



DECEMBER 2011 NEWSLETTER

2011 was another fantastic year for MUAYTHAI with far too many great events to mention!!



THANK YOU UZBEKISTAN!!

The IFMA World Championships 2011 in Tashkent Uzbekistan, was another important event towards IOC recognition.

Over 1000 athletes and coaches from 80 countries participated in this historical event, held from the 20th-27th September 2011.

The event was fully supported by the Uzbekistan Government and many dignitaries from around the world were present.



Tashkent greeted the world muaythai community with a spectacular opening ceremony. The Tashkent Sporting Palace was filled to capacity and over 10,000 eager fans had to be turned away.

Hats are off to the Uzbekistan Amateur and Professional Muaythai for organizing one of the most spectacular and entertaining opening ceremonies in the history of IFMA world championships. Guests arrived at the venue to an interactive and colourful cultural display of local crafts, traditional music and dance.

The event was chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan Mr. Aripov Abdulla Nigmatovich and President of IFMA Dr. Sakchye Tapsuwan. 15 senators from the Royal Thai Government were also in attendance at the ceremony, which was also watched by many international VIP guests from around the world.



Guests were treated to a 2-hour mélange of dance, music and entertainment which was comprised of beautiful dancers in traditional costumes from



all regions of Uzbekistan, a ballet, acrobatics, opera and a myriad of Uzbek celebrity performers.

The 2011 IFMA World Championships in Uzbekistan was not just a competition and cultural exchange, it is also where the leaders and executives of the National and Continental Federations meet together with the IFMA Executives to network and make important decisions.



Besides all the Continental meetings, the IFMA Executive Board got together and the various commission meetings, such as the Female Commission Meeting.



The last day of the IFMA world championship was without a doubt a day which will remain in the memory of athletes and spectators alike.

The stadium was packed to bursting and over 10,000 people had to be turned away as there was no more room, not even to stand.

The Championship was televised on every TV station in Uzbekistan as well as all Russian speaking countries. Special thanks to Mr. Sherzod Tahmatov, President of the Uzbekistan Amateur & Professional Muaythai Federation, for a wonderful event!

The 2011 IFMA championship was the best championship we have had to date, so the pressure is now on Russia to carry the torch and bring something special to 2012.



Asian Open Championships on Kish Island...

39 countries participated in the Asian Open championships held on Kish Island in April. The event was organised and hosted by the Iranian Muaythai



Association and with the full support and assistance of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran had. The event was hosted by the Iranian Muaythai Association under the umbrella of the Federation of Amateur Muaythai Asia

and IFMA. The event was opened by His Excellency Mr. Esfandiari Rahim Mashaie, High Advisor and Secretary to the President of Iran, and Dr Sakchye Tapsuwan, the President of IFMA and President of the Amateur Muaythai Association of Thailand. The athletes stayed in luxurious hotels and attended special programs were organised to promote aspects such as the cultural



depth of Muaythai. This ensured they were at their best and able to provide fights which attained the highest standards we have come to expect and the audience was treated in seeing the best of Asian Muaythai. The Iranian team with the benefit of the massive support that comes as being the home favourite fought beyond their expectations managing to take the overall team trophy. Thailand came second in this with the Kazakhstan team taking third place. The title of Top Fighter was awarded to Eisa Almadar from Iran and the award for the best Wai Kru went to Narawut Pleenamram of Thailand.

Asia has truly become a powerhouse of Muaythai with Jordan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Afghanistan, India, UAE, Iraq and Korea all providing strong teams to the Championship and coming away with medals for their superb efforts. Deserving of a special mention is the team representing the UAE who, against common expectations won their first gold medal in a masterful display.

IFMA @ SportAccord Convention LONDON - A Striking Success!!



IFMA's presence at this year's SportAccord Convention proved to be the most successful yet. This year's edition of the SportAccord Convention was one of the most important to date, as it was held in London just one year before the 2012 London Olympic Games. That's why the IFMA international office worked tirelessly to ensure that the bar was raised yet again this year, to create and design the biggest and most attractive booth since IFMA's first entry into SportAccord in 2006. This was most definitely achieved, as the IFMA booth made a striking impact and received much popularity and interest from all delegates.



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Other exhibitors included the Australian International Sporting Events Secretariat (AISES), Dubai Sports Council, Eurovision, Eurosport, Events Scotland, Federation Internationale du Sport Universitaire (FISU), Generations for Peace, IEC in Sports, Macau Sports Development Board, Peace and Sport, the Qatar Olympic Committee, Singapore Sports Council, World Games 2013, WADA, Total Sports Asia and the Commonwealth Games Federation just to name a few. The exhibition also included a myriad of bidding cities, International Sports Federations and Event and logistics specialists.

Good Morning LONDON!!

Following the success of the Good Morning Dubai Muaythai boxercise session at last year's SportAccord Convention, the International Federation of Muaythai Amateur (IFMA) decided to give this year's delegates yet another dose of Muaythai fun. Delegates got up bright and early and again came in all shapes, sizes and fitness levels. Attendees ranged from IF representatives to bidding cities to SportAccord staff members and all enjoyed the Muaythai training led by IFMA General Secretary and former World Champion Stephan Fox.

A big thanks to Agrekko for their generous contribution in allowing use of their suite's spacious balcony overlooking Big Participants were put



sion of boxing, kicking the alcohol that was imbibed at last night's electrifying opening ceremony. IFMA is looking forward to next year's SportAccord Convention for Good Morning Quebec, and hopes to see even more delegates kicking, punching and enjoying Muaythai!

Ben and the London Eye through a grueling session and blocking which gave everyone a well-rounded and full body work out, while sweating out the



MUAYTHAI PREMIERE

The world league of muaythai, with the 40 best fighters in 5 weight divisions, with the largest prize money in the history of muaythai, kicked off on the 2nd of September in Los Angeles (USA).

Since then, the event has made it's way around the world from L.A. to Rome, from Rome to Amsterdam, and next year, is set to land in Bangkok for its next leg.



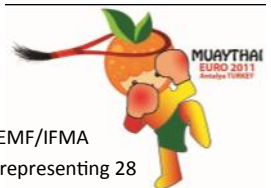
Catch MUAYTHAI on.....



If you don't have the chance to get to the fight arenas for real, then don't fret!! ESPN Star Sports is bringing the stadiums to your living room.

Every week on ESPN you'll find the best Muaythai shows from around the world with super promotions like Rumble of the Kings, Evolution, WMC I-1 and so much more!

One Europe One Muaythai



The beautiful city of Antalya was the host of the 2011 EMF/IFMA European Championships. Over 400 athletes, officials, representing 28 qualified countries took part in the historical event organised by the Turkish Muaythai Federation in cooperation with the Turkish Government and the City of Antalya. The opening ceremony was a cultural festival supervised by the City of Antalya with the Turkish National Ensemble, a fireworks display and a summary of 1000 years of proud Turkish History.

The Athletes and VIPs are staying in the 5 star Sera Club Hotel, beachside... the perfect place to be part of such a competition. The event was opened by the Mayor of The City of Antalya, The President of the Turkish MUAYTHAI federation and the President of IFMA.



As the leading international Sport for All organisation, TAFISA is in the privileged position to bring joy, health, social interaction, integration and development to communities and citizens around the globe through the promotion of Sport for All and physical activity. TAFISA currently has more than 200 member organizations from more than 130 countries across all continents. This includes governmental bodies, national Olympic committees, national and international sports bodies, educational institutions, individuals and more.

MUAYTHAI Gets a Thumbs Up from WADA!!



Fair play is no doubt a very important factor in Muaythai, so the WMC/IFMA has done much work on the education and in & out of competition testing, and has received acknowledgement from WADA that IFMA is fully compliant with the World Anti-Doping Code..... PLAY TRUE!!!



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WMC Superstars in Thai Fight 2011 Finals



One of the many successful event series is with no doubt Thai Fight, which has become one of the most popular and entertaining events in Thailand. Sunday 18th December saw the finals where 2 x WMC World Champion Buakaw who also won the WMC Muaythai Against Drugs title at the opening of the MPL in Long Beach CA in September, took on WMC Australian Champion Franki Giorgi who was also one of the 16 contestants in the hugely successful Challenger Muaythai reality TV show. Buakaw took the victory in an all out battle which wowed the captivated audience. Another world-class promotion for the sport of muaythai.

The event was broadcast live on Thai TV channel 3 from the King Chulalongkorn Monument in Bangkok.



The Challenger Muaythai has once again brought the sporting experience to a whole new level!

The Challenger combines the elements of reality, gruelling training, drama and spectacular elimination fights in 12 one hour episodes, and the quarter and semi-finals of the competition has broken all viewership records on the network.



Produced by the Imagine Group and The Group Entertainment, under sanctioning of the World Muaythai Council (WMC), the world's governing body for the sport of muaythai, the reality competition series that was set and shot in Malaysia came to a climactic conclusion with the 2-

hour finale fight night on AXN. The final episode was filled with spectacular fights and an electrifying atmosphere from the Stadium Negara in Kuala Lumpur. The final fight was to end the 16 week journey of the final 2 Challengers, Jordan Watson from UK versus Madsua from the motherland of the sport, Thailand. Each fighter took his time, cautiously calculating their next move, careful not to make a mistake. Needless to say it was clear that the stakes were especially high with 100,000 USD riding on whose hand would be raised by WMC referee Elias Dolapstis in the end.



Jordan showed just why they call him the British Bull dog with his fierce and solid

attacks, landing many take downs on his opponent in the first few rounds. Madsua gave it back taking the bull dog into the clinch whenever he could in the final rounds, throwing him to the mat. By round 4 a vicious elbow from Madsua sliced the forehead of Jordan Watson wide open with a cut (Jordan later joked that he looked like Harry Potter after the fights!!). The final round was action packed and went to the judges' score cards with all 3 judges scoring in favour of Thailand's Madsua.



Madsua, following in the footsteps of his fellow Thai brethren Yodsaenklaik who took the Contender Asia championship, proudly wore the coveted Chal-



lenger Muaythai Belt and was presented the cash check for a whopping \$100,000 USD!!! WMC Vice President Stephan Fox also presented him with a WMC Championship Belt.

Another great promotion for muaythai!!



SPORT is your GANG

Within communities, particularly those that are impoverished and with high unemployment rates, youths can be left without options for self-advancement and may be drawn into gangs that encourage types of behaviour which are damaging to the local community and to the youths themselves. IFMA and the Peace and Sport Organisation recognise the worth of Muaythai in providing a focus and a path away from such activities. This project is a natural



progression of the efforts of IFMA, the National Federations we work with and the WMC to give something back to those communities that have nurtured and supported us. With the recent formalisation of our relationship with L'Organisation pour la Paix par le Sport we are in a position to take our charitable projects to a new level as a global initiative.



Combat sports have become known as a platform through which disadvantaged and marginalised youths are able to bring structure to their lives while learning many skills that will aid them in the future and being able to do so in a structured, supervised environment.

The purpose of this project is to set up and test a template through pilot projects which can then be exported to our NFs so that they can implement the project in their locales. Such implementation can only be beneficial to all involved parties and is a natural extension of the charitable works which the involved parties have been undertaking in the past.

Muaythai can provide an alternative to negative lifestyles which lead to a cycle of lethargy that may also spur criminality, violence and other negative manifestations of societal disquiet.

