



## Observer report for OEMC 2023 – (MCR, MERS 6)

**Observer:** Caroline ARNAUD

**Date:** October 13-15<sup>th</sup> 2023

On October 12<sup>th</sup>, a referee seminar was held with 24 participants.

On the same night, the EMA Assembly took place.

Social play was organized on the venue in 2 different rooms on the evening.

**Place:** Valencia, Spain

**Website or other source(s) of information:** All information on a dedicated website, presenting registration, program, list of participants, teams... emails were also sent on a regular basis to give breaking news or precisions.

A Special guide to the tournament was also provided (rules and penalties reminder, special tiles, the score sheet, presentation of the venue, the city....)

**Participants:** 168 players

**Welcome pack :** all participants were gifted with a back pack, pen, note book, thermos flask, all displaying the special logo event.

**Represented countries :**

FRA	NED	ITA	JPN	GER	BEL	SUI	ESP	AUT	SWE	DEN	CHN	SIN	EUR	---	HUN	POR	POL	GBR
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42	25	23	14	8	8	7	7	6	6	5	4	3	2	2	2	2	1	1

**Playing schedule:** 3 days, 11 rounds (4+4+3) of 110 minutes

**Location:** Hôtel Port Azafata. A very large room enough to host the 168 players and leave enough space between them for the players to move and the referees and helper to go around.

Kakemonos were displaying the history of mahjong in Spain and other informations about mahjong.

**Equipment:** We played with new games and tables (nice special OEMC sets : the flowers highlighted the local architecture).

**Refereeing:** 4 non players referees : Astrid Dubedout (Fr) was the head referee, assisted by : Thierry Claudel (Fr), Edgar Rubillo (Sp) and Nicolas Baptiste (Fr). There were also helpers to check the score sheets if needed.

**Complaints:** I would say none major.

Still 2 points were pointed out to me :

- The use of a microphone would have been useful to better understand the referees and organizers when speaking to the players, due to the huge room we were playing in.
- The game duration ; 110 minutes is a little too short for certain players.(shortening the rounds has been introduced since the new rule of playing the hand started before the gong rings). The point should be clarified by EMA (110/115 minutes).

**Information / communication during the tournament:**

2 visible clocks projected from a computer on large screens (one at each end of the room).

A gong clearly informs players of the start and the end of sessions.

Referees also gave informations of the last hour and 15 minutes remaining.

Ranking up to date between each session, displayed on a screen.

**Sessions:** Excellent playing atmosphere, FFF (Fair-play, Friendly and Fun).

**Catering:** Lunch in the same place (3 courses) on the hôtel restaurant, each day a different special local dish.

Special dishes were provided to the players with dietary restrictions/food allergies.

Catering during the breaks : hot and cold beverages (juice, milk...), each day fresh pastries for breakfast and local specialties.

Water (still and sparkling) and small treats available on the playing room.

Special break during the preparing of the reward ceremony.

Joint diners were also proposed on the same venue at special price (3 courses).

**Prizes:** Big trophies for individual ranking (1st, 2nd and 3<sup>rd</sup>), trophies for the top 10.

Each player in the top 20 was also awarded with a special OEMC 2023 set of tiles.

3 best teams : trophies

**Conclusion:** A huge event, completely mastered by the organizers making it an amazing time for the attending players.

Guest players from Asia added to the level and the diversity.

A lot of high level games, fun and fair play in a great venue, with sun and good food. Everybody enjoyed the experience.