

## **Report for AGM 2014 by BCCMA Vice Chairman Peter War Saturday June 14th**

Last year was a very busy year for the IWUF and Wushu, besides organising the many Championships, Judges and Coaches courses that take place during the year. The main focus was on the election of Wushu as an Olympic sport as it was one of the 8 listed sports that were short listed. Unfortunately as we all now know that Wrestling was voted back in, as it is one of the core sports of the Olympics.

IWUF President Yu Zaiqing was re-elected as IOC Vice President for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term. At the winter Olympics held in Sochi, Russia, at the same time Wushu held a spectacular demonstration in front of the Chinese Ambassador Olympic Delegates and Russian President Valdimir Putin.

### **IWUF Calendar of Event in 2014**

The ones highlighted I will be attending this year

1. Wushu Competition of 3<sup>rd</sup> Lusofonia Games (January 25 - 28 Goa, India)
2. **5<sup>th</sup> World Junior Wushu Championships (March 11 – 18 Antalya, Turkey)**
3. **Nanjing 2014 Youth Wushu Tournament (August 20 to 24 Nanjing, China)**
4. 6<sup>th</sup> World Traditional Wushu Championships (October 24 to 29 Chizhou, China)
5. **7<sup>th</sup> Sanda World Cup (November 16 - 22 Jakarta, Indonesia)**
6. **1<sup>st</sup> World Taijiquan Championships (November 1- 4 Chengdu, China)**

#### **Meetings:**

AFWF Executive Board Meeting (January 15 Tunisia)

WFA Committee meetings (September Inchon, Korea)

WFA Congress (September Inchon, Korea)

**IWUF Technical Committee Meeting (March 12 Antalya, Turkey)**

IWUF Executive Committee Meeting (October 31 Chengdu, China)

#### **Training Courses:**

**International Coaches Training Course (March 18 - 21 Antalya, Turkey)**

International Wushu Judges Examination Course (June 1-7 Catania, Italy)

International Wushu Judges Examination Course (August 25 – 31 Shanghai, China)

**International Taijiquan Judges Examination Course (October 24 - 30 Chengdu, China)**

### **Continental Events:**

1. European Taijiquan and Internal Wushu Style Championships (May 4-6 Bucharest, Romania)
2. European Grading Examination (May 8 Bucharest, Romania)
3. European Wushu Championships (May 8 – 15 Bucharest, Romania)
4. Pan American Wushu Championship (Sept 1-8 San José, Costa Rica)
5. 17<sup>th</sup> Asian Games (September 19 – October 4 Inchon, Korea)
6. 12<sup>th</sup> South Asian Games (TBD Nepal)

### **Activities organized by IWUF members**

1. 3<sup>rd</sup> African Wushu Championship for Junior (February 8 – 13 Egypt)
2. Canada National Congress (February 16 Hamilton, Canada)
3. National Junior Sanda Training Camp ( February 3 –28 Hamilton, Canada)
4. National Junior Team Trials (February 15- 16 Hamilton, Canada)
5. International Taolu and Sanda Open Tournament (April 25-27 Yerevan, Armenia)
6. 10<sup>th</sup> Junior National Wushu (Kungfu) Championships (June 15 – 19 Jhang, Pakistan)
7. 7<sup>th</sup> International Wushu Championships (Junior, Youth, Adults) (June 20-22 Tbilisi, Georgia)
8. National Taiji Team Trials (July 1 Toronto, Canada)
9. International "Latin Wushu" Championship (September 12 – 14 V. Nova de Gaia, Portugal)
10. 19<sup>th</sup> National Wushu (Kungfu) Championships (October 13 – 17 Lahore, Pakistan)
11. 5<sup>th</sup> Taijiquan Health Conference (October China)
12. Cangzhou International Traditional Wushu Festival (August Cangzhou, China)
13. Zhengzhou International Shaolin Wushu Festival(August Zhengzhou, China)
14. Handan International Taijiquan Tournament(May-June Handan, China)

**Below is a short report on the Competitions I attended as representative of the BCCMA and IWUF Technical Committee Vice Chairman.**

## **World Combat Games 2013 at St. Petersburg The Olympics of Martial arts**

**Wushu competition** culminated nine days of intense martial arts events in St. Petersburg at the 2013 Sport Accord World Combat Games that took place from October 18-26, 2013. Sport Accord is the umbrella organization for all Olympic and non-Olympic international sports federations. The second edition of the Games (the first was in Beijing in 2010) featured top athletes from 15 different martial arts and combat sports -- Aikido, Boxing, Fencing, Judo, Ju-jitsu, Karate, Kendo, Kickboxing, Muay Thai, Sambo, Savate, Sumo, Taekwondo, Wrestling and Wushu. Nearly 1,400 male and female athletes from 62 different countries competed, and a total of 473 medals were awarded. Russia led the medal count, followed by France, Japan and Ukraine. Overall, the event offered a dazzling display of martial power and skill, mixing up both Olympic and non-Olympic combat sports. For Wushu, and the International Wushu Federation team in St. Petersburg, the organizers and producers offered a professional venue and event packaging that included spectator promotion, high-level sports lighting, excellent sound, big screen monitors, announcers and a polished medal ceremony with pomp and ceremony. Three TV cameras captured the action for both broadcast and big-screen projection, giving us a tantalizing look and template for wushu's visual potential as an international television and future Olympic sport. IWUF also had three new sponsors present --- 361 degrees, Wesing and the Heng Yuan Xiang group -- who observed the action as special guests from the VIP booth along with other top IWUF officials. Sport Accord President Marius Vizer noted of the event, "The World Combat Games are proof that the martial arts and combat sports are one family of sports that support each other and this event is a great opportunity to show how their values can be transferred to societies." The scope of the event was grand, spreading across the beautiful city of St. Petersburg in the Saint-Petersburg Sports and Concert Complex, the Yubileiny Sports Complex and the Arena Spartak. Events were broadcast live on 18 channels in Latin America, Canada, USA, China, Russia, Malaysia, Romania and the Middle East; online broadcasting in over 120 countries also reached viewers across the globe. Each sport had its own "ambassador" -- Kick boxing saw Don "The Dragon" Wilson, Sambo had Fedor Emelianenko, and Wrestling boasted 3-time Olympic gold medalist Alexandr Karelin. Wushu's own ambassador was Daria Tarasova, the personable Russian star who, at 24, has twice been World Champion, 15 times European Champion, and took first place at the 2008 Wushu Olympic Tournament in Beijing. The opening week of the Games Tarasova was busy representing Wushu at cultural programs, especially in schools and in hospitals around St. Petersburg to increase awareness of martial arts and give people the chance to see its beauty and power first hand. Despite some frosty weather, when the competition opened Wushu definitely heated things up the Spartak Arena. With dazzling taolu forms and powerful sanda full-contact fighting, spectators were treated to flashing swords and spears, lethal kicks and punches. 21 wushu teams had travelled to St. Petersburg for this event, and while China once dominated the medal podium in the early days of the sport, other countries have now come up to speed in technical sophistication, power and style. A select group of international champions came ready to challenge for

Wushu supremacy. Top amongst those was Russia, a nation possessing many stellar athletes across a variety of martial sports. This was not lost on an enthusiastic crowd that offered cheering support to all athletes, but especially to their own Russian stars topped by Tarasova and the indomitable sanda champion Muslim Salikhov.

## **The 12<sup>th</sup> World Wushu Championships in Kuala Lumpur**

This Championship, held from October 28 - November 6, 2013, showed much evidence that the level of Wushu is growing around the world, particularly in many countries outside Asia which previously faced a number of challenges. While strong Asian teams were expected to Dominate, there were some surprises. As Iran, Russia and Europe. China maintained its hold at the top of the podium with a whopping 17 gold medals – and 1 silver – to make a total of 18. Both men and women turned in dazzling changquan, qiangshu, jianshu, gunshu, nanquan and nandao performances. While many take this as a given, no one can argue that Chinese athletes and coaches continue to raise the bar with higher jumps, razor sharp precision and technical expertise that is often simply breath-taking. But Malaysian Wushu athletes had the home advantage at the Kuala Lumpur Badminton Stadium with a wildly enthusiastic 860 athletes from 74 countries at the 12th World Wushu Championships in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, however the tropical monsoon storms did nothing to dampen the Wushu spirit of everyone involved. The Wushu Federation of Malaysia offered superlative hospitality and style as they skilfully hosted IWUF's principal biennial event that marks the ever-increasing progress the sport of Wushu is making as an Olympic hopeful.

## **Junior Wushu Championships 2014**

### **The beautiful seaside city of Antalya in Turkey**

Welcomed 513 participants from 43 nations/regions from March 11th to 18th 2014. The biennial World Junior Wushu Championships pits the brightest junior Wushu stars from around the world against one another in Taolu and Sanda competition across various age groups. This year's event was hotly contested amongst the athletes within the 16-18 age groups as the championships upcoming "Nanjing 2014 Youth Wushu Tournament" which will take place in August this year during the Junior Olympics. The event was a great success due to the tremendous efforts exerted by the Turkish Wushu Federation. The week-long event showcased top level Taolu and Sanda performances. The participants not only enjoyed an exceptional event, but were treated to world class Turkish hospitality in a breath taking environment next to the Mediterranean Sea.

## **Antalya welcomes Taijiquan Coaches from around the World**

Following the conclusions of the 5th World Junior Wushu Championships, Antalya, Turkey Welcomed 100 Taijiquan coaches from around the world. The IWUF International Taijiquan Coaches course was held from March 18 to 21. The course was presented By Prof. Xu Weijun and Coach Wang Erping, with assistance by technical committee members Byron Jacobs and Li Xiaojie. Through the course the participants were taught the newly compiled Traditional Yang and Chen compulsory routines and a lecture on the new regulations for the 1st IWUF Taijiquan Championships to be held later this year in Chengdu China.

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