

SUMMER 2021

WOMAU

News



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Summer 2021 WoMAU News No. 33

WoMAU News aims to be an archive containing valuable information on martial arts and the activities of the World Martial Arts Union (WoMAU) as well as to be a source of both academic knowledge and practical information on Traditional Sports and Games (TSG). By promoting the exchange of knowledge and information on martial arts across the globe, we hope this magazine will help to raise awareness in this field.

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Dear martial arts families!
Nice to meet you.

I am Min Gyeong-chang, who joined the World Martial Arts Union (WoMAU, the Union) after taking the post of Secretary-General in January this year.

Last year, due to the pandemic, the Union could not offer many activities except for the operations of the secretariat. I apologize that the announcement of the general meeting has been delayed. We will set a date soon and if it is impossible to meet in person, a video conference would be the alternative. I wish to take a big leap forward through in-depth discussions on our international exchange activities and operations. I would like to humbly listen to your opinions and ask for your active interest and support.

WoMAU was launched to support systemically the world's martial arts community in contributing to world peace, and to keep growing the Chungju World Martial Arts Festival. However, the divergence of understandings in operating the secretariat made us suffering from administrative inconveniences





and you, the members, may be disappointed that the pure value of the Union has been undermined. My time in this position will be spent helping the Union become the precious world martial arts platform that you imagined at the time of its establishment.

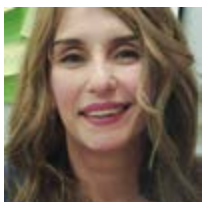
COVID-19 coupled with the fourth industrial revolution showed us that martial arts activities cannot go back to the way they used to be. Nevertheless, I believe that the value of martial arts as a means of mental and physical training and cultural heritage will not disappear. Therefore, I would like to gather your wisdom so that the Union can take the lead in preserving and promoting martial arts as a cultural heritage, utilizing multi-faceted values of martial arts. As UNESCO is the center of martial arts policies, we will also actively participate in UNESCO activities.

Next year we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Union. As previously mentioned, this year's general meeting will discuss better operation of the secretariat and report the anniversary programs. We will contact you soon after confirming the schedule and format.

I look forward to meeting you all in good health.



Egypt: Tahteeb as a Means of Youth Education and a Cultural Heritage



Neiven Wagdy

Culture Development Program Manager,
Association of Upper Egypt For Education
and Development; AUEED

6

REMARK

Sport is a powerful tool to consolidate social ties and networks to promote the ideals of brotherhood, solidarity, non-violence, tolerance and justice. In our wider vision of sport, it has the ability to bring people together and use it as a catalyst for peace and social development. It has capabilities that help develop the potential of individuals, societies and countries. It encourages a person to grow, it is a tremendous engine that helps to overcome the barriers that separate the gender, and it can build bridges to connect between destinations that would not have interconnected without it.

In addition to all the aforementioned ideas and confirming the depth of approach, sport is the expression of life, activity and vitality. Dynamic meditation methods aim to reach a balance between the four bodies (the physical, the mental, the emotional, and the spiritual), and as long as the left hemisphere of the brain is in an active state, the person is absorbed in the physical world and separated from the subconscious. Meditation is the means of communicating with the world of the subconscious, and this connection does not occur unless there is a balance and harmony between the four bodies. With the process of human development by focusing on the four aspects, practicing Tahteeb sport achieves life goals that require effort and activity.

The aim of practicing Al-Tahteeb as a heritage sport is to build the human being through a standardized approach based





on three main pillars of “physical, psychological and values” growth that he/she preserves youth identity and delivers it to successive generations. With the consolidation of the concept of equality in the right to practice this heritage sport with all the mentioned benefits and reflecting these benefits on our societies enabling our daughters and sons to preserve their identity based on the cultural awareness of the importance of what we own.

The strategic vision of the Association of Upper Egypt for Education and Development (AUEED) in practicing Tahteeb as a traditional sport for sustainable growth and preservation of heritage and identity is to raise new generations that accommodate the legacy and depth of their cultural heritage and its distinction. And in turn, these generations continue to transfer the heritage to successive generations in order to consolidate the Egyptian identity.

NGOs' Perspective: The Promotion of Martial Arts Starts from Protecting Them



Huh Kwon

Vice President, Mongolia International University; MIU

Non-government organizations, or NGOs, are not-for-profit voluntary civic groups that may be organized locally, nationally, or internationally. Surging in numbers across the globe since the 20th Century, NGOs have emerged as an important sector of civil society. In general, NGOs are work-oriented, lead by people sharing common interest, and cater for various services. Not only they play humanitarian and/or educative roles in many different areas including human rights, enlightenment, social development, cultural development, or environmental protection, they, being channels to deliver citizens' voices and concerns to the government, also make policy recommendations, monitor projects, collect opinions, and provide a range of information.

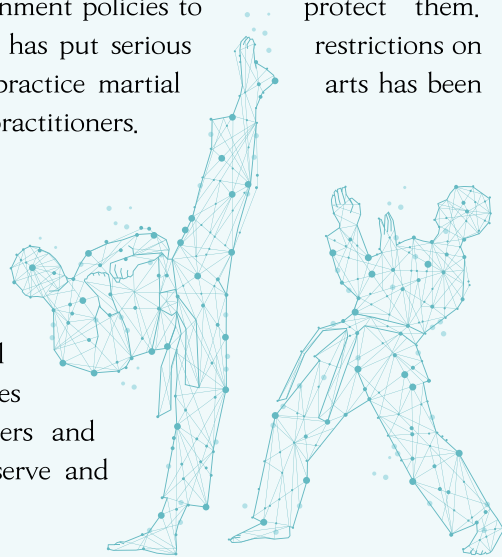
Martial arts organizations, too, are growing as an important pillar of civil society, whether it be small groups of amateurs or trainees, instructors, or professional athletes. With no exception, they take roles in the identification, initiation, training, vitalization, and dissemination of traditional martial arts and continue making daring efforts to make martial arts an essential part in their community.

The UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity contains 11 martial arts including Taekkyeon and Ssireum of Korea, and Turkish oil wrestling, representing the widespread awareness of the value of

martial arts as heritages. Many countries' governments, aiming to identify and promote traditional martial arts of their own, are seeking to have their martial arts inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List, leading to increases in the number of traditional martial arts inscribed. As such, the World Martial Arts Union, WoMAU, organized a network of organizations representing UNESCO-listed martial arts in 2019, which was the right move for the protection and promotion of the martial arts.

However, many intangible heritages are at risk of extinction. Plays, games, and sports handed down from generation to generation have been ousted from the courtyard of the community due to the dismantling of community, civil society's indifference, and the absence of government policies to protect them. Even worse, the COVID-19 pandemic has put serious restrictions on gatherings, and the unavailability to practice martial arts has been a miserable condition for martial arts practitioners.

Amid this unprecedented pandemic situation, the WoMAU and all of its member organizations should develop measures to publicize the value of traditional martial arts to civil society and engage citizens. The voices of traditional martial arts practitioners and their solidarity are the power to preserve and





promote these time-honored intangible heritages.

Martial arts NGOs should, above all, familiarize themselves with the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage adopted in 2003. The promotion of traditional martial arts starts from sustainable safeguarding. Article 2(3) of the Convention contains concrete provisions on the ‘safeguarding’ of intangible cultural heritages, encompassing a range of activities by different players, rather than special activities by specific groups such as experts and preservation scientists. In a nutshell, the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritages is a comprehensive concept.

“Measures aimed at ensuring the viability of the intangible cultural heritage, including the identification, documentation, research, preservation, protection, promotion, enhancement, transmission, particularly through formal and non-formal education, as well as the revitalization of the various aspects of such heritage.”

The safeguarding of the heritages emphasized in the 2003 Convention is based on the principle of “inter-generation transmission.” In this sense, intangible cultural heritages are deemed a dynamic, variable concept rather than a fixed, stationary one. This calls for the roles of individuals, as well as communities

and groups, in particular proactive roles of martial arts NGOs, i.e., their multi-faceted activities as creators, possessors, and successors.

Answering these demands of the times requires that all martial arts NGOs make a shift in their endeavors for martial arts protection and promotion from small groups of experts to local communities. All martial arts organizations should make efforts not to decontextualize or alter the inherent spirits and values of their martial arts. Heritages should not be altered or eliminated simply because they are not in line with the modern way of life.

In addition, they should have more tolerance to the diversity of and cultural differences in martial arts. Martial arts NGOs should play active roles in peace and mutual understanding of humanity. The community will recognize their value of existence when they are against violence and take the lead in raising objections to gender-based discrimination.

They also should warn themselves not to lean towards over-commercialization and unsustainable tourism. Some martial arts have degenerated themselves as mere entertainments for the public as a result of their excessive commercial activities. They should safeguard the true value of their heritages and seek to ensure the sustainable use of them. They should be kept reminded that promotion without safeguarding would be nothing but an attempt to distort the value of the heritages and forsake the true spirit of traditional martial arts we have zealously guarded.



Martial Arts and Sustainable Development: Centering on Goal 5 –Gender Equality



Choi Hee-kyung

Secretary-General,
International Women & Family Foundation; IWFF

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by UN in 2015, among them, SDG 5 focuses on gender equality. Chapter 6 of the Operational Directives for the Implementation of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage adopted by UNESCO in 2003 provides that “States Parties shall endeavour to foster the contributions of intangible cultural heritage and its safeguarding to greater gender equality and to eliminating gender-based discrimination.” While gender equality is seen as a major issue in international society, discussions over this agenda in the realm of martial arts have been somewhat slumberous. In this article, I aim to give a brief overview of aspects to consider to materialize gender equality.

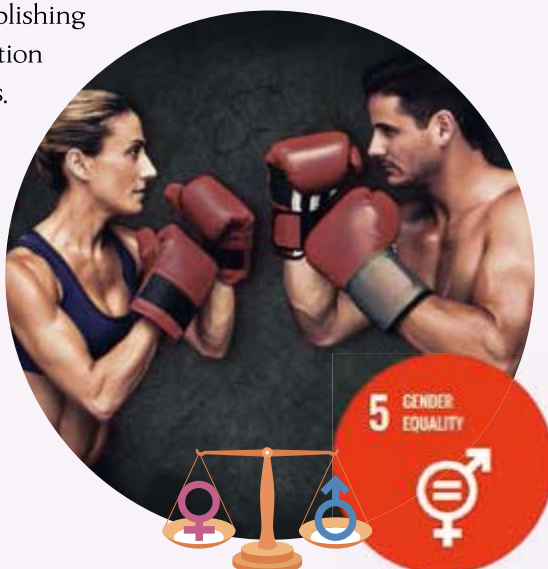
To understand what gender equality is, one should recognize two different concepts: sex refers to biological differences between males and females, and gender refers to the socially constructed characteristics of women and men. In particular, one should note that discussions over gender equality in relation to intangible heritages do not work based on the simple dichotomy of biological sex, because intangible heritages have associations with the identity or roles of men and women constructed by time-honored social and cultural customs in a given community, i.e., gender. In this sense, regarding either gender’s dominance in performance and/or practice of an intangible heritage in a certain culture

as being against gender equality may be detrimental to the anthropological significance of the heritage.

However, it is undeniable that, as socio-cultural environments and gender perceptions change, how heritages are performed and/or practiced also changes. The tradition of Kabuki, a UNESCO-inscribed intangible heritage in Japan, prohibited women from taking part in plays, but Shimane Prefecture allowed for women's participation. Another example of changes resulting from changes in gender perceptions is the Irani storytelling performance Naqqali, which once was dominated by men but now allows women to take part in and perform before the spectators.

While women are taking active roles in martial arts, there are cases where certain individuals are not allowed to practice martial arts because of their gender. Taking the traditional Indian martial art Kalaripayattu as an example, women's participation in training, performance, and practice is limited in some conservative areas of India such as Kerala. In Japan, women entering or touching the Sumo arena is considered profane. And Muay Thai puts restrictions on women's participation. These are examples of communities' gender perceptions influencing the practice of heritages. As such, granting access to specific heritages to both women and men would contribute to social development in terms of sustainable heritage safeguarding, gender equality, and social integration.

Another aspect to consider is how we apply gender-sensitive perspectives. This approach is to develop policies and programs based on the understanding of socio-cultural environments men and women face, hence eliminating discriminatory influence. Embracing these perspectives matters even more in martial arts where in many cases men's participation outweighs. One may, for example, consider establishing training environments in consideration of women's physical characteristics. Also, in many communities policies are often influenced by dominance in the right to speak. In this context, we need to actively develop women leaders where men have more policy-making power than women. These efforts will contribute to the sustainable development of martial arts, in particular gender equality.



Pondering the Martial Arts of the Future



Sanko Lewis

Professor, Sahmyook University

The Fourth Industrial Revolution is transforming the world as we know it. For example, the sharing economy has already revolutionized many industries. Within a few short years the taxi industry went from fleets of taxis being replaced by individuals using their own cars and connecting with passengers through mobile apps such as Uber. It is highly likely that even this new development will in another few years be supplanted by fleets of AI self-driving cars. With the same rapidity, numerous other industries will be subverted by the unprecedentedly swift advancement of technology, from big data and algorithms, to robots and AI. How might practises as ancient as the traditional martial arts be affected?

The term “martial arts” refers to skills for war: “martial” from Mars, the Roman god of war, and “arts” from Latin (“ars”) via Old French, meaning skill, practice, or method. Understood thusly, martial arts have existed for as long as humans practised skills for hunting and fighting. Over time the martial arts have developed to be more than just systematised fighting. For instance, around 530 AD Buddhist monks in China appropriated martial arts to aid them in their aesthetic practises; when Japan entered relative peace during the Edo Period, the warrior class (samurai) repurposed their warrior training for character development; and in modern times, the martial arts have been used for everything from health-and-fitness to sport, from helping ADHD children

be more focused to aiding in “spiritual” aims of body-mind centredness. With regards to its original purpose as systems of war techniques, the martial arts have become somewhat obsolete. The samurai inevitably had to lay down their swords in the face of the rifle. The continued advancement of technology will eventually make regular human soldiers on the battlefield a thing of the past as well. The human soldier is to be replaced with remotely guided drones and military robots. The former is already in use and the latter is in development. And as for humans, those that do enter the fray will be augmented ‘transhumans.’ At a recent event (AFRL Inspire, 28 April 2021), Dr. Joel Mozer, Chief Scientist of the United States Space Force, stated that human augmentation is imperative and added that the military strategies and tactics of the future will be developed by AI. Apart from the battlefield, one might imagine other points of overlap that technological advancements may have with martial arts.

We have already seen martial arts instruction migrating online. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic it was possible to view thousands of martial arts tutorials on video platforms like YouTube. Such virtual instruction dramatically increased during the pandemic when in-person training at a martial arts gym became impossible. Many instructors opted for teaching online classes via Zoom and other SNS apps. For instance, although I live in Seoul, South Korea, over the past months I took part in training sessions and martial arts seminars not only locally, but also online with people in France and Ukraine. If one combines such technologies with other already existing tools such as the Wii video game console marketed by Nintendo which have some ‘games’ that teaches martial arts sequences, it is feasible to imagine a future in which people learn martial arts from AI instructors.



It is still difficult to know the consequences of the integration of technology into martial arts. Ponder, for example, the inclusion of an Electronic Scoring System (ESS) introduced into Olympic Taekwondo over a decade ago. Taekwondo athletes don chest protectors and helmets that contains sensors which triggers a point to score when hit. The system made the combat sport fairer by removing human bias, but no one could have foreseen how it would change the actual techniques. Athletes adapted their movements to those most likely to trigger the sensors; this resulted in an evolution of techniques away from what could be described as authentic Taekwondo techniques to a type of foot-tag instead. Another experiment in Taekwondo and technology is to flip the scoring method. Traditionally, scoring is done additively: the competitor who scores the most points within a specific time is the winner. However, a new approach tested out by the Korea Taekwondo Association is to score deductively. Each fighter begins with a full “life bar” and as their opponent scores points against them (by means of the ESS) their “life bar” reduces. The fight ends when a competitor’s “life bar” is depleted (or they are knocked out). These “life bars” are synchronously projected on a screen above the competitors, creating an augmented reality akin to famous fighting video games such as Street Fighter and Tekken. This blending of competitive fighting with video game elements seems to be popular with spectators. One can only wonder to what degree body sensors, video game elements, augmented reality, and virtual reality will become part of martial art practise and combat competition in the future. Will future martial artist compete in wholly virtual worlds? Or more sinisterly, will the fighting arenas of the future include augmented humans, i.e., transhumans that are cybernetically enhanced? And as humanoid robotics improve, will we see future androids battling it out in the ring? While these ponderings may sound like scenarios from dystopian worlds out of science fiction novels current technological developments are not too far away from making these imaginations into possibilities.

I mentioned earlier how technology is causing change in Taekwondo techniques. Some people, me included, are concerned that it may lead to a loss of technique and there may be value in recording both old and new techniques for study. There are also some traditional martial arts styles that are on the verge of extinction because the old masters who maintained these systems are coming to the end of their lives and few young people have taken up the torches of these old traditions. Since traditional martial arts are a form of intangible cultural heritage like traditional dance, there is inherent value in preserving these systems. New technology is opening-up the possibility of doing so. By means of motion capture systems, we can now record the movements of martial artists not only as two-dimensional video but also as vectors moving in three-dimensional space. Once recorded, this data may reveal many interesting research possibilities. It



would be possible to research the dialectal nuances of different martial arts styles and plot their evolutions and spread from one culture to another. We can even study movement disciplines within one culture; for example, we can look at traditional martial arts and dances from a particular society and then use AI to identify body culture characteristics that may have alluded ethnographers. Once enough data across disciplines have been collected, it would be possible, in theory at least, to use Big Data analysis to find “ideal” ways of moving to achieve the “best” techniques. It is not farfetched to imagine a future AI-invented martial art that draws from the best of all martial arts.

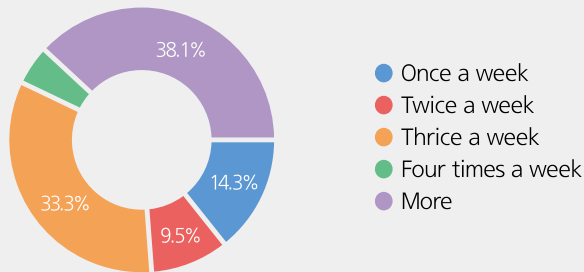
It is difficult to predict in what ways new technology will impact martial art in the decades to come. Some people believe that as our lives become increasingly digital and we become more and more distanced from the natural world, activities like martial arts will be crucial for our physical and mental wellbeing. Our expansion of ourselves into cyberspace may result in an estrangement with the physical-self. Body-mind activities like martial arts, yoga, and dance are important avenues for (re)discovering ourselves within our physical bodies. At least for this purpose, the martial arts will continue to be relevant during the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Voice of the Field: WoMAU Survey

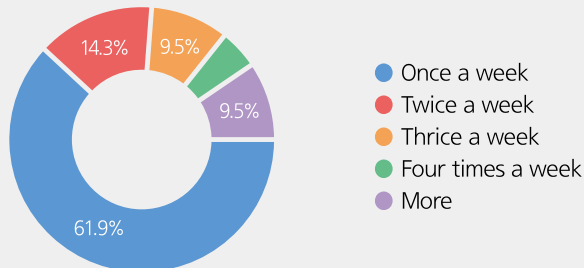
The economic contraction from the pandemic may not be confined to just a few business fields. Data such as surveys and interviews about the impact of the pandemic on certain industries are widely available, but objective data and analytic results regarding the martial arts field are still hard to find.

In April a survey was conducted by the World Martial Arts Union (WoMAU) on member organizations in 46 countries. The goal was to specifically identify difficulties through voices in the field. Twenty-one of them responded to the survey. The results are as follows:

How often did you organize in-person training sessions in 2019 before the pandemic?

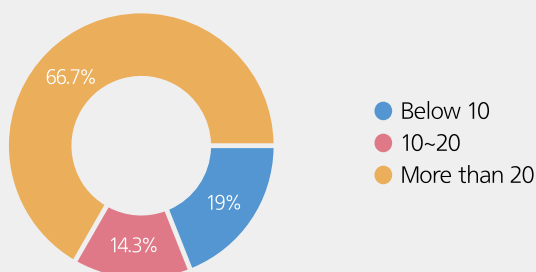


How often did you organize in-person training sessions in 2020?

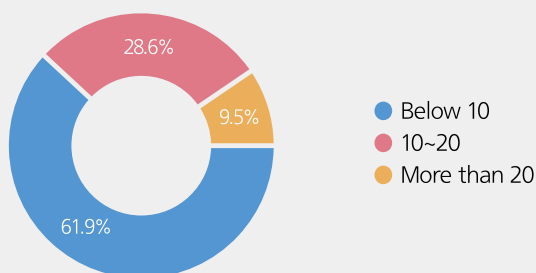


Before the pandemic 76.2% of the respondents had training sessions more than three times a week. It dropped dramatically to 23.8% in 2020. During this period 61.9% of them trained only once a week.

How many trainees usually attended in-person sessions in 2019 before the pandemic?

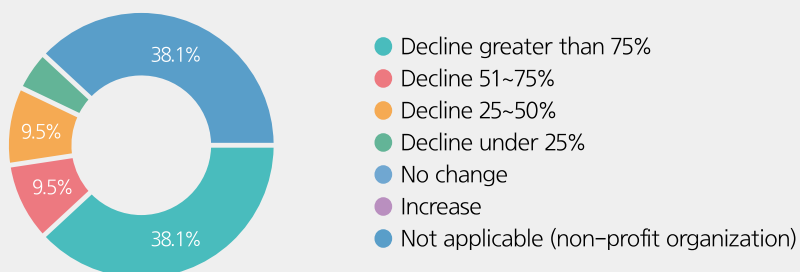


How many trainees usually attended in-person sessions in 2020?



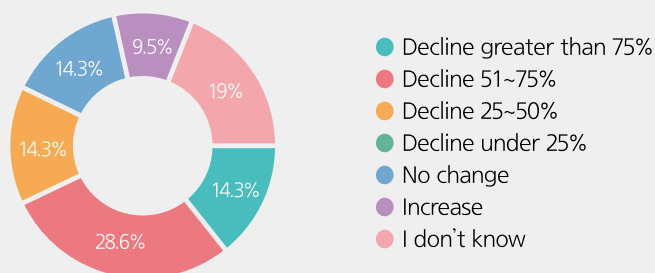
The number of trainees per session was forced to be reduced to comply with the quarantine guidelines. More than half of the respondents appear to be barely keeping their heads above water.

How was the overall revenue impact of the pandemic on your martial arts related business in 2020 compared to the previous year?



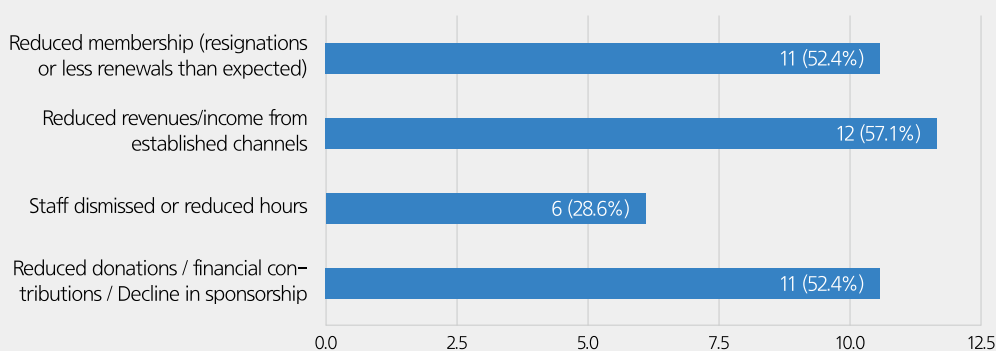
The economic impact was inevitable. Except for non-profit organizations, all respondents said they suffered economic losses.

What do you believe will be the overall revenue impact of the pandemic on your martial arts related business in 2021 compared to last year?

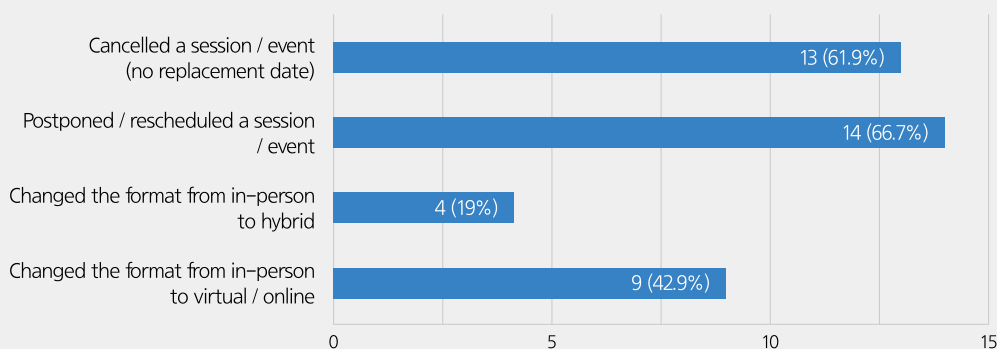
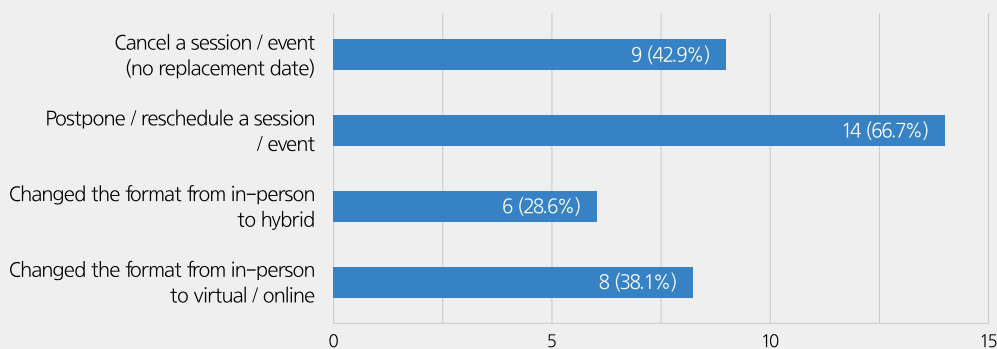


Unfortunately, the forecast for this year is not very optimistic. Only 9.5% expects it to be better than last year.

How has the pandemic affected your organization?



The economic impact is estimated to be serious as not only direct income due to the decrease in trainees is affected, but also subsidies such as donations have decreased. 28.6% of respondents even cut their workforce.

In 2020, have you*In 2021, will you*

Many training sessions and martial arts related events were cancelled or postponed. On the other hand, many are continuously preparing to organize events in a non-face-to-face manner.

Can we find an opportunity in a crisis?

A few correspondents were able to guarantee individual training at all times. Some through a systematic maintained coach-trainee connection, others by shifting their focus to weapon-based outdoor training, which before had been neglected in favor of indoor and bare hand training.

However, most of the respondents answered that they tried or plan to try online methods. We have seen this positive phenomenon throughout the field, in 2020 many have conducted theoretical research and held seminars on martial arts. It is clear that we further have to become accustomed to non-face-to-face and theoretical methods.

Thoughts on Taekkyeon and Training Center Operation



Kwon O-sung

Instructor, Korea Taekkyeon Association

I, Intangible Cultural Heritage No. 76 of the Republic of Korea and State-designated Successor of UNESCO-inscribed intangible cultural heritage Taekkyeon, am committed to disseminating the value of Taekkyeon with an aspiration to make Taekkyeon, a traditional Korean martial art, loved by many people. I ran a Taekkyeon training center in Suwon for 18 years from 2000 to 2017.

I am writing to share my thoughts and lessons earned from running the training center for a long time, hoping that this would be of slight help for local and international Taekkyeon practitioners devoted to inheriting and disseminating Taekkyeon.

Today, there are only some tens of Taekkyeon training centers remaining in Korea. While the number has decreased significantly compared to many years ago and popularization of the martial art seems unlikely, the Taekkyeonwon and the Taekkyeon Preservation Society still play roles in passing down Taekkyeon as a cultural heritage, hence no major challenges in keeping the martial art alive.

In and around 2000, private academies were prevalent, and arts and sports academies were no exception. However, many of them ended up with closure due to dull competitive edges, saturated markets, and economic downturns, and again, arts and sports academies including Taekkyeon training centers could not

weather the biting wind.

Despite the challenging situations, large academies and some arts and sports academies managed to quickly adapt themselves to the change and some even prospered further, and academies in popular areas (or disciplines) managed to sustain. However, many private academies in not very popular disciplines could not adapt and ended up with closure. Typical examples could be found from smaller gyms and training centers that relied on instructors' personal capabilities.



Amidst the challenge, the training centers tried to weather it by introducing the studio (or gym) system from Taekwondo and other popular sports, but they are facing limitations such as harsh environments where fostering young and capable Taekkyeon successors and instructors seems unlikely (primarily due to conflicts between associations and organizations, lack of Taekkyeon departments in universities, poor government support, etc.) and the public's view to Taekkyeon as a traditional martial art in the era of the fourth industrial revolution.

As long as we see Taekkyeon as a productive activity or profession or a cultural heritage, we would not be able to expand the base for the Taekkyeon community, nor would we be able to overcome these challenges. Those disseminating Taekkyeon will need to change their thoughts and views, and associations and organizations should change their policies. Before it is too late, the Taekkyeon community should ponder on and have in-depth discussions in that regard.

In this context, there are also urgent need to make Taekkyeon uniforms attractive to anyone, introduce training systems in tune with the times, and amend rules to revamp the level system and make matches even more exciting as seen in the Taekwondo community where they never hesitate to employ various training systems and methods.

While the globalization of Taekkyeon (overseas dissemination) we are currently pursuing is an important task, but now the focus should be on disseminating the art locally, as well as developing strategies to attract people's and the government's attention and support, for example Taekkyeon being included in the regular education curriculum.

I look forward that Taekkyeon practitioners and the government work closely together to make Taekkyeon enjoyed, appreciated, and remembered by the generations to come as a traditional martial art.

UNESCO-listed Martial Arts: Pencak Silat / Silat

Brief Introduction to Pencak Silat of Indonesia and Silat of Malaysia

In 2019, the Traditions of Pencak Silat of Indonesia and Silat of Malaysia were inscribed to the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of UNESCO.

Pencak Silat of Indonesia has mental spiritual, self-defense, and artistic aspects accompanied by music in conjunction with its sporting elements. Each region has its own moves, styles, accompaniments, music, and supporting equipment such as costumes, musical instruments, and traditional weapons. This is the sport benefitting from large festivals and schools. Related knowledge and skills are commonly taught in non-formal schools and include oral traditions and expressions such as greetings, philosophical phrases, rhythmmed poems, advice, as well as songs and techniques to play the instruments. It was included in the Records of Indonesian Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2014 and recognized as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Indonesia in 2018.





Silat of Malaysia is composed of physical and spiritual training that encompasses traditional Malay attire. It also has musical components. In Malaysia alone, it has more than 150 styles that are mainly inspired by the movements of human anatomy, nature, and animals. It was practiced by warriors as noble enforcers of justice, however, in modern days by masters, gurus, teachers, and students play the responsible role to maintain the practice. The practice of Silat has transcended its status as a martial art to become a performing art, which now became a popular sport of health and leisure. It is performed during the traditional Malay wedding ceremony, official opening ceremonies and as a welcoming performance during official functions of the Malaysian government such as the King's coronation. Silat was included in an inventory of Malaysian intangible heritage in 2008 and declared as a national heritage in 2009.



Member organizations of WoMAU (Year of joining the Union)

Brunei Silat Federation (2002)
 Pencak Silat Perisai Putih Indonesia (2002)
 Silat Seni Gayong PASAK (2002)
 World Seni Silat Lincak Malaysia Federation (2002)
 International Pencak Silat Federation (2015)

The First Virtual International Pencak Silat Championship by PERSILAT

The International Pencak Silat Federation (Persekutuan Pencak Silat Antarabangsa: PERSILAT) celebrated its forty-one years of history (since 11 March 1980) by having a Virtual International Pencak Silat Championship. The competition was held on 9~10 March 2021 for the artistic single and double categories.

Upcoming Major Competitions

Pencak silat competes in some major competitions which are World Pencak Silat Championship (annually), South East Asian Games (biennially), and Asian Games (every four years).

- The 19th World Pencak Silat Championship has been rescheduled to 20~27 August 2021 in Sarawak, Malaysia.
- The 31st SEA Games will be held from 21 November to 2 December 2021 in Hanoi, Vietnam.



Respiratory Gymnastics by Uzbek Jang Sanati Federation

The Uzbek Jang Sanati Federation released a respiratory gymnastics workout, Assalom Tong (A C C A J I O M T O H T : Good Morning in Uzbek), to help people stay fit under the pandemic.

Mr Pulat Usmanov, president of the Federation, said that “Breathing is directly connected to life. By possessing the breaths, a person can generate miracle – circulation, cleaning, healing – in one’s body.” emphasizing “This workout does not place a heavy burden on the body and can be easily followed by all ages without special training.”

According to the Federation, many Uzbeks including sportsmen and health care workers are practicing this workout already, and demonstrations are currently being held all over the country.

- ※ O'zbek Jang San'ati was designated as a National Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) in 2018, and is preparing to apply for inscribing in the UNESCO ICH.
- ※ The Uzbek Jang Sanati Federation is working with the National Olympic Committee of Uzbekistan to show Jang Sanati as a demonstration sport in the Asian Youth Games 2025 that will be held in Tashkent.



Inauguration Ceremony for the New President of the Korea Martial Arts Federation

The Korea Martial Arts Federation held an inauguration ceremony for its 6th president, Cha Byeong-kyu, at the International Martial Arts Center on 13 March 2021. About 100 martial arts officials attended including the secretary-general of WoMAU and politicians such as Chungcheongbuk-do governor, Chungju City deputy mayor, and City Council members.



Governor Lee Si-jong, who served as the president of the Federation from the first to the fourth generation, said in a congratulatory remark, "Eighteen years have passed since the Federation was founded. Thanks to the cooperation of the Federation, we have successfully completed many events such as the masterships."

In his inaugural address, President Cha, also a founder of the Korea Gongkwondo Association, said that "The Federation has been doing a lot of activities to promote traditional martial arts at home and abroad for the past years," added, "As we are in an important position in the development of Korean martial arts, we will increase our capabilities to improve the rights and interests of the martial arts industry."



※ The Korea Martial Arts Federation was established in 2003 for close exchange and cooperation between various martial arts groups and is the largest comprehensive martial arts organization in Korea that oversees the Korea Martial Arts Masterships.

Comprehensive Development Plan for Traditional Korean Archery



SNU R&DB Foundation Submitted the Final Report to the Seoul Metropolitan Government

The final report on the “Comprehensive Development Plan for Traditional Korean Archery”, a research result of the Seoul National University R&DB Foundation, outsourced by the Seoul Metropolitan Government, was submitted on 21 April 2021. The research aims to rediscover the historical value of the Traditional Korean Archery, National Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) #142, through the restoration of old remains of tradition.

The report contains a vast amount of research results on 534 pages (Korean edition only), and about 50 advisors including the staff of the Korea National Archery Association, Korean Traditional Archery News, UNESCO ICHCAP, and Seoul Metropolitan Office of Education participated in the expert interviews. It is composed of four chapters and an appendix, analyzing the current status and conditions of Korean archery and describing the history, cultural value, and features of the traditional archery of Korea including archery clubs, games, and ceremonies. Also, it suggests a globalization strategy for registering it as a UNESCO ICH not just staying at National ICH so as to preserve and continue the identity of the traditional culture.

The First Virtual Arnis Cultural Competition by PEKAF



The Philippine Eskrima Kali Arnis Federation (PEKAF) conducted an experimental form of competition on 5~6 June 2021. As the name of the 1st Virtual Cultural Competition, a total of 115 athletes joined by submitting demonstration videos of single and double categories.

Although the poor internet connection caused some delays and choppy videos, as the judges already scored the videos off-line which were presented two weeks before the event and the livestream was to announce the winners, it finished without further technical problems.



Prior to this, PEKAF held an Online Accreditation Seminar for Judges & Technical Officials on 14~16 May, presided over by Mr Richardson Gialogo, PEKAF's chairman of the Technical Rules and Accreditation Committee and also a vice-president of WoMAU. To utilize only accredited technical officials in competitions or similar



events is in accordance with the policies of the Philippine Sports Commission, and the forty participants from the Ministry of Education renewed their licenses through this first online seminar.



ICM Resumes its Training Program, MARIE

The International Centre of Martial Arts (ICM), UNESCO category-2 centre, is organizing the Martial Arts Research Initiative for Experts (MARIE) program which will be conducted for ten weeks from 5 July 2021. MARIE is a capacity building and training program for martial arts instructors and researchers, designed to enhance martial arts experts' capacities in carrying out research and conveying positive values of martial arts for youth and women.

The program was launched in 2017 and had invited martial arts experts annually but inevitably had to pause last year due to the pandemic. ICM switched the curriculum into an online-based course and resumes the program this year. 5 participants from Ghana, Jordan, Korea, Russia, USA were selected through the recruitment in May.



Chungju World Martial Arts Festival has been canceled, but IMAC will be held Online



This year's Chungju World Martial Arts Festival has been canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic. However, the International Martial Arts Contest (IMAC), which is the main event of the festival, will be held online in October.

IMAC is a key event that originally was included in the festival, but in 2018, conducted solitarily by the World Martial Arts Union under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism (MCST) of Korea when the festival was not held, and will so do this year.

IMAC 2021 is scheduled to take place during the Online World Martial Arts Masterships, which will be held in between 28 October and 2 November, expecting fine synergies while avoiding overlap.

Martial Arts Movies:

Justice High / Fist of Taebaek

The martial arts contents that will be introduced in this volume are films: Justice High (2020) and Fist of Taebaek (2020).



Justice High is dealing with Gongsudo which many people already know by its famous Japanese term, Karate. But Taebaekgwon (meaning Fist of Taebaek) might be unfamiliar. Yes, it is a virtual martial art invented especially for this film.

Here are the reviews for the two films by movie critic William Schwartz:



Justice High

Chae-yeong (played by Jung Da-eun) is a high school student who is a black belt in the offensive/defensive style of martial arts colloquially referred to throughout “Justice High” as the justice school of martial arts. While Chae-yeong is perpetually grumpy and annoyed over having been forced to change schools, she still uses her skills as necessary. That’s how she meets Jong-goo (played by Oh Seung-hoon), a bullied teenager.

But less than martial arts or action persay “Justice High” is really the story of how Chae-yeong, Jong-goo, and eventually apostate bully Hae-seong (played by Son Woo-hyun) become friends. I liked how all of their reasons for even needing friends were so distinct. Jong-goo is a reasonably pathetic loner. Hae-seong’s friends are generally terrible bullies, and he’s sick of them. Chae-yeong is incredibly cool yet also horribly aloof. I loved the scene where Jong-goo and Hae-seong struggle to come up with increasingly unsubtle hints that the three of them should really hang out together socially some time.

The action scenes are surprisingly worthwhile and feature realistic skill progression. For their radically different skill levels all three leads work well together, and we can even see their distinct personalities well reflected in their fighting styles. Director Chae Yeo-joon even uses that to his advantage by using abrupt musical cues for scene transitions as a kind of a minor running gag. A lot of “Justice High” manages to elicit a smile by just being so gosh-darned cute, with random expectation breaking jokes sprinkled throughout being sold entirely on the strength of strong genre-appropriate performances from the cast. For a bunch of twenty-somethings the actors in “Justice High” are surprisingly convincing high school students.





The Therapist : Fist of Tae-baek

Seong-joon (played by Oh Ji-ho) and Jin-soo (played by Jung Eui-wook) are friends and rivals at a small, bamboo-laden martial arts temple in the deep mountains. They then come down from the mountains and turn out to be...dubiously employable. Or at least, that's the impression I got when the seven years later subtitled flashes by and far from the mystical oriental paradise of the previous scene, Seong-joon now works at a failing massage therapy shop of dubious legality. It's failing in part because he's too nice to charge money to his poor, elderly patients.

There is, for better and worse, a strong situation comedy vibe to "The Therapist: Fist of Tae-baek" that really nails how the unassuming hero of a kung fu movie would have trouble making ends meet in a normal life.

"The Therapist: Fist of Tae-baek" is good at its two actual stated goals- being funny, and having cool fight scenes. Even the highly stereotypical kung fu music is outstanding in this context, perfectly matching the cheesy crowd-pleasing vibe that is so obviously what director Choi Sang-hoon is going for. More than anything else "The Therapist: Fist of Tae-baek" is a whole lot of fun, and highly recommendable.

※ These articles are extracted from Hancinema.net/

※ William also invites you to his Substack for those who are interested in the Korean film industry: williamschwartz.substack.com/

Culture: A year into COVID-19

This special edition of the Tracker on Culture and Public Policy, which is produced by UNESCO to monitor culture in public policy with regards to the UN Sustainable Development Agenda, shows the status of culture one year into COVID-19, and what measures the UNESCO Member States are taking towards the sector's recovery.

One year of travel restrictions, lockdowns and physical distancing measures have heavily impacted the cultural sector. From the closure of World Heritage sites and cultural institutions to the disruption of cultural events, the pandemic has affected the livelihoods of tens of millions of people around the world. The damage to the sector has extended far beyond estimates and will influence generations to come.

Yet the crisis is also an opportunity to build back better and to forge new policies that are more adapted to the cultural sector and that factor in sustainable perspectives. This builds on culture's role as a positive resource and engine for renewal and societal transformation.

Here we share the message from Ernesto Ottone R., Assistant-Director General for Culture of UNESCO in the special edition of "the Tracker on Culture and Public Policy". It is about tracking the impact of the pandemic, ranging from monitoring World Heritage site closures to carrying out surveys amongst the Member States, site managers, living heritage bearers, and local authorities, among others.

Message from Ernesto Ottone R., Assistant-Director General for Culture of UNESCO

It has been one year since COVID-19 was declared a pandemic. It catalysed a year marked by the escalation of a crisis of devastating proportions, impacting heritage and the creative industries, and exacerbating the vulnerabilities and inequalities of the sector at large.

Since then, museums, cultural venues and World Heritage sites have been deeply affected by travel restrictions, lockdowns and physical distancing measures, which have impacted entire communities around the world. Artists and cultural workers are among those who have been – and continue



to be – heavily affected by the restrictions and lockdowns. Many freelance workers, the lifeblood of many areas of culture, have been left without work from one day to the next.

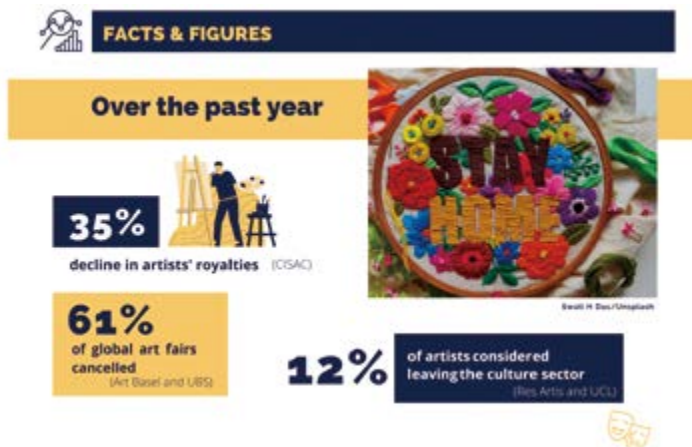
At the outset of the pandemic, UNESCO took decisive steps to combat the impact on the culture sector through strengthening global policy dialogue and promoting the continued access to culture. In April last year, when UNESCO convened 130 ministers of culture in an online meeting to discuss the pandemic's impact on the sector, it activated and laid down the foundations for an ongoing global policy dialogue with its Member States to carry forward consolidated action in ensuring the sector is supported in crisis response strategies. Monitoring the impact of the pandemic has been essential to gauge the needs and gaps, and help Member States in shaping appropriate policies. This is also why UNESCO mobilized a broad network of actors within the scope of its work in culture to better understand the situation in order to develop adequate responses. UNESCO launched a wide range of monitoring tools to guide policymakers and practitioners in the various dimensions of cultural policies.

This Tracker on Culture and Public Policy was initially published last April as a weekly global policy monitor and later consolidated into a monthly format beginning in September 2020. The past year has seen each of UNESCO's Culture Conventions and programmes develop unique monitoring mechanisms to track the impact of the pandemic, ranging from monitoring World Heritage site closures, to carrying out surveys amongst Member States, site managers, living heritage bearers, and local authorities, among others.

Since UNESCO's Resiliart movement was launched last April, it has boosted the voices of countless artists and cultural professionals around the world to raise awareness about their first-hand experiences in order to inform policy. The Organization's regional partners and regional development banks have also been instrumental in supporting this work on the ground, where it is needed most. We know what is at stake, which is why we are resolute in advocating for the integration of culture in recovery strategies and plans.

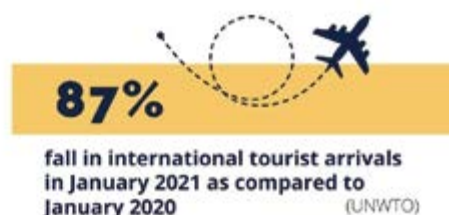
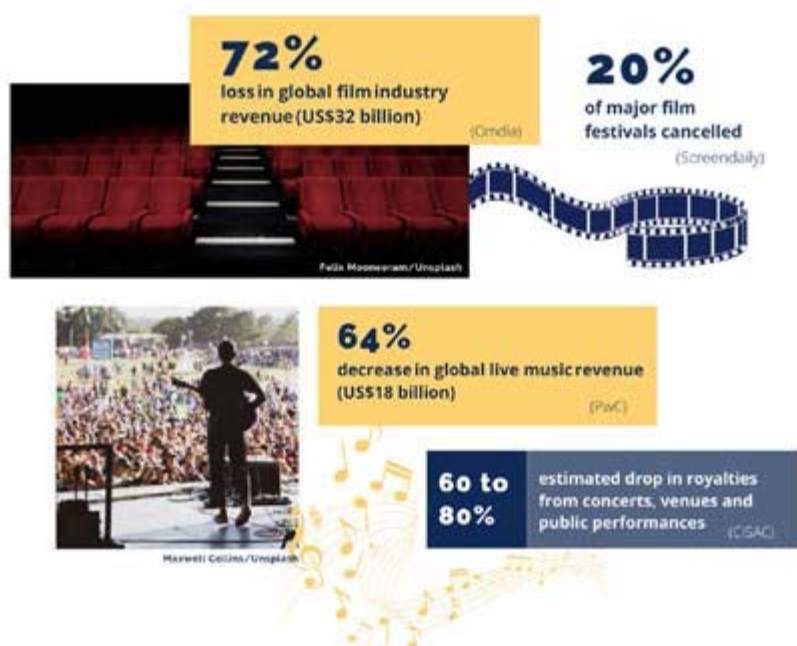
The pandemic has shone a light on the vital contribution of culture to the full development of our societies

While the year paints a picture of a sector that has struggled to survive in the face of huge financial strain, culture remains resilient and adaptable. Today, is this creativity, innovation and resilience that is also helping to keep our sector afloat. The pandemic has shone a light on the vital contribution



of culture to the full development of our societies, and how it has adapted to changing circumstances. COVID-19 will leave its mark on how we operate both as a sector and as an Organization.

It is also an occasion to look forward, and decide what steps are needed to move towards a more resilient and sustainable culture sector. Turning the page into a second year of the pandemic, our experiences have shown that we cannot continue in the same way as before. It is an opportunity to build back better.



Ratification of the President and Appointment of the New S-G of WoMAU



The World Martial Arts Union's president Chung Wha-tae continues his third term as the extraordinary general meeting (21~31 January 2021) approved it. A total of 36 members had replied on the agenda via e-mail and except for invalid votes, the ratification on continuing his position was approved with the consent of 33 organizations (more than half of the 56 full members). Mr Chung has been leading the Union for six years since he was elected as the president in 2015.

Prior to this, as the former secretary-general (S-G) Yoon Jeong-hoon's termination was approaching, the board of directors (7~11 January 2021) appointed Min Gyeong-chang, recommended by Chungju City, and he began his official service as new S-G on 15 January. Mr Min served as the director of the Sports Promotion Division in Chungju city government.

Meanwhile, with the start of the new S-G's term, the Secretariat moved its office to the International Martial Arts Center building, which was completed late last year. In addition to the Union, the new building houses three groups as the UNESCO ICM, the Korea Martial Arts Federation, and the Korea Taekkyeon Association, which is expected to enable multilateral efficient work cooperation.

※ New Address :

2F, 73Otgat-gil, Chungju, Chungcheongbuk-do, 27438, Rep. of Korea



Business Empowerment Training for NGOs

The open lecture on “NGO Online-Business Competency Reinforcement”, co-hosted by the World Martial Arts Union and the Korea Taekkyeon Association, under the auspices of the Chungbuk NGO Center, was held in the seminar room of the International Martial Arts Center for three days starting from 8 June 2021.



Lectures on days one and two were with a smart tourism expert, Lee Joo-il, CEO of NextStory, to explore events related to metaverse-type tourism and discuss directions for the development of the local festivals in the non-face-to-face era. And the last lecture on the third day with an artist Bang Hyun-soo (BKOON), the host of a popular online photography course, consisted of learning how to take quality pictures by smartphone and edit them for creating eye-catching social media contents.

Lectures on practical examples and methods received a lot of positive responses from participants, composed of working-level officials.



Preparations for the 20th Anniversary of the World Martial Arts Union



Next year, 2022, marks the 20th anniversary of the foundation of the World Martial Arts Union (WoMAU, the Union).

In commemoration of the 20th anniversary of adulthood, the Union's history of activities so far will be introduced in various forms. They will include the Digital WoMAU Archive, promotional Videos and Booklets, martial arts Photo Contest, and the Master's Plaque project for the late martial arts people belonging to member groups who contributed to the development of the Union and martial arts community.

The 20th Annual General Meeting in 2021 will also be a place to summarize the Union's future prospects and projects in commemoration of our 20th anniversary, apart from the agenda.

WoMAU pioneered a route of cooperation with UNESCO for the first time in Korea and provided an opportunity for traditional martial arts such as Taekkyeon to be inscribed on the UNESCO list as a martial art itself, not as part of a ritual. This made an important turning point for the recognition of martial arts as part of human heritage. Furthermore, by recommending the government to host the UNESCO Category 2 Centre (now UNESCO ICM) for martial arts and providing working-level support, Chungcheongbuk-do province, especially Chungju was able to emerge as a UNESCO international city.

The activities of WoMAU, which have left a monumental mark on the world martial arts communities beyond Korea, are a proud history of martial arts communities and Korea's international activities to be remembered. The 20th anniversary project will capture the history of the Union's monumental activities.



Guide for Joining the Union

Period	Procedures
~ May	Application – Present the application form to the secretariat
June	Screening – The secretariat shall review the received form and entrust it to the Membership Screening Committee
July	Invitation – The secretariat sends an invitation to the qualified applicant to make the relevant organization attend the upcoming general meeting
At the Meeting	Approval – The applicant shall give a presentation based on the application form – Approval of the membership shall be with the attendance of a majority of members and the consent of a majority of members present

Guideline for Membership Dues

Excerpt from WoMAU Statutes Article 8, all members shall :

1. Observe the Statute, general rules and regulations of the Union;
2. Pay the annual membership dues and allotment imposition decided by the Union;

Bank Information

- Name : NONGHYUP BANK
- Bank Address : 120, TONGIL-RO, JUNG-GU, SEOUL, KOREA
- SWIFT/BIC code: NACFKRSEXXX
- Bank account number : 32401020572
- Account holder name : World Martial Arts Union
- Receiver's Telephone No. : +82-43-852-7952
- Receiver's Address : 73, Otgat-gil, Chungju-si, Chungcheongbuk-do, 27438, Rep. of KOREA
- Remittance : \$100 USD/Year

Guide for Hosting the General Meeting



Description of Each Step

- ① Present the bidding documents to the secretariat
 - ※ Application form shall be provided
- ② Site inspection by the secretariat
 - Check up the venue and facilities
 - Feasibility of supporting by the local government
- ③ Presentation by the candidate at the general meeting
- ④ Site selection among the candidates
- ⑤ Formation of the organizing committee
 - Prepare for the next general meeting with the secretariat

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