

KUKKIWON 40 YEARS HISTORY
WORLD TAEKWONDO HEADQUARTERS
SINCE 1972

Paving a way for Taekwondo Globalization



Opening Remarks



“Taekwondo - we must find a vision for the future”

Putting together 40 years of Kukkiwon history into a book reveals the times of endurance for Kukkiwon.

40 years ago, despite commotions with floods of Taekwondo Dojangs around the country, Taekwondo veterans and Kukkiwon founding fathers established Kukkiwon under the philosophy “Kukkiwon - the central Taekwondo Dojang.”

The next Taekwondo generations worked day and night to cultivate Kukkiwon into an international sport and expand Taekwondo business diversification.

There were many hoops to jump through, as people began to question Kukkiwon’s identity and business. While we overcame these hardships, we realized that what we truly needed to learn was the history of Kukkiwon. We must trace back the footsteps of the difficult times in the past and understand the passion of the Kukkiwon pioneers.

We learned that the future is a product of the past, and an institute’s vision ultimately comes from the past. At end of all the ups and downs, Kukkiwon turned from a foundation to a corporation. With active support from the government and as a representative Korean culture, Kukkiwon had become a leader of Taekwondo advancement around the world.

As we celebrate 40 years of history, we must also prepare for the next years to come. Right now we need cooperation from the people in the Taekwondo circle to make this possible. I would also like to ask for your support as well.

Finally, I would like to thank all the Taekwondo players and relevant agencies that have contributed to Kukkiwon development and growth.

Kukkiwon Chairman of the Board, **Joo Hoon Kim**

Letter from the President



“The wisdom to construct future from history”

Many thoughts cross my mind as the 40 year footsteps of Kukkiwon is compiled into a book. Our fellow Kukkiwon veterans and pioneers, who have joined under one cause - to advance Taekwondo development - have overcome years of hardships to make Kukkiwon into what it is today. We learn a valuable lesson by tracing the difficult times of the past and the anecdotes of the pioneers.

Celebrating 40-year anniversary of Kukkiwon establishment, our intention for this book is to look back at the old footsteps and to serve as a guideline for future Kukkiwon business management for the generations to come. In this book you will find painstaking efforts and hard works put in by the founding fathers in their efforts to globalize Taekwondo.

Kukkiwon is not the same as it was 40 years ago. Despite growing pains, it overcame adversities and grew into a healthy institution. It has become a basis for uniting Taekwondo players around the globe as a World Taekwondo Headquarters.

In order for an institution to be competitive and sustainable, it generally goes through a series of reformations such as an internal systemic change or an innovative change. With that in mind, this book is a source of reminiscence of the past 40 years and also gets us ready for the future. We must prepare for another upcoming 100 years of Kukkiwon.

At this time I would like to express my gratitude to all Taekwondo veterans and players who have partook in the advancement of Kukkiwon.

Thank you very much.

Kukkiwon President, **Won Sik Kang**

Congratulatory Message



“Kukkiwon - 40 years young”

Even after 40 years since its establishment, Kukkiwon is still youthful. Kukkiwon I remember was always young and lively. I would like to extend my congratulations to the ever-youthful Kukkiwon. During my inaugural speech in 1971, I made a promise to “make Kukkiwon a central place for Taekwondo” and was able to keep the promise in one year, since the Korea Taekwondo Association needed a central Dojang for Taekwondo.

We needed a central place to manage and unify Taekwondo schools (kwans) scattered across the country. It did not make sense that a central Dojang did not exist in Korea, the homeland of Taekwondo. After the establishment, Kukkiwon carried out the vision of “integrating Taekwondo players’ spirit, unify belt promotion test standards, and providing an education institute for Taekwondo masters (sabum).”

It is important to know how Taekwondo Dojangs in Korea was unified, how it became the leading martial art around the world, and what role Kukkiwon played in making Taekwondo a top sport to rake in medals for Korea after being selected as an official Olympic sport at the 1994 International Olympic Committee Session in Paris. Keeping track of these events and importance are extremely valuable, and knowing the history of Kukkiwon would pave way to a better future for Kukkiwon.

In the next 50 to 100 years, as Kukkiwon’s history and system changes and business expands, its culture will also change. When men create history, and the act itself becomes a part of history, keeping track of records become all the more important. I would like to extend my congratulations one more time for the 40th anniversary of Kukkiwon, and wish for you to join us on the exciting journey of strengthening Kukkiwon together.

Kukkiwon Founder, **Un Yong Kim**



Former Kukkiwon Foundation President

Un Kyu Uhm

In Office Feb. 2004 ~ Sep. 2009



Former Kukkiwon Foundation President

Seung Wan Lee

In Office Dec. 2009 ~ May. 2010

Board Members of Kukkiwon Incorporated

[as of November, 2012]



Myung Soo Kim



Sung Tae Kim



Choon Keun Kim



Soon Myung Noh



Seong Woo Moon



Yoon Kook Park



Jin Bang Yang



Jee Chul Oh



Kyu Seok Lee



Kyu Hyung Lee



Seung Kuk Lee



Shin Ja Lim



Man Soon Jeong



Jai Sung Choi



Kook Sun Han



■ Vice President **Hyun Duk Oh**



■ World Taekwondo Academy President **Choon Kil Lim**



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