

**13<sup>th</sup> Chess Olympiad for Blind & Visually Impaired Players**

**October, 18 - 29, 2008**

**Hotel «APOLLONIA», Ammoudara - Crete**

**Hellenic Sports Federation for Persons with Disabilities**

**Co-organizers: Heraklion Prefecture & Municipality of Gazi**

**Under the auspices of I.B.C.A. & Secretariat General of Sports**

**Event Sponsors:**

**Ministry of Transportation & Communications, Greek National Tourism Organization,  
Hellenic Post**

**Press Release 10/19/2008**

On October 18<sup>th</sup> the arrival of the participating countries was fulfilled, creating a multicolor nations mosaic here in Crete island. Greece, United Kingdom, Serbia, Hungary, the Netherlands, South Africa, Norway, Switzerland, Belgium, Denmark, Poland, Italy, Lithuania, Slovenia, Sweden, Czech Republic, Romania, Germany, Spain, Croatia, Finland, Russia, Ukraine, FYROM, Moldova, India, Slovakia, Turkey, Venezuela, Montenegro, Kazakhstan and Brazil are the countries that participate in the XIII Chess Olympiad for Blind & Visually Impaired players. This Olympiad is the first one that is being held in our country and the second International Chess Event for Blind players, after the 2005 World Championships that was successfully organized in Eretria. The decision of I.B.C.A. to address to Greece the organization of this event confirms once more that our country is a trustworthy organizer.

The Captains Meeting, where all the team's captains from the 32 countries participated, was realized on October 19<sup>th</sup> at 09.30 at «Apollonia» hotel. The Games Manager and the Chief Arbiter in cooperation with the I.B.C.A. and H.S.F.P.D. officials clarified all the competition and technical issues.

At 15.00 the H.S.F.P.D. President, Mr. Georgios Foundoulakis welcomed all the delegations and afterwards the I.B.C.A. President, Mr. Ludwig Beutelhoff declared the beginning of the 13<sup>th</sup> Chess Olympiad for Blind & Visually Impaired players.

The first day of the competition had a few surprises. National teams with unrated players impressed with their performance and won experienced teams and high rated chess players.

We notice that the Olympiad is being held according to the new FIDE rules for the Chess Olympiads.