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**South Africa International Taekwon-Do Federation**

Johannesburg, 26 October 2009

**Executive President's Report for 2009**

**Dear SA-ITF Members,**

This report reflects the South Africa International Taekwon-Do Federation's (SA-ITF) achievements during 2009 and gives some insight into our plans for 2010. It will be tabled at the 2009 Annual Conference.

**1. 1<sup>st</sup> Africa Open Championship and founding the TFA**

The SA-ITF hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> Africa Open Championship and established the Taekwon-Do Federation of Africa (TFA) during March this year. What made this achievement remarkable, was that it was achieved without any external financial assistance and through the outstanding efforts of SA-ITF Executive Members under the leadership of Organising Committee Chairperson Ms. Michelle Rahl.

**2. Organisational Growth and Regional Development**

Membership statistics and geographical spread of other Taekwon-Do structures active in South Africa is not readily available and some organisations are suspected of overstating their memberships - but from all indications and factors at our disposal, the SA-ITF continues its' meteoric rise as the largest Taekwon-Do organisation in the country. We are currently active in eight of the nine Provinces. I caution, however, that our official membership figures based on affiliations processed is considered to be understated. Many active practitioners have not been formally affiliated and this will be addressed at the forthcoming Conference. In addition, we regularly receive applications from other breakaway structures to join the SA-ITF. There can be little doubt that the federal organisational model of the SA-ITF has played a major role in this expansion and will continue to do so in the future.

**3. Organisational Objectives Delivery**

***With the exception of the National Camp, all objectives of the 2009 Year Plan were met due to the diligence of our National Executive.***

*Here I need to mention the profound dedication and contributions of the following Executives.*

**Senior Vice President Tristian Vardy** without whose support and participation many of our achievements would have been diminished. My personal thanks to you, Sbn. Tristian.

**Second Vice President Karel Wethmar**, although not an Executive Member in 2009, was there to support both me and Senior VP Tristian whenever we needed him.

**Technical Director, Sbn. Shaheed Karachi**, whose dedication to improving the technical standard in South Africa, with the assistance of the **Korean Master Instructors Delegation Senior Master Kim Jong Su and Master Kim Jong Chol**, has been unparalleled.

**Sbn. Brannon Phillips**, Secretary General, for building excellent international relationships, in particular his excellent working relationship with ITF Executive Director **Mr. Ri Yong Son**, who will regrettably soon take leave of absence from ITF HQ, Vienna.

**Bsbn. Michelle Rahl**, for not only her role in hosting the 1<sup>st</sup> Africa Open, but her support of all SA-ITF executive activities in general. We salute her and her husband Marius, who notwithstanding their family obligations, have managed to strike an even balance with their involvement in the SA-ITF.

**Legal Director, Bsbn. Ronel Rust**, whose dedication towards putting our legal position across in the SASCOC matter (refer point 4 below) in a 58 page submission, was instrumental towards us making profound progress in this matter. Bsbn. Ronel and myself have identified numerous areas earmarked for new organisational regulation during 2010 and will develop policies in this regard.

**Events Director, Bsbn. Nadia Seedat**, who has overseen and managed all the SA-ITF events and supported other structures, like gradings. Seminars, the Gauteng Open, etc. Well done, Bsbn. Nadia. Your hard work is appreciated by all.

A special acknowledgment to Research and Education Director **Bsbn. Sanko Lewis**, sometimes assisted by **Bsbn. Chris van der Merwe**, for the excellent research work he has done into the history of the ITF and the design of the ITF National Colours Emblem. This design was further developed by student **Craig Herzberg** under direction of **Sbn. Tristian Vardy** into the striking and unique SA-ITF National Colours Emblem we now possess.

Also acknowledged for their dedication are **Sbn. Gerd Hummel** and **Ms. Brigiite Hummel** for their executive contributions and hosting the 2009 SA Open in Port Elizabeth during September. **Sbn. Gerd Hummel** also is given special acknowledgement for his dedication towards the development of multi-cultural competitors at international level.

**Sbn. Justin Glanville**, whose participation in executive matters and special projects has been invaluable where and when needed.

Communications were effective and we thank **Ms. Faye Gorman** for circulating notices and keeping all informed through her Newsletters.

Also thank you to **Mr. Etienne Rademeyer** for maintaining our website.

It is possible that I may have overlooked mentioning other individuals who contributed to us achieving our 2009 objectives and I will gladly rectify this if brought to my attention. I thank **all, including those not mentioned herein**, for their contributions in making the SA-ITF one of the best run martial arts organisations in South Africa.

#### **4. SA Sports Commission and Olympic Committee (SASCOC) Matter**

Many of our members who became eligible for National Colours since 2006 will be aware that after the merger of the Sports Commission and NOCSA, all non-WTF Taekwon-Do organisations in South Africa were denied access to National Colours and other benefits. During late last year the SA-ITF Executive launched a concerted effort to rectify this injustice. With the legal preparation under direction of SA-ITF Legal Director, Attorney Ms. Ronel Rust, a meeting with SASCOC and their member SATF (WTF) was held on 2 October and the outcome was positive, but still more work needs to be done to finalise and resolve this matter. The SA-ITF was in the interim given the authority to administer its own National Colours. SA-ITF National Colours will now be given retrospectively to all competitors who were deprived of their colours during the period 2006 - 2008.

#### **5. World Championship, St. Petersburg, Russia**

A special tribute to the National Team Management Structure for their hard work in preparation for this event. In particular Sbn. Shaheed Karachi (National Coach) supported by Senior Master Kim Jong Su, Sbn. Karel Wethmar (Assistant Coach) and Sbn. Gerd Hummel (Assistant Coach). Sbn. Tristian Vardy did an excellent job as Team Manager. This was also the most representative group (geographical representation, population representation, etc.) ever to go to a World Championship and we should all take pride in this achievement.

#### **6. New 5<sup>th</sup> Dan Promotions**

The first SA Fifth Degree promotions have started and a few more will be held shortly. We are proud of our new 5<sup>th</sup> Degrees. We will congratulate them individually once the second group has graded.

#### **7. Priorities for 2010**

The following items form part of the Agenda of the forthcoming SA-ITF National Conference.

- Drive to open more schools country wide
- Improved Marketing structures and methods
- New regulations to be implemented, such as Codes of Conduct
- Roll out of the Best Practice Instruction Project which will be an evolutionary step forward
- Increased local and international level competition opportunities for SA-ITF competitors
- International competition preparation methods to be intensified by the Technical Directorate
- A National Camp included in next years' programme (we have not had one in recent years)
- Upgrading the SA-ITF website to incorporate an Archive Section as well as Achievers Scroll and also to make it more news-worthy
- The 2010 Junior and Veteran Worlds preparations, already underway
- Forming alliances with Taekwon-Do structures in South Africa, as appropriate
- Accelerating black belt grading certificate lead times

I invite the entire SA-ITF membership, regardless of rank, to submit any suggestion or ask any question regarding any aspect of the SA-ITF. These may be directed to the SA-ITF Secretary General, Sbn. Brannon Phillips who can table suggestions at the Conference and/or forward them to the Executive President's Office for a response.

I am satisfied that the SA-ITF is continuing to progress and achieve its' objectives, but the time has come for us to lift the bar one notch yet again in 2010.

The SA-ITF not only strives towards developing Taekwon-Do Excellence, but also to emphasise the 'Do" (Way of Life element as envisaged by our Founder, the late Gen. Choi Hong Hi). We view our entire membership as a large family sharing a common destiny.

Yours in Taekwon-Do.

Dirk Nel (SA 4/005, IIC 1248, IUA 866)  
Executive President