



**PRESS RELEASE #1**

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According to the decision of the 16<sup>th</sup> International Taekwon-do Federation Congress held in Sofia, Bulgaria on July 28, 2006 the XVI World Taekwon-do ITF Championships is to be held in the city of Saint-Petersburg, Russia on October 12-20, 2009 by the Saint-Petersburg Taekwon-do Federation. This is the second time St.Petersburg will host such a large Taekwon-do competition as in 1997 St.Petersburg hosted the X Jubilee World Taekwon-do ITF Championships in the city on the Neva river banks.

President of the International Taekwon-do Federation, International Olympic Committee member, Prof. and Doc. Chang Ung highly appraised the Saint-Petersburg Taekwon-do Federation potential as an organiser of the forthcoming event and expressed hope that new achievements will be reached at the Taekwon-do Championships 2009.

At present there are over 100 National Governing Bodies in the International Taekwon-do Federation. Continuous work on merging of the two Taekwon-do Federations is going on aiming at participation in the Olympic Games.

The International Taekwon-do Federation Calendar comprises dozens of International and hundreds of national tournaments. One of the major competition, "Cup of Peter the Great", which got the status of the World Cup in 2007 is a business card of the Saint-Petersburg Taekwon-do Federation. 81 countries from all continents have sent their entries to the Organising Committee of the Championships.

Achievements of the Russian National Taekwon-do Team which has gained multiple awards at the international tournaments in the recent years give us hope for the successful performance at the World Championships.

Considering great contribution of the Russian Taekwon-do practitioners in the past, the International Taekwon-do Federation Executive Board members have made an exclusive decision allowing the two Russian teams to participate in the Championships.

The International Taekwon-do Federation inspectors who have paid their visits to our city were satisfied with the preparation for the World Championships including visa matters for participants, technical support of the competition, security and accommodation.

The Organising Committee includes representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Municipal Internal Affairs Administration, Custom's, border guard force, St.Petersburg Physical Culture and Sports Committee, "Yubileyny" Sports Complex.

During the World Championships there will be an International Taekwon-do Federation Congress, The International Taekwon-do Federation Executive Board meeting, Umpires and Technical as well as Masters Seminars.

The competition will start on October 14 in the morning. 36 medal sets and 7 Cups will be awarded in 4 days.

It is certain that the ITF Taekwon-do is developing fast in the whole world and the forthcoming Championships which will have the Internet coverage will give rise to the interest for this kind of sport on the planet.

The Organising Committee made a wonderful present of free entrance to the sports venue for the citizens and guests of the city. There is great hope that impressive and fair fight, passion and courage of the athletes, festive atmosphere will stay long in memory of St.Petersburg citizens and guests to our city who will follow the course of the XVI World (ITF) Taekwon-do Championships.

