

태권도
TAEKWONDO LIFE ACADEMY



Skovsangervej 43
8382 Hinnerup

Dear Ambassador **MA, Young-sam**,

Hinnerup den December 19th 2015

I write to you in my frustration over the new proposed projects of the KUKKIWON Taekwondo Headquarters for Dan-promotion Test.

Personally, I have trained Taekwondo for more than 40 years and am the holder of 8. Dan and Grandmaster in Taekwondo. All my spare time is dedicated to Taekwondo. During my many years with Taekwondo I personally started more than 20 Clubs in Jylland/Fyn (Denmark). I have been international Referee for many years. Today, I am a well-known and respected Grandmaster in Denmark and in the World. For the last 15 Years I personally started an organization, were more than 20 clubs and more than 1.800 student are united. I and the other Masters have invested time in training and developing Taekwondo for these students. We have optimal training opportunities for our physical training as to create philosophy also in mediating the theoretical foundations in the field of Taekwondo.

We're not profit-oriented, but oblige only the dissemination of our Taekwondo. This is important to us as Taekwondo for us, always is more than just a "martial art". It was and is life coaching for many of us. In our organization we emphasis various behaviors that we find important e.g. our students learn about politeness, respectfully interaction, discipline and loyalty. Religion, ideology, economic opportunities and social status do not matter. All work purposefully together. I have learned this from my Korean Master and I'll pass it even further.

Your Country can be proud and happy about it, so that you can quote a great positive distinctive advertising throe Taekwondo Club in Denmark, his own.

Now, however, my Taekwondo world cracks and approaches a collapse. The reason is the developments in the Kukkiwon regarding the new proposed policies. Today, I as a Grandmaster have a Kukkiwon Examiner Promotion License up to 7. Dan Degree. I handle the administrative process as well i.e. after the examination of my students I key-in relevant information into the Dan Kukkiwon database. The Kukkiwon sends to me the Dan certificates and ID cards from Seoul and the students receive their Dan certificates subsequently. The entire process developing from novice to the "master degree" will be accompanied by me, their Grandmaster. The students are encouraged and motivated me to keep going and firmly believing in their goal. During the years of training some students are facing difficult and challenging situations in their personal life which is addressed and supported as well. The Taekwondo students want to be examined by their Masters - precisely because the entire Taekwondo career and their personal life path is united. It is a matter of courtesy and loyalty that goes both ways for both my students and me.

NOW all this disappears and is destroyed! A new examination system is to come. In future this will be controlled by either Kukkiwon Nordic or Kukkiwon ETU (European Taekwondo Union). Students from 3. Dan to 7. Dan is to be examined by Grandmasters they do not have any relation to and who do not know the student. I and many other Grandmasters do not understand the reason for this and despite that we reached out to the Kukkiwon, it has not been willing to engage in dialogue. I'm disappointed and find this disrespectful. Apparently, this then can only be explained as a sort of "money-making machine" legitimized by alleged quality standards - ultimately just an attempt to bring others in dependence and exercise power.

Unfortunately, we feel that this was confirmed by our participation in the Kukkiwon Examiner Course held in Vienna November 13th to 15th 2015. I attended along with 5 of my Masters. I have enclosed my open letter to the Kukkiwon.

You can imagine that this does not correspond to how I was taught Taekwondo in all aspects and my understanding of this as well.

In my experience, decisions and changes are often triggered by the fact that the acting and responsible decision-makers (politicians) have bad advisors, who cannot comprehend the complex interrelationships. Thus, the actual states misinterpret and make recommendations than may have unintended adverse impact.

If everything is implemented as planned the impact, in my opinion, will be dramatic for the Kukkiwon. I would even go as far to say it could trigger a split in Taekwondo like the Japanese Karate that for decades has suffered under this kind of fragmentation. Why are such errors now repeated in Taekwondo? Based on the many dialogues I have had during the last months it is my postulate that no experienced and far-sighted Taekwondo Masters will submit or work according to this new system and "rules" of the Kukkiwon Nordic or Kukkiwon ETU. In particular, I think that a respectful and loyal handling of Taekwondo Masters, who have been loyal to the Kukkiwon and actively are focus on expanding and developing Taekwondo in their spare time on, would be appropriate.

I would be delighted if you could affect the process using your influence and be able to address the serious situation. Perhaps you are familiar with relevant personalities in Korea, which are quite sensitive to this development?

Thank you in advance for your efforts and understanding. Please do not hesitate to contact me for further information.

Sincerely

Momme Knutzen
Grandmaster 8. Dan