

WUSHU

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL WUSHU FEDERATION 2019



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IWUF Broadens Legacy with FISU

at inaugural World University Wushu Championship in Macau, China

7th World Junior Wushu Championships
Energize South America

Wushu Debuts

in 3rd African Youth Games and 1st Asia Pacific Masters Games



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2019 ISSUE 6



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- *President of International Wushu Federation (IWUF)*
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- *Vice President of Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC)*

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Readers and Friends,

Welcome to the 2019 issue of *Wushu*, the official magazine of the International Wushu Federation (IWUF).

2018 was truly a banner year for the sport of wushu. In terms of competitions, 2018 was perhaps the Federation's busiest year ever, spanning three new multi-sport games, four IWUF signature events, and springboarding into a new test event for traditional wushu.

Multi-sport events are one of our most important arenas in which we promote wushu to the wider sport world and reach out to a broader general audience. Participating wushu athletes from nine African countries made the 3rd African Youth Games in Algiers, Algeria a fine success in July, and wushu on the African continent continues to flourish, especially among youth. To complement this, wushu also debuted in the 1st Asia Pacific Masters Games held in Penang, Malaysia in September. Clearly wushu has much to offer people of all ages and abilities around the

world, and this message is indeed getting out.

The 1st World University Wushu Championship, held in Macau, China in August, became the third addition this year to the IWUF's expanding multi-sport portfolio, following last year's wushu debut in the Universiade, both organized by FISU. Macau also hosted a fruitful 35th IWUF Executive Board Meeting, which voted on and passed several proposals to make technical and structural improvements to the Wushu Taolu Competition Rules as part of a continued effort to modernize and standardize the sport of wushu.

Nurtured by hardworking athletes, coaches, officials and supporters, wushu flourished in 2018 like never before as four IWUF signature events displayed the highest levels of global wushu competition. In July the 7th World Junior Wushu Championships were held in Brasilia, Brazil. This marked the first time this IWUF event has been held in South America, an historic milestone that helped

energize wushu in the entire Southern hemisphere. Young athletes from around the globe showed us their promise as wushu's future.

In September, the successful 3rd World Taijiquan Championships took place in Burgas, Bulgaria bringing the energy of wushu to the edge of the Black Sea. I believe that this compelling IWUF signature taijiquan event has truly come into its own and established a unique identity that will continue to grow and help promote the sport worldwide.

In October, the 9th Sanda World Cup thrilled spectators with dazzling full-contact action, and an excellent production in Hangzhou, China took wushu's exciting discipline of sanda to a wider audience. Our top warriors who qualified in the 14th World Wushu Championships in Kazan competed fiercely on the leitai for this elite cup, and I congratulate Iran on placing first in the medal rankings for the first time in this event's history.

The 2nd Taolu World Cup culminated our 2018 signature events in November, as an elite level of wushu's top taolu champions displayed energy, beauty and grace on the carpet in Yangon, Myanmar. These standout taolu stars, who also qualified for the TWC in the 14th World Wushu Championships in Kazan, exemplify the highest levels of skill and sportsmanship both in and out of the ring.

To end our 2018 competitions on a high note, the inaugural World Wing Chun Open Competition was held in Foshan, China in December. With over 1000 participants from dozens of countries, the worldwide wing chun community came together to exchange kungfu, culture and friendship. This successful IWUF test event helped us to establish platforms in the future for millions of traditional practitioners all around the world to promote their styles.

While there were many reasons to celebrate wushu last year, 2018 was especially notable for IWUF's launch of the first World Wushu-Kungfu Day on August 11. Thousands of members of our wushu-kungfu family on every continent came together with celebrations in clubs, schools, and lively public demonstrations. I believe the establishment of this annual event is a positive milestone for the IWUF, as we remain committed to the ongoing development of the sport of wushu worldwide, and very keen on increasing the proactive engagement of our global wushu-kungfu community. Thanks to all of our members who participated in our first annual WWKD with such enthusiasm, and I look forward to celebrating with you again on August 10 in 2019.

I am grateful to all our IWUF members for making these events of 2018 most remarkable achievements, and I believe that the sport of wushu is stronger than it has ever been. I am inspired by the strong connections our wushu family shares, and the common goals we are all working toward as a global community that continue to bind us in our passion and dedication to wushu.

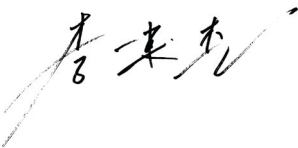
I very much look forward to seeing you this coming year at two exciting premier IWUF signature events in 2019 – the 8th World Kungfu Championships in Ermeishan, China and the 15th World Wushu Championships in Shanghai, China.



MESSAGE FROM JET LI

I have been pleased to see wushu developing around the world in so many countries big and small, and witnessing the positive impact of this sport I dearly love on countless athletes and practitioners warms my heart. Wushu brings us together as one – in competition, in friendship, in passion and vision – in a strong community whose circle is ever expanding. We are all striving to push ourselves higher, persevere through challenge and hardship, and follow our dreams to be the best version of ourselves that we can be. Wushu has helped me achieve this in my life, and I am continually inspired by how so many others are positively transformed by the sport as well.

Wushu, as it is often said, originated from China but belongs to the world. This year we will celebrate the 15th World Wushu Championships as our now-seasoned sport returns to China in Shanghai, one of my favorite cities. I have no doubt that this momentous event will be energized by bringing a powerful, global wushu back to its roots; and now that wushu has been well-nurtured into a respected and renowned international sport, this event will be an special experience for us all.



Jet Li

IWUF Ambassador



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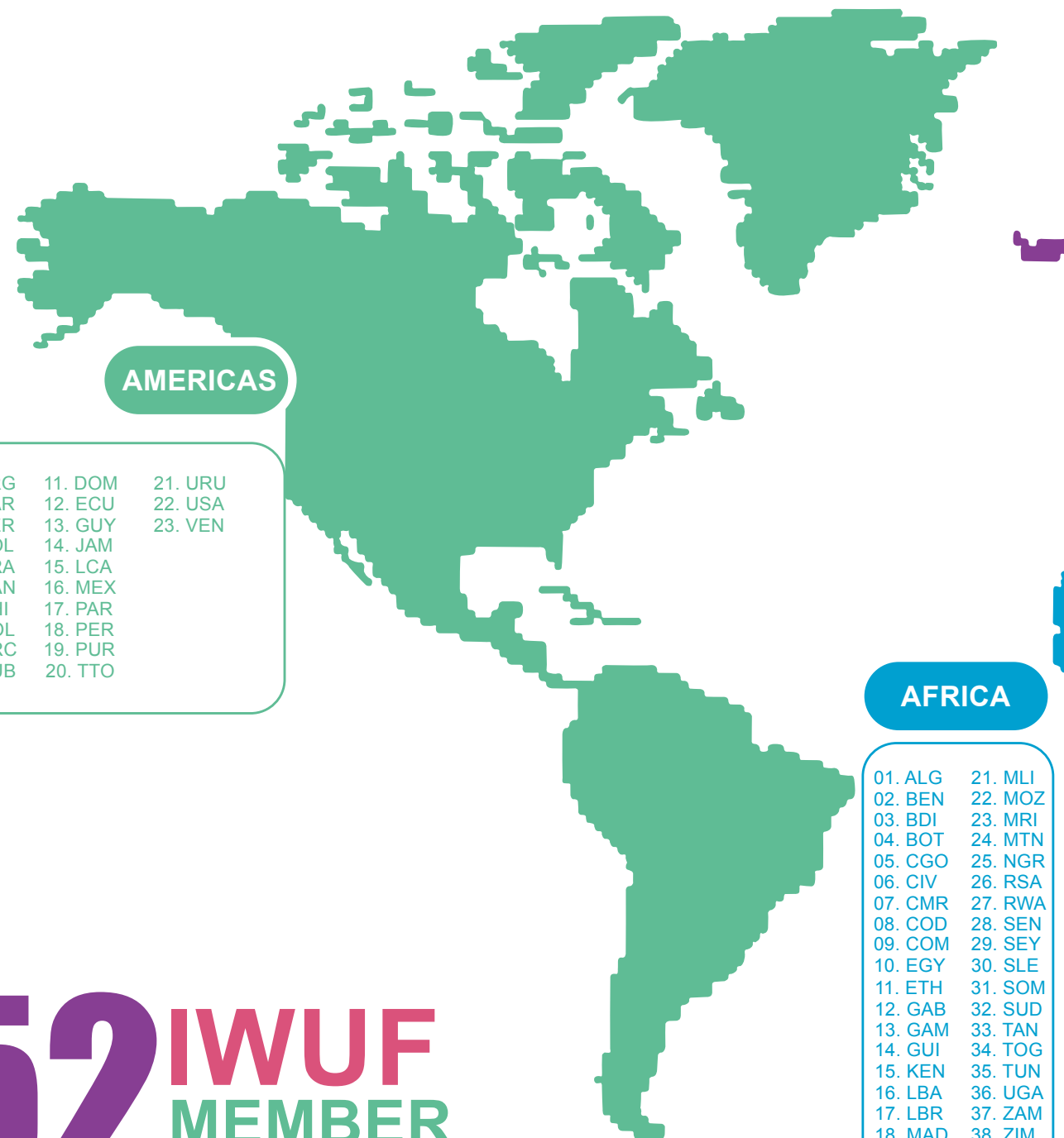
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152 IWUF MEMBER NATIONS & REGIONS

Note: IWUF membership as of August, 2018.



AMERICAS

01. ARG	11. DOM	21. URU
02. BAR	12. ECU	22. USA
03. BER	13. GUY	23. VEN
04. BOL	14. JAM	
05. BRA	15. LCA	
06. CAN	16. MEX	
07. CHI	17. PAR	
08. COL	18. PER	
09. CRC	19. PUR	
10. CUB	20. TTO	

AFRICA

01. ALG	21. MLI
02. BEN	22. MOZ
03. BDI	23. MRI
04. BOT	24. MTN
05. CGO	25. NGR
06. CIV	26. RSA
07. CMR	27. RWA
08. COD	28. SEN
09. COM	29. SEY
10. EGY	30. SLE
11. ETH	31. SOM
12. GAB	32. SUD
13. GAM	33. TAN
14. GUI	34. TOG
15. KEN	35. TUN
16. LBA	36. UGA
17. LBR	37. ZAM
18. MAD	38. ZIM
19. MAR	
20. MAW	

01. AND	11. CZE	21. IRL	31. MNE	41. SMR
02. ARM	12. ESP	22. ISL	32. MON	42. SUI
03. AUT	13. EST	23. ISR	33. NED	43. SVK
04. AZE	14. FIN	24. ITA	34. NOR	44. SWE
05. BEL	15. FRA	25. LAT	35. POL	45. TUR
06. BIH	16. GBR	26. LTU	36. POR	46. UKR
07. BLR	17. GEO	27. LUX	37. ROU	
08. BUL	18. GER	28. MDA	38. RUS	
09. CRO	19. GRE	29. MKD	39. SRB	
10. CYP	20. HUN	30. MLT	40. SLO	

EUROPE

ASIA

01. AFG	11. JOR	21. MDV	31. SYR
02. BAN	12. JPN	22. MGL	32. THA
03. BRU	13. KAZ	23. MYA	33. TJK
04. CAM	14. KGZ	24. NEP	34. TKM
05. CHN	15. KOR	25. PAK	35. TPE
06. HKG	16. KUW	26. PHI	36. UZB
07. INA	17. LAO	27. PLE	37. VIE
08. IND	18. LBN	28. PRK	38. YEM
09. IRI	19. MAC	29. SGP	
10. IRQ	20. MAS	30. SRI	

OCEANIA

01. AUS	05. PNG
02. FIJ	06. SAM
03. NCL	07. SOL
04. NZL	



IWUF MILESTONES 1990-2019

The International Wushu Federation (IWUF), established on **October 3rd, 1990**, is the international federation (IF) that governs wushu in all its forms worldwide. Currently, the IWUF has **152** members across 5 continents.

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1990

IWUF founded on October 3rd during the Asian Games.



1991

The 1st World Wushu Championships held in Beijing, China.

1994

IWUF accepted as a member of the GAISF during its 28th Congress.

2001

IWUF signed WADA agreement.

2002

1st Sanda World Cup held in Shanghai, China.

2004

1st World Traditional Wushu Festival, known today as World Kungfu Championships, a sport-for-all event, held in Zhengzhou, China.

2006

1st World Junior Wushu Championships held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

2008

Beijing 2008 Wushu Tournament held in conjunction with the 2008 Summer Olympic Games.



2011

Wushu shortlisted for inclusion in the 2020 Summer Olympic Games.

2012

IWUF headquarters established in Lausanne, Switzerland.

2014

1st World Taijiquan Championships held in Chengdu, China.



Nanjing 2014 Youth Wushu Tournament held in conjunction with the 2014 Youth Olympic Games.

2015

Wushu shortlisted as Additional Event for 2020 Summer Olympic Games.



IWUF signed cooperation convention with FISU.

2016

1st Taolu World Cup held in Fuzhou, China.



2017

Wushu's inaugural inclusion in the 2017 Summer Universiade program in Chinese Taipei.



2018

Wushu's debut in the World University Championship in Macau, China.



Celebration of 1st World Wushu-Kungfu Day.





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President of Bolivian Wushu Federation Visits the IWUF

On May 29, 2018, Anthony Goh, IWUF Executive Vice President, met Mr. Fernando Huanacuni Mamani, President of the Bolivian Wushu Federation and Foreign Minister of Bolivia in Beijing, China.

Mr. Goh welcomed Mr. Huanacuni and introduced the IWUF's plans for the next two years, shared the excitement for World Wushu-Kungfu Day's debut later that year, and discussed ongoing solidarity projects. In 2017, IWUF sent wushu

coaches to Bolivia through the IWUF Solidarity Program, allowing nearly 120 athletes from all over the country to attend training courses and continue to raise the level of Bolivian wushu. Mr. Huanacuni expressed his gratitude for this, and said they would continue to strengthen their team's training with the goal of participating in the 2019 World Wushu Championships that will be held in Shanghai. Both sides exchanged gifts and posed for a group photo.



IWUF Visits France for Wushu Development

On June 1, 2018, Anthony Goh, IWUF Executive Vice President, and Zhang Qiuping, IWUF Secretary General, met with Francis Didier, the President of the French Federation of Karate and Associated Disciplines, in Paris, France.

President Didier warmly welcomed the IWUF delegation. Anthony Goh emphasized the importance of wushu's development in France, and that the delegation looked forward to learning more about wushu's current state in the country so that the IWUF might facilitate the sport's growth.

In 2014, under the direction of the French Ministry of Sports, the French Wushu Association merged into the French Karate Association to become the French Federation of Karate and Associated Disciplines (FFKAMA), with an affiliated Wushu Committee in charge of managing wushu development in France. Such affiliation is unusual among IWUF member associations, said Mr. Goh, who suggested that an independent governance institution would be able to better support wushu's development.

President Didier agreed with IWUF's philosophy for wushu development in France. He said that despite the particularity of the affiliation, it was a customary practice of the French Sports Ministry – for instance, the French Judo Association had governed the French Karate Association until 1976, and the French Taekwondo Association

was under the direction of the French Karate Association until 1996. While wushu today, and taiji in particular, has a large base in France, a Wushu Committee under the FFKAMA might be better positioned logistically to unite more wushu practitioners and enthusiasts, before establishing an independent wushu association recognized by the French Sports Ministry. In late June 2018, the FFKAMA's Wushu Committee was planning to elect a new president and executive committee. With its procedures strictly in line with relevant French laws and regulations, the election was set to be conducted under the supervision of the French Ministry of Sports.

The two sides candidly exchanged ideas on measures to promote local wushu development. Also present were Dominique Charré, FFKAMA French Sports Supervisor and Technical Director, Xavier Guichard, FFKAMA French Sports Supervisor and Technical Director of Wushu, Lily Fang, IWUF Administrative Manager, Alec Piñero, IWUF Communications Manager, Max Goutfer, French Wushu Committee President, Fang Xiaofen, FFKAMA Technical Advisor, Stephane Molard, French Wushu Committee Treasurer, Yang Liqin, French Wushu Committee Director of International Communication, and Emilie Hommette, FFKAMA Assistant to the President.



IWUF Delegation Meets French Sports Minister Laura Flessel

On June 4, 2018, Anthony Goh, IWUF Executive Vice President, and Zhang Qiuping, IWUF Secretary General, met Laura Flessel, French Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports in Paris, France. The meeting centered on wushu's development in France.

Anthony Goh first congratulated Minister Flessel on Paris being chosen as the host city of the 2024 Summer Olympics. He then introduced wushu development in the world, noting that the International Olympic Committee and the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Committee shortlisted wushu as a candidate for an additional sport for the 2020 Olympic Games in 2011 and 2015, respectively. Regarding wushu in France, he pointed out how competitive local athletes have become, as French teams have performed well in international and intercontinental competitions, even winning gold and bronze medals in the Nanjing 2014 Youth Wushu Tournament (held in conjunction with the Nanjing 2014 Youth Olympic Games). Anthony Goh hoped that this visit to the French Ministry of Sports would allow Minister Flessel to know more about wushu development in France, and he suggested that France establish an independent governance and management institution for wushu so as to facilitate its development in the country.

Flessel welcomed the arrival of the IWUF delegation and expressed sincere gratitude to the IWUF for its concern and support for wushu development in France. She noted that in 2014, the French Ministry of Sports, in consultation with the French Olympic Committee, decided to merge the French Wushu Association into the French Karate Association to establish the French Federation of Karate and Associate Disciplines. The decision is a routine move by the French Ministry of Sports after the assessment of the development of a sport at a certain stage in the country and is designed to provide developing sports with funding and a framework that might not otherwise be available locally. The Ministry of Sports would conduct a new round of assessment of wushu development in France by the end of 2020 to decide whether it would be necessary to make institutional adjustments.

Laura Flessel was a women's fencing Olympic champion, and is one of the most decorated Olympic athletes in France's history. Since her appointment as the French Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports in May 2017, she actively guided the sound development of various sports in the country. Minister Flessel said that wushu enjoys a broad base in France, because of which there is great potential for development; she expressed her hope that the French Wushu

Committee will continue to work to grow the sport's role in the country and on the global stage. She also believed that a sport, in the course of its development, should be played both in competitions and non-competitively, with participants at the grassroots level all the way up to professional athletes; therefore, she also encouraged the non-competitive progress of both traditional and sport wushu in France. Minister Flessel said that she was very much looking forward to strengthening exchanges with IWUF, hoping that IWUF will give greater support to wushu in France and work together with the French government to push wushu development in the country to a new height.

After the talks, Anthony Goh and Zhang Qiuping presented Flessel with gifts from the IWUF.



Chinese Taipei Wushu Federation Visits the IWUF

Anthony Goh, IWUF Executive Vice President, met with Yang Mei Jung, President of the Chinese Taipei Wushu Federation, in Beijing on the morning of July 3, 2018, focusing on the development of wushu in Chinese Taipei.

The Chinese Taipei Wushu Federation, established in 1950, officially joined the IWUF member federation family in 1995. In recent years, wushu in Chinese Taipei has developed well, and many international competition events have been conducted in this region, including the 9th Asian Wushu Championships in Taoyuan city in 2016 and the wushu competition at the 29th

Summer Universiade in Hsinchu County.

The Chinese Taipei Wushu Federation played an active role in wushu's inclusion in the 2017 Summer Universiade; Mr. Goh expressed his thanks to President Yang Mei Jung and her team for their efforts for this – wushu's debut in the international university sports was a milestone.

At the time of the visit, the Chinese Taipei Wushu Federation was actively preparing for the 18th Asian Games, which were held in Jakarta, Indonesia in August 2018, where they performed at the highest level on the international stage.

The Federation also organized activities in the region to celebrate the very first World Wushu-Kungfu Day, celebrating together with wushu enthusiasts from around the globe.





35th IWUF Executive Board Meeting in Macau Concludes Successfully

On August 3, 2018 the IWUF Executive Board met in Macau, China, led by IWUF President Yu Zaiqing.

The 35th IWUF Executive Board Meeting was orderly and productive, and many innovative new proposals to move the sport of wushu forward in the next year were met with deep enthusiasm. Dates and venues were set for 2020 competitions, and technical issues were refined.

President Yu called the meeting to order and addressed the Board, updating members on the forward movement of bids to include wushu in the future Olympic Games.

A report was given by Secretary General Zhang Qiuping, who updated the Board on the recent progress made by the IWUF Secretariat and the working team. Executive Vice President Anthony Goh and Secretary General Zhang put forth a number of proposals for innovations and improvements to wushu events, committees, rules and promotions to be developed in 2019.

A financial report was given by IWUF Treasurer Urs Krebs, and a progress report given by Director General of the Lausanne IWUF office, Lirong Ren.

Mr. Goh discussed new membership in IWUF

and reported that there is quite a lot of interest in Oceania thanks to Walt Missingham's work there. A voting request was made on Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Solomon Islands as provisional members, and unanimously approved.



2018-2019 Events Reports



Reports on IWUF event preparation included updates on the progress of 2018-2019 competitions.

The Coordination Committee reported on preparations and logistics in Burgas, Bulgaria for the 3rd World Taijiquan Championships, September 25-October 2, 2018.

The Board voted unanimously on approving October 27-28, 2018 as the official dates for the 9th Sanda World Cup in Hangzhou, China.

The delegation from the 15th Shanghai World Wushu Championships organizing committee gave a progress report on hotels, transportation, and venues.

Mr. Goh announced that the dates for the 8th World Kungfu Championships in Emeishan have been approved and confirmed for June 14-18, 2019.

Announcements for Host Cities of 2020 Events

- A vote to approve holding the 2020 8th World Junior Wushu Championships in Rabat, Morocco was unanimously approved.
- A vote to approve holding the 2020 4th World Taijiquan Championships in Catania, Italy was unanimously approved.
- A vote to approve holding the 2020 3rd Taolu World Cup in Tokyo, Japan was unanimously approved.
- The host for the 10th Sanda World Cup in 2020 is still open, and under discussion.



Key Decisions From the 35th IWUF Executive Board Meeting

The following are several key IWUF technical and marketing procedures that were made during the 35th IWUF Executive Board Meeting.

TECHNICAL

Several proposals were made and voted on to make technical and structural improvements as part of a continued effort to modernize and standardize the sport of wushu. Decisions made by the IWUF Executive Board during the 35th IWUF EB Meeting include the following Wushu Taolu Competition Rules changes.

I) Removing the Head Judge's ability to change scores

This entails removing Article 28.1.5 from the Wushu Taolu Competition Rules.

Current Article 28.1.5 on Head Judge's Deductions: Should a judge's evaluation and scoring input be found to be obviously incorrect or erroneous, the head judge shall notify the chief referee of such and following the chief referee's approval the head judge shall correct the error before displaying the athlete's final score.

The above article is removed.

II) Removing the Head Judge from the B Group judges scoring

This entails changing Article 2.3.2 in the Wushu Taolu Competition Rules.

Current Article 2.3.2 on Duties of the Head Judge:

2.3.2 Organize and implement judges working groups; Participate in the B Group's overall performance valuation and scoring.

Changed Article 2.3.2:
2.3.2 Organize and implement judges working groups.

III) Increasing the Number of B Group judges from 3 to 5, to increase the objectivity in scoring.

This entails changing all relevant components of Article 1 and related content in the Wushu Taolu Competition Rules.

IV) Establishing a Judges Committee

Establishing a new and separate Judges Committee responsible for all judge training, educational materials development, evaluations, certification, appointment for events, evaluation of performance, data keeping, and overall monitoring and management. This Committee shall be an independent committee, and shall be established prior to and with aim of taking effect during the 2019 15th WWC in Shanghai.

V) New process for appointing the Jury of Appeals

The Jury of Appeals shall be independent with members appointed by the IWUF President and/or EB.

VI) Aligning Junior age ranges with those of the IOC & rectifying the age range in the 3rd WTJQC

It was decided that the IWUF adopt the IOC method of establishing age range guidelines for its junior athletes, which would mean that athlete eligibility is based on whether their birthdate falls in the range from January 1st to December 31st during the relevant year. Our current regulations establish January 1st as the cutoff date, excluding many athletes who would otherwise be eligible.

These guidelines will be adopted beginning with the 3rd WTJQC in Bulgaria in September, and that the same IOC standards for junior age group calculations are implemented for future events.

VII) Establishing a "Creative Group Event" for 2019 Shanghai World Wushu Championships

This will encourage the creative and artistic growth of our athletes and coaches reflected in choreographed routines, resulting in more visually spectacular and accessible performances, improving the Championships as a spectator event. The above changes should be implemented in 2019.





Cuban Wushu Association Visits the IWUF

On the afternoon of October 18, 2018 a delegation of four, led by Roberto Vargas Lee President of the Cuban School of Wushu, visited the IWUF's office in Beijing.

Mr. Anthony Goh, IWUF Executive Vice President, welcomed the Cuban School of Wushu delegation and introduced the IWUF's main plans for the next two years, including the promotion of World Wushu-Kungfu Day and the IWUF Solidarity Program. Mr. Goh highlighted that a significant part of the IWUF's global development of wushu in recent years has included not only subsidizing coaches' and athletes' training, but also providing competition and training equipment for member federations. The IWUF looks forward to working with the Cuban School of Wushu to bring wushu in Cuba to an even higher level.



President Roberto Vargas Lee said he felt very happy to have the opportunity to visit the IWUF and strengthen communication and exchange with the IWUF. As part of the Cuban School of Wushu's push for involvement in global wushu competitions, they are striving to send a national team to participate in the 8th World Kungfu Championships and the 15th World Wushu Championships in 2019.

Meyling Wong Chiu and Victor Saname, Vice Chairperson of the Cuban School of Wushu, accompanied President Roberto Vargas Lee on the visit.

IWUF Attends the 2nd WADA Global Education Conference in Beijing

From October 24-25, 2018, the 2nd WADA Global Education Conference, hosted by the China Anti-Doping Agency (CHINADA) in partnership with the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA), was held in Beijing, China. Sir Craig Reddie, WADA President, and Gou Zhongwen, Director of the General Administration of Sport of China, gave speeches at the opening ceremony.

Around 180 delegates from international sports federations (IFs) and anti-doping agencies attended the conference, some of whom reported on their past education programs and contributed to the development of the new International Standard for Education in roundtable discussions. Du Lijun, Chairman of the IWUF Medical Committee and Wang Shuheng, IWUF Anti-doping Manager, presented IWUF's work on anti-doping education in a breakout session.

Under the theme of 'Innovation, Harmonization and Cooperation,' the conference served as a platform for the sharing of and learning from past achievements by attendees; including national anti-doping organizations, IFs, regional anti-doping organizations, National Olympic Committees and

research institutions. The conference was also convened to discuss emerging trends and to draft the International Standard for Education.

After the opening ceremony, Chen Zhiyu, Executive Director General of CHINADA, signed a memorandum of understanding on anti-doping education and prevention with Mohamed Mahid Shareef, Director General of the South Asia Regional Anti-doping Organization (SARADO).



KEEP WUSHU CLEAN

SAY "NO!" TO DOPING

The World Bank Celebrates Lunar New Year with Taiji

Taiji's global popularity has established paths for millions of people around the world to pursue the peaceful balance between mind and body. On February 22, 2019, the World Bank's Lunar New Year celebration was held in Washington, DC., USA. Kristalina Georgieva, Acting President and CEO of the World Bank and Yang Shaolin, Managing Director and World Bank Group Chief Administrative Officer, and other guests attended this celebration.

During the celebration taiji practitioners from Washington presented a yang style taijiquan performance, including participation from Benjamin McDonald, Former Director of the

World Bank in the Dominican Republic and current senior consultant and economist, Kurt Nemes, a retired employee of the World Bank, and professional ethics expert, Sibel Kulaksiz, a senior economist from Turkey, and Jiang Weihua, a senior financial expert of the World Bank. The performance was directed by Xu Xiang, an active promoter of taiji and it was enjoyed very much by the audience.

Currently, the World Bank offers two taiji training sessions every week, which attracts World Bank employees from different countries and regions around the world to participate in practicing taiji together.





2018 IWUF International Wushu Judges Training & Certification Courses

The IWUF holds its International Wushu Judges Training & Certification Courses biennially with the purpose to train and certify wushu judges at the highest international standards. In 2018, in line with the needs of the development of wushu worldwide, and for the convenience of judges from each continent, the IWUF hosted three editions of the International Wushu Judges Training & Certification Course in the Pan American, European and Asian regions (respectively in Lubbock, USA April 15-20th, Pordenone, Italy June 1-7th, and Penang, Malaysia June 13-19th).

A total of 250 participants from 42 countries/regions attended the courses. 204 participants were certified as A & B international judges.

	Participated	Certified	Ratio
Taolu	136	97	71.3%
Sanda	114	107	93.9%
Total	250	204	81.6%



Taolu sessions covered all aspects of taolu judging and practical review of the new compulsory forms. Taolu attendees took a technical examination in which all participants were required to perform one bare hand and one weapon routine, a theoretical examination on taolu competition rules, and a practical examination based on analysis and judging of taolu video performances.

Sanda attendees took a theoretical examination on sanda competition rules, a practical examination – analysis and judging of a live sanda performance or video – and a technical examination which

included performance of sanda basic skills (hand techniques, leg techniques, wrestling techniques, defensive techniques) both individually and with an opponent.

These judges training and certification courses received an enthusiastic response from the attendees. Sanda coach Yi Yuan Lee, who participated in this course in USA, commented, "I felt that the IWUF's Judges Course was very informative, enjoyable and conducted in the utmost professional manner. I enjoyed myself and left feeling inspired to do more in spreading the sport

of wushu here in the USA. I hope to be as helpful to the sport as the class was for me."

Italian wushu judge Barbagallo Salvatore Carmelo attended the course in Pordenone, Italy, remarked, "This past June of 2018 I took part in a course I had already attended previously, in Catania, 4 years before, where I obtained the degree of B judge; but now my goal was to be promoted to grade A, and I did it. I tried my best to utilize the knowledge I have acquired from this course in the Italian National Championships."





IWUF Attends 2019 SportAccord World Sport & Business Summit

The 17th SportAccord World Sport & Business Summit was held in Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia from May 5-10th, 2019. Yu Zaiqing, IWUF President, Anthony Goh, IWUF Executive Vice President, Zhang Qiuping, IWUF Secretary General, and other IWUF team members attended the convention. The IWUF makes full use of the SportAccord Summit, an international sports platform "focused on driving positive change internationally and dedicated to engaging and connecting; international federations, rights holders, organizing committees, cities, press and media, businesses and other organizations involved in the development of sport," to enhance the international reputation of the wushu movement.

This summit brought together 1701 delegates from 831 organization, 109 IFs and Associate Members, 84 nationalities, and 176 cities and regions. Raffaele Chiulli was unanimously elected president of both GAISF and SportAccord. During the summit, the IWUF representatives attended Association of IOC Recognised International Sports Federations (ARISF) Congress, GAISF General Assembly, and themed conference program on law, host cities, and media, and a multitude of networking events as they relate to the work of IFs.

The IWUF exhibition booth brought much attention from the IF, host city, business, and other organizations' representatives in attendance.

At SportAccord 2019, Ban Ki-moon Praises Global Development of Wushu

On May 7th, President Yu Zaiqing and the 2019 Chungju World Martial Arts Masterships Honorary Chairman, IOC Ethics Commission Chairman, and former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon had a friendly discussion. The talks explored the diversity and global integration of wushu, and the two leaders expressed their wishes that the 2019 Masterships be a complete success.



Subsequently, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, accompanied by Executive Vice President Anthony Goh and Secretary General Zhang Qiuping, visited the IWUF booth to learn about wushu's development, and asked about upcoming wushu events as well as wushu's inclusion in multi-sport games; he was especially interested to learn about wushu's growth among the youth. The former Secretary-General expressed his hope that the IWUF would continue to give full play to the role of wushu leaders, promote the balanced development of wushu around the world, and enable more people participate in wushu.



Wushu Is Actively Developing in Macau

On May 7th, Anthony Goh, IWUF Executive Vice President, and Zhang Qiuping, IWUF Secretary General met with Pun Weng Kun, Director of the Sports Bureau of Macao Special Administrative Region. In 2018, the first World University Wushu Championship was successfully held in Macau, China. In 2019, the Sports Bureau of the Macao SAR government will hold the "Wushu Masters Challenge," a variety of wushu activities combining elements of sports, tourism, and culture, creating a brand-new sports tourism event.

IWUF Deepens Its Cooperation with FISU

On May 9th, Anthony Goh, IWUF Executive Vice President, and Zhang Qiuping, IWUF Secretary General, met with FISU President Oleg Matytsin and FISU Secretary General Eric Saintrond.

IWUF signed an agreement with FISU in 2015, and since then the two organizations have successfully cooperated on the 2017 Summer Universiade in Taipei, Chinese Taipei, and the 2018 World University Wushu Championship in Macau, China. The two federations will further deepen their joint efforts in the future and continue to promote the development of wushu in university sport.

Communications with Other IFs

IWUF Secretary General Zhang Qiuping and Executive Vice President Anthony Goh met with Francesco Fiorini, Sport Manager of International School Sport Federation, on May 8th, 2019 and discussed the development of school sports and wushu among youth.

On May 9th, 2019, the President of International Mind Sports Association Chen Zelan spoke with Anthony Goh and Zhang Qiuping on the topic of how the sport of wushu and mind sports are able to contribute to the overall development of people's bodies and mind.

The 18th SportAccord World Sport & Business Summit will be held in Beijing, China from April 19-24th, 2020.



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2nd African Sanda Cup Championships & 1st Traditional Wushu Championships in Tunisia

The 2nd African Sanda Cup Championships and the 1st Traditional Wushu Championships were held in Hammamet, Tunisia, from April 3-8, 2019 with 120 athletes and 22 officials from six countries participating in the championships: Senegal, Nigeria, Benin, Tunisia, Algeria and Cote d'Ivoire.

The championships began with queues to show the countries participating in the championships and a welcome speech by Mr. Sherif Mostafa, President of the African Wushu Kungfu Federation.

The 2nd African Sanda Cup Championships witnessed strong competitions between the participating countries and enthusiasm among the athletes to get the top three places. "The technical and physical level were high at this

African Championships. The preparation lasted three months in Algiers and other cities. I'm glad to return home with a trophy as a wushu athlete and fighter, and make my parents proud," said Algerian Nassim Rahima, winner of men's Sanda competition.

The inaugural African Traditional Wushu Championships offers a unique platform for traditional wushu practitioners who also found a sense of community in Africa. Competition events include taiji, xingyiquan, baguazhang, bajiquan, fanziquan, ditangquan, pudao, dadao, fan, double broadswords, double swords, nine section whip, two section staff, dual event and group event. Adding this event to AFWF's family of events has a deeper meaning for the development of traditional wushu in Africa.



The 5th African Clubs Championships

The 5th African Clubs Championships were held in Agadir, Morocco, from November 7-11, 2018. The championships were attended by 18 African clubs in exciting sanda and taolu competitions. The events began with a presentation of the participating teams, and ended with the awards in an atmosphere filled with love and affection among all the teams participating in the event.



African Wushu Kungfu Federation Board Meeting

The Board of the African Wushu Kungfu Federation met in Agadir, Morocco, from November 6-12, 2018, to review the African Wushu Kungfu Federation activity plan, which is aimed at the development and spread of wushu on the African continent. The meeting was productive and fruitful and included many views from participants in addition to the proposals of Mr. Sherif Mostafa, AFWF President, to further develop wushu in Africa.



17th European Wushu Championships & 10th European Junior Wushu Championships

The 17th European Wushu Championships & 10th European Junior Wushu Championships were held from May 16-20, 2018 at the Moscow Wushu Palace in Moscow, Russia with 376 athletes from 28 countries participating.

These championships are the official wushu events hosted by the European Wushu Federation (EWUF) and organized by the Russian Wushu Federation. Competition events included two disciplines: taolu and sanda. Taolu events included changquan, taijiquan, jianshu, daoshu, nandao, taijijian, jianshu, qiangshu, gunshu, xingyiquan, baguaquan, chaquan, bajiquan, xingyiquan, shuangdao, jiujiebian, shuangjian and dual event. These events were live streaming on the EWUF TV channels.



3rd European Taiji and Internal Styles Championships

159 athletes from 18 countries participated in the 3rd European Taiji and Internal Styles Championships held from May 8-14, 2018 in Moscow, Russia.

The competition event included compulsory taijiquan routines, traditional taijiquan routines, xingyiquan, baguazhang and wudang styles.





2018 Oceania Kungfu Wushu Championships

The 2018 Oceania Kungfu Wushu Championships were held at Springers Leisure Centre in Melbourne, Australia on October 21. Over 150 competitors from all over Australia as well as from New Zealand came to compete, in categories for kungfu, contemporary wushu, sanda full-contact

fighting, taiji, duel and group routines.

The action-packed day began with an exciting dragon dance that got the attention of everyone – spectators, judges and officials, and athletes, young and old. The dragon marched the officials

onto the arenas and then it was time to perform. Athletes from as far as New Zealand, Western Australia, Queensland, New South Wales and South Australia joined forces with their Victorian hosts to provide a spectacle of color, action and excitement.



Mr. Glen Keith, Senior Vice President of the Oceania Kungfu Wushu Federation, and Mr. Sean O'Reilly of the local Dandenong City Council, kicked off the competition with some welcoming speeches.

The Oceania Championships are held biennially in one of the International Wushu Federation's Oceanic member countries. Currently, the countries represented are Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Samoa, American Samoa, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Norfolk Island, Fiji, Guam, New Caledonia, Tahiti, Tonga, Tokelau, Cook Islands and Nauru. This year, the Championships were hosted by Kungfu Wushu Victoria (the Victorian division of Australia's IWUF member organization, Kungfu Wushu Australia) and also the selection trial for 2019 national team representing Australia to compete at the 2019 World Wushu Championships and 2019 World Kungfu Championships.

The 2018 Oceania Kungfu Wushu Championships offered a lively and successful competition that brought the Oceania wushu community together

and promoted wushu to a wider continental audience.



12th Pan American Wushu Championships

From October 30-November 5, 2018, the 12th Pan American Wushu Championships (PAWC) were held at Stadium Polideportivo Roberto Pando in Buenos Aires, Argentina. This is the third time the Pan American Wushu Championships have returned to Argentina. The previous two editions were the 1st PAWC in 1996, and the 8th PAWC in 2010.

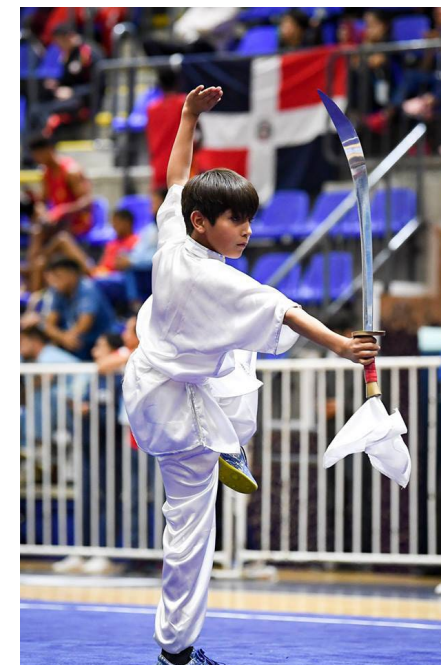
The pinnacle wushu event of the Americas gathered 279 athletes from 15 national/regional associations including Argentina, Brazil, Bermuda, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Columbia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, USA, and Uruguay. The host team of Argentina sent the biggest team with 67 athletes.



The opening ceremony on November 2 was attended by Mr. Anthony Goh, President of the Pan American Wushu Federation (PAWF), Dr. Carlos Alberto Marino, President of the Educational Committee of the Argentina Olympic Committee, Mr. Carlos Diaz, President of the Argentina Wushu Association, and members of the PAWF Executive Board.

During his speech, Mr. Anthony Goh extended a warm welcome to all the teams participating, and expressed his sincere appreciation to the organizer the Argentina Wushu Association. He urged all athletes and judges to uphold the spirit of fair play, and remarked that he is looking forward to seeing many future world wushu stars from the American continents.

Following speeches the spectators greatly enjoyed a fantastic show presented by local Argentinian talent, which included the elegant and celebrated national tango dance, Argentine drummers' performances of lion dancing and dragon dancing, and a wonderful traditional wushu demonstration.



The competition was hosted by the Pan-American Wushu Federation and smoothly organized by the Argentina Wushu Federation. It unites wushu in North, Central and South America. In the three days of competition, the taolu carpet was filled with action, speed and high athleticism; sanda athletes not only showed their technical skills and the power of sanda, but also there was a healthy competitive spirit in embracing each other after every fight at leitai. Events in the hemisphere echo with animated conversations in Spanish, English and Portuguese, but everybody speaks the language of wushu.





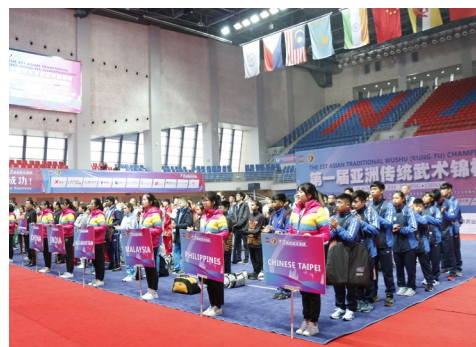
The 1st Asian Traditional Wushu Championships

The 1st Asian Traditional Wushu Championships were held November 28-30th, 2018 in Nanjing, China. The event was hosted by the Wushu Federation of Asia, the Chinese Wushu Association and the Jiangsu Provincial Sport Bureau, and organized by the Nanjing Municipal Sports Bureau, Jiangsu Z'sin Culture Communication, and Nanjing Agricultural University.

Mr. Fok Chun Wan, President of Wushu Federation of Asia, Ms. Chen Xingyu, Vice Governor of Jiangsu Province, Mr. Zhang Qiuping, President of the Chinese Wushu Association, Mr.

Chen Gang, Director of the Jiangsu Provincial Sports Bureau, and distinguished guests attended the opening ceremony.

The 1st Asian Traditional Wushu Championships saw a total of 120 athletes from 12 Asian countries and regions, including Brunei, China, Hong Kong, China, India, Japan, Kazakhstan, China, Macau, China, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Chinese Taipei. The championships featured traditional wushu, dual and group events; a total of 39 events produced their respective champions.



17th Congress of Wushu Federation of Asia



On August 17, 2018, prior to the 2018 Asian Games held in Indonesia, the Wushu Federation of Asia hosted the 45th Executive Committee and the 17th Congress at the Grand Mercure Kemayoran in Jakarta.

Over 40 representatives from 20 countries and regions participated in the congress. It opened with an address by President Fok Chun Wan, followed by a welcoming speech by Mr. Airlangga Hartarto, President of the Indonesia Wushu Association.

2018 is the election year for WFA, and President Fok Chun Wan stated in his address that the WFA experienced four years of challenges; not only was a new President elected and Secretary General appointed, but also the Secretariat moved from Tokyo to Macau, China. There was an increase in competitions, including the 1st Sanda Asian Cup

and the hosting of the 1st Asian Traditional Wushu Championships, as well as the establishment of the Asia Wushu Development foundation to support the development of wushu in each country. He believes that the new team will continue to positively promote the WFA and the development of wushu in Asia.

A resolution was been made on the candidate list for the new session of the Executive Committee for the term 2018 to 2022. Fok Chun Wan remains as the President; Mahdi Alinejad (Iran), Zhang Qiuping (China), Julian Camacho (Philippines) and Park Chang Bum (Korea) as Vice-Presidents; Chan Weng Kit (Macau, China) as the Secretary General; and Executive Committee Members are Li Bo Bo (Myanmar), Yang Mei Jung (Chinese Taipei), Bhupender Bajwa (India), Okasaki Yutaka (Japan), Chong Kim Fatt (Malaysia), and Airlangga Hartarto (Indonesia).

The meeting also approved the host of the 1st Asian Traditional Wushu Championships in Nanjing, China in end of November, the 2019 host of the 10th Asian Junior Wushu Championships in Brunei; and in 2022 the 10th Asian Wushu Championships in India.

The WFA invited Anthony Goh, IWUF Executive Vice President to introduce the future plans of

the IWUF; he expressed that he was glad to be invited to attend the congress, and that it is a great opportunity for continental federations to stay close and to support the work of the IWUF.

Lastly, the WFA has granted Honorary Vice-President positions to Kyuhei Muraoka (Japan) and Kee Yong Wee (Malaysia) in appreciation for their contribution in the development of wushu in Asia over the past years. Kyuhei Muraoka was absent due to physical conditions, but the honorary certificate was accepted by Okasaki Yutaka on his behalf. Further, Mohammadreza Pourgholaminejad (Iran) will soon be leaving his position, and certificate of appreciation was awarded for his service for the past 20 years.

The next congress will be held in India during the Asian Wushu Championships in 2020.



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5th National Taiji Championships in Morocco

On Saturday, January 20, 2019, the 5th National Taiji Championships, organized by the Moroccan Royal Wushu Federation, were held in Khder Reddad Stadium in Temara, Morocco with 160 athletes participating.



Lunar New Year in Chile

The Chilean Wushu Federation celebrated the Chinese New Year “Year of the Pig,” with performances across the country in January from schools in four different Chilean cities demonstrating public wushu and lion dance exhibitions.



Moscow Wushu Stars

On February 22-27, 2019, Moscow Wushu Stars were held at Moscow Wushu Palace in Russia with more than 900 participants from 22 countries and regions.

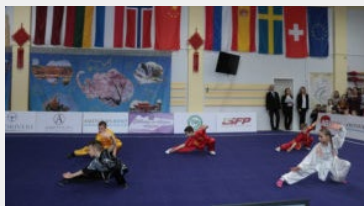


National Day of Wushu in Morocco

The Moroccan Royal Wushu Federation, under the leadership of its President Mr. Abderrahmane Essenaghi, has established February 24th of each year as the National Day of Wushu in Morocco, and for its debut celebrations took place in Marrakech, Tetouan - Martil, Oriental, Settati, Casablanca, Meknes - Bofkran, Safi, and Souss Massa.

7th Latvia Open Wushu Championships

On February 2, 2019, the 7th Latvia Open Wushu Championships were held in Riga, Latvia with nearly 300 participants from all over the country.



11th Serbia Open Championships

On February 2, 2019 the Serbian Kungfu Wushu Federation hosted the 11th Serbia Open Championships with 180 athletes from 5 countries coming together in Sombor to compete in wing chun, sanda, qingda, and taolu competition.



2nd Annual Palestine Schools Championships

Nearly 300 athletes from attended the 2nd annual Palestine Schools Championships which were held on February 7, 2019 in Ramallah, Palestine in coordination with the Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education with the aim of spreading the sport of wushu in schools for both boys and girls.



1st National Kungfu Championships Held in Morocco

The Moroccan Royal Wushu Federation held the 1st National Kungfu Championships in Temara on February 17, 2019, with almost 350 athletes of different ages from all over the country performing and competing at the Khder Reddad Stadium.



10th All Pakistan Children's Wushu Championships

The Pakistan Wushu Federation organized the 10th All Pakistan Children Wushu Championships from February 26-28, 2019 in Lahore, Pakistan, with more than 250 athletes and officials from across 4 provinces and 3 wushu associations participating.



French Taolu Championships and Taolu Cup

From March 16 to 17, 2019, French Taolu Championships and Taolu Cup was held in Deauville, France, attracting nearly 300 athletes.



Serbia Wushu Team Participated in the Enpi Cup

The Serbia wushu team participated in the Enpi Cup in Subotica on March 3, 2019, the biggest martial arts tournament in Serbia.



Belgian Wushu Championship 2019

On March 9, 2019 the Belgian Wushu Federation conducted a successful Belgian Wushu Championship in Aerschoot Flandria, with over 200 athletes and 700 total participants competing in traditional and modern wushu.





Bermuda Sanshou (Wushu) Federation Performs at Women in Sport Banquet and Expo

On March 8-9, 2019, the Bermuda Olympic Association hosted the Women in Sport Banquet & Expo in celebration of International Women's Day, and as part of the event, women and girls of the Bermuda Sanshou (Wushu) Association gave a demonstration that was very well-received and provided great exposure for wushu.



Kazakhstan National Junior Wushu Championship 2019

On March 22-24, 2019, 450 athletes from 12 regions of Kazakhstan competed in taolu and sanda at the Kazakhstan National Junior Wushu Championship 2019.



Slovak Wushu Championships 2019

Slovak Wushu Championship 2019 took place on May 4, 2019 in the Elán sports hall, Bajkalská 7 in Bratislava. Athletes from Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Ukraine and Slovakia together competed in more than 300 performances in the friendly atmosphere.



Moravy Open Wushu Competition in Czech Republic

On March 30, 2019, 200 athletes from Slovak, Hungary and Czech Republic participated in Moravy Open Wushu Competition at T.J. Tesla stadium in Brno, Czech Republic.



Chilean Wushu Federation Conducts Taolu Regulations Course

On March 31, 2019, in Santiago, Chile, the Chilean Wushu Federation conducted a course in taolu regulations to update coaches, judges and athletes, directed by Mrs. Elizette Toledo, international judge.



7th Chilean Junior Wushu Championships

On April 14, 2019, the 7th Chilean Junior Wushu Championships were held in Puente Alto, Santiago with more than 100 athletes between 5-17 years old participating. For the first time children and junior sanda were included, a great step for the development of the national sanda for future generations.



2019 Golden State International Wushu Championships and USAWKF National Team Trials

On April 6, the 2019 Golden State International Wushu Championships and USAWKF Nationals and Team Trials were successfully held at the San Jose Independent High School Gymnasium, attracting 726 athletes and a total of more than 2,800 team leaders, referees, coaches, athletes, and spectators participated in this event.



Mexican National Wushu Kungfu Championships

Mexican National Wushu Kungfu Championships were held in Morelia, capital city of the state of Michoacan, from May 2-3, in which 12 states from all around Mexico were represented by 262 athletes from 7 to 62 years old.





The 8th World Kungfu Championships Press Conference Held in Emeishan, China

On January 21, 2019, a press conference for the 8th World Kungfu Championships (8th WKFC) was held in Emeishan City, China, to introduce to various media the significance of the event, its preparations, and to send a sincere invitation to global wushu enthusiasts everywhere.

Mr. Anthony Goh, IWUF Executive Vice President; Yang Zhanqi, Deputy Director of the Wushu Sports Management Center of General Administration of Sports of China; Yang Haiyi, General Secretary of the Party Committee and Member of the Party Group of the Sichuan Provincial Sports Bureau; Yu Li, Party Member of the Standing Committee of the CPC Leshan Municipal Committee, and Minister of Publicity Department; Wu Xiaoyi, Deputy Secretary of the CPC Emeishan Municipal Committee and Mayor of Emeishan City;

Chen Lian, Deputy Director of the Tourism and Sports Committee of Leshan City, and other guests attended this press conference.

As one of IWUF's signature events, the World Kungfu Championships were established by the IWUF to promote the development of traditional wushu. The event is held every two years and has successfully completed seven editions. The WKFC features a rich variety of competition events, large participation, and a wide range of ages. It also offers a dynamic seminar program with many renowned wushu teachers from around the world. The 8th WKFC will be hosted by the International Wushu Federation and the Chinese Wushu Association, organized by the Sichuan Provincial Sports Bureau and the Leshan Municipal People's Government and co-organized by the Leshan

Tourism and Sports Development Committee, the Emeishan Municipal People's Government, the Emeishan Scenic Area Management Committee, and the Sichuan Wushu Association.

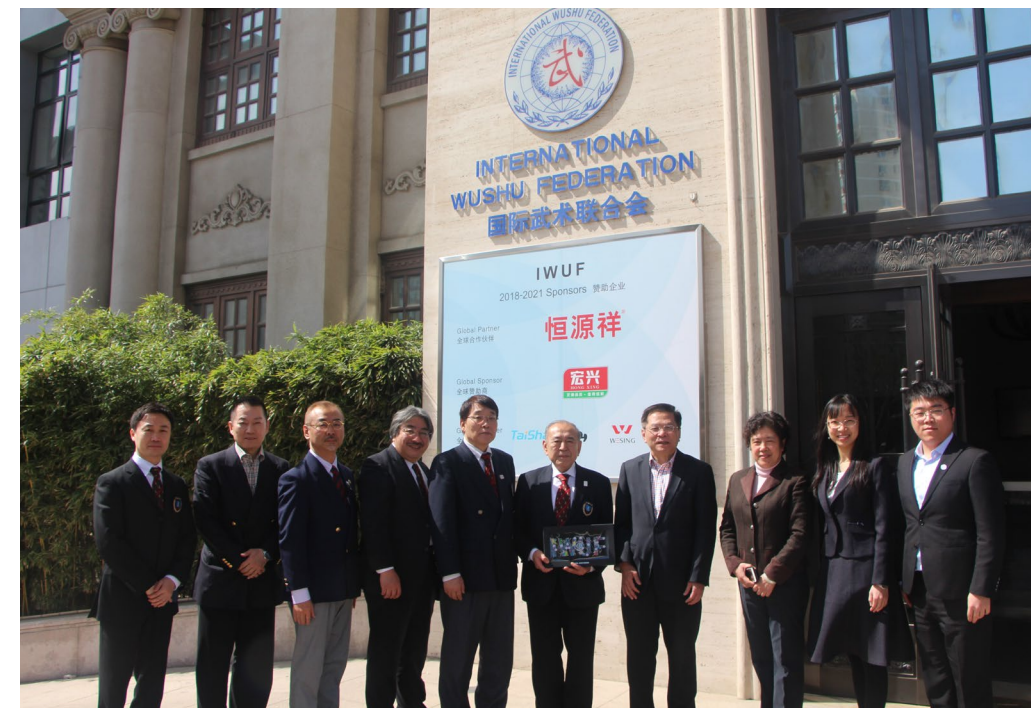


The 8th World Junior Wushu Championships in Morocco in 2020

A delegation from the International Wushu Federation, represented by Mr. Anthony Goh, Executive Vice President of the IWUF, and Mr. Sherif Mostafa, Vice President of the IWUF, visited Rabat, Morocco, to inspect the sports halls hosting the 8th World Junior Wushu Championships to be held in Rabat, Morocco in 2020. The delegation visited hotels and gymnasiums and discussed all the preparations for this official IWUF event in Morocco.



TAOLU WORLD CUP COMES TO TOKYO, JAPAN!



On March 27, Mr. Okazaki, Executive President of the Japan Wushu Taijiquan Federation (JWTF), led a delegation of six people to the Beijing office of IWUF and was warmly received by Mr. Anthony Goh, IWUF Executive Vice President.

Anthony Goh said that the JWTF is a very important IWUF member federation, having trained many outstanding international wushu athletes and champions, with the Japanese Wushu Team consistently making a big impact on the international wushu stage. The 3rd Taolu World Cup will be held in Tokyo, Japan in 2020. The Taolu World Cup (TWC) is one of the six official events of the IWUF and is the highest level of international taolu competition. TWC athletes are selected based on their performance

in the previous World Wushu Championships (WWC), and top 8 finishers in each category of the upcoming 15th WWC this year will qualify to compete in Tokyo. The Japanese wushu team especially excels in taolu competition, and there is no doubt that the JWTF will bring a wonderful TWC experience to wushu fans all around the world.

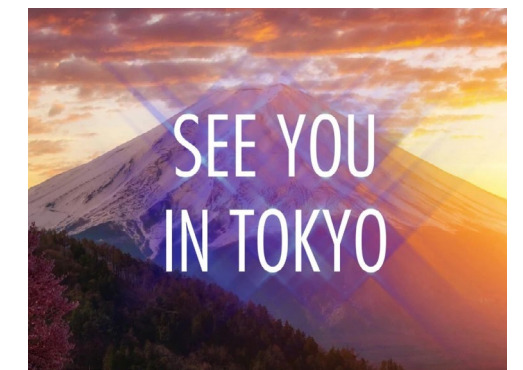
Mr. Okazaki said that the wushu movement's base in Japan has both depth and breadth, with the JWTF composed of wushu associations in 47 prefectures and counties, and over 2 million wushu enthusiasts in the country supporting the development of wushu; the All-Japan Wushu Taijiquan Championships has been held for 35 consecutive years, with more than 2,000 athletes

selected from all over the country.

The meeting between the delegation and the IWUF Secretariat covered various aspects of the 3rd TWC preparatory work including arrival and transportation, the competition itself, media promotion, and marketing development. At present, the preparations for the 3rd TWC are progressing smoothly, and the JWTF is putting forth its utmost effort to organize the event.

On October 18 of this year, the 36th IWUF Executive Board Meeting will be held in Shanghai, coinciding with the 15th WWC. At that time, the Japan Wushu Taijiquan Federation will make an official preparation progress report.

JWTF Secretary General Masao Kawasaki, Marketing and Business Development Minister Shigekazu Kondo, International Affairs Exchange Minister Sun Jianming, International Affairs Exchange Vice Minister Koichi Uehama, Director of the Athlete Development Committee Kong Xiangdong and other relevant IWUF department members attended the meeting.





First Plenary Meeting of the 15th World Wushu Championships Organizing Committee

On March 18, 2019, the first plenary meeting of the Organizing Committee of the 15th World Wushu Championships (or Local Organizing Committee, LOC) was held in Shanghai, China.

The Organizing Committee of 15th WWC consists of one office and nine departments which cover various aspects of the event. The preparatory work for this event has been fully launched, and the LOC will refine the event operation plan to provide excellent event services for all participants, creating the "Shanghai Standard" for the World Wushu Championships. The event venue Minhang Gymnasium will be fully upgraded for the 15th WWC. A series of promotion activities includes a wushu demonstration at United Nations Chinese Language Day, a wushu performance with 30,000 participants in Henan, China, and a 15th WWC logo and mascot design competition to create an atmosphere of excitement for this event. The LOC will also create innovative marketing development for the 15th WWC.



Chen Qun, Director of the 15th World Wushu Championships Organizing Committee and Deputy Mayor of Shanghai City, says that all members of the Organizing Committee fully understand the importance of hosting the World Wushu Championships and will do their best to organize it to the highest international standards. Close attention will be paid to the renovation and upgrading of venues, the reception of domestic and foreign guests, transportation security, volunteer services, and medical security.

Zhang Qiuping, Deputy Director of the 15th World Wushu Championships Organizing Committee, IWUF Secretary General and CWA President, expressed his hopes that 15th WWC could fully demonstrate the role of wushu in physical fitness and contribute

to the greater popularization of wushu. The IWUF and CWA give full credit to Shanghai's experience in hosting international competitions, and believe the "Shanghai Standard" will enhance the WWC and contribute to the long-term promotion and development of the sport of wushu.

Gu Jinshan, Deputy Director of the LOC and Deputy Secretary General of the Shanghai Municipal Government, presided over the meeting. Xu Bin, Deputy Director of the LOC and Director of the Shanghai Municipal Sports Bureau, reported on the progress of the preparations for the event. Members of the LOC in charge of different departments exchanged speeches. As the preparations continue to develop we will provide new updates on the 15th WWC.



The 15th World Wushu Championships Commercial Development Enters Fast Track

On the morning of May 29th, the signing ceremony of the 15th World Wushu Championships was held at Shanghai Sports Building in Shanghai, China. As the event's supreme partner, Shanghai Center and Hi Time Real Estate will jointly assist in the preparation of the 15th WWC in terms of event promotion and brand promotion.

Anthony Goh, IWUF Executive Vice President, Xu Bin, Deputy Director of the LOC and Director of the Shanghai Municipal Sports Bureau, Luo Wenhua, Secretary General of the LOC, and Deputy Director of the Shanghai Sports Bureau, Chen Qingjiang, President of Shanghai Chengtou Group Co., Ltd. Gu Jianping, General Manager of Shanghai Center Building Construction and Development Co., Ltd., Mei Xue, General Manager of Shanghai Center Building Business Operation Co., Ltd., Ding Jinsong, Chairman of Shanghai Hi Time Real Estate (Group) Co., Ltd., President Zhang Zhiming, Vice President Yu Qun, and other guests attended the signing ceremony.

The World Wushu Championships is the highest level international competition in wushu world. The 15th WWC will be held at the Minhang Stadium in Shanghai, China from October 19-23. It is expected that the number of participating countries and regions will reach nearly 100, and the total number of participants will exceed 1,000. It is likely to become the largest number of participating countries and athletes in a World Wushu Championships. Shanghai Center and Hi Time Real Estate, as two major partners, will participate in the event preparation throughout the event. While helping the 15th WWC to improve the quality of the event and expand the influence of the event, the company will expand its own brand value. This is also an exploratory step taken by the WWC and the host city of Shanghai in the preparation of subsequent international top sports events.

Shanghai is accelerating the creation of a world-famous sports city and the capital of international sports events. Holding the 15th WWC will further

demonstrate the wushu culture of Shanghai and the global charm of wushu. Since September last year, with the strong support of Shanghai SMG Group and the Oriental Broadcasting Center, the offline promotion activities with the promotion of the event as the core have been carried out successfully; such events include the wushu performance on "United Nations Chinese Day," Henan Tagou Wu School World Championships, Hong Kong Han Ding Academy events and the creation of a global collection of emblems, mascots and other activities. At the same time, the Chinese and English versions of the official website of the event are also developing. In the next step, the IWUF will work together with the Shanghai Organizing Committee to invite more wushu enthusiasts from all over the world to participate in the wushu family by attracting more national and regional elite athletes through increasing publicity activities.





15TH WORLD WUSHU CHAMPIONSHIPS

October 19-23, 2019
Shanghai, China

Shanghai, one of the most developed cities in China and in the process of building its reputation as a "world-renowned sports city," will strive to make the 15th WWC a great success, and sincerely welcomes the finest wushu athletes from around the world.



7th World Junior Wushu Championships

A Milestone in South America



From July 11-15, 2018, the 7th World Junior Wushu Championships in Brasilia, Brazil marked the first time the IWUF's signature event has been held in South America. This historic milestone is undoubtedly a signal that any NF that works this hard, with such a degree of energy and commitment, can host a highly successful event on any continent. Not only has this competition in South America bolstered wushu in the entire Southern hemisphere, and the Americas overall, but it also offered a uniquely soulful competition experience to young athletes from around the globe who made this journey at perhaps the most formative time of their sport careers. The warmth, professionalism, and passion for wushu demonstrated by our Brazilian hosts made this IWUF championships truly special, and one of the most impressive in recent memory.

By the end of the WJWC more than 600 participants from 36 countries and regions took home medals and memories, set records for

their teams and nations, and beamed out many hundreds of social media posts chronicling victory, defeat, friendship and fun. When the dust settled after the last sanda match on Sunday, Iran stood at the top of the medals table with a standout total of 26, and 11 of them gold. Hong Kong's strong team followed closely, with 23 medals, 10 gold. And bringing a high energy of the Americas was USA, with a record-setting 16 medals, 8 of them gold. Malaysian athletes' suitcases were far heavier on their trip back from Brazil, with 21 total medals (7 gold), and next came China with 9 total (7 gold), Macau, China with 13 total (4 gold), Japan with 8 total (4 gold), Singapore with 14 total (3 gold), Korea with 8 total (3 gold), and rounding out the top 10 was Vietnam with 9 total (3 gold.) Notable also were Indonesia's 19 total medals, and Egypt's remarkably strong team that added up 15 to their count.

Beyond the hardware, other stories were told – like New Zealand bringing their first team ever to the

WJWC, and South American teams of Paraguay, Uruguay and Peru proudly debuting their athletes on the medal map with strong showings. Gold may have eluded Brazil this time, but the 3 silver and bronze medals it accrued elicited euphoric applause from a boisterous audience of cheering fans. The spirit of these games was high as athletes supported each other, gave countless hugs and dried friends' tears. One of the beautiful things about a junior championships is the openness of these young teenage athletes to having new experiences, they like to make new friends at the drop of a hat, and truly find wonder discovering new cultures. Whether it was helping tie a sash in the warm up area, kicking back together to watch World Cup football between events, or snapping photos at some of Brasilia's stunning architectural landmarks, the camaraderie at this 7th WJWC was truly inspiring. Undoubtedly some remarkable lifetime friendships may have been forged here in Brazil.



Opening Ceremony – Brazil Style!

To open the games in Brasilia on July 11, excited athletes, officials and VIP guests gathered for a joyous celebration of wushu and Brazilian culture at the Royal Tulip Hotel to inaugurate the games. Mr. Marcus Alves, President of the Brazilian Wushu Confederation, welcomed the international delegations and special guests to the event. Mr. Anthony Goh, Executive Vice President of IWUF, also addressed the athletes, judges and distinguished guests, and expressed the IWUF's thanks to the Brazilian organizers for their excellent hospitality.

In one of the evening's highlights the Sport Minister of Brazil, Mr. Leandro Cruz, gave an inspirational speech encouraging the young athletes. Mr. Daniel Dionisio Madeira, President of Brasilia Wushu Federation welcomed guests and spoke of the historic nature of having the 7th WJWC take place in Brazil and how these games will greatly promote wushu in South America and in the surrounding regions. After a delicious banquet featuring local cuisine, the guests were treated to an exciting program featuring dynamic capoeira, Brazilian dance and some rocking music performances. The evening ended joyously with athletes dancing across the room, and Sport Minister Cruz joined in much to the delight of all.



On the morning of July 12 the 7th WJWC began, and we saw fierce competition, nerves and confidence, gracious winners and losers, and a new generation of wushu family – along with a few old faces who will soon be moving on to the adult competitions.

Things started off with one of the toughest categories, Boy's Changquan Group A. Alex Ni from the USA fought his way to the top of the podium with an impressive 9.47, followed by Korea's Jeongyeol Park with 9.44, and Malaysia's Cheong Wan Tan at 9.41 – all strong, stellar scores for a junior event. Alex's mom, Hong Ni, was watching the competition nervously and she was completely thrilled when his name appeared in the final result at the top of the scoreboard. After the medal ceremony she told us, "I feel so surprised and happy, this gold medal beyond my imagination. Alex has been training for ten years, and he works very hard, and he's very passionate about wushu.

He went to train and live in Virginia near his coaches for one month before the championships. He trained every day. I visited on weekends."

USA team coach Eugene Moy added, "Alex came to our school in 2014, from a more traditional background, and he showed himself to be a really hard worker. He has more endurance than anyone I've ever met. He lives in New Jersey, and he'll come down to train in Virginia for a week or two at a time and do long, intense classes every day."

This kind of dedication in the IWUF's junior division seemed more apparent in this Brasilia championships than perhaps any previous WJWC. Many of the other champions here have put in countless hours of practice and dedication, despite their tender years and other school commitments. The "A" category events from taijiquan to nanquan were peppered with top scores ranging into the 9.4s, and even the "C" levels of youngest athletes showed a sharp improvement from past events.

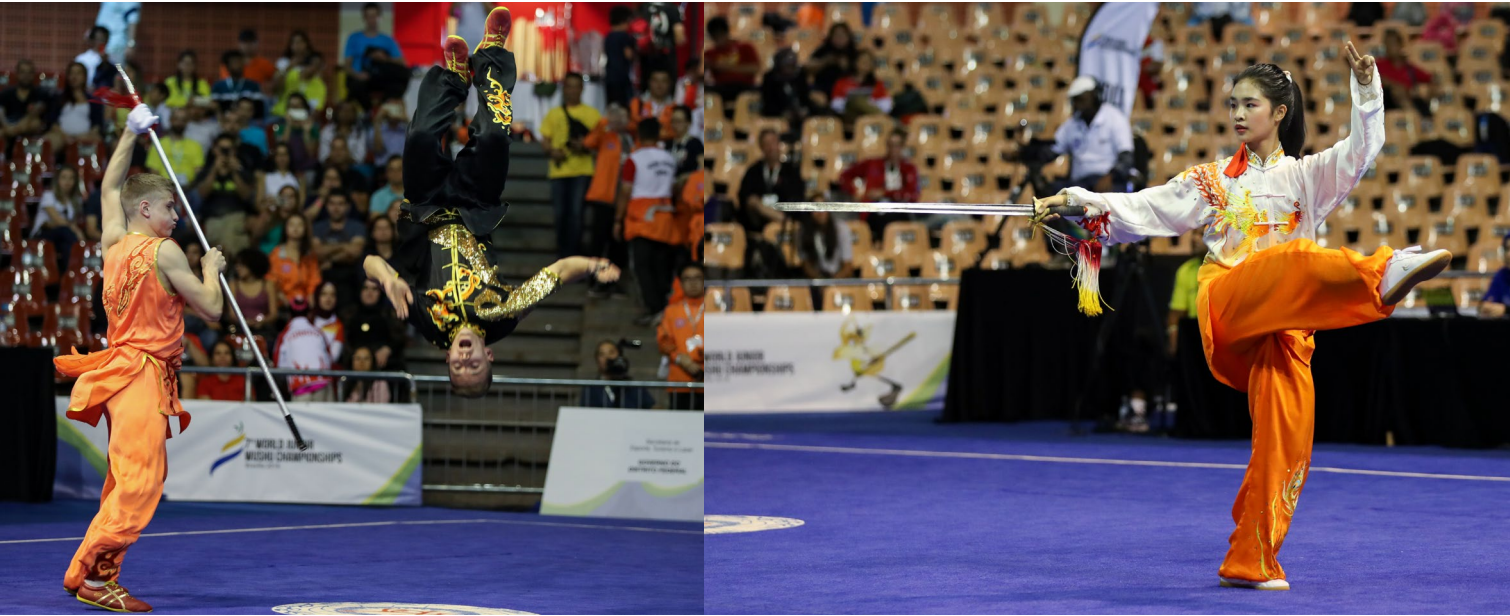
Dr. Mahdi Alinejad, President of the Iran Wushu Federation and Executive Board Member of the IWUF, watched the entire three days of taolu and sanda events intently. He commented, " I think the competition level is better than two years ago, the level of the athletes is higher and higher. Group A especially, is close to the adult level. I have seen a lot of good performances in this competition."

Eugene Moy, USA Taolu Coach, noted that this has been the most successful WJWC event ever for the USA, which ended up winning 8 gold, 4 silver and 4 bronze medals. He said, "USA delegations have historically been competitive at the junior level, but the results achieved in Brasilia far surpassed our previous best for both golds and total medals. For additional context, US junior athletes won as many golds (8) at the 7th WJWC as they had at the past three World Junior Wushu Championships combined – 4th WJWC (4 golds), 5th WJWC (3 golds), and 6th WJWC (1 gold). These athletes should be commended for taking full advantage of the opportunity presented

to them. Also," he adds, "it was clear how much these championships meant to our Brazilian hosts. Their dedication and tireless work left a lasting impression on us. In return I hope we, the participants of the 7th World Junior Wushu Championships, have done our part to show the Brazilian public a good and lasting impression of wushu."

Iran wushu's golden sweep in Brasilia had Dr. Alinejad smiling as he and his team celebrated an unprecedented WJWC victory with the top total of 26 medals, including 2 gold for taolu and 9 for sanda. The story of Iran's junior wushu team is inspirational, and rather a notable model. "Most of our Iranian junior team is new at this Brasilia event," explained Dr. Alinejad. "We are making a big investment in this generation to have the best result in the future. We've brought a full team of 23. I'm so happy this group has achieved so much here, although it was difficult for us to come from Iran to Brazil. But we work hard to give them a chance to have some experience for the future."

Stories from the Competition in Brasilia



Dr. Alinejad continued, "The taolu experience is a good one here for our team, and we are investing for the future intaolu athletes in Iran. There, sanda is still 4-5 times more popular, but taolu appeal is really growing. One of our star champions, Farshad Arabi, is the coach of six boys on the team here in Brasilia, and he's done an excellent job. This creates a continuum for taolu in Iran, as some of our best athletes can transition from athletes to coach. This is special to see at this WJWC here in Brazil."

To add to the excitement for the team, the Iranian ambassador to Brazil came to the opening ceremony of the 7th WJWC and two days later invited the whole team to the Iran embassy for

dinner. This kind of official and cultural recognition is also an important boost to promoting the sport of wushu.

Dr. Alinejad also noted, "We are so glad to come here and support Brasilia, and the hosts here have been working hard for two years since they were awarded the WJWC. I fully supported Brazil in this event, and I was always sure that Marcus Alves can do a good job. This is the first time a major IWUF championships comes to the South American continent, and this was my reason to support Brasilia. We need to give a chance to a new area to host the competition. Now I'm so proud of this choice. Everything here is excellent, even more than expected. I can really say that

this is one of the best competitions held in the history of wushu. The accommodations, food, transportation, venue – all are excellent. The best thing is the volunteers, who are warm and very helpful, and very friendly. I think this is one of the milestones in the IWUF's organization of events."

"It's also positive," he concluded, "that we are seeing more South American athletes having a chance to come here – more from Paraguay, Uruguay, and Argentina. I hope we can continue this policy in future, and have another championships in the Americas. I think it is also a big encouragement for Africa to have the next World Junior Wushu Championships."





The friendly rivalry between Iran and Egypt on the sanda leitai ended in both countries celebrating with smiles at the closing ceremony. President of the Egyptian Wushu Federation, and IWUF Executive Board Vice President, Sherif Mostafa spent many hours with his team which really broke out to shine at this Brasilia championships, showing skill and spirit on the leitai, but also a great deal of young promise on the taolu carpet. The Egyptian team's 15 medals attest to this.

Mr. Mostafa remarked, "This event has been very great in Brasilia, and the arena is very nice for competition. The people are all kind and welcome us very warmly. The athletes in Egypt have been training several years for this – they all come to win. The government support there is very important to us, and so this event means a lot. The athletes who win medals get a good reward of prize money when they return home, which encourages them a lot. I hope Africa will host the WJWC in 2020, and we will do our best to make the event as successful as this one."

One may remember that some of the success of both Iran and Egypt comes from strong government support from their sport ministries. But smaller countries, with relatively little wushu culture and no government support, also found deep meaning in Brasilia. New Zealand is one such example, and their enthusiasm and spirit was not dampened in the least by not winning any medals. Instead, the athletes, coach and parents found a golden wealth of experience in coming to their first WJWC event ever.

One New Zealand parent helped usher her 12-year-old daughter's team through this new experience. She told us, "This was a really great experience for New Zealand wushu, and

it was our first time to the World Junior Wushu Championships. We didn't have a lot of time to prepare, and in New Zealand the athletes have a lot of pressure to study for school, so they only practice 1-2 times per week. My daughter was surprised to suddenly feel under a lot of pressure when she got to the competition. I always thought she was really confident, but she got here and felt the pressure. This was a good learning experience for the athletes, to know what competition really feels like. Our coach also gained insight, for example now we understand the judging better, and the scoring system, how that works. The volunteers and organizers are so good, they help us make things smooth and easy every day."

New Zealand team coach Wei Zhao added, "When I came to New Zealand and was contacted to be the wushu coach, our goal was to make a national team. We did this from scratch with a lot of community support. The community helped us a lot, and helped us find a training hall. We did a fundraising performance to help sponsor our trip to Brazil. We've learned a lot here, and can take this knowledge back to New Zealand and look forward to another junior event in two years where we can really prepare and know what to expect."

In yet another contrast, former wushu champion and now Malaysia wushu team coach Lim Yew Fai is used to his team winning plenty of medals. Malaysia hosted the first WJWC at the event's launch in 2006 in Kuala Lumpur; Malaysian wushu athletes are regularly top champions across Asia and the world. But for coach Lim, the medals are not the end game of coming to Brasilia, and he says, "This event is good for the Asian athletes in a lot of ways – kids can come to Brazil and have a great experience. The competition offers them some insight and understanding into how

wushu is trained in Brazil. This young generation, they only know Asian athletes, and the wushu is different in Brazil and other countries. I want them to learn from other countries, and have global experiences."

"Wushu," he adds, "has gone out to the whole world now; people have different skin, but they train together with the same wushu feeling, like a family – this is what I like. It's good to go overseas. We can go and learn something different. I don't have a target for the team, just to come and enjoy the experience. I want them to enjoy every moment – the training moments, the competition moments, the travel. We had a team meeting and they are very happy today with seven gold medals. It's the first time to get mostly gold in the junior championships – we got 6 in Malaysia's first games."

Lim shared a story with us about the youngest athlete on the team. "Our last athlete – the youngest Alvin Toh – didn't have any medals until the last event on the third day. And then he got the gold medal – he cried. He's 10 years old. He cried the first event too when he didn't do well, and felt sad. Then in the last event he followed the routine as I told him, and he got the gold medal."

Lim adds, "I'm enjoying the event as a coach too. When they are happy, I am happy too. I've been coaching the team for seven years. We have 10 athletes here representing Malaysia. I focus on the athletes, and I want them to enjoy the games. If you give them pressure they're not happy in wushu. And what's very important is giving them the chance to know more of the world through friendship. At every event the teams get together, share social media, they are bonding, and making friends."



High Energy Sanda Finals Complete the Last Day of 7th WJWC Brasilia

The last day of the Championships in Brasilia, Brazil, came to a close on July 15 with non-stop sanda action that rocked the Nilson Nelson arena to the rafters!

The top sanda ranking went to Iran, who took home 9 gold medals and 1 bronze, followed by China with 3 golds and 2 bronze, and Egypt ranking third with 1 gold, 7 silver, and 3 bronze for a total of 11 medals.

Vietnam, Korea, Turkey, Armenia, India, Indonesia and Brazil rounded out the top 10 with a promising group of fine young competitors. The new Children's category for athletes 13-15 years old proved a big success, and overall the level of junior sanda has risen well above previous events.



Junior Girl's Sanda Finals

In the Junior Girl's 48kg final Aida HEIDARI of Iran was dominant from the start, but her opponent SAVITA from India fought back with some impressive moves. Savita took down her opponent in round two looking to even things up, but the Iranian moved ahead in points to win both rounds and the gold.

The Junior Girl's 52kg match saw a confident Nga NGO THI PHUONG from Vietnam take on Indonesia's Tharisa DEA FLORENTINA in a well-matched bout. The Vietnamese fighter won round 1 and came to dominate round 2 also, pulling ahead on points with swift kicks and scoring a decisive win as top champion.

In Junior Girl's 56kg category China's Ya CAO met her match with Egyptian fighter Rawan HOOSSENY MOHAMED in one of the most exciting fights of the day. Egypt knocked down Cao out of the gate, but was then taken down by her opponent who squeaked by on points to win round 1. In round 2 Egypt came on strong with decisive takedowns and punches to the face, eliciting cheers from the crowd. It was so close round 2 was a draw and the

audience went crazy. In round 3 Hoosseney Mohamed came out fighting, and took Cao down to roars of the crowd. She delivered some impressive kicking and punching combinations and appeared to the audience to win the round but the judges' scores came back – tied. Going to a 4th round both fighters were tired, but China managed to win it, and the match, by points.

The next Junior Girl's 60kg final saw Kimiya SHOOSHTARI of Iran pitted against Noura SOLIMAN AHMED of Egypt. The nimble, long-legged Iranian unleashed a barrage of kicks against her opponent to surge ahead in the first round, and also scored some nice takedowns in round 2. The Egyptian came back with a successful flurry of punches near the end but it was too little too late, and Iran took the gold medal to finish out the women's sanda finals.



Children's Boy's Sanda Finals

Next came the newest sanda category added to IWUF events, the Children's Boy's event, comprised of male athletes aged 13-15 years old. As he watched the action on the leिताi closely, Dr. Alinejad IWUF Executive Board member remarked, "The new sanda competition for children is excellent. I hope next time they will include girls too. Before, no one under 15 was allowed to fight sanda. But in karate and judo they can do combat at 9-10 years old. So a lot of people overlook wushu to go to those sports to compete in fighting. Now with the Children's category in sight, students can start at 9 or 10 to join our clubs in sanda. This also helps develop wushu for the younger generation. It was a very good decision made by the IWUF Technical Committee and Executive Board to add the new children's sanda category. The main concerns were about safety, so the children's regulations don't allow kicks to the head, consecutive punches to the head, and the rounds are 1:30 minutes each. So far we've had no injuries, so it's good."

The first fight here was Children Boy's 42kg, matching up Mohanad EMAD MOHAMED BEKHIT from Egypt and India's Babulu MUNDA. This was a great fight to watch, as both boys were lighting fast, full of energy and verve, and showed to be most promising strong young fighters. India's fighter darted out like a mongoose with an early takedown, and the Egyptian quickly countered with one of his own. India was scrappy, but Egypt ended round 1 with a dramatic takedown to win it. The second round saw more action and precise techniques from both fighters, but the Egyptian squeaked by on points to win the round, match and the gold medal. Overwhelmed with emotion, he danced around the leिताi with his nation's flag and then jumped into his happy coach's arms.

The next Children Boy's 45kg match pitted Semih Sah CINDIR from Turkey against Tsz Hei HEUNG of Hong Kong. It was another well-matched fight, with the Turkish fighter just pulling ahead with more punches and takedowns to take round 1. Cindir blazed out again at the start of round 2 with immediate takedowns, quickly becoming dominant and in control, especially demonstrating some great wrestling skills, and won the second round and the match.

The Children Boy's 48kg fight witnessed China's Jiawei LIANG vs. Youssef LAMLOUM ABDELMAKSOUD of Egypt. Evenly matched, they traded takedowns throughout the first round, which China won by a slight margin. Round 2 was quite exciting, and both fighters were tied neck in neck for points, but China squeaked by a point or two to take the match.

In the Children Boy's 52kg matchup Iran's Mohammadmehdi REZAEI SEPASTANAKI took on Indonesia's Bintang REINDRA NADA GUITARA. The Iranian fighter quickly proved to be dominant, capturing many points with masterful throws to take round 1. Round 2 was a bit closer as Indonesia fired off some fast kicks and punches, but the Iranian's takedowns again came to dominate, resulting in another Iranian

gold medal.

The last Children Boy's match, at 56kg, saw one of the most thrilling matches of the competition, between Ebrahim ASLANI YENKEJEH of Iran and Mohammad Saleem KUMAR of India. Kumar first threw his opponent off the leिताi, and followed up with impressive skills and strength, resisting the trademark takedowns of Iran. India took round 1, and came roaring back again in the second round with a great takedown but the Iranian was ready for him, and countered with a flurry of punches. The points were dead even until the last 30 seconds when Iran racked up fast points to just take round 2. Round 3 was another nail biter with many points scored by two exhausted fighters, but again Iran pulled ahead to just win the round and the match.





Then it was on to the next category, which opened with Junior Boy's 48kg and a matchup between Arsen BAGHRYAN of Armenia and Siefeldin MOHSEN ELSAYED from Egypt. This match really demonstrated how much the sanda in the WJWC has improved in terms of skill, preparation and technique. Both fighters came out strong, and like dancing cats they traded blows. Baghryan's gorgeous and powerful throws won him both rounds and the gold medal, to the absolute thrill of the Armenian team.

In the Junior Boy's 52kg match Jaemin SON from Korea took on Mohamed SALAHELDIN ABDULLAH of Egypt. This was another exciting fight that went to 3 rounds with two very well matched athletes. The Egyptian came out of the gate scoring two fast takedowns in round 1, which the Korean countered with by racking up points with punches and kicks. Egypt took down his opponent at the bell to win round 1. In the second round the Korean poured it on to take an early lead, with Egypt then countering with throws. Korea countered with more kicks and punches to squeak by winning round 2. Round 3 had the crowd roaring, as the two exhausted fighters traded blows for most of the round. Just by a hair Korea surged ahead on points and won the round and the gold medal.

Junior Boy's Sanda Finals



The next match, Junior Boy's 56kg, saw Shoja PANAHIGELEHKOLAEI of Iran and Abdelrahman HASSAN SELIM of Egypt give the cheering audience another epic WJWC battle. Fast and furious, both fighters were quick and powerful making the first round high energy as Iran edged ahead to win. Egypt brought out an arsenal of kicks in round 2, and despite some hard takedowns by Iran, used his well-placed, powerful punches and kicks to win it. Round 3 had the audience on the edge of its seats, as the fighters exchanged hard kicks and takedowns and were virtually tied until the very end – when the Iranian surged ahead in the last 10 seconds to pour on his techniques to steal the show and win the match.

The Junior Boy's 60kg match saw Iran's Mohammad FARHADINOWROOZANI overpower Chuong TRUONG VAN of Vietnam for most of the match, racking up a huge point gap with a succession of throws in round 1. Vietnam came back in the second round but the Iranian proved to be too powerful, and took round 2 and the match.

Then it was time for the arena to go crazy, as Brazil and Iran went head on in the Junior Boy's 65kg category. Hamid KIANIAN HAJISHOREH of Iran squared off with Guilherme MORENO GAMA of Brazil, and cheering filled the rafters as the fight began. Iran scored the first takedown, but Brazil was feisty and landed some well placed punches. The ultra strong Iranian threw his opponent off the

platform, and won round 1. But the second round brought even more cheers as the Brazilian crown cheered on their hero. The Iranian team is no slouch in the cheering department either, and the excitement was palpable. As the fighters traded blows Iran moved in like a sanda cyborg, and overpowered his opponent to win the match. Good sportsmanship all around cheered the athletes, and they hugged and saluted coaches of each side on the way out.

The Junior Boy's 70kg bout pitted Mohammad HAJIZADEH NAGHDI OLIA of Iran against Jaekook LEE of Korea. The Iranian sanda machine proved again to be unstoppable as Olia took round 1 and round 2 with little difficulty.

The Junior Boy's 75kg brought out China's sanda power with Mingjie GAO as he fought Mohamed MOHAMOD MAHMOUD EBRAHIM of Egypt. China's skill and experience with swift and powerful takedowns led to his first round victory, but in round 2 the Egyptian came back to hold his own and started to climb back up in points; nevertheless, the clock ran out for him, and China won round 2 and the match for the gold.

The last fight, the Junior Boy's 80kg, saw Iran's Hassan LOTFI of Iran fight Salahaldeen YAHYA of Jordan. The Iranian proved strongly dominant, winning the match by WPD.

In all, the sanda at the WJWC has really come into its own. Athletes are now better trained, stronger, and posses a much more diverse skill set. The new Children's Boys category proved a fine success, and many look forward to seeing the Children's Girls category added to the next event. This new crop of young, hungry talent augurs well for the future of IWUF's sanda competitions, and we eagerly await the next chapter of these fine and valiant young fighters.



THE SOCIAL MEDIA BUZZ

The IWUF joint effort with Brazilian organizers went above and beyond to create a dynamic media and social media team that brought the competition to life, and beamed the Brasilia games instantly around the world through live streaming on Wushu TV and QQ Live, and beautifully produced videos on the event website, Facebook, Instagram, and WeChat channels. Former Brazilian wushu star Paula Amidani, who was part of the Brasilia LOC as well, became a presenter and interviewer, showcasing many young athletes and their stories, as well as action on the stage and moments behind the scenes.



Junior Athletes – Looking Ahead

What's next for the maturing wushu athletes looking beyond the WJWC? Coaches may need to find a strategy for the oldest athletes aging out of the WJWC to go to the World Wushu Championships. In transitioning from juniors to adults, one of the most important things is to look at the rule set. Juniors have no nandu requirements so if juniors do add this in a WJWC the added difficulty is impressive. Rotation is not an issue in juniors, so that's an adjustment that also may be taken into account looking ahead to Shanghai. As well, athletes and coaches also have to take into account the new rules and regulations for the IWUF, and details such as the correct positions of fist and hand positions.

The 16 and 17-year-old athletes here, many garnering gold medals, won't be the oldest any more as they continue their sport careers – they will be the youngest at the next World Wushu Championships. A junior's form might not be up to the level of adult competition, and coaches may need to go back and examine the choreography, readjust it for more rigorous competition, and tweak it. After puberty young athletes likely have different grown bodies to adjust to, so they must also necessarily adjust to technique in a different way.

The Triumph of Brazil

Executive Vice President Anthony Goh reflected on the event at its close, remarking, “This is one of the best championships I have experienced. One of the unique and most impressive things about this event was the way the members of the Brazil Wushu Confederation acted in concert, as a fine-tuned team, to solve each problem that came up and offer us a wonderful experience all around here in Brasilia. They used their heart to deliver a wonderfully successful 7th World Junior Wushu Championships in every aspect. For two years the team demonstrated a unified spirit in building these games. And once the moment was here, their overall positive attitude towards solving the logistical problems of various teams was fast, efficient and always with a smile. They truly made the hospitality and warmth of the Brazilian people shine through.

I also want to recognize the leadership of Marcus Alves, whose vision, steadfastness and nurturing over two years organizing this event was essential to its success. He understands the sport, and he understands what it takes to run a good championship; he truly put his heart into it. He also was aided by many exemplary organizers around him like Rodrigo Carazzato and Paula Amidani, longtime members of the Brazilian and international wushu community, who devoted themselves to making the event so successful. I’m so proud of what this Brazilian team, and everything they’ve achieved here.”



Reflections on Hosting the 7th WJWC



Hosting the first World Junior Wushu Championships is no easy task, even for Asian countries with strong support and long experience. Brazil’s triumph in bringing off its first smooth competition – and one also full of joy and soul – is largely due to the unrelenting efforts of the organizers: the Brazil Wushu Confederation, the Brasilia Wushu Federation, and the hardworking Brasilia LOC. Marcus Alves, President of the Brazil Wushu Confederation, looked very happy on the last day of the championships, and sat down to have a word about the event, which was not without its considerable challenges due to much political upheaval in Brazil over the past two years.

“This is a really, really big event,” he said. “I have experienced hosting some big events, like the Pan America Wushu Championships, but this event is much bigger than I could imagine. I have learned a lot in the whole process. After this, we will be ready to host anything!”

Alves continued, “We had special challenges in obtaining resources, because recently in Brazil the political issues have been complicated with scandals and corruption. When we began this project we had confirmed many public and private resources, but after many scandals a number of companies stepped back. For example, the Federal Bank that supported sports confederations before cut off all sports sponsorships after the scandals except soccer. This problem was our biggest challenge, especially dealing with bureaucracy. We lost time with this, but everything worked out in time for the event. We had lots of support from many people on the Brazilian Para-Olympic committee who helped us in various areas. We have 200 great volunteers from Brasilia University. And the IWUF was also deeply supportive.”

“We have seven countries here from South America, and for the first time many of them will get medals in the WJWC, like Uruguay, Paraguay and Peru. Latin America really has strong representation here. Brazil has

16 athletes on our team.”

“I’m very happy that so many people have supported Brazil in this event, and it’s the first time ever we have organized an official IWUF competition here. It’s important for us. The Sport Minister came and saw wushu competition for the first time – he was excited! He left the VIP area and went to hang out with the crowd. He gave out medals also. It was excellent to have the opportunity to bring wushu into sharper focus for the Sport Ministry and help them see how our events are organized.”

My term as President of the Brazilian Wushu Confederation is over in 2019. I’m finishing one chapter in my wushu career, and closing this with a golden key. Mission accomplished.”

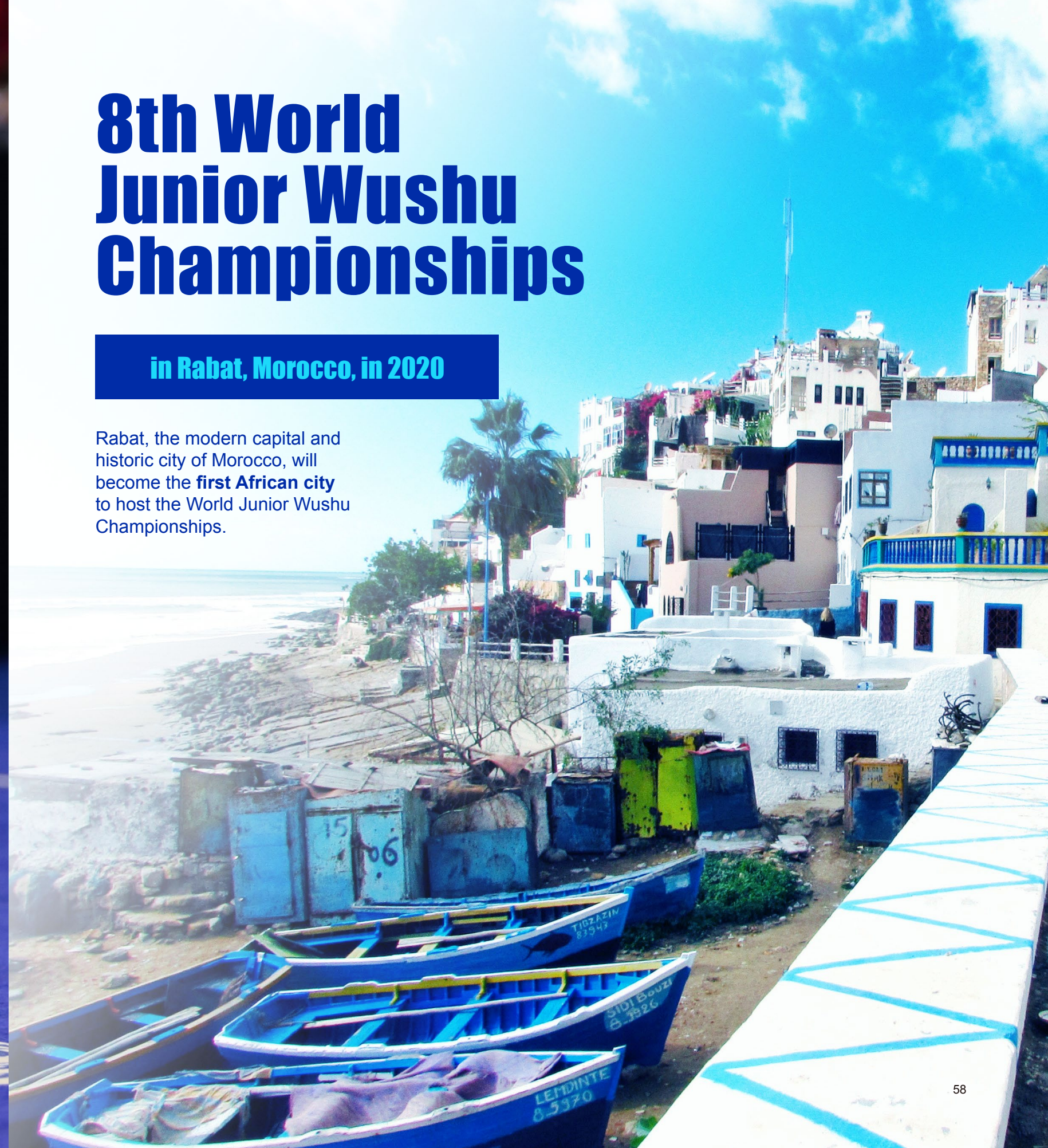
Full results of the 7th World Junior Wushu Championships can be found on the IWUF website at: iwuf.org.



8th World Junior Wushu Championships

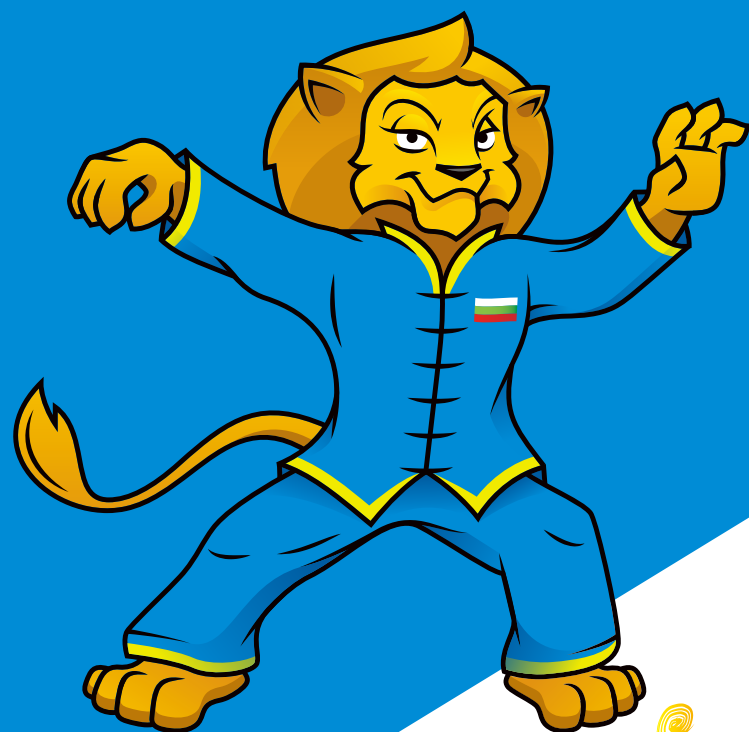
in Rabat, Morocco, in 2020

Rabat, the modern capital and historic city of Morocco, will become the **first African city** to host the World Junior Wushu Championships.



Taijiquan Triumphs in Bulgaria

The 3rd World Taijiquan Championships Solidifies Its Identity



3rd World Taijiquan Championships



3rd World T



Perched at the edge of the tumultuous Black Sea, Burgas, Bulgaria was host to the 3rd World Taijiquan Championships (WTJQC), which saw nearly 600 participants from 34 countries and regions from September 25-October 2, 2018. A myriad of taijiquan styles made for a compelling four days of championship and demonstration events. Both youngsters just discovering the thrill of this sport and silver lions exhibiting their decades of dedicated practice harmonized between two competition carpets with a rich and varied display of taijiquan. The Bulgarian Wushu Federation and Burgas Local Organizing Committee offered warm and welcoming hospitality to the athletes, families, and officials from around the globe.

By the end of the 3rd World Taijiquan Championships, China had scored a perfect 10 – taking 10 gold medals in total of 10 categories, while Hong Kong, China proved equally impressive in garnering 8 gold, 7 silver and 5 bronze medals for a total of 20! The ever-ebullient Malaysia team seized third place in the overall rankings, with 7 gold, 6 silver and 1 bronze for a total of 14; and the USA chased fast and furious, ranking 4th, with a total of 12 medals, 5 of them gold. Rounding out the top ten was Vietnam ranking 6th with 11 medals (4 gold); Indonesia ranking 7th with 5 medals (2 gold); Egypt coming in at 7th place (9 medals, with 1 gold), Russia taking 8th place (7 medals, with 1 gold), and Macau, China and Chinese Taipei tying for 9th place each with 1 gold, 3 silver, and 1 bronze for a total of 5 medals.

With this third edition, most will agree that the World Taijiquan Championships has indeed created its own identity (the first championships were inaugurated in Chengdu, China in 2014, and the second edition had its European debut in Warsaw, Poland in 2016). Now, the IWUF's signature taijiquan event has updated rules, refined judging protocols, and seen, in only six years, a significant increase in participation and a noticeably heightened level of competition. To put it simply, the Championships has come into its own.



A Lively Opening Ceremony

On the evening of September 27, taijiquan athletes, officials, VIPs and spectators were engaged by the dynamic opening ceremony of the 3rd World Taijiquan Championships. An ethereal choir set the mood with the Bulgarian national anthem, followed by a regal march in of the participating countries hoisting their national flags, accompanied by upbeat Bulgarian folk music.

IWUF Executive Vice President Anthony Goh welcomed the athletes and audience, and noted how popular taijiquan is around the globe. He remarked, "Here in Burgas we will greatly enjoy watching the world's top taiji athletes display their outstanding talents and this championships will help us move the sport of wushu forward in a unique and special way." He thanked the Bulgarian Wushu Federation, the Burgas LOC, and the city

of Burgas for their dedication in hosting this event and for their excellent hospitality.

Bulgarian Wushu Federation President Stefan Kolev gave a moving speech in which he recounted his wushu journey since 1992, underscoring the development and growth of wushu in Bulgaria over the past several decades. Regional Governor of Burgas, Mr. Vulcho Cholakov, also welcomed guests and thanked the IWUF for helping Burgas showcase taijiquan to the world. Then, the Mayor of Burgas, Mr. Dimitar Nikolov, gave a short speech and officially opened the 3rd World Taijiquan Championships to cheers and applause from the audience.

After a lively and energetic display of traditional Bulgarian dance, the athletes' oath was given by

Petar Dragoev, Vice President of the Bulgarian Wushu Federation, and the judges' oath was given by Iranian judge Hamed Katoozi. Then the audience was treated to a beautiful and dazzling display of taijiquan from the athletes of the Chinese national team.

Earlier in the day the IWUF and LOC held a successful press conference in Burgas' Municipal Hall, attended by the Vice Mayor of Burgas, Dr. Malikyan, IWUF Executive Vice President, Mr. Anthony Goh, IWUF Secretary General, Mr. Zhang Qiuping, President of the Bulgarian Wushu Federation Mr. Stefan Kolev, and Vice President of the Bulgarian Wushu Federation, Mr. Petar Dragoev.



A Strong Competition Reaches Higher

On the first morning of competition of the 3rd World Taijiquan Championships we witnessed some of the highest levels of wushu ever seen at this event over the past half dozen years. Impressive scores for gold medalists topped the rankings, and even younger A-group athletes competing for the first time internationally showed splendid performances. USA came out strong as Nathan CHOU from the USA grabbed a gold medal in Men's New Chen Style Taijiquan C (A group), and Alexander YU's Simplified 24 Movements Taijiquan C (A group) also saw him on top of the podium. China blew down the doors with super high scores

– Jingshen WANG won big with a 9.63 in Men's Optional Taijiquan C (B group) and Li ZHANG's 9.70 was a golden moment in Women's Optional Taijijian C (A group).

The second day of competition of the 3rd World Taijiquan Championships kept the energy rolling, and new champions emerged to top the podium, although China definitely kept the heat on. In Men's Optional Taijijian (B group) China's Dewen LIU crushed it with a score of 9.71, while his teammate Fangfang LIU gave a glorious performance in Women's Optional Taijiquan (B group), scoring

9.70 for gold. One of the day's highlights included the gold medal performance by Malaysia's Jack Chang LOH in Men's 42 Movements Taijiquan C (B group). Loh, a respected and well-liked athlete and longtime wushu gold medal champion, was retiring after this event. "Every moment here is precious," he said, "I want to enjoy it." One might say that almost no one enjoys a wushu event more than the Malaysia wushu team – a group of consummate athletes who are always full of smiles, encouraging words to other competitors, and inevitably laden with medals at an event's end as evidence of their immense wushu talent and meticulous training.



The third day of the 3rd World Taijiquan Championships saw excellent performances by athletes in exciting Yang and Chen style showdowns. Loh grabbed another gold in Men's 42 Movements Taijijian C, and Hong Kong, China came on strong to seize three gold medals. Egypt also proudly stepped onto the podium for silver and bronze, and Iran, Russia, and Canada made extremely impressive showings.



The last day of the 3rd World Taijiquan Championships wrapped up the action on both competition and demonstration carpets with stellar performances, but it was Bulgarian taiji that won the hearts of the hometown crowd. Petar Dragoev, Vice President of the Bulgarian Wushu Federation, coach, and a previous taiji champion, clinched team Bulgaria's first gold medal in Men's Yang Style Taijiquan Traditional Routine. The crowd roared, and cheers filled the Mladost arena to the rafters.

The demonstration events, in fact, were hugely popular both among athletes and spectators. This sport-for-all aspect of the Burgas event offered an arena for longtime practitioners to display their accumulated wealth of taiji knowledge and technique. As well, the social aspect was significant, as so many seasoned athletes with a shared passion for taiji got to connect, share knowledge, and further bond the global taiji community.

The wider age range that spanned the concurrent championship and demonstration categories (A group is 14 to 17 years; B group is 18 to 39; C group is 40 to 65) also created fine opportunities for families to travel and compete together; the event spanned generations in the most inclusive way possible, and this mingling offered many positive benefits for both younger and older athletes.



Experiences at the 3th WTJQC

Speaking of taiji generations, a bit of event buzz was created by the presence of former world champion and Chinese taiji “superstar” Gao Jiamin. who came as the [USA](#) team coach; she also was nurturing the taijiquan of her son Alex, 17, and her daughter Ava, 14, who both gave beautiful performances and won championship medals. As far as taiji goes, Gao has seen a lot after being a world-class athlete and coach for almost 40 years; she is, naturally, deeply interested in the development of wushu sport internationally, and of this World Taijiquan Championships in particular. Gao remarked on this, “I feel the global development of wushu is going well, and taiji is going in the right direction. Taiji is a great way to grow and expand the sport. It’s good to see all ages from the young to the elderly – it’s a sport for everyone.” She smiled, and added, “For older athletes it’s especially good, because age does not necessarily make you worse!”

Gao's teenage son, Alex Yu, added, “This was not my first World Taijiquan Championships, I was in Poland two years ago. This second time it feels like I'm now part of a big, international family, we all know each other. It's great to interact with the different athletes from other countries – and even if we can't communicate with language we all have a shared goal in common, and that helps unite you. Also, it's great to be here with my mom. A lot of people here know her. We're enjoying getting to know other teams, and spending time together.”



The invisible threads of taijiquan can also seem to spin coincidentally across time and space. We chatted with Caroline Roblitschka, the [Germany](#) taiji team coach, and she exclaimed, “Actually, today my hero Gao Jiamin is here as the USA coach – I first saw her perform taiji in 1991 in Shanghai. I was a student. But her performance inspired me to do taiji. I never met her until today!”

Roblitschka also commented about her team's experience at the event. “Germany,” she says, “won the bronze medal on the first day in Chen style – this is very good. In Germany it’s difficult, we don’t have support from the government, but the people in Germany love to do taiji. For us it’s great here to have both the championship events and the demonstration events together. More opportunity. When we go back, we have a lot of work to do to keep developing taiji in German culture, but it is slowly rising up.”

For [Great Britain](#), creating a cohesive taijiquan team has also proven challenging, but the success of the WTJQC has been both an inspiration and a beacon according to GB athlete Barry Phelan, who came to Burgas to compete in Sun style. “We just formed a new taiji team in Great Britain,” he informed us, “and we’re hoping to build more momentum in the next few years for taijiquan.” Phelan reunited with his GB teammate Jackson Chiu after participating together in the first Chengdu championships. Chiu added, “It’s nice to see a lot of people with similar passions and interests all gathering together here in Burgas. It’s also good to see a lot of youngsters coming up in the ranks. In the UK we live pretty far from one another, but hopefully with our new taiji team we plan to have the opportunity to train together more. In two years at this event, we will come back stronger.”

In other countries, where there is either more wushu tradition in the culture, or support from the government’s sports ministry, the story is different, yet still shaped by the momentum, inspiration and goals created by the WTJQC. In [Iran](#), for example, the Iran Wushu Federation created a separate Taijiquan Committee to oversee taijiquan development. Hamed Katoozi came to Burgas as a judge; in Iran he has also been the Secretary General and Vice President of the Taijiquan Committee for 5 years. He shared some observations about the Burgas event and about the development of taijiquan in Iran.

“There is,” Katoozi observes, “an improved level of athletes here in Bulgaria, much higher than Chengdu and Poland. In Chengdu I was a coach, in Poland I was a judge. The number of athletes and quality of the competition is higher this time. I see a lot of familiar faces from the last two events, but there’s a lot of improvement in their performances, they have practiced a lot. I love taiji, I love to watch the great performances in competition.

“In Iran,” Katoozi continues, “we have more than 10,000 taijiquan athletes and 500 taijiquan coaches. Many are not so young. But I see a lot of improvement in younger people in taiji recently. This Iranian team is much better than the past two championships. The competition aspect is effective for attracting youth to taiji. Seeing athletes getting medals is motivation. In Iran we have a committee to find talent from 6-7 years old. We make clips with cartoons to help motivate them, and explain the philosophy behind movements. Social media helps a lot too. Everyone follows the competition events on WushuTV and Instagram. All the athletes put a lot of photos on Instagram, and it’s very motivating. Our Federation also produces a video every day of the WTJQC event to post to our own website and channels for followers to see. We have a special dedicated website for our Iranian Taijiquan Committee. One person is in charge to post videos and news every day. Many people follow us. At our National Taijiquan Championships

in Iran 400 athletes attended the event. For the ones competing here in Burgas, they are proud to be an Iranian athlete on this team.”

The maturation of the WTJQC event has also inspired [Russia](#) – well known for their high level of wushu champions in taolu and sanda – to refocus on building a champion taijiquan team. Team coach Mikhail Kozhemiakin noted, “Our Russian taiji team is very young, and we were not counting on too many medals, but now at the end we are very happy – we have 7 championship medals – and every member of the team won a medal. Our team comes from all over Russia – Moscow, St. Petersburg, Tatarstan. Wushu inspires them. This level of competition is much higher than previously; the new rules were unexpected, which made competition more of a challenge, but we will continue to keep abreast of rule changes. In Chengdu our athletes were older, but now we have more youngsters in the official championship events. They are looking forward already to the next taijiquan championships in Italy in two years.”

Lim Yew Fai, the [Malaysia](#) national team coach, is always cheerful, but the fine success of his team in Burgas made him even more upbeat. He says, “Our taiji team competed for the first time in Poland, and now in Bulgaria it’s our second time. These championships are very good for wushu. Many people love traditional wushu. I see Hong Kong, USA, a lot of athletes come for these games.”

Lim adds, “When I was an athlete my first wushu coach told me, wushu competition is second, friendship is first. I learned the sport, and I came to know the whole world through wushu. How many people can do that? This experience in Bulgaria is special for the athletes, and for the coaches. I see people working hard here too, even during the competition. I saw one Italian athlete train continuously from the first day to the fourth day. I hear he got the gold medal in demonstration forms. Very hardworking.”

IWUF Executive Board Vice President Sherif

Mostafa talked with us about the effect of the establishment of the WTJQC on taijiquan development in [Egypt](#). “I think this event really keeps growing and inspiring us. Now that we are at our 3rd World Taijiquan Championships we have very good taiji athletes from Egypt. And I also notice from many more countries. This is good for wushu. I think that Bulgaria is an excellent host, and they have done a good job.”

Mostafa continues, “We have been building the Egyptian team for five years. We brought over a Chinese coach. Of ten athletes here, seven are old and three are new. In Egypt we have a separate taiji team, separate from taolu and sanda. We want to promote taiji as a sport for health also. Taiji is really growing in Egypt. I practice taiji in the morning now too!”

The [IWUF Executive Board](#) has been deeply involved with the creation of the World Taijiquan Championships and with its continued development. IWUF Executive Board Member Petru Grindeanu comments, “Here in Burgas, compared to the previous editions of this championships, I see much greater participation from more countries, a bigger number of athletes, more independent judges, and a lot of improvements. The LOC is hospitable, the accommodations are good, the food is delicious, and the volunteers are very nice. Stefan Kolev has fine support from the city and especially the mayor – they care about the event. This matters.”

“In Europe,” Grindeanu adds, “taiji has a large number of people practicing for health, but a smaller number for competition. It’s hard to afford training for high level competition. For taiji competition, we’re in the process of transformation, which is good. We’re dynamic, elastic, we can resolve issues of judging peacefully. I think the Executive Board will continue to take care of matters to benefit wushu and this event will continue to grow and evolve.”





3rd WTJQC Concludes in Celebration



Stefan Kolev, President of the Bulgarian Wushu Federation, was smiling on the last day of the event as the last medals were being presented. He said, "I'm very happy, not just because this is a successful competition, but also because I've had a wonderful experience with the IWUF, the judges, the team leaders, and of course the athletes. The Bulgarian Wushu Federation voted in a new Executive Board in 2015, and in 3 years we have organized the World Junior Wushu Championships and now the World Taijiquan Championships here in Burgas. We have shown that we can do events in Bulgaria. We wanted to show the world we have a team, we have management. And the support of the IWUF. Now, we will move forward to build a stronger Bulgarian national wushu team, and we will also build our sports center, which we hope will be a true international sports center, for people to come train in from all over the world."

Kolev adds, "This event would be difficult or impossible to organize without support from our municipal government of Burgas. I feel the

unflagging support of our mayor, and of our city council. I am myself a council member of Burgas municipality, and I feel support from everyone to make this 3rd World Taijiquan Championships a success."

The closing ceremony bid farewell to the 3rd WTJQC and opened the door to the next championships which will be held in two years. Countries participating in the Burgas championships marched in. Speeches were given by Anthony Goh, Executive Vice President of the International Wushu Federation, and Stefan Kolev, President of the Bulgarian Wushu Federation. The IWUF and the Organizing Committee of the 3rd World Taijiquan Championships exchanged gifts.

It was then formally announced that in 2020 the 4th edition of the World Taijiquan Championships will be held in Catania, Italy. Mr. Ettore Spoto, Secretary General of the Italian Wushu Kungfu Federation, came to the stage, and received the IWUF flag passed from Mr. Kolev from Bulgaria. A

preview of the future hospitality of Italy included an Italian promotional video and a wonderful Italian team taijiquan demonstration.

After the closing ceremony Executive Vice President Anthony Goh reflected happily on the event. He remarked, "I think the success of this 3rd World Taijiquan Championships signals that the IWUF has now actively created a platform to entertain the needs and interests of taiji practitioners globally, whether on an elite competition level or under the umbrella of sport for all. Most importantly, I think everyone in the taiji world now has a place to gather together, exchange and learn from one another. I'm also very pleased that the Bulgarian Wushu Federation has continued to work hard to develop its infrastructure, grow a solid events team, and that it maintains a staunch commitment and resolve to promote wushu and taiji, particularly here in Europe."

Looking Ahead to Catania

Throughout the 4-day Burgas event, Ettore Spoto, Secretary General of the Italian Wushu Kungfu Federation, was watching closely, and already he was full of energy, ideas and enthusiasm to start organizing the 4th World Taijiquan Championships in Italy two years hence. He shared some of his thoughts on the continuing evolution of this event. "I think this Championships is a relatively new event. From Chengdu to now we have more participants, more countries. This event is creating its own identity. Even if we cannot level the field between Western countries and Asian countries this event can help reduce the gap. Europe has a big taiji community, but it is sometimes disconnected from competitors. This kind of competition – with all styles – will make people open their eyes. It's a benefit for the practice of taiji, and affirms it as a sport. Promoting this event in Europe helps this evolution greatly here."

Spoto continues, "In Italy at the end of October we will have our Italian Taijiquan Championships – we will be copying this event in format. The taiji community in Italy is very interested in this. We want to promote it. In 2 years we will organize the 4th edition of the World Taijiquan Championships. Our goal is to have all the traditional community be part of it. One thing we are learning here is that we cannot compete without knowledge of correct regulations. In the next two years we will work with our National Olympic Committee to prepare seminars and teachings for this. The problem in Western countries is the lack of sport instructors. It's different to practice for health than for sport. We will ask the IWUF to support us to improve our level

for competition even more." He adds, "I believe the WTJQC will undoubtedly raise the level of taijiquan in Europe. The goal for the Catania championships is to have even more participation. Already this event has solidified its identity as the most important event for taijiquan in the world. We want to strongly promote that the WTJQC is the key event for taijiquan competition. Likely things will still evolve over the next two years, and the Federation will still suggest changes to some regulations. We will consider how to create more visibility, to encourage more people to join. In Italy athletes want this. Italy fully supports this event. It will be a revolution for this sport."



4th World Taijiquan Championships

in Catania, Italy, in 2020

Catania, one of Italy's ten largest cities, is ready to welcome the worldwide taiji community.



9th Sanda World Cup

Sanda Stars Come Out to Shine in Hangzhou, China

The world's most elite athletes of sanda put on a dazzling show in Hangzhou, China from October 27-28, 2018, at the 9th Sanda World Cup, sponsored by Wubo Kungfu. Sixty athletes from 22 countries and regions battled fast and furious to cement their place on the top podium as champion. For the first time, Iran ranked first in medals – their dominant showing earned them 7 gold and 1 silver, while China closely followed with a flawless showing of 6 gold medals. Russia seized third with two gold and a bronze; Korea came in fourth, earning 1 gold, 1 silver and two bronze, while the Philippines secured fifth place with a gold, a silver, and a bronze.

The stars of sanda were all here. These warrior heroes, who qualified for this Cup by medaling at the 14th World Wushu Championships in Kazan last year, brought their luster to the Lin'an Sports Center in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province. A Chinese audience roared with delight as the Chinese sanda team put in a flawless performance over the two-day event that ended with the mighty Xiang Ye mowing down his heavyweight opponents with unmatched power.

The event's title sponsor, Wubo Kungfu, and the Hangzhou LOC made this event glamorous with spectacular lighting and music, a regal medals ceremony, and warm hospitality. The opening ceremony welcomed the 22 teams marching in proudly with their flags. A host of VIPs looked on, and dignitaries welcomed the crowd with speeches. Speakers at the opening ceremony of the 9th Sanda World Cup included Ms. Jiya Gao, Deputy Chief of People's Government of Lin'an District, Hangzhou City; Mr. Chunqiang Lu, Party Secretary of Lin'an District Committee, Hangzhou City; Mr. Yadong Zhang, Deputy Director of Sports Bureau of Zhejiang Province; and Mr. Qiuping Zhang, IWUF Secretary-General and President of the Chinese Wushu Association. IWUF Executive Vice President, Anthony Goh welcomed everyone on behalf of the IWUF, and declared the Cup open. A lively wushu display followed, and then – it was showtime.

Much of the significance of the Sanda World Cup lies in its pivotal placement between the biennial World Wushu Championships events. Gold medal champions defend their titles here, and confirm their primacy, but they are also challenged by their former opponents who may have a chance to turn silver into gold, or bronze into silver. The Cup also acts as a touchstone for fighters to sharpen their skills and ready themselves for the next upcoming World Championships. For spectators, because the fighters are all qualified top champions, there are fewer mismatches and with only two days of competition, mostly every fight offers high-level action.

SANDA



Semi-Finals and Sanda Stars

The opening round-robin fights and semi-finals offered a handful of outstanding matchups, starting with the women's 48kg bout between a feisty Shimeng Dai from China and the Philippines' own hero Divine Wally. Both powerful stylists kept the rounds quite close in points. China just edged ahead to squeeze out the first round, and in round two Wally was ahead until Dai unleashed a flurry of strikes and kicks to squeak out the win.

China's Kang Li also riveted all eyes to the leिताi in his semifinal match against Korea's Unjin Yun – it may have been the best fight of the Sanda World Cup's first day. Both men were fast on their feet, but Kang's splendid throws and laser-focused strikes wore down his Korean opponent, who fought with his own passionate intensity until the end, in a true never-say-die fashion.

A handful of standout semifinals helped build anticipation for the finals. And when they arrived, the stars came out to shine. They included the marvelous Mansourian sisters, Elahe and Shahrbano, who always bring their charisma and distinct fighting styles to the stage with a double shot of prodigious talent that's helped change the direction of women's sanda altogether over the past half-decade. They have become contemporary sport legends in Iran, and inspire a generation of

female sanda athletes all over the world.

All of China's fighters may be on the gold standard, but several really stand out – 56kg Kang Li and his heavyweight teammate 90kg+ Xiang Ye are supernovas, and perennial audience favorites, with good reason. Li simply explodes with energy that he focuses with incredible intensity when vanquishing his opponents. And, he does it with a spare, economical style so that he barely looks fazed after each match. Xiang Ye has now cemented his place at the top of the super heavy weights, not only throwing his weight around, but doing so with powerful technique and a boyish grin that makes audiences simply fall in love with him. He's not only a star in China, but also all around the wushu world, where everyone wants to take a photo with him.

Ali Magomedov, carrying on the gold-medal legacy of his former Russian teammate, and mentor, Muslim Salikhov, is now leaving his own distinct signature on the sport of wushu. It's always a pleasure to watch this top sanda stylist and his well-polished arsenal of elegant techniques – spinning back kicks, elegant yet lethal takedowns, sharp jabs that pierce even the best defense – Magomedov is the whole package, a page from the sanda playbook.



All fighters know that everybody loses, sometimes. It's part of the game. But the Sanda World Cup is more about just winning a gold medal and prize money – it's also about wushu's exemplary sportsmanship, about sanda community, and in some ways, about taking measure of oneself and one's opponents, and looking ahead to the next World Wushu Championships which next year will be in Shanghai. Here in Hangzhou we also enjoyed sanda performances from athletes who are celebrated stars in their own countries – like Divine Wally in the Philippines, and Pooja Kadian from India, both former World Champion gold medalists, who settled for bronze this time around but who delivered great fights for the event. Likewise, European champion Vadzim Rolič of Belarus put on a terrific fighting performance with Iranian opponent Seyedmoein Taghavi, as did Egypt's Omar Mamdouh Aly Badyr against Iran's Milad Arefi Magham. And it's impossible not to admire the technical prowess and gorgeous technique on display from Iran's celebrated five-time gold medal world champion Hamidreza Gholipour, who was overpowered by Xiang Ye despite his best strategy.

Women's Sanda Finals



Excitement quickly built for the finals on Sunday. The six women's divisions turned into an Iran-China shutout for gold, with a lot of thrilling action in the process. It kicked off with China's Shimeng Dai squaring off with Indonesia's Rosalina Simanjuntak in the 48kg category. Dai had little trouble subduing her opponent, and a variety of merciless takedowns paved her way to a tidy victory.

Next, in the 52kg division, Iran's Elahe Mansourian had a chance to show off her mastery against Saidi Yasmin of Algeria with an arsenal highlighted by the deadly reach of her long legs' fast kicks to the face, as well as matchless wrestling skills. Once her arm was raised by the referee in victory, all she had to do was wait to see if her sister Shahrbanou would win a matching gold.

The next fight in 56kg was a bit more evenly matched, with China's Huimin Lin versus veteran sanda athlete Thi Thu Thuy Nguyen. The Vietnamese fighter scored first and took an early lead, but Lin fired back and moved in with a takedown to edge ahead in points. Still, Nguyen resisted takedowns and her aggression kept her almost neck and neck in points both rounds, scoring some nice throws, with the last ten seconds of round 2 being quite a nail-biter. Lin scored at the last moment to push ahead, in what was one of the closest victories of the day.

The Chinese team's domination continued in the following 60kg matchup between Yingying Cai and Tunisia's Mariem Chaabouni. Cai clearly controlled

the fight from the get go, making one clean takedown after another and completely overpowering her opponent. The Tunisian offered a valiant effort, but Cai quickly dispatched her to claim the gold medal.

All eyes were glued to the leिताi when Iran's Shahrbanou Mansourian Semironi leaped up on it to take on India's Arunpama Devi Keisham in the 65kg division. The Indian fighter was solid on her feet, and resisted a great deal of her opponent's powerful wrestling. The Iranian shifted her strategy to rain down punches and kicks which seemed to land effortlessly, and to the cheers of her fans and teammates – and sister – swooped up the gold medal.

But the action was far from over, even as the last women's final of 75kg was announced between Egypt's Heba Abelkader Saleh Mohammed and Iran's Farinaz Naziri. This was a good matchup, with both fighters landing some hard blows and the points neck and neck until Naziri edged ahead with several kicks to gain points advantage. She also had motivation on her side, as she is a national champion in Iran but this was her first international sanda competition. If this spurred her to victory, it was apparent by the smile on her face when her hand was raised in victory and she stood under her flag receiving the gold medal.



Men's Sanda Finals



In the men's finals, our champions emerged from Iran, China, Russia, Korea and the Philippines. In the 48kg category, China Yongjie Wong fought with Orkhan Hatamov of Azerbaijan, and took the lead early with an onslaught of great wrestling. Hatamov landed a few hard punches to his opponent's face, and executed some nice takedowns, but the Chinese fighter got into a groove making throw after throw; all in all it was a good fight, with Wang claiming victory at the end.

The 52kg men's final was one of the most exciting, pitting well-matched Philippine veteran Arnel Mandal against the tenacious Vietnamese fighter Minh Duc Vu. It was a rematch of the thrilling action we saw in Kazan at the 14th World Wushu Championships, when Vu defeated Mandal in one of the hardest fought bouts. This time, Mandal was out to settle the score. The first round started with a furious energy, as the fighters danced around each other and Vu attacked to take a point lead. Darting kicks and swift punches flew from both sides, and Vu closely won the first round. In round 2, even more strikes and kicks were exchanged at a rapid pace, and the spellbound audience ate it up. Mandal landed a devastating kick to his opponent's head and knocked him down – for another fighter it might have been all over, but the tough Vu got back to his feet and back to business. Mandal, however, gained the advantage and won round 2. Anticipation was high as the fighters touched gloves for the third time, and amazingly both looked almost as fresh as when they began the fight and the energy was electric. Each was primed to be victor. But soon the Philippine fighter edged ahead, first throwing Vu off the platform, and then executing several takedowns that widened the score gap until the buzzer rang. It was his proud moment to watch the Philippine flag rise to his national anthem.

China's Kang Li took on Francisco Solis from the Philippines in the 56kg bout, and from his

explosive and self-assured performance, it looked like the Chinese fighter was just getting warmed up in his previous semi-final. Li's defense was seemingly indestructible, with quick footwork that both let him evade attacks, and also brought him in for the kill. In the last ten seconds of round two he let loose a barrage of his full arsenal with devastating kicks and punches raining down on Solis. The crowd roared with appreciation and excitement, and the Chinese flag rose again proudly again that night.

Shifting gears into the 60kg division brought Russia's charismatic Ali Magomedov into the spotlight against his opponent from Indonesia, Abdul Haris Sofyan. Magomedov treated spectators to a dazzling array of his picture-perfect techniques – a spinning backfist, quick jabs to the face, iron hard kicks to the head. Against Sofyan he looked relaxed, and settled into a flow of fast takedowns, kicks and punches – one so hard that his opponent flew off the platform. The Russian also proved virtually immovable when his opponent went on the attack. Sofyan found renewed energy in the second round to take down Magomedov, but payback was quick and merciless, as he threw down the Philippine fighter again and again until the point gap was beyond repair. He hugged his opponent, and the warmth of the sanda athletes' community and mutual respect was on fine display. Korea's Seungmo Park would battle Van Cao Hong next in the 65kg division. This well matched fight showed a lot of solid fighting, and also a lot of clinch between flurried exchanges. During both rounds the scoring was close, but Park managed to close the gap and edge ahead to victory.

To win the gold in the men's 70kg division, Iran's Mohsen Mohammadseifi proved to be an indomitable powerhouse. He is not only quick on his feet, but also solid as a rock, and virtually immovable. His almost superhuman wrestling skills were a spectacle unto themselves – he

flipped his Algerian opponent Bouabid Abdelhadi with flashy style that got the audience cheering, and then used his power to push him twice off the platform in the first round. The second round mirrored the first with two throws off the platform, and the Iranian flag would rise once more on the podium.

Next up was the 75kg match between another Iranian iron man, Yousef Sabriabibegloo, and Macau's Fei Long Cai. The Iranian's dominant wrestling immediately overwhelmed Cai, who was picked up and dumped down unceremoniously too many times to count, until the fight was stopped for point differential and Sabriabibegloo claimed the gold.

The 80kg spotlight was on Russian champion Arslan Bektemirov and South Korea's Myeongjin Kim. Bektemirov, who also defeated Kim in the previous Kazan WWC final, repeated his victory in Hangzhou. As Kim was injured from a previous fight, fans only got to see Bektemirov's sleek techniques for less than two minutes before the Korean corner threw in the towel. However in his previous bout against Kyrgastan he indeed displayed some of the dazzling Russian trademark techniques including spinning back kicks and backfists.

The 85kg battle was another heavy hitting highlight of Hangzhou, pitting the tough Belorussian Vadzim Rolich against Iran's Seyemoe in Taghavi. The fighters were well-matched, and both serious and tough as nails. Each landed strong punches and the scoring remained close; Rolich was aggressive but found it hard to penetrate the Iranian's ironclad defense. Taghavi summoned extra strength at the end of round two to take down his opponent, thus edging ahead in points and winning the match. This one was another crowd pleaser to all, but especially to a jubilantly happy Iranian team pulling ahead in the rankings to eye first place.





The 90kg battle between Iran's Milad Arefi Magham and Egypt's Omar Mamdouh Aly Aly Badyr was an exciting follow up. They collided head on from the start; the Iranian threw Badyr to the ground, but the Egyptian soon planted himself and resisted well. He was aggressive, but when he slipped Iran edged ahead as the round was ending. Dramatically, Badyr knocked his opponent down at the bell, but it was too little too late to save the round. Round two had a slow start, and then a good exchange of throws. Badyr was fired up, but Arefi Magham was like a bull, stolid and always charging forward. The Egyptian began to tire, and his opponent threw him off the platform; with another two takedowns he locked in his victory for the whole Iranian team.

The 90kg+ fight is always a good closer, a spectacle of strength, power and size. To win, China's sensational sanda hero Xiang Ye had to defeat five-time world

champion Hamidreza Gholipour – a daunting task, as Gholipour is one of sanda's finest fighters, well-versed in exemplary technique and strategy. Arguably, Gholipour's techniques may have been more refined, but Ye was simply overpowering, knocking his opponent down, and in round two throwing him off the leitai twice to claim victory. In his now trademark celebration, Ye jumped off the leitai and lifted up his coach Genxue Zhang in jubilation, and the crowd went wild too.

At the medal ceremony athletes showed off bruises, bandages, national flags, and smiles. Former combatants hugged each other and posed for endless selfies and photos that flew around the world on social media. Besides their medals, the winners also claimed prize money – 10,000 Yuan Renminbi for a gold medal, 6,000 for silver medal, and 3,000 for a bronze medal.



Reflections on the 9th Sanda World Cup

Each athlete finds different value in his or her competition experience. Pooja Kadian, Kazan's 75kg women's sanda champion, was the first wushu athlete from India ever to win a gold medal at a World Wushu Championships, and she has since become a sports hero in her country. She came to fight at the Sanda World Cup even though she was injured with a torn knee ligament because of her love for the sport, and to help support her team. "I was scared to fight this time because I'm afraid my knee will be hurt badly," she says. "I will have knee surgery when I go back to India. But I love to fight, and I'm glad I came for the experience and to get a bronze medal. I will be training very hard in the next year for the World Championships in Shanghai – I'll be prepared – my goal is to win the gold medal again."



Elahe Mansourian talked to us about how she and her sister Shahrbano are celebrated sports heroes in their country. Both sisters have huge Instagram followings, and wide media coverage in newspapers and television. "It's a lot of pressure to be famous for wushu in Iran," she notes. "We feel we always need to win the gold medal now so we don't disappoint our fans. But I really love fighting sanda. This event is a great experience, and we are extremely proud to be part of this Iranian team."

Russian athlete Ali Magomedov, who became Sanda World Cup champion for the second time in Hangzhou (he placed first in Xi' an two years ago also), told us, "This is a great feeling to be here and win the gold medal. I want to thank the Hangzhou organizers for this excellent event. I'm looking forward to fighting in Shanghai next year at the World Championships, and this experience

has been important for that also."

For the Iran sanda team, the collective effort to break through and become first in the rankings of the Sanda World Cup for the first time was an historical moment both to celebrate and savor. Dr. Mahdi Alinejad, President of the Iran Wushu Federation and IWUF Executive Board Member, remarked with much enthusiasm, "If I want to say one word about the 9th Sanda World Cup – that word is "incredible" – totally incredible! To win 8 medals with 8 athletes is just amazing! For the first time Iran became the top champion in Sanda World Cup by achieving 7 gold medals. Hangzhou was a huge milestone for Iran Wushu, and this will remain in all wushu enthusiasts' memory for a long time. We worked hard and we gained our rewards. I also want to say a big "xièxiè" to the organizing committee of the 9th Sanda World Cup. They did a great job and organized wonderful event in

collaboration with the IWUF."

Anthony Goh, Executive Vice President of the IWUF, remarked at the closing ceremony, "This Sanda World Cup has offered us a superior and distinctive event all around. It has shown not only the high standard of the consummately skilled athletes, but also superb organization, sterling presentation, and top-notch broadcasting – everything is really first class. There was a lot of effort behind the scenes to make this all happen; the Lin'an Organizing Committee, Wubo Kungfu and the Chinese Wushu Association worked hard together to resolve all manner of organizational problems to deliver such outstanding results. I want to thank the officials, the volunteers and all participants who contributed to the exceptional success of this event."



2nd Taolu World Cup

Yangon, Myanmar

The 2nd Taolu World Cup (TWC) was held in Yangon, Myanmar at the National Stadium from November 17-18, 2018. Eighty-eight athletes from 21 countries and regions represented the very best of the best in taolu. These champions, who qualified in the top 8 at the previous 14th World Wushu Championships in Kazan, came to defend their titles and meet with their elite contemporaries to offer a dazzling display of wushu mastery.



By the end of the event Hong Kong, China came out first in the rankings, with six gold, two silver and two bronze medals for a total of 10 altogether. China ranked second, with six perfect golds. Malaysia ranked third with five gold, one silver and two bronze; Vietnam ranked fourth with one gold, three silver and one bronze; Macau, China ranked fifth with one gold, two silver and four bronze. The home team, Myanmar, proudly followed in sixth place with one gold, two silver and two bronze medals. The remarkable triumph of the Myanmar wushu team not only offered a proud moment for the home country, but it also gave a vital boost to the team's future development. The participating Myanmar athletes most certainly gained priceless experience and confidence for the next big world competition, but the exposure of top-level wushu to so many youth in Yangon will surely also inject great new talent here in the sport.

On the evening of November 16 during the opening ceremony teams proudly watched their flags hoisted high on the stage following a stunning display of traditional Burmese dance and music. IWUF Executive Vice President Anthony Goh welcomed all the athletes, officials, and special guests, and spoke of the significance of this event. Chairman of the Local Organizing Committee for 2nd Taolu World Cup 2018 and President of Myanmar Wushu Federation U Thisar (Li Bo Bo), gave a fine speech in which he stated that this Cup will help to promote wushu on the international stage, bring Myanmar into the world sports spotlight, and help raise up the next generation of wushu athletes. Other distinguished guest speakers also celebrated Yangon's historic role in holding this prestigious wushu event. They included Honorary President of Myanmar-Chinese Cooperation & Communication Center U Kyi Sein, Cultural Ambassador of the Embassy of the People Republic of China Tian Shan Ting, Secretary of the Myanmar Olympic Committee and Director General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Myo Hlaing, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Sports U Kyaw Oo, Deputy Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw U Lin Naing Myint, and the representative of the Yangon Region Hluttaw U Tin Maung Tun. This exceptional showing was a fine example of how an organizer can successfully gather local and government support from various key ministries and municipal agencies. This support greatly enhanced the smooth running of the 2nd Taolu World Cup and also resulted in excellent audience attendance and press attention.

The ceremony was followed by a delicious banquet featuring fine Burmese cuisine and delightful traditional music accompaniment. The teams enjoyed socializing and anticipation was high for the competition to start the next morning.



The first day of competition at the 2nd Taolu World Cup in Yangon was packed with stellar wushu performances from start to finish. World Champions defended their titles, and some newcomers blazed to unexpected glory. China won six gold medals, Hong Kong, China took a total of five, with three gold; Malaysia snatched two gold medals, and a silver, and a bronze. Macau, China followed closely with one gold, one silver and three bronze.

While gold medalists topped the podium with few surprises, much of the drama of the day's events came from some lesser known faces who found their time to shine. Paloma Panos Milla was thrilled to win a bronze medal in jianshu for Spain, offering us a fresh new face of a champion. And perhaps the most thrilling moments came when the Myanmar wushu team took to the carpet amidst roars from the packed stadium of ebullient fans. When Nyein Chan KO KO won the bronze medal in men's taijiquan the audience erupted in cheers and screams of joy. In the afternoon, Yangon's dreams came true again when Aye Thitsar MYINT fought her way to the silver podium in women's nandao. Myanmar star Sandi OO didn't medal in her highly competitive women's jianshu category, but her beautifully elegant and passionate performance made her the darling of the day. OO brushed away a few tears, and told us she was disappointed, but looking ahead to qiangshu the next day.





The second day of competition at the 2nd Taolu World Cup in Yangon continued with compelling and dramatic events in long weapons, taijijian and duilian. The afternoon's first thrill came when Myanmar's Sandi OO stepped back onto the carpet with her spear, a look of deep focus and concentration on her face. As she began, her eyes were flashing – she was here for redemption – and her powerful qiangshu performance was a thing of beauty, winning a glorious silver medal. This time, there were tears of joy.

But there was even more joy to come, as OO's Myanmar teammate Nyein Chan KO KO carved his way to a gold victory in men's taijijian. When his score topped the final scoreboard, hundreds of school children burst into cheers of uncontainable joy and jumped up and down shaking the stands. When he received his medal at the top of the podium, and the Myanmar national anthem played, a thousand voices sang along proudly in unison as the flag was raised, and it was a moving moment.

This was a proud day for sport in Myanmar, and excitement reached its peak when Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee and Union Minister from Ministry of Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe attended the morning competition and awarded the prizes to the winners. Other sports ministers and leading figures also presented awards to the winners, including Union Minister for Health and Sports, Deputy Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Mya Lay Sein; Director General for Sports and Physical Education U Myo Hlaing; Deputy Permanent Secretary from Ministry of Health and Sports U Kyaw Oo; Deputy Director General for Sports and Physical Education U Tun Myint Oo; and certainly not least, the Chairman of Myanmar Wushu Federation U Thitsar. The spotlight on wushu at this event in Yangon will undoubtedly raise its profile in the wider-ranging sports community of Myanmar, and wushu athletes may likely receive greater support and attention in the future.



In all, the high spirit of the 2nd Taolu World Cup was largely defined by the lively audience enthusiasm and packed stadium stands, thanks to the Organizing Committee's hard work and commitment to reaching out to schools and offering them free tickets, food and transportation to both days of the event. This not only brought a sustained vitality and energy to the Cup, but it also exposed a large youth audience to the beauty and power of the best wushu in the world. Most notably, the kids not only cheered for their own Myanmar athletes, but they were genuinely thrilled when any athlete from any nation showed a great performance on the carpet, giving loud cheers and applause for many countries. In fact, when the Russian team started a small "Rossiya" cheer

in their corner of bleachers, the whole section of local schoolchildren joined in and rocked the cheer to the rafters, to the utter delight of the Russian athletes performing as well as the rest of the audience. Also impressive was the support the hundreds of kids gave to athletes who happened to stumble or fall during a performance – the young audience cheered wildly for these athletes as they got up, resumed their routine, and then gave them an extra loud cheer at the end. This sportsmanship captured not only the wonderful spirit of the schoolchildren of Myanmar, but also perfectly expressed the values of wushu.

IWUF Executive Board Member Ang Mong Seng of Singapore commented, "The standards here

are very high at this World Taolu Cup event – the top eight athletes are selected from the World Championships. The organizers put a lot of energy and ideas into running this event. I'm very impressed with the stadium full of spectators, which includes about 2,000 schoolchildren each day. The organizing committee provided busses and lunch. I think other countries should follow this example for future events, it's a good lesson here. This is the first time I've seen so many younger children so enthusiastic and excited about wushu. This is promising for the younger generation, and it's what wushu is all about. It's very good to promote wushu to youth – in fact it's the best way to promote wushu."



He added, "For our athletes from Singapore here at the Taolu World Cup, this is a very good event for them. Athletes learn from each other. They learn from every experience. Now we are preparing for the SEA Games so this is valuable for them also."

Kim Fatt, President of the Malaysian Wushu Federation, remarked, "This Taolu World Cup event is an important preparation for the upcoming World Wushu Championships in 2019. Athletes will face many of the same competitors. We can see here in Yangon what our Malaysia Wushu Team needs to work on. Some need more speed, or stamina. We can gauge what other athletes have, and what we need to do. We hope this competition will give us a chance to know all the top athletes in the world. Now I am seeing almost all the countries here develop and improve. We will see how far ahead we need to go to keep up. This 2nd Taolu World Cup is very well done, nicely organized, and we are happy to be here."

At the end of the competition the athletes jubilantly marched out with flags for the closing ceremony, and IWUF Executive Vice President Anthony Goh gave an eloquent speech, thanking the Yangon LOC and all participants for a wonderful event. Then the IWUF flag was passed from Myanmar to Japan, where the 3rd Taolu World Cup will be hosted in Tokyo, Japan in 2020.





3rd Taolu World Cup

in Tokyo, Japan, in 2020

Excitement is building for **Tokyo 2020** both for the Olympics Games and the elite taolu talent at the 3rd Taolu World Cup.



Debut of the 2018 World Wing Chun Open Competition



The 2018 World Wing Chun Open Competition (WWCC) unfolded with great excitement in Foshan, China over the weekend of December 1-2, 2018. With competitors from countries and regions all over the world, the event focused exclusively on the wing chun system and its different lineages. This was a positive step toward a future where all practitioners of wing chun can test their skills in competition judged by wing chun judges. This inaugural event was conducted under the guidance of the International Wushu Federation and organized by the Chinese Wushu Association, the Guangdong Wushu Association, and the Foshan High-tech Zone

Management Committee.

The competition attracted more than 1000 athletes (with more than 200 international participants) from over 100 training schools in countries and regions including Ukraine, China, United States, Nigeria, Russia, Pakistan, Algeria, Cyprus, Canada, India, Hong Kong, China, and more. Competition events for two groups (group A and group B) – international teams and domestic participants – included individual forms events, choreographed sparring events, skill demonstration events, free combat events, and all-around combined competition.

Competition Day

1

Day 1 began in Shishan, the center of the Foshan High-tech Zone, with wing chun free fighting. In this event fighters received specific scores for performing recognized wing chun techniques. The crowd cheered as two-hand techniques scored a pair of points, single-handed punches landed one point each, and successful foot sweeps brought in one point; efficiently blocking an opponent's technique earned points, too. This particular application of martial skills provided a great way to test the rules against a large and diverse field of competitors; it also gave spectators a thrilling sight to behold, as enthusiasts watched the techniques

many of them knew well come to life in the ring. It was clear from the first bell – competitive wing chun free fighting will become even more exciting as it grows in the future.

Competitors and spectators also had the opportunity to observe forms from the wide field of wing chun styles represented, with women's, men's, and children's events grouped by age category. Six wing chun forms – siu nim tao, chum kiu, biu jee, muk yan jong (wooden dummy), luk dim boon kwan (long pole), and baat jam do (8-cut swords) – were on display and were evaluated by

the group of expert judges.

Finally, the chi sau competition was a crowd favorite, drawing huge applause and cheers of excitement. This two-person event was either fully choreographed by two partners, completely free form, or a blend of free form with predetermined techniques. Unlike competitive chi sau, this format gave the practitioners a platform to fully demonstrate the best chi sau their style of wing chun had to offer.



Competition Day

2

The second day of competition started early with the sparring division and the weapons forms. All had large fields of competitors. The wooden dummy field included men, women, boys, and girls, offering excellent performances. Scoring was tight and a gold medal in this event was won or lost by 0.02 points. The baat jaam dao competition was also very interesting for all those in attendance. With representation from so many lineages, there was equal representation of different styles of swords.

The long pole form competition allowed the spectators to realize that there is more in common between the families and styles of wing chun than differences. It was also notable to see the common threads and discussion afterward bringing people together.

The sparring event continued to provide a stress test for the rules as competitors from other styles entered the event. It was valuable to see how the rules could be interpreted to allow techniques that did not align with the nature of wing chun or spirit of friendly competition, and the organizing committee was optimistic about being able to represent wing chun's fighting nature in this event.

The long pole form competition allowed the spectators to realize that there is more in common between the families and styles of wing chun than differences.





IWUF Executive Board Member and President of the Confederation of Canadian Wushu Organizations, Sunny Tang, remarked after the event, "I want to thank the IWUF for organizing this outstanding World Wing Chun Open Competition, it was a great success. Wushu Canada sent 40 athletes to attend and compete. In the past few years, the IWUF has worked to promote traditional kungfu along with competitive wushu to the world, and it has worked out very well. It has been a good experience for us to run

such a competition, and I also have to thank the Chinese Wushu Association, the Foshan local organizing committee, and the many volunteers for their great efforts."

To cap off a great event, the closing ceremony was held at an outdoor venue in perfect Foshan weather. The energy was high at the medal ceremony, and as the awards were presented by members of the organizing committee athletes with gold, silver, and bronze medals

celebrated their victories. As the event drew to a close, friends old and new snapped photos capturing this remarkable wing chun celebration – and through social media this news was soon traveling around the world. Many are looking forward to the next event, which may ideally springboard off the success of the 2018 WWCC to continue the development, promotion and growth of wing chun around the globe.



Wushu in Multi-Sport Games

The IWUF has been deeply committed to adding wushu to a variety of multi-sport events over the past decade. Wushu has been included in the Asian Games, the World Games, the World Combat Games, and the Summer Universiade.

In 2018 wushu was successfully included in three new multi-sport events – the 3rd African Youth Games, the 1st Asia Pacific Masters Games, and the World University Championship.

Wushu's inclusion in these events brings greater international promotion for the sport; it also offers wushu athletes of all ages and abilities more chances to compete and connect with the global wushu and sport community.



1st World University
Wushu Championships

Date: August 2-5, 2018
Place: Macau, China



Wushu Competition at the First
Asia Pacific Masters Games

Date: September 7-9, 2019
Place: Penang, Malaysia



Wushu Competition at Asian
Games 2018

Date: August 19-23, 2018
Place: Jakarta, Indonesia



Wushu Competition at the
Third African Youth Games

Date: July 22-24, 2018
Place: Algiers, Algeria



IWUF Broadens Legacy with FISU at Inaugural World University Wushu Championship in Macau



The inaugural edition of the FISU World University Wushu Championship (WUC) took place in Macau, China from August 2-5, 2018. Wushu first became part of the FISU sports programme during the 2017 Taipei Summer Universiade as a non-compulsory sport. Now, IWUF continues its legacy and growing relationship with FISU

through the WUC, focusing on university students and encouraging the development of wushu in an athlete's college years. While university is a time of growth and development for athletes, it can also be a challenge to maintain a sport with a fuller and more mature schedule of study. This WUC event now offers fresh incentive to train at university, and

encourages students to seek out a new community of other fellow wushu athletes; not least, the WUC's opportunity to travel to a competition for valuable experience is a pathway to making new friends through sport, and sharpening skills for events like the world championships.



WUSHU IN MULTI-SPORT GAMES

WUC History

The history of the event traces back to 1963, the year FISU launched the World University Championship series. Looking to fill the gap for university sport competitors and fans between the Summer and Winter Universiades every other year, FISU debuted the first World University

Championship in Lund, Sweden as the city welcomed the best student handball players of the time. As single sport competitions, World University Championship events give cities and universities the opportunity to host a major international sports event with less cost and complexity. The

Championships celebrated their 50th anniversary in 2013. In 2018, 32 stand-alone World University Championship events made for a calendar full of stellar sport competitions, and wushu and the IWUF are proud to now be a part of this.



A Festive Opening Ceremony at Fisherman's Wharf

On August 1, wushu athletes from 25 countries and regions marched proudly into the arena at the Fisherman's Wharf Convention and Exhibition Centre, for the Championship's opening ceremony. After the flag raising, OC President Mr. Lou Kit Long warmly welcomed all the participants, and Anthony Goh, IWUF Executive Vice President,

addressed the room emphasizing the importance of this new partnership with FISU. His speech was followed by an address from the FISU CISCA Chair, the AUSF President Mr. Xue Yanqing. The Championship was then officially declared open by Dr. Alexis Tam Chong Weng, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture of the Macao SAR

Government. The FISU anthem was then played and the oaths of representatives of the athletes, judges and referees were made. Festivities were capped by a traditional Portuguese folk dance and cheerleading performance to showcase the convergence of cultures in the city of Macau.

Day 1

China Kicks Event Off with Double Gold

The four-day tournament at the Macau Forum began with the taijiquan and taijijian events, followed by the sanda preliminary competition. Some wushu athletes have returned a year later after competing at the 2017 Taipei Summer Universiade, but many others are new to FISU or college competitions at all. Wang Xiaohui from China kicked things off with an impressive women's taijiquan performance that brought her the gold medal with a winning score of 9.56. In

the subsequent closely-fought men's event, Wang Jingshen from China earned his gold medal with a 9.53. Ten other competitors vied for the rest of the podium, and the local audience burst into cheers and applause when Chong Ka Seng, from the host city of Macau, scored 9.47 to take the silver medal.

Holding his flowers and showing off his new gold medal, Wang commented, "This is my first time competing in international competition, and I

feel so happy and excited. I look forward now to participating in more competitions and gaining more experience." Chong was proud to represent Macau, and said, "Participating as a university student and also being a host for the first time is both exciting and stressful. I was a little nervous, but glad I could keep up my concentration. The other participants were also very competitive today."



Day 2

China's Chen Huiying Steals the Show in Nandao



Four gold medals were awarded on Day 2 in taolu morning competition. The morning started with a lively and women's changquan event won by Natalie Chriselda Tanasa who grabbed the first gold medal for Indonesia with 9.30 points. She was followed by Lin Yi-Ping from Chinese Taipei and Cheah Aggie Ruey Shin from Malaysia in second and third places, respectively.

Men's changquan was next, and it was a full field with 16 athletes. China's Li Wangzhen dazzled with an energetic 9.52 routine to take the gold, followed by Khaw Jun Lim from Malaysia and Sergei Badrutdinov battling it out for silver and

bronze. Li commented afterwards, "This is one of the most memorable tournaments of my career, and an important one to move my skills forward. I hope I can raise my score even more in the future."

Men's nangun kept the action and energy flowing, and Japan's Asayama Yoshitaka would claim the top podium spot. However, Chio Wei Keong from Macao nearly caught him with a 9.39, and snagged silver, while Indonesia's William Ajinata caught the bronze. Chio said after the medal ceremony, "I went out there and I only wanted to perform at my best – it's unexpected happiness to

also win a medal."

But the performance of the day perhaps belonged to Chinese athlete Chen Huiying, who was the last one to perform in the morning session, but her routine won her 9.55 points and the gold medal in the women's nandao event. She stood on the podium with Daria Gerasimova of Russia who won silver, and Lucy Lee from USA who took the bronze. "I was the last one competing in the arena," Chen said after the competition. "I feel excited because this is my second time representing China in world competitions."

Japan's Golden Girl Ayaka Honda Triumphs in Qiangshu

The third day of the WUC rolled out another four gold medals but many more fine performances and memorable wushu moments. It was a beautiful action from the get go as women's qiangshu graced the carpet, and Japan's star Ayaka Honda offered us her usual stellar performance to win first place. She was followed by Cheah Aggie Ruey Shin from Malaysia taking silver, and Natalie Chriselda Tanasa from Indonesia winning third place. Honda remarked after her victory, with her usual sunny smile, "It was a great experience to

come her and participate in such an international, high level competition. I really wanted to win, and now I feel very emotional. I'm grateful for all the support from people around me. Even though I was nervous when I first got to the arena, I really enjoyed my performance today."

Then came men's taijijian, where we were treated to a gold performance by Malaysia's Loh Choon How, silver skills from Kuo Po-Chun from Chinese Taipei, and bronze talent from Murakami Ryo of

Japan. It was followed by the women's taijijian where Hong Kong's Mok Uen Ying Juanita sepped into first place, followed by Kamilia Lituhayu from Indonesia and Ang Guat Lian from Brunei.

The morning concluded with an action-packed men's daoshu competition, where Malaysia's Khaw Jun Lim blazed to glory and gold with a dynamic performance, followed by some fiery moves from Russian athlete Sergei Badrutinov for silver; Lin Ye-Zhe from Chinese Taipei took bronze.



Iran Flexes its Muscles in Sanda Competition



On the final day of the FISU World University Wushu Championship the morning began, as usual, with the taolu as the men's nanquan fielded strong competitors from Indonesia, Russia and Japan, but it was home favorite Chio Wai Keong of Macao who won the gold with a masterful performance that earned him 9.45 points. This was in addition to the silver medal he had won earlier in the Nangun event. The cheers rose to the rafters of the Macau Forum, and the home crowd was ecstatic.

In the Women's Jianshu competition, Natalie Chriselda Tanasa from Indonesia finished on a memorable note winning the gold medal, to add to her gold medal in the changquan event and a bronze in qiangshu. She proudly departed from Macao with two gold, one bronze for Indonesia.

Then it was time for nanquan, where the top three places in the women's nanquan event were exactly the same as what we witnessed in the nandao competition: Chen Huiying from China won the gold, followed by Gerasimova Daria of Russia and Lee Lucy of USA.

In the sanda finals we saw a show of promising talent and several standout bouts that got the audience cheering. In the women's 52kg event China's Shimeng Dai came on strong against Indonesian opponent Rosalina Simanjutak, especially showing strong takedowns, winning the match in two rounds. In the men's 52kg China's

Yuan Peng found victory over Turkey's Mehmet Demirci in a lively bout, but from then on the story was all about Iran. In the Men's 60kg match we were truly witness to a new rising sanda star in Iranian fighter Alireza Riki, who dominated his opponent, Bokun Xiao of China, with one takedown after another and creating a huge point spread in round 1. He came roaring back even stronger in the next round, offering blistering takedowns and then finally pushing Xiao off the leिताi twice for victory. We'll be looking forward to this new Iranian force to be reckoned with!

The men's 70kg fight between Iran's Hamidreza Sahandi and Turkey's Nusret Kayhan Altunkaya was another thrilling bout that had spectators on the edge of their seats. Both men were powerful, especially in an exchange of hard blows. Iran scored takedowns that widened the point spread, and Iran took the first round. Turkey came out blazing with renewed energy in round 2, taking down his opponent, and cheers from the Turkish fans rose to the rafters. As the battle of strength continued, Sahandi pushed Altunkaya off the platform twice, for victory.

The 80kg men's bout made it clear that college wushu offers a fertile training ground for sanda athletes and some of the world's top developing talent. These fighters are peaking at full height and weight, finding their true fighting selves, and possessed of great strength and energy. The WUC turned out to be the perfect stage to This

fight between Iran's Amir Karimi and Turkey's Yunus Emre Batan was a true battle, and thrilling to the last blow. The Iranian came out with a strong throw, but his noppnent responded by throwing him off the platform. The crowd roared with anticipation, and as heavy blows were exchanged, the scores were so close, until Batan threw the Iranian fighter off again to win the round. In round two the Turk unleashed a slew of punches, edging ahead, but Karimi countered masterfully and the scores were nearly dead even with 10 seconds left to go in the second round – when the Iranian pushes Batan off the platform to squeak by to win the round. Turkish fans screamed in anguish, Iranian fans whooped with delight, and all eyes were glued to the platform for round three. Strength, grit and technique were on fine display, and gorgeous technical exchanges filled nearly every moment. By round three, it came down to who had more gas in the tank, and that turned out to be Iran. Karimi's stamina stood him in good stead as he began to dominate with takedowns, wearing his opponnt down, and surging ahead in points to win the match. However, these two fighters not only gave the spectators the best show of the night, and of the WUC, they also perfectly illustrated that developing sanda at the university level is quite ready to propel and springboard this talent to the world championships.

IWUF Executive Board member Dr. Kee Yong Wee of Malaysia remarked, "Some of our Malaysia National Team athletes are here, and some of them will go to Shanghai, so this event will give them good experience and really benefit them for the World Wushu Championships. Here at the WUC it's also desirable to high quality athletes also for this first championship, so it's beneficial both ways. They are here to compete, but also the athletes will get some vacation after competition and they will tour around. They love Macau!"

Executive Board member Petru Grindeanu also noted, "I think the organization of this event is very good. The hosts have done excellent advertising, and I see banners for the WUC around the city, which is very nice. The judges are prepared, and the logistics are well organized; it's enjoyable to watch one event at a time. It's good for the athletes too, and they need more competition experience, especially at this developing age. So I think the WUC is a very good addition to our international wushu competitions."

With wushu now finding its place in yet another major multi-sport games, the IWUF is delighted that it will be further promoted across a broader international platform and that university athletes in particular have this new opportunity to succeed in sport on a global level.

Wushu Competition at the First Asia Pacific Masters Games in Penang, Malaysia

The 1st Asia Pacific Masters Games 2018 (APMG 2018) was the first ever Masters Games for the Asia-Pacific region. This landmark sporting event comprised of 22 sports for over 5,000 participants from more than 60 countries from September 7-15, 2018. The multi-sport event is open to participants of all abilities with a minimum age criterion ranging between 25 and 35 years depending on the sport. There are no competition qualification requirements apart from the age requirement and membership in that sport's governing body.

Wushu competition at the first Asia Pacific Masters Games was held from September 7-9, 2019 with 198 participants from 14 countries and regions at the SPICE Convention Centre.

This competition was hosted by IMGA, recognized by the NOC Malaysia, organized by the Panang State Government, and supported by the Malaysian Ministry of Youth and Sports, the International Wushu Federation and the Wushu Federation of Malaysia.



WUSHU IN MULTI-SPORT GAMES

Opening Ceremony

On September 8, 2018, Jens V. Holm, IMGA Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Anthony Goh, IWUF Executive Vice President, Y. B Chong Eng, President of APMG 2018 Organizing Committee and Executive Member of the Penang Government, Dato' Yew Tung Seang, Vice President of APMG 2018 Organizing Committee and Mayor of the Penang Island City Council, Datuk Low Beng Choo, Former Olympic Council of Malaysia (OCM) Secretary-General, Linda Geh, Chief Executive Officer of APMG 2018 Organizing Committee, Dato' H'ng Ban Choon, President of Penang Wushu and Lion Dance Association and other guests attended the opening ceremony.

Anthony Goh, IWUF Executive Vice President, first welcomed the arrival of veteran athletes on behalf of the International Wushu Federation. He said that the sport of wushu is unique and that the older the wushu practitioner is, the better their skills may be. He also noted that the inclusion of wushu in the inaugural Asia Pacific Masters Games would promote the development, and expand the influence, of wushu in the Asia Pacific region.

Jens V. Holm, IMGA Chief Executive Officer, said he felt honored to witness the inauguration of Asia Pacific Masters Games in Penang, Malaysia and expressed his congratulations for the inclusion of wushu in APMG. He wished all the participants an

enjoyable and wonderful experience at the APMG Penang 2018 and looked forward to seeing them in the future IMGA events.

Y. B Chong Eng, President of APMG 2018 Organizing Committee and Executive Member of the Penang Government, expressed her warm welcome to the arrival of athletes and guests on behalf of the Penang State Government. She briefly introduced the registration and participation of wushu at the APMG Penang 2018 and hoped all the participants could enjoy the unique heritage, food and culture of beautiful Penang and Malaysian hospitality.



Wushu Competition

Wushu competition included traditional quanshu (bare hands), traditional taijiquan, taiji short weapons, long weapons and short weapons. All participants were over 30 year old and competed from September 7-9 as individuals, not representing any club or country. Just as APMG's Motto "Beyond Games" expresses, participants exchanged their skills and enjoyed friendships through competition.



Wushu Exhibition



On the last day, a wushu demonstration was held to show the unique magic of traditional wushu. To melodious music, wushu performers showed spectators various traditional wushu including taijiquan, zhoujiaquan, miaodao, liuhe bafa, chun qiu broadsword, eight diagrams sword, double-edged swords, and southern style ziwu yuanyangyue (deerhorn knives), which drew thunderous applause.

Kais Holm, IMGA President, Jens V. Holm, IMGA CEO, Mr. Anthony Goh, IWUF Executive

Vice President and H.R.H Tunku Yinluan, IMGA Honorary Vice President, IOC Member, President NOC Malaysia and his wife, Y. B Chong Eng, President of APMG 2018 Organizing Committee and Executive Member of the Penang Government, Dato' Yew Tung Seang, Vice President of APMG 2018 Organizing Committee and Mayor of the Penang Island City Council, Dato' H'ng Ban Choon, President of Penang Wushu and Lion Dance Association and other guests watched this performance.

The IWUF and IMGA share much in common. The IWUF is devoted to developing wushu throughout the world, enriching people's lives physically and mentally, and promoting friendship and understanding, free from all forms of discrimination, between all people through the spirit of sport. The principal objectives of the IMGA are to promote lifelong practice, friendship and understanding between mature sports people, regardless of age, gender, race or religion, and to strengthen the international masters sport movement through these quadrennial Games.

Wushu Competition at Asian Games 2018 in Jakarta, Indonesia



Wushu competition at the 18th Asian Games was held from August 19-23, 2018 in Jakarta, Indonesia with 201 participants from 21 countries and regions.



Competition Day

1

The Asian Games Wushu Competition began the morning of August 19 with four events, including Men's Changquan, Women's Taijiquan, Women's Nanquan and Women's Jianshu. Wushu offered one of the first medals awarded in the Asian Games. The Men's Changquan event was won by Sun Peiyuan (China) with a score of 9.75; winner of the silver medal was Edgar Xavier Marvelo

(Indonesia) with 9.72, and the bronze went to Tsai Tsemin (Chinese Taipei) with 9.70. Accompanied by Airlangga Hartarto, President of the Indonesian Wushu Association, the award was presented by Fok Chun Wan, President of the Wushu Federation of Asia, and the mascot was presented by Zhao Wenzhuo, Ambassador of Wushu Federation of Asia.

WUSHU IN MULTI-SPORT GAMES



Competition Day

2

The second day of competition saw Women's Taijijian top honors won by Lindswell (Indonesia) with a score of 9.75 to take the gold medal of the Women's Taijiquan + Taijijian all-around with a total score of 19.50. The silver and bronze medals were respectively won by Mok Uen Ying, Juanita

(Hong Kong) and Wong Agatha Chrystenzen (Philippines). In the women's Nandao competition Tang Wei (China) won the gold medal in the Women's Nanquan + Nandao all-around. Latisheva Darya

(Uzbekistan) and Yuen Ka Ying (Hong Kong) each scored a total score of 19.27, and after checking the subdivision, Latisheva Darya (Uzbekistan) won the silver medal and Yuen Ka Ying (Hong Kong) took the bronze medal. The Men's Sanda round of 16 took place in the evening.



Competition Day

3

On the morning of August 21, day 3, the Men's Gunshu event saw Wu Zhaohua (China) achieve a high score of 9.76, giving another gold medal to China with a total score of 19.52. Silver medal winner Cho Seungjae (Korea) scored 9.73 with final score of 19.45. And bronze medal winner, Hulaefi Achmad (Indonesia) scored 9.71 points with final score of 19.41.

In the Women's Qianshu all-around event, Guo Mengjiao (China) won the gold medal with final score of 19.49, Kiani Zahra (Iran) won the silver medal with 19.41 points, and Duong Thuy (Vietnam) won the bronze medal with 19.40 points.

In the Men's Nangun event, Huang Junhua (Macau, China) scored a golden 9.73 points with the final score of 19.43 points. Silver and bronze medals were respectively won by Pham Quoc Khanh (Vietnam) and Lee Yongmun (Korea). In the evening, Sanda quarterfinals continued in the evening.



Competition Day

4

August 22, Day 4, offered the last Taolu competition. The winner for Men's Taijiquan was Chen Zhouli (China) with a 9.76, with a final score of 19.51 points. Araya Tomohiro (Japan) won the silver medal with 19.42 points, and the bronze medal was won by Ko Ko Nyein Chan (Myanmar).

In the Women's Changquan event final Qi Xinyi (China) won the gold medal with a score of 9.74, Li Yi (Macau, China) won the silver medal with 9.72 points, and Hoang Thi Phuong Giang (Vietnam) took the bronze medal with 9.71 points.

In the evening, the Sanda semi-finals were conducted with Women's 52kg and 60kg, followed by Men's 56kg, 60kg, 65kg, and 70kg weight categories.



Competition Day

5

On Day 5, the last day of wushu competition, 6 bouts of Sanda made up the finals for each weight category. In the Women's 52kg and 60kg, and men's 56kg weight categories, Li Yaoyao, Cai Yingying and Shen Guoshun from China has successfully won gold medals respectively against Elaheh Mansoryan Samiroumi and Shahrbanu

Mansouriyari Semiromi from Iran, and Bui Truong Giang from Vietnam.

In the Men's 60kg final, Ahangarian Erfan (Iran) and Wang Xuetao (China) fought fiercely and fought until the third round. In the end, Ahangarian Erfan won the gold medal. In the

Men's 65kg weight category, Li Mengfan (China) eventually defeated Zafari Foroud (Iran) winning the gold medal. Last, in the Men's 70kg final, Mohammadseifi Mohsen (Iran) won the second gold medal for Iran in the Sanda event against his Chinese opponent.





Wushu in the African Youth Games



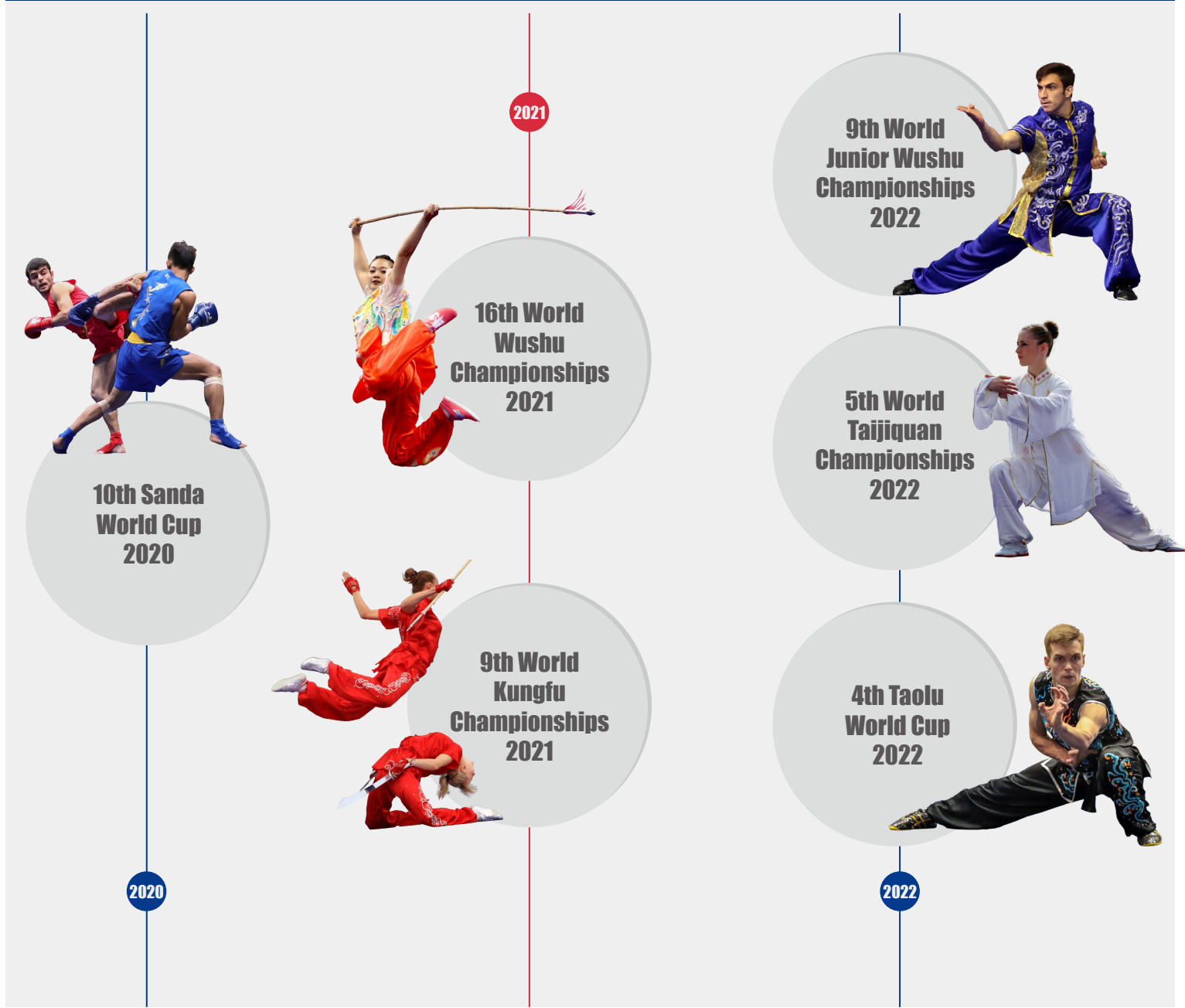
Wushu competition at the 3rd African Youth Games, comprised of sanda and taolu events, were held from July 22-24, 2018 in Algiers, Algeria. Nine African countries participated in this competition: Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia,

Morocco, Libya, Ivory Coast, Senegal, Nigeria, and Guinea. It signals a strong and positive step for the development of the sport of wushu on the continent of Africa.



Opening of the Bidding Process

for IWUF Competitions



Bring an IWUF Wushu Event to Your City!

We warmly invite national federations and cities to join in the staging of wushu events in their respective countries/regions. Application bids from cities, should be submitted through respective national wushu federations.

Bidding Procedure

- Phase 1 Early Preparation Phase**
 - Understanding the general information
- Phase 2 Registration Phase**
 - Submit Preliminary Registration Form and letter of intent
- Phase 3 Application Phase**
 - Submit bid files
 - Host City Application Form
 - Guarantee letters
- Phase 4 Selection Phase**
 - Bid file verification and Site inspection
- Phase 5 Signing Host City Contract**
 - Approval by IWUF Executive Board and awarding of hosting rights



Contact

For any inquiries regarding hosting IWUF events, please contact us at events@iwuf.org.



1st World Wushu-Kungfu Day

Celebrated Around the Globe

On August 11, 2018 the first official World Wushu-Kungfu Day (WWKD) was proudly celebrated around the world with great success. From Australia to China, Puerto Rico, Brazil, Hong Kong, Russia, USA, India and South Africa – just to name a few! – wushu clubs, schools and individuals in dozens of countries took part in public demonstrations, parties and other wushu-kungfu themed events. Energy was high, and social media was abuzz with photos, videos and words about wushu-kungfu.



By promoting an annual WWKD, the International Wushu Federation (IWUF) aims to raise global awareness of all forms of kungfu and practitioners of all kungfu styles, whether traditional kungfu or contemporary competition forms. The benefits of kungfu practice help develop athleticism, promote health, boost confidence, foster community, and promote cultural exchange. The IWUF was thrilled to celebrate these benefits with kungfu enthusiasts around the world as a part of our "sport for all" campaign!

WWKD will be celebrated each year on the first Saturday on or following August 8th, and will be accompanied by a theme each time. WWKD in 2018 was "Kungfu in Everyday Life" and the response to IWUF's call for photo and video submissions was overwhelming – we thank everyone who sent in fantastic submissions and posted on social media!



We're excited by how much the worldwide wushu-kungfu community has grown, and inspired by all of our potential for the future. We look forward to your participation and enthusiasm again in the next year on World Wushu-Kungfu Day 2019!

2019 World Wushu-Kungfu Day

Logo Design

Contest Finals



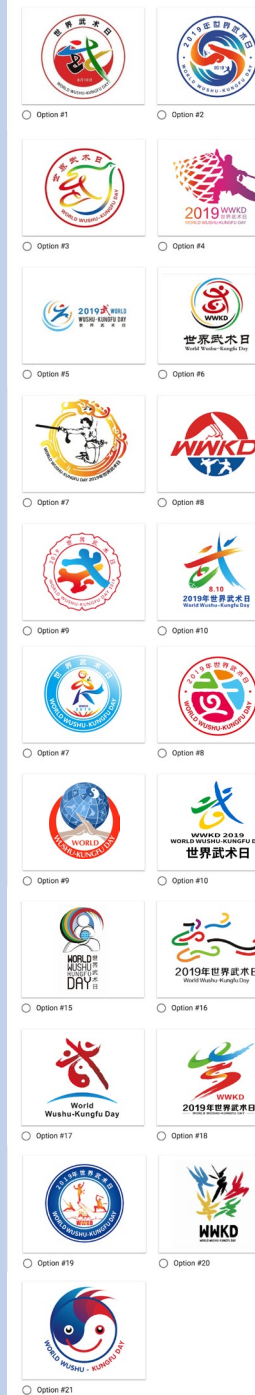
As the first World Wushu-Kungfu Day (WWKD) in 2018 came to a close, videos, photos, and testimonials poured in from all corners of the globe. Seeking to involve even more participants, we offered a contest to design the official logo for WWKD 2019 that will be used in celebrations all around the world, including official WWKD memorabilia and video promotions, and will officially represent the holiday celebrated by people everywhere.

Submissions poured in from all over the world for the 2019 WWKD logo competition, the WWKD team at the IWUF worked hard to narrow the

pool down to the final 21 logos, then putting the finalists to a public vote for which logo will be seen around the world on August 10, 2019, the second-ever World Wushu-Kungfu Day.

Submissions were consistent with the spirit of World Wushu-Kungfu Day, reflecting the essence and goals of WWKD that extend far beyond promoting wushu as an aspiring Olympic sport: "Through WWKD, we aim to raise global awareness of all forms of wushu and practitioners of all styles, traditional or contemporary."

#WWKD2019



WORLD WUSHU-KUNGFU DAY

WUSHU FOR ALL

WWKD will be celebrated each year on the first Saturday on or following August 8th, and will be accompanied by a theme each time.

世界武术日 World Wushu Day
(2018.08.11) Hongkong



2019 WORLD WUSHU-KUNGFU DAY



Saturday

August 10, 2019

Wushu-Kungfu with Friends Everywhere



HOW TO PARTICIPATE



Demonstration and Performances – Show the local crowd that wushu-kungfu exists outside the movies!



Contributing Content – Be a "face of wushu" through photo, video, or written media!



Post your photos or video using the hashtag #WWKD2019

We look forward to your participation and enthusiasm on World Wushu-Kungfu Day 2019! Contact us at media@iwuf.org should you have any question about the above.

SOCIAL WALL

Anjul Namdev is feeling blessed with Kuldeep Handoo and 14 others in Yangon.
18 November 2018

With god grace won silver medal ... In 2nd TAOLU WORLD CUP It's all team work thanks to my team and my coaches Sarikamanoj Gupta mam Manoj Gupta sir Kuldeep Handooo sir Ravi Prakash Tripathi sir Sachidananda Mayanglambam sir Our secretary Suhel Ahamd sir and our president bajwa sir and all wushu family



Pasang Sherpa to Wukong
11 August 2018

Happy World Wushu Kungfu Day
#Buddha_Prakash_Wushu_Guan
From Nepal
#Jiayoo



WHAT'S TRENDING?

"The latest posts about wushu on social media platforms all around the world"

Facebook.com/groups/iwufwushu

Yi-Yuan Lee shared a post.
4 February

Got to make the team first.



United Martial Arts

4 February

USA TEAM

World championship in Shanghai
After endless nights of training I am excited to see what this new year has in store for me. I cannot wait to compete at the world championships Shanghai. Going to compete again with my fellow brothers is a memory I will never forget and I am entirely grateful to have met these men.
-Bruce-

Jade Xu 徐慧慧
15 December 2018

I'm happy to be still able to do what I've started when I was a kid and didn't stop practicing even after my World Wushu Championships 9 years ago.
Just wanted to share with you my little BROADSWORD DEMONSTRATION at my latest Wushu Workshop in Salt Lake City - December 2018, hope you will enjoy it. Jiayou!



Hermanto Wijaya is feeling Congratulation at Grand Dragon Resort - Chray Thom, Ichihara.
20 August 2018 • Kandil, Cambodia

Wahhh long time not see you sis, the first time i just see you in school just one time when i'm still study in Junior high school but you already in Senior high school (Same School / Hang Kesturi) , i think you same like another girl just come to school and study like another people but, you the best Athlete Wushu in Southeast Asia / Asia. Damn.. now i know, you are the best Athlete Wushu in Southeast Asia / Asia.. ohhh no i think in this world, now you do it again make indonesia proud of you, big thanks for you sis, i hope this not the last match / Game in Asian Game.. Keep Spirit And God Bless You Ci Lindswell Kwok

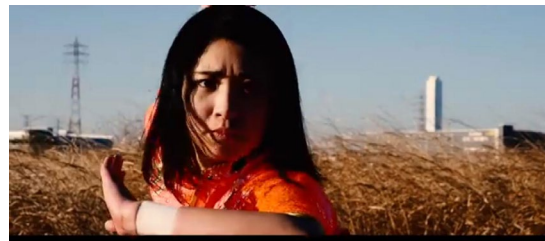
Once Again Congratulations to Lindswell Kwok (Athlete Wushu From Indonesia) the Queen of Southeast Asia / Asia for win the Gold Medal in 18th Asian Games Jakarta-Palembang 2018 this morning.. Presiden Joko Widodo - Indonesia so proud to have you sis ;)

#asiangame #asia #asian #indonesia #jakarta #palembang #medan#goldmedal #proud #indonesiaproud #lindswellkwok #athlete #wushu#athletewushu #bestathletewushu #indonesianwushu#indonesiaathletewushu #thismorning #latepost



Ayaka Honda shared a post — with Kohei Ichihara.
20 February

A friend of mine has created the video to promote wushu as sport! He even put English subs to spread as wide as possible, feel free to share!;) 法政大学の友人が「武術を知ってもらおう」というコンセプトのもと動画を作成してくれました！彼は元々、NPO 支援の団体に活動していて、その経験から、まだまだ知られていない部分にスポットライトをあてる、多くの人に伝えていく、その想いを持って、このメディアを立ち上げたそうです。



Masazuka Chillito Junior is feeling happy with Kohei Ichihara.
8 December 2018

Siing at the Rooderpool mall in South Africa when was on it's way to represent Botswana Wushu



Jurgens Lamprecht is with Shannon Jacobs and Arnold Brand.
20 February

Growing Wushu/Kung-Fu in South Africa...!! Change 4 Wushu/ Wushu 4 Change kicked off a 6 week campaign where Kung-Fu enthusiasts donated and packed their coins with an effort to raise funds for the Development of the Sport in South Africa. The focus for this endeavour is to bring Sanda full contact fighting to every Province within the country as an effective Self-Defence option for women and children. Two banners will be travelling with the South African Wushu Federation coaches where painted handprints by the athletes from various Provinces are pressed onto the banner as a token of support. On 23rd March all the athletes and coaches from every Province visited will gather at the SAWF Head Office in Johannesburg where the 2 hand-printed banners will be revealed in celebration of SA's Human Rights weekend. Jia You Wushu!! Jia You Nan Fei!!





Jack Chang Loh

Malaysia’s Golden Taiji Star

Malaysian star athlete Jack Chang Loh is a familiar face on the international wushu championship podium, having won multiple honors for his country and his team. Over the past 13 years with the Malaysian Wushu Team, he has taken gold medals in taijiquan in the World Wushu Championships, the World Taijiquan Championships, the ASEAN University Games, and the SEA Games.

Loh was awarded the Best Male Athlete Award in the Sarawak State Sports Awards in 2015/2016; he was nominated in the Best Male Athlete Award in Malaysia National Sports Award in 2009 and 2015; and he was named the Youth & Sports Icon of Sarawak by the Malaysia Ministry of Youth and Sports in 2011. With his outgoing and sunny character, Loh has also helped increase the popularity of taijiquan in Malaysia, especially among many younger

athletes.

We asked Loh how he got started in wushu. “In my younger days,” he says, “I loved to watch kungfu action movies. At that time, I hadn’t learned about what the sport of wushu was really, but I was so in love with the ‘handsome and fancy’ kicking, jumping, and twisting moves! I was a fan of Bruce Lee, Jet Li, Jackie Chan and other wushu stars.

“Eventually,” he continues, “I had the chance to experience training in wushu at the age of 14 when I was in my secondary school in my hometown of Miri, Sarawak. My interest deepened quickly, and I began to train hard and study the sport in more depth. All this hard work led me to represent my school, and eventually my state and my beloved country, Malaysia!”

What made him pursue taijiquan? Loh recalls, “Actually it was my coaches (Zhang Fuyun and Yoong Thong Foong) who recommended to me to try out taijiquan. Previously I practiced changquan. At the time, they pointed out my characteristic style and sense of movements were more suitable to do taijiquan, so why not give it a try? At first, I felt that taiji was boring due to the slow pace of movements, and the basics took a lot of time to polish. But after some time practicing, I gained much experience as well as confidence in mastering the movements and difficulties. Then, I started to fall in love with taiji.”

Loh’s first competition experience in taijiquan was during the 2006 Shanghai Invitational Championships. “At that moment,” he recalls, “I was still a rookie in taijiquan, so I was quite nervous and my legs would not stop shivering throughout the routine.” But just a few years later Loh was climbing the medal podium with confidence, winning a silver in men’s taijiquan in 2008 at the 7th Asian Wushu Championships in Macau, and then a year later taking silver in the men’s taijiquan sword and bronze in the men’s taijiquan at the 10th World Wushu Championships in Toronto. In 2009 he also competed in the 25th SEA Games in Laos and won a gold medal in men’s taiji sword and taijiquan combined.

“One of the best competition experiences I’ve had,” Loh remarks, “was during the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta. I had food poisoning the day before my event started, so I had to fight mentally and physically in order to get myself ready for this life-time event. Well, I did not finish the game perfectly but I am glad that I managed to give a good showing from Malaysia!” He continues, reflectively, “I think that the most meaningful competition experience was during the 2017 SEA Games in Kuala Lumpur. There I was able to raise the Jalur Gemilang (Malaysia’s national flag) and to sing Negaraku (Malaysia’s national anthem) all together with the Malaysian supporters on the podium. It was really a proud moment of a lifetime not to be forgotten!”

We asked Loh what is his biggest challenge in wushu? He replies, “The biggest challenge is fighting with injuries. Since the

difficulty rules were implemented, I believe most of the wushu athletes suffer minor or even serious injuries along their journey. While finding ways to recover or to heal are always difficult for most of us, with the support from all the coaches, management team, teammates and technical staff, you will find that it is actually not that arduous.”

Taijiquan is well-known in Malaysia, but after becoming a world champion Loh also became an inspiration and a role model to younger athletes there. Loh says, “I was told by some quite junior athletes that they started taijiquan after seeing my performance. This is indeed a great motivation for me to push myself forward in taijiquan. My teammates always seek my opinion about their taiji movements and we always discuss together on how to improve the form and technique.”

Training, traveling and competing with his Malaysia wushu team teammates and coaches proved to Loh to be a meaningful, interesting, and enjoyable experience. “It is always fun,” he says, “to have the opportunities to travel overseas with a bunch of keen competitors with so much enthusiasm for wushu. The journey will never be boring when you are with them, as lots of laughter and positive vibes flow around us. They are always ready to motivate whoever is down and share the joy with whoever achieves success. I also have wushu friends from all over the world!”



























At 32, with so many golden achievements and fine memories, Loh is thinking to retire from wushu competition this year, not without emotion, but also with a philosophical point of view. He notes, “It is always unbearable to leave the life of a professional wushu athlete, to move on from what I have built up in myself, and the experiences with my team and the honorable memories of fighting for my beloved country. But, you will have to let go when the time comes. Then, I will always try to find a different way, with love, to contribute myself and my experience to Malaysia, to taiji, to wushu!”

Loh is also quick to give thanks and credit to his longtime Malaysian “wushu family,” and says proudly, “With all the support and guidance from the Wushu Federation of Malaysia, coaches, officers, teammates, friends and family, the Malaysian wushu team has been shining in all the international meets throughout the decades. These are the great honors and proud moments that will never be forgotten! WUSHU! You will always be in my heart!”

AWARDS

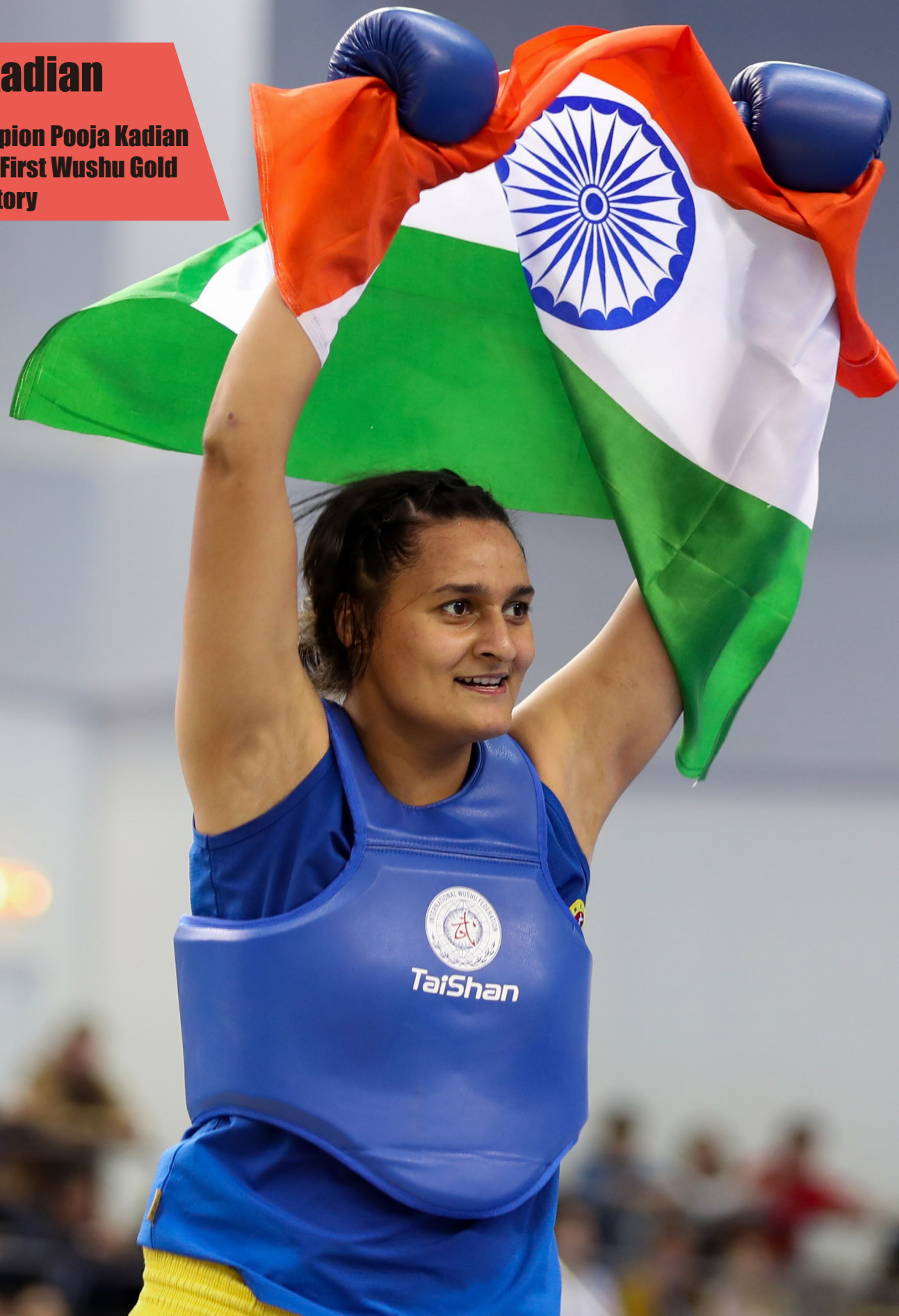
Best Male Athlete Award in Sarawak State Sports Award	• 2015/2016
Nominated in Best Male Athlete Award in Malaysia National Sports Award	• 2009 and 2015
Nominated in Best Athlete Award Sam-100Plus	• 2015
Youth & Sports Icon of Sarawak by Malaysia Ministry of Youth and Sports	• 2011

ACHIEVEMENTS

2008	7th Asia Wushu Championships in Macau, China	 2	Silver in Men's Taijiquan
2009	25th Sea Games in Vientiane, Laos	 1	Gold in Men's Taiji Sword and Taijiquan Combined
	10th World Wushu Championships in Toronto, Canada	 2  3	Silver in the Men's Taijijian Bronze in the Men's Taijiquan
2010	10th World Grand Wushu Festival in Shanghai	 1  2	Gold in Men's Taijiquan Silver in Men's Taijijian
	Sportaccord Combat Games in Beijing, China	 1  2	Silver in Men's Taijijian and Taijiquan Combined
2011	11th World Wushu Championships in Ankara, Turkey	 2	Silver in Men's Taijijian
2012	16th Asean University Games in Vientiane, Laos	 1	Gold in Men's Taijiquan
2013	12th World Wushu Championships in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	 3	Bronze in Men's Taijijian
2014	1st World Taijiquan Championships in Chengdu, China	 1	Gold in Men's Compulsory Taijiquan
2015	13th World Wushu Championships in Jakarta, Indonesia	 1  3	Gold in Men's Compulsory Taijiquan Bronze in Men's Optional Taijijian
	28th Sea Games Singapore	 1  2	Gold in Men's Compulsory Taijiquan Silver in Men's Optional Taijijian
2016	2nd World Taijiquan Championships in Warsaw, Poland	 1  1  2	Gold in Men's Compulsory Taijiquan Gold in Men's 42 Movements Taijiquan Silver in Men's 42 Movements Taijijian
	9th Asian Wushu Championships in Taoyuan, Chinese Taipei	 1  2	Silver in Men's Optional Taijiquan
2017	29th SEA Games in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	 1  1	Gold in Men's Compulsory Taijiquan Gold in Men's Optional Taijijian
2018	3rd World Taijiquan Championships in Burgas, Bulgaria	 1	Gold in Men's 42 Movements Taijiquan
		 1	Gold in Men's 42 Movements Taijijian
		 2	Silver in Men's Sun Style Taijiquan

Pooja Kadian

Sanda Champion Pooja Kadian Brings India First Wushu Gold Medal in History



When sanda athlete Pooja Kadian won India's first wushu gold medal in history at the 14th World Wushu Championships in Kazan it was time for the nation to celebrate. A beaming Indian team posed for photos with Kadian proudly displaying her gleaming medal and the saffron, white and green tricolor flag. When she got home, she was awarded honors and prizes, and a new star on her police uniform. Bollywood has also come knocking on Kadian's door, and she perhaps looks forward to having a fighting role in a movie later this year.

How did Kadian become not only India's top sanda fighter but also its first gold medal world champion ever? It all started when she was nine years old and began to practice Taekwondo. "I started sparring in Taekwondo," the fighter recalls, "and in 1999 I was sparring at 19kg in the junior division. Then I saw sanda at a competition, and I knew wushu was what I wanted to pursue."

Achieving her goal wasn't always easy. "I am a farmer's daughter, and we come from a small village in Haryana," she describes. "My mother died when I was six years old. At first my Dad said no, don't go to learn fighting, you're a girl. I would come home with bruises on my hands and legs. But my own plan for myself included fighting. I have one married sister, and one brother. With my success in fighting, they are very happy for me, and proud of me. Now my father is very proud also."

Kadian continues, "2008 was my first international competition. I improved year by year and then I

became the WWC silver medalist three times – in 2011, 2013, and 2015." She also honed her fighting skills in national and international events – she won gold in the 12th South Asian Games, a silver medal in the World Games 2013, and took gold medals in the National Games in 2014 and 2017.

"Finally," she says, "in 2017 in Kazan I won my first gold medal the World Wushu Championships. My thinking was high, and I was confident. I trained very hard for six months before the event, and my coaches trained me very well. I am still so happy to bring India its first gold wushu medal. I was committed to wining gold for my country."

When she returned to India Kadian was given the prestigious the 2018 Arjuna Award, which is the biggest sports award in India (the Arjuna Awards were instituted in 1961 by the Indian government to recognize outstanding achievement in sport). Indian President Ram Nath Kovind gave Kadian her award in a formal public ceremony, along with \$10,000 in Arjuna prize money. For her Kazan gold medal she also won \$25,000.

Famous now in India, many newspapers wrote about Kadian's story and showed her photos. "All the girls want to play like me," she says. "I inspire a lot of girls. Next year I will open a big academy – only sanda, for girls. Sanda now is becoming more popular, and there are many competitions in India. I am very strong in India in sanda, and women fighters want to challenge me. I've defended my gold medal in the Indian National competition.

And I am happy to win the first ever world championship medal not only for myself but also for my academy. I teach all the girls. She adds, "The Indian Wushu Federation was also so happy and proud of its first gold medal ever."

Given her fierce fighting spirit, it's not surprising to learn that the 27-year-old Kadian is a police officer in the Central Reserve Police Force's (CRPF) where she is a head constable. She has been awarded the high honor of three stars. Kadian began her police career in 2013, and she received a star for every world championship medal she won. Her department also supports her fully in her training.

"I love my job," Kadian says. "When I wear my police uniform I'm very proud. In India, a policewoman has a lot of power. There are a lot of criminals and rapists – I shot and killed one rapist before. My president gave me permission to shoot these criminals, and I use my fighting skills on them as well. I don't like rapists, especially who prey on children, so I use my power to fight them."

"It's also why I want to open my academy, to teach young girls how to defend themselves," Kadian adds. "Now I am always thinking how I will build this academy – what kind of equipment I will have, what classes to teach, how best to empower these girls. I will open this next year after the World Wushu Championships in Shanghai. After that I think I will retire. I'll continue my career as a policeman, and I will also train other police."



Divine Wally

An Inspired Philippines' Sanda Star

Philippines' gold medal champion Divine Wally has been a top sanda contender for the past half dozen years, always pleasing spectators with her clean, powerful style and her outstanding sportsmanship. After winning her prized gold medal at the 13th World Wushu Championships in Jakarta, she lost in a tough fight to China two years later in Kazan, and now looks to top the 48 kg podium in Shanghai at the next WWC. She has become a celebrated athlete at home in the Philippines, and her dedication to training,

to her team and country, and her insights on sportsmanship make her a role model in the sport.

Wally started her path to wushu as a youth through various other disciplines that built her athletic foundation. "When I was young," she recalls, "I really loved martial arts. In elementary school I did Taekwondo, and in high school I joined boxing. Wushu was interesting, and when I was going to college I needed a scholarship,



so I joined wushu for a sports scholarship. I had two weeks to train for my first fight, and I won the bronze medal."

"I kept fighting," she says, "and in 2012 at the Philippine Nationals I was discovered by the National Wushu Federation. They asked if I wanted to join the national team. I did, and I was also very interested in representing my country."

Wally trained in Manila in 2013, and paused her studies for a bit to train wushu to compete in her first World Wushu Championships in Malaysia

that year, her first serious event. "You need to have determination," she notes, "and you need to believe in yourself. Sanda is different at the senior level, it's much more difficult. You have to train more, work hard. I pushed myself to the limits – I wanted to know how far can I go in wushu?" She didn't win a medal at that championship event, but she gave a good performance which spurred her on to train even harder.

Then following the WWC in 2013 Wally went to the SEA Games in Myanmar and got the silver medal. She says, "In Malaysia at the WWC I didn't

get a medal, but I said I had two years to train for the next World Championships. In 2014 I trained in China for the Asian Games at 52Kg. Normally I fight at 48 Kg, so this was very difficult. I didn't get a medal in the Asian Games but it was good experience."

Positive attitude and perseverance are two traits that Wally has plenty of, and as she prepared for the next World Championships she had her eyes on the prize. "In 2015 I was training for Jakarta," she says. "I said to myself, if I'm going to grab a medal I can't give up. My dedication was there,

I was very motivated. And I got it, my first gold medal – I beat Vietnam, and I almost cried. I worked very hard."

Wally says she felt proud and very thankful after winning the World Championships, and her victory was big news in the newspapers and sports media in the Philippines. However, she also discovered the victory had vaulted her to a new level which was also much more in the public eye. "Every time you get gold you have to train more," she says. "It creates bigger challenges, more pressure. When you become the champion you now need to protect your reputation. You don't want to disappoint people. Younger athletes look up to you. It's more pressure, but it's more fun too. It's a good feeling that you can share your knowledge and experience with young athletes. You learn how to motivate them, and what you need to show them."

What are Wally's challenges in sanda? She laughs, and answers, "The hardest part of the sport is making weight, cutting weight. In training I'm on a low carb diet, no rice. I'm always very

careful to show up under weight, just to make sure I will make weight."

"Now I have two big goals," she says, "for the next World Wushu Championships in Shanghai, and then the SEA Games in Philippines. And in the meanwhile, I am still a college student, so I train, study, train, study."

At most wushu events the camaraderie of different teams is gratifying to watch, and Wally's team shares an especially strong bond. "Being on the Philippines' wushu team has been a wonderful experience," she says. "Everyone comes from different places around the country, and our coach always tells us we are just like a big family – we take care of each other, support each other, coach and correct each other."

"My actual family is big, I have seven brothers and sisters. Before, my parents didn't want me to fight, they said it is too violent, but now that I've won championships they support me. But they say I still need to finish my studies!"

Divine Wally is an athlete whose experience in wushu is continually developing, not least because her mental attitude and philosophical ethos embrace the idea of change and evolution. "Every fight offers more experience," she explains. "In the last Asian Games (2018, Jakarta) I won the bronze medal and fought at 52kg – I fought Elahe (Mansourian)! It was a tough fight. The first round I won, the second round I got pushed out twice, and the third round she won. She's very good, very hard to fight; she's tall, she has a long range, and scores a lot of kicks. She has more experience than me, she's older. I need to be very, very brave against her. And I learned a lot. In Kazan I lost to China – it's really hard to fight against China also. But regardless of the outcome of my fights, as long as I do my best it's ok. When you compete on the stage, you see who you really are. It's more important to put up a good fight, and to fight well."

"I was always drawn to sanda," Wally says, "but now it's my real passion. If you want to do something, you need to have passion. Sanda inspires me in life."



Brenda Porfirio Da Silva

Brazil's Luminous, Rising Young Star

When Brazil's own Brenda Porfirio Da Silva walked onto the carpet to perform her spear and sword routines at the 7th World Junior Wushu Championships in Brasilia, the crowd went wild with applause, cheering and support. Brenda's shimmering, powerful performances indeed made her nation proud, and this young athlete has a bright future ahead. We caught up with her after the competition to hear her wushu story.

Brenda Porfirio Da Silva was born into a unique and special wushu family that has nurtured her talent and love of the sport from a young age. Her father, former Brazilian champion and taolu coach, João Ferreira da Silva Júnior, himself has contributed much to Brazil's wushu development over the past decades. He owns a prominent wushu school in Brazil where he trains many young athletes, and as the father of now two national champions, he fondly remembers his daughter's sport beginnings. "Brenda was born in the school," he recalls. "When she was 4, she used to say that she did not like wushu and she wanted to dance classic ballet. And I reacted positively. When she was 5, she started ballet classes. However, she attended two classes and on the day of the 3rd class, she came up to me and said: 'Dad, may I come to your school? May I train wushu?' And then she began her wushu career. I changed my timetable and started a group of little girls. We spend most part of the day together in the wushu school. She grew up watching her brother training and improving."

Brenda's big brother, Brandon Porfirio da Silva, was a guiding light and a key figure in her development as an athlete. As a 16-time Brazilian national champion and long-time anchoring member of the Brazilian national wushu team, Brandon continually nurtured his sister's talent as they grew up training and competing together. Brandon says, "You plant the seeds and they grow, the flowers bloom and give more fruits that fall to the ground and consequently grow more trees. I believe that inside my family everything was as natural as this process. I am a fruit from my mom and my dad, as Brenda is. Nature took care of everything in our school and Brenda just bloomed. I see in that even though her competition style has a lot of resemblance to mine, it was her own choice to start training wushu. I was there with her, in the school, training to reach for my dreams. Maybe she got some of those dreams for herself, feeling the energy that I transmitted there, and this gave her some purpose in her life."

Brenda says, "My father and brother's support was always essential to my wushu development. They are both my heroes. I have seen my father competing in

videos and my brother live. They influence me every day." She continues, "I have been interested in wushu since I was very young, and the movements, the competition clothes have always attracted me; but nowadays I admire the moral values brought to the athlete's life as we understand that discipline and even sometimes deceptions are part of our lives. So, the discipline is what I most admire in wushu undoubtedly."

Brenda has now been competing in wushu for seven years. She debuted when she was 8 years old in a competition in São Paulo. "At this very first time," she recalls, "I felt the thrill that I have been feeling since then. I could say I got addicted to it. Year after year I wanted more and in 2014 I got a place on the Brazilian wushu team because of my good participation in the national championship. Later I got a place in the world junior championships in Antalya, Turkey. I also took part in the Pan-American championships in Costa Rica and the South American championship in Assunção in Paraguay where I won some medals. In 2016 I participated in the 6th Junior World Championship in Burgas, Bulgaria. The last one was the most important to me for several reasons: first, it was my last championship in the C category, and second I learned a lot during it. In 2017 I took part in the BRICS Games, which was also very special to me, and in 2018 I was really honoured to take part in the 7th Wushu Junior World Championships in Brazil."

About the 7th WJWC in Brasilia, Brenda recalls, "It was amazing. The organization and the people involved were great. It was a unique feeling to compete in my country. I was really under pressure. I imagined things could go wrong but everything went well. I think I

was there to represent my country and that was the most important fact about it."

One might suppose a young athlete, competing in front of her friends, family, teammates and countrymen, would find being up against the world's top international junior champions stressful, but Brenda's disciplined inner calm, focus and positive attitude helped her overcome nerves. "I was not nervous in both the categories I competed in," she says. "I was more nervous while I was training for them. When it was over, I left the floor feeling I had done my best and what my coach expected from me. I was smiling. About the result, I'd thought I had scored more and I would be on the podium. But it did not happen. However, it made me stronger and willing to train harder and harder."

Reflecting on his daughter performing in the 7th WJWC, João Da Silva says, "I trained her for the world junior championships here in Brazil. She had all the support from her mother, Cristiana, her brother and all the CBKW directors. She was focused and strong. Her presentation was the best she could do. She got 5th place in jianshu group B and 6th place in qiangshu group B. We worked hard on her emotions and I made her believe that she was able to win, but I also prepared her to lose as always. The family was the most important support. I work as a psychologist with the whole taolu junior team because they are children dealing with strong feelings. I always motivate them all before competitions to get the best from them. At this specific time, I needed to take all the pressure away and reassure her that the most important in life is the love from her family. It was very emotional to see her competing strongly. In the end we

cried a lot." He pauses, and adds, "Brenda's future is unlimited. Now she is older she will start a new category but I am sure she will do well at it."

Brenda is a top student in her school studies, and she applies her academic discipline to her wushu as well. "I train everyday," she says, "but not on Sundays. I train flexibility, strength, and agility with the wushu techniques. I run a lot and do the forms many times." Her favourite and best category she says, is qiangshu, "Because it is the hardest to learn. I learned jiangshu first, but now I love spear."

Besides representing Brazil in her own country, Brenda's most meaningful competition was when she went to Guangzhou, China with her brother for competition at the BRICS Games two years ago in 2017. "It was a great championship where I had amazing experiences. And the best of all was that I had my brother with me, supporting me while I was nervous. I was next to the best athletes in the world which was a dream. I could also be with my brother when he achieved his goal in daoshu. We were totally filled with many emotions."

Brenda looks forward to evolving from junior to adult competition in the next few years, but she also enjoys and savors all the moments of each wushu event as it happens. "I want



to take part in more international championships with my parents and brother and, of course, win a gold medal in the junior world championships," she says. "It is a daily goal. I would love to have the opportunity to take part in an Olympic Games alongside other athletes I know. I have made lots of friends from all around the world. We usually exchange presents in the end of each competition."

Does Brenda have wushu heroes? "Of course," she answers, "I am a fan of Xiaoxiao Lai from the Chinese team. And my both heroes are my father and my brother undoubtedly." In her free time Brenda likes reading and connecting with friends on social media. "I love swimming in the summer," she adds. Her favorite music? "During training I listen to rap but I also like the Brazilian pop music. And, she says, "I love eating! My favourite food is rice, beans, steak, and lots of salad

and vegetables."

The story of the entire da Silva family, filled with love, hard work, support, and a deep passion for wushu, is an inspiring one. With a final reflection on his sister, Brandon Da Silva says, "It's hard to answer for others about their future, but, if Brenda wants, she will be the greatest athlete in Brazilian wushu. She's gigantic, she has a spirit of a champion, the energy of a champion, she is a champion. Look at how she behaves inside the arena, look at how she smiles and how she acts in her daily life. And she's only 14 years old. Fourteen! I always say that she's the best we have, she's a gift. Not only wise, intelligent and empathetic, but when she wants something, she fights for it. And she'll be like that for her whole life – there will be no chains to hold her back. She's the evolution, the new generation."



Dato' Seri Kee Yong Wee –

An Outstanding Leader in Wushu for Over 40 Years

Dato' Seri Kee Yong Wee's profound dedication to the sport of wushu has spanned more than four decades and, as a current IWUF Executive Board member and honorary leader of the Malaysia wushu team, he is always a welcome and familiar face at the world's top wushu events. His impressive career spans business, public service, and sport, and he has won numerous prestigious awards in all these categories. In Malaysia he received the Dataship award by the Yang di-Pertuan Besar (equivalent to Sultan) of the state of Negeri Sembilan in 1986, and in 2003 he received the Dato Seri award by the Governor of Penang – both high honors conferred by Malaysian rulers upon recipients who have contributed greatly to the nation.

It's undeniable that Kee not only helped lay the foundation of wushu in Malaysia, but also that he

helped nurture it to a spectacular maturity, making his country one of the most powerful and talented wushu nations in the world. Kee reflects back on how this process happened. "Wushu was originally registered under traditional cultural activities of the Chinese population," he says. "As such it was not part of recognized Malaysia cultural activities. With the persistent efforts of the Wushu Federation of Malaysia (WFM), wushu was recognized and registered as a sport event in 2000, receiving government support and funding. By 2004 our Federation was able to get the government to maintain a team of full-time wushu athletes (some 20 of them). Each year the government allocates around USD\$300,000 to USD\$400,000 to look after and train the national wushu team."

In the year 2002, the XIII ANOC General Assembly was held in Kuala Lumpur. The

Malaysia Wushu Federation took the initiative and with the assistance of the Chinese Wushu Association staged a fine display of taolu for over 300 delegates and Executive Board Members of the IOC. Kee recalls, "The top leaders of TOC were very impressed with the wushu display. This actually started our subsequent effort to move wushu towards the Olympics!"

Kee and his wushu colleagues were also focused on building wushu on a grassroots level in Malaysia. "Our Federation," he says "was instrumental in getting wushu into the schools as an after-school sport event. From the year 2000 onwards wushu became an annual sport event organized by the Ministry of Education for all schools." In Malaysia, wushu is now ranked and recognized as one of the most outstanding sports in the country.



Dato Seri' Kee Yong Wee's Wushu Story

Kee graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Melbourne in 1961. He was a UN Fellow for the Industrial Development Program in Bangkok in 1970, and went on to get his Master of Business Administration degree in the UK at the Cranfield School of Management two years later. Kee first become interested in wushu when he took up Yang style taijiquan in 1974. "After that," he says, "I really became interested in wushu as a sport." Soon he and others in Malaysia felt it was time to create a wushu federation in Malaysia.

Kee remembers, "In 1975 my taiji masters encouraged some of us to help form a proper wushu organization in Malaysia and so we started

the mission!" In 1976 Kee became the founder of the Wushu Federation of Kuala Lumpur and was elected as Deputy President "By the time we got 7 out of 13 states in Malaysia to be properly registered as state wushu federations," he continues, "we (6 of us) made the application for the registration of a national wushu body known as the Wushu Federation of Malaysia (WFM). It was approved in 1978. I became the founding Deputy President of WFM in the same year."

Kee and other dedicated wushu leaders steadily kept building their national federation and promoting wushu throughout the various Malaysian states. However, Kee was also building an impressive career in business (he has been

Group Chairman of the KEE Group of Companies (KEE group Sdn. Bhd.) from the 1980s to present). At the end of the 80s he took a short break from wushu to focus on his family and work, though he remained close to the Wushu Federation of Malaysia. He also kept an eye on wushu's sharp ascent in the world of sport once the IWUF took off in the early 1990s. "I took a break from the Wushu Federation of Malaysia from 1988 – 1994," says Kee. "So, I was not involved in the 1st World Wushu Championships in 1991, which were held in Beijing. In that year the president of the Wushu Federation of Malaysia was Tun Lim Keng Yaik, who told me later that it was a great success and it was a defining event of International Wushu Federation (IWUF)."

As Kee had gained much experience as Deputy President of the WFM from 1978 to 1987, when he returned to leadership in the organization he was elected President in 1996. In his subsequent 16 years as president of the WFM, he worked extremely hard to expand wushu in Malaysia. "We put in a lot of effort to continue to promote the wushu movement and to get it approved as a sport body," he says. "Around the year 2000 wushu was recognized as a sport (not culture)."

Kee adds, "When Tun Lim Keng Yaik passed away in 2012, I was appointed by the Executive Board of the International Wushu Federation to serve his remaining term, and so I then became an International Wushu Federation Executive Board Member. From 1996 until 2012 I was very active in working together with Tun Lim and I virtually became his assistant (I was already then serving as President of WFM) for his IWUF duties. As such my contribution was well known to the Executive Board of International Wushu Federation."



Malaysia Becomes a Major Wushu Player

Malaysia hosted the 2nd World Wushu Championships in Kuala Lumpur in 1993, and although Kee was on a break from his official sport duties he recalls that, “Tun Lim told me that it was a stunning success and the Chinese delegates were especially awed by our High-Poled Lion Dance performance. This High-Poled Lion Dance was created in Malaysia in the early 1980s. After this 2nd World Wushu Championships, the Wushu Federation of Malaysia became well known throughout the country.”

Malaysia hosted the WWC again in 2013, and in that time both Malaysian wushu and global wushu had grown substantially. Kee says, “Delegates from over 80 nations came for the 2013 IWUF World Championships. Our stadium was packed

on the opening night with more than 4,000 spectators!”

Over the years, since Kee took over the presidency of WFM in 1996, the Malaysian federation has been very active in organizing tournaments around the country. “Slowly,” notes Kee, “We got the notice of the National Olympic Council which admitted the Wushu Federation of Malaysia as its ordinary member. By the time we scored a gold medal in 2001 at the Asian Games held in Korea our wushu standing in the country took an even better turn and wushu subsequently became a fully government sponsored sport. Our athletes were housed at a government boarding sports school where they trained after their schooling hours. Many of them graduated from the Universities over

these years! National athletes were given free education up to university level.”

Kee has been a member of the IWUF Executive Board since 2012, actively participating in policy changes and innovations in many aspects of the sport. His experience on the Board as one of wushu’s most successful leaders there is highly valued by his fellow members. For Kee, it also helped grow his insight in continuing to promote wushu in Malaysia. He remarks, “I value my experience in IWUF EB for the last 6 years and felt very privileged to be serving at the world level and have the chance of my life to serve a sport that I have embraced over 30 years! I learned a lot from my colleagues from around the world.”



The Malaysian Wushu Team has become one of the top wushu teams in the world now, and when we ask why it is so successful Kee pauses and reflects for a minute. He answers, “I think our success can be traced to several things. One, wushu has developed a cultural content for thousands of years and it has been revered by the Chinese wherever they are. In Malaysia we have a pool of young Chinese who can be trained from the school age. Second, he adds, “our Olympic Council and the Ministry of Sports and Education gave us the recognition and support to enable us to promote the Traditional Wushu forms into sports forms.”

Kee continues, “The Wushu Federation of Malaysia is also an integrated national sport body, where members are each their own state wushu federations. Overall, we have nearly a thousand registered individual wushu bodies as our indirect members of the Wushu Federation of Malaysia in our country! The future of the WFM depends very much on the quality of its leadership in Malaysia. Good leaders would ensure a good future for our wushu. However, wushu has become deeply entrenched as an outstanding sport in Malaysia, and I believe with the continuing support of all stakeholders wushu will continue to progress in our country.”

Now in his eighties, Kee looks forward to spending more time with his family and enjoying life. He says, “I have handed over my leadership in the Wushu Federation of Malaysia since 2012 and have become its Life Honorary President. My role is to dispense some advice when required. I have retired from the Asia Wushu Federation as its Vice President last year and look forward to retire from IWUF this year. Dato’ Chong Kim Fatt, the current president of Wushu Federation of Malaysia, keeps very close touch with me since he took over the leadership in 2018, for which I am grateful!”

The IWUF and the entire wushu community celebrates the remarkable achievements of Dato Seri’ Kee Wong Yee, and we look forward to continuing to benefit for many years from his wealth of knowledge, expertise, and lifelong passion for wushu.



DATO SERI’ KEE WONG YEE – ACHIEVEMENTS AND HONORS

Public Services – Government

Ministry of Trade and Industry, Government of Malaysia	1986
Upper House of Parliament, Malaysia, Senator, 2 Terms	1982-1987
Malaysian Chinese Association, Vice President (Youth Chief)	1985-1987

Public Services – Sports

Federation of Wushu Malaysia	Life Honorary President (2015-Present)
International Wushu Federation	Executive Board Member (2012-Present)
Commonwealth Games	Melbourne, Australia Chef de Mission (Malaysia) 2006
Dragon & Lion Dances Federation of Asia	President (2006-2012) Vice Chairman (2006-2012)
Sports Council of Wilayah Persekutuan	Member (2004-2012)
Sports Council of Kuala Lumpur	Member (2004-2010)
Wushu Federation of Asia	Vice President (2002-2018)
Olympic Council of Malaysia	Honorary Treasurer (1997-2011)
Wushu Federation of Malaysia	President (1996-2012)

Public Services – Community

United Nations Association of Malaysia	Council Member (2004-Present)
The Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia	Chairman – Committee for Commerce & Industry (1983-1985)
Calligraphy Society of Malaysia	Advisor 2011-Present
Real Estate and Housing Developers’ Association Malaysia	President (1981-1985)
Malaysian Railway Board	Board Member (1980-1984)
Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur (City Hall of Kuala Lumpur)	Advisory Board Member (1975 – 1985)
The Rotary Club of Gombak, Malaysia	President 1976

Awards

Darjah Dato’ Setia Negeri Sembilan (Dato’) awarded by DYMM Yang Di-Pertuan Besar Negeri Sembilan 1986
National Sport Leadership Award (presented by Ministry of Youth & Sports) 2001
Darjah Gemilang Pangkuan Negeri (Dato’ Seri) awarded by Yang Di-Pertua Negeri Pulau Pinang 2003
Wushu Federation of Malaysia – Honorary 9th Dan 2006
Award of the Order of Grand-Cross by the King of Cambodia 2018

MEMORIAL

Remembering Xu Cai: A Leader and Pioneer of Wushu in the Modern Era

On January 5, 2019 Xu Cai, a man with sincere love for wushu, passed away at the Peking Union Medical College Hospital. He was 93 years old. Xu Cai was a leader in the development of wushu in the modern era, promoting and popularizing wushu to the world. His departure is a major loss for wushu both inside and outside of China.

Mr. Xu was a former head of the Chinese Wushu Association and the Chinese Wushu Research Institute, as well as the first dean of the Wushu Academy of the former State Sports Commission. As the deputy

director of the National Sports Commission in the early 1980s, he regarded wushu as a treasure of Chinese culture, and strived to enhance wushu's international influence. In December 1982 at the 1st National Wushu Work Conference, Xu Cai proposed guidelines, tasks, and measures for wushu work in his report "Uniting and Working Together to Create a New Phase for the Sport of Wushu," heralding a new era of comprehensive wushu development and opening up, allowing for the rapid development of wushu built on the foundations of the ancient martial arts.



In August 1985, Xu Cai led the establishment of the International Wushu Federation Preparatory Committee in Xi'an, China, and served as its chair, meanwhile hosting the first International Wushu Invitational Tournament.

Following this, Mr. Xu was elected as chairman of the Wushu Federation of Asia (WFA) in September of 1987, the organization that hosted the first Asian Wushu Championship in Yokohama, Japan the same year. Under his leadership, the WFA was committed to promoting wushu not only within the continent, but outside of Asia, too. Wushu was stepping onto the world stage.

In September 1988 wushu was approved as part of the Asian Games program, where it has remained a permanent fixture since the 1990.

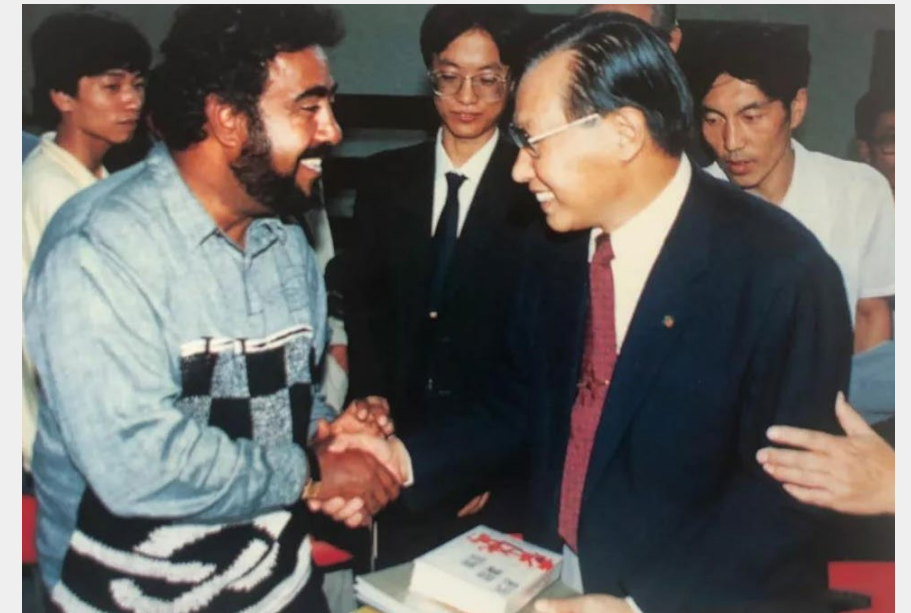
In the following months and years, under the initiative of Xu Cai the first China International Wushu Festival, 3rd International Wushu Taolu Invitational Tournament, and 1st International Wushu Sanshou Invitational Tournament were held in China. Finally, and following the establishment of the International Wushu Federation (IWUF) in 1990, the first World Wushu Championships were held in October of 1991 in Beijing, China. Since then, the platforms for promoting wushu to the world continued to grow, along with the ever-developing international competition systems.



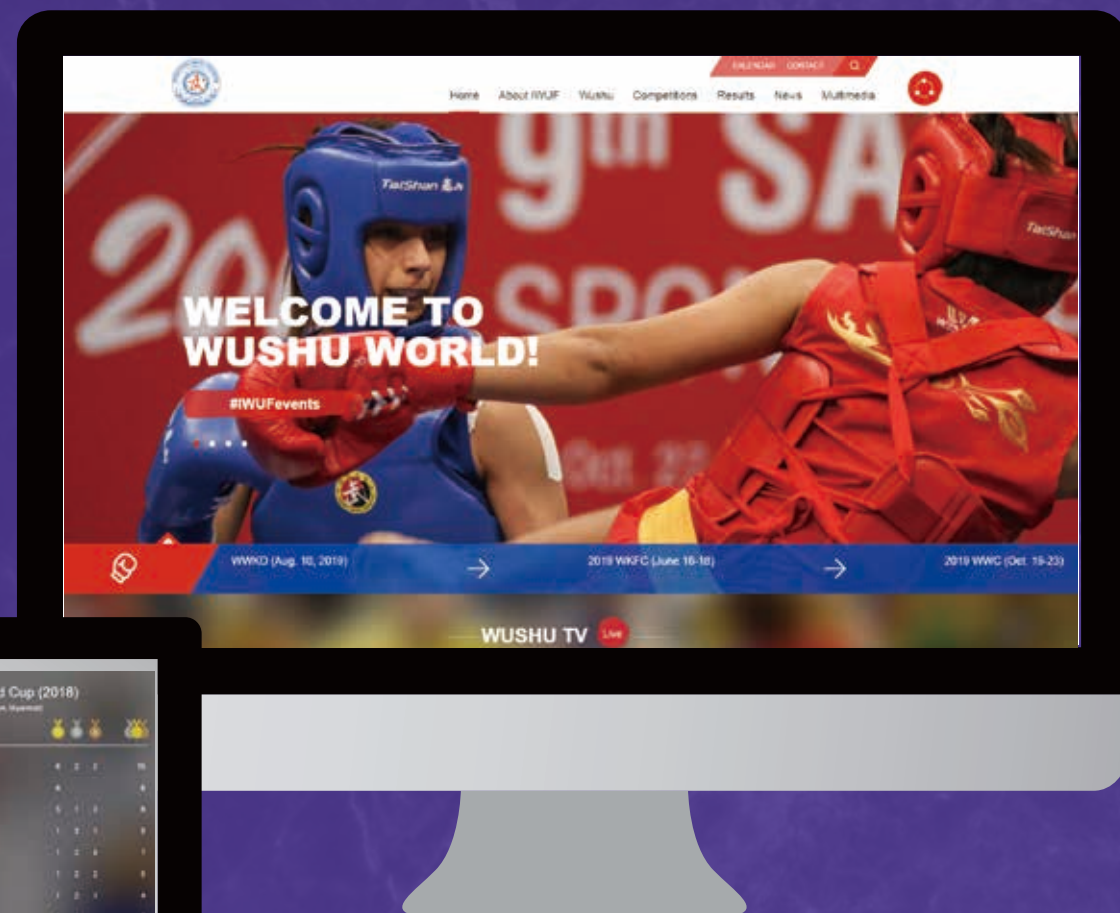
Xu Cai's contributions to the wushu movement cannot be overstated. His ideas and plans for wushu laid the groundwork for generations of wushu practitioners and decades of development for the sport. Domestically within China, Mr. Xu enthusiastically supported the cultivation of wushu talent throughout the country, advocating for ideas like "Wushu culture," "Wushu in the schools," and competitive and traditional wushu, leaving a valuable spiritual wealth and cultural heritage for future generations. Furthermore, in the spirit of Xu Cai's idea that wushu "Originated in China, but belongs to the world," wushu delegations now regularly make their way to countries all over the world.

Throughout his time Xu Cai wrote prolifically, publishing countless essays and articles on the current state of wushu and his vision for the sport in the future, and in 1995 a collection of his writings on wushu called "Xucui Wushu Wenji" was published.

With Xu Cai's passing, the world has lost a good person, and wushu has lost a great leader. We unite in a celebration of his life and his passion, and we will continue to work hard in solidarity for the future of wushu.







2nd Taolu World Cup (2018)
May 18-19 (Taichung, Republic of China)

Medal Standing

1		Hong Kong (CHN)	4	2	2	8
2		China (CHN)	4	1	1	6
3		Vietnam (VIE)	3	1	1	5
4		Vietnam (VIE)	1	1	1	3
5		Mexico (MEX)	1	2	4	7
6		Myanmar (MYA)	1	2	2	5
7		Russia (RUS)	1	2	1	4
8		Ukraine (UKR)	1	1	1	3
9		Japan (JPN)	0	1	1	2
10		Chinese Taipei	0	1	1	2
11		Singapore (SGP)	0	1	1	2
12		Laos (LAO)	0	1	1	2
12		Philippines (PHI)	0	1	1	2
13		United States of America (USA)	0	1	0	1
14		Korea (Rep. of) (KOR)	0	1	0	1
15		Spain (ESP)	0	1	0	1



IWUF Launches New Website

After an extensive update process, IWUF relaunched our official website in March, 2019. With a modern new design the site now offers our wushu community easier

access to IWUF event information, competition results, WushuTV, the latest in member federation news, and a host of other features.

If you haven't visited the new website yet, please go to: www.iwuf.org and check it out!



www.worldwushu.tv



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