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**ITF President Professor Chang Ung:
"Organization of 2009 World Championships deserves highest
appraisal"**

Upon completion of the XVI ITF Taekwon-Do World Championships ITF President, IOC Member Professor Chang Ung summarized the results of the World Championship in Saint Petersburg.

- This World Championship is held on a very high organizational and sports level and I, as the ITF President, am very glad about it. As for the organization, I can only thank the organizing committee of the tournament headed by the President of the Saint Petersburg Taekwon-Do Federation Mikhail Shmelev and all the organizations and authorities that participated in the organization process for their work. The tournament was held on a very high level. There were of course some small problems but you cannot avoid them even at the Olympic. On the whole, everything went just fine. From the point of view of sport, you can note that sportsmen from 80 countries came to the tournament to show their mastery, and their level was indeed high. This proves once again that taekwon-do is moving forward fast all around the world.

- A considerable share of gold medals was taken by taekwon-do practitioners from DPR Korea confidently winning in team classification. Aren't you, as ITF President, embarrassed by this obvious domination of the representatives of one country?

- First of all I would like to say that I am not responsible for medals allocation. This is not my business and I cannot interfere here. The other matter is that ITF is going to make any efforts to avoid the monopoly of one country for gold medals. But for this, we need to help the development of taekwon-do in different countries and on different continents. As an example we can remember the fact that there were more than 300 sets of medals at the Olympic Games in Beijing and athletes from 87 countries won them. We should probably aim at extension of competitive countries on the highest level.

- Simultaneous with the ITF 2009 World Championships WTF held its World Championships in Copenhagen. There have long been talks on the necessity to merge the two taekwon-do federations but so far they have not been successful. What are the perspectives for this issue today?

- The main problem, in my point of view, is that ITF is more ready for compromises in the negotiation process than WTF. I think that our partners in these negotiations are eager to demonstrate their readiness for merger rather than doing any actual steps in this direction. That is why it is difficult to say that the negotiations are successful now. Another problem is that ITF headquarters in Vienna and our organization is accordingly under the jurisdiction of Austrian laws, while WTF has its headquarters in Seoul and is regulated by the laws of South Korea. So for this reason the legal side of possible merger may have some difficulties.

