



President's conference call with Taekwondo for All Committee (via conference call)
June 10, 2020 | 15h00-16h00 (local time Korea)

Summary

Attendees: Chungwon Choue (President), Sarah Stevenson (Chair), Russell Ahn (Vice Chair), Chika Chukwumerije (Member), Maher Magableh (Member), Hadwah Abdelmatloub Moawad, Jeongkang Seo (Senior Director, MRD), Jerry Ling (Chief of Staff, President Office), Haeri Jeon (Manager, MRD), Sockho Lee (Assistant Manager, MRD) and Wooram Kim (Coordinator, MRD)

1. General Topic

a. Introduction

President welcomes all members and extends his wishes for safety and health.

b. COVID-19 pandemic

President begins by saying that this call is one of the efforts to overcome the impacts effects of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which is probably the biggest challenge to humanity that this generation has seen.

c. Postponement/Cancellation of major events (including Tokyo Olympic Games)

President remarks that sports events have been postponed or cancelled around the world. He notes that World Taekwondo Poomsae Championships was supposed to take place in Denmark two weeks ago, and he would have been in Wuxi for the joint coaches and referees seminar for Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games this week.

He notes that WT is observing closely to see if the World Junior Championships in Sofia this October will be organized as scheduled.

He adds that WT needs to be ready for the challenges in case of total cancellation of the Tokyo Olympic Games and WT World Championships next year with viable solutions.

d. President's vision of "resetting" World Taekwondo

President informs that he instructed that all meetings are to take place online, and there will not be any physical meetings until the situation has improved. He then adds that WT should also use this time to prepare for the post-COVID-19 world.

He continues to mention that WT is looking to strengthen the operations to focus on the wider community; for instance, WT is investing in online education through GMS, developing WT's esports apps, and exploring ways to engage with grassroots and dojangs. He says that he would like to have a call with every Committee – to see how they can contribute to WT's new vision together.

e. Sustainability and good governance throughout World Taekwondo

President mentions that it is plausible to achieve many positive results together as WT has already improved significantly on the governance standards over the past couple of years.

He then adds that over the coming years, WT needs to focus on being more sustainable; therefore, the sustainability Committee's mid-term report will serve as a baseline for WT. He notes that WT will distribute the report after the calls for the Committees to read through and develop ideas on how to achieve the recommendations and make WT a truly sustainable organization.

2. Specific Committee topics

President mentions that Taekwondo for All Committee has an important role to play how WT embrace diversity and encourage unity through Taekwondo, and WT needs to create a clear pathway on grassroots level Taekwondo development, especially in schools. He adds that WT also needs to make people more active at home these days where the pandemic is widespread.

He continues to note that WT is already a pioneer among the other IFs on gender equality, but WT should aim for more women in Taekwondo events, such as competitions or seminars, around the world. He says that he is in discussion about organizing the first Islamic Women's Open Championships in Saudi Arabia.

President explains that even though WT needs to increase more women representation in WT Council and Committees, WT now has 32 percent of women in the Committees which is better than many other IFs. He adds that four of the key Committees are led by women; Taekwondo for All, Athletes, Juridical and Para Taekwondo Classification.

He wants the Taekwondo for All Committee to look at how WT can build a sustainable model on humanitarian and social development projects using the limited resources of WT and THF or partnership with other organization. He concludes by saying that WT should realize the creation of a World Taekwondo Peace Corps through the partnership with FISU to demonstrate the power of sport and youth engagement.

3. Q&A

President thanks again the member and opens floor for any opinions or comments.

Sarah Stevenson, Chair of Committee, mentions that Taekwondo for All Committee is well united, and each member has sound ideas and projects. She adds that once they get the load map, they will highly support for Taekwondo development from grassroots level.

President thanks Sarah for the remarks. He then asks Maher Magableh, Member of Committee, for any comments.

Maher remarks that Taekwondo for All Committee works hard together to come up with feasible and concrete ideas and it will be facilitated soon to enhance taekwondo development.

President thanks Maher Magableh for the remarks; and asks Hadwah Abdelmatloub Moawad, Member of Committee, for any comments.

Hadwah mentions that Saudi Arabia is looking at opening up for sports, and suggests to conduct Club-level Taekwondo kicking or breaking challenge, which is that people records their kick themselves and share it via online, as many people stay at home due to the pandemic; this challenge makes people keep training and engaging Taekwondo.

President thanks Hadwah for the remarks. President mentioned about Usman Dildar proposing WT Got Talent; and adds that there might be issue for the name of the challenge; thus, he come up the idea which is 'WT Super Talent' as name for the challenge. President notes that within this year the challenge might be conducted, but before it begins, he asked Committee to come up with naming, along with other people whom he has assigned.

President asks Chika Chukwumerije, Member of Committee, for any comments.

Chika remarks that they still have major problems in Nigeria and African continent between hunger and COVID-19; if people only stay at home, people cannot stand from hunger, but if people go outside, people will be exposed from COVID-19. He suggests reducing costs for GMS to encourage African participants and recommends vitalizing online program for certification as well as dojang management for the sake of Taekwondo practitioners in African continent.

President thanks Chika for the idea; and President notes that WT is now developing for the online education program for not only coaches and referees but also athletes and secretariat staff.

President invites Russell Anh, Vice Chair of Committee, for any comments.

Russell thanks President for this fruitful meeting and also appreciate for the outstanding proposal of World University Sports Peace Corps. Russell explains that FISU and WT have discussed to create showcase along with Summer Universiade Game that will be changed into Summer World Universiade Game so that many people can participate. He mentions that it is hoped to have tangible project by fall of 2020 to report to President.

Russell continues to inform that next Summer Universiade will be held in Chengdu, China in 2021.

President notes that China is one of the most Taekwondo loving countries so that if FISU want to have WT Demonstration performance at the opening ceremony, WT will welcome to do it. President also adds that WT plans to held International Taekwondo and Peace Symposium next November in Muju, Korea and mentions about inviting FISU to the symposium.

Russell notes that there are many university facilities, and those will be utilized for Sport Peace Corps; and lastly suggest to create hopeful and peaceful message from World Champions to be put on social media that makes people feel encouraged and inspired under the current severe situation of COVID-19.

President mentions that next conference call will be held on September 8-10 and asks Committee to come up with ideas and send written report to WT

4. Closing remarks

President thanks the members and declares the meeting is closed.