



FIFPRO ASIA/OCEANIA

**FIFPRO ASIA/OCEANIA
ANNUAL REPORT
2025-2026**



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FOREWORD

Welcome to the 2025-2026 FIFPRO Asia/Oceania Annual Report.

This report summarises the achievements and progress of our Division, and our members, across the past 12 months. Pleasingly, there is much to be celebrate and be proud of, as football across Asia and Oceania continues to grow and evolve, and our players' careers and lives are strengthened by the work of our unions.

Across the vast and diverse region our players play football in, competitions are expanding, leagues are professionalising and new opportunities are emerging. From the AFC's revitalised continental competitions to the inaugural OFC Pro League uniting clubs from across the Pacific, the football landscape is changing rapidly.

In the past 12 months, the spotlight has been on two major international competitions for our players: the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2026, which became the most attended edition in the tournament's history, and the expanded FIFA Men's World Cup, which featured a record number of nations from our region, including historic first appearances for Uzbekistan and Jordan and Iraq's long-awaited return after a four-decade absence.

Both tournaments presented significant and life-changing opportunities for players to live out their dreams on the biggest stage but also highlighted the immense challenges many of our players face. Before the Women's Asian Cup we identified the unfulfilled opportunity of the women's game in Asia, and the urgent need to capitalise on the growth of the game globally, and ensure our women's athletes are treated equally.

While football's growth creates new opportunities, significant challenges remain. Women's football continues to face disparities in investment, visibility and conditions.

The circumstances surrounding the Iran Women's National Team during the Asian Cup reminded us that footballers are more than athletes. They are people whose rights and voices deserve protection.

As a division representing more than 7,000 players across diverse cultural, social and economic environments, our responsibility is not only to respond to football's development and evolution, but to help shape it, we have a duty to protect the rights of players, and to ensure the game continues to respect their role as genuine partners in the game.

This report demonstrates how FIFPRO Asia/Oceania and our member unions continue to support players and influence the future direction of the game.

The report demonstrates a range of achievements and progress that we have made including:

- The largest coordinated action by women's footballers in Asia, with representatives from seven Women's Asian Cup competitors signing a joint letter calling on the Asian Football Confederation to address funding and structural inequalities in women's football;
- The introduction of the player voted FIFPRO Team of the Tournament, a new award for major international tournaments in Asia, recognising the performances of players on the continental stage;
- The strengthening of player representation globally by increasing the presence of players on the FIFPRO Global Player Council;
- Engagement with national team players from countries without FIFPRO member unions including Bhutan, China, Fiji, Iran, Pakistan, Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam;
- The division's 2026 General Assembly and Women's Football Summit in Sydney reinforced the importance of partnership between players, unions, leagues, clubs and football stakeholders;
- Support for Indian players during a period of significant uncertainty and turmoil as the Indian Super League was thrown into jeopardy last season;
- Hosting the FIFPRO Organising Workshop in Australia's Blue Mountains, which brought together player representatives to develop leadership skills, organising strategies and collective action capabilities;
- The continuation of the FIFPRO Asia/Oceania Women's Network as a trusted platform for connection, peer learning and leadership development;
- Sustained momentum behind the Anti-Asian Racism campaign launched in 2025; and
- A FIFPRO Asia/Oceania and FIFPRO Africa strategic partnership.

Together, we can continue building a better future for every player across Asia and Oceania.



**SECRETARY
GENERAL**
**SHOKO
TSUJI**



PRESIDENT
**BEAU
BUSCH**

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

OUR MISSION AND PURPOSE:

***FIFPRO Asia/Oceania
Supports Players***

STRATEGIC VISION:



**STRONG REGIONAL REPRESENTATION
AND GLOBAL INFLUENCE**



EFFECTIVE MEMBER UNIONS

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:



PLAYER ORGANISING AND MOBILISING



MEMBER UNIONS



BARGAINING AND LEVERAGE



DIVERSITY



INNOVATION, DATA AND ALLIANCES



FUTURE



RESPECT



PARTNERSHIP



PROFESSIONALISM



GOOD GOVERNANCE AND FAIR PLAY

STRATEGIC VISION



STRONG REGIONAL REPRESENTATION AND GLOBAL INFLUENCE

Provide effective representation for players at the regional level and ensure an influential voice for the division within FIFPRO.



EFFECTIVE MEMBER UNIONS

Support the division's members to deliver world class representation and advice.

This vision will be pursued through the following strategic objectives:



PLAYER ORGANISING AND MOBILISING

Through education and empowerment, establish a powerful voice for the players across the region.



MEMBER UNIONS

Through capacity building, support and leadership, establish the division as FIFPRO's most effective.



BARGAINING AND LEVERAGE

Position FIFPRO Asia/Oceania as the body to act on behalf of players at the regional level and as the key supporter of the division's members' progress.



DIVERSITY

Respect, protect and promote the diversity of the division's members while pursuing a workplace for players that is free from all forms of discrimination and risks to their human rights.



INNOVATION, DATA AND ALLIANCES

Proactively shape the future of Asian and Oceanian football through evidence-based research, analysis and partnerships.

PLAYER ORGANISING & MOBILISING

AFC WOMEN'S ASIAN CUP 2026

FIFPRO Asia/Oceania played a leading role in pushing for equal conditions and prize money at the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2026, addressing historical gender imbalances, advocating for player safety and welfare, and accelerating the professionalisation and development of women's football across the region.

Player letter to the AFC (16 December 2025)

A formal letter signed by players from seven competing nations was sent to AFC leadership, urging the AFC to align investment and standards with the men's tournament and seize a generational opportunity for sustainable growth of the women's game.



Player support services (25 February 2026)

FIFPRO Asia/Oceania announced a suite of services to players participating in the tournament, including the FIFPRO Red Button App, social media protection through Areto Labs, mental health support, money transfer support from SportsFX, and on-the-ground support during the tournament.

FIFPRO Asia/Oceania Team of the Tournament (1 April 2026)

FIFPRO Asia/Oceania announced its inaugural FIFPRO Asia/Oceania Team of the Tournament – Australia 2026, the first player-voted honour of its kind at a continental tournament in Asia. The final team was voted on by more than 100 players from participating nations, and celebrated by member unions, federations, clubs and the players themselves.



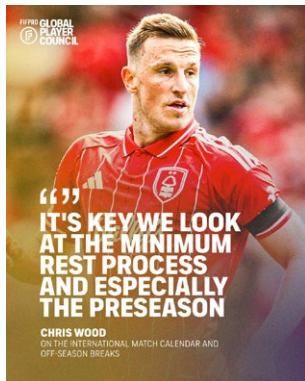
Joint statement (1 April 2026)

Following the final of the AFC Women's Asian Cup, the players of Australia and Japan published a joint statement reiterating the importance of a genuine partnership between AFC and the players and calling on FIFA to honour its pledge of equal prize money at the 2027 FIFA Women's World Cup.

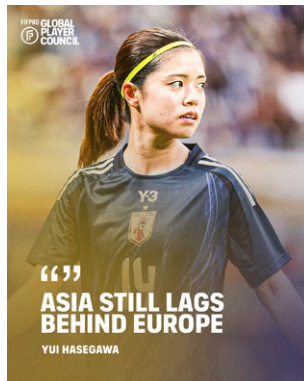
Global Player Council (GPC)

The new FIFPRO Global Player Council (GPC) was launched on 30 September 2025, with strong representation from Asia/Oceania, seven players: Chris Wood (New Zealand), Wataru Endo (Japan), Yui Hasegawa (Japan), Jackson Irvine (Australia), Tameka Yallop (Australia), Rizky Ridho (Indonesia) and Ashalata Devi Loitongbam (India), represent Asia and Oceania on the GPC.

Key contributions from the region included:



Chris Wood participated in a FIFPRO online media briefing on 26 September 2025, sharing insights on managing workload demands across club and country and highlighting the importance of having minimum protection standards in place for players.



Yui Hasegawa, Ashalata Devi and Jackson Irvine supported the AFC Women's Asian Cup campaign through video testimonials, with Ashalata Devi also serving on the Team of the Tournament selection panel.



Ahead of the FIFA World Cup, Jackson Irvine hosted Season Three of FIFPRO's podcast "Footballers Unfiltered" featuring four special episodes with World Cup-bound players, including a conversation with fellow GPC player Wataru Endo.

Player engagement at FIFPRO Asia/Oceania events

Active and retired players from different countries participated at the FIFPRO Asia/Oceania General Assembly 2026 in Sydney. On the first day, a player panel took place featuring Jonathan Aspropotamitis (Australia), Hiroshi Ibusuki (Japan) and Yolanda Krismonica Wijayanti (Indonesia), providing valuable perspectives and insights from active professional footballers.



Engagement with national team players from countries without FIFPRO member unions

Countries included Bhutan, China, Fiji, Iran, Pakistan, Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam.

"We know that the unions are listening, but it's really important that the stakeholders of the game keep listening."

- Jonathan Aspropotamitis (Australia)

MEMBER UNIONS



Australia

- Launched 'Ready for Takeoff', the players' long-term vision for the A-League Women with 21 practical recommendations to deliver on the league's potential, underpinned by two years of extensive research and analysis
- Announced PFA A-League Men Team of the Second Decade, celebrating the contribution of players between 2005 - 2025



India

- Provided legal support to players amid the uncertainty caused by the suspension of the Indian Super League
- Signed partnership with top rehabilitation center in Bangalore, allowing players in the eastern and southern part of India to access affordable, top quality facilities and fitness support



Indonesia

- Hosted the NDRC Acknowledgement Press Conference together with PSSI, NDRC and the I-League
- Partnered with the League Operator (I-League) on an anti-racism campaign
- Organised a charity match to support communities affected by natural disasters across Sumatra





Japan

- Celebrated its 30th anniversary, providing an opportunity to reflect on three decades of support for players
- Conducted a major image rights reform, shifting from a league/club control to a player-controlled model



Republic of Korea

- Supported the Korea Republic women's national team in securing improved working conditions ahead of the AFC Women's Asian Cup
- Organised the inaugural KPFA Women's Summit, bringing together KPFA board members and active and retired players to discuss the development of women's football and career pathways beyond retirement



Kyrgyz Republic

- Introduced a new process requiring APRKR approval of all players' employment contracts before they could be accepted by the Football Association
- Successfully advocated for a comprehensive revision of the national Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (RSTP), including the introduction of dedicated provisions for women's football



Malaysia

- Strengthened cooperation with government labour bodies to improve handling of player labour disputes
- Hosted the "PFAM Off-Season Camp 2025" and organised off-season career support for out-of-contract players





New Zealand

- Hosted the first-ever multi-generational All Whites dinner during the March window. The event brought together players from the 1982, 2010 and 2026 All Whites squads. It was a milestone event affirming the taura here (binding), whakapapa (heritage) and kotahitanga (unity) across generations
- Supported player involvement in the recruitment of the new Football Ferns Head Coach. This continued a player presence in the All Whites coaching recruitment in 2022/2023
- Delivered a shared, on-demand resource series that members could access regardless of location and time zone, covering specific areas of member interest, including brand development, scholarship/university preparation and media training



Uzbekistan

- Officially launched National Dispute Resolution Chamber (NDRC) and contributed to a significant reduction of legal cases
- Secured a major commercial endorsement opportunity for national team players through a public tender process



Organising Support

FIFPRO Asia/Oceania agreed to continue its collaboration with Divisional Organising Coordinator Robbie Gaspar to provide hands-on support to member unions and observers. Robbie travelled to Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand to engage with union leadership and administration to assist their organising efforts.



Legal Support

FIFPRO Asia/Oceania engaged former FIFPRO Legal Director, Roy Vermeer, to support member unions and observers with complex domestic legal cases, as well as provide support to non-unionised players from the Asia/Oceania region.

FIFPRO Asia/Oceania Capacity Building Fund

The FIFPRO Asia/Oceania Capacity Building Fund was reactivated and redesigned to support member unions undertaking strategic capacity-building projects. To date, eight member unions have applied for this funding, for projects ranging from the development of digital infrastructure, women's football development initiatives to education programmes targeting the next generation of players.

FIFPRO Asia/Oceania Acceleration Funding

The FIFPRO Asia/Oceania Acceleration Funding was made available for emerging unions, with the aim of enhancing their capacity to develop their membership base and supporting their progress towards becoming global observers of FIFPRO.

FIFPRO Asia/Oceania Comms Network

Following the creation of the FIFPRO Asia/Oceania Women's Network last year, the FIFPRO Asia/Oceania Comms Network was launched in May 2026 with the aim of enhancing collaboration and information-sharing across our members. A survey was circulated to better understand members' needs challenges and opportunities, and the first-ever FIFPRO Asia/Oceania Comms workshop will take place on 6-7 October 2026 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

EQUITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

FIFPRO Asia/Oceania Women's Network

- Continued to establish the Women's Network as a trusted platform for connection, peer learning and leadership development, strengthening the involvement of women across Asia/Oceania member unions
- Increased the visibility of women's contributions, strengthening connections with FIFPRO through initiatives such as People of the Union features, participation in General Assemblies and involvement in other FIFPRO events
- Increased number of members and created opportunities for learning, exchange and leadership development through meetings featuring experienced leaders from the trade union movement and football in Asia/Oceania
- Provided a best-practice model for the establishment of a Women's Network within FIFPRO Africa



"Being part of the Women's Network has been a meaningful experience, given me the chance to connect with colleagues from other unions in Asia and learn from women who are working in football in different contexts. It also creates a safe and respectful space where we can openly share ideas, experiences and challenges."

- Hanani Husin (Malaysia)

"The Women's Network is a one-of-a-kind experience to engage in conversations with women working in the football union movement from different parts of the world. It has created a safe and empowering space where we can voice our perspectives, support one another, and learn collectively."

- Anisha Chavan (India)

Anti-Asian racism campaign & broader anti-discrimination work

- Sustained momentum behind the Anti-Asian Racism campaign through a webinar for members and stakeholders and a player-led content piece centred on player voice, while continuing to promote the campaign and report among key stakeholders.
- Increased the visibility of member union initiatives on anti-discrimination and inclusion through a union-led panel at the FIFPRO Asia/Oceania General Assembly 2026, with examples and learnings also shared with FIFPRO Europe members.

Inclusive practices

- Implemented FIFPRO's Inclusive Events Guidelines, including accommodations for members observing Ramadan during Divisional events.
- Increased the participation of women in key FIFPRO events, including the General Assembly, Women's Football Summit and Organising Workshop.
- Engaged member unions and players in FIFPRO's Ramadan campaign, helping to raise awareness and visibility.
- Received international recognition for leadership in advancing gender equality in football through the WISLAW 2026 Gender Equality Awards.



INNOVATION, DATA & ALLIANCES

Partnership with SportsFX

- Announced a one-year partnership with SportsFX as the Division's official currency partner and conducted webinars with members to introduce the partnership and its benefits

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with FIFPRO Africa

- FIFPRO Asia/Oceania and FIFPRO Africa formalised a strategic partnership through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at strengthening collaboration and advancing player representation across the two regions
- By sharing resources and expertise, the two divisions aim to create unique solutions for shared challenges and unlock new opportunities for players and member unions
- Collectively, FIFPRO Africa and FIFPRO Asia/Oceania represent more than 20,000 professional players. The agreement was signed on 18 November 2025 during the FIFPRO General Assembly in Lisbon



"Collaboration is key to addressing the evolving needs of players in a globalised football industry and we have identified there are many shared opportunities and challenges across our Divisions. This agreement allows us to combine strengths and deliver meaningful impact for thousands of players across multiple continents."

- Shoko Tsuji (FIFPRO Asia/Oceania Secretary General)

"This MoU is a significant step towards building stronger connections between our regions. By working together, we can better serve players and ensure their voices are heard on issues that matter most. By sharing resources and expertise, the two divisions aim to create unique solutions for shared challenges and unlock new opportunities for players and member unions."

- Kgosana Masaseng (FIFPRO Africa Secretary General)

Collaboration with World Players Association (WPA)

- FIFPRO Asia/Oceania strengthened its engagement with the World Players Association (WPA) by participating in the WPA World Assembly in Rome, Italy (21-22 September 2025), connecting with unions from across different sports
- In addition, the World Players Summit in Washington, D.C. (8-11 June 2026) brought together union representatives from across the global player movement, including FIFPRO Asia/Oceania members from Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia and Uzbekistan



BARGAINING & LEVERAGE – COMMS, ADVOCACY & CAMPAIGNS

Women's Asian Cup Prize Money and Conditions Campaign

- The campaign for the 2026 AFC Women's Asian Cup was a key advocacy initiative, centred on a four-point vision calling for equal conditions, equal prize money, direct player payments and a long-term legacy program for women's football in Asia
- The campaign was underpinned by independent research illustrating the tournament could generate up to US\$82.4 million in revenue, positioning it as a once-in-a-generation opportunity to accelerate investment in the women's game in the region
- Media briefings, player-led advocacy and coordinated social media content amplified the campaign's message, with coverage secured across major football, mainstream and international media outlets
- The campaign successfully established FIFPRO Asia/Oceania as a leading voice on gender equity and professionalisation in Asian football

2026 General Assembly

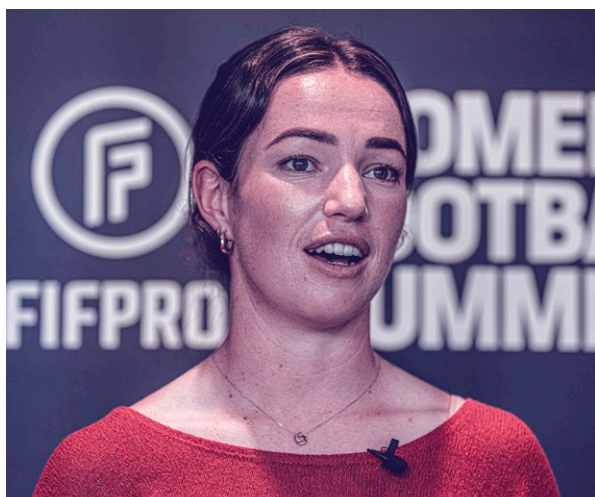
- The 2026 GA in Sydney became a major international media moment with attention on the safety and welfare of the Iran Women's National Team during the Women's Asian Cup
- FIFPRO Asia/Oceania and FIFPRO leadership, publicly advocated for the players' rights and protection, calling on football authorities and the Australian Government to ensure players retained agency over their futures amid growing concerns about their wellbeing and their return to Iran. The issue generated significant domestic and international coverage and positioned FIFPRO Asia/Oceania at the centre of a global conversation about human rights and athlete welfare
- Alongside the Iran issue, the Assembly reinforced the organisation's commitment to advancing women's football and strengthening partnerships across the region, where the WAC prize money and conditions campaign was reinforced
- In partnership with High Park Comms, FIFPRO Asia/Oceania also recorded interviews with Members to deliver to selected media in Central Asia, East Asia, the Middle East and Oceania to tailor coverage of the GA in specific markets

Support for Iran Women's National Team

- In the lead-up to and during the AFC Women's Asian Cup, FIFPRO Asia/Oceania raised concerns with FIFA and AFC regarding the safety and wellbeing of the Iran Women's National Team
- Throughout the tournament, the Division engaged with FIFA, AFC and the Australian Government, while also undertaking extensive media engagement, to ensure that the players had the option to apply for humanitarian visas in Australia and to help safeguard their wellbeing and security upon their return to Iran

2026 FIFPRO Women's Football Summit

- Held in Sydney during the Women's Asian Cup, the 2026 FIFPRO Women's Football Summit was the first to be held outside of Europe. It brought together football unions, players, clubs, league representatives and leading figures from across the global football industry to help shape the future of the women's game
- The summit explored key themes including professionalisation, innovation, commercialisation, collaboration, collective bargaining and structural reform, with a particular regional lens on Asia and Oceania
- Discussions built on FIFPRO's ongoing advocacy around equal conditions, prize money, as well as regulations and maternity protections, ensuring the voices of women footballers remain central to decision-making as the game evolves
- The event was covered by FIFPRO Asia/Oceania comms, and was covered by domestic Australian media, who were also integrated into panel discussions



Inaugural FIFPRO Asia/Oceania Team of the Tournament

- FIFPRO Asia/Oceania launched the inaugural player-voted Team of the Tournament at the 2026 Women's Asian Cup
- Designed to ensure players themselves determined who should be recognised for their performances, the award reinforced FIFPRO's commitment to player voice and peer recognition
- More than 100 players from participating nations took part in the voting process, creating a strong sense of ownership and legitimacy around the award
- The initiative generated positive coverage across football media, national associations and club channels, while providing a valuable platform to celebrate excellence in women's football

Footballers' Unfiltered – Season Two

- Season Two of Footballers' Unfiltered continued to build FIFPRO's reputation for authentic, player-led storytelling, and had a distinct Asia/Oceania connection with episodes hosted by FIFPRO Global Player Council Member and Australian international, Jackson Irvine
- Irvine spoke candidly about leadership, activism, player representation and the importance of collective action, while also sharing personal experiences from his career. The episode helped showcase the role of player unions in supporting footballers and provided a platform to discuss issues such as mental health, player welfare and the future of the game
- Through long-form content and social media amplification, the series strengthened engagement with both players and football audiences globally

BARGAINING & LEVERAGE – STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Asian Football Confederation (AFC)

- A leadership meeting took place at AFC House on 17 September 2025.

Oceania Football Confederation (OFC)

- Together with OFC administration, FIFPRO conducted a player survey with women's national teams during the OFC Women's Cup of Nations (4-19 July 2025), achieving an outstanding 169 out of 172 responses.

Regional federations

▪ **South Asian Football Federation (SAFF)**

FIFPRO Asia/Oceania continued its collaboration with the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) by conducting player surveys during the inaugural SAFF Women's Club Championship in Kathmandu, Nepal (5-20 December 2025) as well as the SAFF Women's Championship in Goa, India (25 May-5 June 2026). The surveys provided valuable insights into players' experiences and identified key areas for improvement in national team and club conditions, as well as tournament environments. The findings were shared with FIFA, AFC and SAFF member associations to support continued efforts to enhance women's football across South Asia.

▪ **Central Asian Football Association (CAFA):**

FIFPRO Asia/Oceania attended the inaugural Women's Football Development Seminar, hosted by the Central Asian Football Association (CAFA) and Football Australia, on 6-7 August 2025 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The seminar brought together representatives from five Central Asian Member Associations — Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyz Republic, Turkmenistan, and IR Iran — alongside delegates from FIFA and the AFC. It also offered FIFPRO Asia/Oceania with an opportunity to present its vision around the AFC Women's Asian Cup and engage with key regional stakeholders on the development of women's football.



Stakeholder presence at FIFPRO events

▪ **FIFPRO Asia/Oceania General Assembly 2026 (Sydney, Australia)**

Asian Football Confederation (AFC), Australian Professional Leagues, Football Australia, League Managers Association (LMA), World Leagues Association (WLA), World Players Association (WPA).

▪ **FIFPRO Women's Football Summit 2026 (Sydney, Australia)**

Central Asian Football Association (CAFA), WE League (Japan), World Leagues Association (WLA), World Players Association (WPA).



ADMINISTRATION & EVENTS

Key Developments:

ADMINISTRATION

- Publication of inaugural FIFPRO Asia/Oceania annual report
- Engagement with former Legal Director Roy Vermeer to provide legal support to the Division and its members
- Amendment of the FIFPRO Asia/Oceania articles of association, in line with FIFPRO's Governance review

EVENTS

- FIFPRO Asia/Oceania General Meeting in Lisbon, Portugal (20 November 2025)
- FIFPRO Asia/Oceania General Assembly in Sydney, Australia (9-10 March 2026)
- FIFPRO Organising Training (11-13 March 2026) and FIFPRO Women's Football Summit (15-16 March 2026) in Sydney, Australia
 - Capacity building opportunity for FIFPRO Asia/Oceania members
 - Engagement with regional stakeholders



FIFPRO Asia/Oceania Leadership:



PRESIDENT

BEAU BUSCH

Professional Footballers Australia /
FIFPRO Women's Football Steering Council

Beau Busch is the Chief Executive of Professional Footballers Australia (PFA) and was appointed President of FIFPRO Asia/Oceania in 2024. A former professional defender who played in Australia and Scotland, Busch transitioned into player advocacy in 2013 with the PFA. He has since played a pivotal role in negotiating collective bargaining agreements and enhancing player welfare in Australia.



SECRETARY GENERAL

SHOKO TSUJI

FIFPRO Asia/Oceania

Appointed in 2024, Shoko Tsuji serves as the Secretary General of FIFPRO Asia/Oceania and is the first Asian woman to hold this position. A graduate of Waseda University and the FIFA Master, she brings over a decade of experience in football organisations across Spain, Singapore and the Netherlands. Prior to her current role, she led the player relations strategy and managed the Global Player Council at FIFPRO's global headquarters.



VICE PRESIDENT

ANNA GREEN

New Zealand Professional Footballers
Association / FIFPRO EDI Committee

Anna Green is a former Football Fern (New Zealand's women's national team) who participated in three FIFA Women's World Cups and four Olympic Games. Currently, she serves as the NZPFA representative on the FIFPRO Asia/Oceania Board.

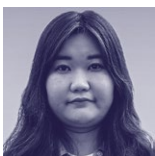


VICE PRESIDENT

IZHAM ISMAIL

Professional Footballers Association of
Malaysia

Izham Ismail has been the Chief Executive Officer of the Professional Footballers Association of Malaysia (PFAM) since 2014 and a Board Member of FIFPRO Asia/Oceania since 2015. Holding a law degree from the University of Malaya, he has represented players in contractual disputes before the FAM Status Committee and FIFA Dispute Resolution Chamber.



BOARD MEMBER

HYEBIN KANG

Korea Pro-Footballers' Association

Hyebin Kang represents the Korea Pro-Footballers' Association (KPFA) on the FIFPRO Asia/Oceania Board. The KPFA, established in 2017 and a FIFPRO member since 2019, is dedicated to supporting professional footballers in South Korea.



BOARD MEMBER

SALMAN AL-ANSARI

Qatar Players Association

Salman Al-Ansari is the President of the Qatar Players Association (QPA) and a member of the FIFPRO Asia/Oceania Board. A former national football player and practicing lawyer, he has been instrumental in promoting the welfare of professional footballers in Qatar.



BOARD MEMBER

TAKUYA YAMAZAKI

Japan Pro-Footballers Association / FIFPRO
Global Board / FIFPRO EDI Committee

Takuya Yamazaki served as Chair of FIFPRO Asia/Oceania for eight years before being nominated to FIFPRO's global board in 2024. A lawyer with an LLB from Waseda University, he has been involved in various sports law roles, including serving on the FIFA Dispute Resolution Chamber from 2009 to 2019.



LOOKING AHEAD. WHAT'S COMING?

Next year marks the 20th anniversary of FIFPRO Asia/Oceania, which gives us the opportunity to reflect on two decades of progress and the collective achievements of players and player associations across our region.

When our Division was established in 2007, it consisted of just three founding unions. Today, we are a network of 10 strong member unions and five observers, representing more than 7,000 professional footballers across Asia and Oceania.

Over those 20 years, we have welcomed player associations from India, Indonesia, Korea Republic, Malaysia and Qatar, and most recently Uzbekistan and Kyrgyz Republic.

Together, we have strengthened the voice of players and advanced the principle that every footballer, regardless of where they play, deserves representation, protection and a say in decisions that affect their careers and wellbeing.

That progress is worth celebrating, but it also reminds us of how much work remains.

Across our region, too many players still face challenges including non-payment, discrimination, intimidation, excessive workloads, public scrutiny, and physical or emotional abuse. The need for strong, sustainable and independent player associations has never been greater.

Players must be free to join unions, organise collectively and be represented without fear, restriction or punishment. Strong player associations are not only essential to protecting footballers, but they are also essential to building better football.

They ensure that the people at the centre of the game have a meaningful role in shaping its future and contribute to more sustainable, professional and accountable football environments.

As we look back, we also look ahead. This year marks the conclusion of our 2023-2026 Strategic Framework, which has guided the growth of our Division and our member unions over the past three years. Planning is already underway for our next Strategic Framework, which will set our priorities through to the end of the decade.

That work will continue in the lead-up to our General Assembly in Goa next April, where player associations from across Asia and Oceania will come together to celebrate 20 years, but define the challenges ahead, strengthen

our collective voice and chart the future direction of our movement.

Our immediate focus remains on supporting the continued growth and capability of our member unions. This includes a media and communications workshop in Malaysia in October, which will be designed to help player associations amplify player voices, strengthen advocacy efforts and increase their impact within their respective football communities.

We will also continue our work to advance women's football across the region. With the FIFA Women's World Cup taking place in Brazil next year, we will build on the campaign around the AFC Women's Asian Cup and continue working alongside players to drive the professionalisation of the women's game and pursue equal prize money and working conditions.

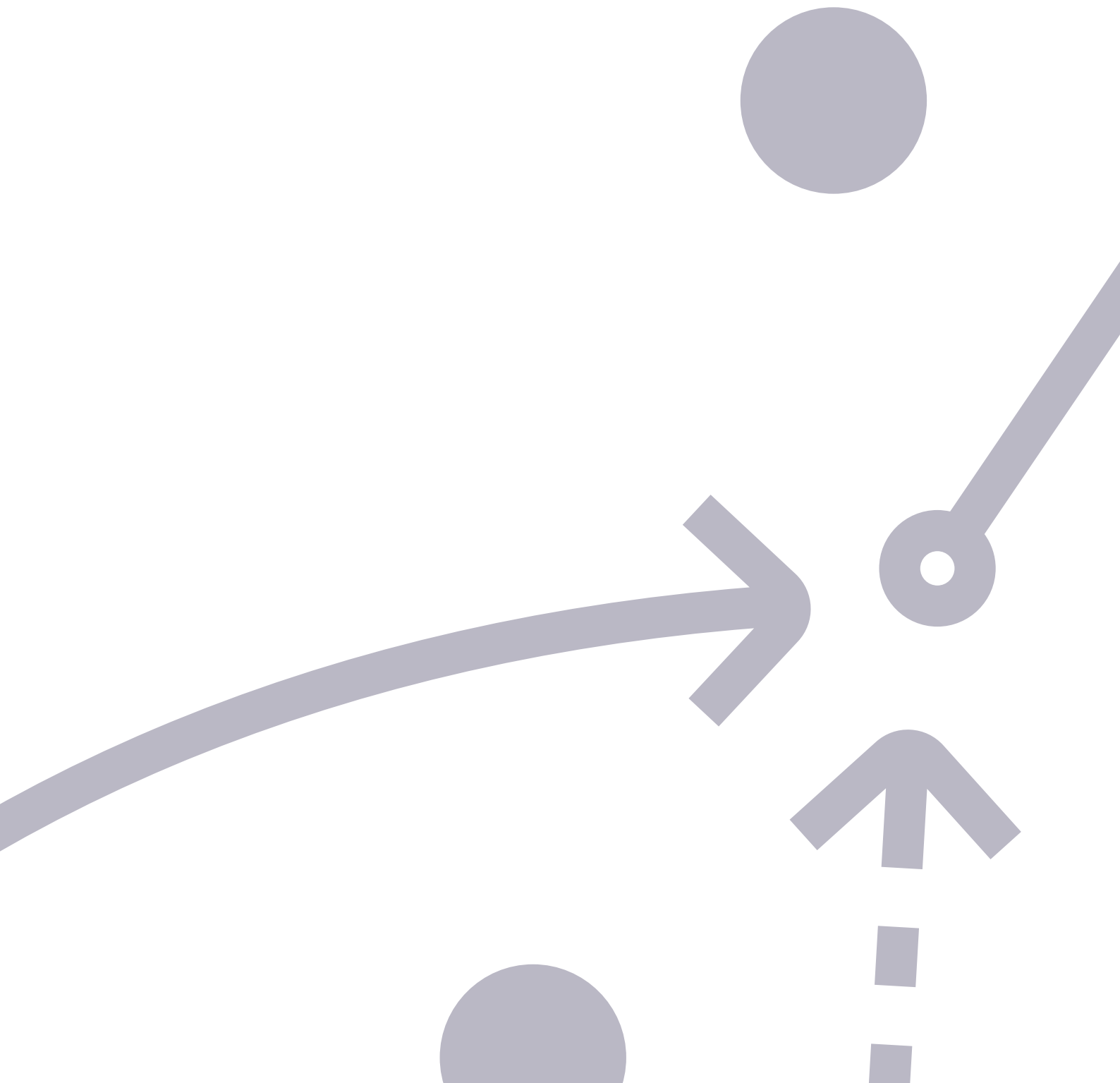
Achieving our goals will require continued collaboration across football. Partnership between FIFPRO, the AFC, the OFC, national associations, leagues, clubs and other stakeholders remains critical to ensuring the long-term growth and sustainability of the game.

Ultimately, football can only reach its full potential when those responsible for the game work together with a shared commitment to professional standards, sustainable development and the protection of players.

Most importantly, we must never lose sight of who the game is for.

Players are human beings first, with families, ambitions, and rights. They should always be treated as partners in football's success.

And as FIFPRO Asia/Oceania enters its third decade, that belief will continue to guide everything we do.





*FUTURE
RESPECT
PARTNERSHIP
PROFESSIONALISM
GOOD GOVERNANCE AND FAIR PLAY*

Power to the players.

