



WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

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WBF Spokesman

PRESS RELEASE



World Bridge Officials Visit Chinese School

On Tuesday 13 December 2011 in Beijing, **IMSA** and **WBF** officials had the opportunity to visit one of China's most prominent schools where bridge is taught extracurricularly with great success.

International Mind Sports Association (IMSA) President **José Damiani** and *World Bridge Federation* (WBF) President **Gianarrigo Rona** headed a group of distinguished guests for a visit to RDFZ, the *High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China*. This is a most exclusive educational institution for boys and girls 13-18 years old but talented children from all over China may be admitted at an even younger age. All in all, there are some 4,000 pupils in RDFZ.

Besides providing high-level education, RDFZ encourages pupils to widen their horizons by

taking up extracurricular activities, ranging from sports to arts and hobbies. Of the many possibilities open to them, it is remarkable that some 850 pupils choose bridge! The younger ones are introduced to the game through *minibrige*, while the older pupils are offered expert coaching which has led RDFZ to represent China at the 2011 Pacific Asia Bridge Federation Championships and win silver medal in the Youngsters category.

The official delegation was welcomed by the RDFZ bridge society most warmly. School officials gave a detailed account of how bridge is

run in RDFZ, while IMSA President José Damiani congratulated, on behalf of the delegation, all involved in this extremely successful effort.

Subsequently, WBF officials José Damiani, Gianarrigo Rona, Patrick Choy and Chen Zelan presented the winners of a recent in-school competition with their prizes, and finally expert teacher **Philippe Cronier** of France conducted a class of *minibridge* for some 50 very young bridge beginners. Several bridge deals were

then played, with WBF officials taking part in the competition together with RDFZ pupils.

The World Bridge delegation left RDFZ most impressed with what they had experienced. The general feeling was that this is a prime example of how bridge should be promoted among young people, to the benefit of both the pupils and the game. As such, it can serve and stimulate similar efforts all over the world.

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RDFZ officials warmly welcomed the WBF delegation - Chairman Emeritus **José Damiani**, President **Gianarrigo Rona**, Executives **Patrick Choy** and **Chen Zelan**; expert teacher **Philippe Cronier** of France.



WBF Chairman Emeritus **José Damiani** awards prizes to an in-school competition winners



WBFF President **Gianarrigo Rona** awards the Cup to the winning team of an in-school competition.

WBFF Chairman Emeritus **José Damiani** and WBFF President **Gianarrigo Rona** with the winning team



The interest is obvious in the faces of the new bridge competitors...





Expert teacher **Philippe Cronier** of France and WBFF President **Gianarrigo Rona** on duty instructing the young bridge newcomers.



WBFF President **Gianarrigo Rona** and WBFF Chairman Emeritus **José Damiani** in play with RDFZ pupils.

WBFF Spokesman **Panos Gerontopoulos** explaining bridge issues and posing with RDFZ pupils.

