

President's conference call with Development Committee (via conference call)
June 2, 2020 | 15h00-16h00 (local time Korea)

Summary

Attendees: Chungwon Choue (President), Ide Issaka (Chair), Michel Madar (Vice Chair), Colby Au (Member), Mayumi Spence (Member), Dana Touran (Member), 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 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 Development Committee has an important role to play to provide assistance to WT's stakeholders in the most efficient way with the limited resources under the current situation now. He then asks Development Committee to focus on studying different development models and programs to bring WT to an even higher level.

He adds that WT is discussing with the Ministry of Sport of the Korean government to provide budget for promotion of Taekwondo worldwide, and has already received commitment from the government to support equipment aid and dispatch of Taekwondo Peace Corps.

3. Q&A

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

Ide Issaka, Chair of Committee, thanks President for the opportunity and committed that the committee will collect some ideas and proposals to be presented to the President. He then notes that some African MNAs are having difficulties for using GMS and suggests the education opportunities for them.

President thanks Ide for the remarks. He then gives a special mission to Ide about encouraging new MNAs to join such as Eritrea and Namibia, using his relationship with their NOC Presidents. He also asks Michel to support for bringing Liechtenstein to WT.

President then asks Michel Madar for any comments.

Michel Madar remarks that WT should help MNAs build their capacities such as administration and management skills.

President thanks Michel Madar for the idea; and asks Mayumi Spence, Member of Committee, for any comments.

Mayumi Spence thanks President for unifying everyone, and notes that the US are having challenging time with a lot of rioting. She continues to express her thought that it is lucky to have Taekwondo together as a vehicle, and the phrase of "Peace is more precious than triumph" is now very relevant. She then agrees with Ide Issaka that Committee's ideas will be shared and gathered in the next meeting in July, and will report to President later.

President thanks Mayumi Spence for the thoughts; and gives the floor to Colby Au, Member of Committee for any comments.

Colby Au urges using online education for not only referee and coaches but also administrators for making their Associations sustainable.

President thanks Colby Au; and gives a floor to Dana Touran, Member of Committee who has physically joined the meeting at Seoul headquarters



Dana Touran notes that WT needs to pay attention to financial and spectators perspectives with more focus on e-sports, online education and online certification platform.

President thanks Dana Touran for the comments.

President continues to note that as WT Poomsae Championships was postponed; meanwhile, WT is thinking about virtual WT Poomsae Championships in mid-November or early December this year. He notes that Europe already organized virtual Poomsae Championships; and it would be also held in Pan America, Oceania, Africa and Asia soon.

He addresses that online education program is ready and will be launched soon. He concludes his remarks by suggesting to organize the committee online meeting with him in September based on the reports from the committee.

4. Closing remarks

President thanks the members and declares the meeting is closed.