

FIDE CONGRESS
SAMARKAND
2026

EDU SUMMIT

2026. September 24.

In Celebration of 2026 — Year of Chess in Education

Silk Road by Minyoun · Rowing Canal, Konigil Massif, Samarkand 140319, Uzbekistan

Host & Moderator: Simon Bélanger — videographer, actor, and chess content creator (@simonplayschess), celebrated for bringing theatrical flair to the chess world and a featured speaker at the 2026 European Chess in Education Conference.

11:00 – 12:30 Part I — In Celebration of 2026 Year of Chess in Education

Welcome addresses by FIDE, ISCF, High Officials and Distinguished Guests

Video - Every Lesson Counts: The Transformative Power of Chess in Education

Ceremonial signing of the MOU

Year of 2026 Chess in Education Awards

Key Speaker: Rahul Bose *How Sport can be Transformative for Athletes at the Bottom of the Pyramid*

Lunch Break

14:00 – 15:30 Part II — Education Innovation Lectures

Anzel Laubscher	<i>Mind the Gap: Making Chess Engaging and Enjoyable for Every Child</i>
Magnus Wolfe Murray	<i>How Chess Helps Refugees and Conflict-affected People Recover</i>
Rita Atkins	<i>Every Lesson Counts: FIDE EDU's Journey in Chess in Education</i>
Abel Talamantez	<i>One Board, One World: How 64 Squares Inspire Learning, Communities, and Connections</i>
George Chitiyo	<i>The Chess in Education Global Survey Results</i>
Nadzeya Krauchuk	<i>From Tournament to Impact: The Many Faces of Chess</i>

Coffee Break

16:00 – 18:00 Part III — Past, Present and Future of CiE: Panel Discussions

Past — *Established CiE Programming: reflections from long-running programmes*

Arpine Lputyan, Darmen Sadvakassov, Ramon Chalmeta

Present — *Challenges of New Pilot Programs: insights from emerging initiatives*

Mauricio Arias Santana, Mads Jacobson, Ton That Nhu Tung

Future — *Partners Come on Board: perspectives from higher education and non-profit organisations*

Prof. Katerina T. Frantzi, Leontxo Garcia, Dilda Nauryzbayeva

We look forward to welcoming you to Samarkand

