

Wushu's Entry into the Commonwealth Games

The IWUF Secretary General Mr Wang and two staff of the IWUF Secretariat visited Melbourne during the Commonwealth Games from March 12 to 16, 2006. Secretary-General Wushu, Han Jin Song, hosted their visit on behalf of the AKWF.

The IWUF officials held talks with the officials of the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) regarding the possibility for Wushu to be admitted into the sports program of the 2010 and 2014 Commonwealth Games.

Mr. Kee Yong Wee, President of the Wushu Federation of Malaysia assisted the IWUF Officials in meeting with Mr. Michael Hooper – CEO of the CGF, Prince Imran – Chairman of the Sports Committee and Vice President of the Commonwealth Games Federation, President of the Olympic Council of Malaysia and Mr. Singh, Secretary General of the Organizing Committee of 2010 Commonwealth Games and Secretary General of Indian Olympic Association. They all especially emphasized that in order to increase the opportunity to be admitted into the Commonwealth Games, Wushu should be widely spread in the 6 commonwealth regions.



Last August, Mr Wang accompanied IWUF President Mr. Yu Zaiqing to visit India. They had a discussion with Mr. Suresh Kalmadi, President of Indian Olympic Association and Mr. Singh once again. During the 1st World Junior Wushu Championships, Mr. Yu Zaiqing met with Mr. Imran and discussed matters concerning the Commonwealth Games. The Secretariat has submitted official application to the CGF. In mid-November 2006, the CGF Sports Commission and Executive Board meeting was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.



They invited the IWUF to make a presentation at the meeting and arranged a wushu demonstration for the CGF officials. IWUF and the Chinese Wushu Association selected the best athletes in China. Together with Malaysian athletes, they demonstrated wushu for the CGF officials. Generally speaking, with the efforts of President Yu and mighty support of IWUF members, active progress has been made.

First National Sanshou Seminar



There are two main categories in World Wushu Championships: Taolu competitions for both men and women and Sanshou (full-contact sparring) for both men and women. Due to Insurance issues, as well as the lack of technical expertise, Sanshou has not been popular in Australia. As many AKWF members are involved in full or semi-contact styles of the Chinese Martial Arts, AKWF decided to run an Introduction to Sanshou Workshop in Canberra from July 7 to 9, 2006. Two world-leading Sanshou experts from China were flown in to conduct the workshop which covered the technical, practical and theoretical aspects of Sanshou. All 14 participants including members from Queensland, NSW, ACT and Victoria thoroughly enjoyed this very informative and educational workshop.



The IWUF Coaches Training Course

The International Coaches Training Course was held in Beijing from July 17 to 22, 2006. 155 coaches from 36 countries and regions participated in the course. The AKWF sent 3 coaches to attend the course. IWUF covered the cost of accommodation, food and training fees for 2 of the Australian coaches as a token of appreciation to the AKWF in acknowledgment of the important and valuable contribution made by the AKWF in promoting Wushu throughout the Oceania region, and assisting IWUF in pushing Wushu into the Commonwealth Games. The two free training packages were awarded to Larissa and William from the AKWF NSW Branch in recognition of their valuable contribution to Wushu development in NSW and in particular, their assistance with the 2005 AKWF National Championships.



The course was mainly focused on the theoretical and practical aspects of how to train athletes according to the IWUF 2003 New Rules for future World Wushu Championships.

The 1st World Junior Wushu Championships

The 1st World Junior Wushu Championships was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from August 20 to 26, 2006. More than 300 junior athletes from over 40 countries and regions took part in the event. The event was very well run and we were pleased to note that the technical level of junior athletes is definitely on the rise.

The AKWF sent a team of 9 people to the Championships:

Team Manager: Larissa Koroleva

Team Coach: Jin-Song Han

Team Judge: Tong Low

Athletes:

Laurence Chan

Jack Hansen

Mark Shamin

Calvin Gan

Clifford Gan

Ebru Efe



All 6 athletes performed to the best of their ability and learnt a lot from competing against the world's best athletes during the Championships. Congratulations!

The 2nd World Traditional Wushu Festival

The 2nd World Traditional Wushu Festival was held from October 16 to 20, 2006. 2008 athletes from 66 countries and regions participated in the event. The Opening and Closing Ceremonies, spectacular Welcome Ceremony in Dengfeng and the Shaolin Temple, Science Conference and the artistic Performance of Zen Buddhism in the mountains left deep impressions on every participant. Mr. Hein Verbruggen, Chairman of the Coordination Commission for the 29th Olympiad and Mr. Gilbert Felli, Executive Director of the Olympic Games, attended the Festival and watched the special wushu demonstrations at the invitation of Mr. Yu Zaiqing, IWUF President. They spoke very highly of the demonstration.



The AKWF sent a team of 17 athletes to compete at the Festival and got 38 Medals: 14 Gold, 14 Silver, 9 Bronze and 1 Silver for Team Event. What a wonderful result and congratulations to all!

The IWUF Judges Examination Course

The International Judges Examination Course was held in Shanghai, from November 20 – 26, 2006. 91 judges from over 28 countries and regions participated in the course and were conferred with International Judges Certificates of Grades. Master Chen Younan from Queensland successfully passed all the Theoretical, Practical and Oral Exams and become yet another Australian International Wushu Judge.

Special Permission to attend Asian Wushu Competitions

Due to the isolation and limited number of countries where wushu is practised in Oceania, Han Jin Song, on behalf of the AKWF, applied for participation in the Asian Wushu Competitions. The application was on the basis of getting points but no medals, in hope of providing more opportunities for Australian Wushu athletes to compete with the world's best in an international competitive environment. The AKWF is now pleased to announce that our application has been accepted by the Executive Committee of the Wushu Federation of Asia during the Wushu Competition of the 15th Asian Games which was held in Doha, Qatar from December 11 - 14, 2006. This significant development will no doubt help Australian athletes to gain a valuable experience while competing with the world's best.

The first Asian Wushu competition open to us is The 4th Asian Junior Wushu Championships which will be held in Jeongju, Korea from June 27 to July 1, 2007. If you are interested please contact Song for more details on wushuaustralia@yahoo.com

The 2nd Oceania Wushu Championships

The 2nd Oceania Wushu Championships will be held in Melbourne, Australia on 12 August. Details will be posted on the website soon.

The 9th World Wushu Championships

The 9th World Wushu Championships will be held in November in Beijing. We are waiting for details to be finalised on the Championships before we start organising our AKWF National Trials. Please keep your eyes on the website. We will post information as soon as it becomes available.

Wushu Tournament Beijing 2008

Mr. Gilbert Felli, Executive Director of the Olympic Games sent a letter to all the NOCs of the Olympic family on December 7, 2006, advising that there will be a Wushu Tournament in Beijing during the Olympic Games 2008, but will be outside of the Official Sport Programme. The IOC and the NOCs will have no responsibility concerning this event. The dates are August 21 to 24, 2008. The venue will be the Olympic Sports Centre Gymnasium. There will be 120 participants from 25 National Federations. The events will include Taolu and Sanshou for both men and women.

Wushu's Entry into the World Games

The 9th World Games will be held in Gaoxiong, Taiwan from July 16 to 26, 2009. On behalf of the IWUF, Mr. Wang Xiaolin, Secretary General of the IWUF, has had discussions with the President of International World Games Association and CEO of the Organizing Committee of the World Games, regarding Wushu on many occasions. The Gaoxiong Organizing Committee officially informed the IWUF that it was agreed that Wushu would be an invitational event at the Games. Detailed information will be posted in due course.