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Royal Patronage

This year,WMC was given the honour of receiving official Royal Patronage from the King of Thailand. The Royal Patronage Ceremony was conducted on the 20th of August and was a grand event for all parties present.



The World Muaythai Council, the world governing body for the art and sport of Muaythai has received the highest possible honour any organization can receive in the Kingdom of Thailand; the Royal Patronage of His Majesty, the King of Thailand. The special ceremony took place in the capacity-filled ballroom of the Sport Authority building of Thailand.



from the Royal Military Academy delivered the Royal Flag and the Royal Letter from His Majesty, showing respect to His Majesty the King and the Royal Patronage given to Muaythai. General Chetta then performed the royal oath on behalf of the World Muaythai Council.

General Wimon then delivered the congratulatory speech as the former president of the World Muaythai Council, followed by congratulatory speeches from representatives of all ministries,especially sports and culture.



Stephan Fox, Vice President of WMC and General Secretary of IFMA,then made a presentation on the achievements from 1995 to 2014, and delivered the congratulations on behalf of the 128 international muaythai federations. A special congratulatory speech from National Olympic Council of Thailand,also under Royal Patronage, was delivered. An action-packed Wai Khru performance by Muaythai Juniors from the Laan Khru Suea House and a beautiful rendition of the "We Are Muaythai" song rounded up the historical event.

World Championships 2014

The 2014 IFMA World Championships event in Langkawi,Malaysia at the Mahsuri International Exhibition Centre, lasted a total of eight memorable days with over 100 different countries traveling to Malaysia to participate in the Muaythai event. Needless to say, the event was a huge success as the sport and cultural art form of Muaythai was well represented and promoted.



The World Championships opening ceremony kicked off with an entertaining display of Malay culture and tradition, giving spectators a taste of the

many multicultural facets that make Malaysia truly Asia. Teams and honored guests were treated to some spectacular dance routines followed by a high impact show and theatrical

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All government departments, sport and culture ministries, sport authorities and all major Muaythai stadiums and promoters were invited to historic event. PDG. General Saiyud Kerdphol, General Wimon Wongwanich the former President of WMC, General Chatta Thanajaro the current President of WMC, Dr Sakchye Tapsuwan IFMA President and WMC General Secretary, Khun Kajorn Prowsree Vice President of the Amateur Muaythai Association of Thailand under Royal Patronage of His Royal Highness the Crown Prince,Stephan Fox Vice President of WMC and General Secretary of IFMA and so many other notable VIPs were also in attendance.

Over 20 representatives from the different embassies in Bangkok also came to witness the ceremony,along with representatives from the United Nationsand many other organizations.

Dr Sakchye started off the afternoon with a heart-warming welcome speech, outlining the event and the history of WMC. It was a proud moment when the Royal Cadets



display from the Muaythai Live troupe which enthralled the audience with stunning acrobatics and fight sequences which to the story of the history of muaythai and its famous legends.

The Honorable, CEO of LADA welcomed all the athletes, officials and representatives from over 100 countries and declared the championships officially opened. Valentina Shevchenko of Peru delivered the athlete's oath on behalf of the athletes and Eric Ekambi Kingue delivered the official's oath on behalf of the Technical Officials. It was a wonderful start to what was an exciting ring of top class muaythai action from the world's elite amateur muaythai athletes. While their focus has been promoting Muaythai, IFMA has also been very active behind the scenes in helping out the local communities where events are held.



WGA Annual General Meeting



The International World Games Association held their Annual General Meeting on the 7th of April in Antalya Turkey during the SportAccord Convention. In 2013, IFMA became a proud member of IWGA and is currently the only ring sport.

There were many topics on the agenda, most importantly the elections for the new President as Ron Froehlich will be stepping down after having taken the World Games to the great success it enjoys today during his term. Also on the Agenda was the discussion of which sports were to be included in The 2017 World Games in Wroclaw, Poland. Muaythai was one of the prospective sports which was included into the World Games this year.

Dr. Vellapandian spoke on the importance of cooperation between governments and National Federations within sport and the impact that sport can have on society. He spoke to the audience about how outreach programs and education can develop and direct the development of our from Malaysia made an emotional speech on martial arts, with an emphasis on Muaythai, congratulating them on their Spirit of Sport Award. He also said that the foundations of Muaythai – honour, respect, tradition fair play, and excellence are not just the foundations of sport but also the foundations of everyday life.



With an emphasis on sustainability this year, IFMA partnered with the Consumer Association Penang, several different local hotels, foundations, gardeners, schools, the Charity Club of Langkawi, and the Rotary Club in Langkawi, in order to leave a small footprint, if you will, at the location of the event through sustainability projects.

Once the event was underway, steps were made to make sure that everything from the composted kitchen waste to the tarps used for decorations were upcycled and re-used by the local community. A total of 1,150kgs worth of composted kitchen waste was collected from the hotels, resorts, and guest houses that hosted the different guests from the 102 countries. They were encouraged to use the composted kitchen waste to make fertilizers after the games for their landscaping and gardens.

A large amount of money was also donated to the Charity Club and the Rotary Club of Langkawi, which will be used to support the medical expenses of local families and cover monthly food runs as well as provide educational books and repair funds for schools in Tuba Island. The blue carpets were upcycled for various uses from badminton and futsal courts to renovating condo units. Even the tarps were repurposed to cover construction materials, as well as supply a local foundation to help single mothers make handcrafted tote bags.

Nothing from the event went to waste, IFMA and our partners were able to conduct a world class event while simultaneously helping and giving back to the local communities.



IFMA Youth & Sport Conference

The youth are our future in life and in sport and youth development is one of the most important foundations of IFMA. At this year's IFMA World Championships an important youth forum took place, chaired by his Excellency Dr. Vellapandian, Youth and Sports minister from Malaysia, and with presentations by important guest speakers from the UN, SportAccord, World Games Association and IFMA.

Muaythai has recently signed an important MOU, working in partnership with the UN to End Violence against Women. Anna-Karin Jatfors, Regional Director for UN Women gave a presentation on the importance of educating the youth on these issues, to help bring equality and to end injustices made globally towards women.

Kristof Sucz from SportAccord spoke about sport integrity. An expert on online and offline gambling he spoke on the importance of development of education and standardization within sport to avoid sports integrity problems.



After Career Programme

IFMA's guidelines are designed to help athletes think about their after-sports career, to answer 5 key questions, and to direct them in a more in-depth way, to resources in the IOC Athlete Career Programme. The guide is written in a style which addresses athletes, drawing on the experiences of current and retired athletes who have had to make the same decisions that face athletes today.

Every athlete is different, because every person is different. However, there are some common, shared experiences of being in a high-level sports career. The International Olympic Committee has many internet resources available to help athletes. They are available electronically to the public, so that non-Olympic athletes can also access them and use them.

The sports career of an athlete will be always be a valuable, memorable, and important part of their life. However, the constraint of a Muaythai sports career is that, like many other sports careers, it is time sensitive. As your body ages, even with the best training, athletes will most likely retire in their thirties. Therefore, they will



need to be equipped and ready to know what kind of life they will pursue afterward. IFMA provides this guideline free of charge on the IFMA website to any of its athletes in order to help them address key issues and questions that range from choosing between sports and studies to transitioning from athletic environments to the professional working environment.

MOU signing with UN Women

UN Women, the WMC and IFMA have joined forces in a new partnership that will work with young people around the world to promote gender equality, challenge harmful ideas of masculinities and to end violence against women.

On Friday when the agreement was signed, the function room was packed to capacity with representatives from embassies, UN, Muaythai and international press.

Speakers present at the event were General Chetta Thanajaro – President WMC, Dr. Sakchye Tapsuwan – President IFMA, Stephan Fox – General Secretary IFMA and Vice-President WMC, Sue Latta – Chair of the IFMA Female Commission and Roberta Clarke – Regional Director of UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, UN Women Representative in Thailand and International Human Rights Lawyer, all made powerful and emotional speeches on this historic day.

The UN Women Regional Representative Roberta Clarke will travel to Langkawi on the 3rd May to be one of the speakers at the Youth and Sport Forum at the upcoming World Championships. During the 10 day event a joint meeting will take place between the UN, IFMA female, ethics, integrity, athletes and youth commissions and the IFMA Executive Board, to work on a unified strategic plan

the world Muaythai community were also given a warm welcome to stadium. IFMA's Youth Ambassador, Kiana Guyon, was also present on behalf of IFMA at the event.

The event did not disappoint as the spectators saw 7 champions including Buakaw, Beurnueung, Alex Harris and Artem Vakhitov come out victorious in an amazing night which made history. Thank you, your HSH Prince Albert II and thank you, Monte-Carlo for an unforgettable evening.



Inclusion in TWG 2017

Just last year, IFMA became a proud member of the International World Games Association at the annual General Assembly of IWGA in St. Petersburg at the SportAccord Convention 2013. History was made yet again at this year's AGM when muaythai was included into the Official Sports Program amongst 29 other sports participating in 2017 World Games in Wroclaw, Poland.

IFMA President Dr. Sakchye Tapsuwan stated "This is a proud moment for Muaythai and IFMA. The World Games has become one of the major sporting events in the world and for IFMA as a new member of IWGA to be included, is truly an honour".

IFMA General Secretary, Stephan Fox said "We had a solid foundation, popularity amongst both genders, a mixture of culture and sport along with many other aspects has been the winning formula". IFMA Sports Director, Charissa Tynan stated "The last World Games in Cali had over 500,000 spectators and Muaythai already had a roadmap in place for 2017 with qualification events on all five continents. The inclusion in the World Games will now give the athletes the chance to compete in two IOC patronised events which are the World Combat Games and the World Games. On top of the biennial World Championships and World Cup,

as well as continental events under the Olympic flag such as the Asian Beach Games and Indoor Asian Martial Art Games, truly shows that IFMA is very close to being IOC recognised".

IFMA President, Dr. Sakchye Tapsuwan thanked the IWGA Executive Board for their faith in Muaythai and expressed his deep gratitude towards the IFMA General Secretary, Stephan Fox, Rafal Szlachta, the IFMA Sports Director Charissa and everyone involved in seeing IFMA through this historical chapter.

The official IWGA flag was presented to IFMA President Dr. Sakchye Tapsuwan by IWGA Board Member Tom Dielen at the Sport Accord Convention today. Mr. Dielen kindly congratulated IFMA for their inclusion into the 2017 World Games and the federation is looking forward to their participation in the event that will be held in Wroclaw, Poland.



SportAccord Spirit of Sport Awards

The most prestigious award for using the power of sport to make a difference has been awarded to Muaythai at the 2014 SportAccord Convention in Belek, Turkey.

Sport Is Your Gang is the umbrella programme for all IFMA's social initiatives and was launched in 2010 in cooperation with the Organisation for Peace & Sport. The president of IFMA, Dr. Sakchye Tapsuwan was delighted to know that IFMA has been given the honour and recognition for the social project in which IFMA is currently involved.

IFMA General Secretary, Stephan Fox made the acceptance speech in front of over 100 world recognised sports representatives of the IOC, ANOC, World Games, Commonwealth Games, University Games and so many others. Mr. Fox stated that giving back to communities is an important part of Muaythai values and being part of social engagements gives everyone the chance to work on something larger than themselves. To witness the transformation that sport can make in the lives of the targeted individuals is a wonderful reward in itself. He thanked SportAccord and the committee for the honour and recognition, which is a further encouragement for all IFMA national federations to continue using Muaythai's values to make this world a fitter and better place.



Monte-Carlo Fighting Masters : Thank You HSH Prince Albert II

It was 8 months in the making and finally Monte-Carlo made Muaythai history on June 14th at the 2014 Fighting Masters. The event started with a great opening with HSH Prince Albert II entering the stadium and the capacity crowd standing up to show their respect to his Highness. The Baroness Cécile de Massy, the visitors from Thailand led by M.L. Trinuch Sirivadhanabhakdi, the Thai ambassador to France M. Apichart Chinwanno, Dr. Sakchye Tapsuwan and Stephan Fox, representing



him and those whose lives he touched are in our thoughts and prayers.

UN Youth Leadership Program

IFMA's Youth Ambassador Kiana Guyon has recently returned from Gwangju, South Korea where she received a certification from the United Nations Office for Sport Development and Peace (UNOSDP), for her participation at the Youth Leadership Programme (YLP) where she also completed an introduction to child safeguarding and protection.

The YLP took place at the Honam University where 34 participants from 16 different countries from the Asia-Pacific area took part in a 12 -day programme which allowed them to learn and improve their leadership skills and help them to bring new knowledge back to apply within their own communities.

Representatives from various organisations such as Right To Play, the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF), the International Swimming Federation (FINA), the World Taekwondo Federation (WTF), the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), UNAIDS and the Football Association (FIFA) shared their knowledge about sport development. Different activities were set up for the participants in order to facilitate their understanding of the power of sport and how it can affect positive change.

Kiana stated that another memorable activity during the YLP was the "EPICS Forum 2014" and gave them the opportunity to meet important figures such as Kim Won-Soo the Assistant Secretary and Special Advisor to the UN General Secretary Ban Ki-Moon and Mr. Wilfried Lemke the special advisor to the UN General Secretary on Sports Development and Peace. They also had the opportunity to discover wonders of the Korean culture and the beauty of Gwangju, the host city of the 2015 Summer Universiade.

There will be many workshops and meetings during the 1 week gathering, with many VIPs expected to travel to Poland, and a special closing ceremony is planned as part of the cultural program. IFMA would like to congratulate the EMF on their achievement during the last years, and would like to thank especially the Polish muaythai association on their outstanding work.



Poland will also host the 2017 world games in which Muaythai is also included as an official sport, and surely the 2014 European Muaythai Championship will boost the popularity of the sport in Poland.



In Memory of Dr Nerijus Zukas

On a more sombre note, on behalf of the International Federation of Muaythai Amateur and the world muaythai community, we wish to express our sincere condolences for the recent passing of the Lithuanian Muaythai Union's beloved President, Dr. Nerijus Zukas. His death is no doubt a great loss. A doctor of Technical Sciences, a Martial Arts enthusiast, a former diplomat and businessman, Dr. Zukas entered as a candidate for Presidency of the Lithuanian Muaythai Union in November 2013.



Dr. Zukas became President after the Extraordinary Conference of union members voted unanimously. Upon his election he said "I am convinced that the development of muaythai in Lithuania has a lot of untapped

potential. Together with my team and the sport community, we will be working on promoting the sport and make every little effort to help sport clubs to educate highly skilled athletes" His hard work bore fruit when the Lithuanian team that participated at the recent IFMA World Championships under his leadership took home a silver medal. It was in Langkawi where many of the IFMA family had the great opportunity to meet and know Dr. Luksas. We will remember fondly his great drive for excellence, intelligence and warmth.

We wish to extend our heartfelt sympathy to his family and friends who are affected so greatly by this loss. We honour



2014 European Championships

The European Championship held in Krakow, Poland from the 21st to the 28th of September will feature a record number of participating countries, and athletes. European General Secretary Rafal Szlachta stated that 40 countries are expected to participate in this event, with nearly 1,000 athletes and officials. He also stated that there is a 10% increase in the female participant ratio, which truly shows that female muaythai is becoming more and more popular as male muaythai has already become.