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REMARKS

by

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**Asian conference on Integrity in Sport
'Match Fixing: The ugly side of the beautiful game'**

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Dear football family, distinguished guests, members of the media, ladies and gentlemen,

It gives AFC great honour and pleasure to welcome you to the capital city of Malaysia to participate in this Interpol International Conference – Match Fixing – The Ugly Side of the Beautiful Game.

As we usher in this New Year which is full of excitement and new challenges. 2013 promises to be thrilling as AFC moves into new frontiers with hopes to witness the greatest game on earth flourish in this largest continent of the world.

We look forward to embrace our 47 Member Associations in a very special way by eradicating all negative elements which has plagued our beautiful game in recent years.

Both AFC and FIFA, and now Interpol, have joined hands to forge stronger ties to combat what we call the ugly side of the beautiful game.

I would like to place on record my sincere appreciation for FIFA who initiated the fight against match-fixing and corruption in football. FIFA not only signed a historic agreement with Interpol in 2011 for an unprecedented 10-year programme but also started an Early Warning System which detects irregular activities in football betting circles and alerts FIFA, confederations and the Member Associations.

AFC is honoured that the two-day conference, organised by Interpol, is aimed to enhance the prevention and investigation of match-fixing and corruption. The primary objectives are also aimed at educating regional and national bodies associated with football to work closely and more effectively in combating the bad elements.

We are also happy to note that 170 delegates from 56 countries, including our AFC, FIFA, Member Associations, FIFPro, Interpol, player representatives, law enforcement agencies and betting organisations are with us for this two-day conference.

AFC will pledge to continue working along with Interpol to deliver a series of training, education and prevention workshops in 2013 and 2014 at both regional and national levels.

I would also like to highlight to all our Member Associations of their statutory obligation as it is your responsibility to fight match-fixing and corruption. We need your cooperation and commitment to implement what you learn here in the next two days.

I would also like to mention the splendid initiatives taken by our Member Associations, like Chinese Football Association, Korea Football Association, Football Association of Singapore and Football Association of Malaysia by stepping up efforts to curb this menace. I would like to congratulate these Member Associations for their efforts.

I would like to ask all the Member Associations to appoint a person within your association to coordinate the procedures and prevention activities which you may undertake. Keep communicating with us and share the best practices. Together let's clean up our beautiful game.

In conclusion, our sincere appreciation to all the stakeholders, FIFA, law enforcement agencies, our Member Associations and most importantly Interpol for making this event possible.

Thank you and wish you all a fruitful and enjoyable session.