



PRESS RELEASE #5

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On 14 October the Organizing Committee held a **press conference** dedicated to the **ITF Congress results** and the beginning of the **XVI ITF Taekwon-Do World Championships** at Yubileyny Sports Complex. Present at the press conference were Professor Chang Ung, ITF President and IOC Member, Pavel Novikov, Deputy Minister for Sports, Tourism and Youth Policy, and Mikhail Shmelev, Vice President of the European Taekwon-Do Federation and Chairman of the 2009 Taekwon-Do Championships Committee.

Professor Chang Ung noted **four priority directions in the activity of ITF** for the future. According to Professor Chang during the IOC Congress held last week in Copenhagen there were discussions on the issue of merger of the two largest Taekwon-Do federations – ITF and WTF. “We have been working on this matter for quite a long time already but until recently we were not able to reach accord with the WTF leaders on a number of topical issues. Yesterday WTF held a Congress where the President was re-elected and I hope that due to this our negotiations will get a new impulse”, said Chang Ung. The second important issue discussed at the Congress was **the necessity of changes in the competitions rules** for the athletes to be able to show during sparring competitions all the beauty of taekwon-do technique demonstrated during pattern competitions. The third important issue in the activity of the federation according to Chang Ung **is the ITF gender policy**, the necessity of attraction of women to the federation leadership. “This is a very challenging issue not only for ITF but also for such large federations as IOC and FIFA. And yesterday the ITF elected a woman as the President of the African Taekwon-Do Federation as a step towards equalization of men and women in ITF”, noted Chang Ung. The fourth significant topic according to the ITF President is the **doping control** at the competitions. From next year on all the participants of ITF competitions will undergo doping control.

Pavel Novikov congratulated Chang Ung with re-election as the ITF President on behalf of the Minister of Sports, Tourism and Youth Policy Vitaly Mutko and emphasized that the Russian Government and the Ministry of Sports, Tourism and Youth Policy will support and promote taekwon-do all over the world.

Mikhail Shmelev congratulated all the present at the press conference with the opening of the XVI ITF Taekwon-Do World Championships and expressed hope that the competitions at the Yubileyny Sports Complex will be a true festival for all the sports-lovers.

