

2023 WINTER

WOMAU

News



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2023 Winter WoMAU News No. 38

WoMAU News aims to be an archive containing valuable information on martial arts and the activities of the World Martial Arts Union (WoMAU) as well as to be a source of both academic knowledge and practical information on Traditional Sports and Games (TSG). By promoting the exchange of knowledge and information on martial arts across the globe, we hope this magazine will help to raise awareness in this field.

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Challenges of UNESCO's Role for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage : Focusing on the 2023 Seoul Vision



Mr. Huh Kwon

Board member of the World Martial Arts Union
Former Secretary-General of the UNESCO ICHCAP

To commemorate the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, and to promise a new leap forward, the global meeting was held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, on July 25–26, 2023. The Meeting, held under the theme 'unleashing the power of living heritage for sustainable development and peace', was hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Cultural Heritage Administration of the Republic of Korea and UNESCO, and was organized



by ICHCAP. After discussions on four special topics, the 'Seoul Vision' was officially adopted.

I. Background of the Role of UNESCO for Human Heritage

After the end of World War II, UNESCO was founded, setting its founding purpose as the promotion of 'peace and development'. The UNESCO Constitution (November 16, 1945) contains the famous statement, 'Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed.' In other words, through activities in education, science, culture, and communication, the aim is to establish a 'culture of peace' in the hearts of people to ensure that no more wars exist on this planet.

Since its foundation, UNESCO has focused on projects to protect humanity's precious heritage. Not only did it establish international standard-setting instruments for heritage protection, but it also launched a very active heritage campaigns in cooperation with member states to protect cultural and natural heritages at risk.

UNESCO has established six international conventions for the protection of human heritages.

- The Hague Convention, 1954
- Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, 1970
- World Heritage Convention, 1972
- Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage, 2001
- Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, 2003
- Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, 2005

* In the early days, the Hague Convention and the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property used the term 'cultural property'.

① 1960s~1990s

"UNESCO, in collaboration with key NGOs such as ICOM, ICOMOS, and ICCROM, undertakes protection and restoration projects for human heritage that is at risk.

- International Campaign for Cultural Heritages: Nubia 1960, Venice 1962, Moenjodaro, Angkor Wat, Borobudur, etc.
- World Heritage

During this period, heritage preservation primarily revolved around tangible cultural heritage, specifically movable and immovable cultural properties, and there was an active promotion of museum projects. However, there has been criticism that these heritage preservation projects were mainly implemented with a focus on European countries and developed nations.

2 2000s~2010s

It was a time when solutions to global challenges of the 21st century, such as globalization and clashes of civilizations, were being sought. The need to preserve and promote cultural diversity and the necessity of inter-civilizational dialogue were emphasized.

- Intangible Cultural Heritage Safeguarding
- Cultural Diversity
- Promotion of Inter-civilizational Dialogue

As we entered this period, 1) the perspective on heritage began to shift from an aesthetic viewpoint to an anthropological one. 2) Cultural relativism, cultural diversity, and the culture of peace were emphasized. 3) An integrated approach to heritage protection was introduced, centered on the region (human) and its conservation philosophy.

3 After the 2010s

After the 2010s, global challenges and issues markedly different from the past, such as climate change, multipolar world, and the emergence of AI, have come to the forefront. At the same time, racial, regional, and national conflicts due to socio-political, economics, and religion have been intensifying day by day. Amid these growing challenges, the international community, led by the UN gradually recognized the importance of intangible values and the power of culture.

- UN 2030 SDG: Integrated Approach
- Protection of the environment and harmony with life

Unlike the past, the paradigm is shifting from a government-led approach to one where the roles of NGOs and civil society are increasingly emphasized. Additionally, with the expansion of the influence of global multinational corporations, there is a weakening of rural communities, and the distortion, damage, and destruction of intangible values are intensifying.

II. Efforts for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage

The efforts to safeguarding intangible cultural heritage can be divided into before and after the adoption of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

① 1980~2003

During this period, for the first time, the term 'intangible (cultural) heritage' was officially used in an international conference. Recommendations related to this were adopted, marking a time when international awareness of intangible cultural heritage significantly increased.

In 1982, the term 'intangible heritage' was first formalized at the World Conference on Cultural Policies, MONDIACULT (in Mexico). A definition for it was provided in the Declaration.

“The Mexico Declaration furthermore stated that every culture represents a unique and irreplaceable body of values since each people’s traditions and forms of expression are its most effective means of demonstrating its presence in the world.”

As the importance of intangible heritage began to spread in the international community, UNESCO adopted its first international document on the subject, the “Recommendation on the Safeguarding of Traditional Culture and Folklore” in 1989. Although the term 'intangible heritage' was not used, it became an occasion to emphasize its importance within UNESCO's governing bodies.

During this period, the three important projects carried out by UNESCO as follows:

- ① Introduction of the Living Human Treasures system (1993, adopted by the UNESCO 142nd Executive Board upon the proposal of the South Korean government)
- ② Selection of the Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity – 2001, 2003, 2005: 90 elements,
- ③ UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity (September 2001).

Given the importance of the policy implementation regarding heritage by each member state, the UN designated 2002 as the Year for Cultural Heritage to emphasize that the protection of tangible and intangible heritage greatly contributes to social development and the promotion of peace.

Following this series of international movements, UNESCO felt the need for the legalization of the protection of intangible heritage. As a result of several international meetings and gatherings, on October 7, 2003, UNESCO adopted The Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (with 120 in favor, 8 abstentions, and 0 against).

2 After 2003

After its adoption, the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage received active responses and participation from many countries worldwide in a short period. It became a decisive moment in expanding the awareness of the value and importance of intangible heritage not only in civil society at the national level but also at international level. As of 2023, 181 countries have joined, with 676 ICH elements listings, and 217 accredited NGOs participating.

III. 'Living Heritage' for Sustainable Living and Peace

While notable achievements have been made in a short period, there is an enduring sense of urgency, as serious challenges remain for the protection of human heritage.

Due to population migration and decrease, income and economic inequalities, environmental degradation, pandemics, and changes in traditional values and lifestyles, there is a weakening of community ties, destruction of heritage transmission and learning environments, and a crisis in cultural diversity.

At MONDIACULT 2022 (Mexico), it was once again emphasized that culture, including intangible cultural heritage, is indeed one of our fundamental rights and is highlighted as the core of sustainable development for ourselves.

As seen in the UN 2030 SDG 2, 8, and 11, our lives and economic activities are very closely linked. However, this relationship is not always positive.

GOAL 2

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

GOAL 8

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

GOAL 11

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

- ① The changes in the global environment have a significant impact on traditional ways of life. We need to cultivate a spirit of respect and protection for nature through the safeguarding of traditional knowledge and skills connected to the natural world. Additionally, there is a need to raise awareness about sustainable management and utilization.
- ② Considering the current crisis in the education system, intangible cultural heritage can aid in improving the quality education in schools. It can contribute to cultural diversity and respect for peace, global citizenship education, and education for sustainable development.
- ③ The advancement of digital technology is both a new challenge and a new opportunity. We must contribute to the development of content for the protection and succession of traditional culture and the formation of a healthy internet culture.
- ④ The safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage requires the broad participation of various stakeholders. Collaboration and cooperation are needed across society, beyond just the cultural domain.

The Importance of the International World Martial Arts Contest



Dr. Richardson C. Gialogo

Philippines

On August 18 to 20, 2023 in| Chungju, South Korea, the Philippine Arnis Team competed in the International Martial Arts Contest (IMAC) sponsored by the World Martial Arts Union, The team won 2nd Place.

The preparation of the Philippine Arnis was crucial. The team was composed of winners from the different provinces. The Philippines conducted four different tournaments in Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao and in the National Capital Region. After these, the winners from these tournaments competed in the Battle of Champions. By doing this,



the best athletes will be chosen to be part of the Philippine Arnis Team.

The winning players were then chosen and were given a dormitory, meal allowances, and financial assistance by the Philippine Government since March 2023. The athletes were then trained by the coaching staff headed by its Head Coach, GM Richardson C. Gialogo, Vice-President of WoMAU.

The result was very favorable thus the formula of producing world-class athletes was achieved. Of course, this will not happen if there is no International Martial Arts Contest.

In developing the IMAC, making the gathering unique and ensuring a strong turnout need effective event promotion. Effective promotion can be the difference between the failure of a small charity event, a business meeting, or a huge festival. Here are some suggestions to help successfully market the International Martial Arts Contest.

First and foremost, understand who the target market is. It's critical to comprehend the preferences, demographics, and hobbies of potential attendees. Marketing campaigns will be guided by this information, enabling organizers to customize the message and pick the best channels for communication.

Advance public awareness of the event. To create anticipation, use website, email marketing, and social media. To encourage potential attendees, provide early-bird ticket discounts and unique sneak peeks. For a successful turnout, creating enthusiasm and anticipation can be quite helpful.

Another effective strategy for promoting an event is collaboration. Join forces with nearby companies (sponsors), influential people (benefactors), or like-minded groups. Cross-promotion can increase audience and give the event more authority. To boost the visibility of the event, take into account sponsorships or co-hosting.

Use a variety of promotional platforms. Think of more conventional strategies like fliers, posters, and regional newspapers in addition to digital marketing. Encourage participants to tell their friends and networks about the IMAC event because word-of-mouth advertising may be extremely effective.

Create material that will engage viewers. Post updates, sneak peeks, and teasers frequently on social media sites. Respond to messages and comments to foster a sense of community while promoting conversations around the event.

Remember the effectiveness of email marketing. Create an email list and distribute

eye-catching, educational newsletters. To interest the audience, highlight important event facts, provide testimonies from prior attendees, and use interactive components like polls or surveys.

Finally, keep track of the progress and modify the tactics as necessary. Follow information on website statistics and social media activity. Reallocate efforts to the most successful strategies if a certain promotional channel is underperforming.

The importance of IMAC is very high. The martial arts are a discipline with profound relevance in many facets of life. They are not simply about kicks, punches, and stunning acrobatics. Martial arts have a wealth of advantages that make them a must-do activity for people of all ages and backgrounds, from physical fitness to mental health and self-defense.

The importance of martial arts in fostering physical fitness is one of their main justifications. Martial arts training enhances cardiovascular health as well as strength, flexibility, and balance. It is a complete form of exercise because it helps with both weight management and muscle growth.

Beyond their physical advantages, martial arts teach valuable life skills. Martial arts instruction instills characteristics like self-control, respect, perseverance, and discipline. These values not only improve a person's character but also affect other aspects of their lives, such their career and personal relationships.

Another crucial component of martial arts is self-defense. Gaining knowledge on how to keep oneself and others safe in potentially risky circumstances can increase self-assurance and personal safety. This practical knowledge is priceless in a world that is becoming more unpredictable.

Additionally, martial arts offer a fantastic setting for stress reduction and mental health. The mental clarity and stress reduction that come from martial arts training help people achieve emotional resiliency.

In conclusion, martial arts are more than just fighting. They encourage character building, stress reduction, self-defense, and overall well-being. People can live healthier, happier lives by realizing the value of martial arts. Therefore, whether you're a small child or an experienced adult, think about the many advantages of martial arts and set off on a path that could improve your life. And all these benefits are the important reasons why the International Martial Arts Contest should remain and continued by the World Martial Arts Union.

Taekkyeon, traditional Korean martial art and Martial Arts Fitness for Youth, now in Kazakhstan!

In 2023, I had the opportunity to discover Taekkyeon in Chungju, and it felt like a destiny. Chungju, being my ancestral hometown, my great-grandfather, a former soldier, was born and raised here. Taekkyeon, as a traditional Korean martial art, holds significant cultural value and is a cherished heritage and sport in Korea. I strongly believe that it is essential for our future generations to know and learn this martial art.

Interviewee: Dementiy Petrovich TIGAY,
a 4th-generation Koryo-saram in Kazakhstan



The World Martial Arts Union Secretariat recently convened with Dementiy Petrovich Tigay. As a fourth-generation Koryo-saram in Kazakhstan, he has emerged as a prominent figure spearheading the promotion of Taekkyeon and fostering youth martial arts fitness within the country. During the meeting, the focus was on hearing his inspiring story.

01 | Brief bio

My father accompanied his grandfather in immigrating from Korea to southern Shymkent, Kazakhstan. During his early years, he pursued his elementary and middle school education in Uzbekistan. In 2002, he returned to Kazakhstan and has established a logistics distribution business with operations centered in the capital, Astana, and Shymkent. He is managing a martial arts group. His objective is to provide a platform for the youth in Kazakhstan, allowing them to grow and develop uprightly through the practice of martial arts.

02 | How my relationship with martial arts started

From the age of 7 to 10, I received Taekwondo training during our stay in Uzbekistan, accompanying my father's work assignment. I also learned kickboxing until the age of 12. The vibrant community of friends immersed in martial arts and sports around me facilitated a natural and strong connection to these disciplines. With the birth of my first son in 2010, I became aware of the significance of children's health, physical well-being, and broader youth-related issues. This realization served as a catalyst for my earnest decision to actively participate in martial arts activities for youth development.



On August 19, 2023, Mr. Zhanat, Kazakhstani martial artist participating in the World Taekkyeon Competition



On August 19, 2023, Mr. Sanzhar, Kazakhstani martial artist participating in the World Taekkyeon Competition



On October 18, 2023, at Chungju Taekkyeonwon, together with Master Jung Kyung-hwa, Taekkyeon Living Human Treasure

03 | My encounter with Uzbek martial arts

In 2021, thanks to the recommendation of a childhood friend from Jizzakh, Uzbekistan, and my connection with Mr. Zhanat, a respected martial arts coach in Kazakhstan, I was able to disseminate Uzbek traditional martial arts in Kazakhstan across 10 regions of Kazakhstan. Currently, I hold the position of the representative for a martial arts association officially recognized by the Kazakh government. In April 2023, Shymkent had the honor of hosting the World Championship of Uzbek Traditional Martial Arts. The dedication of the Uzbek Traditional Martial Arts Association to promoting martial arts in the field of disabilities was particularly appealing to me.

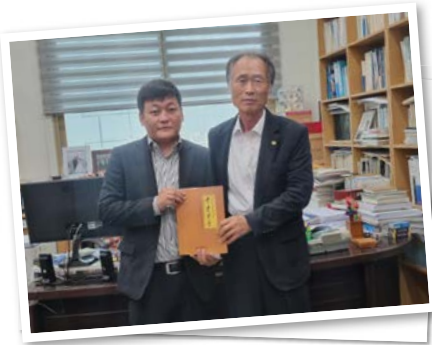
04 | How I started Taekkyeon and my plans

Introduced by Mr. Pulat Usmanov, the Uzbek Traditional Martial Arts Association representative, I discovered Taekkyeon, a traditional Korean martial art recognized on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. In April 2023, my interest deepened following a meeting with the World Martial Arts Union Secretariat. As a Koryo-saram, the historical ties of Taekkyeon to the Korean Peninsula intrigued me, as it has been preserved through the ages, contributing to our unique traditional culture.

In June, I took part in an online seminar arranged by the Korea Taekkyeon Association, focusing on the training of both martial artists and coaches. Despite

our brief involvement in this discipline, our team, comprising coaches and artists, secured the third position at the World Taekkyeon Competition held in Chungju in August. This achievement is viewed as particularly encouraging for the Koryo-saram community in Kazakhstan, generating great interest in our endeavors.

During my visits to Korea in August and October, I had the privilege of engaging in in-depth discussions regarding the establishment of the Taekkyeon Association in Kazakhstan. These conversations involved officials from the World Martial Arts



Union, the Korea Taekkyeon Association, and the Taekkyeon Living Human Treasure, Master Jung Kyung-hwa. Furthermore, I sought collaboration from the Korean Embassy and the Korean Cultural Center in Kazakhstan to facilitate the opening of Taekkyeon classes. Fortunately, I received a positive response from them.

According to official records, there are 108,000 Koryo-saram youth in Kazakhstan. My commitment involves incessant endeavors to promote and develop Taekkyeon on a national scale. The goal is to provide not only Koryo-saram but also the youth community with the opportunity to lead healthy lives and pursue their aspirations through the practice of Taekkyeon.

05 | My views on Martial Arts Fitness for youth and the relevant promotion plans

In April, during a meeting with the World Martial Arts Union Secretariat in Shymkent, I was acquainted with the Youth Martial Arts Fitness Certification, and I found this project quite surprising.

I would regard the martial arts activities, in which I had been engaged, as a process where youth can cultivate their mind and body. This process involves advancing through the ranks or levels in the discipline of the corresponding category, participating in competitions to achieve rankings, and garnering recognition through the receipt of medals and awards. These traditional processes serve as a means for individuals to affirm and elevate their personal development and martial arts skills. This perspective held true until my acquaintance with this certification. However, I perceived this certification project as truly groundbreaking. It draws inspiration from the customs of the military service examination during the

Joseon Dynasty and traditional Korean games, integrating them with digital technology. The incorporation of four core disciplines, such as “hand techniques,” “foot techniques,” “weapon techniques,” and “strength & running,” forms the



Receiving instruction on how to operate the equipment of the Youth Martial Arts Fitness Certification

basis of this innovation. Essentially, it manifests as a personalized, data-driven digital platform service. This service periodically furnishes certification records for each event and updated information through a dedicated app. It achieves this by systematically measuring and evaluating the progress of physical development and fitness status relative to age, thereby adapting to the diverse landscape of martial arts activities. Subsequently, I decided to incorporate this certification system into the training course of our young people who learn Taekkyeon and other martial arts, seamlessly weaving it into our project's framework for promotion in Kazakhstan. It is because I am sure that this system will definitely offer a more entertaining and meaningful time to the youth while practicing martial arts. It is my belief that such objective indicators can allow coaches and parents to gain valuable information about the growth process of their children, as well as coaching methods and directions for improving overall health. In fact, four of my trainees participated in this year's Youth Martial Arts Fitness Contest in Korea. I am happy to report their high level of satisfaction with the experience.

I have already purchased the equipment for the certification. This year, I plan to pilot the program in some of our martial centers. Starting next year, I will officially implement this certification system by touring the cities where the 10 branches are located in Kazakhstan.

06 | Closing remarks

The discovery of Taekkyeon and Youth Martial Arts Fitness this year marked a pivotal turning point in my life, reshaping my perspective on martial arts. I firmly believe that children are the future. I am confident that collective endeavors in martial arts activities can play an important role in shaping a better future. I hereby extend my deep respect to the numerous martial artists worldwide and look forward to achieving mutual growth together. Thank you.

World Horseback Archery Federation

The inaugural Horseback Archery World Cup, hosted by the World Horseback Archery Federation, took place in Saudi Arabia from December 14 to 16, 2023, spanning a duration of three days.

The event comprises four categories: Multiple Shot, Masahi, Qabaq, and Arab Local Style. Being the inaugural event of its kind and an officially recognized discipline by the World Horseback Archery Federation, this competition will take place every two years at the national level. Contestants in the event are representatives from each country who have successfully qualified in the Horseback Archery World Cup on their respective continents, demonstrating their skill and expertise.

The World Horseback Archery Championship, which has been held annually, will also take place throughout the year in the order of requested countries. China has submitted its bid to host the World Horseback Archery Championship in April 2024, and the evaluation for the hosting rights is set to occur in November. Furthermore, several continental qualifying events are planned in the lead-up to the championship.

Furthermore, a meeting has been arranged in light of the bid to host the upcoming Winter World Horseback Archery Championship and the qualifiers for the Horseback Archery World Cup in Beijing next year. The Chairperson and executives of the World Horseback Archery Federation, accompanied by local government officials, will carry out on-site inspections as part of the initial venue assessment.



Okichitaw Indigenous Combat Arts

Chief George Lepine

Okichitaw Indigenous Combat Arts

In 2023, Okichitaw Indigenous Combat Arts has continued to share Plains Indigenous history and martial arts concepts throughout the year with various organizations including schools, universities, private corporations' other martial art schools as well as law enforcement services. This also includes the YMCA throughout the Greater Toronto Area where we provide very specialized Indigenous awareness sessions for new Canadians to our society who are eager to learn Indigenous culture and history while participating interactively through Okichitaw martial art movements and concepts.

These interactive workshops continue to remain not only very popular throughout our community but are growing in great demand. This has become more apparent than ever before because of various impacting factors.

Since the rescinding of pandemic restraints over the last year and a half in Canada, we have noted that there continues to be a steady rise with in-person training as well as with any interactive participatory activity. This is a great indicator for the martial arts community as the pandemic resulted in a catastrophic impact to the martial arts community, especially in relation to any in-person training over the last several years.



Okichitaw Indigenous Combat Arts is a Plains–Cree Assiniboine Indigenous combat martial art that continues to grow through sharing its history, tradecraft, tactics and movement with others. Prior to 1990, Okichitaw was only shared within certain parts of the Indigenous community and not to outsiders.

This changed in the early 1990's as Okichitaw was subsequently driven into state of sharing as a result of national events that drastically impacted our society with Indigenous people throughout Canada. Ever since then, Okichitaw has shared our history and experience with not only with other Indigenous peoples, but also with other non–Indigenous people outside of our own community.

This has become a pathway of exchange by using Okichitaw to ensure that we continue the pathway of truth and reconciliation because of how our communities (Indigenous) across Canada were severely impacted by policies and the detrimental actions conducted by the government of Canada.

Through these workshops, we are seeing a new and respectful interaction setting emerge due to our consistent outreach activities. As far as our own communities, we continue to experience exchange activities with other Indigenous groups, territories, and communities across our country.

As Okichitaw is a “plains–based” Indigenous martial art, we have also seen a rise of interest by other Indigenous communities that are outside our territorial history and applications.

In these workshops, we have seen ourselves providing Okichitaw combat concepts with other tribes such as the Kahnawake Mohawks out to the east and the Siksika Blackfoot to the west. The trend of sharing and teaching Okichitaw appears to be growing and continues to expand.

This new environment has also seen our traditional Indigenous practices and ceremonies come back and rise–up as our society continues to welcome in–person experiences once again.



Federation Francaise Savate

The International Federation of SAVATE (FISAV), member of Sport Accord was invited to participate in the World Combat Games that take place this year in Riyadh (Saudi ARABIA).

FISAV selected the athletes following the 2022 Assault and 2023 Combat World Championships.

The World Combat Games are an international competition bringing together various combat sports such as Aikido, fencing, Taekwondo and SAVATE.

The Savate Assaut and Combat events took place from October 28 to 30. The French athletes were accompanied by Joël DHUMEZ.

They won 10 medals and allowed France to join the TOP 10 of all disciplines. Nina BERGANDI, Rim RIDANE, Andrea CAMPOVERDE, Mehdi LAURENT, Elias KANFOUAH, Christopher BRUGIROUX, Amine FEDDAL, and Johan GHASSIRI won the gold medal. Méghane AMOURI and Fanny SERENA win the silver medal.

FISAVATE RYADH 2023

WORLD COMBAT GAMES - RIYADH (Arabie Saoudite) - 28 au 30 Octobre 2023
SAVATE boxe française - FRANCE

Nina BERGANDI Assaut F-50kg
Rim RIDANE Assaut F-60kg
Andrea CAMPOVERDE Assaut F-70kg
Mehdi LAURENT Assaut M-60kg
Johan GHASSIRI Assaut M-70kg
Méghane AMOURI Combat F-50kg
Fanny SERENA Combat F-60kg
Elias KANFOUAH Combat M-60kg
Amine FEDDAL Combat M-70kg
Christopher BRUGIROUX Combat M-80kg

Les athlètes ont été sélectionnés après des championnats du monde Assaut 2022 et Combat 2023 par la FISAV

International Zurkhaneh Sports & Koshti Pahlavani Federation

IZSF rapidly active during 2022 – 2023, IZSF participated many international meeting and conferences as well as organized different Coaching and Referee Educational Courses. Nowadays IZSF concentrate more Coaching and Referee Educational Courses than championships, because IZSF realized to give more concentrate make different International Coaches for developing and spreading Zurkhaneh Sports & Koshti Pahlavani in all over the world. So, IZSF organized

01

“The 5th International Zurkhaneh and Koshti Pahlavani Coaching & Referee Course” which was held 11th – 17th November 2022, Tehran –I.R Iran with participants of 98 Iranian, 4 Russia, 3 Afghanistan, 1 India and 8 Iraq.

02

IZSF organized with cooperation of Zurkhaneh Sports and Koshti Federation (India) “The 1st Indian Zurkhaneh Sports & Koshti Pahlavani Training Course” which was held in Punjab University, Patiala – Punjab, 26th – 3rd November 2023 with 6 district/ city/ states from India with 60 participants with cooperation of The Culture House of Embassy of I.R Iran, New Delhi as well as with presence of H,E Dr. Iraj Elahi, Esteemed Ambassador of Embassy of I.R Iran,



The World Martial Arts Union, Re-accredited as an Advisory NGO of UNESCO ICH

- The 18th UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee for the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage granted the status of the advisory body for the World Martial Arts Union for the third consecutive term.
- The Egyptian organization, “Association of Upper Egypt for Education and Development,” approved as an advisory body

In the 18th session of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee for the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, held in Kasane, Botswana (hereinafter, “the Committee”), the World Martial Arts Union was reapproved as an international non-governmental organization recognized by UNESCO.



From 2010 onward, among the 217 NGOs authorized by the Committee for reapproval during this meeting, 91 organizations were in the reapproval process. The World Martial Arts Union, the Korea Cultural Heritage Foundation, and the International Mast Arts & Culture Organization were among the 80 NGOs successfully reapproved. Nonetheless, the remaining 11 organizations had their status terminated as they did not meet the required qualifications.

In addition, the Association of Upper Egypt for Education and Development, which has been a regular member of the World Martial Arts Union since 2019 and actively spearheads the preservation and promotion of “Tahtib,” the traditional Egyptian martial art, has been granted approval as a new NGO.

During the Committee meeting, Min Gyeongchang, the Secretary-General of the World Martial Arts Union, extended his heartfelt congratulations on the achievement of advisory NGO status for member organizations within the World Martial Arts Union. He expressed the organization's unwavering commitment to advancing as an international NGO, actively engaging in exemplary activities within the global community.

International Conference Commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Adoption of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, and Proclamation of Seoul Vision

In commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the convention for the safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, the International Conference was organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cultural Heritage Administration of the Republic of Korea and hosted by UNESCO's Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia and the Pacific Region and the Korea Cultural Heritage Foundation. The conference



took place from July 25 to 26 at The Westin Chosun Hotel in Seoul, under the theme “how to enhance the influence of intangible cultural heritage for sustainable development and peace.”

The conference had the participation of more than 300 experts spanning various fields, such as Mr. Park Jin, the Minister of Foreign Affairs; Mr. Choi Eungcheon, the Commissioner of the Cultural Heritage Administration; Ms. Park Sangmi, the Ambassador of the Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Korea to UNESCO; Mr. Xing Qu, Deputy Director–General of UNESCO; Mr. Ban Kimoon, the former Secretary–General of the United Nations; and Mr. Yoo Inchon, the Presidential Special Advisor for Culture and Sports, among other distinguished participants.

During the two–day discussions, participants engaged in in–depth conversations regarding the future directions for preserving intangible cultural heritage, focusing on four key themes: sustainable livelihood, nature, quality education, and the digital environment. Building on these deliberations, the participants jointly embraced the “Seoul Vision for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage for sustainable development and peace, with the aim of enhancing the influence of intangible cultural heritage.

The formal presentation of the “Seoul Vision” took place at the 18th Intergovernmental Committee for the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, convened on December 23 in Botswana, as part of the activities commemorating the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the convention for the safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.



2023 International Martial Arts Contest Successfully Finished

The 2023 International Martial Arts Contest, themed “Promoting health and equality through martial arts,” which took place at Chungju Stadium from August 18 (Friday) to August 20 (Sunday) successfully concluded. Approximately 650 individuals from 27 countries and 54 organizations, including participants from Iran, Vietnam, the Philippines, Singapore, Indonesia, and others, took part in the competition. This contest provided a platform for martial artists from various disciplines to exemplify the values of harmony, respect, and mutual prosperity.

Participants from 27 countries and 54 martial arts organizations

Continuing the structure of the 2nd generation International Martial Arts Contest held the previous year, this edition included both martial arts II, which emphasized traditional martial arts performances, and martial arts I, which concentrated on martial arts training. This encompassed the “Competition for Youth Martial Arts & Fitness Certification,” aiming to prove the impact of martial arts on the growth and development of youth through objective data.



Martial arts performance contest (First place)
: Mirme Taekwondo Team from Korea

Additionally, the event introduced the “MA-ON” app, utilizing personal martial arts data for recording and management of their progress.

Specifically, during the the martial arts II session, the Philippines' “Arnis” team achieved outstanding qualitative improvement in their martial arts demonstration by appointing specialized coaches for each unit (5–6 coaches). Similarly, teams like Indonesia's “Pencak Silat” and Cambodia's “Bokator,” acknowledged by UNESCO last year, exhibited noteworthy progress by integrating innovative storylines and directing techniques into their performances.

Moreover, the competition featured traditional martial arts performances from around the world, along with diverse collaborative programs. These included experiences such as Iran’s UNESCO–recognized martial art “zurkhaneh” and the “Joseon military examination ritual,” offering an enjoyable experience for the audience. Additionally, on–site visitors were invited to participate in prize programs, further enhancing the overall event and contributing to its successful conclusion.



Martial arts performance contest (Second place)
: Arnis Team from the Philippines



Competition for Youth Martial Arts & Fitness Certification
(Individual match): Strength & running

2023 Martial Arts Camp for Family

A Platform for the healthy development of youth and family concord through martial arts



Photos and videos

2023 Martial Arts Camp for Family took place on July 8 (Saturday) to July 9 (Sunday), July 22 (Saturday) to July 23 (Sunday), and August 5 (Saturday) to August 6 (Sunday) at the UNESCO International Centre of Martial Arts and in the city of Chungju. As part of a nationwide initiative to promote traditional martial arts, this camp was hosted by the UNESCO International Centre of Martial Arts and organized by the World Martial Arts Union. The first-day program included martial arts experiences such as Taekkyeon and archery, followed by Martial Arts Night I for recreation and Martial Arts Night II for family time and a campfire night. On the second day, activities were coordinated in the following sequence: local cultural experiences (apple popcorn, apple red pepper paste, and apple gangjeong), followed by a safety class covering CPR and the splint techniques. Participants expressed a high level of satisfaction with the family-oriented martial arts experiences and local cultural activities.



On August 5 (Sat), 2023, participants learn Taekkyeon I (basic course).



On August 6 (Sun), 2023, participants take a safety class (CPR).

Team Korea Taekkyeon and Martial Arts Fitness for Youth ; Participation in International Ethno Sports Festival in Uzbekistan

Participation in International Ethno Sports Festival in Uzbekistan; Taekkyeon performance & workshop; Operation of Youth Martial Arts Fitness Certification

The Itchan Kala Cultural Complex in Khorezm, Uzbekistan, hosted the International Ethno Sports Festival in response to the request of the Ministry of Youth Policy and Sports of Uzbekistan. The event featured Team Korea Taekkyeon with performances and masterclasses. Concurrently, a two-day youth martial arts fitness certification event took place from September 8 (Fri) to September 9 (Sat), 2023.

The opening ceremony of the International Ethno Sports Festival in Khorezm, Uzbekistan featured a remarkable performance by Team Korea Taekkyeon, a collaboration between the Kyulyun Taekyun Association, the Korea Taekkyon Federation, and the Chungju City



September 8, 2023 – Joint performance at the opening ceremony by Team Korea Taekkyeon



September 9, 2023 – Measurement of hand techniques for Uzbek Martial Arts Fitness for Youth

Taekkyeon Team. This special presentation, witnessed by an audience of 10,000, was a historic moment as it marked the first-ever joint performance by these three major entities in the history of Taekkyeon during an overseas event. The media and prominent figures, including the Minister of Youth Policy and Sports of Uzbekistan and the President of the World

Ethnosport Confederation, expressed deep appreciation for the performance, lavishing it with attention and praise.

On the subsequent day, the performances by each Taekkyeon Team captured considerable interest, attracting a large audience comprising both martial arts enthusiasts and tourists. The Uzbek media covered the event with special attention. Furthermore, the masterclass led by the Chungju City Taekkyeon Team drew in over 200 Uzbek youth practicing martial arts and instructors. The session provided valuable insights into the history and fundamental movements of Taekkyeon. Participants in the workshop were acknowledged with certificates for their engagement.

Moreover, the two-day Youth Martial Arts Fitness Certification event drew the active participation of more than 100 youth from Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. They underwent individual assessments across four categories: hand techniques, foot techniques, weapon techniques, and strength & running. In addition, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the World Martial Arts Union and the Uzbek Jang San'ati Federation. This agreement aims to facilitate the dissemination of the Youth Martial Arts Fitness Certification within Uzbekistan, ensuring local martial arts fitness assessments in Uzbekistan for the next five years and sharing of certification information.

By taking part in this event, the World Martial Arts Union interpreted Team Korea Taekkyeon's collaborative performance as a symbol of unity and globalization within the Taekkyeon community. This contribution was seen as a means of not only promoting traditional martial arts in Korea but also vitalizing the global martial arts scene. The event yielded notable results, extending beyond the promotion of Youth Martial Arts Fitness Certification in Uzbekistan to actively advocating for the initiative among participating countries in the festival from Central and West Asia. Furthermore, both entities have committed to continuous collaboration, aiming for the mutual advancement of traditional martial arts and fostering growth.

The 22nd Annual General Meeting of the World Martial Arts Union

25 countries and 32 member representatives shared information on activities to promote martial arts; resolution on how to activate various committees including the UNESCO-Listed Martial Arts Promotion Committee; how to strengthen the authority of Committees; how to achieve gradual organizational arrangement

On August 16 (Wed), 2023, the 22nd Annual General Meeting of the World Martial Arts Union, chaired by President Chung Whatae, took place at the International Conference Hall located on the first floor of the UNESCO International Centre of Martial Arts. The meeting resulted in unanimous decisions, focusing on amendments to provisions concerning the establishment and operation of various committees, along with discussions on development plans. Members reached a consensus to enhance the authority of both the existing Membership Qualification Examination Committee and the UNESCO-Listed Martial Arts Promotion Committee. Furthermore, they agreed on a gradual restructuring of the organization to reinforce its internal capabilities.



The World Martial Arts Union, acknowledged as the official non-governmental organization in the sports sector by UNESCO and serving as an advisory body to the Intergovernmental Committee for Intangible Cultural Heritage, has been engaged in collaborative endeavors with the UNESCO International Centre of Martial Arts since the previous year, through sponsorship received from the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism. The primary objective is to broaden and enhance the promotion of traditional martial arts, fostering not only international activation but also exchange projects.

On the day following the General Meeting, an open forum led by member organizations took place. During this forum, participants inquired into diverse development plans for the future of the World Martial Arts Union, such as strategies for revenue-generating projects, the organization of festivals and competitions, and considerations for hosting events that rotate among member countries.

The 5th Regular Meeting of the UNESCO–Listed Martial Arts Promotion Committee

Regular Meeting attended by representatives from 8 UNESCO–Listed Martial Arts: Reelection of Chairperson of the International Zurkhaneh Sports & Pahlevani Federation of Iran

On August 17 (Thu), 2023, the 5th Regular Meeting of the UNESCO–Listed Martial Arts Promotion Committee was held at the UNESCO International Centre of Martial Arts (Seminar Room 1). The meeting saw the participation of the UNESCO–Listed martial arts organizations from eight countries.

The meeting commenced with a keynote address delivered by Mr. Huh Kwon, the former Director–General of UNESCO ICHCAP (Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia–Pacific Region) and a current board member of the World Martial Arts Union. In his address, he presented an overview and analysis of UNESCO’s “Seoul Vision 2023” for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage. Additionally, the session saw the approval of the Cambodia Kun Bokator Federation as a new member.

Moreover, Mr. Mohsen Mehralizadeh, serving as the Chairperson from Iran, and Ms. Neiven Wagdy Eshak, holding the position of Vice–Chairperson from Egypt, demonstrated proven operational capabilities for the committee and successful leadership over the past two years. They were unanimously reelected to their respective positions through a vote. The Chairperson, now appointed for a renewed term, expressed his enthusiasm for continuing to lead the promotion of martial arts in close collaboration with committee members, as well as the martial arts communities and member countries of the World Martial Arts Union.



Korea–Vietnam Martial Arts and Cultural Exchange Week

The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of the Republic of Korea supports 2023 International Exchange Project for Local Culture “Chungju– Ho Chi Minh: Exchange in martial arts and culture”

“The Martial Arts and Cultural Exchange Week” project, a collaborative effort between member organizations and respective governments, was conducted twice this year in Chungju, Korea, and Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. The project aims to not only enhance the value of martial arts as intangible cultural heritage but also to improve international exchange capabilities for martial artists and professionals engaged in culture and arts.

In the first phase of the exchange, the Vietnamese martial arts delegation consisting of the World Vovinam Federation, led by Dr. Vo Danh Hai, Standing Advisor, and the Vietnam Traditional Martial Arts Federation represented by Mr. Le Kim Hoa visited Chunju. The delegation engaged in mutual bilateral workshops with young Taekkyeon learners of Korea, and the exchange also included participation in the IMAC.

In the first phase of the exchange, representatives from the Korea Taekkyeon Association, Korea Ssireum Association, the artist specializing in painting martial arts themes, Lee Jin–hyuk, and Chungju’s representative dance team, Traveler Crew, visited Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, from December 11 to 18. They actively participated in cultural exchange activities held at Ho Chi Minh City University of Physical Education and Sports, Ho Chi Minh City University of Economics and Finance, and the Municipal Theatre of Ho Chi Minh City.

Both parties have a shared objective of hosting international martial arts events globally through continuous collaboration with member organizations and respective governments. The discussions during the exchange period also covered the possibility of hosting the International Martial Arts event in commemoration of Vietnam’s Independence Day in 2025.



2023 Martial Arts Fitness for Youth Through at School

Assess age-specific changes in physical development and fitness through martial arts activities, by visiting 10 schools in the Chungju region

The Youth Martial Arts Fitness Certification incorporates digital devices into fundamental military examination and traditional games from the Joseon Dynasty. It comprises four key disciplines including hand techniques, foot techniques, weapon techniques, and strength & running, which are essential to martial arts training and skill demonstration.

This year, the Martial Arts Fitness Certification, aimed at enhancing the health and physical revitalization of youth through martial arts activities, conducted two visits to 10 schools designated for Taekkyeon in Chungju.

More than 1,200 individuals participated in this evaluation, and the quantified measurements manifested enhanced physical fitness in the second semester, with 92,3% of the participants indicating improvement compared to the first semester. Additionally, participants were granted the 2023 On-site Youth Martial Arts Fitness Certification along with participation certificates.

The Martial Arts Fitness Certification, in collaboration with ICM, is planned to further extend its benefits nationwide in 2024.



Publication of the 20-year History (2002–2022) of the World Martial Arts Union

We are dedicated to honoring the profound legacy of the past 20 years and guiding the martial arts community towards a new era of sustainable growth.

Commencing with the “World Martial Arts Union Convention,” signed by 28 martial arts organizations from 26 countries during the Chungju World Martial Arts Festival on October 2, 2002, the World Martial Arts Union has experienced consistent growth over the past two decades. As of 2023, the World Martial Arts Union has achieved global expansion, with the participation of 70 martial arts organizations from 47 countries. These members work collaboratively to safeguard and promote traditional martial arts within their respective nations, while addressing global concerns, including the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), while manifesting remarkable achievements on a global scale. Thus, our joint solidarity will continue to broaden its range of activities.

It has been profoundly meaningful and immensely fulfilling to document the past 20 years of activities and stories of the World Martial Arts Union. This includes capturing the essence of the Chungju World Martial Arts Festival, featuring diverse martial arts worldwide, annual meetings, the formulation of plans for UNESCO C2 institutes and centers (ICM), the establishment and operation of the UNESCO-listed Promotion Committee, international cultural exchanges, youth camps, symposiums, martial arts research, cultural partnership projects, international martial arts competitions, and the organization and support of martial arts events both domestically and internationally.

I kindly request your generous understanding as we may not have fully captured the entirety of contributions from the many individuals who have actively supported us throughout this journey. (Excerpt from the congratulatory message upon publication by Chung Whatae, President of the World Martial Arts Union)

A Short Guide for Members from Abroad to Host the Annual General Meeting

Step 1

Eligibility & Feasibility, Letter of Intention



Step 2

Submit Bidding Documents



Step 3

Site Inspection



Step 4

Presentation and Site Selection



Step 5

Confirmation and Formation of Organizing Committee

Detail of the Procedure

STEP 1

Eligibility & Feasibility, Letter of Intention

- Confirm the availability of the budget, personnel
- The domestic agreement of bidding consultation with government and hold the meeting as a governmental level for support

STEP 2

Submit Bidding Document

- Submit bidding document to WoMAU Secretariat on the plans
- *WoMAU provides the form

STEP 3

Site Inspection

- Inspection of the venue : infrastructure, accessibility, seats, stage, etc.

STEP 4

Presentation and Site Selection

- Confirmation of the intention by bidding organization and presentation
- The decision on the next AGM venue by vote at the AGM

STEP 5

Confirmation and Formation of Organizing Committee

- Receive the official letter on the decision of AGM hosting
- Begin AGM preparation work : Organize the committee, arrange personnel, etc.,

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