

## FIDE Announces Qualifiers to World Cities Championship

FIDE announces the qualifiers to the coming World Cities Team Championship for the Sheikh Zayed Cup scheduled 21-29 December 2012 in Al Ain, United Arab Emirates. Olympiad champion Armenia will lead 32 city teams in the \$150,000 knock-out format championship. Host United Arab Emirates joins qualifiers from the World Team Championship, Continental teams and 25 top zonal teams from the Istanbul Olympiad.

The tournament is organized by the Al Ain Chess Club, headed by Asian Chess Federation president Sheikh Sultan bin Khalifah Al Nahyan, on behalf of FIDE, Asian Chess Federation and UAE Chess Federation.

Download the Regulations, Flyer outlining the pairing system and Registration Form on the FIDE web site. 32 teams shall be divided into 8 groups of 4 teams each who will play a single round robin. Teams shall be ranked by average rating of their 4 highest rated players per 1<sup>st</sup> December FIDE rating list. The host city is seeded among the top 8 teams to form Class A. Next 8 teams (9-16) form Class B, teams 17 to 24 form Class C and teams 25 to 32 form Class D. Teams shall be drawn by lot to have four classes of teams in one group.

The top two qualify into the knockout Round of 16 followed by exciting Quarterfinal and Semifinal matches, and the climactic Final showdown.

Qualified federations should accomplish and return the Entry Form with passport copies and ID photos for visa application. Deadline for registration is 31<sup>st</sup> October. Otherwise reserves from other countries shall be invited. Deadline for submission of names of players is 15<sup>th</sup> November. Visas shall be issued by email.

The qualified federations are:

1	Olympiad Champion	Armenia
2	World Team Champion	Hungary - 5th (after Armenia, China, Ukraine, Russia)
3	European Champion	Germany
4	American Champion	Brazil
5	Asian Cities Champion	Kazakhstan - 2nd (after China)
6	African Champion	Egypt
7	Host Country	UAE
8	Zone 1.1	Netherlands - 6th
9	Zone 1.2	Slovenia - 25th
10	Zone 1.3	Sweden - 16th
11	Zone 1.4	Romania - 8th

12	Zone 1.5	Serbia - 14th
13	Zone 1.6	Russia
14	Zone 1.7	Latvia - 28 <sup>th</sup>
15	Zone 1.8	Azerbaijan - 10th
16	Zone 1.9	Ukraine
17	Zone 2.1	United States Of America
18	Zone 2.2	Canada
19	Zone 2.3	Cuba - 11th
20	Zone 2.4	Peru - 55th
21	Zone 2.5	Argentina - 22nd
22	Zone 3.1	Iran - 61st
23	Zone 3.2	Bangladesh - 33rd
24	Zone 3.3	Vietnam - 7th
25	Zone 3.4	Uzbekistan - 24th
26	Zone 3.5	China
27	Zone 3.6	Australia - 32nd
28	Zone 3.7	India
29	Zone 4.1	Tunisia - 75th
30	Zone 4.2	Uganda - 90th (after Egypt)
31	Zone 4.3	South Africa - 62nd
32	New Zone 4.4	Nigeria - 96th