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## Unification and Systematization

### President Un Yong Kim's Visions



Kukkiwon President Un Yong Kim

Un Yong Kim's appointment as the 7th chairman of Korea Taekwondo Association (KTA) set the stage for Taekwondo to become a world sport. For 10 years since its establishment, KTA enjoyed much development but also faced some complications. Because KTA was managed by a number of individual martial art schools, KTA's actual decision-making role was relatively small.

President Kim was a diplomat who worked as an advisor at the Korean Embassy in the United States and at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the UN.



The First World Taekwondo Championship held in Kukkiwon on May 25, 1973.



Individual heavyweight division winner Jung Tae Kim of South Korea receives his medal and plaque at the First World Taekwondo Championship award ceremony.

When Un Yong Kim assumed the position as the 7th chairman of KTA in January 1971, he showed a high level of enthusiasm from the start. His forward-looking plans to unite the Taekwondo circle, to make Taekwondo a national sport, and to spread Taekwondo awareness around the world drew wide support. He also published textbooks and 「Taekwondo」 magazine to promote unification of Taekwondo circle and attempted to globalize Taekwondo through school education and training.

In order to turn Taekwondo into a world sport and strengthen Taekwondo community around the globe, President Kim wanted to hold an international Taekwondo competition in Kukkiwon (the mecca of 'World Taekwondo') once its construction was complete. Subsequently, the first international Taekwondo competition was held in Kukkiwon on May 25, 1973. It was a major competition with 161 participants from 17 countries. With the 35 representatives of the 17 countries, Kim founded the World Taekwondo Federation (WTF). WTF was the first device that turned Taekwondo - a traditional martial art - into a global sport. Kim was voted unanimously as the first chairman of WTF, eventually serving a 4-year term. As a pivotal symbol of the World Taekwondo Headquarters, Kukkiwon began to examine strategies to make WTF an international organization. Henceforth, Kukkiwon and WTF launched a dual promotion of Taekwondo as both a martial art and a sport.

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General meeting for the World Taekwondo Federation held in Kukkiwon on May 28, 1973.

On September 6, 1974, President Kim created a Taekwondo demonstration team. The team played a significant role in globalizing Taekwondo through non-government diplomacy by (1) participating in opening ceremonies of various major world sports events, (2) hosting and providing hospitality to international sports figures such as the president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Juan Antonio Samaranch and president of the General Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF) Thomas Keller during their visit to Korea, and (3) frequently sending over demonstration teams to North America, Europe, Southeast Asia, Africa, and Oceania to introduce Taekwondo.



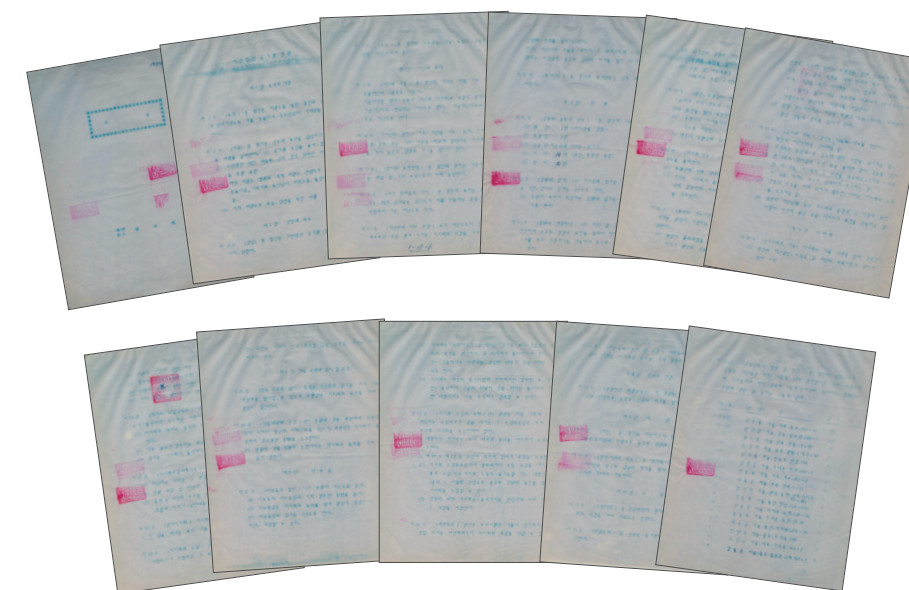
A demonstration team performs in celebration of the First Asian Taekwondo Championships.

WTF became a member of GAISF in October 1975 and took its first step in globalizing Taekwondo. WTF also received international approval as an official sports

association, securing an advantage to be selected as an Olympic sport.

### Kukkiwon Institutionalized

Kukkiwon's Article of Regulation was enacted on August 7, 1974. Made up of 10 chapters and 34 articles, it includes Kukkiwon establishment purpose, Dojang operation to meet the purpose, KTA sponsorship, competition hosting, Dan promotion test management, master dispatch overseas, public relations, and more.



Kukkiwon's Articles of Regulation enacted on August 7, 1974

Chapter 1, article 2 declares that Kukkiwon shall “enforce the following to meet the establishment purpose” :

- (1) Business operation of Kukkiwon Dojang

- (2) Cultivate and sponsor the Korea Taekwondo Association (a subsidiary of the Korea Sports Council)
- (3) Run Taekwondo academy, host competitions, conduct Dan promotion tests, dispatch masters overseas, and manage public relations and other business delegated by the Korea Taekwondo Association and the World Taekwondo Federation
- (4) Improve and promote Taekwondo

In addition, Chapter 10 Article 34 regulates that the members of the board should be composed of 16 people. On August 19, 1974, Kukkiwon received a corporate body establishment permit from the Seoul Board of Education. Kukkiwon Foundation obtained an authentic certification from Seoul Civil District Court/Seoul Criminal District Court Secretary Gui Nam Jung on September 5.

### The Promotion Test System

Kukkiwon's promotion test regulations were drafted on March 1, 1972. They were amended in May 15 1974 to include the following to obtain 4th Dan and over: (1) the player must pass the promotion test conducted by Kukkiwon and (2) the player must meet the time passage requirement.

Initially, there were different Poomsae and practical tests because the adult division and children's division tests were conducted separately. Both divisions were also

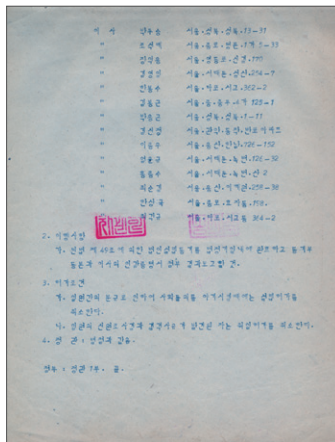
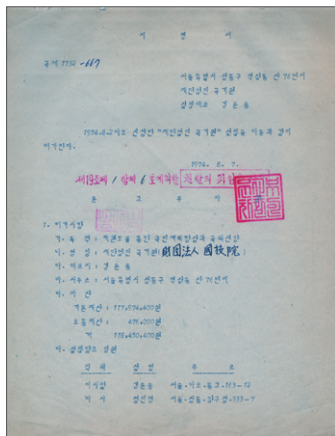
tested by Higher-Dan (4th Dan and over) or Lower-Dan (3rd Dan and under). The examinees for 3rd Dan and under must complete one Poomsae and a 1 minute and 30 seconds of Gyeorugi (sparring). Examinees for 4th Dan and over must complete three Poomsae, two rounds of Gyeorugi, and a written exam.

The term 'Dan' (which is only given to young adult players) was decided to be changed to 'Poom' on February 14, 1975 and became effective on March 1. In 1998, Poom was divided into four ranks, which took effect on January 1 of the following year. A Poom holder can request to change his Poom to Dan when he turns 15 years old. However, 4th Poom holder must be 18 years old to switch to Dan.

The word 'Poom' was used to distinguish social hierarchy during the dynastic period for government officials. The word also represents dignity and character. Instead of assigning the formal title 'Dan Holder' to young Taekwondo players, they are named 'Poom Holders,' which carries a less formal connotation.

### Taekwondo Demonstration Team Goes Abroad

The adult division of the demonstration team visited Myanmar (Burma) in 1985 for the first time in 12 years since the team was formed. The minister of the Department of Athletics, the minister of public security, and the vice minister of the Department of Health greeted the team at the airport, showing the growing popularity of Taekwondo.



Written documents permitting Kukkiwon incorporation

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The Taekwondo Club students of Nandaeamoon Elementary School went on an 11-days expedition to Europe in January 1978 to perform Taekwondo demonstrations. One West German newspaper featured a story on the "breathtaking performances by the little champions of Taekwondo homeland."

Kukkiwon's Taekwondo demonstration team was established under KTA supervision on September 6, 1974. The team showed demonstrations to foreign dignitaries visiting Korea and also toured various countries around the world, in a form of non-government diplomacy. The children's demonstration team also gained popularity. In January 1978, after watching a demonstration performed by Taekwondo Club students of Nandaeamoon Elementary School, an inspired German reporter published a newspaper article titled 'A marvelous performance by an army of little champions from Taekwondo homeland.'

In January and August of 1983, Seoul Midong Elementary School's Taekwondo team successfully toured Japan and Mexico for their demonstration performances. Mexican spectators cheered "Corea! Corea!" during their advanced technique performances. The children's demonstration team was so popular that some spectators even jumped on the stage during their performance and some crowded around their tour bus to see their faces. The demonstration teams made the biggest contribution by instigating a Taekwondo boom around the world. Every tour they made brought in countries that wanted to join WTF. Some governments even officially requested for a Korean Taekwondo master dispatch to their country to train their army and police force. For expatriates, Taekwondo was their nostalgia and pride. They would cheerfully greet the demonstration team upon their arrival. Even after the

teams left the country, they were the driving force behind keeping Taekwondo fever alive.

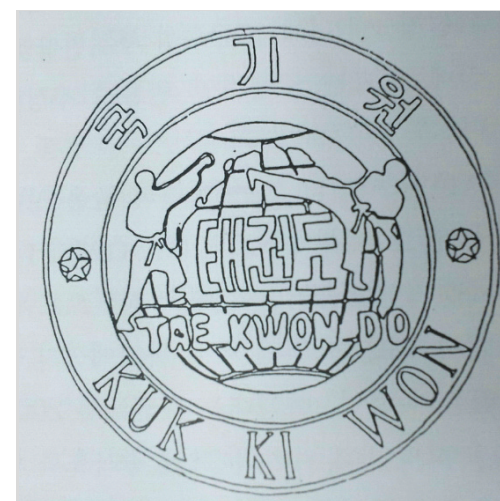
### The Meaning of Kukkiwon Symbol and Establishment

The newly created symbol of Kukkiwon had an earth in the center and "Taekwondo" written on top. It had a picture of people surrounding and pointing to the word 'Taekwondo.' Around the circular perimeter of the symbol was written 'KUK KI WON.' The symbol represented a bold statement that 'Kukkiwon promotes development of Taekwondo.' This corporate identity (CI) was used until 1976.

For the first time, Central Dojang (currently Kukkiwon) hosted an international Taekwondo competition. In response, a new and more sophisticated CI was necessary to represent Kukkiwon to Taekwondo players around the world.

Subsequently, a new Kukkiwon trademark was established on February 1, 1976. The earth in the center signified peace and unification of the human race. The newly designed CI reflected Kukkiwon's purpose - to leap into globalization while maintaining Eastern mindset.

On December 8, 2012, Kukkiwon changed its 35-year-old symbol and its CI that was used since 1976. The Taegeuk mark in the center represents Kukkiwon's vision of a giant leap in 'World Taekwondo'. It shows Korean and Taekwondo players' pride, self-esteem, and dynamic energy. The two spaces divided by the Taegeuk

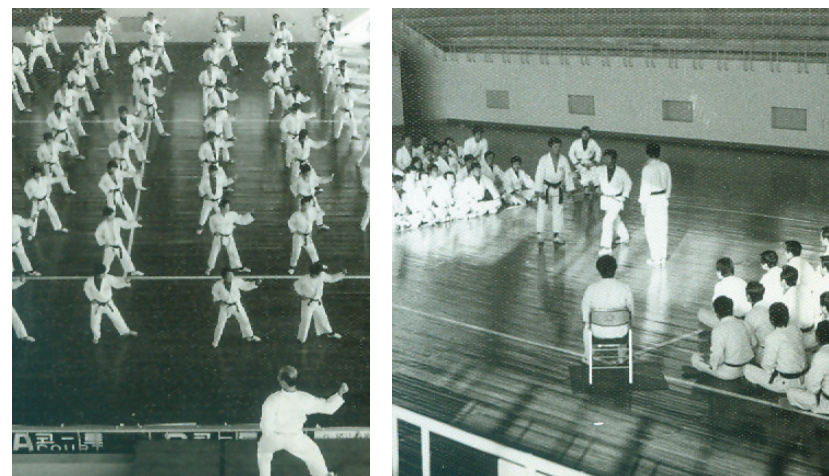


mark represents Kukkiwon's will to communicate with Taekwondo players around the world and strive to improve endlessly. The color blue represents trust and gold represents Kukkiwon's prestige, status, and sanctity of Taekwondo.

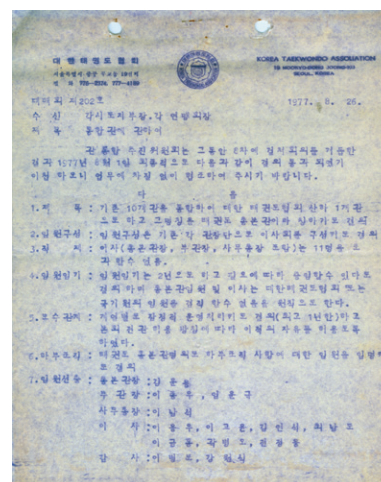
### Unification of Taekwondo Dojang (Kwans)

From the August 15 independence movement until the end of 1960, forty Taekwondo Kwans were divided into factions. But after much painstaking efforts, KTA merged the forty Kwans into nine groups in 1974. The board of directors from each Kwans (an organization that belongs to KTA) dismissed the notion of 'Kwans' to uphold its reputation as the homeland of Taekwondo. On May 20, 1976, they completely abolished the names of Kwans and agreed to name them by numbers, for administrative convenience.

The Kwans were pushed to unification in 1977. KTA held the '1976 Delegate Conference' and discussed the



The long awaited unification of Taekwondo came to fruition on August 7, 1978. Ten kwans were closed down in accordance to the agreement made during the board of directors' meeting.



A document that declares that the temporarily established Kwan Unification Committee will unify ten kwans and dissolve, notified to each city managers and federation presidents

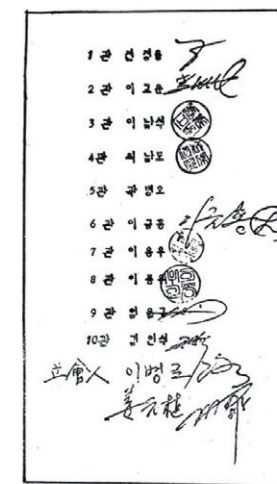
agenda of Kwan unification at the Korea Sports Council auditorium in January. On February 23, they formed a 'Kwan Unification Committee,' which included Taekwondo masters and Central Dojang directors.

The headquarters of the 'Kwan Unification Committee' formed a

team of executives, including President Un Yong Kim and Vice Presidents Chong Woo Lee and Un Kyu Uhm, under the goal to "merge ten Kwans by July 1978" and opened its office on 6 Eulji-ro Street. But unfortunately, Kwan unification did not show much progress even until the end of July.

In July 1978, the headquarters held a board of directors meeting and decided to first resolve the unification issue.

On August 5, they agreed to shut down ten Kwans. After one year of launching the Kwan unification plan, they finally became one step closer to Taekwondo unity.



Kwan Unification agreement drafted in 1978