



## Wesley So hopes to become first Filipino super GM



<http://www.chessdom.com/news/wesley-so-2600>

YOUNG chess Grandmaster Wesley So hopes to become the first Filipino chess player to break the ELO rating of 2700 as he is scheduled to compete in several major tournaments in the coming months.

Based on the latest Philippine-FIDE rating list, the 16-year old from Bacoor, Cavite gained 9.3 points to raise his ELO rating to 2665, the highest a Filipino has so far achieved in the International Chess Federation (FIDE) list.

The points earned by So came after he topped the Aeroflat Open junior meet in Russia and competed in the Corus (Group B) chess tournament in the Netherlands.

An ELO rating is a method of calculating the strength of a chess player based on tournament performance. It was named after an American physics professor of Hungarian descent, Arpad Elo, who invented the rating system.

The points earned by So allowed him to climb the world rating from 77th in January to number 64 now.

Breaking the 2700 would make So the very first Filipino player to achieve super-GM status.

The soft-spoken high school student is already ranked number 2 in the world in the under-18 category (active) and currently number 1 in Asia in the same grouping.

When he became the youngest Philippine grandmaster three years ago, Wesley also became the seventh youngest to obtain a GM title.

His current rating has already surpassed the previous high of 2621 ELO achieved by Mark Paragua in 2006.

“I would like to break the 2700 ELO barrier,” said So, who was honored with a major award in chess by the Philippine Sportswriters Association (PSA) during its recent Annual Awards Night at the Manila Hotel.

Veteran Joey Antonio comes in second to So in the rankings with an ELO rating of 2572, followed by Darwin Laylo (2527), Rogelio Barcenilla (2518), John Paul Gomez (2507), Asia’s first GM Eugene Torre (2506). Paragua (2497), Joseph Sanchez (2493), Roland Salvador (2483) and Richard Bitoon (2476).

## Amit finishes Amway World 9-Ball Open with 3-3 record



<http://www.billiardphilippines.com/billiards/rubilen-d-amit.html>

RUBILEN Amit's bid for a double world championship disappeared after being eliminated in the 2010 Amway WPA Women's World 9-Ball Open in Chinese-Taipei.

Xiao Fang Fu of China slammed the door on the Filipina following her 5-7 win in their Final 24 match at the Core Pacific Living Mall Hotel.

Amit is the reigning world women's 10-ball champion and was hoping to add the world 9-ball crown the way Ronnie Alcano did in 2007.

But it wasn't meant to be.

The double gold medal winner in last year's Southeast Asian Games ended her campaign in the tournament that offers a champion's purse of \$20,000 with an even 3-3 record.

The former call center agent from Cebu actually had a chance to make it outright in the Final 16, but lost to Ireland's Karen Corr, 3-7, to arrange a Final 24 meeting with Xiao.

Amit began her campaign on a high note, disposing Maureen Seto of Canada, 7-1, and Kynthios Orfanidis of the Netherlands one after the other.

But she lost to Yuan Chun-Lin of Chinese-Taipei in her next match, 5-6, before bouncing back into the win column by turning back another Taipei bet in P.C. Lin, 7-2.

## **PASA holds third Olango Challenge**

FOR the third straight time, the Philippine Aquatics Sports Association (PASA) is holding the annual Olango Challenge on April 24 with the Tambuli Beach Club in Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu as this year's site.

The staging of the event is aimed at advocating the importance of a clean marine environment and at the same time, promoting open water swimming in the country.

The meet is also a fundraising activity which aims to raise funds of PhP1.2 million for the livelihood and environment projects of Olango Island.

The funds raised from the first two challenges (2008 and 2009) went to the construction of classrooms at Candagsao Elementary School in Olango Island.

PASA is organizing the event in cooperation with the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP).