



MINUTES
of the Constitutive General Assembly of the Ju-Jitsu Asian Union (JJAU)
Abu Dhabi, U.A.E., January 12th, 2014

Present:

H.E. Mr. Husain Al Musallam – OCA General Director
Mr. Panagiotis Theodoropoulos – JJIF President
Mr. Luc Mortelmans – JJIF Treasurer
Mr. Eugene Domagata – JJIF General Manager
Mrs. Dana Mortelmans – JJIF General Secretary
Mr. Joachim Thumfart – JJIF Technical Director

Invited: Mr. Herbert Frese – JJEU President

Dr. Kamal A. Haididi and Nadia h AL Shamali - WADA

In addition, the meeting was attended by the JJIF Asian national full and provisional members, according to the attached attendance list.

Agenda:

1. Welcoming of the delegates (OCA General Director and JJIF President)
2. Roll call
3. Presentation of the framework for re-establishing the Ju-Jitsu Asian Union (JJAU), according to JJIF Statutes and IOC rules, under the patronage and with the help of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA)
4. Elections for the JJAU Board - presentation of candidates, discussions, vote (the candidates can belong to all JJIF Asian members, provisional or full; only full members without outstanding financial obligations to the JJIF are entitled to vote)
5. Concluding remarks and closing of the meeting

1. Welcoming of the delegates

The UAE announcer welcomed the participants and gave the floor first to **Mr. Abdulmunem Alsayed M. Al Hashmi, Chairman of UAE Jiu-Jitsu Federation**. The Chairman welcomed the participants and expressed his content that the UAE is organizing the General Assembly meeting for JJAU. The establishing meeting is a milestone for the achievement of this union, which will provide a better framework for athletes, referees, officials. Since UAE opened its door to this sport, with the sponsorship and support of Sheikh Muhammad bin Zayid Al Nahyan (Deputy Commander of Armed Forces and crown prince of Abu Dhabi), the federation managed to achieve great progress and we are looking forward to even more development, relying on further support of the sheikh. The JJAU will allow us to take one more step towards our dream to make ju-jitsu one of the most prominent sports.

The next speaker was the **General Secretary of UAE NOC, Mr. Mohammad A. Alkamali**, who expressed the NOC's support to ju-jitsu, in cooperation with the JJIF, in hope to realize the objectives set for this sport. Ju-jitsu will be receiving continued support from



crown prince of Abu Dhabi, Muhammad bin Zayid Al Nahyan, as in the past. That is how ju-jitsu reached the level that we are seeing here today. Welcome again to all participants.

Mr. Panagiotis Theodoropoulos, JJIF President, followed to express his welcome for all attendees to this congress. He thanked the local organizers, the UAE federation, for their hospitality and their fantastic organization. He expressed his personal thanks to all people in the UAE because after yesterday night's accident they stayed by him and by his family and he thanked them from all his heart.

We are here to establish the Asian Union, which is very important for the JJIF, because Asia is the biggest continent in the world, is a continent where martial arts are coming from. Even though it encompasses many cultures, Asia is the place where martial arts, sports and social activities show their best face.

Establishing JJAU under the JJIF does not mean that we make a new body. In fact, the members of the JJIF located in Asia are part of this Union, in order to manage in the best way the programs of JJIF in different parts of the world, like all continental unions. The JJAU will do its best for the athletes and participants, through the Olympic spirit and the social face we have, with a focus on how to educate children, people, how to be better and better after exercising in ju-jitsu.

The President opened the congress and wished all participants the best results. He indicated he was sure that the next day will be a celebration day for Asia. He mentioned having seen people with a lot of interest in our sport, who know how to organize and what to expect from Asia and he indicated being sure we'll be for the next decades the leaders of sports in Asia, in the correct way, under ethics and regulations. Mr. Theodoropoulos thanked the participants.

The announcer invited **H.E. Mr. Husain Al Musallam, OCA General Director**, who expressed his content in the name of H.E. Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, Chairman of OCA and the Olympic family across Asia to thank the UAE sheik for the support of this sport and his patronage of the ju-jitsu events, including this Continental Union re-establishment meeting. Also thanks went to the Chairman of UAE NOC for the support of sports and such activities in the UAE, as well as to the Chairman of Ju-Jitsu UAE Federation.

This assembly is a very important step for ju-jitsu in Asia. The OCA General Director mentioned that the participants are all aware that ju-jitsu was founded in Asia a long time ago and that OCA and the JJIF have supported this sport, which was added to the program of Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games. Ju-jitsu is practiced throughout the continent. OCA pays important attention to this sport and is committed to develop it. In order to develop, we need a good base, a very strong organization, with strong leadership, clear statutes, vision, according to JJIF ideas and rules.

As mentioned by Mr. Al Musallam, unfortunately from the past we faced difficulties with Asian ju-jitsu and thanks go to the JJIF President and the presidents of the other continents for their support and help.

This is an important meeting to start for a good future. We are responsible for the future, for our children. We must create a good, transparent environment, with good memory and friendship. That is why we are here together with JJIF to put a good start. A good start does not mean the result of elections. That is only a title. We want all persons to work to help and support ju-jitsu to develop, to be independent, without influence from any third party, which would create unpleasant atmosphere for our athletes.

The OCA General Director asked the participants to please join, work together hand in hand, forget the past, commit to the development of the sport and OCA will help and support ju-jitsu.



As conclusion of the welcoming, the organizers displayed a video presentation of UAE ju-jitsu events (World Professional Jiu-Jitsu Championship of 2013).

2. Roll call

The press was asked to leave the hall, for the delegates to start the session which will not be broadcasted, but be limited to the delegates, NOC's and OCA. Of course, the meeting will have a press release, given after the meeting.

The attendance roll call was made by the **OCA General Director, H.E. Mr. Husain Al Musallam.**

The national federations present in the JJAU Constitutive General Assembly are:

1. Afghanistan - provisional member
2. Bahrain - provisional member
3. Chinese Taipei - full member
4. India - provisional member
5. Iran - full member
6. Iraq - provisional member
7. Japan - provisional member
8. Kazakhstan - full member
9. Kuwait - provisional member
10. Lebanon - provisional member
11. Maldives - provisional member
12. Nepal - provisional member
13. Saudi Arabia - provisional member
14. Singapore - full member (proxy)
15. South Korea - full member
16. Thailand - provisional member
17. United Arab Emirates - provisional member
18. Uzbekistan - provisional member
19. Yemen - provisional member

In addition, the following countries were present:

1. Oman - invited, membership application pending
2. Palestine - invited, membership application pending (proxy)
3. Syria - invited, membership application pending (proxy)
4. Turkmenistan - invited, membership application pending

3. **Mr. Theodoropoulos** has the floor. Before starting the General Assembly, he explained the *procedure*, according to the JJIF Statutes.

As said before, Continental Unions are working under the Statutes of the International Federation. When necessary, it is allowed for the Continental unions to have By-laws, in which to express the special needs and actions we implement in a particular Union. This will happen in JJAU (By-laws explaining the composition of the Board, how they work in the continent etc.).

According to JJIF Statutes, we need 6 countries to establish a union. We are 19 present here, so we can officially open the work.



The Asian continent is the biggest in the world, with many people and many countries. Therefore, the idea in the Asian Union is to follow the IOC/OCA concept to split Asia in the 5 regions, because it has proven it works. The 5 regions are: East, South-East, South, Central and West.

The Board we will elect today will be composed of: President, First Vice-President, 5 Vice-Presidents for the regions, and 6 more elected members. According to the JJIF Statutes, the General Secretary and the Treasurer are elected. In JJAU, we can make a small change. After the election of the 6 members of the Board, the Board will elect from these 6 persons the General Secretary and the Treasurer.

The newly elected JJAU Board, after the elections, together with the JJIF commissions (Sport for all, police and army etc.), can start the corresponding commissions in Asia, in order to apply the JJIF programs/ideas to Asia. The Unions don't have to follow what JJIF says because JJIF decides, but because the JJIF decisions come from the proposals of the Continental Unions. The program of the JJIF is made from proposals from the commissions within the Continental Unions.

In the summer of 2014, the JJIF will organize its 1st Convention (2nd half of August), which will provide a space and place to all interested persons (people who know sports and/or social activities of sports and/or special activities, like police and army), in order to listen what the future programs should be. Also, we will have big discussions regarding technical matters, referee issues, preparation of merging Brazilian ju-jitsu and ne-waza (not many differences, talk, find solutions for the good of the athletes).

The Asian countries are distributed on regions, as follows: East (Japan, Democratic Republic of Korea, South Korea, China, Chinese Taipei, Macau, Hong Kong, Mongolia); South-East (Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Myanmar, Philippines); South (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Nepal, Maldives, Afghanistan); West (Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, UAE, Oman, Yemen); Central (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Iran). Iran is included in the Central zone, for cultural reasons.

4. Elections of the JJAU Board

In order to start the procedure of elections, the assembly needs 3 scrutineers, to count the votes. Proposals: Herbert Frese (JJEU President), Dana Mortelmans (JJIF General Secretary) and Suresh Gopi (representative of the Indian federation). The proposals were accepted by unanimity.

The Board members are elected for a period of 4 years. The first Board will function for a shorter term, 2014-2016, in accordance to the JJIF Statutes.

The candidates for the JJAU Board were:

- President: Mr. Abdulmunem Alsayed M. Al Hashmi (UAE)
- First Vice-President: H.E. Sheikh Fahad Talal Al Fahad Al Sabah (Kuwait)
- Vice-President West: Dr. Mokhles Hassan Haidar Albu-Mohammed (Iraq)
- Vice-President Central: Mr. Nurzhan Yelkeyev (Kazakhstan)
- Vice-President East: Mr. Jang Soonjo (South Korea)
- Vice-President South-East: Mr. Chuchart Boonchai (Thailand)
- Vice-President South: Mr. Mohammad Latheef (Maldives)



Board members:

- Mr. Yasuhiro Nakamori (Japan)
- Mr. Suresh Gopi (India)
- Mr. Dylan Sung (Chinese Taipei)
- Mr. Fahad Ali Al Shamsi (UAE)
- Mr. Francoise Saade (Lebanon)
- Mr. Seyed Amir Khoshbin (Iran)

Since the positions of Board members were not disputed, there was no secret vote. All 13 Board members were elected in unanimity, by acclamation.

From the 6 Board members without specific positions, the JJAU Board appointed on the spot Mr. Fahad Ali Al Shamsi (UAE) as General Secretary. In addition Dr. Jaffer al Muthafer was appointed as Deputy General Secretary.

5. Concluding remarks

The JJIF President, Mr. Theodoropoulos, invited the participants for questions or comments.

Since there were no issues to be discussed and no questions asked by the attendees, the President congratulated the newly elected JJAU Board and declared the Constitutive General Assembly closed.

H.E Mr. Panagiotis Theodoropoulos
President of JJIF

H.E Mr. Husain Al Musallam
Director General OCA

H.E Mr. Abdulmunem Alsayed M. Al Hashemi
President of JJAU



Minutes written by Mrs. Dana Mortelmans – JJIF General Secretary

