FIDE Awards nominees.

Honorary members:

1. Georgios Makropoulos (posthumously)
2. Casto Abundo (posthumously)
3. Eugene Torre

Friend of FIDE:

1. Bessel Kok

Mr. Georgios Makropoulos (1953-2026) devoted more than four decades to the development and administration of chess in Greece and internationally. An International Master since 1979 and seven-time Greek Champion, he represented Greece at three Chess Olympiads, twice on first board. Elected President of the Greek Chess Federation in 1982, he played a decisive role in bringing the Chess Olympiads to Thessaloniki in 1984 and 1988, helping to establish Greece as an important host of major international chess events. In 1986, he joined the leadership of FIDE, serving successively as Vice President, General Secretary (1990–1996), Deputy President (1996–2018) and Vice President from 2022 until 2026. Throughout this long period of service, he was a constant presence at FIDE Congresses and major international events, contributing his extensive organisational experience, knowledge of the chess world and longstanding relationships to the development of FIDE and the international chess movement.

Mr. Casto Abundo (1950-2025) devoted more than five decades to the development and administration of chess at the national, continental and international levels. An International Arbiter since 1978 and International Organiser since 1998, he served as FIDE Secretary from 1988 to 1990 and subsequently held a number of important positions within FIDE, including FIDE Rating Administrator from 1989 to 2007 and Chairman of the FIDE Constitutional Commission from 2006 to 2014. His exceptional organisational expertise was demonstrated at numerous major events, including as Deputy Chief at the 1986 Dubai Olympiad, Director and Chief Organiser of the 1992 Chess Olympiad in Manila, and Chief Arbiter at the 2000 World Championship and 2001 World Cup. From 2006 to 2014 he served as Vice-President of the Asian Chess Federation and subsequently as its Executive Director, playing a central role in strengthening the Federation's institutional framework and advancing the development of chess throughout Asia. He also contributed extensively to the education of arbiters and organisers through FIDE seminars and served on several FIDE commissions. His long and distinguished service, organisational expertise

and sustained contribution to the development of chess in Asia and worldwide represent an important part of the history of FIDE.

Mr. Bessel Kok has made a significant and longstanding contribution to the promotion, organisation and professional development of chess internationally. His involvement in chess dates back to the 1980s, when, as President and CEO of SWIFT, he supported and sponsored major international chess events, and from 1985 to 1991 he served as Chairman of the World Chess Grandmaster Association (GMA). He played an active role in efforts to reunify the world chess championship structure and was closely involved in the 2002 Prague Agreement, which sought to establish a unified World Championship cycle. Through his support of major tournaments and matches, including events featuring leading world champions and grandmasters, he contributed substantially to raising the profile of chess and attracting international corporate sponsorship. Based in Prague, he became a prominent patron and organiser of chess in the Czech Republic and internationally, receiving recognition for his lifelong contribution to Czech chess in 2005. In 2006, he stood as a candidate for the FIDE Presidency, presenting a programme focused on professional management, transparency, sustainable sponsorship and the global development of chess. His sustained commitment, international network and contribution to the promotion and modernisation of chess have made him a notable figure in the history of the international chess movement.

Grandmaster Eugene Torre has devoted more than five decades to the development and promotion of chess, becoming one of the most distinguished figures in the history of Asian chess. In 1974, at the age of 22, he became the first Asian player to earn the Grandmaster title, following his outstanding performance on first board at the Chess Olympiad in Nice, where he won the individual silver medal. He went on to represent the Philippines at a record 23 Olympiads as a player, winning one silver and three bronze individual medals, and remained a leading figure of the Philippine national team for decades. In 1982, he shared first place at the Toluca Interzonal and became the first Asian player to qualify for the Candidates matches for the World Championship, reaching the quarter-finals in 1983. He also achieved notable victories over World Champion Anatoly Karpov and served as Bobby Fischer’s second in his 1992 return match against Boris Spassky. Beyond his playing career, he has contributed to the development of chess as a trainer, coach and ambassador, including through his work with the Philippine national team and his promotion of chess throughout Asia. In 2021, he became the first Asian male player inducted into the World Chess Hall of Fame, recognising a career that has had a lasting impact on the development and international standing of Asian chess.