



WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

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MAZHAR JAFRI
Vice President

MESSAGE FROM WBF VICE PRESIDENT & BFAME PRESIDENT EMERITUS

In dual capacity as longest-serving Vice President/ Executive Council Member of World Bridge Federation (WBF) and President Emeritus Bridge Federation of Asia and Middle East (BFAME), it is with immense pleasure to extend my warmest greetings to the participants---NBOs representative players and administrators who are attending these 19th Zone 4/ BFAME Bridge Championships in the enviable cosmopolitan city of Dubai during 3-11 April 2017.

Having been closely associated with Zone 4/ BFAME in apex positions in the last 37 years since its inception, I have seen BFAME grow from strength to strength. Besides acquitting itself well towards required assignments of promotion and development of Bridge in countries of member NBOs within its allocated geographical jurisdiction in Asia, among its landmark achievements are initiation of recognition of Bridge worldwide as a sport by International Olympic Committee (IOC) and in Asia by Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) and remarkably successful organizing of 2015 World Bridge Teams Championships by its biggest NBO---Bridge Federation of India.

However, primarily due to unfortunate circumstances characterized by horrendous political conflicts and scourge of terrorism particularly in Afghanistan and Pakistan in South Asia and Syria and between Israel and Palestine in the Middle East/ West Asia which are to a large extent hampering the growth, promotion and development of Bridge particularly in the important spheres of Youth and Women's Bridge. I am sure BFAME member NBOs, as required, are doing their best to overcome these unfortunate setbacks.

In the foregoing perspective, while UAE Bridge Committee, with dynamism and resourcefulness of President Ahmed Midfa and enthusiastically efficient Chief Organizer Amr Mekky with his hardworking team, in its debutant venture to host and organize these important BFAME biennial World Teams Championships' qualifying Championships deserves to be profusely congratulated, I have no doubt these Championships will be a memorable success.

Recognizing laudable contribution and support to Indonesian Bridge Federation in landmark achievement of inclusion of Bridge as a discipline in 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta, I express my appreciation of BFAME competent administration, under President Ashok Goel with proactive Vice President Bahjat Majali and hardworking live wire Secretary Azwerul Haque, has done a commendable job of purposeful and overall organizational coordination, particularly in Championships' technical management conducted by efficient and experienced indigenous team of TDs and operation manager and officials.

Our intellectual sport of Bridge being controlled and administered worldwide by the IOC affiliated International Sports Federation (IF) being World Bridge Federation has its motto: "Bridge for Peace" and it conducts all its activities in true spirit of sacrosanct dictates of the Olympic Charter with zero tolerance against any clandestine encroachment on upholding of highest ethical standards in conformity with its glorious traditions. In this backdrop, I am confident these championships, as in the past, will be conducted pursuant to WBF Policy and regulations.

It remains for me to wish all the participants enjoyable stay in this remarkably developed city in the Persian Gulf and Middle East region, enjoying traditional Arab hospitality.

I also wish you all well and for playing good Bridge with best of luck!


Mazhar Jafri

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