

🇵🇭 Torre, Eugenio (Eugene) (04.11.1951)



Legendary Philippine Grandmaster (1974). Started to play chess at the age of five.

Torre is the first ever Asian player (outside the USSR) who obtained the title of an International Chess Grandmaster and in 1982 the first Asian ever to qualify for the Candidates. Torre also hosted Chess Today, a daily one-hour show on Television that helped to make chess more popular in the Philippines. He was a friend of [Robert James Fischer](#), playing some training games with him and acting as a member of his team during Fischer's 1992 (re-)match against [Boris Spassky](#). Later he conducted radio interviews with Fischer on Bombo Radyo of the Philippines.

Multiple National Chess Champion. Torre played in seven FIDE Interzonals: shared thirteenth place at Leningrad 1973, sixteenth at Manila 1976, finished shared seventh in Rio de Janeiro 1979. Torre won the **Interzonal in Toluca, Mexico 1982** together with Portisch (ahead of Spassky) and became a Candidate. In the 1983 Quarterfinal Candidates' match, he lost to Zoltan Ribli by 4-6. In the Biel Interzonal 1985, Torre was fourth equal with Short and Van der Wiel, but eliminated after play-off (Short advanced). Torre finished sole seventh at the Zagreb Interzonal 1987 (Korchnoi was clear first). In 1990 at Manila Interzonal, now played in an open format, Torre did not advance.

Won or shared first in **Reggio Emilia 1972/73** (with Lengyel, winner on tie-break, and IM Luben Popov), **Orense (GALICIA) 1973**, **Torremolinos (Costa del Sol) 1974** (joint with Gheorghiu), **Jakarta Asian Masters 1976** (only GM), **Manila Marlboro 1976**, clear first ahead of then World Champion Anatoly Karpov, Ljubojevic, and Browne (strong Mini tournament with four players), **Jakarta GM 1978** (joint with Quinteros), **Manila Marlboro Chess Classic 1979** ahead of F. Olafsson (fourteen players), **Jakarta GM 1979** (joint with Dorfman and Averbakh), Medina del Campo, Spain, 1° Torneo Internacional de la Hispanidad 1981 (ahead of Campora), **Lugano 1988**, a strong international Open (joint, Ftacnik as first on tie-break), **San Francisco (Pan Pacific) 1991**, Torre, leading grandmaster of his country for decades, took clear first place with an impressive 8-3 score (+5-0=6), Patrick Wolff was sole 2nd with 7-4, followed by great Mikhail Tal, Ian Rogers, Joel Benjamin and Larry Christiansen as equal 3rd with 6-5 (twelve players). Later, Eugenio Torre won amongst others, the President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo in 2008. **Further notable results:** *Hastings 1980-81*, sole 2nd (half a point behind Andersson, sixteen participants in a round robin), *Bugojno 1984*, sole 3rd (behind Timman and Ribli; ahead of Spassky, Tal, Beliavsky, and Smyslov), *Brussels SWIFT 1986*, =3rd (behind only Karpov and Korchnoi, joint with Miles and Timman), *Biel/Bienne GMT 1988*, =3rd. Torre was (co-) **winning several FIDE Zonal tournaments**, too.

Eugenio Torre was nominated for the prestigious USSR vs the Rest of the World at London in 1984 winning his individual match with 2 points out of 3 (+2 =0 -1) against Andrei Sokolov on board ten.

Torre played his first Chess Olympiad in 1970, in Siegen (Germany), the Olympiad in Baku 2016 was his 23rd Olympiad – **no other player in the history of chess has played in more Olympiads.**

Considered to be the **Iron Man of Chess Olympiad**, so far, he's played a world record **270 games** at the Olympiad, winning four individual bronze medals, setting a world record of **23 appearances!**

He also has taken part in six Asian Chess Team Championships. Torre has an outstanding record at this tournament where he won the gold medal four times individually, and four times with his team.

The Iron Man of Chess Olympiad:

«In 1970 he made his Olympiad debut in Siegen. He was the Philippine champion at that time, but since IM Renato Naranja was the Zone Champion the youngster yield top board to Nats (Naranja).

Torre took over top board in 1972 and held continued to do so until 2004 Calvia – 17 consecutive Olympiads! Torre was board 2 in 2006 Turin and was appointed the non-playing captain in 2008 Dresden. He then played again in 2010 Khanty-Mansiysk, 2012 Istanbul and 2014 Tromso. This Olympiad in 2016 Baku is his 23rd, the most ever by anyone in chess history!» (in: BusinessWorld ONLINE, **Chess Piece by Bobby Ang**)

<http://www.bworldonline.com/content.php?section=Sports&title=42supndsup-baku-chess-olympiad&id=133440>



Baku Chess Olympiad @bakuchessol2016 - Jul 10

No one has played as many Chess Olympiads as Eugenio Torre, from Philippines. Tromso was his 22nd!

(Tweet from **David Llada**: <https://twitter.com/lladini?lang=de>)

In Baku Chess Olympiad 2016, Torre won the individual bronze medal on board three after a remarkable 2800+ Elo performance at age of 64. In his team, he was the only one to PLAY ALL 11 games, and the player who totaled at 10/11 the most points of all in the open section and overall.

Famous games:

Tal vs. Torre 0-1, Leningrad Interzonal 1973:

→ Replay: <http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1140121> (in Chessgames)

Karpov vs. Torre 0-1, Manila 1976: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JqlHV1Dhpi4> (video)

→ Replay: <http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1041314> (in Chessgames)

Torre vs. Larsen 1-0, Geneva International 1977:

→ Replay: <http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1041345> (in Chessgames)

Portisch vs. Torre 0-1, Rio de Janeiro Interzonal 1979:

→ Replay: <http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1113813> (in Chessgames)

Torre vs. Karpov 1-0, London Phillips & Drew GLC Kings 1984:

→ Replay: <http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1068415> (in Chessgames)

Torre vs. Korchnoi 1-0, Zagreb Interzonal 1987:

→ Replay: <http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1041672> (in Chessgames)

Chiburdanidze, reigning Women's World Champion vs. Torre 0-1, Biel GMT 1988:

→ Replay: <http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1041685> (in Chessgames)

Torre vs. Romanishin 1-0, Biel GMT 1988:

→ Replay: <http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1118696> (in Chessgames)

Topalov vs. Torre 0-1, Yerevan Chess Olympiad 1996:

→ Replay: <http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1143839> (in Chessgames)

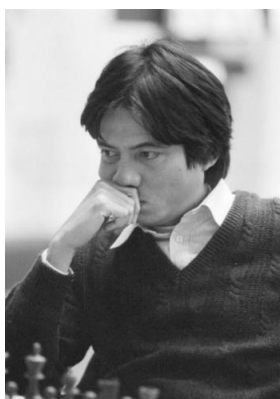
Short vs. Torre 0-1, Istanbul Chess Olympiad 2012:

→ Replay: <http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1688401> (in Chessgames)

Torre vs. Salgado Lopez 1-0, Baku Chess Olympiad 2016:

→ Replay: <http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1834053> (in Chessgames)

<http://www.bworldonline.com/content.php?section=Sports&title=more-torre-games&id=134299> (Bobby Ang)



“El Eugenio“ in play at Wijk aan Zee, Hoogovens in 1984 (photo: ANEFO; Wikipedia)

Torre reached a **peak ranking of =20** in January 1983 (FIDE list) at a peak rating of Elo 2580, in Chessmetrics he had a rather low peak ranking of 43 in February 1987. Eugenio Torre was among the world's top 100 players for most of the period from 1975 until 1992.

Torre beat four World Chess Champions in classical games: Smyslov, Tal, Karpov, and Anand, as well as Korchnoi, Larsen, Andersson, F. Olafsson, Timman, Miles, Short, Chandler, Portisch, Ribli, Sax, Ljubojevic, Nikolic, Hort, Pachman, Browne, Seirawan, Christiansen, Kamsky, Reshevsky, Najdorf, Polugaevsky, Beliavsky, Jussupow, A. Sokolov, I. Sokolov, or Topalov, and many others.

Biggest international tournament successes:

Manila Marlboro 1976

			1	2	3	4	TB	Perf.	+/-
1	Torre,Eugenio	2505	**	1 ½	½ 1	½ 1	4.5 / 6	2824	+25
2	Karpov,Anatoly	2695	0 ½	**	½ 1	½ ½	3.0 / 6	2570	-10
3	Ljubojevic,Ljubomir	2620	½ 0	½ 0	**	½ 1	2.5 / 6	2537	-7
4	Browne,Walter S	2585	½ 0	½ ½	½ 0	**	2.0 / 6	2487	-8

Average Elo: 2601 <=> Cat: 15

gm = 3.00 m = 1.80

(12 Games)

Manila (Marlboro-Loyola Kings Challenge) 1976: <http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chess.pl?tid=80013>
Toluca, Mexico, Interzonal 1982, joint with Portisch: <http://www.mark-weeks.com/chess/82843iix.htm>
San Francisco (Pan Pacific) 1991: <http://www.thechesslibrary.com/files/1991SanFrancisco.htm>



Torre: Mr. Olympiad and first Asian GM (Photo from www.chessblog.com by A. Kosteniuk)

Selection of further leading chess players of the Philippines: IM Tan Cardosa (R.I.P.), IM Yap (R.I.P.), IM Mascariñas, Balinas jr. (R.I.P.), Rogelio jr., Paragua, «Bong» Villamayor, Barbosa, Sadorra, or Wesley So (now US Chess Federation).

When your next meal depends on your next move: [Stories from beyond the board - IM Andronico Yap \(1961-1990\)](#)

Sources: <http://www.chessnc.com/biography/person-1891.html> (CNC)

http://www.chessgames.com/player/eugenio_torre.html (Chessgames)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eugenio_Torre (Wikipedia)

<http://www.olimpbase.org/players/k86a80me.html> (Olimpbase)

<https://en.chessbase.com/post/the-record-holder-eugenio-torre> (ChessBase)

<http://www.chessdom.com/eugenio-torre-interview/> (Interview by Peter Long in Chessdom)

<http://www.chessdom.com/eugenio-torre-set-to-make-history-in-istanbul-olympiad/> (Chessdom)

<https://chessdailynews.com/interview-with-legendary-gm-torre/> (Interview in ChessDailyNews)

<http://www.rappler.com/sports/philippines/61840-eugene-torre-asia-first-grandmaster-nearly-forgets-milestone> (Rappler)