spending plans for 2009 in consultation with Mr. Warnapura and Mr. Anderson. Two fundamental requirements have to be met by countries in order to receive ICC funds.

I. An annual operational plan and budget is to be submitted to, and approved by, the ACC at the beginning of each year.

II. Activity reports are to be sent to the ACC every quarter for Associates and once every six months for Affiliates. These must outline both financial and operational activities in line with the annual budget and plan

Mr. Warnapura said, "The countries need to prioritize and then proceed to use these funds. The administration of any Association is key to the work done and professionalizing it would be the first step in development. We are hoping to see advancements in all cricketing areas by 2010."

From the ICC viewpoint, "The beauty of this new process is that the Members and regional bodies have been provided with a framework on how to budget, plan and report, however, there is a lot of flexibility in how the funds can be spent for the greater good of cricket in each country. We are certainly hoping to see results across the board, but the country is at liberty to develop their grass-roots level cricket or upgrade their cricketing facilities or maybe even focus on their administration. It all depends on what their priorities are. We would, however, like all countries to have a sound administrative setup in place in order to professionalize their daily activities," says Mr. Anderson.

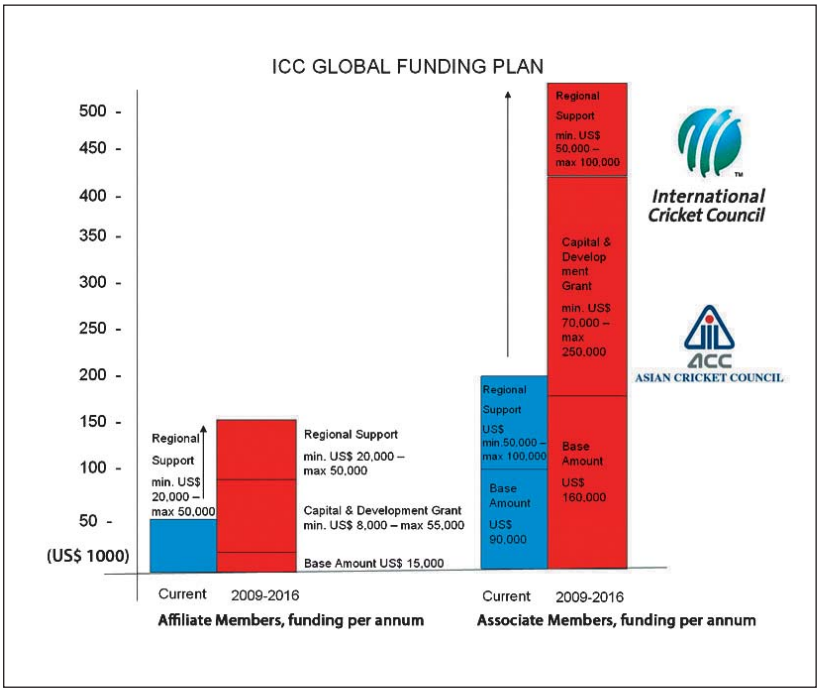
Emirates Cricket Board Administrator Mazhar Khan and Kuwait Cricket's Director General Asad Baig both agreed that the increased funding would benefit their countries' cricket.



"Our Development Program will be enhanced and cricket is now set to grow at all levels, from the grass-roots right up to the seniors and we are grateful for this," said Mr. Khan.

"We will have the opportunity to organize ourselves, improve the quality of work, facilities, administration and this will reflect in our on-field performances," added Mr. Baig.

The South East Asian ACC members were also taken through the ICC's Global Funding Plan in Bangkok later in November, by Mr. Warnapura and Finance Manager Thusith Perera.



What was globalisation before is now, in effect, localization. Each developing country where cricket is played now has the chance to shape their own destiny. Base-level support of cricket will continue as it has done, what is new is that the success of recipients (and donors) will determine just how much funding is available. ICC cricket has been valued at US$1.5 billion up to 2016. Cricket will be worth a great deal more after that if countries truly develop and achieve a level of global significance. A cricket World Cup where Associates and Affiliates have a strong competitive chance would make commercial rights to their matches worth a great deal more than they are now. Worth more commercially, worth more intrinsically.

Iran's Green Revolution

Two new cricket grounds are being built in Iran by the country's Baseball-Cricket Federation. The first ground is at Thakti and will have an artificial wicket while the second at Kiraj, being built by the Olympic Committee, will be a multi-purpose ground for baseball and cricket.



Kiraj



Kiraj's bleachers

"Things are shaping up nicely in Iran at the moment. The Federation is gratified by the interest shown in them by the ACC and keen to show themselves worthy of ACC activity," says Development Officer for Iran Iqbal Sikander.



Bandula Warnapura in Tehran

Iran's Olympic Association is keen to field eight teams in their next domestic Olympiad and are seeking ACC support to do so.

Development Manager Bandula Warnapura who was in Tehran with Iqbal reports that "there is a lot of potential in Iran even though football is the number 1 sport. The interesting thing is how much activity there is on the women's side of things.'

Thakti is expected to be in use during the current playing season with Kiraj pushing hard for early completion.

Saudis Show Their Mettle



Saudi Arabia have responded with élan to the new funding proposals set by the ICC and ACC and have composed a 'Five Year Strategic Development & Operational Plan' from December 2008 onwards.

"It is a remarkably well-thought out document," says ACC Development Officer for Saudi Arabia Iqbal Sikander. "Its ambition is sound, its goals achievable and its passion undeniable. The Saudi Cricket Centre is to be congratulated on making an excellent first step."

Up to US$120,000 is annually available from 2009 to 2016 to those ICC Affiliate countries demonstrating the most cogent and worthy development plans (compared to a maximum of US$50,000 a year before). Saudi Arabia would like as much of the maximum as possible as they seek to populate the vast kingdom with quality cricketers.

The intention of the Saudi Cricket Centre (SCC) is to develop the kingdom's infrastructure, youth and competition programs. "Youth development is the prime objective," says SCC Chief Executive Officer Nadeem Nadwi, "the targets are primary and secondary schools, where we hope to introduce the children to the basics of the game by way of inter-active and video demonstrations."

A tournament structure for age-groups for U-13, U-15, U-17 up to U-19 as well as regional competitions for the seniors is proposed with particular emphasis being put on investing in turf surfaces at all the new academies and grounds which the SCC hope will be built in stages leading up to 2013.

To that end, the kingdom is being divided into six regions for the purposes of development: Jeddah, Riyadh, Dammam, Medina, Abha and Yanbu. The expectation is that by 2013 at least 180 schools will be competing in nationally-managed competitions. "We have set a target of increasing each age-groups schools per region by five a year from 60 in 2009," says Mr. Nadwi.







SCC CEO Nadeem Nadwi in discussion with Iqbal Sikander

The intention is to create a focussed pathway for talented players to progress. Structured training programs and scholarships for the most promising are proposed with full support being given to the new generation of coaches, curators and umpires that will be needed.

"All in all it is a wonderful effort by the Saudi Cricket Centre, they have presented their case very well and if they can keep the good work going I am sure that Saudi Arabia cricketers will be a force to reckon with sooner rather than later," says Iqbal Sikander. Saudi Arabia are currently in the ACC Elite groups for U-15 and U-17 cricket and are U-19 Challenge champions.

U-19 Girls At The Start Of Something Big

The inaugural ACC U-19 Women's Championship in Chiang Mai, Thailand at the end of December 2008 marked a significant step in the development of women's cricket. "Having girls start playing cricket while they're still at school really sets them up for the senior level and at senior level all the countries taking part are focussed on the 2010 Asian Games. Any one of these girls could play in that event," says Shubhangi Kulkarni, Chairperson of the ACC Women's Committee.

"What this tournament does is give us a chance to assess these countries in preparation not just for the Asian Games but for their long-term development. They have all shown tremendous enthusiasm in getting to this stage, they themselves feel that starting with these girls now gives them the best chance to create quality cricketers at senior level," says Ms. Kulkarni who played 19 Tests and 27 ODIs for India (including two World Cups) between 1976 and 1991, captaining them in three Tests.

Since the inaugural ACC Women's Tournament last year, the non-Test playing nations have been devoting significant resources to women's cricket. Particularly the Gulf nations. "Our daughters and nieces basically just got fed up of watching the men and boys play, " says Murali Kotticode, father of Kuwait's captain Priyada Murali; "now that Kuwait Cricket is making special facilities available, they have all jumped at the chance to show their ability."

Teams have been in training for the past six months, some even for the whole year. “It started in January with the first training camp for all those who wanted to play,” says ACC Development Officer Iqbal Sikander, “others have followed and it is remarkable to see girls in these countries play cricket where before they did not.” Significantly, and in line with an increasing emphasis on development through indigenous participation, cricket at girls’ youth level has a much higher proportion of local players than at senior level. Thailand’s senior and U-19 team is 100% Thai, in contrast to the men’s (25%-33%).



Iqbal Sikander helping things along in Kuwait

Iran were in line to be the twelfth participating nation, but a ministry fiat on travel to Thailand following the unrest in Bangkok at the start of December scotched their presence in Chiang Mai at the last minute. “It is very disappointing because the girls in Iran had been working so hard for so long to play in the U-19 tournament. That a country like Iran even allows women’s cricket is tremendously empowering to the women’s cause in general. Their women’s football team beat India recently so there was every chance they would have also shown some ability in cricket. In fact, all the reports I’ve received say that the girls had really worked hard. It’s one thing to practise, it’s another thing to play competitively and this tournament would have given the girls a chance to find out how good they are,” says Ms. Kulkarni.

Every coach spoken to has faith in their team, particularly their bowlers. What seems to please the coaches most is the attitude shown by their young lady charges. Thiti ‘Shan’ Kader, Thailand’s coach has been working with his players in a camp for the past six weeks: “They just get it. They want to do well, they want to have fun, they’re keen to impress in international competition.” It’s the same for all the teams. The senior ACC Women’s tournament attracted considerable attention, these U-19s will undoubtedly receive more. For the ones who make it to the Asian Games, it all starts here.


Qatar’s coach Aruna de Silva drills his team


Iran – who’d have thought it possible?



Development in Action

Asia's Development Winners

Following the submission of nominations to the International Cricket Council (ICC) the Asian Cricket Council announced their regional winners for the 2008 Pepsi ICC Development Programme Awards.

"These awards are important as they recognize and appreciate the hard work and development of cricket in the countries. It gives Associations encouragement to develop their governance and improve on planning. I am disappointed that not all countries have sent in nominations but pleased with the ones that have, and hope all will now follow suit", says ACC Development Manager Bandula Warnapura.

Among the seven ACC member nominations below, Myanmar is receiving recognition for the first time.

Best Overall Cricket Development Program:
Chinese Cricket Association

Best Cricket Promotion and Marketing Program:
Myanmar Cricket Federation



Best Women's Cricket Initiative:
Cricket Association of Thailand



Best Junior Cricket Initiative:
Federal Territory Cricket Association Malaysia

Photo of the Year:
Bhutan Cricket Council Board



Volunteer of the Year:
Khwaja Imran



Lifetime Service Award:
Tunku Imran



Qualifications from ACC Courses, December 2008

Active Personnel



COACHES

	Level I	Level II
Afghanistan	3	
Bahrain	7	7
Bhutan	5	4
Brunei	3	1
China	31	3
Hong Kong	10	5
Iran	2	1
Kuwait	13	2
Malaysia	13	4
Maldives	9	5
Myanmar	4	
Nepal	19	4
Oman	14	9
Qatar	16	3
Saudi Arabia	6	2
Singapore	20	4
Thailand	11	3
UAE	13	5

UMPIRES

	Level I	Level II
Afghanistan	17	
Bahrain	17	4
Bhutan	17	2
Brunei	7	1
China	50	
Hong Kong	10	4
Iran	14	1
Kuwait	25	3
Malaysia	32	4
Maldives	11	3
Myanmar	3	
Nepal	42	5
Oman	38	4
Qatar	24	4
Saudi Arabia	16	2
Singapore	15	4
Thailand	24	7
UAE	17	2

CURATORS

	Module I	Module II	Module III	Advanced
Afghanistan	2			
Bahrain	1	2	1	
Bhutan	2	1	1	
Brunei	1			
Hong Kong	3	2	2	
Iran	1	1	2	
Kuwait	2		1	
Malaysia	7	3	4	4
Maldives	2	3	2	2
Nepal	3	2	3	
Oman	3	2	2	
Qatar	2	1	1	
Saudi Arabia	1	1	2	1
Thailand	6	1	3	1
UAE	3	2	3	



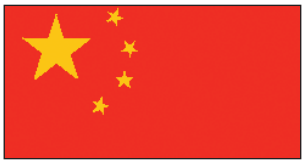




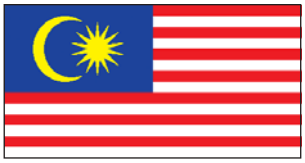
Country Profiles
























Afghanistan



Winners of Pepsi ICC World Cricket League Division 3 in Argentina, January 2009 © ICC

Population: 32, 738, 376 (2008 est.)
Population Aged 0-15: 44.6%
National Coach: Kabir Khan
National Captain: Nowroz Mangal
Cricket clubs: 320
Grounds: 0
Turf wickets: 6
Women's Cricket: No
Playing season: September to May

ACC Member since 2003
ACC Development Officer: Iqbal Sikander

Recent Achievements:



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**
2007 **Finalists, ACC U-19 Elite Cup**
2007 **Joint Winners of the ACC Twenty20 Cup**
2008 **Winners, ICC World Cricket League Division 5**
2008 **Third, ACC Trophy Elite**
2008 **Winners, Pepsi ICC World Cricket League Division 4**
2008 **Winners, ACC U-17 Challenge Cup**
2008 **Third, ACC Trophy Elite**
2009 **Winners, Pepsi ICC World Cricket League Division 3**
2009 **Achieved ODI Status, ICC World Cup Qualifier**

Eighth in ACC Rankings for 2007 and 2008 seasons

Active personnel qualified from ACC Courses:

Coaches : **Level I - 3**
Umpires : **Level I - 17**
Curators : **Module 1 - 2**

ACC Twenty20 Cup co-champions, ICC World Cricket League Division 5 champions, ICC World Cricket League Division 4 champions, ICC World Cricket League Division 3 champions and now Asia's newest ODI nation: 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 have reached unprecedented heights for an Affiliate nation.

Had they qualified for the STAR Cricket 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.

From zero-access to cricket 10 years ago, and with precious little other sport on offer in the country, Afghanistan's international success is generating tremendous interest. With the highest proportion of school-age children in the world, one in five, according to the United Nations and 60% of the country below age of 21, there is huge potential for cricket to play a huge part in establishing sport as a social force in Afghanistan.

Being beaten by Hong Kong in the 2006 ACC Trophy semi-final was actually beneficial to Afghanistan. For all their talent they had yet to develop a winners' tenacity. Placed in ICC World Cricket League Division 5 as a result of their ACC ranking, they would have to play anything up to 25 matches in order to qualify for the 2011 World Cup. Starting at Division 5 meant they'd have a chance to progressively build confidence and competence against other countries. They won Division 5 by the narrowest of margins and were more convincing in Division 4 where they were unbeaten. "The opposition has been tougher each time," says their former captain Raees Ahmadzai, Man of the Match in the Division 4 Final, "we are learning about our strengths and weaknesses with each game we play." Winning Division 3 in Argentina at the start of the year was a tremendous effort.

Robin Marlar, President of 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 November 2007 and said that "If Afghanistan played England in Twenty20 cricket, they would win at least one match out of ten."

Once it becomes apparent to the newly-formed Afghanistan Cricket Board themselves that 'one out of ten' actually under-estimates their potential, then deep-rooted improvements can be made, because as their coach former Pakistan international Kabir Khan said at the start of 2009, "it is just raw talent because there is no real infrastructure back there.". A regime-change under Board President Allah Dad Noori may just do the trick.



Country with a past, country with a future. Winners in Asia and around the world, the Afghanistan senior side as well as the U-17s.













Bahrain



Action from Hananiya valley, Riffa

Population: Population: 1,005,000 (2008 estimate)
Population Aged 0-15: 27.4%
National Coach: Mohsin Kamal
National Captain: Fahad Sadeq
Cricket clubs: 71
Grounds: 8
Turf wickets: 0
Women's Cricket: No
Playing Season: October to April

ACC Member since 2003
ACC Development Officer: Rumesh Ratnayake

Recent Achievements:

2004 **ACC Middle East Cup Finalists**
2006 **ACC Middle East Cup Winners**
2006 **ACC U-15 Elite Semi-Finalists**
2009 **ACC U-17 Elite Participants**

Eleventh in ACC Rankings for 2007 and 2008 seasons

Active personnel qualified from ACC Courses:

Coaches : **Level I - 7; Level II - 7**
Umpires : **Level I - 17; Level II - 4**
Curators : **Module 1 - 1; Module 2 - 2; Module 3 - 1**





Bahrain are making a comeback on the international stage after a period out of ACC competition in 2007-2008 while internal administrative affairs were being settled. Prior to their absence Bahrain were in the Elite division of every ACC competition and there are signs that cricket is enjoying a renaissance, with news of a new national academy being built in Manama.

Assuming all the elements in Bahrain coalesce and their potential is realised, 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 looks to be assured.

"We look to Bahrain to play a key role in the Middle East and Asia, especially at the junior level," says ACC Development Officer Roger Binny. Bahrain Cricket Association (BCA) Executive Committee President Mohammed Ali Abul affirms, "We are concentrating on the development of the game at the grass root level. We are looking to build better grounds in several locations as well as a cricket academy and have plans to promote the sport in Bahrain's schools. Hopefully, our work with the juniors will reflect on the future of our national team."

They have three grounds where they have their regular league matches. They are now working with the Olympic Committee to acquire two more grounds and have recently imported soil to prepare turf pitches which will be ready in 2009.

Thanks to a quarter-final placing in the last ACC Trophy, 2009 also sees Bahrain's debut in the ICC World Cricket League, where they will be looking to make up ground on their Asian rivals.



The 2008 Senior Squad



The 2008 U-17 squad





Cricket by day and cricket by night



Bhutan



ACC Trophy Challenge 2009 Finalists

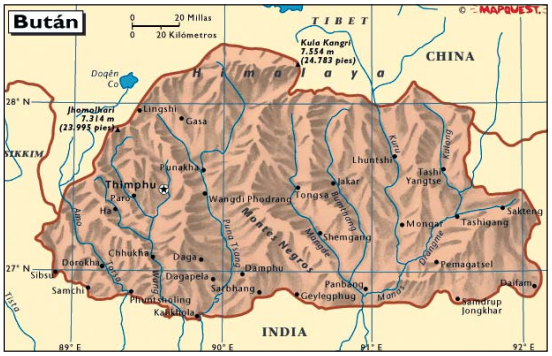
Population: 672, 427 (2005 census)
Population (Aged 0-15): 38.9%
National Coach: Damber Singh Gurung
National Captain: Tshering Dorji
Cricket clubs: 8
Grounds: 6
Turf wickets: 0
Women's cricket: Yes
Playing Season: September to May

ACC Member since 2001
ACC Development Officer: Roger Binny

Recent Achievements:

2006 **Finalists, ACC U-15 Challenge Cup**
2007 **Finalists, ACC U-15 Challenge Cup**
2008 **Finalists, ACC U-19 Challenge Cup**
2009 **Finalists, ACC Trophy Challenge**
2009 **Winners, Spirit of Cricket Award ACC Trophy Challenge**

Thirteenth in ACC Rankings for 2007 and 2008 seasons



Active personnel qualified from ACC Courses:

Coaches : **Level I - 5; Level II - 4**
Umpires : **Level I - 17; Level II - 2**
Curators : **Module 1 - 2; Module 2 - 1; Module 3 - 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 ACC Development Officer for Bhutan Roger Binny.

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, is on the up. Finalists in the ACC U-15 and U-19 Challenge Cups they show the virtues of good skills, sound technique and hunger for victory. The team personnel are virtually the same for every tournament they play from and when they're not playing bigger, faster, stronger opponents more versed in cricket, Bhutan invariably triumph.



Bhutan's capital Thimphu has space for only half a ground (the other land being given over to the national sport archery) but it is used to its fullest extent for matches and training.



Roger Binny is hugely popular in Bhutan



Thinley Jamthso hitting out in the ACC Trophy Challenge 2009 Final against Oman



Jigme Singye under the watchful eye of national coach Damber Singh Gurung





Brunei



The 2008 Senior Squad

Population: 381, 371 (2008 estimate)
Population (Aged 0-15): 28.1%
National Coach: Manzur Ahmed
National Captain: Sujaya Kamat
Cricket clubs: 5
Grounds: 1
Turf wickets: 0
Women's cricket: Yes
Playing Season: Year-round

ACC Member since 1996
ACC Development Officer: Aminul Islam

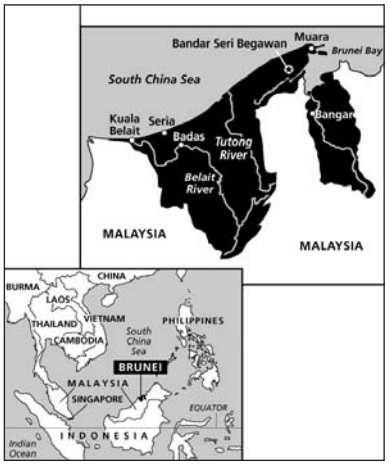
Recent Achievements:

2009 **ACC Trophy Challenge Participants**
Translators of Laws of Cricket into Malay

Eighteenth in ACC Rankings for 2007 and 2008 seasons

Active personnel qualified from ACC Courses:

Coaches : **Level I - 3; Level II - 1**
Umpires : **Level I - 7; Level II - 1**
Curators : **Module 1 - 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.

The BDCA's initiative to translate The Laws of Cricket into Malay is a significant step and will undoubtedly enhance the take-up of the game, not just in the local community but further afield into Eastern and Pensinsular Malaysia.



Sinnathurai Induraj, 5th in the ACC Trophy Challenge averages with a strike rate of 95.62



Aminul Islam, the centre of attention for Brunei's new women cricketers



Brunei making Bhutan hustle during the ACC Trophy Challenge





China

Population: 1, 330, 044, 544 (2008 est.)
Population (Aged 0-15): 20.8%
National Coach: Rashid Khan
National Captain: Zhao Yang
Women's Coach: Mamatha Maben
Women's captain: Mei Chun Hua
Cricket clubs:
Grounds: 4
Turf wickets: 0
Playing Season: April to October

ACC Member since 2004
ACC Development Officer: Aminul Islam



On the Great Wall of China

Recent Achievements:

2006 **Participants in the ACC U-15 Challenge Cup**
2006 **Winners ICC Regional Development Awards: Best Junior Cricket Initiative**
2007 **ACC Women's Tournament Semi-finalists**
2007 **Winners, Spirit of Cricket Award ACC U-15 Challenge Cup**
2008 **ACC U-17 Challenge Cup Participants**
2008 **ACC U-19 Women's Championship Participants**
2009 **ACC Trophy Challenge Participants**



Fifteenth in ACC Rankings for 2007 and 2008 seasons

Active personnel qualified from ACC Courses:

Coaches : **Level I - 31; Level II - 3**
Umpires : **Level I - 50**

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's; 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: i) for the Asian Cricket Council Development Program, ii) the Chinese state sporting machine and iii) the appeal of the game of cricket itself.

China's coach Rashid Khan, seconded by the Pakistan Cricket Board since 2006, said in 2008, "Development is new, coaching systems are new and China is new to cricket so it is not easy. It is like me learning Chinese by reading a dictionary and watching Chinese movies. To those who want quick results I say it is not possible, to those who want good results I say it is possible. But only if good things are done every step of the way."

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 primary target is the creation of a men's and women's team for the 2010 Asian Games in Guangzhou. As hosts, China is 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, in this medal-event, state support of the game will be boosted considerably.

ACC Development Officer for China Aminul Islam says that “China thinks cricket is the fastest way for them to earn money from sport and this motivates them very much.”

Non-professional sports in China (i.e. not table-tennis, badminton, soccer or basketball) face one major problem: children between the ages of 13 and 18 are compelled by their parents and schools to put their studies ahead of all other interests. “No teenager in China plays sport for fun,” says Dr. Liu Jingmin of Tsinghua University, Beijing. Unless there is an exceptional push by their schooling institution, non-income generating sports are not played by China’s youth. The ones who have been representing China in ACC tournaments are coming to terms with international cricket much in the way anyone who is learning Mandarin from scratch would.

In order for China to play to the best of their abilities and meet their undeniable potential in the 2010 Asian Games, a detailed plan has been outlined by the CCA with the help of ACC. The ACC Country Development Officer Aminul Islam, the national coach for China Rashid Khan and other local coaches completed a wide-ranging search for talent in 2008. Twenty-five schools in Beijing, Tianjin, Shenyang and Shanghai took part in this program. 500 players were initially chosen after comprehensive skills training and game simulations. From those, 289 are going forward into specialized training programs with a few to creating a core squad for the Asian Games.

A detailed information base of the players and their standards in batting, bowling and fielding was created during this search program. It is now to be maintained for future planning, development and training purposes. With grading and other input from coaches, Development Officers and China's national coach, the database will be used to select the best players for the national men's and women's squads. Rashid Khan and Aminul Islam were joined in March 2009 by a coach for the women’s team, former India international Mamatha Maben.

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% 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.”

The CCA’s motto is ‘*ming tien hui gen hao*’, ‘a better tomorrow’. They have the desire, they seek the knowledge, they wish to repay investment and in turn make cricket their own. They’re Chinese. It’s possible.



The 2008 Senior Squad



Hong Kong

Population: 7, 008, 900 (2008 est.)
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
ACC Development Officer: Rumesh Ratnayake



Winners, ACC Trophy Elite 2008

Recent Achievements:

2006 **Finalists, ACC Trophy**
2007 **Qualifiers for ICC World Cricket League Division 3**
2007 **ACC Women's Tournament Semi-Finalists**
2008 **Participants, STAR Cricket Asia Cup**
2008 **Winners, ACC Trophy Elite**
2008 **Finalists, Pepsi ICC World Cricket League Division 4**

Seventh in ACC Rankings for 2007 and 2008 seasons

Active personnel qualified from ACC Courses:

Coaches : **Level I - 10; Level II - 5**
Umpires : **Level I - 10; Level II - 4**
Curators : **Module 1 - 3; Module 2 - 2; Module 3 - 2**



HONG KONG CRICKET ASSOCIATION
香港板球總會

Winning their first ACC Trophy in 2008 (defeating four-time champions UAE in the Final and Afghanistan in the semi-final) gave Hong Kong tremendous confidence and carried them through to success in ICC Division 4 later in the year. The team, a well-balanced mix of fearless youth and aged guile, newly led by former England international coach Aftab Habib, have improved with each outing in the past twelve months and only narrowly missed out on reaching the 2009 ICC World Cup Qualifier for a place in the next World Cup.

Hong Kong's 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 Anglicized expatriate game now encompasses a significant number of sub-continental 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.

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 qualification for three Asia Cups has shown that when it comes to 50-over match-play on turf, Hong Kong are a match for any non-ODI country. Notwithstanding the premier performances of the UAE and rising challenge of Afghanistan and Oman, Hong Kong remain the class act amongst Asian associates.



Hong Kong chair their coach Aftab Habib after success in the 2008 ACC trophy



Afzaal Haider strikes at the Asia Cup



Nadeem Ahmed snares Shahid Afridi and Pakistan are 150-6 v Hong Kong at the Asia Cup



Chan Sau Har savours a victory at the ACC U-19 Women's Championship



Zain Abbas at ICC WCL Division 4 in Tanzania





Iran

Population: 65, 875, 224 (2008 est.)
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
ACC Development Officer: Iqbal Sikander



The 2008 Senior squad

Recent Achievements:

2006 **Participants in the ACC Middle-East Cup**
2006 **ACC U-15 Challenge Cup Semi-Finalists**
2006 **Participants, ACC Trophy**
2009 **Participants, ACC Trophy Challenge**

Sixteenth in ACC Rankings for 2007 and 2008 seasons

Active personnel qualified from ACC Courses:

Coaches : **Level I - 2; Level II - 1**
Umpires : **Level I - 14; 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. The administrators have subsequently taken advantage of their proximity to Pakistan to create a following for the game.

Iran has, however, to paraphrase Churchill, been an enigma wrapped around a riddle inside a mystery, for much of their international cricket life since becoming members of the ACC and ICC.

While cricket in Tehran itself remains largely an expatriate game, there is much activity in the southern Chabahar and Baluchistan regions of Iran. These regions border Pakistan and there is increasing evidence, as they develop commercially and welcome cross-border interaction, that cricket is attracting more and more local people.

The country's Olympic committee has allocated one ground to the Federation and three more grounds at Azadi, Thakti and Kiraj are earmarked for development in 2009. Construction on the ground has already been started and it is hoped that the ground would be ready in about one year's time. The national Olympic body is demonstrating increasing support of the country's cricket activity.

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

Two of their players, national captain Nariman Bakhtiar and opener Shirmohammad Baloochnezad impressed at the 2009 ACC Trophy Challenge. At present the cricketers are made up of two distinct parts - the Tehran-based ones who have access to playing abroad - of whom Nariman Bakhtiar is a prime example and the cricketers of the regions bordering Pakistan - e.g. Shirmohammad Baloochnezad - who truly have learnt cricket the hard way.



Shirmohammad Baloochnezad: Iran's first centurion, 2009 ACC Trophy Challenge



Nariman Bakhtiar







Tehran's women cricketers





Kuwait

Population: 3, 399, 637 (2007 estimate)
Population Aged 0-15: 27.2%
National Coach: Samir F. Desai
National Captain: Hisham Mirza
Cricket clubs: 63
Grounds: 10
Turf wickets: 4
Women's Cricket: Yes
Playing Season: September to May

ACC Member since 1996
ACC Development Officer: Iqbal Sikander



Kuwait's U-19 Women's Squad

Recent Achievements:

2006 **Hosts, ACC Middle East Cup**
2007 **Hosts, ACC Twenty20 Cup**
2007 **Third, ACC Twenty20 Cup**
2008 **Completion of fourth turf facility, Sulaibiya**
2008 **Participants, ACC U-19 Women's Championship**
2009 **Hosts, ACC U-19 Elite Cup**

Fourth in ACC Rankings for 2007 and 2008 seasons



Active personnel qualified from ACC Courses:

Coaches : **Level I - 13; Level II - 2**
Umpires : **Level I - 25; Level II - 3**
Curators : **Module 1 - 2; Module 3 - 1**

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 do have some outstanding batsmen but a lack of cutting-edge bowlers has 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 Kuwait Cricket 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 Kuwait Cricket'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 the 2009 season Kuwait have four fully-turfed grounds, quite an achievement in the circumstances. One more ground, having the unique feature of a turf wicket with artificial outfield at new leisure centre Salmiya is also on the way.



Hisham Mirza



U-19 Women's captain Priyada Murali



Members of Kuwait Cricket's Executive Board and Executive Council (from l to r) Emad Al Jassam, Yousef Ali Bash, Asad Baig, Haider Farman, Jeff de Lange



Desert into Turf: Sulaibiya





Malaysia



ACC U-19 Women's Championship Runners-Up

Population: 25, 274, 132 (2008 est.)
Population Aged 0-15: 27.2%
National Coach:
National Captain: Rohan Vishnu Suppiah
Women's captain: Arina Rahim
Cricket clubs: 30
Grounds: 32
Turf wickets: 8
Playing Season: Year-round

ACC Member since 1983
ACC Development Officer: Rumesh Ratnayake

Recent Achievements:



2006 **Hosts, ACC U-15 Elite Cup**
2006 **Hosts, ACC Trophy**
2006 **Hosts, DLF Tri-Series between Australia, India and West Indies**
2007 **Beat Bangladesh U-19s in a 50-over match**
2007 **ACC U-19 Elite Cup Semi-Finalists**
2008 **Hosts, ICC U/19 World Cup**
2008 **Beat Zimbabwe in the group stage, U/19 World Cup**
2008 **Finalists, ACC U-19 Women's Championship**
2009 **Finalists, ACC U-17 Elite Cup**
2009 **ICC Development Program Lifetime Service Award for MCA President Tunku Imran**

Fifth in ACC Rankings for 2007 and 2008 seasons

Active personnel qualified from ACC Courses:

Coaches : **Level I - 13; Level II – 4**
Umpires : **Level I - 32; Level II – 4**
Curators : **Module 1 - 7; Module 2 - 3; Module 3 - 4; Advanced - 4**

MALAYSIA CRICKET

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 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 reward 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. And 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.

Signs of a revival in national fortunes were evident in 2008 with two players being chosen as Players of the Tournament in the 2008 ACC Trophy Elite, batsman Suhan Kumar and bowler Dinesh Muthuraman. The women impressed too, reaching the Final of the ACC U-19 Women's Championship.

A period of internal retrenchment and reform is underway as practical and efficient steps to truly develop the game in Malaysia from the bottom up, with as wide a base as possible, rather than the top down, are being taken.



MCA President Tunku Imran aiming high, as ever



The 2008 Senior Squad



Nur Aishah strikes: ACC U-19 Women's Championship Final



Ahmad Adnan attacks: ACC U-17 Elite Cup



A Malay footballer turns his eyes to cricket





Maldives



The 2008 Senior Squad

Population: 385, 925 (2008 est.)
Population Aged 0-15: 46%
National Coach: Faiz Samad (Trainer)
National Captain: Moosa Kaleem
Cricket clubs: Division 1: 4, Division 2: 10
Grounds: 2
Turf wickets: 1 (net)
Women's Cricket: No
Playing Season: September to April

ACC Member since 1996
ACC Development Officer: Rumesh Ratnayake

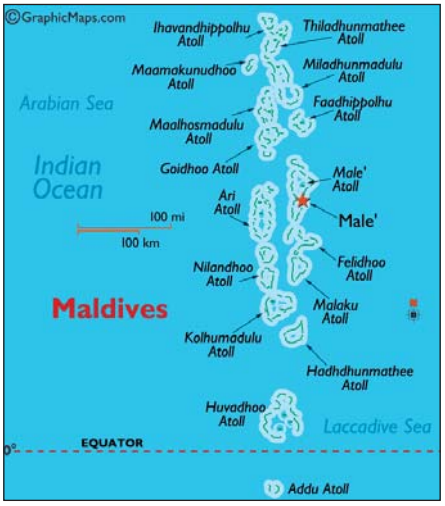
Recent Achievements:

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**
2009 **Third, ACC Trophy Challenge**

Fourteenth in ACC Rankings for 2007 and 2008 seasons

Active personnel qualified from ACC Courses:

Coaches : **Level I - 9; Level II - 5**
Umpires : **Level I - 11; Level II - 3**
Curators : **Module 1 - 2; Module 2 - 3; Module 3 - 2; 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 Board of Maldives have 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 the reach of televised cricket from the subcontinent. 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. Fast-bowling is a particular strength along with some lusty hitting. 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 CBM and turf wickets have been installed for practises along with a vibrant tournament structure.

Should they manage to strike the most productive balance between their senior players and the youngsters in the national team, the Maldives will start to make rapid progress up the ranks.



Winners of the 2006 ACC Emerging Nations Trophy



The 2008 U-19 squad



Moosa Kaleem chases down an opposition stroke



Mahafooz Mohamed congratulated by his coach after picking up a Man of the Match award



Husham Ibrahim piling on the runs





Myanmar



2007 U-15s: Myanmar's First International Winners

Population: 48.8 million (UN, 2007)
Population Aged 0-15: 28.1%
National Coach: Michael Moosajee
National Captain: Ye Myo Tun
Cricket clubs:
Grounds: 4
Turf wickets: 2
Women's Cricket: No
Playing Season: October to May

ACC Member since 2005
ACC Development Officer: Aminul Islam

Recent Achievements:

2006 **Participants in the ACC Trophy**
2007 **First international victory, ACC U-15 Challenge Cup**
2008 **Spirit of Cricket Award, U-17 Challenge Cup**
2009 **Winners, Asia Region ICC Development Award for Best Cricket Promotional and Marketing Program**

Seventeenth in ACC Rankings for 2007 and 2008 seasons

Active personnel qualified from ACC Courses:

Coaches : **Level I – 4**
Umpires : **Level I – 3**



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. Its chorus – "Cricket – Cricket – Cricket – Cricket / Play cricket – Achieve Subtle Supremacy." In 2008, Federation President U Nyunt Win (a legendary actor) directed a Myanmarese movie 'Bo Ba' which told a story very similar to 'Lagaan' and was a huge hit across the country. Many of the national players are featured in the story as extras.

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 defeated Brunei. Since then, they have shown improvement and display at times some breathtaking skills. String enough of those moments together and they'll be a competitive side.



Post-match analysis: Aminul Islam and Michael Moosajee



MCF President U Nyunt Win



Girls' cricket is coming along in Myanmar



Min Wai stands up to Afghan pace: 2008 U-17 Challenge Cup



'Bo Ba' a film adaptation of 'Lagaan' (directed by U Nyunt Win) was a big hit in Myanmar



Myanmar's cricketers are increasingly getting more things to cheer about



Nepal

Population: 29, 519, 114 (2008 est.)
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 to November; March to May

ACC Member since 1990
ACC Development Officer: Rumesh Ratnayake



2008 ACC U-19 Women's Champions

Recent Achievements:

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, ICC Global Development Award for Best Women's Cricket Initiative**
2006 **Winners, ACC Premier League**
2007 **Finalists, ACC Women's Tournament**
2007 **Winners, ACC U-19 Elite Cup**
2007 **Winners, Asia Region ICC Development Award for Picture of the Year**
2008 **Plate Finalists, U/19 World Cup**
2008 **Third, ICC World Cricket League Division 5**
2008 **Winners, ACC U-19 Women's Championship**
2009 **Winners, ACC U-17 Elite Cup**



Second in ACC Rankings for 2007 and 2008 seasons

Active personnel qualified from ACC Courses:

Coaches : **Level I - 19; Level II - 4**
Umpires : **Level I - 42; Level II - 5**
Curators : **Module I - 3; Module II - 2; Module III - 3**

At age-group cricket Nepal simply clean up and have won tournaments at every level of ACC competition. 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 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 certainly pushing and the battle between them and the others should be fascinating in the years ahead.

The Cricket Association of Nepal has adopted a more professional approach to development in recent years. Increased sponsorship and more focussed domestic competitions have been the result. Work is expected to start on a National Academy, felt to be vital for indoor practice given the extremes of Nepal's weather, which will be partly funded by the ACC. Two grounds outside Kathmandu, in Mulpani and Pokhara are also planned.

Women's cricket is thriving 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 won the 2008 ACC U-19 Women's Championship.



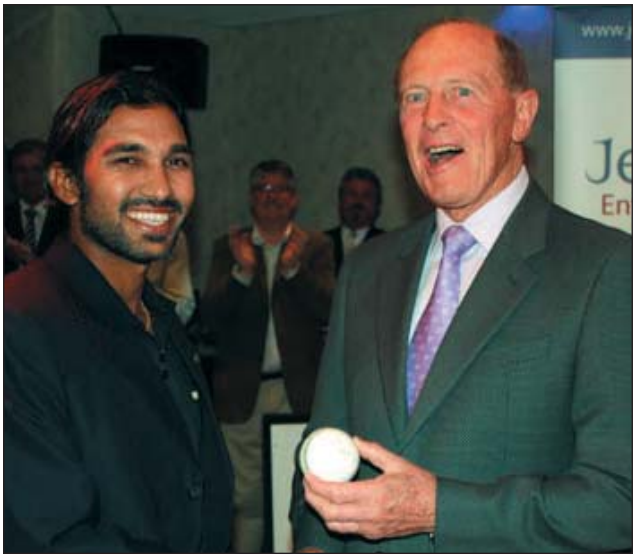
2009 ACC U-17 Elite Cup Champions



7,000 Nepal fans came to watch their team in the ACC U-17 Elite Cup Final at Tribhuvan



10-12 v Mozambique for Mahabob Alam in ICC WCL Division 5 in Jersey, the first player to take all ten in an Associate or Affiliate match



WCL 5 Player of the Tournament Mahaboob Alam with Geoffrey Boycott



Nepal's U-19 Women running away with it





Oman

Population: 3, 204, 897 (2007 estimate)
Population Aged 0-15: 42.6%
National Coach : Mazhar Saleem Khan
National Captain: Hemal Mehta
Cricket Clubs: 45
Grounds: 5
Turf Wickets: 0
Women's Cricket: Yes
Playing Season: August to April

ACC Member since 2000
ACC Development Officer: Roger Binny



Winners of the 2009 ACC Trophy Challenge

Recent Achievements:

2006 **Winners, ACC U-15 Challenge Cup**
2007 **Joint winners, ACC Twenty20 Cup**
2007 **Runners-up, ICC World Cricket League Division 2**
2008 **Finalists, ACC U-17 Challenge Cup**
2009 **Winners, ACC Trophy Challenge**
2009 **Participants, ICC World Cup Qualifier**

Eleventh in ACC Rankings for 2007 and 2008 seasons

Active personnel qualified from ACC Courses:

Coaches : **Level I - 14; Level II - 9**
Umpires : **Level I - 38; Level II - 4**
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 after the group stage, against some tough opposition. That booked Oman a place in the 2009 ICC World Cup Qualifier where they had every chance of qualifying for the World Cup of 2011. They will look back on their performances in that competition with a feeling that they could have, and should have, done better.

They are a team of mature, personable individuals who bring much credit to themselves and their country. Their rise has been based on having a team packed with all-rounders along with superb team spirit. They have a habit of prevailing in close matches which says much for their competitive instincts. Oman have all the ingredients for success, including a vigorous national association. Artificial turf wickets have been introduced that simulate grass to better prepare for international competition. Once they have turf facilities on which they can play and practise regularly, they will truly become a cricketing force.

Oman ended last season with victory in the ACC Trophy Challenge where they really were a class apart from the others in the competition.



The 2008 U-17 Squad



The 2008 U-19 Women's Squad











Qatar



The U-19 Women's Squad

Population: 824, 789 (2008 est.)
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 to April

ACC Member since 2000
ACC Development Officer: Iqbal Sikander

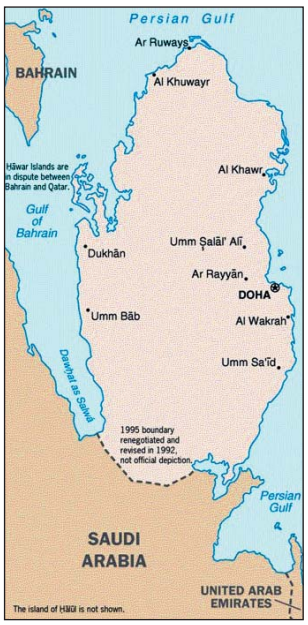
Recent Achievements:

2006 **Winner of the ICC Development Award for Asian Region's Volunteer of the Year: Malik Nazar Mohammad**
2006 **Sixth place in ACC Trophy**
2007 **Winners, ACC U-15 Challenge Cup**
2008 **Participants, ACC U-19 Women's Championship**

Fifth in ACC Rankings for 2007 and 2008 seasons

Active personnel qualified from ACC Courses:

Coaches : **Level I - 16; Level II - 3**
Umpires : **Level I - 24; Level II - 4**
Curators : **Module 1 - 2; Module 2 - 1; Module 3 - 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 the Middle East in seventeen year-old Tamoor Sajjad, Player of the Tournament in last season's ACC U-17 Elite Cup but upon one player a team cannot be built so they invariably struggle in the latter stages of every tournament. Still, there is other talent around Sajjad and Qatar are a dangerous side.

The lack of turf 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 at the end of 2007 the state took an interest in promoting cricket and negotiations are proceeding for major new cricket facilities development in the country. Qatar's Olympic Committee has allocated a ground to the QCA at the Industrial Area in Doha. This ground will eventually be grassed with proper seating and turf pitches.

Recently, the QCA has been in discussion with the petroleum corporations to make use of two grounds outside Doha. Both the grounds are fully grassed with concrete pitches. The QCA is now working on developing these grounds to have turf pitches by the end of 2009.

"Turf is something which is critical to progress for Qatar, as well as for the other countries in the region. You see the players struggle when they come to international tournaments and they are not able to do themselves justice," says Iqbal Sikander.



2008 ACC U-15 Challenge Cup champions



Qatar; Players 1000, Turf 0



Omer Taj, with 294 runs in five games, was the top-scorer in the 2008 ACC Trophy Elite



Rising star Tamoor Sajjad



Women's cricket started in Qatar on a cold day in early 2008



By the end of the year, Nahan Arif was hitting boundaries





Saudi Arabia



The 2008 Senior Squad

Population: 27, 601, 038 (2007 estimate)
Population Aged 0-15: 38.2%
National Coach: Mansoor Akhtar
National Captain: Nadeem Saad
Cricket clubs: 149
Grounds: 38
Turf wickets: 1
Women's cricket: No
Playing Season: October to April

ACC Member since 2003
ACC Development Officer: Iqbal Sikander

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**

Tenth in ACC Rankings for 2007 and 2008 seasons



Active personnel qualified from ACC Courses:

Coaches : **Level I - 6; Level II - 2**
Umpires : **Level I - 16; Level II - 2**
Curators : **Module I - 1; Module II - 1; Module III - 2; Advanced - 1**

Saudi Arabia's senior side haven't quite lived up to expectations generated by their barn-storming performance in the 2006 ACC Trophy in recent senior ACC competitions, nevertheless they beat the defending champions UAE in the 2008 ACC Trophy (UAE's first defeat in eight years in the biennial competition).

Future stellar performances look a certainty based on the abilities of their U-19 cricketers. They won the 2008 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. Should they manage to hold on to this current generation of teenagers, Saudi Arabia will be a force to reckon with.

Finishing in the top 10 of the ACC Rankings after the tournament seasons of 2007 and 2008, had their Chief Executive Officer Nadeem Nadwi say that, "It will definitely energize our efforts to promote cricket in the Kingdom. This will give our team an extra boost and strength to believe that, with honest efforts and hard work we have every possibility to go even higher on the ladder and improve our ranking further in the next two years."

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. The intention of the Saudi Cricket Centre (SCC) is to develop the kingdom's infrastructure, youth and competition programs. "Youth development is the prime objective," says Mr. Nadwi SCC Chief Executive Officer Nadeem Nadwi, "the targets are primary and secondary schools, where we hope to introduce the children to the basics of the game by way of inter-active and video demonstrations."

A tournament structure for age-groups for U-13, U-15, U-17 up to U-19 as well as regional competitions for the seniors is proposed with particular emphasis being put on investing in turf surfaces at all the new academies and grounds.

To that end, the kingdom is being divided into six regional bodies for the purposes of development: Jeddah, Riyadh, Dammam, Medina, Abha and Yanbu. The expectation is that by 2013 at least 180 schools will be competing in nationally-managed competitions. "We have set a target of increasing each age-groups schools per region by five a year from 60 in 2009," added Mr. Nadwi.

The intention is to create a focussed pathway for talented players to progress. Structured training programs and scholarships for the most promising players are proposed with full support being given to the new generation of coaches, curators and umpires that will be needed.







Saudi Arabia celebrate victory against UAE in the ACC Trophy Elite thanks to Khalid Butt's century followed by some hostile bowling



Future stars of Saudi cricket



2008 ACC U-19 Challenge champions





Singapore



The 2008 Senior Squad

Population: 4, 839, 400 (2008 est.)
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: October to April

ACC Member since 1983
ACC Development Officer: Roger Binny

Recent Achievements:

2006 **Winners, ICC Global Development Award: Best Overall Cricket Development**
2007 **Winners, ACC U-15 Elite Cup**
2007 **Participants, ICC World Cricket League Division 5**

First in ACC Rankings for 2007 and 2008 seasons

Active personnel qualified from ACC Courses:

Coaches : **Level I - 20; Level II – 4**
Umpires : **Level I - 15; Level II – 4**
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. Yet they are consistently sound.

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.

"Singapore's position at the top of the table has been achieved through no coincidence,'' says Singapore Cricket Association President Khwaja Imran. "The performance of our various teams in the Asian tournaments has been praiseworthy and we have done well only because of the various programs put in place by the different people in the different committees. The players must be congratulated for their sacrifices."

Singapore are reaping the reward for having a strong forward-thinking administration coupled with players who have consistently shone at youth level. "We will spread our programs now to reach other areas,'' adds Mr. Imran. "Being No.1 is great. Now we must stay there and apply a fresh perspective to the younger lot of players."



Chaminda Ruwan



Anish Param castles Afghanistan's Noor Ali, ICC World Cricket League Division 5



Chetan Suryawanshi



2007 ACC U-15 Elite champions



The U-19 Women's Squad







Thailand



The U-19 Women's Squad

Population: 63, 038, 247 (2007 estimate)
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
ACC Development Officer: Roger Binny

Recent Achievements:

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 **Hosts, ACC U-15 Challenge Cup**
2008 **Hosts, ACC U-19 Challenge Cup**
2008 **Hosts and Third, ACC U-17 Challenge Cup**
2008 **Hosts and Third, ACC U-19 Women's Championship**
Winners, Spirit of Cricket Award
2009 **Hosts, ACC Trophy Challenge**

Ninth in ACC Rankings for 2007 and 2008 seasons

Active personnel qualified from ACC Courses:

Coaches : **Level I - 11; Level II - 3**
Umpires : **Level I - 24; Level II - 7**
Curators : **Module I - 6; Module II - 1; Module III - 3; Advanced - 1**



Cricket Association of Thailand
สมาคมคริกเกตแห่งประเทศไทย

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 have a presence in the age-group squads and a number have played for the seniors already. Women's cricket is a significant part of development activity. At the start of 2009 nets were put up for the first time in government schools, in Chiang Mai.

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. "If cricket is to prosper in Thailand then it needs to develop the local cricketing human capital," says national coach and Association Chief Executive Officer Mohideen Kader, "not just players but umpires and coaches too."

It is the women who are making the most significant strides. The womens' teams are 100% Thai (in contrast to the 75% expatriate men's team) and they are playing some remarkably good cricket for those who have only been active for 18 months. "It is a tribute to the Thai character and to cricket that the game is flourishing in Thailand," says National Coach and CAT Chief Executive Mr. Mohideen Kader.





Mohideen Kader and supporters of Thailand's women's team had plenty to celebrate in 2008



The 2008 Senior Squad



Zeeshan Khan embraces an ACC Trophy Challenge Man of the Match Noppon Senamontree





Pimpika Jindakham hits the winning runs as Thailand edge a thriller against Hong, 2008 ACC U-19 Women's Championship





UAE

Population: 4, 621, 399 (2006 est.)
Population Aged 0-15: 25.3%
National Coach: Colin Wells
National Captain: Khurram Khan
Women's captain: Natasha Cherriath
Cricket clubs: 415
Grounds: 80
Turf wickets: 3
Playing Season: September to April

ACC Member since 1984
ACC Development Officer: Roger Binny



The 2008 Senior Squad

Recent Achievements:

2000-2006	**ACC Trophy Winners**
2007	**ACC U-19 Elite Cup Semi-Finalists**
2007	**Third, ACC Twenty20 Cup**
2007	**Winners, ICC World Cricket League Division 2**
2008	**Participants, STAR Cricket Asia Cup**
2008	**Finalists, ACC Trophy Elite**
2009	**Participants, ICC World Cup Qualifier**



Third in ACC Rankings for 2007 and 2008 seasons

Active personnel qualified from ACC Courses:

Coaches : **Level I - 13; Level II – 5**
Umpires : **Level I - 17; Level II – 2**
Curators : **Module I - 3; Module II - 2; Module III - 3**

The UAE are close to peerless in Asia when it comes to senior-level cricket, though losing the 2008 ACC Trophy Elite Final to Hong Kong ended their run of four consecutive ACC Trophys. Many feel the UAE still have the best players and the best grounds as well as deep-rooted cricket patronage so a return to winning ways will not be far away.

Their performances in the four-day cricket of the ICC Intercontinental Cup have been a cause of concern but the three matches they lost to the teams of Africa and Europe in 2008 were close. They are a side packed with match-winners and along with the die-hard stalwarts who have been the backbone of the side for the past half-a-dozen years, they always seem to be unearthing dynamic new talent. Competition for places in the national side is fierce.

There are many reasons, socio-economic ones notwithstanding, why the UAE have the deepest talent-pool 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. They are almost certainly the fittest team in Asia outside that of the Test-playing countries.

At age-group level other Asian countries tend to find the UAE beatable but even there, such is their ability to throw up talented cricketers, they remain one of the strongest teams. The catchment area for cricketers is starting to spread outside the traditional confines of Sharjah and Dubai into the other Emirates.

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 in the game.



Amjad Ali



Zahid Shah



Arshad Ali



The pioneers of women's cricket in the Gulf



The first turf wicket at UAE's latest ground Al Dhaid, October 2008



Corporate Governance

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 here 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 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.

During the financial period ended 31st December 2008, the Executive Board met twice and the decisions made at these meetings were properly documented and executed.

Sub-Committees

Finance & 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 ended 31st December 2008 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 ended 31st December 2008 and the decisions made at these meetings were properly documented and executed.

Accountability and Compliance

In pursuing good governance, the ACC has committed to the highest level of accountability and compliance and strives to foster a culture that values and rewards exemplary ethical standards, personal and corporate integrity and respect for others.

In line with good governance, in all its dealings with member countries and third parties alike, the ACC abides by the principles of fairness, transparency and being ethical at all times. All personnel, from the top of the organization to the bottom, are encouraged to uphold and practice these principles in all their dealings with persons within and external to the organization.

Member countries of the ACC are also encouraged to have good governance practices in their respective countries. Member countries who submit their Association or Board's audited financial statements to the ACC within three months of their financial year-end are entitled to an additional amount for good governance when they receive their annual cash allocation for the year. This is in recognition of the country's effort to have some degree of accountability for their financial resources by having an external party (the auditors) examine their accounting/financial records.

Syed Ashraful Huq
Chief Executive

Finance Manager's Report
Thusith Perera

Overview

The financial period under review was an eventful period for the Council and also an important one for those who are a part of the ACC, be they members, employees or interested parties, as the ACC celebrated its 25th Anniversary in 2008. These celebrations were held along with the 2008 Asia Cup, in June 2008 in Lahore, Pakistan. On marking this significant event, the ACC conveyed its sincere appreciation to all those pioneers who established this organisation and to the others who contributed in various ways in bringing it to today's prominent position.

The Asia Cup, which is the premier tournament of the ACC was held successfully, financially as well as otherwise. The commercial rights of Asia Cup 2008 were sold at USD 16,500,000 while the gate income was USD 201,836. Net tournament income of USD 4,435,003 was generated after deducting tournament expenses and amounts distributed to member Boards /Associations. An amount of USD 10,100,000 was distributed among member Boards/Associations.

During the current reporting period, the financial year end of the Council was changed from 31st March to 31st December as a measure taken to streamline the reporting date with the International Cricket Council. This decision was taken at the Executive Board meeting held in December 2008. As a result, ACC's Income Statement, Statement of Changes in Funds and the Cash Flow Statement for the current period indicate the activities carried out from 1st April 2008 to 31st December 2008 and the Balance Sheet depicts the financial position as of 31st December 2008.

Review of Performance

The revenue of the ACC for the period concerned comprised net income from Asia Cup 2008 of USD 4,435,003 and interest income of USD 262,010. The interest income for the period is lower than the previous year due to the shortened reporting period and the lower interest rates prevailing during the period concerned.

During the year the ACC's main focus was to protect the capital of its investments with guaranteed income, mainly due to the global banking crisis. Accordingly the funds were invested in bank deposits in countries where bank deposits were guaranteed by the respective governments.

Operating expenses for the financial period amounted to USD 693,825 compared to the 2007/08 amount of USD 1,900,558. This was mainly due to a one-off transfer of USD 1,201,570 to the ICC Special Fund for the Asian Region included in the previous financial year. The shortened financial period also contributed to the reduction in routine operating expenses for the current period.

The ACC recorded a net surplus of USD 3,955,098 for the period, compared to a loss of USD 2,993,431 in 2007/08. This surplus will enable ACC to put more financial resources into the development of the game in the Asian region in the coming years.

Development Fund

Total development expenditure for the financial period amounted to USD 3,290,165. Out of this USD 2,384,775 was spent in organizing tournaments, courses, coach assistance, school and women's cricket and other programs. The tournaments held during the year were the ACC U-17 Challenge, the ACC U-19 Women's Tournament and ACC Trophy Elite. The same number of tournaments were held in the previous year resulting in the total expenses incurred for tournaments for both years being comparable to each other in total.

An amount of USD 162,322 was provided to member countries to purchase cricket equipment and develop cricket infrastructure.

Operating expenses for the period amounted to USD 700,337 and were made up of development staff salaries, travel expenses and administrative/office expenses.

ICC Special Fund for Asian Region

This fund is used for non-routine development activities in member countries. The utilization of funds are approved based on the merits of the proposals submitted by the countries and evaluating the use of other funds available to them.

During the financial period an amount of USD 352,590 was utilized for various activities, out of which USD 125,590 was used to meet various tournament expenditure and coaching and umpiring course expenses for China.

An amount of USD 167,500 was spent in Malaysia to uplift the cricket infrastructure for the ICC U/19 Cricket World Cup 2008 as Malaysia was the first non-Test playing country to host such a tournament. A further sum of USD 59,500 was spent on High Performance Programs for the Asian teams that qualified for the World Cricket League (WCL) tournaments held in 2008. High Performance Programs were implemented with the aim of enhancing the performances of participating countries at the WCL.

All funds utilized for the above projects have been approved by the ICC.

The Year Ahead

For the year ahead, the ACC looks forward to holding the 2009 Afro-Asia Cup proposed for July in Kenya. It is expected that the successful staging of the Afro-Asia Cup would help to further strengthen the financial position that has been built up in 2008 by the ACC's Asia Cup.

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 PERIOD FROM 1 APRIL 2008
TO 31 DECEMBER 2008

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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)

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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, N. Srinivasan 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 4 to 32 are drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Council as at 31 December 2008 and of the results and cash flows of the Council for the financial period from 1 April 2008 to 31 December 2008 in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards.

Signed on behalf of the Executive Board in accordance with their resolution dated 28th April 2009.

N. SRINIVASAN
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER

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 Asian Cricket Council, hereby state that the financial statements for the financial period ended 31 December 2008 set out on pages 4 to 32 are, in my opinion, true and fair.

THUSITH PERERA
FINANCE MANAGER

28th April 2009

PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS

PricewaterhouseCoopers
(AF 1146)/(AAL 0017)
Chartered Accountants
Level 13F, Main Office Tower
Financial Park Labuan
Jalan Merdeka
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Malaysia
Telephone +60 (87) 422 088/421 618
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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT TO THE ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL

Company No: LL 03608

REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We have audited the financial statements of Asian Cricket Council ("the Council"), which comprise the balance sheet as at 31 December 2008, and the income statement, statement of changes in funds and cash flow statement for the period then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes, as set out on pages 4 to 32.

Executive Board Members' Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The Executive Board Members of the Council are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards. This responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with approved standards on auditing in Malaysia. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on our judgment, including the assessment of risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, we consider internal control relevant to the Council's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Executive Board Members, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements have been properly drawn up in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards so as to give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council as of 31 December 2008 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the period then ended.

PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT TO
THE ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL (CONTINUED)
Company No: LL 03608

OTHER MATTERS

This report is made solely to the members of the Council, 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.

PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS
(No. AAL - 0017)
Chartered Accountants

SRIDHARAN NAIR
(No. 2656/05/10 (J))
Chartered Accountant

Labuan

28 APR 2009

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)

ACCUMULATED FUND
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE FINANCIAL PERIOD FROM 1 APRIL 2008 TO 31 DECEMBER 2008

	Note	Financial period from 1.4.2008 to 31.12.2008 USD	Financial year ended 31.3.2008 USD
Revenue	4	262,010	723,637
Other operating income		-	20,376
Tournament income/(expenses)		4,435,003	(1,836,886)
Operating expenses	5	(693,825)	(1,900,558)
Other operating expenses		(42,310)	-
Surplus/(deficit) before taxation		3,960,878	(2,993,431)
Taxation	8	(5,780)	-
Surplus/(deficit) for the financial period/year		3,955,098	(2,993,431)

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)

ACC DEVELOPMENT FUND
FUND STATEMENT
FOR THE FINANCIAL PERIOD FROM 1 APRIL 2008 TO 31 DECEMBER 2008

	Financial period from 1.4.2008 to 31.12.2008 USD	Financial year ended 31.3.2008 USD
INFLOWS		
Contributions from the ICC	3,250,000	3,250,000
Foreign exchange gain	-	35,946
TOTAL INFLOWS	3,250,000	3,285,946
OUTFLOWS		
Development programmes	(2,384,775)	(2,400,228)
Cricket equipment and ground expenses	(162,322)	(222,742)
Operating expenses	(700,337)	(821,654)
Foreign exchange loss	(42,731)	-
TOTAL OUTLOWS	(3,290,165)	(3,444,624)
NET OUTFLOWS	(40,165)	(158,678)

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)

ICC SPECIAL FUND FOR ASIAN REGION
FUND STATEMENT
FOR THE FINANCIAL PERIOD FROM 1 APRIL 2008 TO 31 DECEMBER 2008

	Financial period from 1.4.2008 to 31.12.2008 USD	Financial year ended 31.3.2008 USD
INFLOWS		
Contributions from the ICC	120,676	800,000
Contributions for ACC Accumulated Fund	-	1,201,570
OUTFLOWS		
Utilisation for China Project	(125,590)	(196,401)
Utilisation for ground development	(167,500)	-
Utilisation for High Performance Programme	(59,500)	-
NET (OUTFLOWS)/INFLOWS	(231,914)	1,805,169

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 DECEMBER 2008

	Note	31.12.2008 USD	31.3.2008 USD
NON-CURRENT ASSET			
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	9	64,719	57,601
CURRENT ASSETS			
Receivables, deposits and prepayments	10	177,382	451,703
Cash and bank balances	11	16,866,862	15,063,133
		17,044,244	15,514,836
LESS: CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables and accruals	12	5,767,813	3,052,113
Advance received for Asia Cup 2008		-	1,650,000
Contribution from the ICC	13	-	3,250,000
Provision for gratuity		292,501	260,474
Tax payable		5,780	-
		6,066,094	8,212,587
NET CURRENT ASSETS		10,978,150	7,302,249
NET ASSETS		11,042,869	7,359,850
REPRESENTED BY:			
Accumulated fund		5,579,294	1,624,196
Development fund		114,775	154,940
ICC Special Fund for Asian Region		5,348,800	5,580,714
		11,042,869	7,359,850

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)

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUNDS
FOR THE FINANCIAL PERIOD FROM 1 APRIL 2008 TO 31 DECEMBER 2008

	Accumulated fund USD	Development fund USD	ICC special fund for Asian Region USD	Total USD
31 December 2008				
At 1 April 2008	1,624,196	154,940	5,580,714	7,359,850
Surplus for the financial period	3,955,098	-	-	3,955,098
Net outflows	-	(40,165)	(231,914)	(272,079)
At 31 December 2008	5,579,294	114,775	5,348,800	11,042,869
31 March 2008				
At 1 April 2007	4,617,627	313,618	3,775,545	8,706,790
Deficit for the financial year	(2,993,431)	-	-	(2,993,431)
Net outflows	-	(158,678)	-	(158,678)
Net inflows	-	-	1,805,169	1,805,169
At 31 March 2008	1,624,196	154,940	5,580,714	7,359,850

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)

CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE FINANCIAL PERIOD FROM 1 APRIL 2008 TO 31 DECEMBER 2008

	Financial period from 1.4.2008 to 31.12.2008 USD	Financial year ended 31.3.2008 USD
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
ACC Accumulated Fund		
- surplus/(deficit) for the financial period/year	3,955,098	(2,993,431)
ACC Development Fund		
- Net outflows	(40,165)	(158,678)
ICC Special Fund for Asian Region		
- Net (outflows)/ inflows	(231,914)	1,805,169
Adjustments for:		
Fixtures, fittings and equipment		
- Depreciation	17,449	23,064
- Assets written off	5,406	74
Gratuity	32,027	86,999
Interest income	(262,010)	(723,637)
Taxation	5,780	-
Surplus/(deficit) before working capital changes	3,481,671	(1,960,440)
Decrease in receivables	160,082	732,147
Decrease in advance from the ICC	(3,250,000)	(3,250,000)
Decrease in advance received for Asia Cup 2008	(1,650,000)	-
Increase in payables	2,715,700	740,410
Cash flows from operations	1,457,453	(3,737,883)
Tax paid	-	-
Net cash flows from operating activities	1,457,453	(3,737,883)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Interest received	376,249	771,589
Purchase of fixtures, fittings and equipment	(29,973)	(6,293)
Net cash flows from investing activities	346,276	765,296

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)

CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE FINANCIAL PERIOD FROM 1 APRIL 2008 TO 31 DECEMBER 2008
(CONTINUED)

	Note	Financial period from 1.4.2008 to 31.12.2008 USD	Financial year ended 31.3.2008 USD
NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		1,803,729	(2,972,587)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FINANCIAL PERIOD/YEAR		15,063,133	18,035,720
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL PERIOD/YEAR	11	16,866,862	15,063,133

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 PERIOD FROM 1 APRIL 2008 TO 31 DECEMBER 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:

Level 20-2, CP Tower,
11, Jalan 16/11,
46350 Petaling Jaya,
Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia.

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

Mr. Ijaz Butt, President
Mr. P. Krishnasamy, Vice President
Mr. Shashank Manohar, Executive Board Member
Mr. S. Liyanagama, Executive Board Member
Major General Sina Ibn Jamali awc,psc, Executive Board Member
Mr. Mazhar Khan, Executive Board Member
Mr. K. H. Imran, Executive Board Member
Mr. Ahmed Hassan Didi, Executive Board Member
Mr. Syed Ashraful Huq, Ex officio
Mr. N. Srinivasan, Ex officio
Mr. Salim Altaf, Ex officio
Mr. Duleep Mendis, Ex officio
Mr. Nizam Uddin Chowdhury – Sujan, Ex officio

The financial year end of the Council was changed from 31 March to 31 December in accordance with the change in the financial year end of the International Cricket Council from 31 March to 31 December. Accordingly, comparative amounts for the fund statements, changes in funds, cash flows and related notes are for a 12 month period.

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 PERIOD FROM 1 APRIL 2008 TO 31 DECEMBER 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.

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) Interpretations effective in 2008 but not relevant to the Council's operations

The following interpretations to published standards are mandatory for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2008 but are not relevant to the Council's operations:

- IFRIC 11 'IFRS 2 – Group and treasury share transactions'
- IFRIC 12 'Service concession arrangements'
- IFRIC 13 'Customer loyalty programmes'
- IFRIC 14 'IAS 19 – The limit on a defined benefit asset, minimum funding requirements and their interaction'

(ii) Standards, amendments and interpretations to existing standards that are not yet effective:

The following standards and amendments to existing standards have been published and are mandatory for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2009:

- IAS 23 (Amendment) Borrowing costs' (effective from 1 January 2009)
- IAS 1 (Revised) Presentation of financial statements' (effective from 1 January 2009)
- IAS 16 (Amendment) Property, plant and equipment' (effective from 1 January 2009)
- IAS 36 (Amendment) Impairment of assets' (effective from 1 January 2009)
- IAS 19 (Amendment) Employee benefits' (effective from 1 January 2009)
- IAS 32 (Amendment) Financial instruments: Presentation' (effective from 1 January 2009)
- IAS 39 (Amendment) Financial instruments: Recognition and measurement' (effective from 1 January 2009)

2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(a) Basis of preparation (continued)

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

The following interpretations and amendments to existing standards have been published and are mandatory for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2009 or later periods, but are not relevant for the Council's operations:

- IFRS 1 (Amendment) First time adoption of IFRS' (effective from 1 January 2009)
- IAS 27 (Revised) Consolidated and separate financial statements' (effective from 1 July 2009)
- IFRS 3 (Revised) Business combinations' (effective from 1 July 2009)
- IFRS 5 (Amendment) 'Non-current assets held-for-sale and discontinued operations' (effective from 1 July 2009)
- IAS 28 (Amendment) Investments in associates' (effective from 1 January 2009)
- IFRS 2 (Amendment) Share-based payment' (effective from 1 January 2009)
- IAS 27 (Amendment) Consolidated and separate financial statements' (effective from 1 January 2009)
- IAS 29 (Amendment) Financial reporting in hyperinflationary economies' (effective from 1 January 2009)
- IAS 31 (Amendment) Interests in joint ventures' (effective from 1 January 2009)
- IAS 38 (Amendment) Intangible assets' (effective from 1 January 2009)
- IAS 40 (Amendment) Investment property' (effective from 1 January 2009)
- IAS 41 (Amendment) Agriculture' (effective from 1 January 2009)
- IAS 20 (Amendment) Accounting for government grants and disclosure of government assistance' (effective from 1 January 2009)
- IFRIC 15 Agreements for construction of real estates' (effective from 1 January 2009).

2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(b) Fixtures, fittings and equipment

Fixtures, fittings 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 fixtures, fittings 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:

	%
Furniture and fixtures	10
Office equipment	20
Motor vehicles	20
Computers	33

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.

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 and other income recognition

The Council's revenue and other income consist of sponsorship and advertising income, sale of commercial rights, sales of tickets and interest income, which are recognised on an accrual basis.

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2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(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 period 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.

(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.

2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(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.

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.

2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(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 period of more than one year are estimated using a variety of methods and assumptions that are period based on market conditions existing at each balance sheet date including estimated discounted value of future cash flows, quoted market prices or dealer quotes.

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 period ended 31 December 2008.

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4 REVENUE

	Financial period from 1.4.2008 to 31.12.2008 USD	Financial year ended 31.3.2008 USD
Interest income	262,010	723,637

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

	Financial period from 1.4.2008 to 31.12.2008 USD	Financial year ended 31.3.2008 USD
Contributions to ICC Special Fund for Asian Region	-	1,201,570
Special grant - China	-	10,772
Meeting expenses	103,934	195,328
Silver Jubilee Celebration	270,390	-
Auditor's remuneration (Note 6)	4,968	5,287
Staff costs (Note 7)	194,662	320,161
Official travel expenses	45,791	68,786
Fixtures, fittings and equipment		
- Depreciation	11,077	14,957
- Assets written off	5,406	74
Others	57,597	83,623
	693,825	1,900,558

Assets written off include the cost of office fixtures of the previous office premises.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FINANCIAL PERIOD FROM 1 APRIL 2008 TO 31 DECEMBER 2008
(CONTINUED)

6 AUDITORS' REMUNERATION

	Financial period from 1.4.2008 to 31.12.2008 USD	Financial year ended 31.3.2008 USD
PricewaterhouseCoopers Malaysian firm:		
Statutory audit	4,500	3,500
Non-audit fees	468	1,787
	4,968	5,287

7 STAFF COSTS

Salaries	169,332	267,235
Staff gratuity	17,017	41,293
Defined contribution retirement plan	3,790	4,294
Other staff related expenses	4,523	7,339
	194,662	320,161

8 TAXATION

Current taxation	5,780	-

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.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FINANCIAL PERIOD FROM 1 APRIL 2008 TO 31 DECEMBER 2008 (CONTINUED)

9 FIXTURES, FITTINGS AND EQUIPMENT

	Furniture and fixtures	Office equipment	Motor vehicles	Computers	Total
31.12.2008	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD
Cost					
At 1 April 2008	20,022	3,907	75,819	30,311	130,059
Additions	25,899	1,655	-	2,419	29,973
Disposal	(9,385)	-	-	-	(9,385)
At 31 December 2008	36,536	5,562	75,819	32,730	150,647
Accumulated depreciation					
At 1 April 2008	(8,143)	(2,201)	(37,910)	(24,204)	(72,458)
Charge for the financial period	(1,289)	(925)	(11,372)	(3,863)	(17,449)
Disposal	3,979	-	-	-	3,979
At 31 December 2008	(5,453)	(3,126)	(49,282)	(28,067)	(85,928)
Net book value					
At 31 December 2008	31,083	2,436	26,537	4,663	64,719
31.3.2008					
Cost					
At 1 April 2007	19,101	3,415	75,819	26,173	124,508
Additions	921	1,234	-	4,138	6,293
Disposal	-	(742)	-	-	(742)
At 31 March 2008	20,022	3,907	75,819	30,311	130,059
Accumulated depreciation					
At 1 April 2007	(6,220)	(1,974)	(22,745)	(19,123)	(50,062)
Charge for the financial year	(1,923)	(895)	(15,165)	(5,081)	(23,064)
Disposal	-	668	-	-	668
At 31 March 2008	(8,143)	(2,201)	(37,910)	(24,204)	(72,458)
Net book value					
At 31 March 2008	11,879	1,706	37,909	6,107	57,601

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FINANCIAL PERIOD FROM 1 APRIL 2008 TO 31 DECEMBER 2008 (CONTINUED)

10 RECEIVABLES, DEPOSITS AND PREPAYMENTS

	31.12.2008 USD	31.3.2008 USD
Advances to cricket boards and associations		
- Afghanistan Cricket Board	1,852	2,921
- Bahrain Cricket Association	-	8,532
- Bhutan Cricket Council Board	8,255	-
- Chinese Cricket Association	6,333	-
- Hong Kong Cricket Association	1,965	1,022
- Malaysian Cricket Association	52,901	63
- Cricket Board of Maldives	3,401	19,334
- Myanmar Cricket Federation	103	1,973
- Cricket Association of Nepal	22,548	12,315
- Saudi Cricket Centre	-	12,500
- Singapore Cricket Association	8,729	108
- Tanzania Cricket Association	116	-
- Cricket Association of Thailand	-	15,595
	106,203	74,363
Receivable from ESPN STAR Sports	-	187,869
Advance for ACC U17 Elite Cup	26,960	-
Other advances and receivables	22,468	173,939
Deposits and prepayments	21,751	15,532
	177,382	451,703

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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(CONTINUED)

11 CASH AND BANK BALANCES

	31.12.2008 USD	31.3.2008 USD
Short-term deposits held with banks	16,185,093	14,644,845
Bank balances:		
- HSBC Bank (A/C No. 201-254562-101)	13,715	75,741
- HSBC Bank (A/C No. 201-254562-725)	168,844	115,415
- HSBC Bank (A/C No. 201-254562-102)	294,651	57,635
- HSBC Bank (A/C No. 201-254562-726)	143,609	33,752
- HSBC Bank (A/C No. 201-254562-710)	10,036	99,800
- HSBC Bank, Labuan (A/C No. 801-001074-101)	32,519	29,507
- HSBC Bank, Labuan (A/C No. 801-001074-102)	13,376	2,496
	16,861,843	15,059,191
Cash on hand	5,019	3,942
Total cash and cash equivalents	16,866,862	15,063,133

The weighted average rate of fixed deposits effective during the financial period was as follows:

	31.12.2008 %	31.3.2008 %
Short-term deposits with a licensed bank	2.18	3.82

Short-term deposits with a licensed bank have an average maturity period of up to 38 days (31.3.2008: 66 days).

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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(CONTINUED)

12 PAYABLES AND ACCRUALS

	31.12.2008 USD	31.3.2008 USD
Amount due to cricket boards and associations		
- Africa Cricket Association	-	22,589
- Cricket Australia	18,223	92,755
- Bahrain Cricket Association	16,956	-
- Bhutan Cricket Council Board	-	2,500
- Chinese Cricket Association	-	910
- Kuwait Cricket	10,391	55,280
- Saudi Cricket Centre	21,000	-
- NZ Sports Turf Institute	26,000	32,806
- Pakistan Cricket Board	58,782	598
- Sri Lanka Cricket	-	15,793
- Cricket Association of Thailand	32,940	-
- UAE Emirates Cricket Board	-	5,000
	184,292	228,231
Other payables		
- Allocation to ACC members from Asia Cup 2004	195,299	248,626
- Allocation to ACC members from Asia Cup 2009	1,488,283	-
- Advance received for Afro Asia Cup 2008	1,493,731	875,000
- ACC Special Grant 2006 for ACC non test playing members	1,112,345	1,236,165
- Accrual for ICC Special Fund Expenses	93,772	-
- Accrual for ICC Central Costs	1,142,000	325,000
Other accrued expenses	58,091	139,091
	5,767,813	3,052,113

ICC Central 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 CONTRIBUTION FROM THE ICC

	31.12.2008 USD	31.3.2008 USD
Contribution from the ICC	-	3,250,000

Contribution from the ICC represents funds received from the International Cricket Council for the development activities under the ICC/ACC agreement which is recognised in the Development Fund over the period for which the contribution relates to.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FINANCIAL PERIOD FROM 1 APRIL 2008 TO 31 DECEMBER 2008 (CONTINUED)

14 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.

15 RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

Related parties represent ACC members and directors of the Council. The Chief Executive is the only Executive Board Member to receive remuneration from the council.

The remuneration of the Chief Executive during the period was USD 100,637 (2006: USD 89,666).

16 FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

Risk management is carried out by Finance Department under policies approved by the Finance & Marketing Committee and Executive Board of the Council. The Executive Board and Finance & Marketing Committee provide guidance for overall risk management covering interest rate risk, exchange rate risk and investment of excess funds.

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. However investment income is exposed to changes in the 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.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FINANCIAL PERIOD FROM 1 APRIL 2008 TO 31 DECEMBER 2008 (CONTINUED)

17 CHANGES IN REPORTING PERIOD

The financial year end of the Council was changed from 31 March to 31 December in accordance with the change in the financial year end of the International Cricket Council from 31 March to 31 December. Accordingly, comparative amounts for the fund statements, changes in funds, cash flows and related notes are for a 12 month period.

18 APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements have been approved for issue in accordance with a resolution of the Executive Board members on 28 APR 2009

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ACC ACCUMULATED FUND
DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE FINANCIAL PERIOD FROM 1 APRIL 2008 TO 31 DECEMBER 2008

	31.12.2008 USD	31.3.2008 USD
INCOME		
Interest on bank deposits	262,010	723,637
Foreign exchange gain	-	20,376
	262,010	744,013
TOURNAMENT INCOME		
Income from Asia Cup 2009 (Note i)	4,435,003	-
Total income	4,697,013	744,013
EXPENDITURE		
Tours and tournaments		
Afro-Asia Cup (Note ii)	-	1,088,439
Afro Asia Cup Men's/Women's Twenty 20 (Note iii)	-	159,874
ACC U15 Challenge Cup (Note iv)	-	178,647
ACC U19 Challenge Cup (Note v)	-	140,861
Twenty 20 Cup (Note vi)	-	269,065
Contributions to ICC Special Fund for Asian Region	-	1,201,570
Special grant - China	-	10,772
Staff costs	177,645	278,868
Provision for gratuity	17,017	41,293
Communication expenses	8,597	16,243
Insurance expenses	3,144	5,663
Newspapers and periodicals	530	551
Office maintenance & staff welfare	2,775	7,289
Official travelling expenses	45,791	68,786
Printing and stationery	2,292	2,782
Rents and rates	18,486	18,205
Vehicle maintenance	8,688	8,429
Meeting expenses	103,934	195,328
Silver Jubilee Celebrations	270,390	-
Legal and professional charges	4,913	9,467
Auditors' remuneration	4,968	5,287
Bank charges	3,075	3,167
Foreign exchange loss	42,310	-
Depreciation	11,077	14,957
Courier and postage	2,881	2,192
Entertainment	1,267	7,867
Website maintenance	949	1,768
Furniture & fittings written off	5,406	74
Total expenditure	736,135	3,737,444
Surplus/(deficit) before taxation	3,960,878	(2,993,431)
Taxation	5,780	-
Net surplus/(deficit) for the financial period/year	3,955,098	(2,993,431)

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ACC ACCUMULATED FUND
DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE FINANCIAL PERIOD FROM 1 APRIL 2008 TO 31 DECEMBER 2008
(CONTINUED)

Note	31.12.2008 USD	31.3.2008 USD
(i) Asia Cup - 2008		
Income		
Sales of commercial rights from Asia Cup 2008	16,500,000	-
Gate income	201,836	-
	16,701,836	-
Expenditure		
Funds distribution to countries from Asia Cup 2008	10,100,000	-
Travelling	312,729	-
Accommodation	472,736	-
Prize money & souvenirs	209,564	-
Umpires, match referees and other officials	125,000	-
Travel subsistence	229,310	-
Cricket ball, equipment & attire	19,228	-
Security	139,154	-
Insurance	53,893	-
Printing, stationery, communication & website	7,261	-
Media Management Services	111,223	-
Hospitality	158,299	-
Ground expenses	213,652	-
Administration and other expenses	114,784	-
	12,266,833	-
	4,435,003	-
(ii) Afro Asia Cup - 2007		
Income		
Income collected by ESPN STAR Sports	-	187,869
Sponsorship from Sahara Computers	-	100,000
ACC's share from distribution of unutilised provision of Afro-Asia Cup 2005	-	6,454
	-	294,323
Expenditure		
Match fees	-	480,013
Broadcasting expenses	-	320,000
Travelling	-	136,238
Accommodation	-	116,767

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ACC ACCUMULATED FUND
DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE FINANCIAL PERIOD FROM 1 APRIL 2008 TO 31 DECEMBER 2008
(CONTINUED)

Note (continued)	31.12.2008 USD	31.3.2008 USD
(ii) Afro Asia Cup - 2007 (continued)		
Expenditure (continued)		
Prize money	-	100,000
Umpires, match referees and other officials	-	84,810
Travel subsistence	-	39,033
Local travel	-	34,833
Cricket ball & equipment	-	24,508
Selection committee meeting	-	23,627
Professional fees	-	10,141
Printing, stationery, communication & website	-	9,165
Promotional items	-	2,416
Other expenses	-	1,211
	-	1,382,762
	-	1,088,439
(iii) Afro Asia Cup Men's/Women's Twenty 20 - 2007		
Expenditure		
Match fees	-	48,154
Travelling	-	33,190
Travel subsistence	-	24,858
Accommodation	-	20,066
Prize money	-	20,000
Cricket ball & equipment	-	8,510
Local travel	-	4,073
Printing, stationery, communication & website	-	971
Other expenses	-	52
	-	159,874

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ACC ACCUMULATED FUND
DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE FINANCIAL PERIOD FROM 1 APRIL 2008 TO 31 DECEMBER 2008
(CONTINUED)

Note (continued)	31.12.2008 USD	31.3.2008 USD
(iv) U-15 Challenge Cup		
Expenditure		
Travelling	-	54,186
Accommodation	-	48,192
Travel subsistence	-	40,850
Official dinner & match meals	-	12,187
Ground expenses	-	8,342
Umpires, match referees and other officials	-	5,075
Printing, stationery, communication & website	-	2,755
Cricket ball & equipment	-	2,198
Local travel	-	1,067
Medical	-	1,195
Age verification, prizes & other expenses	-	2,600
	-	178,647
(v) U-19 Challenge Cup		
Expenditure		
Travelling	-	53,580
Accommodation	-	27,579
Travel subsistence	-	26,790
Umpires, match referees and other officials	-	7,275
Official dinner & match meals	-	11,147
Ground expenses	-	4,903
Cricket ball & equipment	-	1,843
Printing, stationery, communication & website	-	2,106
Local travel	-	785
Medical	-	1,159
Age verification, prizes & other expenses	-	3,694
	-	140,861

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)

ACC ACCUMULATED FUND
DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE FINANCIAL PERIOD FROM 1 APRIL 2008 TO 31 DECEMBER 2008
(CONTINUED)

	31.12.2008 USD	31.3.2008 USD
Note (continued)		
(vi) Twenty 20		
Expenditure		
Accommodation	-	97,405
Travelling	-	73,675
Travel subsistence	-	38,893
Official dinner & match meals	-	17,810
Umpires, match referees and other officials	-	13,783
Printing, stationery, communication & website	-	7,983
Medical	-	7,700
Ground expenses	-	7,380
Cricket ball & equipment	-	1,476
Prizes & other expenses	-	2,960
	-	269,065

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)

ACC DEVELOPMENT FUND
DETAILED FUND STATEMENT
FOR THE FINANCIAL PERIOD FROM 1 APRIL 2008 TO 31 DECEMBER 2008
(CONTINUED)

	31.12.2008 USD	31.3.2008 USD
INFLOWS		
Contributions from the ICC	3,250,000	3,250,000
Foreign exchange gain	-	35,946
	3,250,000	3,285,946
OUTFLOWS		
Development programmes		
Tournaments		
- ACC Elite U15 -2007	-	281,254
- ACC Elite U19 - 2007	-	336,481
- ACC U 17 Challenge Cup 2008	184,084	-
- ACC Trophy Elite 2008	375,232	-
- ACC Women's Cricket Tournament - 2007	-	154,265
- ACC U 19 Women's Cricket Tournament - 2008	322,932	
- Provision for ICC U19 World Cup - 2008	213,800	-
- Provision for ICC Intercontinental Cup 2007/08	136,015	-
- Provision for ICC Women's World Cup Qualifier	68,000	-
- Provision for ICC World Cricket League	208,769	-
- Provision for ICC Central Cost	-	325,000
Coach assistance	204,947	265,595
ICC Development Grant	175,515	-
ICC Associate & Affiliate Umpire Panel training	14,901	-
New territories	-	3,968
Curators courses	66,881	64,300
Curator visits	5,575	17,842
High performance courses – Player Development	-	139,159
Level I coaching courses	48,715	77,819
Level II coaching courses	44,669	50,196
Elementary coaching courses	-	70,122
Level I coach educator course	-	47,170
Level I coaching and umpiring course	-	53,818
Age verification seminar	15,263	87,449
Level I umpiring course	-	64,226
Level II umpiring course	-	92,917

Company No: LL 03608

THE ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL

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ACC DEVELOPMENT FUND
DETAILED FUND STATEMENTS
FOR THE FINANCIAL PERIOD FROM 1 APRIL 2008 TO 31 DECEMBER 2008
(CONTINUED)

	31.12.2008 USD	31.3.2008 USD
OUTFLOWS (CONTINUED)		
Development programmes (continued)		
High performance programs - WCL	73,681	8,245
Women's cricket expenses	37,431	50,861
Meeting expenses	77,055	62,446
School cricket development	72,810	105,095
Corporate governance	38,500	42,000
Cricket equipment and ground expenditure		
- Cricket equipment	65,843	104,229
- Ground equipment & development	96,479	118,513
Operating expenses		
Personnel expenses		
Salaries	392,079	378,557
Provision for gratuity	36,064	45,706
Travel subsistence	79,415	123,406
Development officers' travelling expenses	79,992	103,127
Development manager's travelling expenses	13,140	36,410
Office expenses	87,307	120,057
Depreciation	6,372	8,105
Auditors' remuneration	5,968	6,286
Foreign exchange loss	42,731	-
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	3,290,165	3,444,624
NET OUTFLOWS	(40,165)	(158,678)

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.



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