

## The First World Card Games Championships Held in Huai' an Helps to Establish an Important Milestone for the Development of Mind Sports

During December 8 to 10, 2017, the First World Card Games Championships was successfully held in Huai' an, Jiangsu Province. This marquee event, held by the Federation of Card Games (FCG), guided by the International Mind Sports Association (IMSA), and sponsored by AGTech Holdings Limited (AGTech), was attended by Ms. Zelan Chen, President of the IMSA and Vice Director of the Chess and Poker Games Administrative Centre under the General Administration of Sport of China; Mr. Jose Damiani, the Founding President of the International Mind Sports Association; Mr. Geoffrey Borg, Executive Director of the International Mind Sports Association; Mr. Sun Ho, Chairman of the IMSA Advisory Board, President of FCG, and CEO of AGTech; Mr. Guowei Lan, Secretary General of Huai' an Guandan Association; as well as many important guests from around the world.



Opening ceremony

This exciting championship was held throughout three days with Gin Rummy and Guandan held as main events. Gin Rummy, a widely popular card game in many countries around world, will be an important event of international competitive card games in the future. Guandan, on the other hand, a popular game in many parts of China, originated from Huai'an, Jiangsu, where the championships was hosted. The First World Card Games Championships attracted more than 100 professional card game players and enthusiasts from around the world and formed 40 teams in total. Importantly, the duplicate system was applied in all stages of the competition according to the strict standards of mind sports. After six rounds and near a thousand games of fierce competition over three days, the Qingjiangpu Team B and the Hongze Board and Card Games Association won the Gin Rummy and Guandan competitions, respectively.

Meanwhile, specifically with the goal of further promoting the event to card game lovers around the world, the championships added an exciting exhibition match in the popular Chinese card game, Fighting the Landlord. Using AGTech's Competition Fighting the Landlord platform, three players from Hebei, Inner Mongolia and Jiangsu won the exhibition match.



Gin Rummy live game



Championship winners receiving awards





**Championship winners receiving awards**

Mr. Sun, President of FCG and organizer of this important event, took the opportunity to showcase FCG's commitment to developing card games into mind sports, expanding FCG to more members across the world. In the future, the Federation of Card Games will continue to cooperate and share resources with domestic and overseas card game associations, hosting more international events with global partners in order to bring card games to new heights in the world of international mind sports.



**Mr. Sun Ho, Chairman of the IMSA Advisory Board, President of FCG, and CEO of AGTech addresses the audience**

This event also received the attention and professional guidance from the International Mind Sports Association. Ms. Zelan Chen, President of IMSA and Vice Director of the Chess and Poker Games Administrative Centre under the General Administration of Sport of China, expresses her positive and encouraging views on the development of the Federation of Card Games, and hopes it will soon become the next member of the IMSA. Mr. Damiani, Founding President of IMSA, considers this event a milestone for FCG and an important step in the right direction for promoting the mind sports of card games. Lastly, Mr. Geoffrey Brog, Executive Director of the International Mind Sports Association, said they will continue to actively promote mind sports to become a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) while pursuing opportunities to establish the mind sports of card games to step onto the stage of global mind sports.



#### **Members of Federation of Card Games**

In the future, as an observer of IMSA, FCG will continue to actively promote the healthy development of mind sports of card games around the world, expanding the number of member organizations across the five continents.

Mr. Sun Ho, Chairman of the IMSA Advisory Board and the President of the Federation of Card Games, and CEO of AGTech Holdings Limited, partner of IMSA and the sponsor of the World Card Games Championship, pledges his commitment to promoting mind sports together with AGTech, FCG and IMSA worldwide.

**About International Mind Sports Association (IMSA):**

The International Mind Sport Association (IMSA) was created in April 2005 under the aegis of General Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF), with six international federations (IFs)- World Bridge Federation (WBF), World Chess Federation (FIDE), World Draughts Federation (FMJD), International Go Federation (IGF), World Xianqi Federation (WXF) and Mahjong International League (MIL). IMSA has gathered together federations across more than 400 countries and regions, owns more than 500 associations and nearly 500 million participants across the globe. IMSA aims to achieve common interest and goals among various international mind sports associations by gathering them together, found and hold "Mind Sports Olympiad" under the aegis of GAISF and to achieve the ultimate goal of inclusion mind sports for Olympics.

**About the Federation of Card Games (FCG):**

Established in Lausanne, Switzerland, the Federation of Card Games (FCG) is an international association established by uniting multiple regional card game organizations. FCG is active in adding popular regional card games into the federation, with the goal of creating a global group of highly popular games enjoyed by its members globally. FCG continues to assist each member organization to launch card games in such a way that it resembles a sport, allowing for a fair, pleasurable, and safe environment in which members and individuals compete and cooperate. At present, the events that FCG carried out include Gin Rummy, Chinese Open Face Poker, Landlord Fighting, and Guandan.

FCG is already the observer of International Mind Sports Association (IMSA) in April 2017. FCG aims to expand to the large number of audience on five continents with the goal of spreading and promoting the spirit of mind sports around the world. FCG is committed to developing card games into mind sports through standardization of its competition system and games rules, striving ultimately for the inclusion into the Olympic Games.