

Memorandum

From: Joon P. Choi, Co-Chairman, USAT Martial Arts Commission

To: Commissioners, Special Council, Martial Arts Commission Supporters

Re: USAT Martial Arts Commission/

Korea Trip of May 31 – June 9, 2008

The USAT Martial Arts Commission was represented by Co-chairmen Joon P. Choi and Hong Kong Kim, Jay Sok Lee, and Young Sook Kim.

- 1. Visit Korea Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism to discuss the development and progress of the USAT Martial Arts Commission.**
 - 1) We met with the director of the Korea Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism who is responsible for Taekwondo, and explained the positive changes resulting from the formation of the Commission to oversee the traditional aspects of martial arts, preserve the history of Taekwondo in the United States, and once again involve the pioneers of Taekwondo in America in the national Olympic movement and our national governing body (the USAT), as commissioners of the USAT Martial Arts Commission.
 - 2) Our one hour meeting was very effective. We explained the positive changes the Commission has achieved and expressed our desire for open discussions and the suggestions in the selection of the most credible leaders of Kukkiwon and Taekwondo in Korea. We stressed the importance of setting the highest example of leadership for the world, including for the USA.
 - 3) They were receptive and confirmed they would do their best to implement our suggestions. They understood that USAT is the appropriate body to be consulted to further the development of Taekwondo in the USA and Korea.
 - 4) The agenda was the exploration for improved cooperation between Korea and USA Taekwondo.

2. Kukkiwon.

1) We also met with the leaders of Kukkiwon and gave them a clear explanation of the changes influenced and brought about by the USA Taekwondo Martial Arts Commissions in the USA.

2) Kukkiwon 8th Dan-9th Dan Rank Promotion Tests in the USA.

The Kukkiwon leaders confirmed their previous offer to USAT CEO David Askinas to hold the 8th Dan and 9th Dan testing in USA during the US Open, which will be held February 2009, tentatively scheduled for Las Vegas. They are expecting more than 50 masters seeking promotion to 8th and 9th Dan to participate in meaningful testing in the USA, and they confirmed they would work only with the USAT to complete this historical testing, the first such test outside of Korea. The Martial Arts Commission will be assisting USAT with this event.

3) Effective Methods of Issuing Dan-rank Certification from USAT and Kukkiwon.

a. The administrative director of Kukkiwon agreed that USAT and Kukkiwon will work together to develop a more effective way of handling all Dan certification matters through an improved administrative system.

3. World Taekwondo Federation – International Poomsae Judges Seminar.

1) WTF expressed its desire that USAT host four USAT sanctioned events each year to establish a circuit through which a rank and rating system for the athletes would be implemented.

2) We also discussed the current status and future plans of the USAT Martial Arts Commission.

3) The international Poomsae judge certification seminar is for those holding 3rd Degree Black Belt or higher and who are 18 years old and older.

4. Induction of International Martial Arts Commissioners in Korea.

- 1) We inducted commissioners of USAT Martial Arts Commission in Korea as International Advisory Council in November 2007 during the second World Poomsae Championships.
- 2) We added more commissioners from Korea who can assist USAT and the Commission for the betterment of Taekwondo to the world. They are:
 - a. Boo Chul Park, advisor Kukkiwon, WTF special assistant to president;
 - b. Dr. Hak Sun Lee, honorary president, Korea Women's Taekwondo Federation;
 - c. Mrs. Doung Ja Lee, chairperson, Korea Women's Taekwondo Federation;
 - d. Master Dae Sung Moon, Olympic Gold medalist, candidate for IOC athlete representative;
 - e. Dr. Shin-Ja Lim, executive director, Korea Women's Taekwondo Federation;
 - f. Mr. Kevin T. Kim, attorney at law (Member of the Texas Bar Association), special counsel;
 - g. Zen Master Sang Won (Buddhist monk), abbot of Dong Hwa Temple;
 - h. Mr. Myung Jin Cho, president of Korea Hapkido United Federation/ Dong Jin Construction Group.
 - i. Grandmaster Shin Chul Kang
 - j. Grandmaster Ki Ok Kwak
 - k. Grandmaster Jong Woon Kim, President of Korea Gumdo Federation
 - l. Grandmaster Yong Bok Lee, President, Korea Taekyun Federation
 - m. Grandmaster No Won Park, Korea Special Tactic Martial Arts Federation
 - n. Master Joon Kang, President, Korea Kong Kwon Yoo Sool

5. Taekwondo Promotion and Development Corporation of Korea.

- 1) We also spoke with Dae Soon Lee, Chairman of the Board for the Taekwondo Promotion and Development Corp. in Korea, regarding

mutual cooperation to further and develop Taekwondo in the USA and Korea. The discussion was positive.

- 2) After a one-hour meeting with the Secretary General of the Taekwondo Promotion and Development Corp., Dong Keun Song, it was agreed that the Promotion and Development Corp. would work with USAT and its MAC Commission instead of working with a scattering of private, non-governing bodies in the USA.
- 3) We suggested that, as soon as possible, the Korea Taekwondo Promotion and Development Corp. induct as Hall of Fame members and make awards to those Taekwondo leaders who contributed significantly to the growth of Taekwondo in their countries. We stressed that sooner is better because many of our pioneers are retired from active Taekwondo and are of advanced age. Before they pass on, they should be acknowledged with a special medal of honor from the Korean government. An international advisory group should be selected to assist with the identification of potential Hall of Fame members and award recipients.
- 4) We suggested also that USAT should be included from the beginning among those implementing these suggestions.

6. Creating an Alliance with Traditional Martial Arts in Korea other than Taekwondo.

1) This will develop extra curriculum in the USA and will help Dojang owners increase their businesses by providing services for their members. This will also increase USAT memberships as they eventually will become members of USAT in addition to the federation of the non-Taekwondo art. We were able to form an alliance with the leaders of those organizations, inviting them to the USA and introducing them to special curriculums for USAT Dojang owners. They will perform their discipline and offer seminars during major scheduled events for USAT, including state, regional, national and US Open.

- 2) The federations which may be involved are;
 - a) Korea Gumdo Federation,

- b) Korea Hapkido United Federation
- c) Korea Taekyun Federation
- d) Korea Special Tactics Martial Arts Federation
- e) Korea Empty Hand JuJitsu Federation.

These organizations were very happy to be a part of USA Taekwondo's platform of international globalization, which is open to all, and readily accepted that the diversity of Taekwondo offers mutual benefits.

Joon P. Choi / Hong Kong Kim, Co-chairman

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