

2012 8th Australian Haidong Gumdo National Championship and 1st Pre-Mulympics

On 20 and 21 October 2012 Haidong Gumdo Australia, supported by the World Haidong Gumdo Federation, held the 1st Pre-Mulympics and the 8th Australian Haidong Gumdo National Championships at Logan Metro Indoor Sports Centre. As the prelude to the 1st Mulympics being held in Korea July 20-24 2013, the Pre-Mulympics united practitioners from all over Australia to share their disciplines as a celebration of the spirit of Martial Arts.

With Australia being the first country to bring together Taekwondo, Judo, Hapkido, Karate,



Aikido, Wushu and Haidong Gumdo under the Mulympic slogan of "Stronger, Harder and More Courageous", an exciting step has been taken towards Worldwide Martial Arts collaboration, as well as paving the way for an amazing Mulympics next July.

Photo: Grand Master Young Ku Yun with Grand Master Jeong Ho Kim leading the VIP entrance to the Pre-Mulympics.

The opening ceremony began at 12.00pm on Saturday with the VIP entrance. We welcomed Festival and International

Mulympic Committee Chairman Master Jeong Ho Kim, Festival Honorary President Grand Master Young Ku Yun of Yun Jung Do International Association, as well as IMC Vice Chairman Master Jong Ku Lee, IMC Vice Chairman Jeong Seung Kim, Organising Committee Director and Australian Mulympic Committee Chairman Master Jung Il Oh, Advisor Alan Powrie, Advisory Chairman Jong Chul An, Police Commissioner Mr. Paul Ziebarth, as well as The National Representatives from other styles such as Karate, Kung Fu, Judo, Hapkido, Wushu and Aikido.



The festival was attended by 1000 combined competitors, 1200 spectators and families including Korea and New Zealand,, 80 VIPs, 80 Referees 20 International Referees and 60 Demonstration members.



Players and spectators were treated to some very special performances and demonstrations. First up was Tom Lo Kung Fu performing a traditional Chinese Lion dance. Han Ma Dang opened the Festival with some amazing traditional Korean drumming. Then we were treated to group a Gumbup performance with elements from Ssangsu Gumbup Pal Beon. Two-on-two Gyukgum from Kim's Haidong Gumdo saw a dynamic and energetic performance.

Taekwondo was next, with an impressive display of two-on-one self defense from New Zealand. This was a choreographed fight with two attackers in protective gear and the defender without any protection. The defensive techniques highlighted Taekwondo's fluidity as a martial art. In conjunction with this display, the Southern Cross Demonstration team showed us their incredible athletic range, with their musical demonstration of basic techniques seen in Taekwondo.

We were delighted to see Master Yeon Ik Hwang and his Korean Demonstration team come to Australia to put on a special performance in celebration of the Pre-Mulympics. The demonstration had all facets of Haidong Gumdo, including gumbup, gyukgum and bamboo cutting.



Southern Cross Korean Martial arts demonstrated apple cutting. The crowd exploded with excitement when the apples were successfully cut. This continued into the Candle portion by Kim's Haidong Gumdo, where both demonstrators set up three lots of 50 candles to be extinguished with the demonstrator's Ki. In addition to this, there was 100 candles set up, a record which had never been done by the team. The members of the crowd who had never seen this before were thrilled. Cheers rang out when the candles were successfully extinguished on the first attempt.

The bamboo cutting and mat cutting demonstrations by Swordsmen Martial Arts and Mudo Martial Arts were also crowd pleasers, with single poles and mat setup as well as multiple poles and mats.

Hapkido also displayed their self-defense skills with both long and close range fighting techniques, using some incredible joint locks, kicks and punches.

Master Hwang displayed a highly technical paper cutting demonstration. As confetti rained from one of the cuts, the crowd was enamored with the display. Undeniably it was a highlight of our opening ceremony and we were truly thankful for Master Hwang coming out to celebrate our Pre-Mulympics.

The final performance came from Master Jung Il Oh and Master Cheri Parks who, with complete synchronicity and grace, gave an amazing demonstration of patterns Yedo Ee Beon, Bonggeuk Yook Beon and a modified Jangbaek Il Beon.



With the opening ceremony complete, the competition officially commenced. It was fantastic to get the chance to watch all the practitioners of Taekwondo, Karate and Judo competing in their chosen art. Everyone in the crowd got behind all the events of the day, no matter which discipline they were there to compete in and support.



Taekwondo were the second largest group of competitors for two days of competition, with



Individual Poomsae, Group Poomsae, Group sparring and the fabulously entertaining high kick competition. The Poomsae competition, both individual and group showed the incredible discipline and strength of Taekwondo as a martial art. The group sparring was no contact and showed great skill from the players to make it family friendly but still entertaining. The high kick competition saw players kicking a paddle set on a pole that was incrementally raised 10cm each round. This was incredibly thrilling to watch as the players went about setting personal records in pursuit of taking out the title of Highest Kicker.

The Karate and Judo tournament were smaller in size but big in spirit. The crowd was incredibly enthusiastic for the Judo, as the grappling commenced and men and women, both big and small, were thrown to the ground with ease by their competitors. Karate had both sparring and Kata competitions, which took place on the first day of the competition. These were toughly contested divisions which showed the range and diversity of Karate and set the bar high for Mulympic competition next year in Korea.

The Haidong Gumdo competition ran for both days, with Gumbup, Gyukgum, group demonstration, paper cutting and bamboo cutting, with preliminary rounds being held on the Saturday and final competitions being held on the Sunday. Both paper cutting and bamboo cutting are always crowd pleasers and a definite highlight of the two days of competition, with the Masters competition being the pinnacle of technique, speed and grace that inspires all competitors to further their training. Watching the blackbelts compete with a jingum gave the lower ranked competitors an appreciation for what it will be like once they achieve their blackbelt.



Gyukgum was also exciting to watch with the junior competition growing in size from last year's National Championships. Gyukgum offers an outlet for creativity and practical application of techniques learnt during training and was a thoroughly enjoyable spectacle that kept the crowd entertained for hours. The creation of all competitors' Gyukgum highlighted their understanding of HDGD as a martial art as well as gave them the opportunity to express themselves as a Martial Artist, whether it is as the quintessential bad guy that is defeated by good, or whether it was just a hell-for-leather battle between opposing forces.



The Gumbup competition is always dynamic and the main event for most HDGD practitioners. The caliber of competition each year gets better, as you get to know and understand your competitors. The apprehension of the unknown melts away and the competition becomes more about catching up with friends and showing what skills you have learnt in the last year. It is this sense of friendship and competition that was translated throughout the weekend with all Martial arts present, and one that will be a highlight of next year's Mulympics. The group demonstrations were the final event of the competition, with both teams showcasing gyukgum and patterns in an impressive display of synchronicity and technique.

A special thank you goes out to our competitors who travelled from New Zealand and Korea for the competition. The international opponents added extra drama to the competition and it was delightful to see them compete alongside their Australian brethren.

With all competition complete, the Awards and Closing Ceremonies began. Festival and WHDGD Federation President Master Jeong Ho Kim awarded all Masters with the prestigious honour of becoming a member of the International Mulympics. Major awards were also presented for Best Club (Combined Wolves NSW), Best Master (Master Jason Kim - Kim's Haidong Gumdo ACT) and Best Spirit (Swordsmen, QLD) With the major components out of the way, the rest of the afternoon was filled with smiles and congratulations as everyone received a medal for each round of competition. The stadium became awash with the clashing of gold, silver and bronze as everyone hurried to the podium for their moment of success. The Martial Arts Festival and Pre-Mulympics finished with Master Jeong Ho Kim closing the last day of competition with the hope that he would see us in Korea in 2013 and would welcome us all in "Gangnam" style.

The Pre-Mulympics was no doubt a great success, bringing together our different styles of Martial Arts into an arena where we can celebrate what makes us unique, but also what makes us the same, our undeniable spirit to be "Stronger, Harder and More Courageous". We look forward to what 2013 brings us in Korea with the 1st Mulympics and we are excited to play our part to further this great and noble event.

