

AFC Annual Awards Muscat 2018

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AFC Annual Awards Muscat 2018

Media Programme

Tuesday, November 27

1100 – 1700 hrs	Accreditation distribution	card	AFC Welcome Desk, Kempinski Hotel
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Wednesday, November 28

1600 hrs	Media Centre opens		Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre
1600 hrs	Registration		Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre
1900 hrs	AFC Annual Awards Muscat 2018		Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre
2000 hrs	Press conference with AFC Men's and Women's Player of the Year 2018		Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre

Media Information

- On the awards night (November 28), a mixed zone adjacent to the ballroom will be available to allow for free media interaction with the winners. However, to ensure equal opportunities for all, the media zone will be divided into two areas - one for TV and another for written press.
- All the winners, except the AFC Player of the Year (Men and Women), will be escorted to the mixed zone for media interviews for a reasonable period but not more than five minutes.
- All accredited media are invited to cover the post-event press conference with the AFC Player of the Year (Men & Women) Award winners on November 28.
- Event photographs can be downloaded free of charge from the AFC Photo Gallery (photos.the-afc.com). You can log into the AFC Photo Gallery with the following login details:

Username: media

Password: media123

- Photographers are requested to bring a tele-lens for the awards ceremony as the distance between the stage and the photographers' area is around 28 metres.
- Please write to Head of Media Operations, Chetan Kulkarni at chetan.kulkarni@the-afc.com or Head of Media, Isaac Christian at isaac.christian@the-afc.com in case of queries.

AWARD CATEGORIES

AFC Diamond of Asia

This is the most prestigious AFC award bestowed upon an individual for an extraordinary contribution towards the development and promotion of football, on and off the field, within the Asian continent.

This honour may be conferred for a single contribution of great importance or for ongoing contributions throughout a number of years and is a way for the AFC to acknowledge the recipient's sterling services for Asian football. The award is given annually and always to one person - selected by the AFC Executive Committee.

The recipient of this accolade enjoys a distinguished position within the AFC and is entitled to special privileges, including invitations to all AFC competitions and to all AFC official functions and events. Furthermore, the recipient ranks only after the AFC Executive Committee in terms of importance within the AFC's protocol and hierarchy.

In 2018, this top accolade was presented to Zhang Jilong of China for the recognition of raising the standards of football in China and in the Continent. Through his tireless devotion, Zhang brought calm and peace to the Confederation at a critical point in its history.

The AFC Diamond of Asia Award is presented by the AFC President.

AFC Member Association of the Year

This award is given to a Member Association in recognition of its professional administration and governance as well as its exceptional contribution to the development and promotion of the game at all levels within the country. This includes grassroots and youth development work, women's football development and social responsibility.

Recognising the diversity of MAs in terms of facilities and resources, and looking to ensure that more MAs will receive recognition for their efforts and achievements in developing football in their country, the AFC introduced three winners for the Member Association of the Year Award in 2013.

Last year, Islamic Republic of Iran, Vietnam Football Association (VFF) and Afghanistan Football Federation (AFF) were awarded the Inspiring, Developing and Aspiring MA Awards respectively.

Nominees:

Inspiring

- Football Federation Islamic Republic of Iran
- Japan Football Association
- Korea Football Association

Developing

- DPR Korea Football Association
- Football Association of Singapore
- Vietnam Football Federation

Aspiring

- All Nepal Football Association
- Mongolian Football Federation
- Palestinian Football Association

AFC President Recognition Award for Grassroots Football

The award recognises Member Associations for their efforts in establishing exciting, significant and creative grassroots football activities.

List of areas covered in the selection criteria:

- An increase of number of participation in MA activities
- A rise in investment
- Further development in special projects to promote the grassroots game
- New partnerships in grassroots football
- More involvement in social responsibility
- Number of participants in regular grassroots football competitions
- Commitment to the AFC Grassroots Charter
- Collaboration with top clubs who support grassroots football
- Efforts to improve and increase grassroots facilities/equipment
- The use of grassroots ambassadors

Last year, the Chinese Football Association (CFA), Football Association of Singapore (FAS) and Bhutan Football Federation (BFF) were recognised for their

grassroots work under the Inspiring, Developing and Aspiring category respectively.

Nominees:

Inspiring

- Chinese Football Association
- Japan Football Association
- Qatar Football Association

Developing

- Football Association of Malaysia
- Football Association of Singapore
- Myanmar Football Federation

Aspiring

- National Football Association of Brunei Darussalam
- Palestinian Football Association

AFC Futsal Player of the Year

Presented to a futsal player who has performed outstandingly well in the biennial AFC Futsal Championship.

Last year, Ali Asghar Hasanzadeh was named the AFC Futsal Player of the Year for a third time following stirring displays at the 2018 AFC Futsal Championship South and Central Zones Qualifiers which carried his team to a 15th AFC Futsal Championship appearance.

Nominees:

- Ali Asghar Hasanzadeh (IRN)
- Mahdi Javid (IRN)
- Rafael Henmi (JPN)

AFC Coach of the Year - Men & Women

This award is given to a coach in recognition of their exceptional contribution to the performances and results of the team and for his or her management skills, consistency and stability and a fair-play attitude.

The criteria are:

1. The coach must be an Asian national
2. The coach must be in charge of an Asian team (any age group) which has participated in AFC competitions and/or FIFA competitions in the calendar year
3. The coach can also be awarded for special achievements/contributions to the game

Last year, Takafumi Hori won the AFC Coach of the Year (Men), after guiding Urawa Red Diamonds to their second AFC Champions League title thanks to a 2-1 aggregate success over Saudi Arabia's Al Hilal.

Japan's Asako Takakura was awarded the AFC Coach of the Year (Women) for a historic fifth time after her stellar work with the Japan U-16 & U-19 Women's team earned her the opportunity to become the first ever female coach for the Japanese women's national team.

Nominees:

Men

- Basim Hamdan (IRQ)
- Go Oiwa (JPN)
- Ravshan Khaydarov (UZB)

Women

- Asako Takakura (JPN)
- Miyo Okamoto (JPN)
- Nuengrutai Srathongvian (THA)

AFC Player of the Year – Men

Last year, Syria's International Omar Khrbin was awarded the AFC Player of the Year award for his pivotal role in guiding Al Ain to the 2017 AFC Champions League final where he was the competition's top scorer. He was also one of the standout performers in the FIFA World Cup Russia 2018 Asian Qualifiers.

Nominees:

- Kento Misao (Kashima Antlers and JPN)
- Yuma Suzuki (Kashima Antlers and JPN)
- Abdelkarim Hassan (Al Sadd and QAT)

Previous winners

- 1994 Saeed Owairan (Saudi Arabia)
- 1995 Masami Ihara (Japan)
- 1996 Khodadad Azizi (IR Iran)
- 1997 Hidetoshi Nakata (Japan)
- 1998 Hidetoshi Nakata (Japan)
- 1999 Ali Daei (IR Iran)
- 2000 Nawaf Al Temyat (Saudi Arabia)
- 2001 Fan Zhiyi (China PR)
- 2002 Shinji Ono (Japan)
- 2003 Mehdi Mahdavia (IR Iran)
- 2004 Ali Karimi (IR Iran)
- 2005 Hamad Al Montashari (Saudi Arabia)
- 2006 Khalfan Ibrahim (Qatar)
- 2007 Yasser Al Qahtani (Saudi Arabia)
- 2008 Server Djeparov (Uzbekistan)
- 2009 Yasuhito Endo (Japan)
- 2010 Sasa Ogdenovski (Australia)
- 2011 Server Djeparov (Uzbekistan)
- 2012 Lee Keun-Ho (Korea Republic)
- 2013 Zheng Zhi (China PR)
- 2014 Nassir Al Shamrani (Saudi Arabia)
- 2015 Ahmed Khalil (United Arab Emirates)
- 2016 Omar Abdulrahman (United Arab Emirates)
- 2017 Omar Khribin (Syria)

AFC Women's Player of the Year

The award is given to an outstanding player who has produced consistently high-quality performances in AFC and/or FIFA competitions, based on feedback from the Technical Study group. The player must fulfil the following criteria:

- From an AFC Member Association
- Playing in the AFC
- Can represent the AFC in FIFA competitions

Last year, Australian international Samantha Kerr was named the AFC Women's Player of the Year for an outstanding season where she found the net 34 times for club and country.

Nominees:

- Samantha Kerr (AUS)
- Wang Shuang (CHN)
- Saki Kumagai (JPN)

Previous winners:

2003 Bai Jie (China PR)
2004 Homare Sawa (Japan)
2005 Natsuko Hara (Japan)
2006 Ma Xiaoxu (China PR)
2007 Ri Kum Suk (DPR Korea)
2008 Homare Sawa (Japan)
2010 Kate Gill (Australia)
2011 Aya Miyama (Japan)
2012 Aya Miyama (Japan)
2014 Katrina Lee Gorry (Australia)
2015 Aya Miyama (Japan)
2016 Caitlin Foord (Australia)
2017 Samantha Kerr (Australia)

AWARDS NOT PRESENTED IN MUSCAT**AFC Referees Special Award**

The AFC Referees Special Award is given to referees who have performed consistently at an outstanding level in AFC and/or FIFA competitions.

In 2018, Islamic Republic of Iran's Faghani Alireza Mohammad received this special award. He was the official at the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia and became the third Asian referee to officiate the third place play-off match.

In an impressive career, the 40-year-old has officiated many high-level competitions including the finals of the 2014 AFC Champions League, 2015 AFC Asian Cup, 2015 FIFA Club World Cup and the 2016 Olympic Football Tournament.

AFC Youth Player of the Year

Presented to a youth player who has performed outstandingly well in AFC and/or FIFA competitions.

Last year, Hellas Verona's Korea Republic midfielder Lee Seungwoo was crowned the AFC Youth Player of the Year 2017 following a string of standout performances for both club and country. He played an instrumental role in helping the Taeguk Warriors reach the Round of 16 at the FIFA U-20 World Cup 2017 in Korea Republic by scoring two goals. A product of Barcelona's Youth Academy - La Masia, Lee established himself as one of the academy's top talents during the seven seasons (2011-2017) he spent with the Catalan club. He later made his senior team appearance for Barcelona B in 2016 before moving to Serie A side Hellas Verona in 2017.

Nominees:

Men

- Jun Nishikawa (JPN)
- Jeon Se-jin (KOR)
- Turki Al Ammar (KSA)

DPR Korea's Sung Hyang Sim was named the 2017 AFC Youth Player of the Year after her spectacular performance in the AFC Women's U-19 Championship and AFC Women's Asian Cup Jordan 2018 Qualifiers. Despite losing in the final to Japan in the AFC Women's U-19 Championship, Sung ended her campaign as the tournament's top goalscorer and earned the Most Valuable Player award.

Women

- Fuka Nagano (JPN)
- Moeka Minami (JPN)
- Saori Takarada (JPN)

AFC Asian International Player of the Year

The AFC Asian International Player of the Year award is given to an outstanding Asian player who is playing in a league outside the AFC.

The following is considered in selecting the candidates:

- Level of international club competition (i.e. FIFA Club World Cup, Confederation-level competition)
- Level of domestic league competition
- Quality and performance of the team
- Player's attributes that add value to the team's performance
- Player statistics (number of minutes played, goals scored, cards etc.)
- Achievements
- Performance for national team

Japanese midfielder Makoto Hasebe, who plays for German side Eintracht Frankfurt, received the AFC International Player of the Year award after guiding Japan to the last-16 of the 2018 FIFA World Cup. He captained the side for three World Cup campaigns before announcing his retirement. Hasebe was part of the Japanese team that won the AFC Asian Cup in 2011. He also claimed the AFC Champions League trophy in 2007 with Urawa Red Diamonds.

AFC Player of the Year Award 2018 trophy

The design of the AFC Player of the Year Award trophy showcases an open-aired globe centrepiece which symbolises the spirit of the AFC and the world's passion for football.

The glittering open skeleton frame is a representation of the earth, and the focal point of the trophy is its 'golden sculpture' ensconced within. This dynamic golden form is the figure of the modern player which has become a world famous icon in football.

The AFC Annual Awards trophy is 50cm high and 15cm wide and it is made of crafted sterling silver, featuring an anodised central pillar in the distinctive AFC blue. The AFC logo is etched on a diamond-engraved golden brushed band on the upper body, encompassed by a host of crown-inspired silver gilt struts lending integrity and strength to the trophy design.



AFC Annual Awards 2018 Host City: Muscat

Rich in history and culture, the Oman's capital Muscat is a worthy host of the AFC Annual Awards being one of the most important cities in the Old Orient. Its natural harbor is one of the largest in the world, serving as a hub for goods from Arabia, India and Europe.

During 45 years of rule, Oman's Sultan Qaboos has lent his prosperity and name to many of Muscat's finest constructions. But the most remarkable is Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque which, with its gleaming minarets and 50m-high gold dome, stands as the largest mosque in the world.

The Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre, the venue for this year's AFC Annual Awards, is located in its own fully integrated precinct only four kilometres from Muscat International Airport. Architecturally advanced in design and capability, this world class venue will be amongst the first to be built to meet the rigorous LEED certification by the U.S. Green Building Council.

The functional and flexible design ensures a wide array of meeting and exhibition spaces with the very latest in communications and audio-visual technology to meet the demands of the most discerning global event organisers.



FULL LIST OF NOMINEES FOR AFC ANNUAL AWARDS 2018 PRESENTED IN OMAN

AFC Member Association of the Year

Inspiring

- Football Federation Islamic Republic of Iran
- Japan Football Association
- Korea Football Association

Developing

- DPR Korea Football Association
- Football Association of Singapore
- Vietnam Football Federation

Aspiring

- All Nepal Football Association
- Mongolian Football Federation
- Palestinian Football Association

AFC President Recognition Awards for Grassroots Football

Inspiring

- Chinese Football Association
- Japan Football Association
- Qatar Football Association

Developing

- Football Association of Malaysia
- Football Association of Singapore
- Myanmar Football Federation

Aspiring

- National Football Association of Brunei Darussalam
- Palestinian Football Association

AFC Futsal Player of the Year

Nominees:

- Ali Asghar Hasanzadeh (IRN)
- Mahdi Javid (IRN)
- Rafael Henmi (JPN)

AFC Coach of the Year

Men

- Jun Nishikawa (JPN)
- Jeon Se-jin (KOR)
- Turki Al Ammar (KSA)

Women

- Asako Takakura (JPN)
- Miyo Okamoto (JPN)
- Nuengrutai Srathongvian (THA)

AFC Player of the Year

Men

- Kento Misao (Kashima Antlers and JPN)
- Yuma Suzuki (Kashima Antlers and JPN)
- Abdelkarim Hassan (Al Sadd and QAT)

Women

- Samantha Kerr (AUS)
- Wang Shuang (CHN)
- Saki Kumagai (JPN)

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