



W K C

WORLD KARATE CONFEDERATION

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3rd Martial Art Games, Bangkok 12th – 18th April 2008

For the third time that the *International Martial Art Games Committee* **IMGC** held the International Martial Art Games tournament. The first two Games took place in Pyongyang the capital of the DPR of Korea. The third event was organised by the World Muay Thai Federation in Bangkok, Thailand from 12th to 18th April 2008.

At this moment there are ten international martial art federations in membership of the IMGC and also many National Martial Art Games Committees (NMGC). The WKC was accepted by the IMGC as a full member in 2007. So far the competition rules of the ten different martial arts were taken from these ten federations. In the future this may change if there were to be more than one international federation for a specific martial art accepted by the IMGC. The competition rules would then have to be agreed by these members together. At these particular Games the WKC rules were applied for karate.

For the first time WKC athletes participated in the Games. The Federation who took part were: AAU (USA), DJKB (Germany), FIAM (Italy), SKB (Czech Republic), SKFI (India), SKU (Serbia), UAK (Argentina), USKO (Russia). Altogether 50 competitors and 8 officials attended the karate event out of 400 martial arts participants in total. The largest entry came from the taekwon-do (International Taekwon-do Federation). Each martial art governed their own competition by using their own established rules.

The idea of the IMGC is to assemble the various martial arts under one roof and to have a sort of Budo Olympics, which is a brilliant idea. Unfortunately there are too many sports claiming to be “martial arts”. Some of these sports seen at this event were just combat sports and have nothing to do with martial arts. Some federations created an artificial “martial art” by copying an original martial art and giving it another name. Even competition rules, statutes and tournament procedures were copied from original long established martial art federations. One had the feeling that some individuals to a get **position** and to make it **financially lucrative** created these sport federations.

If the IMGC wants to prosper in the future and really attract true martial arts and the *International Olympic Committee* IOC then it has to clarify what it understands under *martial art* and to straighten out its membership.

Neither the IOC nor real martial groups will be attracted to some of the combat sports shown at the third IMG in Bangkok. The WKC will closely monitor further steps of the IMGC in this regard and will reconsider its engagement if there are no real changes in the near future.

The opening ceremony was attended by the **IOC** member and President of the General Assembly of International Sports Federations **GAISF**, Mr. *Hein Verbruggen* (The Netherlands) as well as by the **IOC** member and President of the ITF and the IMGC, Prof *Chang Ung* (DPR of Korea).

The **karate** itself was of a high standard and because of the small number of participant’s taking part the competition was given in a very calm, strict and disciplined atmosphere. All the leaders of the WKC attended: President Nicovic, Vice-Presidents Mirza and Dietrich as well as Founding President Wendland and Chief Referee Reifenauer. We have greatest of respect for the teams coming from so far to attend

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Argentina, the USA and Russians from the north of Siberia. The WKC would like to thank all the athletes, referees, coaches and officials for their support and good will as well as fairness and discipline.