

XIII World University Championship was held in Córdoba, the city with the enormous cultural and monumental legacy. It is one of the most visited Spanish capitals by tourists even though it has the highest summer average daily temperatures in Europe (averaging 36.9 °C in July). Cordoba's period of greatest glory began in the 8th century after the Moorish conquest, when some 300 mosques and innumerable palaces and public buildings were built. In the 13th century, under Ferdinand III, the Saint, Cordoba's Great Mosque was turned into a cathedral and new defensive structures, particularly the Alcázar de los Reyes Cristianos and the Torre Fortaleza de la Calahorra, were erected.



Roman bridge



Alcazar

Córdoba is not only delight for sightseeing but also for dining. Olive oil, being produced in big quantities around Cordoba, is an important ingredient of many typical dishes. Gazpacho and Salmorejo, delicious and refreshing cold soups made mainly of mashed vegetables and olive oil, are the indispensable first dish in all tabernas. Equally indispensable is Jamon, cured ham, which is produced in extraordinary quality, especially in Valle de los Pedroches. Despite of the hot climate, there are of course as well warm dishes: especially the ragouts of oxtail, Estofado de Rabo de Buey, and of lamb, Cordero en Caldereta



Tournament

21 countries with 226 participants took part in XIII World University Championship, which was the second largest registration in FISU history. Tournament itself was held in Vista Alegre Sports Hall approximately 1km from the Campus where all of the court officials and players were accommodated. Everything was working smoothly, from pick up at the Malaga airport to transport and everyday care for umpires (water, coffee and fruit in the hall). Luckily the hall was air-conditioned otherwise it would have been extremely hard to umpire all the time in 38 degrees. There were 6 courts with three

line judges per court, which transferred to 4 line judges from quarter finals on. The referee was Nils Petter Johansen (NOR), deputy Isabelle Jobard (FRA) and local deputy Carmen Martinez. There were 28 umpires (18xESP, 2xPOR, GER, NOR, SWE, POL, LAT, EST, AUT, FRA). I had the morning shift three days in a row, 9:00 to 15:00, which was excellent, I felt like I was on holiday and not on the tournament (25 duties in five days (12U, 13 SJ)). Spanish association took this tournament as a great opportunity to put their young umpires in spotlight as a preparation for the upcoming assessments.

Team event was dominated by China, who won in the final against Malaysia 3:0. Finals of the individual event brought a surprise in the men's doubles were Malaysian pair consisting of the two top 100 singles players, Iskandar and Arif, (respectively 94 and 57) managed to take the best over the Chinese pair. Another, maybe not so surprising thing was that the final of mixed doubles, an all Chinese event was only 14 minutes long.



WD: **Dongni Ou/Yuanting Tang [2]**-Mirai Shinoda/Natsumi Uratani 21-13 21-8

MS: **Huan Gao [2]**-Iskandar Zulkarnain Zainuddin [5] 21-15 15-21 22-20

XD: **Cheng Liu/Yuanting Tang [8]** -Zhijun Zhang/Dongni Ou 21-12 21-11

WS: **Yu-Po Pai [2]**-Xin Liu [1] 21-19 12-21 21-16

MD: **Mohamad Arif Ab Latif/Iskandar Zulkarnain Zainuddin**-Junjie Guo/Zhijun Zhan 21-16 21-19

Next World University Championship will be held in Ramenskoe in 2016.

