



# International Taekwon-Do Federation

"Teaching You the Art of Life"

917, Mgr Grandin, suite 304 Sainte-Foy (Québec) Canada G1V 3X8  
Bureau / Office: (418) 871-8280 - Fax: (418) 871-5574  
www.tkd-itf.org - E-mail: tran.tq@tkd-itf.org



Bureau du Président / Office Of the President

## *Report of the President*

*to the*

### *XVth ITF Congress Meeting in Dortmund (Germany) July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2005*

#### *"Working Together for a Great Future for the ITF"*

That was the title of my speech to the last ITF Congress Meeting in Warsaw (Poland) in 2003, as the newly-elected president. It is now July 2005 and we meet again for a Congress Meeting, this time in Dortmund (Germany), so it seems appropriate to look back at what we have accomplished since then and to give you a glimpse of some plans for the future.

As a quick reminder of the vision of the ITF I described, here are some key words and phrases I used in that speech:

- respect the authentic philosophy, traditional core values, the four facets, the guiding principles, protocol, code of ethics, the democratic way, harmony;
- efficient, business-like, consistent and transparent management, structured planning, objectives, action plans, and priorities;
- communications, more visibility, make TKD known around the world, new markets and new *members*.
- better and safer competitions, training for umpires, coaches, and teachers, teaching the Do;
- partnerships, entrepreneurs, placement agency.

In everything we do, we keep in mind the need to develop the **four facets** of TKD; it is a sport, a martial art, a way of life, and a tool for social development

Now let's look at what we have accomplished.

#### *We already had the fundamentals*

**General Choi Hong Hi** left us a legacy we can be proud of. Along with TKD techniques, he defined the traditional core values and elaborated the authentic TKD philosophy. Although he is no longer with us, his writings are there to guide us and we can benefit from the knowledge and experience of those who were trained by him.

April 11th 2005 was a very important date for the ITF: the **50th anniversary of the founding of the art of Taekwon-Do** by General Choi Hong Hi and an important milestone in the history of

our organization. Guided by the TKD philosophy and working in harmony, the ITF team is proud to continue our Founder's work.

### ***We started by restructuring the organization***

The 2003 Congress Meeting approved the revised ITF **Constitution**, the cornerstone of our organization. A new ITF team was elected democratically and according to the process defined in the Constitution.

The next step was to build the foundations for a well-structured, efficient organization by identifying needs and assigning **mandates** and specific responsibilities to the members of the **Board of Directors** and to the Chairs of the **Standing Committees**. After consultation, **objectives** were set and **plans** outlined to meet those objectives.

To produce **By-Law No. 1**, the ITF Board Members began by identifying problems and needs. After devoting innumerable hours to discussions, writing, and revision, the team produced By-Law No. 1, a practical guide to the application of the principles expressed in the Constitution.

Detailed **policies** were produced to respond to specific needs. These include:

- Criteria for admission and readmission to ITF membership
- Policy on opening of new ITF-affiliated Taekwon-Do schools
- Requirements for promotion (7th degree black belt and higher)
- Recognition of degrees earned with other organizations

We were able to produce practical policies because I and other members of the team had worked for many years alongside General Choi. Thus, we were aware of the needs of our members as well as of problems that had been encountered.

In the past, problems in the organization had been solved one by one, a process that required a lot of time and energy. Now, we have a well-structured organization with clearly defined responsibilities for each level and each officer. By following the principles of the Constitution and applying the By-Law and policies, we are able to resolve most problems efficiently. Uniform application will ensure fairness for everyone.

Of course, we are aware that everyone is not used to working within such a structure. It takes time for people to get used to a new way of doing things, and we could say we are still in the transition period. Therefore, to ensure that everyone will understand how to operate an ITF affiliated organization and how to work with the ITF By-Law and policies, we offered earlier this week an **information seminar** at the Parkhotel in Dortmund. There were many participants and all of them indicated through the evaluation that this initiative met their expectations. Particularly, they appreciated the workshop on Business development.

By applying the By-Law and policies, your ITF team serves as an example to all ITF-affiliated organizations, an example of how to build a more democratic and transparent organization.

Acting on a suggestion by Dr. Janel Gauthier, Chair of the Ethics & Discipline Committee, the members of the Board of Directors have agreed that to improve efficiency the Board Meetings will be run by using Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, an internationally-recognized authority.

**It is important to point out that, in keeping with our promise of transparency, documents posted on the official ITF Web site describe in detail the new governance structure of the ITF.**

Our Secretary General, Master Tom MacCallum has revised the information in the **membership database**, so we now have more detailed, up-to-date information about ITF members.

We also have prepared for each country a list of all payments received for applications for Black Belt certificates and instructor plaque certificates. These tools will allow us to exercise more control over the issue of ITF certificates and plaques and will facilitate the collection of fees for them. This is essential in order to maintain the value of ITF certificates and to ensure fairness for all.

**Financial statements** are prepared every month by our Treasurer, Master Willem Jacob Bos, in cooperation with the Secretary General and are presented to the Board at each meeting.

### ***Emphasis on Communications***

**Communications Committee:** Mr. Jean-Marc Demers, a Canadian lawyer and Black Belt holder, has accepted the position of Chair of the Communications Committee and the other members have been named. They have started to work and are gradually taking over external communications. The President's office retains responsibility for internal communications with the Board Members and the Standing Committees, the Continental Federations and the National Associations, etc.

A **Welcome Committee** has been formed with our Vice-President, Mr. Juan Ferrando, as Chair. This committee has been given the mandate to welcome new ITF members and facilitate their integration. It also responds to requests for information about the ITF from potential members.

All **publicity** must reflect our vision for the future of the ITF: The interview published in TKD Times Magazine was very good, particularly because interviews with Mr. Chang Ung and Master Choi Jung Hwa were published alongside it and the contrast in approach and vision was obvious. The ITF has also been mentioned favorably in other martial arts publications. We did pay for some advertising but without a budget for advertising, we were unable to continue.

As anyone who has undertaken such a project knows very well, getting a **Web site** up and running is a big job. When that site serves an organization with members across the globe and does it in three languages, it is an enormous job. However, as a means of communication, an official ITF Web site is essential. The official ITF Web site is a success, I am very proud of it, and since it is "a work in progress", it will keep getting better.

The President's Message on the Web site is meant to be educational, subjects are chosen with care and for a purpose: to reach our objectives.

### ***Teaching, training, competitions***

One thing that I have noticed in my travels is that many people use ITF techniques, but they do not know how the techniques have evolved in recent years. They are always very happy to learn about improved **techniques**.

I have been able to join the teaching team of the ITF Technical & Instruction Committee for thirteen International Instructors Courses (IIC) held in Europe, the Americas, and Oceania. These courses were great success, with a total of more than 1,000 participants. Through evaluation questionnaires, the participants have confirmed their satisfaction with this program that covers all aspects of the ITF system. They mentioned the quality of teaching, the

positive attitude, and the accessibility of the teaching team. The next IIC in Asia will be in the Philippines in November 2005.

Members have been consulted for suggestions about improving our competitions and **improvements** made. Competitions always start on schedule and the quality of umpiring has improved. It was apparent from the comments of competitors at the **First World Cup** in Orlando (Florida) and at the **World Championships** that the changes are very much appreciated. The atmosphere was very positive and there were fewer disputes than in the past. We will continue working to make ITF competitions even better.

Competitions such as the First World Cup at Disney World in Orlando (Florida) increase visibility and also reach a lot of people, competitors from ITF, and other TKD organizations.

### ***Strategic development***

Now that the structure of the organization is in place, we will be able to spend more time on strategic development.

As President of the ITF, I have had the privilege of traveling around the world and visiting many countries to promote ITF TKD. Fortunately, I am usually able to integrate travel for ITF business with travel for my business as a consulting engineer, so there is generally no cost to the ITF.

I have visited more than twenty countries in the last two years including : Argentina, Australia, Austria, China, Dominican Republic, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Iran, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Puerto Rico, Singapore, Sweden, Taiwan, as well as various cities in the U.S.A. and Canada. Of course, this much travel is time-consuming. On the other hand, I believe it is essential to really understand the needs of our members and to give them the opportunity to express their concerns and make suggestions.

My **visits** often lead to **publicity** for ITF and TKD. I am frequently asked to meet with journalists and with important officials in the countries that I visited.

Our NAs were asked to produce an annual report for 2004, the first time they had been asked to do this. I must say these reports make very interesting reading, and they will help us to plan for the future. Thank you very much for your precious cooperation to allow us to serve you better and better.

We have succeeded in recruiting new members since June 2003, we have now 21 new national representatives with the following list:

- 10 from Asia (Afghanistan, Georgia, Hong Kong, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Palestine, Qatar and Thailand);
- 1 from Africa (Algeria);
- 7 from Europe (Belarus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cyprus, Greece, Latvia, Serbia-Montenegro and Ukraine);
- 3 from America (Haiti, Peru and Puerto Rico).

There is also good progress for recruiting several other countries that we will announce the concrete result in the near future in our ITF website.

With the above positive outcome, I am very pleased to report to you that the ITF has now 76 countries members. The German organizing committee has informed me that 71 countries have indicated their interest in coming to Dortmund for the Championship and the Congress.

We have now today, present at this Congress, 47 national representatives. The other countries are not here mainly due to the actual concern for security in the world, which makes it very difficult to obtain entry visas.

Taken together, the above statistics and observations show clearly that our organization has grown a lot in the last two years. It is the concrete result of our efforts and commitment to develop the ITF as a professional organization.

### *Some projects for the future*

**Teaching the Do** – An introduction to teaching the Do is now included in IIC Courses and participants really understand what the Do is all about and the benefits of teaching the Do. We plan to integrate teaching the Do into courses at all levels in 2007.

We need to focus more attention on our **teachers**, giving their role the importance it deserves (just as important as coaching for competition) and encouraging them to make a career of teaching TKD. After all, ITF is a teaching organization. We need to improve the quality of teaching.

A priority project to improve the quality of teaching is a one- or two-week **leadership training camp** for teachers, which will be led by a team.

To match teachers with jobs, we are working on a **job bulletin board** for our Web site.

The Technical & Instruction Committee, under Chair Master Hector Marano, just produces a document about the **official interpretation of techniques** to ensure the standardization of our ITF technical system around the world. Of course they will keep General Choi's techniques, but they will be structured and explained in detail.

The Technical & Instruction Committee has been asked to work to qualify **more instructors** to conduct seminars. We need to improve the quality of TKD teaching and share our knowledge of the TKD philosophy and techniques. After all, ITF TKD does not belong only to a small elite; it belongs to its members and the ITF exists to serve its members.

Within two years we plan to have an ITF **demonstration team**. We will be asking our NAs to start now to identify potential team members. The team will promote ITF TKD, particularly at important national and international events.

We will be working to improve communications between the President's office and the **National Associations** and to provide the information they need for strategic development. In fact, a survey will be distributed to the National Associations at this Congress Meeting, asking them for comments about our current services, as well as their needs and expectations. The results of the **survey** will allow the ITF to offer the assistance our National Associations require. For example, we have asked that all National Associations be legally registered in their country; some NAs may require advice on how to proceed.

ITF can also offer assistance to National Associations for their development plans, such as how to prepare a business plan or a market study.

The Ethics & Discipline Committee has prepared an Ethics Statement, which is the basis for the development of a **Code of Ethics** for the ITF. In collaboration with Mr. Louis Dussault from Canada, an internationally-known specialist in protocol, we will produce a **protocol manual** that will outline appropriate protocol for use at events like courses, competitions, special events, opening ceremonies. The target date for the Code of Ethics and the protocol manual is the Congress Meeting in 2007.

Within a couple of years we will offer **training for examiners**. The goal is to provide method and tools to be used for grade and degree tests. The goal is to increase the quality of our members, in particular the Black Belt degrees.

Priorities include the reorganization of the PanAm Federation and building Continental Federations in Asia and Africa. We are working on development in countries with a large number of potential members such as India, China, and the U.S.A. where ITF-USA is now operating.

With a well-structured and efficiently run organization represented by CFs and NAs around the world, the ITF will have the **credibility** to approach governments, international organizations, and educational institutions to propose projects for business and social development and ask for **funding** and sponsorship.

### ***What is happening about the legal Issues?***

Many of you will be wondering about progress made in legal disputes, which do take up a certain amount of time and money. With expert legal advice, we are taking care of these legal issues.

Also, we decided to write to the presidents of the International Olympic Committee, of the General Assembly of International Sports Federation (GAISF), and of the World Taekwondo Federation (WTF) to make them well aware of the false representation of Mr. Chang Ung as president of the ITF.

Of course, we prefer to devote our limited resources, time and energy to the development of the ITF, rather than legal wrangling. **Building a great organization that its members are proud of will be the best victory of all.**

The ITF will soon be incorporated in Germany where our National Association is in good standing. Because its legislation contains clear rules and application is more rigorous, Germany offers more stability for our organization than Austria.

### ***Conclusion***

The biggest challenge we have encountered in operating the ITF is the lack of resources. We do not have enough people and money to do everything that needs to be done.

That we have been able to accomplish such a lot in just two years is a testimony to the hard work and dedication of the ITF team.

We have succeeded in building the foundations and the structure of a modern efficient ITF. Now we must continue to develop, so that the ITF can fully meet the needs of its members.

Your ITF team is counting on your support and collaboration.



Master Trần Triều Quân  
President