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WUSHU

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL WUSHU FEDERATION 2018



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The Launch of World
Wushu-Kungfu Day

Thousands Attend 7th World
Kungfu Championships in
Emeishan

Wushu Debuts at
FISU's 29th Summer
Universiade

Wushu Takes the Grand
Stage at 14th World Wushu
Championships in Kazan

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Images: Wei Seng Chen/Feng Li/ Bruce Yeung /ANO "Directorate for Sports and Social Projects"/The 7th WKFC 2017 Emeishan Organizing Committee

Graphic Designer: Du Fanyin
Printed in China

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Yu Zaiqing
President of International Wushu Federation (IWUF)
Vice President of International Olympic Committee (IOC)
Vice President of Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Readers and Friends,

Welcome to the 2018 issue of *Wushu*, the official magazine of the International Wushu Federation (IWUF).

Our various successful IWUF events last year show a wonderful display of how wushu keeps developing as both an elite competitive sport and as a lifestyle sport-for-all around the world. I'm very proud that wushu joined FISU's 29th Summer Universiade, as it is a true benchmark for our young athletes to be a part of one of the globe's most prestigious multi-sport games. An experience like the Universiade is an ideal capstone for formative

years of hard work and training, and it also becomes a springboard for competitors to strive for new levels of achievement as they enter their adult years.

New levels of achievement were indeed in ample evidence at the 14th World Wushu Championships in Kazan, Russia. Not only did the Kazan Local Organizing Committee and Russian Wushu Federation organize a consummately smooth, well-run professional event, but Kazan, itself the "City of Sport," offered a deeply historical backdrop for these championships and the warmest hospitality to attendees from 50 countries and regions. Key aspects such as anti-doping and digital

media outreach grew in sophistication. And, as we see every two years, the athletes themselves push to even greater limits in their training and performance. I very much look forward to the 15th edition of World Wushu Championships which the IWUF Congress formally approved to be held in Shanghai, China in 2019.

While elite competition drives the sport of wushu forward to our Olympic goal, we know that people of all ages and abilities also practice wushu daily, all around the world, in a myriad of styles for health, sport, and self-defense. This was profoundly celebrated in IWUF's dynamic sport-for-all



event, the 7th World Kungfu Championships, which was attended by nearly four thousand participants from every corner of the globe. The passion evident in these athletes as young as four years old and others well into their eighties was impressive, as was the wonderful spirit of community in Emeishan. IWUF broadcast this event for the first time in our history on Wushu TV, over multiple platforms in China and around the globe. We also offered our first ever Seminar Program with dozens of lectures and seminars by the world's leading wushu experts which hundreds of people enjoyed participating in.

In each of these events the IWUF wushu community found many opportunities to exchange

information, collaborate, embark on exciting new friendships and strengthen the bonds of old ones. Within the IWUF I extend a profound thank you to officials and committee members for their time and knowledge spent refining technical rules, improving judging, and strengthening our organization; the groundwork you help lay, and build upon, elevates the sport of wushu more each year. To the IWUF members around the world, I want to thank all our NFs for supporting local, national and continental events. Lastly, I truly appreciate the commitment and hard work of all the judges, coaches and athletes, as well as their families – your dedication is the bedrock of wushu's achievements, and wushu's future.

In 2018 I greatly look forward to seeing everyone

at our many fine IWUF competition events, and I also happily anticipate the development of our International Wushu Grading System, a new and improved IWUF website, and celebrating our first World Wushu-Kungfu Day together.

While we celebrate our many achievements in wushu this past year, we may also look ahead with renewed vigor. The IWUF will continue to pursue our campaign for the inclusion of wushu in the Olympic Games, and we will submit a formal application and presentation for the Paris 2024 Summer Olympic Games.



Jet Li
IWUF Ambassador



MESSAGE FROM JET LI

In our busy lives of the 21st century we live at a hectic pace, and this can be overwhelming. For many of us, our lifestyle involves so much daily media and technology – and these can bring people together but also separate us, or distract us from things that are really important. Wushu is a kind of balance. I deeply believe the key to a happy life is to strive for balance. This applies to life and to wushu. Wushu trains both our body and our mind – and it can bring a lot of positive benefits and perspectives to the world we share.

Wushu originated from China but belongs to the world. Today, wushu offers a unique choice in the diversity of modern life all around the globe, and I hope that more and more people can discover and enjoy wushu along with the immense benefits its practice brings.



149 IWUF MEMBER NATIONS & REGIONS

Note: the number of the IWUF members is updated in May, 2018.



IWUF TIMELINE 1990-2018



The International Wushu Federation (IWUF), which was established on October 3rd, 1990, is the international federation (IF) that governs wushu in all its forms worldwide. Currently, the IWUF has 149 members, across 5 continental federations worldwide.

Recognized by



In Partnership with



1991 - 1st World Wushu Championships held in Beijing, China.



2001 - IWUF signs WADA agreement.



2006 - 1st World Junior Wushu Championships held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

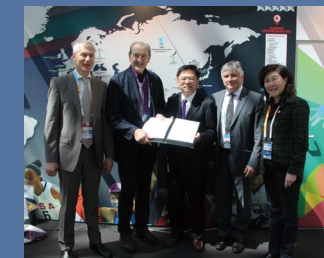


2011 - Wushu shortlisted for inclusion in the 2020 Summer Olympic Games.

2012 - IWUF headquarters established in Lausanne, Switzerland.



2015 - Wushu shortlisted as an Additional Event for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.



2015 - IWUF signs cooperation convention with FISU.



2017 - Wushu's inaugural inclusion in the 29th Summer Universiade Games in Taipei, Chinese Taipei.

1990

1991

1994

2001

2002

2004

2006

2008

2011

2012

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

1990 - IWUF founded on October 3rd during the Asian Games.



1994 - IWUF accepted as a member of the GAISF member.

2002- IOC officially recognizes the IWUF during its 113th session.

2002-The 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.



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



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



2014 - 1st World Taijiquan Championships held in Sichuan, China.



2016 - 1st Taolu World Cup held in Fuzhou, China.



2018 - Wushu's debut in the World University Championships held in Macau, China.

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未来



恒源祥，是享誉全国的中华老字号品牌，亦是世界纺织行业的翘楚。

创立于1927年的恒源祥已经发展成为一家拥有14家子公司、国家级企业技术中心、近百家特许生产加盟工厂、近万家特许经销商，年度品牌零售额近60亿元的现代服务型企业。

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HengYuanXiang (HYX) is one of the most famous and time-honoured brands in China and a world-leader in the textile industry. Founded in 1927 as a specialist wool company, HYX Group has developed into a modern service-oriented enterprise, owning 14 subsidiaries, a state-of-the-art technical centre, nearly 100 franchise plants, 10,000 licensed agents and annual retail sales of nearly 6 billion RMB.

HYX has also been a leader in brand strategy as China has moved into the market economy, continually making breakthroughs and innovations in the theories and practices of brand and culture.



IWUF GRADING COMMISSION INAUGURAL MEETING IN BEIJING



On September 2-4, 2017, the IWUF Grading Commission convened for its first meeting in Beijing, China to establish an international grading system for all wushu disciplines. The commission is responsible for the establishment, management and implementation of the IWUF



grading system; its members are nominated by national federations and appointed by the President. The purpose of the inaugural meeting was to make a working plan for the IWUF grading systems, and promote them in a scientific and standardized way.

According to the agenda, all members took an active part in discussing the issues of the IWUF grading system in groups. Agreements were reached on the working goals and plans, the structure of the grading, pilot wushu events, marketing and promotion. The decisions were later presented to the 14th IWUF Congress in September, 2017 in Kazan, Russia.

IWUF INTERNATIONAL WUSHU COACHES TRAINING COURSE IN MACAU, CHINA

During August 10-15, 2017, the IWUF conducted its 2017 International Wushu Coaches Training Course in Macau, China, with 70 participants from 14 countries and regions taking part.

The opening ceremony was attended by Yu Zaiqing, IWUF President; also present were Weng Kit Chen, Chairman of the IWUF Traditional Wushu Committee and President of Wushu General Association of Macau; Chen Guorong, Chairman of the IWUF Technical Committee, and Vice President of Chinese Wushu Association; Du Lijun, Chairman of the IWUF Medical Committee; Liang Zhongling, Vice President of Wushu General Association of Macau;

Byron Jacobs, IWUF Technical and Events Manager; Jin Xiaobing, Member of the IWUF Technical Committee.

This training course was hosted by the IWUF, and organized by the Wushu General Association of Macau under the guidance of the IWUF Technical Committee with the purpose of training wushu coaches at the highest international standard. The course was conducted in two classes - one for taolu, the other for sanda. During the four-day training, the content included basic techniques training, lectures on nandu training methods, and anti-doping. After the intensive seminar, attendees took the examination.



WUSHU DEMONSTRATED IN UNITED NATIONS

From September 6-15, 2017, the IWUF and the General Administration of Sports of China jointly organized a series of wushu performances in the USA with the theme "Harmonious, Healthy and Sharing." During the events, a delegation of Chinese wushu athletes conducted performances and exchange activities in New York City, at the United Nations, Times Square and The Town Hall.

On September 9, 2017, the delegation made its first performance at the United Nations headquarters in New York. Wu Haitao, Deputy Permanent Representative Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the UN, Zhao Yong, Deputy Director of General Administration of Sports of China, Anthony Goh, IWUF Executive Vice President, Jet Li, wushu ambassador of the IWUF, other officials and special guests watched the performance. The Chinese Wushu Performing Group was composed of 25 World champions,

Asian champions and Chinese national champions, demonstrating their skills with fists, spears, swords, fans, sticks and more.

On the following day, the delegation preformed wushu in Times Square. Different taiji styles and forms were demonstrated, including taiji fan dancing, Chen-style taiji, and double and solo taiji. Renowned practitioners Chen Sitan, Gao Jiamin, and Zhu Tiancai all performed. During the performance, a two-minute promotional video "Taijiquan is the Chinese Treasure for the World" also played.

"Currently there are more than 100 million people practicing taiji around the world," said Jet Li, "We have different cultures, different religions, and different languages. I hope you all enjoy taiji. As an ambassador for the IWUF, what I did in the past was not enough and I will continue to promote wushu to the world."

Anthony Goh, IWUF Executive Vice President remarked, " Wushu has become

a global sport. We hope more and more international wushu exchange activities of all kinds can help promote the development of wushu worldwide in the future."



34TH IWUF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING IN KAZAN, RUSSIA



The 34th IWUF Executive Board Meeting was successfully held on September 27, 2017 during the 14th World Wushu Championships (14th WWC) in Kazan, Russia. The meeting was chaired by IWUF President Yu Zaiqing.

According to the agenda, the IWUF Secretary

of the IWUF 2017-2018 events reported on the preparations for the events. Azat Kadyrov, Chairman of the Kazan LOC reported on the preparation of 14th WWC. Marcus Alves, President of Brazilian Wushu Confederation, reported on the preparation of 7th World Junior

General, Treasurer, committees, working groups and five continental federations presented working reports. The delegates of the organizing committees

Wushu Championships. Petar Dragoev, Vice President of the Bulgarian Wushu Association, introduced the preparation of 3rd World Taijiquan Championships.

Shanghai was the only candidate city bidding to host 15th World Wushu Championships in 2019. Shanghai's delegation, consisting of 7 people including Zhang Qiuping, President of the CWA, and Zhao Shengguang, Deputy Director of Shanghai Sport Bureau, made a bidding presentation for the 15th WWC.

President Yu appointed Zhang Qiuping as the new Secretary General of the IWUF.

The meeting also discussed the temporary membership, the amendment of the IWUF constitution and other issues.

14TH IWUF CONGRESS CONCLUDES SUCCESSFULLY

The 14th IWUF Congress concluded successfully on September 28, 2017, in Kazan, Russia. President Yu Zaiqing called the meeting to order and warmly thanked the Kazan 2017 LOC, Russian Wushu Federation, and city of Kazan for their excellent hospitality and fine event. Highlights of the Congress included:

★ **Honorary Vice President and Executive Board Members**
President Yu appointed Liu Ruiqi as an Honorary Vice President, and Raymond Smith, Giuseppe Falconi, and Tian Suhui as Honorary Executive Board Members in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the IWUF and the sport of wushu.

★ **Grading Commission Announced**
The Grading Commission, made up of 15 members and chaired by IWUF Executive Vice President Anthony Goh, held an initial meeting from September 2-4, 2017 where members laid the groundwork for establishing an international competition grading system for traditional styles, competition taolu, taijiquan, and sanda. The Commission will continue to develop plans for the system which will be shared with IWUF members when they become available.

★ **New Memberships**
The Congress approved five National Federations as full members of the IWUF: Burundian Wushu Federation (BDI), Kung Fu Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BIH), Cyprus Wushu Kung Fu Federation (CYP), Wushu Federation of the Republic of Moldova (MDA), and Wushu Federation of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (MKD).

★ **IWUF to Establish World Wushu-Kungfu Day**
The 14th IWUF Congress unanimously approved the Executive Board recommendation to establish a World

Wushu-Kungfu Day in 2018 to promote worldwide wushu kungfu awareness and appreciation, particularly through the support of member federations.

★ **New Secretary General Announced**
President Yu announced Zhang Qiuping as the new Secretary General of the IWUF, citing Mr. Zhang's pedigree of current Chinese Wushu Association President, and Executive Board member of the International Swimming Federation, as well as experience with international events at all levels.

★ **Approval of Amendment to the Constitution**
The 14th IWUF congress unanimously approved the amendments to Article 36 of the Constitution (Ethics, Arbitration and Discipline). Specifically, an Ethics Commission be established to handle Code of Ethics violations during events. Members appointed by the president should be free from the dispute itself. The IWUF Ethics Commission shall abide by the IOC Code of Ethics.



IWUF PRESIDENT YU ZAIQING VISITS SHANGHAI IN ADVANCE OF 2019 WWC TO LAY GROUNDWORK FOR EVENT



From November 20-23, 2017, IWUF President Yu Zaiqing attended a series of wushu activities in Shanghai and inspected the preparation of the 15th World Wushu Championships (15th WWC).

On November 21, President Yu met with Xu Bin, Director General of Shanghai Sport Bureau, Zhao Guangsheng, Deputy Director General of Shanghai Sport Bureau, and Yan Hui, Director of Shanghai Wushu Institute and discussed how to popularize wushu as a sport for all in China.

Shanghai has historically been devoted to popularizing wushu as a sport for all through improving citizens' awareness and engagement of wushu. In 2017, the Shanghai Administration of Sports hosted the successful Shanghai Wushu Festival, which grew participation in the sport. Hosting the 15th WWC in Shanghai will undoubtedly provide a golden opportunity to promote the sport of wushu further in the city itself, and beyond.

President Yu expressed his satisfaction with Shanghai's preparation work for the 15th WWC in 2019 and remarked on the efficient communication between the IWUF and the Shanghai LOC. Later that day, President Yu attended the 1st Chinese Wushu Soul (Wuhun) Ambassador Awarding Ceremony and presented the award for the winner of "best organization" to the Shanghai Chin Woo Athletic Federation. In an interview after the ceremony, President Yu said that such activities play an important role in promoting the sport of wushu, especially among youth.

The preparations for the 15th WWC have begun, and Shanghai, as well as the global wushu community, is already looking forward to a stellar IWUF event in 2019.

WUSHU EXHIBITION AT THE CENTRAL AMERICAN GAMES IN MANAGUA, NICARAGUA PROMOTES WUSHU TO CENTRAL AMERICAN REGION

A delegation led by Victor On, President of Costa Rica Wushu Kungfu Federation, Executive Board Member of Pan American Wushu Federation, and Director for Central America and Caribbean Affairs, attended the Central American Games (December 3-17, 2017) to introduce wushu to Central America's sports community and to establish direct contact with the area's Olympic committee executives. In addition, the delegation worked to initiate talks to integrate more of the region's countries into the IWUF. The delegation consisted of



Mr. On, as Team leader, and 5 wushu athletes from Brazil.

The wushu delegation seized an opportunity to present the sport to the Central American sports community with an exhibition during the event's gala dinner at the Managua Convention Center, which was attended by 500-600 of the most important and relevant sports personalities and authorities of the area. This included representatives from international sports federations, and executive members of CASO, CACSO and PASO.

Mr. On coordinated the exhibition by the athletes, and supported the performance by giving an audiovisual presentation of IWUF's wushu video and introduction of the sport. His speech included information on IWUF membership around 5 continents, IWUF's 6 major official events, wushu in multi-sports games, and wushu's potential as an aspiring Olympic sport.

Through this performance and presentation direct contact was made with the region's Olympic committee's executives. Guatemala, Panama and Honduras showed interest in developing wushu in their countries, and requests were made for guidance to assist them in getting organized internally and become members of IWUF. Mr. On will continue to liaison and coordinate with the potential new members to establish their wushu federations, join the IWUF, and grow and strengthen the sport of wushu in Central America.

IWUF MEDICAL AND ANTI-DOPING PROGRAM AT THE 14TH WORLD WUSHU CHAMPIONSHIPS

The fight against doping and protecting wushu athletes' health is an important focus for IWUF, and the federation maintains a zero-tolerance policy on doping and cheating in competition. During the 14th World Wushu Championships, the IWUF joined forces with an international Sample Collection Authority (SCA) and the LOC in Kazan, Russia to promote a "Clean and Healthy Wushu" Medical and Anti-Doping Program. Athletes were also given the opportunity to show their commitment to clean and healthy sport of wushu.

Collaborating with the professional SCA team, the IWUF successfully conducted 37 tests in total and no positive doping cases occurred during the 14th WWC. The LOC in Kazan provided a deeply professional level of work during the entire doping control process, which included strict security and an all medical-background volunteers' team for medical and anti-doping. Mr. Du Lijun, Chairman of the IWUF medical committee, awarded the whole volunteer team with certificates for their excellent job during the 14th WWC.



The IWUF started its Anti-Doping Outreach program during major events in 2014. This year delivered another successful outreach campaign during the 14th WWC for a total length of 6 days. With the contributions from the Kazan LOC and WADA, IWUF has improved its outreach by having various new interactions with athletes and their entourages, such as signing posters and taking pictures. The IWUF also collaborated with the Japan Anti-Doping Agency (JADA) to show their new videos and materials during the competition activities. One hundred and eight-nine participants took the anti-doping quiz in Kazan, helping IWUF successfully reach the main milestone goal of this project – to have 1000 participants by the end of 2017.



The IWUF Medical Committee began enforcing its official medical program during major competition events since 2015. With the help of the Kazan LOC, IWUF was also able to provide excellent medical service for athletes during the 14th WWC. No severe injuries occurred during these championships. The IWUF Medical Committee held a team doctors' meeting during the event with all team doctors participating. Mr. Du Lijun and Dr. Kee Lee Tan introduced the pilot version of the Medical Certificate that was requested to be submitted before the 14th WWC.

The IWUF Medical Committee would like to collect comments and suggestions for any Medical and Anti-Doping related issues from team doctors, team leaders and athletes. Please send emails to antidoping@iwuf.org.

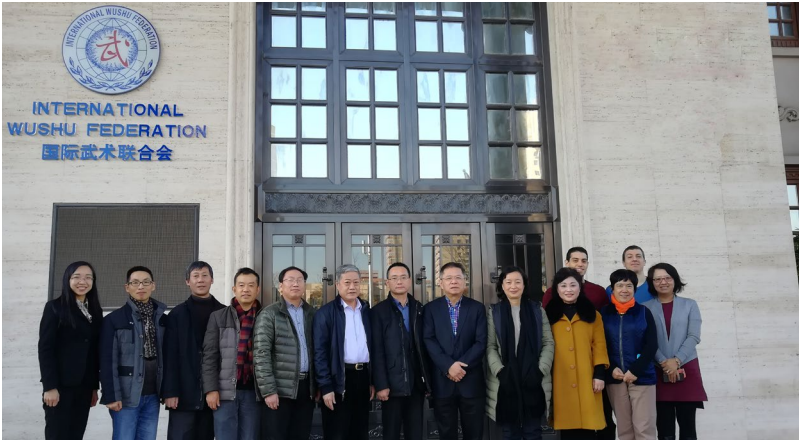
LESHAN CITY REPRESENTATIVES VISIT THE IWUF AND WILL BID TO HOST WKFC AGAIN

On December 21, 2017, IWUF Executive Vice President Anthony Goh and Honorary Vice President Liu Ruiqi received a 7-person delegation from Leshan City at the IWUF Beijing office. At the two parties exchanged feedback on the 7th World Kungfu Championships (WKFC), and discussed Leshan's application to host the 8th WKFC.

Last year, the 7th WKFC was successfully held in Emeishan city, a county-level city under the administration of Leshan city. Mr. Goh expressed his appreciation for Leshan City's outstanding contributions to the November 2017 event, noting that without their attention to competition, security, transportation, and hospitality details, the 7th WKFC could not have been the fine success it was. The meeting's attendees also enjoyed a video summary of the event in which wushu athletes, members of the IWUF Executive Board, and spectators shared their interest and excitement to be participating in an event in one of China's most historic and revered sources of kungfu.

Zhou Lunbin, Vice Mayor of Leshan city, presented the 7th WKFC LOC's work report. In total, almost 3,800 athletes from 52 countries and regions participated in this year's WKFC. Chen Ping, Vice Mayor of Emeishan city, expressed hope to be selected again as the host city for the next iteration of the Championships, and walked the IWUF representatives through the LOC's work plan for the 8th WKFC. Vice Mayor Zhou emphasized the city's enthusiasm for supporting kungfu, its event-ready infrastructure, and dedication to devoting the full resources of Leshan and Emeishan to future IWUF events. Possible changes and improvements were discussed by the group, and Mr. Goh conveyed his appreciation of Leshan City's desire to host the next WKFC.

With that, the Leshan delegation officially announced their intention to submit their application to host the 8th WKFC, with a final decision to be made by the IWUF at a later date.



YU ZAIQING RE-ELECTED AS IOC VICE-PRESIDENT AT THE 132ND IOC SESSION IN PYEONGCHANG

On February 7, 2018, IWUF President Yu Zaiqing was re-elected as Vice-President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) during the 132nd IOC session prior to the 2018 Winter Olympics in PyeongChang, the Republic of Korea.

Yu heads into a third vice presidential term after serving two stints from 2008-2012, and then 2014-2018. In PyeongChang he was the only candidate up for the position and won by a wide majority vote of 78-7.

Yu offered a short speech after the vote, expressing his heartfelt thanks to the IOC Members. "Thank you very much for your support and trust. You trust me. I will do my best and never let you down. As always I would like to continue to make the further efforts to work for the International Olympic Committee and the Olympic movement. By organizing Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics I will, together with all of you, try my best to deliver a successful Games."

After the election, IOC President Thomas Bach expressed his congratulations and spoke highly of Yu's past works during the IOC.

Yu, who is Vice President of the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics, has been an IOC member since 2000. He is also President of the International Wushu Federation (IWUF). He has had vast experience in sports administration and leadership in the Olympic realm, with roles including Chinese Olympic Committee Vice-President (1999-); Executive Vice-President of the Organising Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad Beijing 2008 (BOCOG) (2002-2008); Deputy Chef de Mission of the Chinese Delegation of the XIX Olympic Winter Games Salt Lake City 2002, of the XXVIII Olympiad Athens 2004, of the XX Olympic Winter Games Turin 2006, and of the XXIX Olympiad Beijing 2008. He is also a member of the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) (2002-2014), and ANOC Vice President (2014-present.)

Working closely with the IOC for nearly two decades, Yu's numerous roles have also included: Member of the Executive Board (2004-2008); IOC Vice-President (2008-2012, then 2014-); Member of the following IOC Commissions: International Relations (2002-2013), Radio and Television (2005-2013), Coordination for the Games of the XXX Olympiad London 2012 (2005-2012); 2009 Olympic Congress (2006-2009), Marketing (2012-2013), Coordination for the XXIII Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018 (2011-), Coordination for the Games of the XXXII Olympiad Tokyo 2020 (2014-), TV Rights and New Media (2014-2015), Nominations (2014-2015), Olympic Channel (2015-), IOC Members Election (2015-), Marketing (2015-); Delegate Member for Broadcast rights - Asia except MENA (2015-).



2018 IWUF TECHNICAL MEETING

2018 IWUF Technical Committee Meeting was held from March 10-11, 2018 in Beijing, China. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Chen Guorong, Chairman of the IWUF Technical Committee. Mr. Anthony Goh, IWUF Executive Vice President and Mr. Zhang Qiuping, IWUF Secretary General attended this meeting.

Mr. Anthony Goh addressed members on the importance of technical optimization for global wushu development. He introduced the current status of wushu's current growth and the challenges in certain technical areas. He encouraged the Technical Committee (TC) to play a greater role in improving competition rules and management models, and ensuring fairness in judging.



TC members had discussions on the revision of current International Wushu Taolu Competition Rules & Judging Methods. The finalized version will be submitted to the Executive Board for approval. Committee members also made improvements to the International Wushu Judges Management Method to further standardize the training and certification of wushu judges.

The meeting attendees discussed the 2018-2019 work plan for the TC. During 2018, the IWUF TC will oversee and manage three judges training courses and certifications, as well as the planning and executing of the competitions including World Junior Wushu Championships, World Taijiquan Championships, Taolu World Cup, Sanda World Cup and World University Wushu Championships in various locations worldwide. The meeting also addressed topics including the standardization of wushu equipment, weapons and clothes, traditional wushu competition rules, and other issues.

Mr. Zhang, remarked that this TC meeting was very productive and the members took an active role in discussion. He expressed and hoped that the TC members could also learn from other sports, and innovate ways of developing wushu as we work together towards the common goal of promoting the sport worldwide.

2018 IWUF GRADING COMMISSION MEETING

On 13 March, 2018, the second meeting of the IWUF Grading Commission was successfully held in Beijing, China. Mr. Anthony Goh, IWUF Executive Vice President & Grading Commission Chairperson, Ms. Zhang Yuping, Vice Chairperson of the IWUF Grading Commission, Mr. Zhang Qiuping, IWUF Secretary General and CWA President and eight other members attended this meeting. Under consideration in discussions were development goals, direction, and the initial measures needed to embark upon implementing the International Wushu Grading System.

The members approved the minutes of the 1st IWUF Grading Commission meeting and listened to the progress report made by the preparatory working group. The members discussed wushu styles to be structured and promoted by this program; principles of structuring and developing curricula; and organizational structures of sub-committees (technical, educational materials, examination, etc.). The meeting clarified nine ji and nine duan as evaluation criteria, and listed changquan, taijiquan, sanda and traditional wushu as wushu styles to be structured and promoted according to the criteria established.

Mr. Goh stated that the task to establish an operational international wushu grading system is full of challenges, but that in the process of researching and establishing the International Wushu Grading System, the Commission shall take various factors into consideration, including: the standardized and differential management mode for the various wushu disciplines; respect for the history and values of traditional kungfu; the establishment of training curricula and evaluation criteria; and the promotion and marketing of this system.

The Commission will initially pursue a grading system of traditional kungfu, and further discussed the developing direction for the traditional kungfu grading system to support and unite the traditional practitioners worldwide. With the goal of establishing the international, standardized and sustainable grading system, the meeting proposed a series of measures including establishing the cooperation with the national and regional wushu federations, and the mutually beneficial systems of finance and technical support. Meanwhile, the IWUF will cooperate closely with the CWA on establishing a professional team and working group for further researching and developing curricula for this system.

Mr. Zhang Qiuping expressed that the CWA has rich wushu experience and will fully support the IWUF on all its efforts to initiate and implement the IWUF Grading System.





IWUF ATTENDS 2018 SPORTACCORD WORLD SPORT & BUSINESS SUMMIT, RAISING GLOBAL RECOGNITION FOR WUSHU

From April 15-20, 2018, the 16th SportAccord World Sport and Business Summit took place in Bangkok, Thailand. IWUF President Yu Zaiqing, Executive Vice President Anthony Goh, Secretary General Zhang Qiuping, Honorary Vice President Liu Ruiqi and other members of the Secretariat attended. Judging from the expo's popular IWUF booth, wushu demonstration, early morning taiji activities, and other events, it was clear that the sport of wushu is gaining more and more recognition and prominence worldwide.

This summit brought together IOC members, international sport federation leaders and top executives from all areas of the sport industry, with 84 countries and regions, 831 organizations, and over 100 international federations being represented by 1844 attendees. IOC President Thomas Bach, GAISF President Patrick Baumann, and other VIP guests participated in the summit's Opening Ceremony.

During the summit, IWUF representatives attended a meeting

for those IFs recognized by the IOC, the GAISF General Assembly, GAISF Combat Commission meeting, and presentations on law, host cities, and media as they relate to work of IFs.

The IWUF made great use of both the world summit platform and the exhibition area to highlight the sport of wushu. The IWUF exhibition booth brought much attention from city representatives, IF staff, and executives of elite global organizations. FINA Vice President Dale Neuburger, the General Administration of Sport of China Vice Bureau Chief Gao Zhidan, National Olympic Committee of Thailand Vice President Supitr Samahito, Sports Bureau of the Special Administrative Region of Macau Bureau Chief Pan Yongquan, and other sports federation delegates and VIPs visited the IWUF booth to chat with IWUF representatives, gaining a deeper understanding of the sport of wushu's development.

One special aspect of this year's World Sport & Business Summit was the inaugural "United Through Sport &

Sports Festival," a program displaying a wide variety of sports. On April 19th, the Sports Festival included a wushu demonstration in the Central World Square. With the support of the IWUF, the Wushu Federation of Thailand organized over 30 wushu athletes and fans to showcase taiji routines and a lion dance performance, while many local Thai sports enthusiasts, IF delegates, and tourists from all over the world gathered to watch.

Mr. Goh said, "In attending the SportAccord World Sport & Business Summit, not only did we run a successful exhibition booth for the sport, but through an early morning taiji training session, wushu demonstrations, and other programs more people also became interested in wushu, and their understanding of wushu's global development was deepened. We also believe in the mission of the United Through Sport & Sports Festival, and we invite everyone to join us this year on August 11th as we celebrate the very first World Wushu-Kungfu Day."

IWUF AND HENGYUANXIANG GROUP (HYX) 2018-2021 GLOBAL PARTNER COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNING CEREMONY

On November 25, 2017, the IWUF and HengYuanXiang Group (HYX) 2018-2021 Global Partner Cooperation Agreement Signing Ceremony was held in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China. Anthony Goh, IWUF Executive Vice President, Liu Ruiqi, IWUF Honorary Vice President and Chairman of International Wushu Limited Company, Chen Zhongwei, HYX General Manager, and other honored guests attended this signing ceremony. The ceremony highlighted the continued mutual cooperation as both sides work to promote the sport of wushu on the international stage.

The signing ceremony was marked by an inspired wushu performance and a promotional piece titled "HengYuanXiang and Wushu," both of which received an enthusiastic response from the audience and showcased the strong relationship between HYX and wushu. Then Anthony Goh and Chen Zhongwei formally

signed the 2018-2021 IWUF & HYX Global Partner Cooperation Agreement.

The development of the IWUF and the sport of wushu can be achieved more expeditiously with the participation and support of sponsoring enterprises. HXY is one of the most famous and time-honored brands in China, and a world leader in the textile industry. Since its inception, HXY has continued to make breakthroughs and innovations in the field of branding. Beginning in 1989, HXY has sponsored the development of sports industries, and in 2005 became the official sponsor for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. Overall HXY has been responsible for creating the official uniforms of the Chinese national team for three Summer Olympic Games.

This signing ceremony also coincided with HYX's 90th anniversary. Mr. Goh noted in his remarks, "This signing ceremony symbolizes that the IWUF-HYX cooperation is entering

a new stage, as the sport of wushu also develops faster and faster. With HYX's professional and comprehensive support, wushu will grow stronger worldwide and more people will continue to be drawn to wushu. Meanwhile, the global promotion of wushu will also provide HYX a broad platform for demonstrating the quality, value, and commitment to international excellence of the HYX brand."

In the coming four years, the IWUF and HYX will engage in mutual cooperation as they take advantage of each other's vast resources, growing events in quality, scale, and promotion. Wushu fans and athletes everywhere will continue to enjoy world-class events and benefit from the ways in which wushu can improve their lives. IWUF and HengYuanXiang will further their mutual engagement and commitment to the common goal of the globalization of wushu.



2018-2021 GLOBAL SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM BEGINS WITH EXCITEMENT

On January 31, 2018, the IWUF 2018-2021 Global Sponsorship Program ceremony took place in Beijing, China. IWUF President Yu Zaiqing, IWUF Executive Vice President Anthony Goh, IWUF Honorary Vice President Liu Ruiqi, IWUF Secretary General and CWA President Zhang Qiuping, CWA Vice President Chen Entang, CWA Vice President Chen Guorong, CWA Vice President Zhang Yuping, IWUF Honorary Executive Board Member Tian Suhui and other leaders and VIPs were present at the opening ceremony. Representatives of more than 30 potential IWUF partners, sponsors, businesses, and additional commercial entities gathered to celebrate this landmark project,

and the beginning of this sponsorship program marks the IWUF's new level of international wushu marketing on the global stage. The ceremony began with the IWUF promotional video introducing the IWUF's 6 signature events. In his welcome speech, Secretary General Zhang Qiuping extended his warmest welcome to all the guests, and reported on the rapid development wushu throughout the world, highlighting the success of wushu in Pan America, Europe, Africa, Oceania and Asia. Taking a broad view, Honorary Vice President Liu Ruiqi introduced the International Wushu Company Ltd.'s intent and strategic positioning, illuminating the diverse business opportunities

offered in the international wushu market. With this the IWUF 2018-2021 Global Sponsorship Program officially opened, and President Yu gave a speech expressing his hope that in the next four years the IWUF would continue to grow and develop the international wushu market to unprecedented levels. He noted the Global Sponsorship Program is extremely significant, and with more sponsors onboard wushu will spread even faster to bring with it sponsors' brand recognition in countries across the globe. He further expressed his hope that all present would take advantage of such a valuable opportunity and commit to joining the Global Sponsorship Program, contributing both



to the promotion of wushu and the evolution of the name recognition of their own brands. The IWUF 2018-2021 Global Sponsorship Program is divided into three levels of sponsorship, with each level requiring a different level of support: Global Partner, Global Sponsor, and Global Supplier. Those who meet the requirements of official IWUF events and international marketing rules are all eligible to become four-year sponsors of the IWUF from 2018-2021. The IWUF will grant corresponding rights and benefits to the sponsors, including but

not limited to the use of the IWUF logo, the use of the IWUF license title, sponsor logo recognition, event intellectual property rights, media dissemination rights, print promotion, rights connected to related activities, on-site advertising resources, on-site exhibitions, value-added remuneration rights and benefits, and market protection rights. The Global Sponsorship Program covers two World Championships cycles, including all of the IWUF signature events during that time period. The IWUF believes in sincere cooperation and comprehensive

partnerships, enhancing the quality of events, supporting wushu athletes and fans around the world to spread the sport of wushu. The opening ceremony concluded with awards presented to HengYuanXiang Group, Fujian Weizhixing Sports Goods Co. Ltd., and Shandong Taishan Sports Equipment Co. Ltd, as outstanding IWUF sponsors in 2017. After the ceremony concluded, all attendees enjoyed the IWUF 2018 New Year's Banquet.



TAISHAN BECOMES AN IWUF 2018-2021 GLOBAL SUPPLIER

On April 8, 2018, the IWUF signed a cooperation agreement with Shandong Taishan Sports Equipment Co., Ltd, (referred to as "Taishan") in Beijing, China, recognizing that Taishan became an official IWUF 2018-2021 Global Supplier. The agreement was signed by Anthony Goh, IWUF Executive Vice President, and Cui Gang, Chairman of the Board of Taishan Sports Equipment Co., Ltd. and Board Member of Taishan Sports Industry Group, Zhang Qiuping, IWUF Secretary General and CWA President, Liu Ruiqi, Honorary Vice President of the IWUF, Qin Xiaobao,

IWUF Director of Finance, Gao Sen, General Manager of Taishan Import & Export Co., Ltd, and other representatives attended and witnessed the signing ceremony. Taishan has been an IWUF sports equipment supplier for IWUF events since 2015. In past cooperation with the Federation, Taishan has provided high-quality equipment and service for the IWUF signature events and activities and contributed to the overall promotion and development of wushu. Shandong Taishan Sports Equipment Co. Ltd., as part of Shandong Taishan Sport Industry

Group, has provided its services for several Olympic Games, Asian Games, Universiades, and other important international events. Zhang Qiuping expressed his appreciation for Taishan's long-term support and commitment to the sport of wushu and the IWUF. This agreement covers two world championships cycles, including all of IWUF's signature events. In the coming four years the IWUF and Taishan will engage in continued mutual cooperation to further take advantage of each other's resources to promote the development of wushu worldwide.

WESING SIGNS AGREEMENT TO CONTINUE AS AN IWUF 2018-2021 GLOBAL SUPPLIER

On May 22, 2018, the IWUF and Fujian Weizhixing Sports Goods Co., Ltd. (referred to as "Wesing") took part in an official supplier agreement signing ceremony in Beijing, China, signifying that Weizhixing will continue its vital role as an IWUF Global Supplier for 2018-2021. Mr. Anthony Goh, Executive Vice President of the IWUF and Mr. Fu Yingwei, Chairman of the Board of Wesing, signed the supplier agreement. Zhang Qiuping, Secretary General of the

IWUF, Liu Ruiqi, Honorary Vice President of the IWUF, and Tian Suhui, Honorary Member of the IWUF Executive Board, also attended and witnessed this signing ceremony. After the ceremony, the IWUF awarded the IWUF 2018-2021 Global Suppliers Certificate to Wesing. Mr. Zhang expressed his gratitude for Wesing's long-term support of the IWUF and the sport of wushu. Wesing has been an IWUF sponsor and supplier since 2012. In past six-year cooperation, Wesing has provided high-quality

equipment and service for IWUF events and activities. Mr. Zhang hoped that the cooperation between both sides could make further progress based on the past success. Mr. Fu stated that it was a great honor to become an IWUF global supplier. Wesing will continue to enhance the strength of its technological innovation, improve the technological content of products, and expand the company's business scale to contribute to the development of wushu worldwide.



HONGXING BECOMES AN IWUF 2018-2021 GLOBAL SPONSOR



On May 22, 2018, the IWUF signed a sponsor agreement with Xi'an Hongxing Dairy Co., Ltd.(referred to as "Hongxing ") in Beijing, China, making Hongxing an official IWUF 2018-2021 Global Sponsor.

The sponsor agreement was signed by Mr. Anthony Goh, Executive Vice President of the IWUF and Mr. Yuan Jin, General Manager of Hongxing. Zhang Qiuping,

Secretary General of the IWUF, Liu Ruiqi, Honorary Vice President of the IWUF, and Tai Suhui, Honorary Member of the IWUF Executive Board, also witnessed this signing ceremony. After the ceremony, the IWUF awarded an IWUF 2018-2021 Global Sponsor Certificate to Hongxing.

During the ceremony, Mr. Zhang expressed his thanks to Hongxing Mr. Yuan stated that

Hongxing will fully support the development of wushu. Hongxing is a leading company in the goat milk industry in China. It is not only committed to providing high-quality products and services, but also to the development of sports. Over the years, the company has fully supported the promotion and development of wushu, namely by being the top strategic partner of the China National Wushu Sanda Team.



中国羊乳产业领军企业
China's Leading Company In Goat Milk Industry

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THE 6TH AFRICAN WUSHU CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 6th African Wushu Championships was successfully held in Cotonou, Benin, from July 19-24, 2017. Eleven countries participated (Egypt, Algeria, Morocco, Ivory Coast, Benin, Nigeria, South Africa, Niger, Senegal, Burkina Faso, and Mauritania), represented by a total of 57 sanda athletes and 31 taolu athletes.

This competition showed a good technical level of management, judging and arbitration, 9 taolu judges

and 15 sanda judges. The African Wushu Kungfu Federation (AFWF) General Assembly was also held in Benin during the 6th African Wushu Championships, during which past achievements and upcoming events of the AFWF were discussed.

On the competition floor, athletes proudly raised their national flags and fully embraced the spirit of competition.



The 6th
African Wushu
Championships

JULY
19-24, 2017

**COTONOU,
BENIN**



THE 2ND PAN AMERICAN KUNGFU & TAIJIQUAN CHAMPIONSHIPS



The 2nd Pan American Kungfu & Taijiquan Championships was held from August 8-14, 2017, in the city of Liberia in Guanacaste, Costa Rica.

Two hundred athletes of all ages from 8 countries and regions including Brazil, the USA, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Peru, Bermuda and Trinidad and Tobago participated in the competition.

The Championships was hosted by the Pan American Wushu Federation (PAWF) and organized

by the Wushu Kungfu Federation of Costa Rica. The Sports Administration of Puntarenas, the Costa Rica Tourism Board, and also co-organized by the Ministry of Public Education. The Championships showcased kungfu and taiji in a wide variety of styles, systems and interpretations.

At the end of competition, Brazil topped the medal table with 57 gold medals. The USA ranked the second with 42 gold medal, and Mexico finished third with 11

golds. Of special note, Bermuda won a gold medal in a taolu event for the first time. Garon Wilkinson, the Bermuda Wushu Association president, stated, "Bermuda has been known as a sanda powerhouse at the Pan American Championships but this was the first time we've medalled in forms. I know that going forward Bermuda won't just be regarded as having powerful fighters, but as a country that can medal in either event."

The 2nd Pan
American Kungfu
& Taijiquan
Championships

AUGUST
8-14, 2017

**GUANACASTE,
COSTA RICA**



CELEBRATION OF WFA 30TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATES DECADES OF WUSHU DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA



On December 15-16, 2017, the celebration of the Wushu Federation of Asia (WFA) 30th Anniversary was held in Guangzhou, China. A series of activities including the first Sanda Asian Cup, a wushu forum, and cultural performances were conducted to commemorate the three decades of the Federation's efforts and achievements in promoting and developing wushu in Asia.

At the celebration's opening ceremony, Ian C.W. Fok, President of the WFA, first made a speech and welcomed the honored guests from various circles. Yu Zaiqing, IWUF President, conveyed his congratulations and best wishes for the WFA. Timothy Tsun-Ting Fok, Member of the IOC, Anthony Goh, IWUF Executive Vice President, Zhang Qiuping, IWUF Secretary General, and other guests attended this ceremony. Following it, the Wushu Forum entitled "Inherit the Past, Usher in the Future: Inheritance, Development and Future of Wushu," advocated ways to make more people discover, appreciate and practice wushu.

The 1st Sanda Asian Cup was held on December 15-16 in Gaoming Sports Center, Foshan City, Guangdong Province, with approximately 50 participating athletes from 9 different countries and regions; these included China, Hong Kong (China), Macuo (China), India, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Korea, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.

The WFA is the Asian region's continental member of the IWUF, established in Yokohama, Japan on September 25, 1987. The WFA has always been dedicated to strengthening cooperation between Asian countries and regions, building friendship, and promoting the development of wushu throughout the continent.

9TH ASIAN JUNIOR WUSHU CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 9th Asian Junior Wushu Championships (9th AJWC) was successfully held in Gumi City, Korea, from September 16-20, 2017. Over 260 athletes from 19 countries and regions participated in this event, including Brunei, China, Hong Kong (China), India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Macau (China), Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Chinese Taipei, Uzbekistan and Vietnam. A total of 88 competition events saw awards of 53 taolu and 12 sanda gold medals.

The Championships opened the evening of September 16 with a traditional Korean music performance, followed by a welcome speech by Mr. Mahdi Alinejad, Vice President of the WFA. The event was launched by a cake cutting ceremony by Mr. Alinejad and Mr. Julian Camacho, Executive Member of the WFA, Mr. Park Chang Bum, President of the Korean Wushu Association, and Mr. Nam Yoo Chin, Mayor of Gumi City.

The 9th AJWC were hosted by the WFA and organized by the Korean Wushu Association. The Korean Wushu Association has previously organized the Asian Wushu Championships in 1993, the 4th Asian Junior Wushu Championships in 2007 and the Asian Games wushu competitions in 2014. The success of the 9th AJWC demonstrated that Korea is deeply committed to promoting the development of the sport of wushu, and that the Korean people share a broad enthusiasm for the sport.

Ms. Zhang Yuping, Chairperson of the WFA Technical Committee stated, "I am glad to see a big improvement in our young wushu athletes in the Asian region. Their performances indicate the steady development of the sport here. This shows that the promotion of wushu in the schools works effectively and is continuously bringing us more outstanding young athletes."



1ST EUROPEAN SHAOLIN WUSHU CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 1st European Shaolin Wushu Championships was successfully held in Budapest, Hungary from March 8-11, 2018.

The competition drew 330 participants from 18 countries and regions, including Russia, Great Britain, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Ukraine, Italy, Netherlands, Germany and Belgium. The competition includes two disciplines, shaolin wushu taolu (form) and qingda in the junior and adult groups. Taolu events included traditional shaolinquan, traditional shaolin short weapons, long weapons, soft weapons and

other weapons and so on.

Under the auspices of the EWUF, the Hungarian Traditional Kungfu and Wushu Federation made great efforts for the organization of the 1st European Shaolin Wushu Championships. Thanks to the EWUF TV channel on YouTube, many people could watch live streaming of this competition.

This championships features the traditional shaolin wushu and serves as strong evidence that wushu has been successfully developed in Europe. The European Shaolin Wushu Championships takes place biennially and is expected to become a key event of the EWUF calendar.





OCEANIA MEMBER DEVELOPMENT

Between June of 2017 and May of 2018, Mr. Walt Missingham, President of Oceania Kungfu Wushu Federation (OWUF), visited a series of countries and regions in Oceania to establish and secure membership for representative associations in Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Samoa, Norfolk Island and the Solomon Islands.

In June 2017 Missingham visited Vanuatu to facilitate the formation of the newest Oceania Kungfu Wushu Federation member, Kungfu Wushu Vanuatu. In August he visited Port Moresby to facilitate the formation of another new OWUF's member, Kungfu Wushu Papua New Guinea, creating its formal legal registration. In August, 2017, Missingham visited Samoa where its formal legal registration as a member occurred. In October 2017, Missingham went to both Fiji and New Caledonia to finalize their registrations/formations and to secure recognition from the appropriate local sport authority.

In March, 2018, Kungfu Wushu Norfolk Island became the latest addition to the Oceania Kungfu Wushu Federation.



In May, 2018, Missingham went to the Solomon Islands to assist with the formation of Kungfu Wushu Solomon Islands (KWSI). The Solomon Islands has a long history of wushu participation. KWSI has provided a unifying umbrella organization that will enable local participants to improve their wushu skills and engage in international competitions.

This greatly expanded the presence of wushu in the Oceania region. A two-tiered membership system encourages and enables new members to work towards full OWUF membership and eventually IWUF membership. It also offers the provision of member support services. Within Oceania only Australia and New Zealand have fully developed administrative structures. Some Oceania countries still operate on tribal and village type governance and it was important for the OWUF to take the time to fully investigate and understand the social, cultural, economic and political differences in each potential member country. This is an important step to achieve the recognition of wushu as a Pacific Games sport.



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THE 34TH ALL JAPAN WUSHU TAIJIQUAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 34th All Japan Wushu Taijiquan Championships was held at the Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium Tokyo, Japan from July 7-9, 2017.

Eighteen hundred competitors gathered for the Championships, and competition was divided into individual events and group events. There were six fields of play in the hall. A total of 1,392 athletes participated in individual athletics events, including 658 men and 734 women. Group events attracted a total of 65 teams, of which 21 teams participated in duilian events, 26 teams in the collective events, and 18 teams in the compulsory taolu.

The individual events of this All Japan Wushu Championships also served as the final selection for the members of the Japan National team who would

participate in the 14th World Wushu Championships in Kazan, Russia.

The All Japan Wushu Taijiquan Championships has now been successfully conducted 34 times. The three-day competition attracts thousands of athletes and more than 15,000 spectators from all over the country every year. It is also the largest event ever held in the Tokyo Stadium in Japan. The All Japan Junior Wushu Taijiquan Championships are held every two years and attract nearly one thousand young athletes with a 10% increase in the number of participants every time. The steady development of wushu in Japan is a true credit to the efforts of the Japan Wushu Taijiquan Federation.



2017 SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL WUSHU COMPETITION HELD IN JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA



On July 29-30, 2017 the South African National Wushu Competition was held in Johannesburg. One hundred-fifty athletes from all over South Africa participated in changquan, shaolinqun, taijiquan, xingyiquan and many other wushu routines. Zheng Wenhe, Cultural Counselor of the Chinese Embassy in South Africa, and Zhang Wangnan, Deputy General Secretary of the CWA, were invited to watch the competition and presented awards to the winners. Nearly 300 spectators from all walks of life in South Africa came to the event to cheer for the athletes. During the competition, several Chinese wushu experts offered dynamic performances, as well as instructive seminars. More than a dozen local wushu referees organized by South Africa Wushu Association

judged the winners of each event.

According to Mr. Jurgens Lamprencht, Chairman of the South African Wushu Federation, the sport of wushu has gained rapid development in South Africa in recent years. Since 2012, the South African Wushu Federation has held a nationwide wushu competition every year. The development of wushu in South Africa has attracted more and more wushu enthusiasts to participate in this competition. Many young players in this competition showed a high level. Zhang Wangnan, Deputy General Secretary of the CWA, also spoke highly of the development of wushu in South Africa and remarked that wushu in South Africa was integral to promoting the sport on the whole African continent.

WUSHU SPECTACULAR FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HKSAR

On October 8, 2017, the "Wushu Spectacular for the Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR (Hong Kong Special Administrative Region)" was successfully held at the Queen Elizabeth Stadium in Hong Kong, China. The activities were rich and compelling, including a wushu gallery, wushu forum and wushu demonstration. It attracted almost 6,500 wushu enthusiasts and guests to share the joy of the 20th Anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the motherland.

This event was attended by Chun Wanlan Fok, President of Hong Kong Wushu Union, Yang Jian, Deputy Director of the Hong

Kong Liason office, Cao Hongming, Deputy Chairman and Secretary General of the China Zhi Gong Party Central Committee, member of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Chen Jizhi, Deputy Director of the HKSAR Civil Affairs Bureau, Anthony Goh, Executive Vice President of the IWUF, and other VIPs.

For the wushu gallery, there were wushu exhibitions and booths for fun, including sanshou, competition routines, dragons and lions kirin arts, traditional martial arts and quiz games. The theme of the wushu forum was "Practical Combat Application and Training of Wushu." The representatives

from various disciplines within traditional wushu were invited to demonstrate, including athletes from the shaolin, taiji, xingyi, baguazhang, yongchunquan, and other wushu disciplines. The performance groups included the Hong Kong taolu and sanda teams, the taiji delegation from the National Games, as well as wushu groups and famous artists from Hong Kong, Macao and the Two Sides of the Strait.

The event was hosted by the Hong Kong Wushu Union and co-organized by the Bureau of Civil Affairs, and various wushu groups from Hong Kong offered their contributions to this event.

HORUS WUSHU SANDA CHAMPIONSHIPS DEBUTED IN CAIRO, EGYPT

The "Horus Wushu Sanda Championships," was held in Cairo, Egypt on March 21, 2018. This event was organized by the Chinese Embassy in Cairo in cooperation with the Wushu Associations of China and Egypt.

Shi Yuewen, Chinese Cultural Counselor to Egypt, Zhang Qiuping, IWUF Secretary General and CWA President, Sherif Mostafa, IWUF Vice President and President of Egyptian Wushu Association, and several Egyptian sport association officers attended this event. The competition venue was crowded with an audience of over two thousand spectators.

Sanda athletes from two countries took part in eight weight categories. Five out of eight Chinese athletes of various weight categories snatched victory over their Egyptian counterparts. The tournament was well-attended by the Chinese community in Egypt, who came to support their national sportsmen.

After the competition, Egyptian athlete Ashraf Abdel-Gawwad, who lost in the 85 kg contest, said playing against Chinese wushu players was a great motivation for him, noting that China has the best wushu athletes in the world.

This championships was held to help expand the influence of the Sino-Egyptian sports exchange. Wushu has become a bridge for consolidating the friendship between China and Egypt. Mr. Sherif Mostafa confirmed that this competition would be held annually. He expressed his happiness for the cordial atmosphere that pervaded the championship, remarking that these sorts of games would help Egyptian athletes gain experience from their Chinese counterparts.



2017 ITALIAN WUSHU CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2017 Italian Wushu Championships was held in Pescara, Italy, from November 25-26, 2017. President of the Italian Wushu Kungfu Federation, Mr. Vincenzo Drago, and the members of the Executive Board of the Italian Wushu Kungfu Federation were in attendance. Before the action got underway, the Italian wushu community reflected on the tragic loss of one of its senior technicians, and a minute of silence was held for Mr. Salvatore De Gregorio.

The Italian Wushu Championships offer the highest level of Italian wushu competition, held once every year under the auspices of both the Italian Wushu Kungfu Federation and the Italian National Olympic Committee. Taking place over two days, senior, junior and cadet athletes represented more than 90 Italian clubs, and showcased the Olympic spirit of mutual understanding, friendship, solidarity and fair play.

The Championships showed growth within all the competing clubs, especially in sanda and youth routines, and the spectator attendance was extremely high.



MOSCOW WUSHU STARS 2018



The 4th international tournament known as the "Moscow Wushu Stars" was held in Moscow, Russia, from February 17-22, 2018, with the support of the Elena and Gennady Timchenko Foundation. The competition took place in the modern venue "Moscow Wushu Palace," a unique building especially designed for wushu training and competitions. "Moscow Wushu Stars" is certified by the European Wushu Kungfu Federation.

This year it gathered more than 750 wushu athletes from 14 countries, including Russia, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Lithuania, Kyrgyzstan, France, Armenia, Uzbekistan, India, Lebanon, Indonesia, Romania, Italy and China. Athletes competed in 6 disciplines comprised of taolu (modern wushu), kungfu (traditional wushu), yongchunquan (wingchun), taijiquan, and contact fighting events – sanda and tuishou.

This large-scale event promotes wushu heavily and attracts a large number of Moscow and Russian youth to the sport. The support of the Timchenko Foundation gives the opportunity to organize the tournament at the highest technical level, making it one of Moscow's biggest international competitions.

4TH SOUTH ASIAN WUSHU CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 4th South Asian Wushu Championships was held from March 22-26, 2018 at the International Sports Gymnasium at Nisther Park Sports Complex in Lahore, Pakistan. Five international teams from Afghanistan, Iran, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan participated in this event.

Mr. Sameer Ahmed, Lahore Deputy Commissioner, led the opening ceremony as chief guest while Noorul Amin Mengal, Director General of the Punjab Food Authority, Iftikhar Ahmed Awan, President of the Pakistan Wushu Federation, and other district sports officers also took part.

Deputy Mr. Ahmed said in his speech, "This is a great

moment for Lahorites that so many fine wushu teams came to take part in this international event; it will surely give a very positive and strong message to the entire world that Pakistan is a peaceful and sports-loving country. I hope this event will help attract more international teams to come and play in Pakistan."

This championships, held after a gap of 10 years, was recognized by the South Asian Wushu Federation. The Divisional and District Sports Offices under the leadership of Lahore Commissionerate organized this event with the technical assistance from the Pakistan Wushu Federation.

WUSHU BECOMES FORMAL CONTEST EVENT FOR FIRST TIME IN ORILLIA 2018 ONTARIO WINTER GAMES



The Orillia 2018 Ontario Winter Games is held every two years in the largest province of Canada and is supported by the Ontario Provincial Government. In 2018, the largest multi-sport event hosted in Orillia's history featured more than 3,200 participants and 25 different sport competitions from March 1-4, 2018. Wushu became a formal contest project in the Winter Games for the first time.

WushuOntario, the provincial sports organization for wushu, sent 158 participants, including 98 athletes, together with coaches, judges, officials and managers. The wushu competition featured taolu and sanda. It offered medals in male and female combined events in 5 different age groups and several sanda categories.

The seven-time consecutive Canadian figure skating champion and former Olympic gold medalist Elvis Stojko,

acted as the Wushu Ambassador. The awarding ceremony on Mar. 4, was attended by Smith Grayson, Mayor of Town of Bracebridge, Deputy Mayor Rick Maloney, Consul Chen Zhishan and Consul Ye Wei from the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Toronto.

During the 4-day competition, the athletes showcased wushu to many who have never seen it before in person. The audience was intrigued and impressed by the athleticism and abilities of the athletes and appreciated the sport's technical aspects.

All of Canada is very proud of the accomplishment of wushu athletes and coaches in the Province of Ontario and it is a big step forward in promoting and developing the sport in the country. Sunny Tang, the Executive Director of Wushu Canada, remarks, "Wushu is a way to cultivate the mind, body, and spirit in a positive way. It will no doubt benefit all those who practice it. We will go all-out to promote Chinese wushu culture and enhance the wushu exchange between China and Canada in the light of the 2018 Canada-China Year of Tourism initiative."

The next Ontario Winter Games will be held in 2020 and Canada hopes to see an even bigger wushu participation at that time.

LITHUANIA INTERNATIONAL TRADITIONAL MARTIAL ART CHAMPIONSHIPS 2017

The Lithuania International Traditional Martial Art Championships was held from October 14-15, 2017 at the Lithuania Exhibition and Congress Center. Over 150 participants competed in full contact fights, light contact fights, traditional wushu demonstrations and tuishou wrestling competitions.

Thomas Lapinskas, President of the Lithuanian Wushu Federation, noted this was the first time Lithuania staged an international traditional martial art championships, with the aim to promote friendly competition and martial arts spirit and preserve the integrity of traditional martial arts.

The two-day competition was organized by the Vilnius municipal government, the Lithuanian Wushu Federation, Shaolin.lt, the Lithuania Aikido Aikikai Federation and the Lithuania Nhat Nam Federation.

SWISS WUSHU CHAMPIONSHIPS 2017

The 2017 Swiss Wushu Championships was held in Oberentfelden, Switzerland on November 12th, 2017. 260 athletes from different Swiss schools and clubs took part in this event, competing in various categories in traditional wushu, modern wushu and taiji. As the highlight of Switzerland's competition season, these championships provide a wonderful platform for wushu enthusiasts across Switzerland to come together, compare their skills, and share wushu knowledge and friendship.

JUDGES AND COACHES TRAINING COURSE IN KOREA

A judges and coaches training course was held from February 23-25, 2018 in Cheonan, Korea hosted by the Korea Wushu Association, attracting 156 participants. It provided good opportunity for Korean judges and coaches to further their knowledge of teaching, judging techniques and anti-doping.

MEDITERRANEAN SANDA TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS, MEDITERRANEAN KUNG FU CHAMPIONSHIPS AND MEDITERRANEAN LIGHT SANDA TOURNAMENT DEBUT

The 1st Mediterranean Sanda Team Championships, the 1st Mediterranean Kung Fu Championships and the 1st Mediterranean Light Sanda Tournament were held together in Athens, Greece, from December 1-3, 2017.

The events were organized by the Hellenic Wushu Federation under the guidance of the IWUF Working Group for Mediterranean Wushu. Over 200 athletes from Greece, Italy, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, France, and Lebanon participated in these events.

The championships were held in good conditions and with a spirit of solidarity of the Mediterranean union, reflecting its own cultural identity and approach. The Lebanese Sanda Team won the first Mediterranean Sanda Team Championships.

Dr. Sebastiano Ettore Spoto, coordinator of the IWUF Working Group for Mediterranean Wushu, said, "The events such as the Mediterranean Sanda Championships and Mediterranean Kung Fu Championships will help the development of wushu within the Mediterranean Area. These events were a success. Much of the success of these events was due to people like



Mr. Lampros Stamoulis, President of the Hellenic Wushu Federation. His willingness to invest his time and energy in this worthy project really makes a difference. Special thanks are due to the other participant members of the IWUF Working Group for Mediterranean Wushu, Mr. Georges Nseir and Mr. Ioannis Leontaris, for their tireless work and the excellent levels of cooperation." The next event will be the Mediterranean Junior Wushu Championships that will be held in 2018.

"THE EVENTS SUCH AS THE MEDITERRANEAN SANDA CHAMPIONSHIPS AND MEDITERRANEAN KUNG FU CHAMPIONSHIPS WILL HELP THE DEVELOPMENT OF WUSHU WITHIN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA."

1ST MEDITERRANEAN JUNIOR WUSHU CHAMPIONSHIPS



The 1st Mediterranean Junior Wushu Championships were successfully held from March 15-19, 2018, in Rabat, Morocco. Teams from Italy, Turkey, Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and a representative from Palestine, as a guest, participated in the championships, featuring more than 100 sanda and taolu athletes.

The opening ceremony was attended by international dignitaries including Mr. Zhang Qiuping, Secretary General of the IWUF and President of the CWA, the representative of the Chinese Embassy in Morocco and many wushu fans. Mr. Sherif Mostafa, President of the AFWF and Vice President of the IWUF, welcomed the audience and the participants in a welcome speech.

This competitions included taolu and sanda events. Taolu events included changquan, daoshu, gunshu, jianshu, qiangshu, nanquan, nangun, nandao, shuangdao, shuangjian, baguazhang, xingyiquan, taiji and duilian in three age categories: 6 to 11, 12 to 14, 15 to 17 years of age. Sanda events were in only one age group: 15 to 17 years of age. At the end of the competition, the Egyptian team topped the medal ranking in both sanda and taolu events, followed by the Turkish team.

This championships was organized by the Moroccan Royal Wushu Federaion and supported by the Chinese Embassy in Morocco, Moroccan Youth and Sports Ministry under the supervision of the African Wushu Kungfu Federation (AFWF) and the IWUF Working Group for Mediterranean Wushu.

With the efforts of the IWUF Working Group for Mediterranean Wushu, the debut of a series of Mediterranean Championships in 2017 and 2018 – including Mediterranean Wushu Championships, Mediterranean Sanda Championships & Mediterranean Kungfu Championships and Mediterranean Junior Wushu Championships – greatly contributes to the promotion and development of wushu in the Mediterranean area.



IWUF AND SHANGHAI LOC PROMOTE WUSHU AND THE 15TH WWC ON UN'S 2018 CHINESE LANGUAGE DAY



From May 6-10, 2018 along with other colorful cultural exchanges made to celebrate the United Nations (UN) Chinese Language Day, a series of wushu activities were held for the promotion of the sport of wushu and 15th World Wushu Championships (15th WWC) at the UN in Vienna, Austria.

On May 7th, the opening ceremony of Chinese Language Day displayed fine wushu performances to various UN officials. Officials from the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, International Atomic Energy Agency, United Nations Information Service (UNIS) and more than 40 UN ambassadors to Vienna attended this opening ceremony.

At the opening ceremony a performance team composed of representatives from the Shanghai wushu community appeared as the finale. Five national champions' performance featured various wushu styles including taijiquan, drunken fist (zuiquan), baguazhang, and

bajiquan. The performance of three child wushu ambassadors demonstrated the spirit of the youth. The performance from the elderly won more warm applause. Wushu performers across four generations appeared on the same stage, bringing the atmosphere to the climax.

Paulo Araujo, Member of the IWUF Executive Board, together with the representatives from the Shanghai LOC, sent invitation letters to the UN ambassadors for the 15th WWC in Shanghai, 2019. Mr. Araujo met Ambassador Shi Zhongjun from the Permanent Mission of China to UN, and offered information on the IWUF's progress in the promotion and development of wushu worldwide.

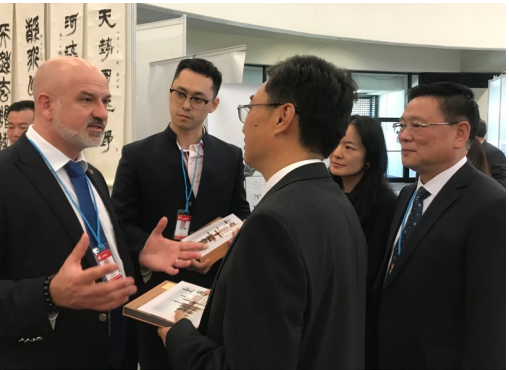
On May 9th, Shanghai wushu delegations also gave another dynamic performance of various wushu disciplines in the Rotunda of the Vienna International Centre, Austria.

The exhibition booth for wushu was set up during

these days in the Vienna International Centre. Many visitors and foreigners had the opportunity to learn about wushu from the printed brochures, but were also offered instruction in basic wushu from national wushu champions from Shanghai. Some students and visitors also wrote their best wishes for the 15th WWC on the poster.

The celebration of UN's 2018 Chinese Language Day received excellent media exposure from CCTV, Phoenix TV and other domestic and foreign media. The official social media account of UNIS VIENNA released several live pictures.

The celebrations of Chinese Language Day at the United Nations in Vienna were organized by the Vienna International Center Chinese Culture Association and the Culture Association in Austria, and supported by the United Nations Information Service (UNIS) Vienna. As a part of this celebration, the series of wushu activities were hosted by the Shanghai Municipal People's Government designated by the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, organized by the Shanghai Media Group (SMG) and supported by the IWUF.



2019 WWC PREPARATORY MEETING AND HOST CITY CONTRACT SIGNING CEREMONY IN SHANGHAI, CHINA

On May 13, 2018, the IWUF delegation under the leadership of President Yu Zaiqing, representatives from Chinese Wushu Association (CWA), and the Shanghai Municipal Sport Bureau held a meeting to discuss the preparation of the 15th WWC which will be held in 2019.

Shanghai has been confirmed as the host city of 2019 WWC since the IWUF congress in Kazan, Russia in September, 2017. At present, the preparations involving various aspects of the event are steadily making progress. Shanghai expressed that it is committed to making the 2019 WWC a grand sporting event, one which would not only display the comprehensive strengths of Shanghai city, but also promote the spirit of wushu and the development of the sport of wushu.

President Yu positively affirmed the preliminary preparatory work of the 15th WWC from the Shanghai Preparatory Committee and put forward the requirements of a "splendorous, special, and innovative" event for the 15th WWC. The members of the IWUF delegation also discussed issues including the



arrangement of the competition venue, promotion, media and marketing with the Shanghai 15th WWC Preparatory Committee and answered the committee's relevant questions.

After the meeting, President Yu, Zhang Qiuping, President of the CWA, and Xu Bin, Director of Shanghai Municipal Sport Bureau, officially signed the host city contract for the 15th WWC.



15TH WORLD WUSHU CHAMPIONSHIPS

October 26-30, 2019
Shanghai, China

Shanghai, one of China's most developed cities, is striving to become a "world-famous sports city," and will do the utmost to make the 15th WWC a big success as it sincerely welcomes the finest wushu athletes from around the world.





14TH WORLD WUSHU CHAMPIONSHIPS

Wushu Takes the Grand Stage in Kazan, Russia

The 14th World Wushu Championships took center stage in 2017 in Kazan, Russia, the nation's Sport Capital, from September 26 to October 3, as over 500 top wushu athletes from five continents gathered to compete at the city's celebrated Gymnastics Center. China topped the medal ranking with 15 total medals (all of them gold), followed closely by Iran's 11 medals (8 gold) and Hong Kong's 11 medals (5 gold). Home nation Russia ranked fourth, while the remaining top ten was rounded out by Korea, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Macau (China) and Japan. In all, 22 countries medaled. As witnessed in recent years, the level of wushu continues to rise globally, and many new technical improvements were also achieved by the IWUF in this competition.

The Kazan LOC brought off a successful, smooth and well-organized event, and participants were thrilled to explore Kazan, the beautiful capital of the Republic of Tatarstan. This charming city welcomed athletes from 50 countries and regions, and revealed a compelling history of over 1,000 years, as well as boasting the UNESCO World Heritage site the Kazan Kremlin.

14TH IWUF CONGRESS

Before the start of competition, the 14th IWUF Congress concluded successfully on September 28. President Yu Zaiqing called the meeting to order and warmly thanked the Kazan 2017 LOC, the Russian Wushu Federation, and city of Kazan for their excellent hospitality and a fine event.

Highlights of the Congress included President Yu appointing Liu Ruiqi as an Honorary Vice President, and Raymond Smith, Giuseppe Falconi, and Tian Suhui as Honorary Executive Board Members in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the IWUF and the sport of wushu.

IWUF's Grading Commission was also announced. The Commission is made up of 15 members, chaired by IWUF Executive Vice President Anthony Goh, to establish an international wushu grading system for traditional styles, competition taolu, taijiquan, and sanda.

The Congress approved five National Federations as full members of the IWUF, including the Burundian Wushu Federation (BDI), Kung Fu Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BIH), Cyprus Wushu Kung Fu Federation (CYP), Wushu Federation of the Republic of Moldova (MDA), and Wushu Federation of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (MKD).

The 14th IWUF Congress unanimously approved the Executive Board recommendation to establish a World Wushu-Kungfu Day in 2018 to promote worldwide wushu-kungfu awareness and appreciation, particularly through the support of member federations.

President Yu Zaiqing announced Zhang Qiuping as the new Secretary General of the IWUF, citing Mr. Zhang's pedigree with his current role as Chinese Wushu Association President, his work with the International Swimming Federation, and his vast experience with international events at all levels.



OPENING CEREMONY



The sporting action began on September 28th as the Opening Ceremony of the 14th World Wushu Championships welcomed athletes, officials, spectators, and VIP guests at the Kazan Gymnastics Center. Dynamic wushu performances from an elite Chinese team and the National Team of the Russian Federation captivated the audience with thrilling

action.

IWUF President Yu Zaiqing welcomed guests who had traveled from afar to attend the event, and other welcoming speeches were given by Mr. Rustam Minnikhanov, President of the Republic of Tatarstan, Mr. Shamil Tarpishev, member of the IOC and President of Tennis Federation of Russia, Mr.

Gleb Muzrukov, Vice President of the International Wushu Federation, Vice President of the European Wushu Kungfu Federation, and President of the Russian Wushu Federation, and Mr. Raymond Smith, President of the European Wushu Kungfu Federation. Spectators were also treated to a festive, lively traditional program of Tatarstan song and dance.



WWC – DAY 1



Day One of the 14th WWC started and ended with sanda excitement kicking off its first rounds in morning and evening, while taolu events debuted with the **Women's Changquan**, **Men's Changquan**, and **Women's Taijijian** in the afternoon session. Athletes new to the competition carpet alongside seasoned veterans put on a spectacular show for the audience, and winners were separated by the slimmest of margins. In **Women's Changquan**, Xue Wang of China edged out Hong Kong's Xuxu Liu for the gold by 2/100 of a point, and Yi Li from Macau, China grabbed the bronze.

Men's Changquan was packed with tough competitors, but China's crisp and precise execution brought gold to Zhizhao Chang with a score of 9.70. Indonesia's popular Achmad Hulaefi took silver, but Russian star Pavel



Muratov brought down the house with his elegant bronze medal performance. Cheers from the home crowd filled the gymnasium, and it was to augur well for the Russian wushu team over the next four days.

Women's Taijijian brought a different energy to the carpet. Indonesia's

2015 WWC double-gold medalist Lindswell was the favorite to win, but a small stumble took her out of medal contention and opened the door for her competitors. Seizing this opportunity Hong Kong's Suijin Chen won gold, Khanh Ly Tran Thi from Vietnam took silver, and Japan's Shiho Saito came away with the bronze medal.





WWC – DAY 2



The second day of the Championships opened with energetic morning and evening slates of Men's and Women's sanda 1/8 finals. The afternoon session saw taolu events in the **Men's Daoshu** and **Nangun**, and **Women's Nanquan** and **Qiangshu**. Wushu fans enjoyed some popular star athletes in dynamic performances, but several newcomers also became triumphant contenders. In Daoshu China once

again grabbed gold, seeing Zhifeng Li at the top of the podium, followed by Indonesia's Edgar Xavier Marvelo, and Singapore's Si Wei Jowen Lim. In **Nangun**, Chinese Taipei's Po Wei Lai's fierce performance edged out Malaysia's MunHua Ho for gold, and Yongun Lee from Korea won bronze.

The women brought on fiery performances as Vietnam topped the

Women's Qiangshu podium, flanked by silver medalist Heeju Seo from Korea and Keiko Yamaguchi from Japan. **Women's Nanquan** once again gave gold to China with a strong showing by Huiying Chen, but the cheers got even louder when Russia's powerhouse veteran Tatiana Ivshina set the carpet (and the audience!) on fire to take the silver. Hong Kong's Jianxin He won bronze.

WWC – DAY 3

As the third day of the Championships unfolded, the morning and evening sanda quarterfinal fights became more exciting, and anticipation was building for the two days that would follow.

The afternoon again belonged to taolu athletes, this time showcasing their skills in **Women's Nangun** and **Taijiquan**, and **Men's Jianshu** and **Nanquan**.

In **Men's Jianshu**, the Malaysian team drew wild applause for a pair of medals – a gold for Weng Son Wong, and a bronze for teammate Wai Kin Yeap – and cheers from the large Malaysian contingent in the audience reached the rafters, especially as two flags rose simultaneously to their national anthem. Korea's Hasung Lee also looked quite pleased with his



silver medal.

In **Men's Nanquan** China picked up another gold, this time with a stellar 9.72 performance by Jianming Li. Macau's Jun Hua Huang chased him for silver, followed closely by Quoc Khanh Pham of Vietnam for bronze.



In women's events, stars were emerging. In **Women's Nangun**, Jianxin He brought home her second medal for Hong Kong – this time a gold. Indonesian veteran Juwita Niza Wasni happily grabbed the silver, with Malaysia's Cheong Min Tan scoring just 1/100 point away for third place bronze.

Women's Taijiquan brought

suspense as fans looked to their Indonesian star, Lindswell, for some redemption – and with a beautiful, ethereal performance she got it, finishing with the gold medal. With some symmetry, Vietnam's Khanh Ly Tran Thi won her second silver, and Japan's Shiho Saito her second bronze.





WWC – DAY 4



In **Men's Gunshu**, Yonghyun Lee of Korea took gold, while Achmad Hulaefi of Indonesia took silver, and Chen Ming Wang of Chinese Taipei took bronze. In **Men's Taijiquan**, China struck gold again with Shuhong Yang's masterful performance, followed by Hong Kong's Tak Yan Samuei Hui for silver and Tomohiro Araya of Japan for bronze.

Women's Jianshu lit up the carpet with fierce talent. Korea's Heeju Seo added a gold to her silver with a captivating performance; Keiko Yamaguchi upped Japan's medal count by adding a silver to her earlier bronze; and Iran's elegant powerhouse Zahra Kiani grabbed the bronze with her dynamic movements, grace and precision.

With flashing swords and fierce warrior cries, **Women's Nandao** resulted in double golds for Hong Kong's stylish Jianxin He (and her third medal of the Championships) as she took to the top of the podium yet again. Cheong Min Tan of Malaysia followed closely for silver, adding to her previous bronze; and Juwita Niza Wasni gave Indonesia another round of cheers with another medal, this time bronze.

Women's Daoshu offered one of the fiercest battles for podium spots, and Hong Kong's golden streak continued as Xuxu Liu took the top honors. It was her second medal of the event. Ukraine's Ganna Tereschenko brought her dynamic and dazzling performance to the floor for silver, and Risalkeuchi of Japan scored bronze.

On Day 4 of the 14th World Wushu Championships the sanda excitement grew as the semi-finals amped up. Top competitors flexed their muscles and their strategy. A few knockouts – and shutouts – set the stage for the next day's finals. Iran, China and Russia were closing in on the field, and the spectators knew it was going

to be good.

Meanwhile, taolu energy was still riding high. The afternoon session brought **Women's Jianshu, Nandao, and Daoshu**, and **Men's Gunshu and Taijiquan**; the event's stars were going strong, many emerging with second, and even third medals.

FINAL DAY

The 14th World Wushu Championships concluded on October 3rd, bringing the five-day international competition to an exciting, energetic, and emotional close. Day 5 showcased **ten** taolu events and it held **18** sanda finals for both men and women. We saw multiple athletes add to their individual medal counts, Russia's first taolu gold, and coveted medals for USA, Germany, France

and Turkey.

Women's Gunshu brought a gold medal to Indonesia's Felda Elvira Santoso, Silver to Risa Ikeuchi of Japan (her second medal), and a third medal, this time bronze, to Hong Kong's Xuxu Liu.

Women's Baguazhang brought more Chinese gold, this time with Jing

Duan's electric performance. Hong Kong's Suijin Chen grabbed silver, and Zeynep Makbule Akyuz stepped up with a fine performance for the bronze, to great cheers from the Turkish contingent.

Hong Kong rose to the top of the podium again in **Women's Shuangjian** with Tianhui Zheng taking top honors; Ukraine scored another silver with the ever lovely wushu of Liudmyla Temna, and Iran's Hanieh Rajabi kept the pressure on to grab the bronze.



Women's Duilian is an eternal crowd-pleaser, and this year's event saw a bit of an upset as reigning favorite team Macau (Yi Li/Cho Man Sou) saw a weapon malfunction, opening the door for gold to Malaysia (EyinPhoon/Ying Ting Loh/Cheong Min Tan), followed by a thrilling silver for the USA's Lucy Ruxi Lee and Mia Tian.

The men's final day of taolu events was no less dramatic. **Men's Qiangshu** witnessed China's Yaowen Zhang winning gold, and another double podium victory for Malaysia was celebrated as Weng Son Wong

took silver and Wai Kin Yeap bronze – the second event medal for each of them.

Men's Nandao's gold was won by Macau's Jun Hua Huang, silver by Khac Dat Cao of Vietnam, and Bronze by Po Wei Lai of Chinese Taipei.

Men's Taijijian earned Japan their first and only men's taolu gold as Tomohiro Araya displayed masterful skills, with Chinese Taipei's Yu-yeh Chuang taking silver and Tak Yan Samuei Hui of Hong Kong grabbing bronze.

Men's Xingyiquan competition evidenced how traditional styles have resonated strongly in Europe, as we saw France triumph with Leo Benouaich's gold victory, and Germany's Christoph Huynh take bronze; the silver went to Pui Seng Cheong of Macau.

Men's Shuangdao once again brought the audience to their feet as they cheered on Russian wushu hero Vladimir Maksimov. The energy in the gym was palpable, and all eyes were upon him as he stepped into the carpet and delivered the winning



performance with his usual impeccable, crisp style – plus a little extra passion on his home soil – for gold. Seungjae Cho of Korea scored silver, and Macau’s Wai Keong Chio took bronze.

With the gym’s energy at its peak, it was finally time for **Men’s Duilian**. The thrilling flips and jumps and flashing weapons brought cheers and applause from an audience ready for some fun. Perennial favorites Roman Reva, Artem Suong and Andrii Fehetsyn of Ukraine delivered an action-packed routine to win bronze; Korea’s dynamic display from Hasung Lee, Yongmun Lee and Yonghyun Lee, edged out the Ukrainians by just a fraction. But when the Iranian team of Farshad Arabi, Navid Makvandi and Amir Mohammadrezaei stepped onto the carpet the cheers and applause came madly for these long-beloved wushu stars. And they lived

up to the hype – with a rollicking, exciting routine that clinched the gold.

After medals and photos, the taolu of the 14th World Wushu Championships was complete. Now it was time for sanda – and what an unforgettable night it would be.



WOMEN'S SANDA FINALS

The women's sanda finals comprised of seven bouts, some of which were predictable, and some of which were surprising, even remarkable. It was no shock that China would win three gold medal fights, but none of these was easy, showing women's sanda level as high as we've ever seen it.

In the 48kg final South Korean athlete Byeon Bo-kyeong gave her Chinese opponent Dai Shimeng a good fight, but could not prevail over Dai's superior skills. This opening fight warmed up the gym, whetting spectators' appetites for more.

There was no disappointment in the following 52kg bout between Iranian superstar Elaheh Mansourian and Vietnam's feisty Hoang Thi Luan. Mansourian took control of the fight at once, but her opponent was not an easy win and in fact Luan surged ahead for a while until Elahe snatched back round one with her steely, snapping fast kicks, punches and takedowns. In round 2 Mansourian came out strong, taking down Luan again and again, fierce and furious with a barrage of kicks and punches - Hoang couldn't find an opening, and Mansourian prevailed, decisively, to win round two and the gold medal.

The next fight, 56kg, was a crowd pleaser featuring Chinese athlete Liu Huimin vs. Sweden's Elin Oberg. Both came out strong, with Oberg refusing

to be dominated halfway into the first round; and for the first half points were evenly awarded. China won round 1 by only a 3 point spread. Oberg held her own opening round 2, but midway Liu gained momentum – and points – to pull ahead and win the match, with Oberg putting in a great performance, but coming back with just too little too late to overcome her opponent.

The 60 kg bout between Chinese athlete Cai Yingying and Vietnamese athlete Nguyen Thi Trang really exhibited the powerhouse that Chinese sanda is. Cai took control of the fight from the start, throwing her opponent multiple times, with decisive mastery, so much so that after a massive point spread the fight was called.

The following fight was another showcase – this time for the giant that is Iranian sanda. Shahrbanou Mansourian (Elahe's sister) is a global icon of sanda, and her razor-sharp skills were on fine display against her Egyptian opponent Sherouk Ahmed. The Egyptian fighter was tough, but she was no match for Mansourian's technical precision. Easily winning round 1, the Iranian fighter took down her opponent time and time again, barely giving Ahmed time to score a point. The Egyptian came back at first in round two, taking down Mansourian once – but only to have her respond in kind. Then, Mansourian really went on

the attack and dominated until the end of the round to victory and another, well-deserved, gold medal.

Now the crowd was revved up, and it was time for more Iranian sanda fireworks, this time from veteran fighter Maryam Hashemi. However, she faced some fire from Philippine star Hergie Bacyadan, no stranger to the leिताi herself. Round 1 saw a great exchange of kicks and punches, with Hashemi taking the lead in points to win the round. In round 2, Bacyadan opened strong and came out on the offensive, and points were roughly even for much of the round. They exchanged throws, and then in the last moments Hashemi powered down with several huge takedowns and a

flurry of kicks to nail the round – and the gold.

Last but not least of the women's sanda matches was the 75kg bout between Russia's Evgeniya Stepanova and India's Pooja Kadian. The Russian athlete came out strong, caught her opponent's foot and swung her off the leिताi. Unruffled, Kadian climbed back up and then came to dominate the first round with her superior punching and kicking skills to win it. In round two India came in quickly to take down Russia, and Kadian succeeded in tiring out her opponent. She won the second round and the gold medal – marking the first time an Indian female athlete has ever won a sanda gold medal!



MEN'S SANDA FINALS

Energy in the gym was high after the standout women's matches, and spectators anticipated that there was much more action to rock the house that evening. Things started off with the 48kg bout between China's Wang Yongjie and Orkhan Hatamov from Azerbaijan, which turned out to be a feisty battle. Wang displayed with plenty of high kicks, racking up points right out of the gate, and also showed off some masterful takedowns, winning round 1 decisively. Round 2 offered more of China's beautiful, even textbook, techniques but Hatamov began to turn it on, landing numerous punches and winning points though not enough to overcome Wang, who the gold.

In the 52kg category Vietnam's Vu Minh Duc squared off with Philippines fighter Arnel Mandal, which Vietnam ultimately dominated to win the match.

Next we saw one of the most exciting fights of the night, between China's 56kg Li Kang and South Korea's Yun Ung-Jin. Both men came out with ferocity and speed, with Korea scoring first and then China kicking hard in return. Yun landed a flurry of punches and kicks to pull ahead in points, and then Li pulled ahead, letting loose a barrage of techniques that found their mark, winning round 1. In round 2 both fighters came on strong again, giving the audience a great show of powerful kicks, punches and takedowns. The Chinese fighter pulled ahead in the

scoring, and Korea raced to catch up, but finally ran out of time – the final bell rang gold for China. Energy was high by now, but for the 60kg bout the local audience exploded with cheers – it was time for Russian champion Ali Magomedov to step onto the leिताi to fight his opponent, Korean athlete Jo Sung-hyun. From the start, it was total Russian domination. Magomedov showed off his beautiful, trademark lightning fast kicks and powerful throws until the judges called the fight in round 1 after the point spread became too great, and Magomedov and Kazan fans celebrated another shining gold for the home team. South Korean fighter, Park Seung-mo, fared slightly better in the following 65 Kg match vs. China's Zheng Tang who squeaked ahead to win round 1, and then dominated round 2 to take the gold.

Then, it was showtime for Iran

– again. This time the audience thrilled to 70kg newcomer Mohsen Mohammadseifi as he took on Egyptian fighter AymanGalal. We continue to see the Iranian sanda program develop more and more powerful fighters, and here it looks like a new star is born. With cyborg-like precision Mohammadseifi dispatched his opponent efficiently in round 1, and then pushed the Egyptian off the platform twice in round two to win the gold medal. If Iran needed to add an exclamation point in the next 75kg match, it did! Iranian fighter Yousef Sabri pushed his opponent Cai Fi Long, of Macau, off the leिताi twice in the first round, and in round 2 he won by TKO – chalking up another triumphant gold for Iran.

With four more fights left in the evening, no one was leaving their seats. Especially now that it was time for another Russian sanda champion, Arslan Bektimirov, to fight South Korean athlete Kim Myeong-jin. Both fighters came out swinging, and Bektimirov took a hard hit to the nose. He fired back with a strategy of kicks that pulled him ahead in points to take round 1 decisively.





Round 2 found the fighters in the clinch, but the experienced Russian knew how to get the job done, winning the second round – and another gold for the host nation. The atmosphere was jubilant and spirits were high knowing the Russian flag would rise another time on the top podium (and 75kg Ismail Aliev of Russia had also won a bronze medal.)

The last three fights brought on the big boys, starting with the 85kg bout between Iran's Moein Taghavi vs. Vadzin Rolich of Belarus. This was another highlight fight of the night that had the crowd roaring – both fighters are powerhouses, with clean techniques. Rolich pushed Taghavi off the leिताi in round 1, and the points were close for much of the match, until ultimately the Iranian prevailed to win the match.

In the 90kg bout Milad Arefi of Iran overcame Egyptian Omar Mamdough with a TKO.

For the final 90+kg fight of the night the crowd went crazy for Iranian champion

Hamid Reza Gholipour vs. China's Ye Xiang. It was rather astounding to watch 4-time world champion Gholipour dominated by China's biggest, baddest heavyweight sanda star Ye Xiang, who took down his opponent, threw down his opponent, and picked him up and threw him down over and over; finally the Chinese fighter pushed the Iranian off the leिताi twice, and it was over. Ye Xiang's star power matches his weight and his strength. He picked up his coach in victory, and when he received his gold medal he had the smile of an angel.

The sanda of the 14th WWC offered a dazzling display of familiar star champions and thrilling newcomers sure to make a splash in the next few years. Kazan's splendid showcase of talent demonstrated that the technical level of sandaalso continues to develop – and we already look forward to the next World Wushu Championships' leिताi action in Shanghai in 2019.



WUSHU FAMILY AT THE 14TH WWC

The World Wushu Championships brings the IWUF “wushu family” together every two years, a tremendously bonding event for the sport’s community. Athletes, coaches, and officials get to socialize, brainstorm, renew old friendships and forge new ones. In Kazan, family was represented both literally and symbolically, offering nuanced experiences of the event.



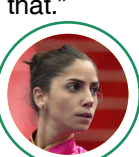
Lucy Lee, taolu athlete from USA, made the team with her sister Mia Tian. “I started the sport when I was seven,” said Lee. “I started the same time as my sister, Mia, who’s two years younger. It’s nice having someone there with you who understands, who competes with you, and against you. Sometimes it’s annoying if my little sister beats me,” she added laughing. But the emotions ran to thrilling when the sister duo put on a fiesty performance and grabbed the silver medal in duilian. Lee’s sister, Mia, was not only super excited about her competition and medal, but also chimed in about her whole experience at Kazan, “All my wushu idols are here. Everyone!”



Michele Giordano, a veteran athlete from Italy, also came to Kazan with his younger brother. “I started wushu when I was very young. Now I’m 31. My brother is also a wushu athlete, and we’ve competed together for a long time. Now we share this



World Championships too.” For Giordano, although he hoped to win an elusive World Championships medal, representing Italy and offering his best performance held more important values. “It’s my dream,” he admits, “to win a medal in the World Championships. I’ve taken a lot of medals in the European Championships and the Taolu World Cup. But I’m happy to finish here in Kazan in the top 10. I’m proud of that.”

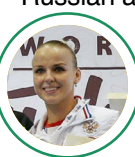


Lebanon’s taolu athlete **Patricia Nseir** is also a veteran of World Wushu Championships events, and she was happy to come meet many international friends again in Kazan. Back in Lebanon, her family and hometown friends were

all watching her performance on Wushu TV. She stated, “I come from Lebanon, and it’s my fifth time to the World Championships. I’m excited to be here. It’s always a very good experience. My dad is the president of the Lebanese Wushu Kung-Fu Federation, and he’s a coach, which is great. I’m always a bit nervous, it’s normal for competition. But I do have experience, and that helps a lot. It’s a true pleasure to represent Lebanon, especially because the sport is not very famous there, and our athletes don’t get a lot of attention. Facing all the challenges and coming here, with Lebanon waiting to see us, I’m very, very happy.” Dr. Georges Nseir, president of the Lebanese Wushu Kung-Fu Federation, looked proudly at his daughter as she competed, and said, “We prepared so much to

be here. It’s a very powerful thing to be at this World Championships. In Lebanon, it’s a difficult situation, there are many problems in the area. But through sports we can make friendships, and you can have friends all over the world. And that’s the message we like to have.” Patricia added, “Now I have a lot of wushu friends, and everybody was cheering for me. It’s a really good feeling.”

One of wushu’s biggest stars, Russian athlete (and now a Russian National Team coach) **Daria Tarasova** was never seen far from the warm up hall or the gym when her “family” of Russian teammates



were competing. Tarasova’s wushu career has spanned 23 years. This year her daughter was born, which precluded her from competing, but there is definitely no slowing down Daria! Catching up with her, she told us, “Kazan is the capital of sport – we’ve been waiting for these World Wushu Championships for a long, long time. It’s happened now and I’m very happy about it. I try to offer good coaching advice and encouragement to the Russian team. I think it’s easier for me to be on the carpet than to watch them compete! Wushu is my life. Now I have my baby also, but I’ll always come back to wushu; this sport doesn’t let me go.”

Regarding her team’s performance under so much home nation pressure, Tarasova said, “In my view the performance of Russian team was really good! Altogether, we got 3 golds, 2 silvers and 2 bronze medals, a nice result. For our team these competitions were psychologically hard, because they were held in our homeland. Our team did their best. We have got many newcomers and it was a great push for them to start their serious professional wushu career here. I’d like to thank the Russian Wushu Federation for their strong belief in us and for such high organizational level competitions leading up to this Championships.”



REFLECTIONS ON KAZAN

As the 14th World Wushu Championships came to an end with the final medal ceremonies, participants bid a fond adieu to Kazan, a city everyone grew very fond of for its people, hospitality and lively culture. As the celebrations unfolded, some IWUF officials also shared their observations on the event.

Executive Board Member Petru Grindeanu, who was also part of the 14th WWC Supervision Committee, noted, “I would like to extend my congratulations to the Russian Wushu Federation, the city of Kazan and, of course, to the Organizing Committee of the 14th World Wushu Championships. It has been a pleasure for me to be part of the Supervision Committee of this very important Federation event, and I can honestly say that I was delighted to observe that year by year our competitions have increased considerably in terms of organization and professionalism. The event in Kazan excelled in good logistics and many well-trained volunteers. The accommodation was in keeping with the Olympic standards and even though some minor problems were reported, the irregularities were quickly fixed. As far as technical matters are concerned, the level of both athletes and judges has been raised also. The event was well promoted on social media platforms, and the broadcast was of good quality. I am very much looking forward to the 15th WWC in

Shanghai, where I hope that we will continue to raise our standards one more time! Jiayo!”

Observing the five days of completion with keen interest, the new IWUF Secretary General Zhang Qiuping remarked, “Kazan is truly a sport city, and the LOC here was supremely professional. For the taolu and sanda athletes here I can see a lot of progress since the last World Championships in Jakarta. For local and visiting spectators there was a high level of variety in the wushu competition. Of course, there is still room for us to improve, and the Technical Committee will get feedback from teams and we will analyze this. Wushu is new compared to many Olympic sports, and we must strive to stay up to date. I think we can especially accommodate youth, their needs and interests. The IOC focuses on new sports for youth. Evolving wushu is part of IWUF's future as well, as we work together with the Executive Board and the Technical Committee. Getting our sport into the Olympic Games is one of our top goals, and we will continue to improve our ideas and expertise as a modern sport.”

IWUF President Yu Zaiqing expressed his great satisfaction with the Championships. “This momentous event been an unparalleled success,” he stated, “and I would like to offer profound thanks to the City of Kazan,

the Russian Wushu Federation, and the Kazan LOC, whose professionalism and commitment to organizing these Championships has elevated the sport of wushu yet again. IWUF is also grateful to the efforts of all volunteers, officials, judges and supporters of this event. The athletes here in Kazan should be especially proud of their performances; these men and women challenged themselves and their competitors, and gave both a local and a worldwide audience a wonderful show of wushu at its finest. We indeed have many marvelous memories here in Kazan to inspire us while we also look ahead with enthusiasm to the next World Wushu Championships in Shanghai.”



LOOKING AHEAD – 15TH WORLD WUSHU CHAMPIONSHIPS – SHANGHAI, CHINA

During the 14th IWUF Congress the Executive Board officially announced that Shanghai will be the host city for the 15th World Wushu Championships in 2019. During the 14th WWC closing ceremony the flag was passed to the Shanghai LOC representatives, who happily waved it as the first welcome to the Shanghai event. Two years may seem like a long time to wait, but if you missed any action – or want to revisit any events – be sure to watch it on Wushu TV, the Official YouTube Channel of the International Wushu Federation. (<https://www.youtube.com/user/iwufwushu>).

Medal rankings and final results can be found at: <http://www.iwuf.org/upload/2017/1011/bd9243ce4888e3c737986a6e32f830b6e623af7e.pdf>

and on the IWUF's 14th WWC official website: <http://14wwc.iwuf.org>

In Sichuan province the majestically beautiful Mount Emei has long been famous as one of the Four Sacred Buddhist Mountains of China, and is today listed as a UNESCO World Natural & Cultural Heritage Site. It is also home to some of the nation's oldest traditional kungfu styles, and thus, it became a fitting stage for the 7th World Kungfu Championships (WKFC) held November 7-11, 2017. A sport-for-all event, the competition drew almost 3,800 participants from 52 countries and regions, making it an action-packed and jubilant kungfu celebration embraced by young and old. For this 7th edition of the games, IWUF also organized a series of lectures and seminars with renowned kungfu masters, which were attended with much enthusiasm.



KUNGFU GLORY ON THE MOUNTAIN

The 7th World Kungfu Championships in Emeishan, China



The Championships was launched on the evening of November 8 with a festive banquet hosted by the Emeishan Local Organizing Committee. It was followed by a vibrant opening ceremony that included the march in of athlete representatives from participating countries, many stunning wushu and acrobatic performances highlighting Emeishan culture, and welcome speeches by Anthony Goh, Executive Vice President of the IWUF, Zhang Qiuping, President of the Chinese Wushu Association and IWUF Secretary General, and Zhang Tong, Mayor of Leshan Municipal People's government.

The next morning the mists rose off Mt.

Emei to reveal thousands of participants warming up in the Sichuan International Tourism Trade Expo Center, and the two giant competition rooms were brought to life with energy and dynamic traditional kungfu performances. In one room the domestic Chinese competition brought together over a thousand longtime practitioners and youthful athletes proudly displaying their national sport with great sophistication. In the adjacent arena the carpets were host to a veritable cornucopia of styles displayed by international athletes – ranging from Shaolin to Cha Quan, Xingyi Quan, Bagua Zhang, Taijiquan and Tongbei, as well as many rarer styles. Southern styles such as Hung Gar Kune, Choy Lay Fut Kune, and

Wing Chun were seen in abundance, and it was a wonderful opportunity for athletes of each discipline to compare notes on technique and performance. Spectators particularly thrilled to the many flashing weapons that included staff, sword and spear of various traditional styles, but also the engaging rope dart, various daggers and the flowing play of taiji ball.

The USA brought the largest team to the event, with 316 participants including 172 athletes, while other large contingents from Brazil, Japan, Russia, France, South Africa, Malaysia and Hong Kong added to the mix of languages and culture.

Part of the beauty of this sport for all event

is the sense of community it engenders. Scores of kids came with their families and many competed for the first time – encouraged by teammates and relatives they had the formative experience of a lifetime, not only visiting China and absorbing its rich local Sichuan culture, but also making friends from many other countries. The kids also offered a great show for spectators, many of who fell in love with tiny Shaolin stylist Huaskar Pinedo from Bolivia who truly charmed the crowds with his energetic performance. Many talented older masters-age practitioners in their sixties and seventies also showed their years of experience out on the floor, inspiring younger generations and reminding us that kungfu is much

more than a sport, it is also a lifestyle that one can embrace for a lifetime.


It was notable to see many of IWUF's modern wushu athlete stars competing, like decorated medalists Vladimir Maksimov and Tatiana Ivshina from Russia, Ukrainian favorites Ganna Tereshchenko and Liudmyla Temna, and elegant Romanian taijiquan athlete Sonia Grindeanu. This underscores the links between wushu's modern sport and practice as an ancient art, and demonstrates the fact that elite sport athletes from around the world are also quite keen on pursuing the foundations of traditional wushu that their sport is based on.




ATHLETE EXPERIENCES IN EMEI


Outside of the more formal seminars, the entire championships became something of a living kungfu lab where participants could sample the wide range of traditional styles, gain exposure to different forms, talk with fellow athletes and coaches to gain knowledge, and create new friendships. The relaxed nature of the event made it as much a kungfu party or festival, and the proximity and accessibility of renowned masters in the hotels, halls and stands made for a unique wushu networking opportunity.

We asked some athletes from different countries about what sparks their passion for wushu, why they practice, and how their Championships experience was.


 **Stefania Gaviano**, from Italy, told us, “Wushu is not only a sport, it's friendship, happiness. I meet more friends when I play wushu. It's an honor for us representing our country.”

 **Fabricio Osaku** from Brazil remarked, “Wushu is my life philosophy. I love doing wushu. It makes me healthy and happy. It's not just punching and kicking, there's a philosophy behind it, this is more important. I'm also a wushu teacher, and I love teaching my students and it makes me very proud


to be here.”

 Turkish athlete **Elif Akyuz** reflected, “I think my wushu is my life.

When I do wushu my soul, my body, my brain are brought together, all working together. My family came here with me, my sisters, my brother, we all joined these championships competing together. I like traditional kungfu, I like staying in China, and I want to enjoy it all.”

 When we ask why she practices wushu, **Rutenda Ngaro** of South

Africa observed, “Wushu I believe is a great form of discipline, it brings out determination, and I also believe wushu is a form of healing. Certainly in South Africa that's what we use it as. As a form of team building, nation building, and definitely discipline. Wushu has helped me grow in many areas of my life. It has given me focus, given me an ability to look forward, an ability to be precise, to be flexible ...wushu helps me in my work, in my studies, in everything I do.”

 And **Tony Chen** of USA, also offered a bit of his life's wushu philosophy, noting, “Wushu means a lot to me. It's taught me a lot about discipline, appreciating other cultures. I'm Cambodian American but practicing wushu has really opened my eyes to Chinese culture, and it's a wonderful experience. I also value the

friendships and the brotherhood that also come from making friends from all over the world. People who speak different languages, from different cultures, you unite. For one common interest. I've been off and on for wushu for over a decade now, and it's been a really good journey. I learned a lot about myself, and developed myself through wushu. You express yourself through movement in the sport, and I think that carries through into building confidence in your personal



character. Experiencing Emeishan has been wonderful, especially being out on the carpet and showing what I'm able to do.”

Many participants – including some of the event's famous teachers also made excursions to visit the famous peak of Mt. Emei, and Wanfo Summit, taking in the view and posing for some impromptu unique action photos with IWUF official photographer W.S. Chen.







IWUF'S SEMINAR PROGRAM

IWUF made a sustained effort to debut the first Seminar Program at the event, gathering a diverse group of kungfu experts to present lectures and training sessions, which were enthusiastically attended.

THESE INCLUDED LECTURES BY:

Kwok lam Sin (Characteristics Wing Chun Kune & Essence of Chi Sau), Sih Hing Chao (Introductory Discussion on Lingnan Hung Kune's History & Technique

Origin), Anthony Goh (Introduction of the IWUF Grading System), Xiaolin Lu (The Modification of Rules for International Wushu Competition and Its Effect on Wushu's Development Worldwide), Eddie Kwong Yu Ng (Wu Style Taijiquan - Main Requirements & Technique Applications), Mingjian Huang (Popular Culture Trend-The Display of Wushu in Action Films), Fong Shih Yang (The Value & Practical of Routines Practice (Taolu) of Xingyi Quan, Bagua Zhang & Tanglang Quan), and Hing Yuen Anthony Wan (Self-defense Training Course & Taiji's Function of Preventing or Curing Illness).

TRAINING SESSIONS WERE TAUGHT BY:

Zhenglei Chen (Chen Style Taijiquan Health & Longevity Exercises - 18 Essential Methods), Zuohui Wen (EmeiQuan - First Routine - Basic Techniques & Details), Sunny Tang (Fundamental Skill of Wing Chun Kune & Chi Sau), Xigui Zhang (Xingyi Quan-Rooster Four Seizes), JiaminGao (Sun Style Taijiquan-Basic Techniques and Methods), Man lam Lei (Chen Style Taijiquan Basic Actions & Guidance), Yanwu Han (Cheng Style Bagua Zhang

- Foundational Practice - 8 Fixed Palms), Eddie Kwong Yu Ng (Wu Style Taijiquan Basic Techniques & Details), Chong Pin Ong (Taijiquan - Cultivation Core Strength Through Silk-reeling Practice), Jiamin Gao (42 Movement Taijijian Techniques & Common Errors), Yanwu Han (Cheng Style Bagua Zhang - 8 Great Palms - 4 Selected Palms), Man lam Lei (Chen Style Taijiquan Basic Actions & Guidance), and

Chong Pin Ong (Taijiquan - A Scientific Perspective of Neijin 'Internal Strength').

Reception to the seminars was overwhelmingly positive. After making the long trip to China so many foreign participants were thrilled to study taijiquan live with the likes of Chen Zhenglei and other revered teachers. The Chinese participants themselves were no less

delighted to take the opportunity to study with these famous teachers, creating a lovely synergy and space where the international and domestic martial artists had the chance to mingle. With many sessions spread out over the three days of competition, most everyone could find a topic of interest that fit their schedule and greatly enhanced their experience at the event.





WUSHUTV - LIVE STREAMING AND YOUTUBE

This was also the first time IWUF live streamed the World Kungfu Championships in China, and on delay to YouTube. In China, the event was streamed on Sina Sports to between **25,000-30,000** each day, and on Lesports to between **23,000-30,000**

viewers during morning and afternoon sessions.

If you missed any action go to IWUF's Youtube channel for many wonderful performances and features recorded over the days of competition.



IWUF LEADERSHIP ATTENDS AND REFLECTS

Many members of IWUF's Executive Board and Technical Committees attended the event, keenly observing, and offering their thoughts on new benchmarks reached, and growing this traditional event in the future.

IWUF Executive Board member Petru Grindeanu commented, "Having been to the previous editions of these Championships I'm pleased to see improvements in technical areas and growth in participants. The level of judging here is very good – it's a very fair competition. The scores are not inflated, which is important to give these athletes a realistic sense of their performances. I also find the level of players here higher than previously, and the organization is excellent. Since the first World Kungfu

Championships in 2002, the judges' rules have improved considerably, adding a greater professionalism to the event overall."

Traditional Wushu Committee Vice Chairman Luc Bendza noted, "The organization here is good, and the level of the competitors is high. It's important, I think, to promote more



countries' participation in traditional kungfu, which is gaining in popularity. I think we should actively promote participation in more traditional kungfu styles especially in countries in Africa, where it is very popular and growing fast, but not as prominent yet as in Europe or South America. Particularly in Egypt, South Africa, Tunisia and Morocco, a lot of work has been done, but we can focus efforts on boosting the level more on the entire continent, which will also provide more diversity for IWUF and wushu."

Traditional Wushu Committee member Victor On said, "This has been a wonderful event, and the Organizing Committee deserves kudos for running a tournament of this magnitude so smoothly. From one standpoint, the roots of contemporary wushu are in traditional kungfu, and these athletes feel the draw, a curiosity of where these roots come from, where it all started. We see this displayed here in Emeishan, and it's a fine thing to

experience this rich history come alive with so much spirit here."

IWUF Vice President Sherif Mostafa, stated, "This is my third time to this traditional event, and I see a lot of improvements. There are over 3,000 athletes, and the atmosphere among the players here is very good. This competition is important for African countries, and Africa likes traditional wushu a lot. We have 7 African countries here in Emei. Here our African athletes can also get medals – Egypt will take home 14 medals, and back in Egypt they will be seen on TV; it's good for our sport and promotion there. This is the second time Egypt participates in these Championships - after last time many asked to come. I think even more will ask to come to the next World Kungfu Championships, and I'm pleased to see that."

Chinese Wushu Association President and IWUF Secretary General Zhang

Qiuping observed, "This was my first time attending this event, and it was wonderful to experience the energetic festival atmosphere, young and old people participating with such enthusiasm, and really celebrating as a wushu family. We had excellent hospitality from the LOC and Emei City, and the Chinese Wushu Association will fully support IWUF and the local organizers to host the 8th World Kungfu Championships here again in two years time."

IWUF Executive Vice President Anthony Goh remarked as the closing ceremony approached, "I think this has been an outstanding event, and I first want to thank the Emeishan LOC for investing a great deal of time and effort into these Championships. Their marketing, wonderful volunteers, and overall organization hosting thousands of people was truly impressive. This Championships is important for the IWUF, and we plan to work harder on preserving and promoting the spirit, authenticity, origins and character of the of traditional kungfu styles. This is the first time we have broadcast the World Kungfu Championships in China and internationally with the help of our partners at Lagardere Sports, and undoubtedly the production will help spread and promote traditional styles more effectively around the globe. In the future we plan to make even more improvements, and while on the one hand we are pursuing wushu's entrance into the Olympic Games, on the other we are equally committed to promoting the importance of this sport for all event for our kungfu practitioners worldwide."





CLOSING CEREMONY

The 7th World Kungfu Championships came to a close on the third day of competition with the dramatic and always engaging group demonstrations capturing the room's attention, eliciting great cheers and applause. With the final prizes awarded to top competitors, the 7th World Kungfu Championships finished, and many photos were snapped and posted on various social media. As teams filed out of the Sichuan International Tourism Trade Expo Center, and the mists settled on top of the towering Mt. Emei, already many had thoughts looking ahead to the 8th WKFC in 2019.



OPENING OF THE BIDDING PROCESS FOR IWUF COMPETITIONS IN 2020

8th World Junior Wushu Championships



4th World Taijiquan Championships



10th Sanda World Cup



3rd Taolu World Cup



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:



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



WUSHU DEBUTS AT TAIPEI 2017 SUMMER UNIVERSIADE

Wushu debuted at the 29th Summer Universiade Games in Taipei, Chinese Taipei on August 26, becoming part of FISU's exciting international, biennial multi-sport event for university athletes. At the Universiade, more than 7,734 young athletes from 21 sports and 134 nations converged in the spirit of friendship, fair play and competition. These budding citizens of the world celebrated global sport culture, and for the first time wushu became an official part of that celebration.



The “Universiade” is the name for these world university games, derived from the words “University” and “Olympiade.” It’s organized by the International University Sports Federation (FISU) as the premier international sporting event for college athletes. IWUF signed a cooperation agreement with FISU in 2015, and it was with deep determination that IWUF actively pursued getting wushu accepted into these games.

The President of Chinese Taipei Wushu Association, Yang Mei Jung, remarked, “We would like to thank the IWUF, FISU and LOC for their support in getting wushu into the Universiade, which is also sometimes called the “minor Olympics.” It was a very difficult task, and the local government officials in Chinese Taipei also extended great support to this effort as well, for which we are grateful. Having wushu in the Universiade is not only meaningful to us, but also to global wushu development. It is a milestone.”

THE WUSHU GAMES BEGIN

In all, 144 young athletes from 29 countries and regions participated in the Universiade’s debut wushu competition. From August 26-29, fans poured into the Hsinchu County Gymnasium to enjoy taolu in the mornings and sanda in the evenings. Athletes welcomed the afternoon to train, rest, and socialize in the Athletes Village where they mingled with their sporting contemporaries from around the world; this experience became one of the event’s real highlights for the Universiade wushu athletes, just as it was for the athletes of the Beijing 2008 Wushu Tournament nearly a decade ago.



On the morning of the August 26th the gymnasium was filled with melodies, grace and power as women’s taijiquan became the first event to greet an enthusiastic local audience – an audience that roared when Chinese Taipei athlete Yi-Ying Chen stepped onto the carpet and showed her magic. While China’s Mengyao Wu snatched first place, Chen won the hearts of her local fans and happily took third, edging out Malaysia’s Lu Yi Chan by just a few points.

Next, men’s taijijian offered a bit of déjà vu, as China’s Fanhui Kong won first place, and Yu-Wei Chen from Chinese Taipei took third, with Malaysia’s Choon How Lohgrabbing second place this time.

With the stadium warmed up and wushu appetites whetted, the first round of sanda enlivened Saturday night. It was soon clear that Iran and China would dominate this event, but strong contenders from Korea, Chinese Taipei, Philippines, Russia and Kazakhstan would challenge this hegemony.



Sunday started off with a lively women's nandao competition, where China's Liuyan Lai seized the top spot with an impressive score of 9.58. Men's nangun kept the action fast and furious, and Chinese Taipei's Kai-Kuei Hsu brought down the house with the top score. Next on deck came the ever-popular changquan competition, starting with the men's category, where another Chinese Taipei athlete, Tse-min Tsai, brought forth a new eruption of cheers and applause from the stands. His electric performance

slid him into first place ahead of Korea and Iran, but he was soon knocked into second by Russia's elegantly powerful Pavel Muratov, scoring a 9.45 to win silver. However, it would be Mengnan Li from China whose sparkling performance saw the highest score, 9.55, and the gold medal. The audience, to be sure, could not have been more thrilled to see the bronze medal go to their local athlete Tsai.

The morning's finale came with women's changquan, and a new

battle for supremacy began all over again. Here some serious star power came into play from Ukraine, Indonesia and Iran, but it was the most seasoned athletes – all former world champions – who would dominate. Russia's consummate star Sandra Konstantinova took the lead with a 9.35, but Macau's Yi Li soon followed, and blazed her way into first place with 9.51. The lovely Ayaka Honda gave a polished and inspired performance to seize third place.

DAY 2



DAY 3



On the third day of competition the battle for the combined taijiquan and taijijian medals would conclude. Fanhui Kong took first place in men's taijiquan with a 9.67, followed by Hong Kong's Jiahong Zhuang (9.52), and Ryo Murakami of Japan placing third (9.48.) But when the dust cleared – or rather when the taijiquan and taijijian scores combined – the gold medal went to Fanhui Kong (China), silver to Yu-Wei Chen of Chinese Taipei, and bronze to Choon How Loh of Malaysia.

The hometown team's "silver lining" echoed again in the women's combined taiji medals, as China's Menyao Wu took gold, Yi-Ying Chen of Chinese Taipei took silver, and Uen Ying J Mok, of Hong Kong, took bronze. A media frenzy rushed the press room after the medal ceremony, with a mass of local reporters from Chinese Taipei covering their gloried athletes.



The subsequent competitions of the morning brought thrilling weapons action to the gym as women's qiangshu and men's daoshu got underway. Qiangshu's star studded cast offered the usual beautiful yet contrasting spear styles of reigning wushu champs, and it was not entirely surprising to see Yi Li (Macau, China) take first place, Heeju Seo (Korea) take second, and Emily Fan (USA) gracefully leap into third place.

Daoshu thrilled the audience equally, especially first place winner Mengnan Li, who received a whopping 9.67 for his dazzling routine. Ilias Khusnutdinov displayed typical elite Russian power and style for second place (9.44), and Iran's Amir Mohammedrezaei won over the crowd, and the judges, for third place.

The morning of August 29th unfolded exciting drama in the denouement of the combined nanquan&nangun competition. Sunday's nangun event had brought cheers and shouts from a very engaged Taipei audience as local hero Kai-Kuei Hsu battled his way to first place with a 9.62, edging out Macau and Korea. Two days later, his fans held their breath as the nanquan began, seeing if Hsu could equal his nangun performance to take gold in the combined events. Hsu was sixth in the order, and he came out to the carpet on fire. He seemed to inhale the energy of the audience, and gave an electric, nearly flawless performance. But chasing him were Calvin Wai Leong Lee of Malaysia, Japan's Y. Asayama, and Macau's

Junhua Huang, all of who also had high scores from the nangun event. Huang was in top form, and edged Hsu out in the nanquan earning a 9.57 – but it wasn't enough to surpass Hsu's combined score, and the Chinese Taipei athlete seized the day – and the gold medal. A joyful Chinese Taipei team and onlookers watched as Hsu proudly rose to the top podium and became Chinese Taipei's golden wushu hero of the Universiade.

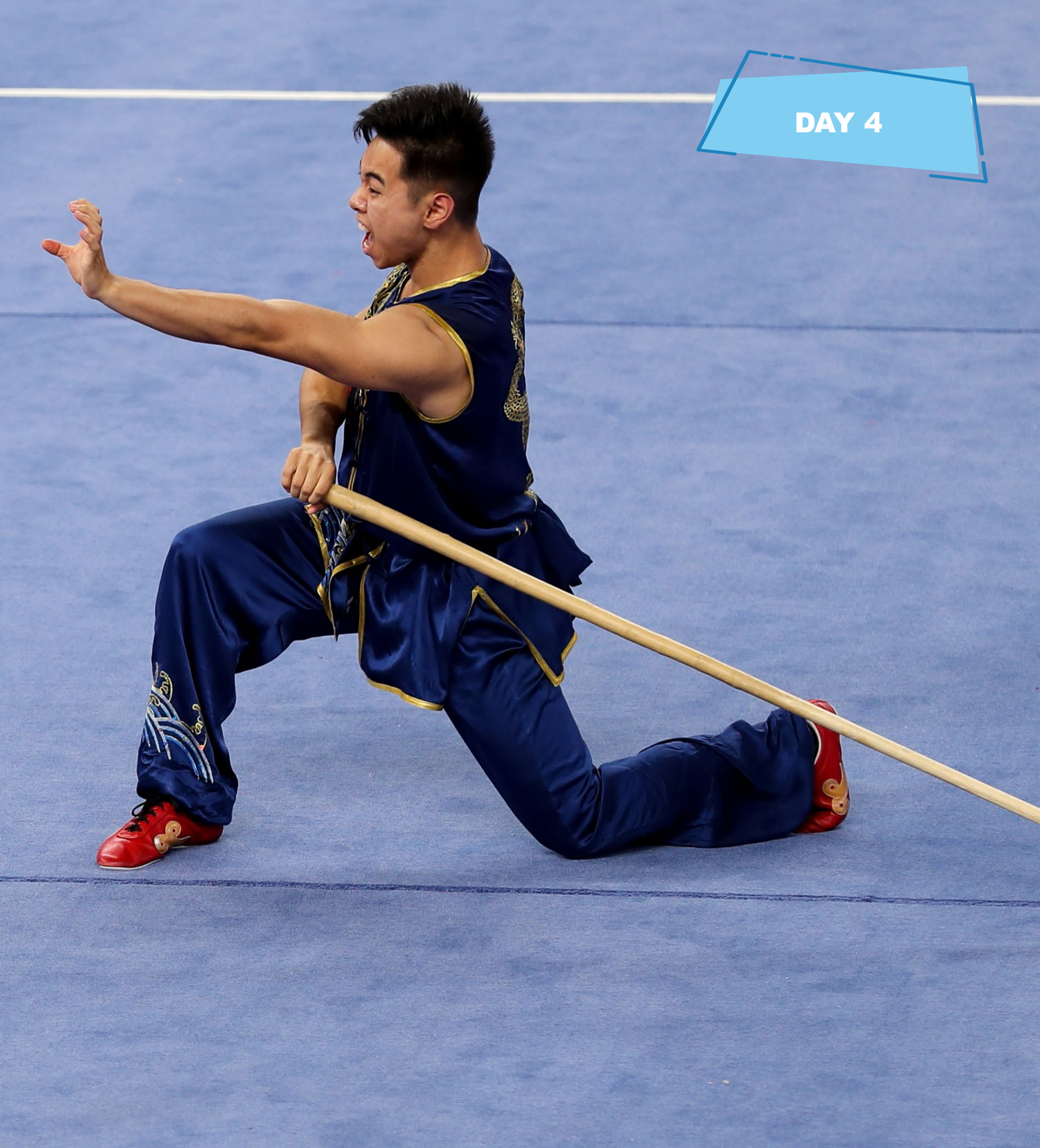
The battle for the women's southern style events was likewise hard fought, though none could overtake China's Liuyan Lai for gold. Malaysia, Russia and Iran vied for second and third, and ultimately Cheong Ming Tan of Malaysia won silver, and the

powerfully elegant Fatemeh Heidari of Iran took bronze.

Jianshu and qiangshu saw a return of popular wushu athletes who have graced the medal podiums over the past several years at top-level events from the World Wushu Championships to the Taolu Cup. Fans warmed greatly to wushu favorites Yi Li (Macau, China), Ayaka Honda (Japan), Emily Fan (USA), Elif Akyuz (Turkey), Heeju Seo (Korea), and Liudmyla Temna (Ukraine.), Yi Li took gold with her powerful performances, Heeju Seo, won silver with beautiful style, and from USA, Emily Fan filled the gymnasium with her joyful, expressive, energetic performance to win bronze.



DAY 4



SANDA FINALS

The last day of competition's sanda finals is always a crowd pleaser, and the audience in the gymnasium anticipated an evening of top-notch action that evening. The two women's matches may have stolen the show, especially the 52kg opening 3-round battle between Korea's Hyebin Kim and Iran's Arezou Salimighalehtaki, which turned into a real nail-biter. Kim won the first round with her daunting kicks, and the Iranian fighter took round 2 with relentless takedowns. The fighters were well matched, and Kim finally edged out her opponent in points in round 3 to win the gold.

The second woman's final, 60kg, saw an amped up crowd cheering on Chinese Taipei fighter Yi-Ju Lin as she fought China's Xianting Jiang. The crowd roared as Lin took down her opponent multiple times, but Jiang prevailed on points to win the match in two rounds.

Men's 52kg event saw China's Peng Yuan initially get knocked down by tough Philippines fighter Jomar Balangui, but Peng prevailed to win on points in two rounds. In the 60kg division Fuxiang Zhao from China landed a near-knockout punch to his opponent from Iran, Erfan

Ahangarian, at first, but the Iranian's strong wrestling skills proved too daunting to handle, as he took down the Chinese fighter time after time on his way to gold. His Iranian teammate in the 70kg division, Jafar Shirzadeh Popraghlo, likewise dispatched a valiant and feisty Ruslan Libirov from Kazakhstan with deeply impressive throwing and wrestling skills to claim victory. The last fight of the evening saw 80kg Iranian fighter Hamid Reza Ladvar dispatch his Chinese opponent Shengnan Li with ease.





WHAT THE UNIVERSIADE MEANS TO WUSHU

Adding the Universiade to IWUF's family of events has a deeper and more implicit meaning for wushu athletes than merely having one more competition to win medals at. For many, university is a profound transition period in their wushu careers. Some may chose to focus more on their academics, and for them, the Universiade may be their last wushu competition – which makes it a meaningful, perhaps bittersweet, milestone and marker in their lives if they are retiring from the sport.

For others who will continue on in wushu, the Universiade offers a coming of age experience, a bridge to help take determined and dedicated athletes to the next level. For many, it's also a bridge between the World Junior Wushu Championships and the World Wushu Championships as athletes transition from accomplished junior athletes to more polished adults on a world stage.

With this event adding a new landscape to the wushu journey, many athletes also found a sense of community in Chinese Taipei unique to the Universiade. Japan's Ayaka Honda commented on this, reflecting, "I felt a strong sense of friendship and respect that really went beyond the individual national teams. Since each country could send only 4 athletes to this competition, we all had very

small teams, and it was difficult to cheer loudly enough for our own fellow athletes to hear. With my first event, changquan, there was only one teammate who could cheer for me since we also had male nanquan and changquan on that day. But when I walked onto the carpet, I heard many people screaming my name, loudly cheering for me – it was definitely more than one person! After the performance, I found out that the other teams there were cheering together for me. I really cried, because I was happy to see those friendships were so deep, and feel all the respect. The athletes from other teams may be rivals in competition, but at the same time, the goal to stand on the top of the podium is the same. We all try so hard to achieve the same goal. The sportsmanship that I saw at this competition was so valuable, and I hope this kind of sportsmanship will be continued in every future competition."

For USA star athlete Emily Fan, the Universiade was an emotional finale to the wushu odyssey she began as a child as she retires to focus full-time on her college studies at Berkeley. She says, "The Universiade in Chinese Taipei was one of the best experiences of my life, mainly because I knew it would be the last international competition of my wushu career. What made it even more special was I would be competing

alongside my teammate, and one of my best friends, Wesley Huie. We competed in our first world competition in 2008 in Indonesia, and competing together felt like it all came full circle. It was also an amazing experience to be living in the athletes village and interacting with athletes of different sports and countries!"

For IWUF this first Universiade wushu event is also deeply significant in making wushu a part of a global multi-sport games, and offering the opportunity to promote wushu to a broader audience.

Iwan Kwok, FISU Technical Director for the 2017 Universiade, and Technical Committee Member of IWUF, remarked, "As Technical Delegate for this Universiade, I greatly appreciated the guidance from FISU and the LOC, as well as the unwavering support from IWUF that contributed to the success of this prestigious event. I think the 2017 Universiade in Taipei is a success for all of us. It is undoubtedly another important step in developing wushu sport globally, and the added value of this Universiade is also a continued legacy of sportsmanship and fair play, which we saw in abundance here."

After awarding the final sanda medals, Executive Vice President Anthony Goh remarked, "It is exciting to see

"FOR IWUF THIS FIRST UNIVERSIADE WUSHU EVENT IS ALSO DEEPLY SIGNIFICANT IN MAKING WUSHU A PART OF A GLOBAL MULTI-SPORT GAMES, AND OFFERING THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROMOTE WUSHU TO A BROADER AUDIENCE."

that wushu is getting into another major multi-sport games, and it is special because we are reaching out to people that offer great potential. University students make up an elite part of society, and they will pursue diverse careers and travel many paths in the world. Wushu will help them to grow, and they in turn will help the sport grow into different segments of society. The Universiade offers our young athletes an opportunity to succeed in sport on a global level, and will also help maintain their competition career. This unique experience in one of the most respected universal games may likely even mold the person they will yet become."



2018 WORLD UNIVERSITY WUSHU CHAMPIONSHIPS

August 2-5, 2018
Macau, China

The World University Wushu Championships is a single sport competition organized for university athletes under the International University Sports Federation (FISU) World University Championships Sports Programme.



IWUF'S PATH TO THE OLYMPICS

— A PROGRESS REPORT

When the International Wushu Federation was first formed in 1990, the inclusion of wushu as an official sport of the Olympic Program was just beginning to develop as an idea, an ambition, and a collective dream of wushu athletes worldwide. Yet, in just shy of three decades, remarkable progress has been made, and many significant milestones have been reached along the long and winding road to the Olympics.

To date, IWUF has hosted and grown its major signature events all over the globe, including 14 World Wushu Championships and 6 Junior World Wushu Championships, and has tracked steady growth in participation and an increase in athlete skill levels. The federation has also built up elite athlete championships including the Sanda World Cup and Taolu World Cup, and has created a dedicated tournament for the globally popular sport of taijiquan in the World Taijiquan Championships. Wushu is celebrated by many thousands at the ever-growing sport-for-all event World Kungfu Championships, which recently saw its seventh edition in Emeishan, China. IWUF has gained significant recognition in the global sport community by successfully getting wushu added as a competition or exhibition sport to a number of important and diverse multi-sport games – including the Asian Games, the Summer



Universiade, the World University Championships, the World Games, the World Combat Games, the Lusophonia Games, the Islamic Solidarity Games, and the African Youth Games.

IWUF President Zaiqing Yu keeps wushu in the spotlight on the global sport stage, and with experience and vision, is at the head of IWUF's leadership working for wushu's Olympic inclusion. He was recently re-elected as IOC Vice-President at the 132nd IOC Session in

PyeongChang at the 2018 Winter Olympics. He heads into a third vice presidential term after serving two stints from 2008-2012, and then 2014-2018. Yu, who is also Vice President of the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics, has been an IOC member since 2000.

The collective work of many has gone into IWUF's quantifiable achievements thus far in bringing wushu to the attention of the IOC and the worldwide sporting community.



• In 2002 the IOC officially recognized the IWUF during its 113th session held in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA.



• In 2011 wushu was shortlisted for inclusion as an official event in the 2020 Summer Olympic Games. In 2012 the IWUF made presentations to the Olympic Program Commission in Lausanne, Switzerland, and in 2013 to the Executive Board of the IOC in St. Petersburg. The delegates who attended the bid presentation included IWUF President Yu Zaiqing, Vice-Presidents Anthony Goh (USA), Raymond Smith (GBR), and Glen Keith (NZL), along with Referee Representative Byron Jacobs (CYP), Technical Representative Luc Bendza (GAB) and Athlete Representative Daria Tarasova (RUS).



• In 2014, in conjunction with the Nanjing 2014 Youth Olympic Games, the IWUF was officially invited to exhibit wushu in the inaugural IOC Sports Lab, an interactive showcase of four sports working toward inclusion in the Olympic Games. A delegation of 27 persons including 16 top international athletes from our member federations participated in this event. It was an opportunity to present wushu in an Olympic environment, and during 11 days the wushu showcase drew attention from numerous IOC members, NOC officials and YOG athletes as well as local participants. The highlight of the event was when IOC President Thomas Bach paid a visit to the wushu venue and tried out wushu. Wushu performances were broadcast to millions of television viewers, gaining wider exposure for the sport and more prominent recognition in the IOC community.

• In 2008, the Beijing 2008 Wushu Tournament was held during the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games as part of its Culture and Education Program. IOC President Jacques Rogge awarded the first medal of the event. At the opening ceremony of the 2008 Games, wushu athletes performed taijiquan, showcasing wushu to audiences all over the world. 128 athletes from 43 countries/regions attended the Wushu Tournament, a milestone event which greatly raised wushu's international profile.



• In August of 2014, the Nanjing 2014 Youth Wushu Tournament was held as part of the IOC's Culture and Education Program. Medals were awarded by IOC President Thomas Bach and IOC Honorary President Dr. Jacques Rogge. Four additional IOC members were invited by President Yu as spectators at the competition and awarded medals, generating excellent media coverage for wushu.



• In 2015 the IWUF made a formal presentation in Tokyo after wushu was shortlisted as an Additional Sport for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. Led by the President of the IWUF & Vice President of the IOC Yu Zaiqing, the Wushu Delegation included the Executive Vice President of the IWUF Anthony Goh, Deputy Secretary-General Chen Chong, Technical & Events Manager Byron Jacobs, Russian World Champion Daria Tarasova, the President of Japan Wushu Taijiquan Federation Muraoka Kyuhei, and Japan Wushu Taijiquan Federation Secretary General Ishihara Yasuhiko.

The IWUF is committed to promote the sport of wushu both to the global sporting community and to the IOC; the Federation will apply again for wushu's possible Olympic inclusion in the Paris 2024 Summer Olympic Games.

MILESTONES

WORLD WUSHU-KUNGFU DAY!

2018 World Wushu-Kungfu Day

Saturday, August 11, 2018

Theme: Kungfu in Everyday Life

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

SPORT 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.

Action

Demonstrations and Performances - Show the local crowd that Kungfu exists outside of movies!

Capture

Contributing Content - Be a "face to wushu" through photo, video, or written media!

Share it

Post your photos or video using the hashtag #WWKD2018



AYAKA HONDA

— JAPAN'S CHAMPION REFLECTS ON HER LONG AND WINDING WUSHU ROAD

Ayaka Honda has practiced wushu for 18 years – and she's only 22, so undoubtedly she has many more wushu adventures ahead. We sat down for a chat with her at the 29th Summer Universiade, where she won a bronze medal in the tough competitive field of changquan. After learning about her thoughtful sportsman's philosophy and impressive work ethic, we look forward

to a flourishing career from this talented Japanese athlete.

"I have been attracted to wushu since I was 4," Ayaka tells us, "but my life has had so many ups and downs in my 18 years of wushu career. Not only have I experienced happy and exciting events, but also I've felt anger and regrets, and faced so many difficulties. But I believe that everything

happens in my life because I need that experience, and that it will all offer positive things in my future. Everything has a meaning that has happened."

Ayaka first began wushu when she was a small child, even though she dreamed of being a ballerina. "My grandma was learning taiji," she recalls, "and taiji is very popular in Japan now especially for elderly

people. But at that school there was also a wushu class of changquan, so she put me in that class when I was 4 years old. I wasn't really interested in wushu for the first few years – I felt happier in ballet lessons because I wanted to be a princess when I was a kid."

Regardless of her ballerina dreams, Ayaka showed some talent in wushu and five years later it was her chance to shine in her first competition. She remembers, "I took part in the preliminary competition for the junior national championships, and I was 9 at that time. I was placed first, and when I got a gold medal in my hand, I decided to be a wushu athlete and quit ballet classes. If I didn't get any medals at this competition... I might be a ballet dancer right now!"

Choosing the path of wushu wasn't always easy, and there was a good deal of sacrifice, along with the benefits. "Wushu has brought so many things to my life," Ayaka reflects. "Since Japan doesn't have a professional team, we don't have wushu teams at school, so I needed to take a two hour train ride to the practice and spend another two hours to go home after training in Tokyo. I started that life when I was 9 and I was in elementary school. Until I graduated from high school, almost every day I went straight to practice right after school and arrived home at around 12 at night. After I entered the university, I woke up at before 5 in the morning and went to my part time job to earn money for everything I needed to practice wushu. Also I had to go to classes after I got out of work, and then to practice at night. I can say wushu was my life."

Because Ayaka's house was far from her practice gym, to continue practicing wushu wasn't easy for her, or for her family. "But," she notes, "this sport made me aware that I can do anything for a dream that I really

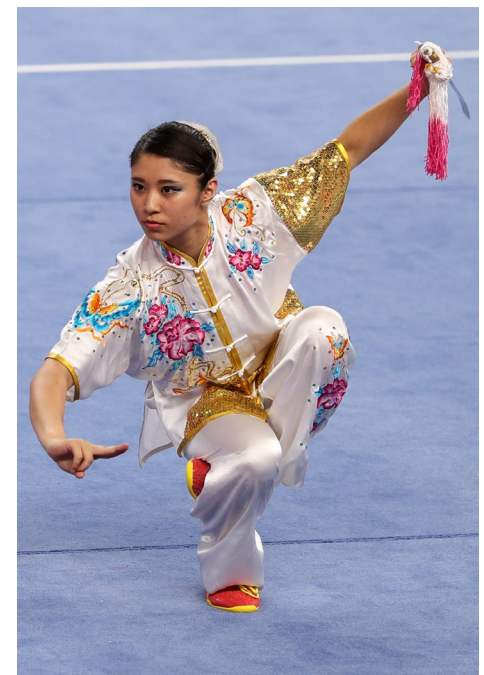
want to pursue. If you want to achieve a goal, you can't just give up even if you are faced with difficulties. That's one of the important beliefs wushu taught me."

We asked Ayaka what her best or most memorable wushu experience has been. After thinking about it, she said, "I had both bad competitions and good competitions, but after all the best experience is not about the result of competition, it is definitely about the friendships in this wushu society all around the world. Since I've had chances to compete in international championships a few times, I meet awesome athletes from other countries and areas. Although the championship has winners and losers, they are not enemies but absolutely they are great friends. They all have great spirits, and respect for all the athletes who also aim to stand on the top of the podium. Outside of events, I've got so many wushu friends and I am so thankful to have them in my life. It's absolutely one of the best things I've gotten in my wushu career."

Transitioning from a junior athlete to an adult brought with it challenges of its own, but the tenacity Ayaka learned early on stayed with her. "I had one dream since I was in elementary school," Ayaka says, "that I wanted to go to the U.S. to study abroad. After my first Asian Junior Wushu Championships in Shanghai in 2011, I still couldn't give up that dream, so I decided to go to the U.S. for a year. I went to the gym literally everyday, played three sports in three seasons, and also had wushu performances in the schools in Michigan. However I also gained so much weight and lost a lot of the muscle I had. After I got back to Japan and started practicing wushu again, it was so hard to get back in shape. I didn't think I was going to be able to get back on the mat, and I even thought I had to stop my career at that point." Her perseverance in training got

her back on track, and one reward was the bronze medal she won in changquan in the inaugural 2017 Universiade wushu competition. "So now," she adds, "it's still like a dream for me every time I join in international championships, and I'm glad that I didn't give up something I love to do."

Although Ayaka would love to be a professional wushu athlete, Japan's lack of having a professional wushu team precludes this, so after graduating college she started working for a credit union in Tokyo this spring. "I will be working in the daytime and practicing at night," she says, "This will be a little bit challenging, I think but I will give it my best. Of course to be a strong athlete is one of the goals, but also, because wushu is not as well known in Japan, I would be very happy if it gets to be known better here because of what I can show people as a champion. It would be awesome if I could keep improving, and continue to promote my favorite sport for Japan and the world."



ELIN ÖBERG

– SWEDEN'S CHAMPION BRINGS VIKING SPIRIT TO SANDA

When Elin Öberg burst onto the international wushu scene in 2015 she brought a little Viking power with her to put Sweden decisively on the map of women's sanda. She won a silver medal in both the 13th World Wushu Championships in Jakarta and the 14th World Wushu Championships in Kazan, both times offering dynamic, action-packed fights with Chinese opponents in the thrilling finals of the 56Kg division. To stay at the top of her game, Elin trains in multiple disciplines of martial arts, and she hopes her presence at elite world sanda events will help inspire up and coming young female athletes to become contenders on the leitai.

We caught up with Elin after Kazan to talk about her sanda fighting career and more.

How did you first get interested in martial arts, and how did you start training?

Actually my brother trained in sanda in Sweden and my mother was training Muay Thai. They both told me to try it so I went to the Combat Academy in Stockholm to try it out. They had a Muay Thai class that I joined and loved it from the first session! When I first started Muay Thai in 2012 there was only one other girl in the class. Today I teach a Muay Thai class for only girls and there are always around 30 girls on the mat at once!

What brought you to sanda? And what do you find compelling about the sport?

I just wanted to fight so when I saw the Swedish Sanda Championship was announced I signed up. I ended up with a gold medal. That's when I got really interested in sanda, and I wanted to learn more! The year after that, in 2015, I won my second gold medal in the Swedish Championship and got to be a member of the Swedish sanda national team. I started to train more sanda to prepare for the 13th World Wushu Championships in Jakarta. I like sanda because it is an absolute different sport than Muay Thai or kickboxing – it's another rhythm.

How do you compare kickboxing to sanda?

Well, the biggest difference between sanda and kickboxing are the takedowns and competing on a platform. And the scoring is totally different from kickboxing. So I have to change strategy when I'm fighting sanda.

What have your World Wushu Championships experiences in 2015 and 2017 been like? What's your strategy to win?

I loved both World Championships. The competition was amazing. Big thanks to the IWUF who did a great job and organized it so well. To fight China both times in the final was also amazing. I know that they are the best in the world in almost every weightclass, and to fight them is always a big challenge. They know the game. They do what they need to do, not more, not less. So for me going up against them I had to go all out trying to beat them with my own game. But unfortunately many of my techniques didn't score enough points. But to be able to represent Sweden in two World Championships is amazing, and I am proud and so grateful to my coaches Anatoli Grigorenko and Yvonne Lin in the National Team who believed in me and gave me the chance to do that!

What's next for your training as an athlete?

I started training Muay Thai also in 2015 because I wanted to try something new. I have been to Thailand many times but only once for a training camp. I love the heat and the atmosphere but the Muay Thai training there was very tough, breaking your body down. It's not how I train back in Sweden. But the MMA training was really good and there and there were many good girls there to spar with. I don't think I will ever feel like I'm a complete fighter. There are so many things to improve, and I have never been completely satisfied after a fight -- and that is one thing that is keeping me motivated to keep doing this. Lately I have also been training at a Crossfit gym in Sweden which I really like. Crossfit and fighting are in many ways the same when it comes to the intensity and phase, and it is very fun. I think Crossfit is a good complement to my martial arts training.



Have you seen the fighting landscape change for young women since you began training?

Yes, I have noticed a big difference now compared to five years ago. Martial arts is getting more and more accepted. And women are taking more space and getting more attention in all media.

What are your goals in training/fighting/competition?

My goal is to be the best version of me and to inspire other women to follow their dreams and goals. To show that anything is possible.

What do you do outside of martial arts? How do you balance your training and other parts of your life?

I'm working at the gym as a personal trainer and I also teach classes in Muay Thai and kickboxing. But when I'm not training or working I spend time with my family and friends. Also I like to go to my grannie to be with her and the horses. And I love to bake and eat chocolates!

IRAN'S GOLDEN SANDA SISTERS

— SHAHRBANO MANSOURIAN AND ELAHEH MANSOURIAN

In the world of sanda fighting, Iranian sisters Elaheh and Shahrbanou Mansourian are elite champions. Between them they've won dozens of international medals – and they are also inspiring role models to a new generation of Iranian girls with Olympic fighting dreams. Sanda has lifted them out of poverty and given them professional status and financial freedom. They are highly recognized and respected in Iran as pioneering athletes who bring gold and glory to the nation, and they also work tirelessly to promote wushu in Iran and around the region.

Growing up in a poor family with six children, Elaheh and Shahrbanou's discovery of sanda fighting took them on an odyssey to become world champions. As well, they have been instrumental in demonstrating that technically women are every bit as exciting to watch fight sanda as men. The Mansourian sisters have been critical in this global achievement. The Iran Wushu Federation was one of the first to recognize the value of training top level female sanda fighters, and the success of the women's sanda team has helped shine a spotlight on wushu in Iran, in turn helping the sport to grow in popularity and government support there.

For Elaheh and Shahrbanou, becoming sanda champions was a way to escape from the

grinding poverty they were born into, and also help their family find a home and security.

The family didn't own their own farm but were tenants in an already poor area. Looking for a way out, the Mansourian sisters searched for a sport that could help give them all a better life. Shahrbanou, 31, the eldest, was interested in karate, but soon turned her attention to wushu's full-contact sanda in 2004. She says, "I always liked fighting since I was a kid, but I saw that sanda was a suitable way to channel my energies."

Her little sister Elaheh was six years younger. She was also intrigued by sanda, and she wanted to join too. What stood in their way was money. There was only enough to scrape together for the eldest daughter to go to wushu school. But when Shahrbanou came back from each class, she taught all the sanda techniques she learned to Elaheh. Whether it was from growing up in a tough childhood, or innate natural talents, or iron-willed discipline to train for long hours, the pair of sisters were quickly noticed by the Iran Wushu Federation.

Shahrbanou was the first wushu graduate in the family, but Elaheh was a prodigy. She qualified for the national youth team and won her first wushu medal – a silver -- in Korea's Asian Junior Championships in 2007 when

she was 16. Two years later she was fighting at the World Wushu Championships in Canada, and won another silver medal. She vowed the next would be gold – and she was right – in 2010 she won a gold medal at the Sanda World Cup in China. But the following World Championships in Turkey brought a disappointing bronze, and Elaheh doubled down to train harder.

Two years later in Malaysia at the 12th World Wushu Championships, Elaheh made it to the finals, and won her fight against a tough opponent after having her cheekbone shattered by a kick. She refused to quit the fight – and won. She was not only a winner, she was a hero. Pictures of her battered face, and painful smile as the referee raised her hand in the ring, flew around the world on the internet, along with the story of her bravery and grit. It took her six months to recover.

All those years, Shahrbanou was at her sister's side at most every sanda competition, fighting 2 weight divisions up. It was her golden road all the way, starting with a gold medal in Turkey at the World Wushu Championships in 2011, another in 2013 in Malaysia, and again in 2015 in Jakarta. But her biggest challenge was defending her title in the 8th Sanda World Cup in Xi'an, China, which she did in one of the toughest fights of her career.

THEY ARE ALSO INSPIRING
ROLE MODELS TO A NEW
GENERATION OF IRANIAN
GIRLS WITH OLYMPIC
FIGHTING DREAMS.





The Mansourian sisters most recently have celebrated double gold medals in both the 9th Asian Wushu Championships and in the 14th World Wushu Championships in Kazan. And back home in Iran, they've come a long way from being poor farm girls. Finally, there's security, as well as honor. As professional athletes they receive a steady salary from the Sport Ministry. Each gold medal also comes with a large cash bonus, which lets the Mansourian sisters pursue their sport careers and achieve financial independence.

Shahrbano is married and lives in Isfahan. Elaheh has opened her own business, a club for fitness and martial arts, also in the city of Isfahan. With her earnings, she supports her whole family since Shahrbano

got married. Off the leिताi, the Mansourian sisters train daily and mentor younger women athletes who are hoping to achieve the same level of world champion. In fact, they also train their middle sister Soheila – who is following in their footsteps and recently took a bronze medal in the last Asian Wushu Championships.

In Iran Elaheh and Shahrbano are now famous – their gold medal wins make the national sport news, and there have already been three documentaries made about them. The latest is called “Zero to Platform” – it recently screened at the Iran International Documentary Film Festival, where it won best documentary feature, and became the most viewed documentary in Iranian history.



FOR ME WUSHU IS THE BEST SPORT IN THE WORLD. BECAUSE THERE IS SOMETHING FOR EVERYBODY IN IT. IT'S FAST, ELEGANT, STRONG, EXPLOSIVE AND IN OTHER EVENTS SLOW, SMOOTH AND HARMONIC.

KENNY KREBS

— BRINGING SWISS WUSHU AND TAIJIQUAN INTO THE SPOTLIGHT

Taiji athlete Kenny Krebs has recently put the tiny European nation of Switzerland on the wushu map, earning the accolade of “Athlete of the Year” in 2017 for the city of Berne – the first time a wushu athlete has ever garnered this honor. In a land of ski champions one might call this an uphill battle, but Kenny thrives on challenges – and wushu.

Kenny remembers back to the beginnings of learning wushu in Switzerland. “I think I was about 6 years old when I began formal training,” he says. “Even though both of my parents are coaches I started training with my mom, because she trained all the kids at our school. At that time we all learned the basic changquan routines. She was a strict coach. Not only with me but with everybody

else as well. The older I got the harder the training became, but I liked it.”

“I think doing wushu was the logical thing for me to do,” Kenny reflects. “I never questioned it. But when I got older I had a moment when I wanted to stop doing wushu. That was the first time my mom seriously disciplined me. She told me that I don’t have to train much, I don’t even have to be good at it. But she still wanted me to continue. Today I am very thankful that she did that.”

Kenny’s first competition event was the

1st World Traditional Wushu Festival 2004 in Zhengzhou, China. He recalls, “My first competition was a very special one. Just everything was so big and the atmosphere was amazing. We had a fun team. At nine years old I was by far the youngest on our team, but I enjoyed it very much. Everybody was nice to me and gave me a lot of support.”

Kenny went on competing in taijiquan, in Switzerland and in continental events, and he became a double European champion. But going to the 1st World Taijiquan Championships in China was an eye opener, and an immersion study in the world’s top taiji talent. He didn’t win a medal at that event, but the experience was invaluable, and he came away with both new knowledge and a drive to train harder. Two years later, and after many hours of practice and

refinement, he won two medal at the 2nd World Taijiquan Championships in Poland.

Wushu has become a lifestyle for Kenny beyond the completion carpet. He has wushu friends all over the world, and he has traveled multiple times to Beijing, and to Wenxian, Henan, to improve his nanquan and his Chen Style taijiquan. In both Switzerland and Germany Kenny also studied traditional Hung Kuen, to become a more well-rounded athlete and martial artist.

“For competitions now I only practice taijiquan,” he says. “Mostly Chen style but occasionally I do other styles as well. For myself I practice a lot of different things. Some nanquan, changquan and also some other traditional styles like Bajiquan and Xingyiquan. For me it’s important to not limit myself to only a few competition styles. I also

have to know all the modern styles because I am a teacher at our school and teach to others.”

Kenny, still a university student, is studying to teach school in Switzerland, but he has already become a young wushu leader as a coach. “I am not only an athlete now. I think of myself more as a coach,” he says. “I like to teach the kids at our school. I also train with the competition team from our school.” He adds, “For me wushu is the best sport in the world. Because there is something for everybody in it. It’s fast, elegant, strong, explosive and in other events slow, smooth and harmonic. In some events you have to jump but if you don’t like it you can do traditional styles without those elements. I can’t imagine a life without wushu. It’s the thing I look forward to most when I’m studying. That’s why I do wushu.”



SONIA GRINDEANU

– BRINGING WUSHU TO NEW HEIGHTS IN ROMANIA

Sonia Grindeanu is one of Romania's top champions, and also one of Europe's most celebrated and decorated athletes. These days Sonia takes on both the role of competitor as well as that of a well-respected international judge. We had a conversation with her to discover what drives her as an athlete, an official, and likely future leader in her country's wushu development.

From a very young age, Sonia was destined to attract attention on the wushu carpet. She started training wushu formally when she was 7 with her father as her coach. Her first wushu competition was, for her a benchmark event, in 2005 at the Romanian National Wushu Championships. She was 13 years old and had been practicing wushu for six years already. "I enjoyed it very much," she recalls, "as I won the gold medal, and I considered it as a first reward after so many years of hard work." "Wushu," she adds, "has been part of my life ever since I can remember, thanks to my father. I can proudly say that I grew up in the beautiful and big family of wushu." Now, 20 years on from her first competition, Sonia's laurels include 25 National Romanian Championship titles, and 15 international gold medals.

Sonia has watched with alacrity wushu's evolution in Romania. "One can never get bored in Romania," she exclaims. "The society has changed a lot in the last decades

and this led to changes in wushu's activity as well. In the past, sanda used to be much more popular than taolu in Romania. However, in the last couple of years, more and more children have started to take part in taolu competitions and the level began to increase considerably."

Sonia keeps her perspective on wushu fresh by taking on new challenges and learning new things. Now, she says, "I'm currently mostly practicing taijiquan and traditional wushu styles for myself. My goals are to keep competing in some events and to be a judge in others, so I can further improve both my sides. Of course, when time allows me, I love to train sanda and I teach children changquan."

Sonia's wushu odyssey is evidence that a new generation of experienced leaders in the sport of wushu is emerging. "I took part in my first judges course when I was only 14 years old," she continues, "after I felt I have been placed much lower than deserved at an important competition. I wanted to understand why my score had been so low and what could I have done or do to improve my performances in the future." Following years of study, Sonia became an international judge in 2010 at the age of 18, after formal IWUF examinations at the judges' course. At the 2014 International Judges Course in Shanghai, she renewed



WUSHU TAUGHT
ME DISCIPLINE,
RESPECT AND
PATIENCE.

her judging license and was given grade A in taolu judging.

Sonia reflects, "I can honestly say that a great part of my success following my judging courses was due to the fact that I knew the rules of the game; and I strongly suggest that all high-level athletes should take part in the judges' courses, even if they don't want to officiate in competitions at first. It really makes a difference."

In addition to wushu, Sonia likes to travel, experience different cultures, and loves the

challenges of learning a foreign language – she also thanks wushu for helping her pursue this. No stranger to challenge, Sonia has graduated with a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Cybernetics and Statistics and is currently working in that field. "Besides martial arts techniques and health benefits," she says reflectively, "wushu taught me discipline, respect and patience. It is definitely not easy but, in my opinion, an organized person can manage to study, train and live a happy life at the same time. Wushu is about balance after all."



XIAOXIAO LAI

— WUSHU STAR FROM ANHUI, CHINA

Xiaoxiao Lai, 24, is a professional wushu athlete from Anhui, China. She is a World Champion (13th World Wushu Championships, 2015) and World Cup winner (1st Taolu Cup, 2016) in qiangshu. Xiaoxiao is also a multi-time national champion. Her most recent competition saw her place 2nd in the China National Games in the Female Changquan/Jianshu/Qiangshu All-Around. Besides her spear, Xiaoxiao is also usually armed with her bright smile, and winning, vivacious personality. We caught up with her to learn her wushu story and thoughts on what lies ahead in her career.

WUSHU BEGINNINGS IN ANHUI

“I started practicing wushu when I was 7 years old,” says Xiaoxiao, “and I was selected for the Anhui professional team at age 10.” She joined the Anhui professional team in 2003, when her 2nd place performance at an Anhui province championships caught the attention of the Anhui professional team; she has been with them ever since. “I practice changquan (long fist), jianshu (straight sword, qiangshu (spear), shuangjian (double straight sword), and yingzhuaquan (eagle claw).”

“When I was younger,” she recalls, “I really liked running and jumping, so my mother and father hoped I could practice sports. I was very interested in wushu after watching kungfu

movies, so I told my mother and father I wanted to practice wushu. At that time, they just thought it would help me keep a healthy body, so they allowed me to go to a wushu school. That’s how I started learning wushu. As I grew older, I became more and more interested in wushu, had my own goals, and began to feel wushu was not just my livelihood, but something I really enjoyed practicing.”

Xiaoxiao continues, “It was the period of time when I first entered the team, from 10 to 13 years old, that it felt like fun. I didn’t think training was hard. But from 14 to 19, those five years, I felt more pressure and was nervous for competition, because I was older, so during sometimes during competitions I would make mistakes or have more trouble. So during that era I was not as interested in wushu and wanted to quit at times. But once you start getting good results you see your hard work pay off.”

PROFESSIONAL WUSHU YEARS

For the past five years Xiaoxiao has dedicated herself to being a professional wushu athlete. She says, “Now, it’s something that I really really want to do. Everyday there is something new to learn and improve. Besides the highlight of competition, even during training I still find myself very happy to have this experience.” Before Xiaoxiao joined the Anhui Province

professional team she was already living away from home at her first wushu school in Guangde (her hometown). “My parents would come visit me once or twice a month,” she remembers. “Training was from 6 AM - 7 AM. From 8 AM we went to school until 4 PM. After school, we would start training wushu again.” “We only did performances during that time, a lot of them - no competitions,” she recalls. “I only learned barehand basics and traditional barehand forms (Xiaohongquan). It was during that time that I developed my expressiveness. Wushu was just a hobby back then. I didn’t have any thoughts about joining a professional team. Back then there was an auntie who helped us wash our clothes, but aside from that we were responsible for ourselves. I cried a lot back then as I missed my mother and father.”

At age 9, Xiaoxiao’s mom thought she shouldn’t spend any more time on wushu. Says Xiaoxiao, “She wanted me to focus on my studies more. But my first teacher thought I had potential and good aptitude for wushu, and wanted me to keep training. So my first teacher took me to another school in Hefei (capital of Anhui) four hours away. My mother said she’d give me one year to train in Hefei and that if I couldn’t handle it, I’d have to come home and focus on my studies.”

Her training at this new school was very serious. “I started learning weapons at the second school,” she says. “Training there was



much tougher and the coach would often discipline me by hitting my back, as I was a bit lazy and relaxed. I’m very thankful to her though as she taught me optional changquan, as well as compulsory forms and nandu. That winter I went to compete in the Anhui province championships for the first time and I caught the attention of my current coach (Sheng Guo).”

WINTER TRAINING

In the cold climate of Anhui, the winter training plan is designed to improve an athlete’s conditioning and power. Notes Xiaoxiao, “If you quickly train a lot without good conditioning, you will easily injure yourself. We lift weights and run between half an hour to an hour three times a week. When we train in forms during winter we won’t do full sets. Only when it’s close to competition will we do full sets. All of our event skills we will practice more, and nandu will practice more, but not completely combined; just one part by one part. Winter training just focuses on this aspect.”

One of Xiaoxiao’s inspirations is her older teammate Ma Lingjuan, one of the most decorated Anhui athletes from previous

generations. Xiaoxiao says, “Ma Lingjuan isn’t just my ‘sister’ but also my mentor. Someone I can compete against, but also to emulate. She is older than me by 7 years. From 2007 – from when I first started competing at the adult level – to 2013 when she retired we competed together. I was always looking up to her. She was a close friend of mine, but because she was 7 years older than me I had to pay her more respect. I feel my whole team’s athletes are very friendly with each other. If we aren’t friendly with each other, then everyone will not be happy together in training.”

ENGLISH – AND OTHER CHALLENGES

At international competitions Xiaoxiao is known for her friendly and outgoing nature, her wushu friendships across national boundaries, and her excellent English skills that help make her media savvy. “I studied English a lot,” she notes, “and took private classes at night for a number of years. It was very tough to study after being exhausted from training. In addition I practice with friends and foreign athletes who come to Hefei to train.” Despite being a star athlete and champion,

Xiaoxiao still faces challenges during training. “When I make mistakes during nandu,” she says, “my coach will get mad at me and I’ll become sad. Then I’ll think ‘it’s not because I didn’t want to do it well, I really did try. But he still gets mad at me. Also when you have trouble (outside of training), you find it difficult to focus on training (which is still mandatory and tough).” She also has sports injuries to contend with, in particular a serious lower back injury she sustained last summer. “I almost could not train at all,” she recalls, “and every day I needed to undergo acupuncture. A few times I underwent needle knife acupuncture. It was very unpredictable but extremely excruciating pain. We still go in for regular treatment whenever we have smaller knocks.”

WUSHU GOALS

“My dream,” Xiaoxiao tells us, “is to compete in the 2018 Asian Games this summer so that I am able to show my full potential. It would mean a lot to me to represent China on that stage, to compete alongside my fellow Olympic-level compatriots. I am also hoping I can continue my studies by applying to graduate school.”



XIANG YE

- SHAOLIN KUNGFU PANDA



At the 14th World Wushu Championships in Kazan spectators enjoyed a lot of lively sanda action, but the last fight of the evening – the 90+kg heavyweight bout – brought down the house. In fact, Xiang Ye, China's breakout new sanda star, perhaps could have literally brought down the house with all the power and skill he displayed

on the leitai. His decisive win over a famous Iranian multiple gold medalist brought cheers and applause and Ye, experiencing a World Championships gold medal win for the first time, beamed and picked up his coach in victorious delight. We caught up with him after Kazan and asked him about his life in wushu.

What qualities does sanda have that attract you?

Sanda contains full-contact techniques including punching, kicking, throwing and wrestling. It is a symbol of power. It also requires the practitioners to have good physical ability, unyielding perseverance, strong will and clever minds. Sanda is the quintessence of Chinese culture. As a Chinese person, I think I should support this sport and have the responsibility to promote it.

How do you improve your sanda techniques?

The secret is to keep practicing every day. And as a combat sport, sanda practitioners can only improve their techniques through real fighting.

When did you first take part in a high-level international sanda competition?

I didn't think I'd have the ability to attend international sanda competitions until I qualified to participate in the 8th Sanda World Cup in 2016, in Xi'an, China. This was my international debut. Winning a gold medal really surprised a 21 year-old boy! I felt I made a good dream come true, and just like a pie from the sky it hit me.

How does wushu sanda influence you?

From the first day when I began to learn sanda, my coach told us we should first learn the moral code of wushu before learning wushu techniques. Sanda needs constant and repeated training. Practicing wushu for a long time can be boring, so it is a good exercise for people's resilience.

What does it mean to you to win at the 14th World Wushu Championships in Kazan, Russia?

The 14th WWC was my first time to represent my country and to compete with other top athletes outside China. I felt very proud and cherished this chance given by my country. I was fighting for the national glory. Through my competitions, I wanted to show the Chinese spiritual vigor and let the international spectators really know what sanda is.

You have won the gold at 14th WWC. Is this your proudest achievement?

My proudest achievement is being awarded the honor "Excellent Athlete of the Year 2016" granted by the General Administration of Sport of China. But the honors and successes become the past from the moment I get off the podium. I have to work harder to get to a higher level.





NOT EVERYONE KNOWS THAT GENERAL FALCONI WAS ONE OF THE INTEGRAL FOUNDING FATHERS OF THE IWUF, AND THAT HIS SUSTAINED ATTENTION AND ENTHUSIASM MAY HAVE MARKEDLY ACCELERATED THE FORMATION OF THE FEDERATION.



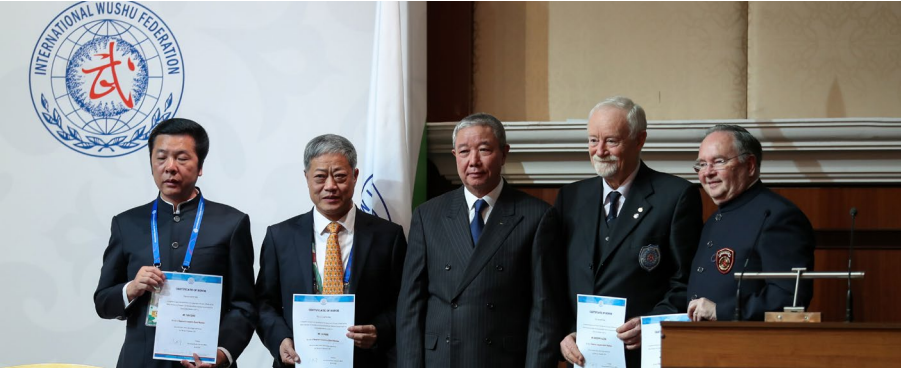
GENERAL GIUSEPPE FALCONI

A Look at One of the IWUF's Remarkable Founders

At the 14th IWUF Congress in Kazan Russia, General Giuseppe Falconi was awarded the title of Honorary Executive Board Member of the IWUF by President Yu Zaiqing, in recognition of the Italian general's outstanding contributions to the Federation and the sport of wushu. No one would argue that General Falconi richly deserved this honor, as he is well-known and admired by many in the wushu world; but not everyone knows that General Falconi was one of the integral founding fathers of the IWUF, and that his sustained attention and enthusiasm may have markedly accelerated the formation of the IWUF. In addition to

being a nurturing force of modern sport wushu for the past 5 decades and helping launch its popularity around the world, he is always modest and self-effacing. General Falconi's continual efforts to promote and grow his own

Italian Wushu Federation, and the extended family of the European Wushu Kungfu Federation, have also resulted in an impressive and significant growth of wushu on the European continent.



REMEMBERING THE BIRTH OF THE IWUF

"I remember clearly the birth of the IWUF," General Falconi tells us, "and one of my best memories is my involvement in the Federation's



emergence and growth. In fact, at the beginning of 1983, I convinced my friend and wushu brother Dan Sita to go to Beijing to visit the Chinese Wushu Association to examine the possibility of our Italian Wushu Federation being part of an international wushu organization. To our surprise, when we arrived in Beijing at the CWA, we were met by then President Xu Cai and General Secretary Zhao Shuangjin

who informed us there was not yet an international wushu federation. We were very surprised! Dan Sita and I then made a formal request to found the International Wushu Federation, and this request was welcomed by the two CWA leaders – who assured us it was time to create the Federation."

General Falconi continues, "In March of 1985 the first official meeting of the Preparatory Committee of the future IWUF was held in Xi'an, China. It was composed of President Xu Cai, General Secretary Zhao Shuangjin, and members Raymond Smith (GBR), Kyuhei Muraoka (JPN), Nick Gracenin (USA), and myself. I received this position because my friend Dan Sita preferred not to be a politician, but to only teach wushu. Many meetings of the Preparatory Committee were carried out to write the IWUF Constitution

and initial Technical Regulations, but the process was well underway. Finally, in Beijing in October 1990 the International Wushu Federation was founded."



THE LIFE OF GENERAL FALCONI

Giuseppe Falconi was born in Rome, Italy in 1939, and after high school he embarked on his military career. He seemed destined for a glamorous life of military adventure which saw him ultimately rise through the ranks to become a General. He with the Italian Special Forces Army of the Folgore Brigade from 1965-1999, and his specializations included being Commander of the Fantery troops, Commander of the armed tanks,

and Commander of the Company of Italian Special Forces. In these roles he was also an instructor of static line parachuting, free fall jumping and HALO jumping, and achieved a first class in ski patrol. As well, he was Brevet officer of underwater demolition in the Italian Navy Military school, and Brevet single pilot of single engine airplanes. Not least, he received wings from England, France and USA.



WUSHU CAREER – FROM ITALY TO THE WORLD

General Falconi's dedication to wushu ran parallel to his dedication to the military and to his country. From 1965-1982 he was President of the Wushu National Academy in Bologna, and in 1983 was a central founder of the Italian WushuKungfu Federation, where he was elected President from 1983-2008. In 1985 General Falconi was also a central architect of the founding of the European Wushu Federation, and from 1985-2006 he was an EWUF Vice President. As noted above, he spent five years working on the Preparatory Committee of the IWUF, and was in Beijing to witness its birth in

1990. From 1990-2011 General Falconi was committed to offering his unflagging service to the Federation and was appointed as a member of the IWUF Executive Board.

General Falconi's experience as a leader, manager and planner in the military gave him the ideal qualifications to organize wushu events. In 1989 he organized the 3rd European Wushu Championships in Chieti, Italy, and event he ran again in Rome for its 6th edition in 1996. In 1995 he put on the 1st International Wushu Conference in Rome. Two years later, in 1997, the General brought international acclaim to Italy

by organizing and hosting the 4th World Wushu Championships – the debut of this pinnacle Championships on the European continent.

As wushu steadily grew and developed into the 21st century, so too did General Falconi keep Italy at the forefront, hosting the 1st International Mediterranean Cup in Catania in 2004, and the 2nd European Youth Wushu Championships there the following year. Finally, in 2006, as he was nearing official retirement but never tiring of wushu, General Falconi organized the 11th European Wushu Championships in Ligano Udine.

WUSHU SPORT AWARDS AND CONTINUED PASSION



Among the wushu and sporting community in Italy, Europe and internationally, General Falconi has become a revered figure – even something of a legend-among his peers. Some awards he has received include the Knight of "EWUF" merit order, the Silver Medal of the Italian Olympic Committee, an Honorary 6th Duan by the EWUF, an Honorary Member of EWUF (2008), and an Honorary the Member of the IWUF in 2011. When President Yu announced

General Falconi as IWUF Honorary Executive Board Member in Kazan in September 2017, the entire IWUF Congress burst into loud and long applause, showing their deep respect and love for this unofficial "General" of wushu who has given so much to the sport over the past five decades. Though now retired, General Falconi is still a staunch and lively supporter of the wushu community, and a respected and beloved presence at many international wushu events. His passion for wushu, which has dedicated his life to, only continues to grow, and inspires us all.

GET READY FOR BRASILIA

7TH WORLD JUNIOR WUSHU CHAMPIONSHIPS



July 9-16, 2018

Brasilia, Brazil

The excitement is growing as Brazil's capital city Brasilia prepares to welcome the highest competitive level within the sport of wushu amongst its junior athletes to Latin America for the first time.





COMPETITION VENU

The gymnasium was inaugurated on April 21, 1973, with a seating capacity for 24,000 spectators. Its first event was the 1st International Soccer Championship in which Palmeiras, Corinthians, Grajaú Tenis Clube (RJ), SUMOV of Ceará, Minas Brasília Tenis Clube, and the Paraguayan National Team participated. President Medici, who originally gave his name to the gym, was present.

LOGO

The 7th WJWC logo is associated with two main concepts:

movement, essential characteristic of the sport of Wushu; and preservation, representing the threatened species known as the maned wolf.

The logo colors (green, yellow, and blue) are part of the Brazilian flag and commonly used by many national sports teams to represent the country internationally.

Each color of the Brazilian flag has its own meaning: green represents the forests; yellow represents the mineral resources, and blue represents the many rivers. The written part is the national slogan "Order and progress", and each star represents one of the Brazilian states.



MASCOT



The maned wolf is a native species from South America, and was chosen as the mascot for two main reasons: the maned wolf is a threatened species that needs to be preserved, and among the many species of Brazilian animals it is one of the unique ones found in the central area of the country, where the host city of Brasília is located.

QUALIFYING NF EVENTS FOR 7TH WJWC

Various events were organized by the official IWUF member federations/associations for the junior athletes to qualify for the Brasilia 2018 WJWC.



This competition was held from March 23-25, 2018 in Aktau, Kazakhstan. Three hundred and fifty athletes (228 sanda athletes and 122 taolu athletes) from 11 regions competed in sanda and taolu events.

KAZAKHSTAN
NATIONAL
JUNIOR WUSHU
CHAMPIONSHIPS



26TH JOC JUNIOR OLYMPIC CUP WUSHU TOURNAMENT

This tournament took place from March 31-April 1, 2018, in Amagasaki, Japan, attracting 728 athletes and almost 3000 audience.



CHILEAN JUNIOR WUSHU CHAMPIONSHIPS

This competition was held on April 8th, 2018 in Santiago, Chile. Eighty athletes participated in this event.

WELCOME MESSAGE FROM THE LOC



The World Junior Wushu Championships is a competition of great importance, in which we will receive the best youth athletes from all over the world. It is where the new generation of wushu presents itself and where the future idols of sport wushu are revealed.

We have been working hard and we will spare no effort to ensure a very well organized and exciting event, and hope everyone have a pleasant and warm stay in Brazil. May everyone return home with great memories and new friends.

We look forward to seeing you all in Brazil!

Marcus Vinicius F. Alves
President, Brazilian Wushu Confederation

"This event was born as a dream, to promote wushu in the new generations of children. Now we have athletes in different categories and this will continue to grow! We know that 4 junior athletes will go to the World Junior Wushu Championships to Brazil in July of this year."

—Chilean Wushu Federation

WHAT'S TRENDING?

THE LATEST SOCIAL WALL ABOUT WUSHU ON THE SOCIAL MEDIA ALL AROUND THE WORLD

Facebook.com/groups/iwufwushu



Ambreen Lftikhar is feeling proud.
21 September 2017 · 🌐

Punjab Wushu Girls Championship in Gujranwala under the Gujranwala Division secretary Hafiz Imtiaz & mrs Rubab Mohsin all championship held by women wing all officials & referee were women.



Michelle Yeung
3 hrs · 🌐

The 1st Wushu Sanda Asian @ Wushu Team of Hong Kong China
第一屆亞洲杯武術散打比賽 @ 香港武術隊
Honored to attend the performance 出彩武術人
☆ Hope Wushu meet into Olympic Games

Jurgens Lamprecht
3 April 2017 · 🌐

What a power Wushuday!! The South African Wushu Federation hosted an "Open Training Day" to celebrate its Anti-racism in Sport Campaign. Various provinces throughout South Africa (some as far as KZN and Eastern Cape) sent their representatives to be part of a day filled with demonstrations as well as Taiji Quan, Chang Quan, Sanda fighting and Defence training. Sport has such a unique way to unite people and the SAWF is fully committed to bring Wushu (Kung-Fu) to everybody who wishes to learn, regardless of race, gender, age or where in the country you live in. A massive thank you to everybody who helped me make this event a reality. Rutendo Ngara and Tammy Davey were unstoppable once they sunk their teeth into this project. A wonderful day all round. Jia You Nan Fei!! (Go South Africa Go!!)



👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share

Write a comment...



Jose Del Castillo Plasabas Jr. is feeling motivated.
Yesterday at 07:15 · Cagayan de Oro, Philippines · 🌐

Practice nata kay balos ta sa Baguio! ;D
#WushuFam
#TrainHardFightEasy

Guido Ferrari
5 October 2017 · 🌐

Congratulations International Wushu Federation - IWUF, Excellent and many thanks for allowing us to share with our Sisters and Brothers around the World in such an Honorable and Beautiful Family, Honor and Respect to ALL, PEACE to Eternity!!



Sergey Sukhovey is with Brandon Sugiyama and 4 others.
15 November 2017 · 🌐

At the last World Kungfu Championships I had many meetings with friends from all over the world. It was very cool!
Unfortunately, I couldn't pay attention to everyone, I was just concentrated on the competition. And my English still doesn't allow me to communicate fluently. But I promise that I will continue to improve my English.
Friends who have photos with me, please send me photos or mark me!



👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share

Write a comment...



Jurgens Lamprecht
30 August 2017 · 🌐

Judging Sanda fighting at the Universiade in Taiwan was fantastic. Wushu is growing all over the World. A huge thank you to the IWUF for inviting me to judge at this prestigious event. Jia You!!



IWUF GLOBAL SUPPLIER

TaiShan 泰山

The Global and Official Wushu & Sanda Equipment Supplier of IWUF



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Shandong Taishan Sports Equipment Co.,Ltd

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