

CONIFA Asia and Oceania 2025 ACTIVITY REPORT



Ruby Ann Kagaoan
Intercontinental President
CONIFA Asia and Oceania

23-26 February - CAIRO: SoccerEx MENA Launch, Sports Expo Egypt 2025

CONIFA had a significant presence at the launch of SoccerEx MENA. The Intercontinental President of CONIFA Asia and Oceania sat alongside the Minister of the Egyptian Ministry of Youth and Sport, the President of the Egyptian Olympic Committee, and the presidents of the national sports federations during the opening session of the Sport Expo Egypt 2025 in Cairo. This moment was captured by news and media outlets, highlighting the female leader of CONIFA Asia and Oceania sitting next to the most prominent sports leaders of Egypt. It was featured as a major story across several sports news platforms, symbolizing Egypt's commitment to women's leadership in sports. This moment also represented a victory for the advancement of women in sports and aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goal 5, which is on gender equality.

The connections formed by CONIFA Asia and Oceania with sports leaders and figures in Egypt during the inaugural edition of SoccerEx MENA have paved the way for the potential hosting of the next CONIFA World Football Cup in Egypt.

1-4 July - CONIFA ASIA CUP LONDON

The second edition of the CONIFA Asia Cup took place in Walton-on-Thames, London, and was hosted by the Tamil Eelam FA and sanctioned by the English Football Association (FA), the inventor of football and a pioneer of its international game. Eleven referees from the Surrey FA officiated this groundbreaking continental championship, which has since become a prestigious and flagship event for CONIFA.

The tournament featured the 2023 CONIFA Asia Cup champions, Tamil Eelam FA, along with the East Turkistan FA and the Tibetan National Sports Association, collectively representing 52 million people. The footballers hailed from 35 communities across Asia, Europe, and North America. The three teams played according to the Rules of the Game established by the FA and

the CONIFA tournament regulations, demonstrating that CONIFA teams can compete at the standard of FIFA member associations.

The CONIFA Asia Cup London marked the first time the East Turkistan FA, representing 40 million Uyghurs, played and raised the East Turkistan national flag on an international platform. The Tamil Eelam FA emerged as the back-to-back champions, while the East Turkistan FA finished as runners-up, and the Tibetan NSA took third place. Eight months later, CONIFA Asia made another breakthrough with CONIFA's first player transfer: an East Turkistan FA footballer, who participated in the CONIFA Asia Cup London, transferred to the Singapore Premier League, marking a dream achievement and a milestone for both the Uyghurs and CONIFA.

The four reels posted by the CONIFA Asia and Oceania President on various social media platforms, which featured an interview with East Turkistan FA President Elshat Eslam, quickly went viral and amplified the voice of the previously voiceless nation of East Turkistan. Additionally, a 26-page digital magazine about the CONIFA Asia Cup London, co-produced by the CONIFA Asia and Oceania President in collaboration with HashTag Media, has become a valuable collection of highlights and stories from the tournament.

Further important information regarding the CONIFA Asia Cup London is in the attached document. This document was submitted to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) by the President of CONIFA Asia and Oceania, based on the survey inputs she provided for the UN Secretary-General's Report.

16 December - DUBLIN, the first Women in Football Symposium

CONIFA was prominently featured at the inaugural "Women in Football" Symposium held at the Technological University of Dublin (TUD). This event aimed to spark discussions about women in football in anticipation of the FIFA Women's World Cup 2027 in Brazil. The CONIFA Intercontinental President for Asia and Oceania was the first of 22 speakers selected from around the world. In her presentation, she unraveled the efforts of CONIFA and its member associations that have women's teams to advance inclusion and gender equality in football. Before the presentation of President Kagaoan, the attendees and organizers were largely unfamiliar with CONIFA. The feedback from both the academic organizers and participants was overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing their appreciation for the insights shared, to quote:

Feedback on your presentation was very positive and we would hope very much that you would be able to join us in person at our next iteration of this symposium, which will most likely be in December of this year. We haven't yet put out a call for papers, but we will make sure that you receive it when we do. (Mullaly, A., personal communication, February 16, 2026)

~Professor Dr. Anna-Maria Mullally, lead organizer, TUD

Hi Ruby! I just wanted to send a message that I really enjoyed your presentation at the Women in Football conference yesterday. Wish I could have met you in person! ... I was not aware of CONIFA before your talk - it is such interesting and important work :) (Dhaliwal, N., personal communication, December 17, 19, 2026)

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President Kagaoan announced the plans for the upcoming third CONIFA Women's World Football Cup, scheduled to take place in Paris in 2027 or 2028. This women's world championship exemplifies CONIFA's commitment to inclusion on two levels: it provides underrepresented nations with an international platform for competition, allowing them to showcase their ethnolinguistic identities and stories, and it offers girls and women from these nations the opportunity to express themselves through international football.

2025-2026 NEW CONIFA ASIA MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

In 2025 and 2026, three new members joined CONIFA Asia. These members are:

1. The Rojava Football Association, which represents the Syrian Kurds.
2. The Palestinian Refugee Football Initiative, based in Egypt, which aims to develop into a football association for Palestinian refugees worldwide.
3. The Kurdistan Football Association, which is returning to CONIFA to represent the Kurdistan Region, the largest stateless nation in the world.

Collectively, these associations represent over 19 million people, increasing CONIFA Asia's total representation to 520.35 million individuals. This accounts for 60% of the total population served by CONIFA globally.

CONIFA Asia Member Associations

Currently, there are 11 nations or people groups represented in CONIFA Asia, listed in this report alphabetically along with their population data for 2026:

| Member Associations | 2026 Population (millions) |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Afghanistan Women's Diaspora FA | 22.3 (49.51% of total Afghanistan population) |

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| East Turkistan FA | 35 |
| Hmong FF | 12 |
| Kashmir FA | 15.6 |
| Kurdistan FA | 9 |
| Pakistan All-Stars (league) | 259.3 |
| Panjab FA | 150 |
| Palestinian Refugee Football Initiative (club) | 6 |
| Rojava FA | 4.05 |
| Tamil Eelam FA | 3.5 |
| Tibetan National Sports Association | 3.6 |

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| TOTAL | 520.35 million people represented |
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