ACTIVITY REPORT

YEAR: 2014

This document of Annual Report Activity of 2014 is made in relation to Strategic Plan of IFMA. In the following parts are IFMA’s strategic objectives and activity reports from 2014.
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What is Muaythai?

Muaythai is a combat sport of Thai origin. In Thailand, this sport is known under name of Muaythai, in Cambodia as Pradal Serey, in Burma as Lethwei, in Laos Muay Lao, and Tomoi in Malaysia.

It has been a part of the Thai history and heritage for hundreds of years. As with most traditions from ancient times, there are various stories of the history of muaythai. However, all available sources have agreed that muaythai was the primary and most effective method of self-defense used by Thai warriors on the battlefields of conflicts and wars that occurred. Consequently, "Chupasart" a warfare manual was written. It emphasized the martial uses of each body part. The underlying philosophy of this warfare manual implied that fighting was more than just the use of weapons: Engaging total commitment with the mind, body and soul is more important.

Muaythai is considered by many, the most exciting and dynamic ring sport, incorporating the use of all 8 “weapons” of the human body: the fists, knees, elbows and feet. Muaythai is mostly known as a competition sport, which is either on the professional or amateur level. Nowadays, muaythai is adopted as a fitness activity and is growing in popularity within western countries.
Introduction

IFMA is the world body for the art and sport of muaythai with 128 members. The federation is recognised by SportAccord, AIMS, IWGA, TAFISA, the Olympic Committee of Asia and is in full compliance with WADA.

2014 has been another important year for IFMA, with one of the key achievements being the inclusion as a full medal sport in the 2017 World Games.

IFMA has held over 2000 events worldwide with highlights being the IFMA World Championships in Malaysia, the European Championships in Poland, the Pan-American Championships in Brazil, the Asian Championships in Korea, and the African Championships in Morocco.

3 important conferences were held in cooperation with IOC recognised organisations: IWGA, WADA, SportAccord, FISU; and IFMA partners: UN Women, Peace and Sport, UNESCO. Malaysia was the host of a three-day conference, Poland and Korea hosted a two-day conference.
IFMA's Involvement
Muaythai for Charity

Muaythai Charity for South Africa

Muaythai is not only about winning a fight in the ring, it is also about community and people who are involved and around it. Getting society’s attention and developing certain sports in different countries take time. IFMA decided to organise an event called Muaythai Charity for South Africa in order to collect money and help children who live in underprivileged conditions as well as promote Muaythai on the African continent.

Quention Chong, president of the South African Muaythai Association (SAMA) and the South African Amateur Muaythai Federation (SAAMF), and fellow muaythai athletes conducted a special Muaythai Aerobics event in South Africa for their National Youth Day on the 16th of June 2014.

The event was a charity for young girls from underprivileged areas around the Republic of South Africa. 150 participants showed up and enjoyed the atmosphere as well as great workout. The girls were treated to a full Muaythai Aerobics session as well as snacks and refreshments. This was a great opportunity for all to learn about the pillars of Muaythai: respect, honour, tradition, excellence and fair-play, which apply to life in general as well. These are also our IFMA’s main values.

Giving back to society is a huge part of muaythai and IFMA. Sport is Young Gang is a social campaign that is implemented in many countries through our various federations around the globe. In the next month, another charity event in honour of Nelson Mandela’s birthday was held. Our South African federation held a 67- minute “Kick & Roll the Habit”. South Africa’s statistics on drugs, crimes, and women and children abuse are extremely high. This “Kick & Roll the Habit” muaythai Challenge serves as a platform to kicking all habits that are bad and abusive away, cleansing the soul, mind and body. Everyone from the South African federation and their community were involved. From holding kick-pads to giving support to the youth and young athletes as they kicked their way non-stop for 67 minutes in order to raise money for the foundation. This year, the recorded number of kicks by the participants went up to 22,743 kicks in 67 minutes compare to 19,643 kicks in 2013. (http://www.ifmamuaythai.org/2014/07/south-africa-kicks-the-habit-in-this-weeks-social-campaign-highlight/)

This particular activity relates to the 2nd Point under “Marker 1: Organisational Structure” of the IFMA 2013-2016 Strategic Plan: Strengthening the development of Muaythai in some African countries - Engaging in social projects, especially involving youth.
IFMA’s Sport Is Your Gang initiative wins the Spirit of Sport Awards 2014

The most prestigious award for using the power of sport to make a difference was awarded to Muaythai at the 2014 SportAccord Convention in Belek, Turkey.

Sport Is Your Gang being the umbrella programme for all IFMA’s social initiatives was launched in 2010 in cooperation with the Organisation for Peace & Sport. The president of IFMA, Dr. Sakchye Tapsuwan was delighted to know that IFMA has been given the honour and recognition for the social project in which IFMA was involved in.

IFMA General Secretary, Stephan Fox, gave an acceptance speech in front of over 100 world recognised sports, representatives of the IOC, ANOC, World Games, Common Wealth Games, University Games, amongst many others. Mr. Fox stated that giving back to communities is an important part of muaythai values and being part of social engagements gives everyone a chance to work on something larger than themselves. To witness the transformation that sport can make in the lives of the targeted individuals is a wonderful reward in itself. He thanked SportAccord and the committee for the honour and recognition, which is a further encouragement for all IFMA national federations to continue using muaythai’s values to make this world a fitter and better place. (http://www.ifmamuaythai.org/2014/04/ifmas-sport-is-your-gang-initiative-wins-the-spirit-of-sport-awards-2014/)

This particular activity relates to the 4th Point under “Marker 2 of the IFMA 2013-2016 Strategic Plan: Competition/Event & Development Programmes.
Plan: Full implementation of the campaign in all of IFMA’s member countries. – Partnerships with other sports and organisations in the campaign.
SportAccord Convention 2014

Muaythai under IFMA has been a proud member of SportAccord since 2006 and has been an exhibitor at every convention since. From Seoul to Beijing, to Athens, to Denver, to Dubai, to London and last year, to St. Petersburg. In 2014, IFMA proudly put up its booth in Antalya, Turkey in order to promote muaythai as a cultural art form and competition sport.

Many high profile personalities from the international sporting world came to visit IFMA booth. SportAccord the President of the World Taekwondo Federation, IOC Member, President of AIBA and IOC Executive Board Member, President of FILA, Turkish Youth and Sport Minister and many others.

Over 50 participants from the world sporting community joined a regular Good Morning Muaythai Workout for the one-hour workout alongside the Turkish national team. The workout was conducted by IFMA President Dr. Sakchye Tapsuwan, IFMA General Secretary Stephan Fox, Sport Director Charissa Tynan, European Secretary Rafa Szalacha and the three head instructors of the Turkish national team.

Again, SportAccord Convention was a big success for muaythai and IFMA which let our sport open its potential to the world of sport.
Muaythai Included in the World Games 2017

History was made yet again at this year’s SportAccord AGM when muaythai was included into the Official Sports Program amongst other sports participating in 2017 World Games in Wroclaw, Poland.

This was a proud moment for Muaythai and IFMA. The World Games has become one of the major sporting events in the world and for IFMA as new member of IWGA to be included, is truly an honour.

The inclusion in the World Games gives the athletes the chance to compete in two IOC patronised events which are the World Combat Games and the World Games. On top of the biennial World Championships and World Cup, as well as continental events under the Olympic flag such as the Asian Beach Games and Indoor Asian Martial Art Games, truly shows that IFMA is very close to being IOC recognised.

IFMA President, Dr.Sakchye Tapsuwan, thanked the IWGA Executive Board for their faith in Muaythai and expressed his deep gratitude towards the IFMA General Secretary, Stephan Fox, Rafal Szlachta, the IFMA Sports Director, Charissa, and everyone involved in seeing IFMA through this historical chapter.
IFMA is a Proud Member of AIMS

AIMS, a proud member of SportAccord held another important plenary session on Tuesday 8th April, in Belek, Antalya, Turkey. The topic of the plenary session was ‘Sports betting and match fixing’. IFMA President Dr. Sakchye Tapsuwan said that IFMA is a proud member of SportAccord and was delighted that many high officials of the sporting world were part of the plenary session. Officials in attendance included:

- SportAccord President, Mr. Marius Vizer
- OCA and ANOC President, H.H Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah
- EOC President and IOC Executive Board member, Mr. Patrick Hickey

(http://www.ifmamuaythai.org/2014/03/aims-alliance-of-independent-members-of-sportaccord/)

This particular activity relates to the 5th Point under "Marker 4 of the IFMA 2013-2016 Strategic Plan: Fairplay. Plan: Analysing the incidence of match fixing in the past. – Ensuring that this is not an issue in Muaythai."
The youth are our future in life and in sport. Youth development is one of the most important foundations of IFMA. At the 2014 IFMA World Championships, an important youth forum took place, chaired by his Excellency Dr. Vellapandian, Youth and Sports minister of Malaysia, along with presentations by important guest speakers from the UN, SportAccord, World Games Association and IFMA.

Muaythai signed an important MOU with the UN to end violence against women. Anna-Karin Jatfors, Regional Director for UN Women gave a presentation on the importance of educating the youth on these issues in order to help bring equality and end injustices made globally towards women.

Kristof Szucs from SportAccord spoke about sport integrity. An expert on online and offline gambling, he spoke about the importance of the development of education and standardization within sports to avoid sports integrity problems.

Dr. Vellapandian spoke about the cooperation between governments and National Federations within sports and the impact that sport can have on society. He spoke to the audience about how outreach programmes and education can develop and direct the development of our youth.

Caroline Aebersold, Chairwoman of IFMA integrity and Ethics Commission spoke about the importance of sport ethics and integrity and how deeply they are integrated in the IFMA programme.

Hagen Boszdorf, representing the World Games Association, congratulated IFMA and muaythai on their inclusion of the 2017 World Games and also made a presentation on how the World Games integrates youth work within the games.

His Excellency, Khairy Jamaluddin, from Malaysia made an emotional speech about martial arts, with an emphasis on muaythai, congratulating IFMA on the Spirit of Sport Award. He also said that the foundations of Muaythai – honour, respect, tradition fair play, and excellence are not just the foundations of the sport but also the foundations of everyday life.

This particular activity relates to the 6th Point under “Marker 4 of the IFMA 2013-2016 Strategic Plan: Fairplay.

Plan: Ensuring fairplay on all levels in the organization and regular workshops and seminars take place. – Muaythai will be a credible sport and set an example for the next generation.
UN Women and Muaythai Join Forces

UN Women and IFMA have joined forces in a new partnership that will work with young people around the world to promote gender equality, challenge harmful ideas of masculinities and end violence against women.

When the agreement was signed, the function room was packed to its capacity, with representatives from embassies, UN, muaythai and international press.

Speakers present at the event were Dr. Sakchye Tapsuwan – President IFMA, Stephan Fox – General Secretary IFMA, Sue Latta – Chair of the IFMA Female Commission and Roberta Clarke – Regional Director of UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, UN Women Representative in Thailand and International Human Rights Lawyer, all made powerful and emotional speeches on this historic day.

The UN Women Regional Representative, Roberta Clarke, travelled to Langkawi on the 3rd May to be one of the speakers at the Youth and Sport Forum at the 2014 World Championships. During the 10-day event a joint meeting took place between the UN, IFMA female, ethics, integrity, athletes and youth commissions and the IFMA Executive Board, to work on a unified strategic plan.
**Muaythai Going Global in Fight to End Violence Against Woman**

UN Women and the world governing bodies of the sport of muaythai launched a new partnership to prevent violence against women, one of the most pervasive violations of human rights worldwide. The collaboration will focus on engaging and building skills of young people, athletes and trainers within the sport to challenge harmful masculinities and instead, foster respectful and non-violent relationships, gender equality and empowerment of women.

Using the growing global popularity and “tough guy” image of muaythai to their advantage, the two partnering organizations – UN Women and the International Federation of Muaythai Amateur (IFMA) – will work through national muaythai federations around the world to help raise awareness and end acceptability of violence against women. Apart from equipping young people with a better understanding of how they can help knock out harmful social norms that can lead to violence against women, the partnership also engages male and female muaythai celebrities as champions and work to enhance the internal policies of WMC and IFMA to prevent and respond to such violence.

This new and unique partnership, which is in support of the United Nations Secretary-General’s UNiTE to End Violence against Women Campaign, brings together UN Women’s mandate and expertise on gender equality and ending violence against women with WMC and IFMA's active involvement with youth around the world to develop character and life skills through muaythai training.

These particular activities relates to the 1st and/or 2nd Point under “Marker 3 of the IFMA 2013-2016 Strategic Plan: Global Placement.
Plan: Full implementation of the campaign in all of IFMA's member countries. – Partnerships with other sports and organisations in the campaign.
VALENTINA SHEVCHENKO IS THE FIRST RUNNER UP FOR THE IWGA ATHLETE OF THE YEAR 2014

Valentina Shevchenko is the first runner up for the IWGA Athlete of the Year 2014

It was a great honour for Valentina to be nominated as athlete of the year and it only shows the major growth in the popularity of the sport and cultural art of muaythai.

Valentina Shevchenko came in second in the voting for the IWGA Athlete of the Year 2014. With muaythai being a new member in the World Games, this is a great achievement and recognition for the sport.

Valentina Shevchenko (Peru), IWGA Athlete of the Month for May 2014, was ranked second. “Bullet” (her nickname), won the gold medal (weight class 60 kg) at the IFMA World Championships Malaysia 2014, achieved 23.5% of the votes.

In her new home country, she has been appointed as a Sport Is Your Gang ambassador (SIYG). In this role she works with kids from the ghetto in one of the SIYG projects in Peru and uses muaythai as a tool to teach boys and girls self-respect and respect for others. She is convinced that forming characters by working on endurance and discipline leads to a better path through life.

This particular activity relates to the 1st Point under “Marker 3 of the IFMA 2013-2016 Strategic Plan: Global Placement.
Plan: Continuing to promote the values, culture and sporting aspects of Muaythai
IFMA's cooperation with UNOSDP

The seventh Youth Leadership Camp was hosted by the South Korean City of Gwangju and the first to be held in Asia. This camp will be, the host of the 2015 Universiade. Participants came from Vietnam, China, Hong Kong, India, Cambodia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Palestine, Bangladesh, Thailand, Vanuatu, Tonga, Malaysia, Indonesia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea.

IFMA’s Youth Ambassador, Kiana Guyon, attended the camp where she received a certification from the United Nations Office for Sport Development and Peace (UNOSDP), for her participation at the Youth Leadership Programme (YLP) where she also completed an introduction to child safeguarding and protection.

One example highlighted by Kiana in her post-camp report was when representatives of the International Paralympic Committee divided the 34 participants into different groups, and asked them to come up with an activity or a game that included abled and disabled bodies. Some groups used existing sports such as football and simply changed the rules to promote inclusion for the visually impaired or disabled bodies, others invented a relay course with obstacles that encouraged teamwork and trust between one another. Each organisation gave the participants the freedom to come up with their own activity, all the while respecting security measures, using materials that were readily available, making sure that the activity was suited for the right group of people and determining what message or lesson was to be conveyed. Subjects ranged from topics such as social inclusion, gender equality, HIV/AIDS awareness or empowerment.

These particular activities relates to the 4th Point under “Marker 3 of the IFMA 2013-2016 Strategic Plan: Global Placement.
Plan: Strengthen our relationships with organisations working with the mobility impaired.
IFMA & the Environment

In a world facing constant change, environmental awareness and measures to protect the earth and its resources are of ever increasing importance. IFMA is committed to sustainable sport, and to using its international events as platforms for sustainable management and also awareness-raising measures.

Many events have been planned to raise environmental awareness for the 2014 World Championships. One of them was a country-wide competition for Malaysian children aged 3–8, to design a logo for the World Championships around the topic given. The cute and playful orangutan inspired many great designs.

IFMA was proud to unveil the official logo for the 2014 World Championships, which depicts the orangutan as the official mascot for the event.
Tournaments

**World Championships 2014**

The fantastic IFMA World Championship 2014 took place in beautiful Langkawi, hosted by the Malaysian Muaythai Federation and the Malaysian Government; the event saw 110 member countries participating.

The month of May, also saw the Muaythai World Conference on Youth and Sport with speakers from SportAccord, United Nations, the Malaysian Government, IFMA, and many others.

The 2014 IFMA World Championships kicked off with an entertaining display of Malay culture and tradition, giving spectators a taste of the many multicultural facets that make Malaysia truly Asia. Teams and honoured guests were treated to some spectacular dance routines followed by a high impact show, theatrical display from the Muaythai Live troupe which enthralled the audience with stunning acrobatics and fight sequences all the while showcasing the history of muaythai and its famous legends.

The Honourable YBhg Tan Sri Khalid Ramli, CEO of LADA, welcomed all the athletes, officials and representatives from over 100 countries and declared the championships officially opened.

Valentina Shevchenko of Peru delivered the athlete’s oath on behalf of the athletes and Eric Ekambi Kingue delivered the official’s oath on behalf of the Technical Officials.

It was a wonderful start to what is sure to be an exciting ring of top class muaythai action from the world’s elite amateur muaythai athletes. ([http://www.ifmamuaythai.org/2014/05/ifma-world-championships-2014-opening-ceremony/](http://www.ifmamuaythai.org/2014/05/ifma-world-championships-2014-opening-ceremony/))

**European Championship**

The 2014 Championship of Europe was held in Krakow, Poland between 21st to the 28th of September and over 40 European countries sent their 600 muaythai athletes to participate in this anticipated event. This Championship was also attended by representatives of the 2017 World Games. It was broadcasted live via a webcast through YouTube that has over billion users.

One of Europe’s most modern arenas, the Krakow Arena, was chosen for the final and it was a night to remember with the approximately 10,000 spectators, teams and representatives from the neighbouring European countries.
TOURNAMENTS

The evening started off with a welcoming speech by the mayor of Krakow, Mr Jacek Majchrowski, followed by a welcome speech by H.E. Mr Bansarn Bunnag, the Thai ambassador to Warsaw, Poland. Then, a speech was made by the IFMA General Secretary, Stephan Fox, who presented his gratitude to the city of Krakow, the athletes, the officials, the spectators and the volunteers who all made this event a successful European Championship.

The final was then televised live on Polish Television, on the internet, and on the World Games channel. IFMA General Secretary, Stephan Fox, stated in an interview that the European Championship in Poland was truly a success and looking at the junior division, one can say that the sport is safe; but also with the popularity through live TV and internet streaming. The legacy will continue to take Muaythai to the next level in Europe.

5th Arabs Muaythai Championship

Amman, Jordan received the honour to host the Arabs Muaythai Championship 2014 with approximately 20 Arabic countries participating. The championship was under the patronage of the Prince Nawaf, the brother of King Abdullah, King of Jordan.

There were Junior and Senior divisions representing both genders and a special Muay Boran contest also took place.

Sami Kiblawi, IFMA Executive Board member and spokesperson of the Arab Muaythai Federation, stated that it was an important event for sporting and cultural exchange for the Asian countries and also a great test before the upcoming Asian Beach Games.

Muaythai World Cup Monte Carlo

Monte Carlo World Cup under the high patronage of Prince Albert II was the place for 2014 Muaythai World Cup. The 22 champions in 11 divisions were invited to compete against each other in the event organised by the Monte Carlo Muaythai Association, and the event was under the High Patronage of Prince Albert II.

The event was also a testimony of IFMA’s social achievements being nominated for the 2014 Spirit of Sport Awards under IFMA’s Sport is Your Gang campaign in cooperation with Peace and Sport which is also under the high patronage of HE Highness Albert II. His highness thanked IFMA for the social contribution and encouraged them to continue using the power of sport to create a positive change.
A special press conference was held at the Sport Authority of Thailand on Friday 13th December, chaired by The Baroness Cecile De Massy and the General Chetta Thanajaro. The function room was packed with over 50 journalists and press from print and television.

The Deputy Governor of the Sport Authority of Thailand, Mr. Sakon Wannapong, welcomed The Baroness to the Kingdom of Thailand and stated that the Government of Thailand is truly grateful to Monaco and that while 2013 was another important year with Muaythai’s inclusion in the International World Games Association and the success of the World Combat Games, 2014 would be another huge year with the Monte Carlo as undoubtedly one of the biggest highlights.

Mr. Claude Pouget gave an emotional speech on the cultural excellence of muaythai, the many benefits the sport has, and that Monte Carlo and Monaco are truly honoured to have HSH Prince Albert II as the high patron of this event, which will make history. He invited the Royal Thai Government to visit Monaco.

HSH Prince Albert II as high patron not just for this event but also for the Organisation for Peace and Sport in which muaythai is a very active stakeholder.

He revealed that the number of World Title bouts on the fight card was the biggest ever in Europe. Mr Fox outlined again that this event would showcase muaythai not just as a combat sport, but its deep cultural roots which fosters cultural understanding on the way to becoming IOC recognised.
European Muaythai Championships 2014

After the huge success of the World Championships in Langkawi, the focus shifted to Krakow, Poland with 40 European countries competing. With muaythai exponentially gaining popularity world-wide, this was a great promotion for Poland as well as for Muaythai, on an international level. This also showed the other members of the International World Games that they have made the right decision to include muaythai. H.E. Mr Bansarn Bunnag, the Thai ambassador to Warsaw, Poland was the honorary patron at this event which emphasized the importance of cultural cooperation between Thailand and Poland as well as other European countries.

All EMF and IFMA European Federation presidents and representatives received a warm welcome at the beautiful and historical city hall in Krakow. The representative of the city of Krakow thanked all the European Muaythai Federations for coming to the historical city and for giving Krakow the honour of hosting the 2014 European Championships. Every representative of the EMF received a plaque of appreciation from the city of Krakow, and IFMA also honoured the city for their help in promoting and fostering the art and sport of Muaythai. The evening started off with a welcoming speech by the mayor of Krakow, Mr Jacek Majchrowski, followed by a welcome speech by H.E. Mr Bansarn Bunnag, the Thai ambassador to Warsaw, Poland. Then, a
speech was made by the IFMA General Secretary, Stephan Fox, thanking the city of Krakow, the athletes, the officials, the spectators and the volunteers who all made this event a successful European Championship.

One of Europe’s most modern arenas, the Krakow Arena, was chosen for the 2014 European Championship final and it was a night to remember for the approximately 10,000 spectators, teams and representatives from the neighbouring European countries.
Pan American Muaythai Challenge

Rio de Janeiro was gearing up to host the much anticipated “Pan American Muaythai Challenge” event, also known in South America as “The Game”. Top athletes from Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, Chile, Peru, Uruguay, Mexico, Ecuador and the United States participated in this muaythai challenge and they came to test their skills and improve in the art form of muaythai. The event was organized by the Federação Carioca de Muaythai Tradicional, under the presidency of Mr. Fabiano Mello, and under official patronage of the World Muaythai Council, the official world governing body for the sport of muaythai and CBMTT and the Brazilian Confederation of Traditional Muaythai.

These particular activities relate to the 2nd Point under “Marker 3 of the IFMA 2013-2016 Strategic Plan: Global Placement.

Plan: Promoting cultural exchange for Muaythai, a sport with no borders and broadcasting in television