



INTERNATIONAL
FOOTBALL
ARENA

Football's Global Players

26th October 2010 IFA – Bidding Nations

Zurich - World Cup bidders Australia, Japan and Russia said on Tuesday at the International Football Arena IFA in Zurich, that they ignoring the problems at FIFA and are carrying on as usual.

The contest to host the 2018 and 2022 World Cups was thrown into confusion last week when FIFA provisionally suspended two members of its executive committee while it investigates allegations that they offered to sell their votes to undercover newspaper reporters. "We have to stay focused on our plan and strategy, which is to convince the world that Australia has the capacity to do justice to the world's biggest event," Ben Buckley, CEO of Australia's bid for the 2022 World Cup, told the annual International Football Arena conference in Zurich. "We don't change our strategy because of that. I don't like to comment on speculation, there's a process in place to deal with some of the issues raised recently, we have every confidence in the institutions and committee established to look at these issues. "I'm sure the people charged with this will come to the right conclusions."

Japan, Australia's rivals in the 2022 contest, followed the same line. "We read the reports with great interest but it hasn't really affected us," said Yuuichiro Nakajima, executive director of Japan's bid committee. "We're staying focused on the job in hand, we have little time to waste by being distracted. It's all conjecture, rumours, nothing which appears to have been proved. We are not in a position to comment on that."

Alexey Sorokin, the Russian 2018 bid committee's CEO, said the only difference was that it was not clear following the suspensions whether 22 or 24 executive committee members would vote. Actually, it hasn't had any effect," he said. "We're doing as we did before. Today, we don't know the number of executive committee members who will vote. Other than than, we don't see any impact. We are still concentrating on presenting our case."



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