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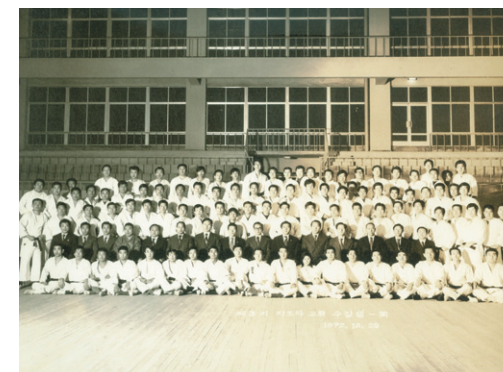
Specialization in Business Operation and Globalization

Unifying Dan and Poom System

The long awaited Kwan unification was realized but Kukkiwon faced another hurdle just as complex: to unify Dan and Poom. All board members agreed on unity but could not narrow down their differences when it came to what type of system to unify into and what standards to apply.

After KTA was established on September 1961, it began to handle Dan certificate issuance that was once done by Kwans individually. The first official belt test took place at the National Hall on November 11, 1962.

KTA's belt evaluation system continued until 1979. On February 5, 1980, KTA decided to delegate the duty of issuing Poom · Dan certificates to Kukkiwon in accordance to the decision made by the board of representatives. Starting on March 1, Kukkiwon was delegated the duty



Photograph of participants of the 3rd Master Education Training taken on December 29, 1972.

to issue certificates, but belt tests overseas were delegated to WTF in July 1984.

Thus, domestic and overseas Poom · Dan certificates were being issued by two different organizations. But during a meeting on December 23, 1987, it was decided that only Kukkiwon would be issuing certificates. The participants of the meeting - including board members from Kukkiwon and WTF - agreed to delegate all screening duty overseas to Kukkiwon, which is to be effective on January 1, 1988. Because of the unification of Poom · Dan certificates and introduction of computerized issuances, keeping track of certificate records became speedier than ever.

Promotion tests are conducted in individual Kwans, proctored by masters with an master license. The belt promotion test evaluates various Poomsae, Gyeonggi,

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The first volume of Korea Taesudo Association's Black Belt Certificate (1962)

Gyeokpa (breaking wooden boards), and overall discipline.

However, Poom · Dan (upper level techniques) evaluations were only conducted for black belt holders who completed the ‘master education’ conducted by Kukkiwon and the government (The Ministry of Culture-Sports in the 1980s, currently the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism).

The Poom · Dan promotion test went through a series of adjustments ever since it was first conducted on March 1, 1972. Over the years, it has been modified and supplemented.

According to the revision made to the amendment on April 20, 1983, there are three classifications for Poom and nine for Dan. However, players are only evaluated up to 7th Dan for practical tests. Evaluations for 8th Dan and above are determined by the Technical Deliberation Committee.

The Poom · Dan evaluation was readjusted on May 30, 1986, and states the following:

- (A) Poom holders over 15 years of age can request to change his Poom to Dan of the same level
- (B) Expiration period changes when a player switches from Poom to Dan
- (C) Safety measures must be inserted in the application forms for the examinees (can print out a new request form or make an addition to the existing form)

Aside from this, Article 8 (Poom · Dan time passage and age limits) and Article 13 (safety measures for examinees) also applies to the regulation.

Additional Screening Regulations for Article 13 (safety measures for examinees)

- (1) For examinees’ safety, the screening administration must take the following measures:
 - (A) Have emergency health care providers or technician on standby
 - (B) Conduct safety education for examinees and the screening administration. However, medical expenses for injuries are only covered for the first medical examination
- (2) The new screening registration form must include the following disclosure: “The administrative board is not responsible for examinees’ injuries during the screening.”

Academic Aspects of Taekwondo

On September 2, 1985, Kukkiwon held the ‘1st World Taekwondo Seminar’ to discuss on the academic aspects of Taekwondo. Local and international scholars and notable Taekwondo figures presented and debated the theoretical foundation and academic value of Taekwondo at Hotel Shilla in Seoul.

Promotion of Taekwondo’s academic aspect took off in April 1971, when WTF began to publish the quarterly 「Taekwondo」 magazine. Established as a leading sports



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magazine specializing in Taekwondo, it published Taekwondo-related essays and research in every issue. The magazine became groundwork for spreading awareness that Taekwondo is not merely a combination of physical movements or techniques, but also boasts scholarly values. Since the start of the magazine publication, considerable Taekwondo research took place in graduate schools; many researchers published essays and became involved in academic debates on Taekwondo.

Ever since an academic thesis on Taekwondo was first published in 1966 at Kyunghee University's Graduate School of Physical Education, as many as 15~20 Taekwondo research papers were published each year from various graduate schools. The number peaked in 1985 when 97 Taekwondo-related dissertations were



published. Dissertations on the academic values of Taekwondo likely boomed because Taekwondo was selected as a demonstration sport for the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

Kukkiwon established a subsidiary branch, the World Taekwondo Academy (WTA) on September 1, 1982, to cultivate Taekwondo leaders and improve leadership quality.

On November 29, 1983, the academy received government approval to become an official academy and was designated as 'Athletic Coach Class 2'. Kukkiwon is to 'Taekwondo Mecca,' as Taekwondo Academy is to authoritative institute of mental, physical, and academic discipline.

In addition, on February 24, 1990, the Department of Athletics approved WTA to hold a 'Sports for Master Training Course' allowing Kukkiwon to merge and enforce master education and 3rd Class Participatory Sport Instructor education. WTA became the only single-sport institute to receive this approval.

When the trainees at the World Taekwondo Academy complete a 9-day session and pass a written test, they acquire an master certificate and a 3rd Class Participatory Sport Instructor certificate. These certificates automatically put an end to numerous requests made by Taekwondo masters for certificates to build and run a Taekwondo Dojang.

Master education, the core business of World Taekwondo Academy, dates back to 1972. KTA

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conducted its first 4-day long master education to 200 high-rankers (4th Dan and over) on April 4, 1972.



Since then, master education continued for some time. However, KTA technical evaluation committee decided that the education only be held at Kukkiwon starting from November 1, 1976. Subsequently, it was supervised solely under Kukkiwon starting from the 28th session (July 10~19, 1980).

“Give us the Right to Establish and Operate a Taekwondo Dojang”

After completing nine days of training at the Kukkiwon World Taekwondo Academy (WTA) and pass a written exam, the trainee receives a Taekwondo master certificate and 3rd Class Participatory Sport Instructor certificate. Subsequently, Taekwondo masters request for



a “right to establish and operate a Taekwondo Dojang” was automatically answered. Stemming from the ‘Master Class’ of 1972, the WTA’s core business was the master education program. For four days since April 1972, KTA sponsored its first Taekwondo master class to two hundred High Dan holders. The curriculum continued until the 28th class, when KTA decided to hold classes only at Kukkiwon.

Taekwondo Terminologies Modified into Pure Korean Words

Kukkiwon board members assembled a deliberative committee on February 26, 1987 and agreed to change some of basic Taekwondo terminologies into pure Korean words, with the help from Hangeul Society (the Korean language society). The new terms passed a final review and became official on March 1. As an institution that promotes education for Taekwondo development, Kukkiwon paid a careful consideration to uphold Hangeul. A total of 15 basic terms were changed after the review.

First Step into Globalization

On June 1, 1985, the board members of Kukkiwon decided to tackle the unavoidable issue of innovation - to use electronic equipment to speed up the Poom · Dan evaluation process. Back then, the Taekwondo population was growing rapidly and training Dojangs were expanding worldwide and Taekwondo begin to

emerge as a world sport.

The number of Poom · Dan candidates also exploded, making it nearly impossible to keep track of the 300,000 applicants per year manually. The only way to resolve this issue was to either increase man labor or rely on office automation. After careful consideration, instead of resorting to manpower, the board members of Kukkiwon chose the speedier, more accurate and more economic option of office automation.

After a number of examinations, the board members of Kukkiwon replaced manual labor with office automation on July 1, 1988. Automation made speedy issuances of new Poom · Dan certificates and prompt reissuance for lost or stolen certificates possible (all Taekwondo players' name, ID number, birth date, birthplace, test region, and issuance date were entered in the database). The new information technology (HP-9000K 210) stored information of over 10 million players and enabled over 4,000 Poom · Dan evaluation duties and certificate issuances to be handled in one day, compared to only 1,000 in the past.

Computer was also used to educate Kukkiwon employees. Kukkiwon provided personal computers (Sambo Alpha 2000) in each department. Easy access to computer made Danmanagement extremely efficient.

Special Committee Organized

The background for the Special Committee formation (Ad-Hoc) began in Europe when the WTF administrative

board in Madrid, Spain raised concerns on problems of belt promotion tests. European Taekwondo Union President Marco Saino (Spain) officially put this problem on the agenda for the general assembly at the 1991 10th World Taekwondo Championships in Athens. Subsequently, an Ad-Hoc was organized between WTF and Kukkiwon, and a Special Committee was formed to resolve this issue. WTF Vice President Joshua Hanson(U.S.) was named the chairman of this Special Committee and 8 others became staff members.

Honorable 10th Dan Awarded to IOC President Samaranch

On September 18, 1986, an honorable 10th Dan was awarded to IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch. It is the highest honor to be awarded in Taekwondo history. The 'Honorable Dan' is awarded to whom that made a striking contribution to Taekwondo development. Kukkiwon has since been awarding Honorable Dan to foreign dignitaries who visited Korea who helped advance Taekwondo.

Samaranch, who is considered the top international sports leader, made a 4-day stay visit to Korea on April 7, 1982, including examining the Seoul Olympics Main Stadium in Jamsil and visiting Kukkiwon. Upon arriving in Korea, he attended a welcoming ceremony guided by IOC member Taek Soo Kim, Seoul Olympic Organizing Committee President Yong Shik Kim, and Korean Olympic Committee President Sang Ho Jo.

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Objects on display at the Taekwondo Museum

At the end of the ceremony, President Un Yong Kim presented a Taekwondo briefing to President Samaranch as well as American Sports Association President Joshua Hansen and other international sports federation executive committee members. During the briefing, President Samaranch emphasized that “it is about time Taekwondo be selected as an Olympic Sport,” and that “all Taekwondo players and leaders should zealously work together to move forward with this agenda.”

Taekwondo Museum

When Kukkiwon celebrated its 19th anniversary on November 30, 1991, it opened a newly built, 196.15m² wide Taekwondo Museum to the public, exhibiting historical Taekwondo documents and commemorative objects.

Inside the museum are historical records of Taekwondo. There are also various Taekwondo-related records and as many 2,500 commemorative items on display, such as Taekwondo Dobok (uniform), Hogu (armor), various Gyeonggi equipments, trophies from major competitions both local and overseas, awards, plaques, championship flags, badges, pendants, photographs, books, newspaper and magazine articles, and audio-visual clips. Also among the displays are President Un Yong Kim’s collections during his time as an International Olympic Committee (IOC) member.

There are 360 photographs and posters, 40 trophies, 155 medals, 147 plaques, 270 souvenirs, 400 films and



The ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Taekwondo Museum conducted on November 30, 1991.



IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch views through the exhibitions.



videotapes in the museum. Publications on display include 171 Taekwondo-related periodicals, 58 newspaper articles, and 355 books on Taekwondo.

Taekwondo Museum is located on the second floor of Kukkiwon auxiliary building and boasts an exhibition room and a data library. The construction was complete in only 22 months after the construction plan was proposed. The exhibit installation and interior design cost ₩50,000,000.

Hundreds of thousands of visitors flocked to the museum; some notable visitors include IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch, General Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF) president Thomas Keller, foreign ambassadors, chairman of the Korea Sports Council, local and international key sports figures, and Taekwondo players and leaders from around the world.

President Un Yong Kim’s Achievements

President Un Yong Kim was selected as an executive member of IOC during the 91st IOC Session held in Lausanne, Switzerland on October 17, 1986. One week later on October 25, he gave an acceptance speech at the 20th GAISF general meeting in Monte Carlo, Monaco, following his election as the president of the GAISF. Since there were only two years left until the 1988 Seoul Olympics, Kim’s prominence in international organizations was crucial in increasing the chance of Taekwondo being selected as an official Olympic sport.

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Newly-elected IOC member Un Yong Kim takes the oath of office at the IOC Session held in Lausanne, Switzerland, on October 17, 1986.



President Un Yong Kim receives the Republic of Korea Physical Education Award from Prime Minister Jong-pil Kim.

Shortly after, there was more good news. In September 1988, during the 94th IOC Session held in Hotel Shilla, Kim became the first Korean ever to be elected the IOC executive member - he also set a record for serving the longest executive term.

Executive members are known for their authority and jurisdiction, because they not only decide on the agenda for Sessions, but they also carry out the resolution. Most of the agendas brought up by the executive committee are passed during Sessions.

At the IOC Session held on April 24 through 27, 1989, in Barcelona, Spain, Taekwondo was once again elected as a demonstration sport for the 1992 Barcelona Olympics following the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

At the 99th IOC Session held in Spain in July 1992, Kim received an honor as the IOC vice chairman. Consequently Kim was qualified to attend all IOC meetings such as the IOC Session, chairmen meetings, and executive committee meetings. Kim also maintained his presidency at the television sector and thus rose to power to exercise his vast authority in the IOC.

In 1993, Kim won presidency when he ran for the 31st president for the Korea Sports Council. At the 100th IOC Session held in Lausanne in July, Kim (already the president of the Korea Sports Council and the IOC vice chairman) was elected as a chairman of the board for the IFDO (a group that supports Olympic sports in developing countries); in September, he was reelected unanimously, unopposed, for the 6th president of WTF.

In September 1997, Kim returned to the 106th IOC Session as an executive member, and heightened Korea's status in international sports. Kim was excluded from the executive branch during the 1996 Atlanta Olympics because his chairman term had ended. However, he returned in one year, confirming that he was still an influential figure. In the following October, Kim was re-elected president at the 32nd GAISF meeting held in Monte Carlo.

Taekwondo Mythology

A commemoration party took place in December 1990 to celebrate the publication of President Kim Un Yong's book, 「The Great Olympic」.

The book shows vivid historical records of the 1988 Seoul Olympics. President Kim emphasized that the Seoul Olympics represented harmony between East and West, that it was a stepping stone between Eastern Europe's democratization and Korea's diplomatic policy to communism.

In September 1995, President Kim published an autobiographical essay 「Into the Bigger World」. It tells the story of his life as a diplomat-aspiring young man who struggled during a period of political turmoil, and how his forward-looking spirit and multilingual skills helped his way up to becoming an international sports figure as the KTA president and the IOC vice president. The essay also frankly illustrates President Kim's ordeals and challenges, the background of hosting the 1986



President Taek Soo Kim on the right at the 7th NOC General Session and Joint Conference held in Rome.

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Asian Games and the 1988 Seoul Olympics, and the story leading up to how Taekwondo was chosen as an official sport for the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

The publication ceremony held at the Hilton Hotel Convention Center on September 22, 1995 bustled with 1,000 domestic and foreign dignitaries from all fields including political, economic, cultural, and sports. Notable participants included IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch, IOC 28 members, various international sports federation presidents, Korea's prime minister, the chief presidential secretary, National Assembly members of both the ruling party and the opposition party, and press representatives.

President Kim liked to work single-handedly. It has been said that even at international meetings that lasted for multiple days, he was the only person who stayed throughout the entire event. President Kim urged Korean participants to introduce themselves to and shake hands with the foreign executives at international meetings and ask for their support for Taekwondo. People appreciate to Kim's efforts, foreign executives who were initially apathetic towards Taekwondo began to throw massive support. Accordingly, Kim's contribution in international advancement of Taekwondo became indisputable.

President Kim's Resignation

In the 1990s, President Kim was a frontrunner nominee for IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch's successor. However, at the same time, he was thrust into a

whirlwind of scandals and ethical questions rose against him. The 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympic bid scandal almost drove his career over the edge.

President Kim denied all allegations and stated that he does not care for the rumors. In fact, the investigation revealed that some of the allegations were actually false. However, the scandal itself came with a price. Korean sports authorities raised questions against his leadership qualities and the opposing candidates at the IOC executive election in 2001 used the scandal to attack his ethics.

President Kim renewed his presidency for the WTF when he won unanimously at the Session held on October 31, 2001. This election was different in a sense that the voters were concerned by heavy concentration of European voters for the poll deciding on the location of the next international championship.

The IOC presidential election held in Moscow on July 16, 2001 revealed Kim's decreasing popularity. He not only lost the election, but he was no longer favored by the politicians.

The 10th annual World Taekwondo Hanmadang took place at Kukkiwon on November 15, 2001. At the same time, Taekwondo masters and related officials held a protest inside Kukkiwon. Upon hearing this news, President Kim declared to take full responsibility - he succumbed to the protesters' demands and stepped down as President of Kukkiwon and KTA.