Upcoming IWUF Events:

May 15-21
IWUF International Wushu Coaches training Course – Pachuca City, Mexico

May 19-17
EWUF 1st Yongchun Championships, Stara Zagora, Bulgaria

May 18-22
EWUF 3rd European Traditional Wushu Championships, Stara Zagora, Bulgaria

IWUF NEWSLETTER
No. 006 May, 2015

IWUF Raises Wushu’s Profile
at SportAccord Convention in Sochi

This past April 19-24 IWUF hosted its first booth at the annual SportAccord Convention World Sport and Business Summit in Sochi, Russia. The former winter Olympic city was abuzz with all things sporting, and as IWUF Executive Board members attended official sports meetings, the lively, colorful wushu booth was visited by a steady stream of delegates curious to learn more about wushu and its Federation. Stars of all sorts abounded – Russian President Vladimir Putin was in town to meet with IOC President Thomas Bach to discuss the legacy of Sochi, and sports legends attending the gala closing ceremony included gymnastics great Nadia Comenici and football Summer Olympic International Federations), AIOWF (Association of International Olympic Winter Sports Federations), ARIUF (Association of IOC Recognized International Sports Federations), and AIMS (Alliance of Independent Members of SportAccord).

With over 3,000 delegates participating in the convention, the local organizers put on a grand opening ceremony April 20 at Sochi’s Iceberg Skating Palace in Olympic Park, the site of the 2014 Winter Olympics figure skating competition. A dazzling show spotlighted Russian culture and sports, setting a festive tone for the convention.

SportAccord President Marius L. Vizer caused something of a dramatic stir in his opening address, where he stressed the importance of national federations and athletes worldwide in the global realm of sport development. “The power of sport are the International Federations,” he said. “The engine of sport are the National Federations with Ministries of Sport, the NOCs and the Athletes.”

SportAccord is the annual gathering of leading representatives from international sport. The Convention brings together representatives from over 100 International Sports Federations and organizations affiliated to SportAccord (General Association of International Sports Federations),
A packed week of events followed. IWUF Secretary General Beijian Liu and Executive Vice-President Anthony Goh attended official meetings that included the SportAccord Council meeting, the SportAccord General Assembly, the ARISF General Assembly, and ARISF Council meeting.

Other combat sports exhibiting at the convention included Muay Thai, International Belt Wrestling, and Sambo, and it was quite interesting to visit the booths of subaquatiques, roll ball and orienteering to see how other aspiring Olympic sports promote themselves. All in all, the wushu booth was a big hit, and many people left Sochi with a fuller understanding of both the sport of wushu and the IWUF.

Executive Vice President Anthony Goh stated, "Wushu has developed rapidly around the world in recent years, and IWUF is doing everything possible to keep this momentum rolling forward. This is the first time wushu has been fully represented both by delegates and in exhibition activities at the SportAccord Convention. Our presence there was most certainly productive – the booth is like a window for wushu to attract more attention and project our sport’s many vibrant attributes. I hope IWUF will continue to attend the SportAccord convention in the future, and that our experience can help us solidify an even stronger foundation for wushu to build on."

As for the business part of the summit, The IWUF team also kept quite busy meeting with various marketing and digital service companies – so look out for new developments IWUF will announce in the future on how we may better help our members distribute wushu content and promote wushu sport around the globe.
During the Assembly held at the SportAccord Convention in Sochi IWUF and the Federation Internationale Du Sport Universitaire (FISU) signed a cooperation agreement, and both parties became partner federations. Both organizations will cooperate in the inaugural wushu competition of the 2017 Taipei Summer Universiade and World University Wushu Championships to further promote wushu development in university sports.

Some highlights of the agreement are a list of initiatives that FISU and IWUF will carry out together to:

a. Encourage the development of the practice of sport by all university students of both genders;

b. Further encourage the practice of women’s university sport;

c. Identify and implement synergies between the two Federations on the Field of Play;

d. Identify shared goals and objectives between FISU and IWUF;

e. Set up a joint educational initiatives to protect sport against the dangers of doping and violence;

f. Establish a training and assessment unit for ITOs; and

g. Promote sustainability, the concepts of fair-play and integrity, and join the fight against all forms of racism in sport.

All in all, wushu will enjoy a number of new benefits from this collaboration. One is that FISU will appoint a wushu technical delegate and will collaborate with IWUF organizing seminars and training for coaches, managers and ITOs at the time of FISU competitions. Another is that FISU will offer on its TV webpage (www.fisu.tv) live streaming and VOD content from wushu during the Universiade and World University Championships; IWUF will have access to

f. Establish a training and assessment unit for ITOs; and

g. Promote sustainability, the concepts of fair-play and integrity, and join the fight against all forms of racism in sport.

All in all, wushu will enjoy a number of new benefits from this collaboration. One is that FISU will appoint a wushu technical delegate and will collaborate with IWUF organizing seminars and training for coaches, managers and ITOs at the time of FISU competitions. Another is that FISU will offer on its TV webpage (www.fisu.tv) live streaming and VOD content from wushu during the Universiade and World University Championships; IWUF will have access to

f. Establish a training and assessment unit for ITOs; and

g. Promote sustainability, the concepts of fair-play and integrity, and join the fight against all forms of racism in sport.

All in all, wushu will enjoy a number of new benefits from this collaboration. One is that FISU will appoint a wushu technical delegate and will collaborate with IWUF organizing seminars and training for coaches, managers and ITOs at the time of FISU competitions. Another is that FISU will offer on its TV webpage (www.fisu.tv) live streaming and VOD content from wushu during the Universiade and World University Championships; IWUF will have access to
Costa Rica, nestled between the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean, is famous for its lush rainforests, dramatic volcanoes, and exotic wildlife ranging from the fleet jaguar to the mossy-furred sloth. Now, perhaps, it is famous for wushu too. Last September 5-7, 2014 in the Costa Rican capital of San Jose, hundreds of wushu athletes from over a dozen countries gathered for the 10th Pan American Wushu Championships. Organized by the Federacion Wushu Kung Fu de Costa Rica, and led by Victor On and his tireless and dedicated team, the championships were the biggest and most successful ever. The USA won the biggest total of medals at 62, Canada’s winning number was 47, and Brazil clocked in at 37, while taking the top number of sanda medals, 6 of them gold. Participating countries included Argentina, Barbados, Bermuda, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, St. Lucia, Trinidad & Tobago, Uruguay, and Venezuela.
The opening ceremony in the Gimnasio Nacional de Costa Rica was attended by officials from the Sports Ministry and local sponsors. Along with enthusiastic athletes and spectators they were treated to a dazzling display of Costa Rican dance and celebratory speeches before the action began. On one side of the gym taolu athletes flew across the carpet. On the other side the full-contact sanda fighting on the lei tai platform kept it coming fast and furious.

Ian Lee, USA Sanda Team coach, was deeply encouraged by the progress sanda has made in Pan America. “Fighters from the Americas,” he says, “have stayed true to sanda by focusing on the basics, especially the takedowns, to win the matches. I think Peru has the toughest fighters. One of the best fights here in Costa Rica had to be USA (Alex Cisne) vs. Brazil. The fight showed a lot of skill, and control, and showed the methodology of the sanda way. Cisne was competing in the last sanda fight of his career -- and was the first time that a competitor has won 3 gold medals in 3 consecutive showings. So it was really a special day for him.”

The taolu carpet was also filled with action, speed and high athleticism. More “A” level athletes competed, perhaps in anticipation of the following year’s World Wushu Championships, but also due to the fact that PAWF has built this event up to true international standards, thus attracting some of the hemisphere’s top talent. This in turn improves the experience and skill of all athletes, whether from “A,” ‘B” or “C” categories. Costa Rica also proved to be ideal geographically as an easy midpoint for travel between North, South and Central America’s 23 federations. Many Pan America athletes have known each other for years, literally growing up together as wushu athletes at various events spanning Canada to Argentina. The boisterous after-tournament party at the hotel swimming pool amidst tropical flowers and trees renewed old bonds of friendship and helped create new ones.
The President of PAWF, Anthony Goh (who is also Executive Vice President of IWUF), enjoyed talking to athletes, watching the competition, and taking in some delicious Costa Rican cuisine during the event. He remarked, “PAWF has been growing rapidly in the last few years, as indicated by the extended 3-day competitions, a day longer than two-day events in the past. Also, the level of competition has consistently improved. Victor On and his team hosted a very well-organized championships. It was excellent! And in my mind, it was one of the best-organized PAWC in the last decade that I can recall. I hope this event being held for the first time in Central America will help to spur the sport of wushu around the region, especially in Central America and the Caribbean.”

The Pan-American Wushu Federation (Federacion Panamericana de Wushu - PAWF) is the official continental representative of IWUF. It unites wushu in North, Central and South America. Events in the hemisphere echo with animated conversations in Spanish, English and Portuguese, but everybody speaks the language of wushu. Created to support and develop wushu in the Americas, PAWF was formalized in Baltimore during the 1995 World Wushu Championships. Presently, 23 member countries of the Federation include Argentina, Barbados, Bermuda, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Trinidad/Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela and the U.S.A.

PAWF is pleased to announce that in 2016, the 11th Pan America Wushu Championships will be held in Lubbock, Texas, USA. The USAWKF is looking forward to a stellar event, and warmly invites everyone to attend.

Look for more coverage of wushu in Pan America in the upcoming second issue of IWUF’s official magazine, Wushu.
Taishan Sports Industry Group Becomes IWUF’s Newest Sponsor

On April 7, 2015, IWUF Executive Vice President Anthony Goh and Taishan Sports Industry Group’s Cui Gang signed a Cooperation Agreement that confirms Taishan Sports as IWUF’s newest sponsor. Taishan will also be one of the sports equipment suppliers of IWUF’s future events for 2015-2017.

Mr. Goh expressed his gratitude to Taishan Sports Industry Group for their constant support of wushu sport. He remarked that wushu has developed rapidly around the world in recent years, and that IWUF has 146 national and regional members globally. Taishan is a renowned sports equipment brand in China. Both IWUF and Taishan look forward to their mutual collaboration in bringing wushu to a wider audience worldwide.

The Latvian Wushu Federation Holds Successful 3rd Latvia Open Wushu Championships

On March 21-22, 2015 more than 150 athletes from Belorussia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, and Turkmenistan participated in the 3rd Latvia Open Wushu Championships. The competitions program included wushu taolu (routines), sanda, and qinda.