





MESSAGE FROM IFMA PRESIDENT



To the IFMA youth of the world,

I would like to extend a heartfelt congratulation for your participation in the IFMA Youth World Championships 2016, here in Bangkok, Thailand. I would like to give special congratulations to all the winners, and to the ones that did not make it to the podium, there are no losers in Muaythai, every experience is the opportunity to learn, grow and become your best.

The Exchange Programme with the local schools and the international youth of the world is a testament to the importance of sporting and cultural exchange. The enthusiasm and sincere participation of the youth that we saw gave us a strong reaffirmation that the future of the sport of Muaythai is safe and our motto of — "One World, One Muaythai" is truly being realised.

I would like to thank the officials and technical staff that have ensured and delivered us an injury free event; the IFMA Executives, the Organisers, the National Federation and the smiling volunteers that have gone above and beyond to make these championships truly exceptional.

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Dr. Sakchye Tapsuwan

President, IFMA



MESSAGE FROM IFMA ATHLETES COMMISSION



The IFMA Athletes Commission would like to thank IFMA on behalf of all the participating youth athletes for an outstanding memorable event which will undoubtedly stay in our IFMA youth's heart and memories for a lifetime. It was a pleasure for me to have been part of the build up of the event, and working in Bangkok, 2 weeks before and during the event together with the LOC and the IFMA international office.

We made daily surveys to ensure that any problems that we did not foresee, were brought to our attention. I am happy that we have received more than 40 letters from the national federations thanking IFMA for their efforts in ensuring success on all levels.

I would like to especially thank IFMA for an amazing Opening Ceremony for putting the youth in the centre of the event; the school exchange programme and the Youth Gala Night which gave each and every winner the feeling of being a true champion. I have been working within both the IFMA Athletes and Youth Commission for the last 2 years and the IFMA family is truly unique from the President to the athletes who create a family atmosphere.

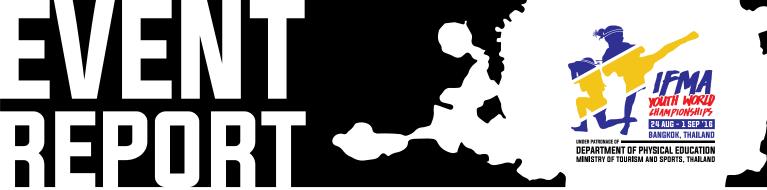
To all the young athletes, I have 2 words for you "YOU ROCK!" The spirit of this event has left me feeling great excitement for what's to come. The standard has taken another level which is a testimony of the fast developing pace. The friendship and respect displayed for one another in my opinion has no equivalent in the sporting world. The cultural night put smiles on so many faces and you can be assured that the Athletes Commission will work even closer with all IFMA Commissions and the Executive Board.

It was an honour and a privilege and we are all looking forward to the next Youth World Championship 2017.

Yours truly,

Janice Lyn

Head of Athletes Commission, IFMA



MESSAGE FROM IFMA SPORT DIRECTOR



Youth is the centre of IFMA's mission and vision, and through the Youth World Championships IFMA has proved that it gives its all in allowing and facilitating the athletes and their entourages to focus their full attention on the young generation of Muaythai athletes.

This year in Bangkok, we welcomed over 500 participants to the Youth World Championship, under the patronage of the Department of Physical Education and the Ministry of Tourism and Sport, Thailand. The young participants, most under the age of 17 arrived with great spirits, as many of these young athletes would emerge as the stars and prospects for the main national team in the years to come.

Many dignitaries and embassies showed their support for the youth and the sport in at tending the Youth World Championships in Bangkok, both at the Opening and Closing, the competition days and the extra social activities. Young athletes showed up ready and delivered great performances that thrilled the hearts of the audiences and demonstrated that the sport and art of Muaythai is safe with their generation.

IFMA will continue to foster the development of Muaythai in every country and provide a congregation for the participants to come back to meet their old friends and make new ones from all over the world. The Youth World Championships are a great opportunity for cultural exchange, for the kids to learn new languages, gain experience and understand from the other youth of the world; gearing them to be true ambassadors of good sporting exchange and heroes for their peers at home.

IFMA congratulates all the winners of the Youth World Championships and looks forward to meeting again in a friendly atmosphere at the 2017 Youth World Championships.

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Charissa TynanSport Director, IFMA

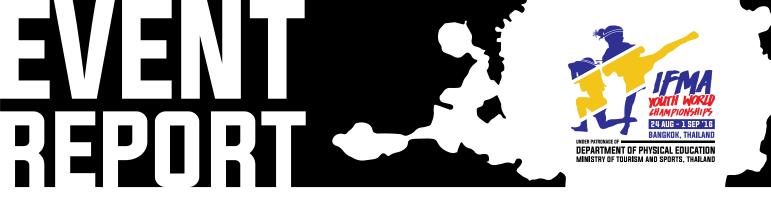


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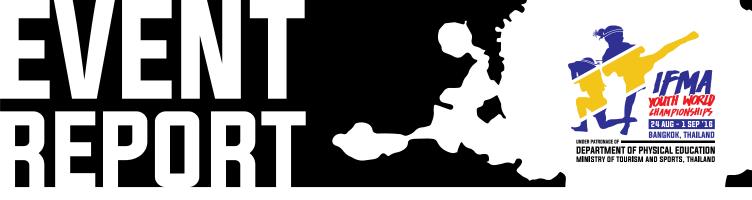
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WELCOME AND ACCREDITATION

The wellbeing of the athletes is key for IFMA. Many of them are coming on continental flights, therefore a fast transfer process from touchdown to the room check-ins was the goal. IFMA is glad that this mission was achieved.

Welcome

Arrival teams were met at the plane to be escorted and helped with entry formalities, customs and then escorted to the welcome desk where immediate transport was arranged to the hotel. This service was available 24 hours to ensure that regardless of late arrivals, missing of connecting flights, every participant, from the moment of their arrival, had a feeling of true IFMA hospitality.

Hotel

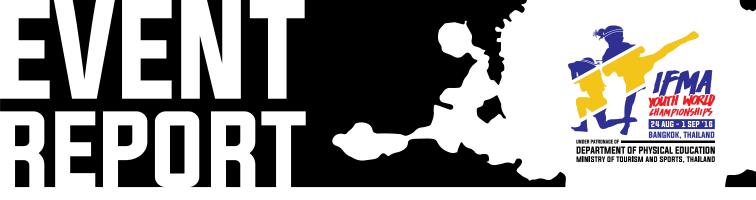
The hotel was the Ambassador Hotel in the heart of Bangkok, located in the bustling Sukhumvit district, surrounded by restaurants from all cultures, night markets and entertainment. The hotel, which has over 760 rooms, with many meeting and conference facilities was IFMA territory, decorated for the youth, to make them feel at home from the moment they arrived.

Changes were made in the hotel to accommodate the needs of the athletes, with a fully equipped boxing gym to ensure perfect training conditions, a cultural square, large dining rooms, even a kindergarten for the smallest family members.

Special fruit plates were arranged in every room so that no one went hungry to bed and had immediate food after weigh in and so on.

Accreditation

Accreditation started at the airport and the new online registration system ensured that 99% of the accreditation was ready when the participants arrived at the hotel, with the rooms ready for check-in, with priority given to teams with over 4 hours travel time and immediate check-in for any team over 6 hours of travel time.



MEALS AND ARRANGEMENTS

Meals

Breakfast, lunch and dinner were served at the hotel. Special consideration was given to all different cultural groups present with a variety of food, dietary preferences and so on.

Meal times were coordinated to match competition times and side events.

Special restaurants were arranged for all officials for good governance and also to work with the competition times and so on.

Special Dinners

On the 29th, a special night excursion was arranged for all registered participants to visit the Muaythai Live Show at Asiatique, along with a special dinner at a restaurant overlooking the Chao Phraya river.

On the 30th, IFMA hosted a special night sponsored by McDonalds, who served the kids special Happy Meals. The doors were busting with kids in anticipation and the night rounded off with a special games segment hosted by IFMA.

On the 31st, there was a Black Tie Closing & Awards Gala event from 19.00-22.00 at the Convention Hall of the Ambassador Hotel, where dinner was also served.

Sustainability

Sustainability through sport is one of IFMA's key factors and is implemented in every program of event. The Youth World Championship offered a unique opportunity to create awareness and once again important principles were implemented. Careful consideration was given for sustainable development, environmental protection and education and awareness.

Two important factors taken into consideration were the leftover food and waste. Any food leftover was immediately distributed to homeless children around the Bangkok areas which was also part of our social initiative where teams visited shelters and distributed food. A programme was established with BMA for the reuse of kitchen waste for compost.

All equipment used at the event was distributed to social projects in Bangkok and also donated to other countries after the conclusion of the event.

Event Identity

A competition took place to design the logo for the YWC, which was placed at the airport, highway billboards, hotels, stadium and other landmarks around the city to create a unique identity for the event, a feeling of pride for the athletes and to advertise the event for spectators.

Press Conferences

Two press conferences took place, one a week before the opening to brief on the event and one on the final day, to give a rundown of the events statistics.

Transportation

Participants were transported in buses scheduled for departure every 30 minutes between the venue and the hotel, with a travel time of a maximum of 30 minutes. VIPs had their own fleet, whilst referees and officials had separate arrangements.

MEDICAL SERVICES AND VENUES

Doctors were assigned on a 24-hour call within the hotels' premises for any medical emergencies or assistance. A five-star hospital was also within 5 minutes from the hotel.

Medical care in the Competition Venue

Each ring was assigned one physician standing by throughout the competition. They were supported by an onsite ambulance service for the transfer of acutely ill and/or injured persons. Athletes were to be transported to the designated 2016 Youth World Championships hospital for a more comprehensive medical assessment and care. There were four ambulances on constant standby and a fully equipped first aid station for any spectators to use.

IFMA is happy to report that there were no emergency cases in this event.

Venues

The official competition venue was the Nimibutr Stadium (sometimes referred to as Nimibutr Gymnasium or National Stadium) which is an indoor sporting arena located in Bangkok, Thailand. The capacity of the arena is 5,600 spectators. It was built in 1963 and is part of the National Stadium complex. It is used mainly for concerts, basketball, futsal and boxing.

Training Venues

The Am-Muaythai Training Centre served as the official training area, which was easily accessible and located at the hotel. The training area was fully equipped with boxing rings.

Weigh-in

A special weigh in and medical area was set up in the hotel so the athletes did not have to travel to the venue so as to make it as comfortable and time efficient as possible. This allowed the athletes to join the rest of their colleagues for breakfast after the weigh in.

Thirty neutral officials from all five continents have been invited by IFMA to supervise the weigh in.

EVENT MANAGEMENT

In order to ensure swift weigh in, medical check-ups, visas, transportation, accreditation and so on, a special office was arranged which operated from 6am to midnight every day. And from midnight to 6am, an emergency desk was set up in the lobby in order to solve any problem. A total of 60 head liaisons, speaking over 30 different languages in total, assisted the teams to ensure that language is not a hurdle.

Technical Handbook

A comprehensive event guidebook and technical handbook was disseminated to all participants and teams electronically a few weeks prior to the event, ensuring that all participants have with them the details on the official accreditation, event services, venues, programmes, general and competition rules, ceremonies and more.

Insurance

Every accredited athlete was covered for accidents occuring during the event.

Volunteers

Special volunteer training took place before the event with clear guidelines and the 200 volunteers ensured there were smiles throughout the event.

Awarding ceremonies

Olympic protocols were adopted throughout the awarding ceremonies, giving the athletes and special feeling of what is to come, with special presenters from VIP positions, such as IFMA executives, embassies and the Royal Thai Government.

Popularity

An average of 10,000 spectators visited the event everyday, ensuring no free seats.

Cooperation with other sports

IFMA is a proud member of AIMS. Other AIMS sports were also invited to participate in the event, for instance, the youth had the opportunity to learn Sepaktakraw and the Cheerleading played an active part during the Gala Awards Night.

Safety and Security

Although Bangkok is a safe city, over 1000 athletes and officials were under IFMA's care. Security personnel were stationed across all venues, including the hotel and the stadiums. Police escorts followed the participants for the excursions as well.

MEETINGS

Teams Manager Meetings

Team Manager meetings were held throughout the competition, at the official hotel, where team leaders were briefed on the details of the event as well as the upcoming events in the IFMA calendar. The meetings also provided team managers an open forum and opportunity to raise and clarify questions.





IGLA Education Seminar

EVEN REPORT -

The IFMA Education Curriculum: IGLA, was conducted over a four day sessions with an in-depth delivery of the course material by Muaythai academics.





Referee and Judge Course

EVENI REPORT +

A three-day Referee and Judge course was held at the Youth World Championships, where RnJs were briefed on key issues such as the athlete's health and safety, Cooperation among jurors, neutrality, fair-play and other topics.







EXTRA ACTIVITIES

Along with the competition, IFMA also believes in developing our youth through extracurricular activities such as social programmes, educational conferences and activities of friendship and enjoyment. IFMA hosted a number of activities and events throughout the YWC for the youth.

Muaythai Kids Movie Nights

Throughout all the competition days, IFMA hosted movie nights at the Cultural Square after dinner time. The kids kicked back, picnic style, in front of a big screen and enjoyed their favourite martial art movies accompanied with an everlasting flow of popcorn.





McDonalds and Games Night

On the 28th of August, McDonalds hosted a dinner with special "Happy Meals" for the participants. The kids were excited and eager in the lead up to dinner. Kids from different countries sat together to enjoy their Happy Meals.











VOLTH HORD LAMPHONSHIPS PLANGE OF BANGKOK, THAILAND DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND SPORTS, THAILAND

After the dinner, the games night began with the youth participants taking part in friendly games, kicking pads, playing on the traditional Muaythai musical instruments and other whacky games with each other. The night was full of loud cheers and laughter, and fun prizes to the point that the littlest participants needed a lot of convincing to call it a day.









Muay Thai Live Show and Dinner

Full buses left from the competition venue as they carried the participants to the award winning Muay Thai Live Show, which as always, was a huge hit with the YWC participants and spectators. The participants were also treated to a special dinner at Asiatique by the Chao Phraya River before the show.



Cultural Exchange Program

Cultural exchange is an important part of any sporting event. For over 15 years, IFMA includes exchange programmes at every event. For the IFMA Youth World Championships, the federation collaborated with the Bangkok Metropolitan Authority (BMA) to engage in a special intercultural exchange programme with a number of selected schools in Bangkok on the morning of the 29th of August 2016.

Teams were to visit the different schools, ushering with them presentation items and gifts for the local Thai schools and engaging in cultural exchange. The objective is that the local schools prep for the visits to extend the culture of their own country to the international teams and vice versa.



The response on the day was unprecedented and immense. The Thai children at each school warmly greeted the international muaythai kids, with huge receptions, Wais and refreshments that were then followed by a performance of traditional Thai cultural items that they had prepared. Some of these included Thai traditional dances, music played on "Kim's", sword dancing and other modern performance pieces. These items amused the international teams, who in the end joined the kids, learning how to perform these items themselves as well. There were lots of laughs and merriment.



The international teams then took to the stage performing and teaching the Thai children, items from their home countries; some of which included the Haka from New Zealand, Afro-Peruvian dance from Peru, Aussie Rules and Cricket from Australia, traditional Odessa dances from Ukraine, Hockey demo from Canada, American football from the USA, Swedish games from Sweden and many more dances and languages from other countries.



All the kids, during the exchange, both Thai and internationals were fascinated and inspired by each other. In the end, there were tears and hugs and endless photos taken and memories captured. The biggest obstacle was having to say goodbye and getting on the buses back to the competition. Everyone involved in the exchange, not just the children, but school administrations and teachers, the YWC leadership, team coaches and presidents were touched by the children and the beauty of the exchange. Many lessons were learnt.

The event was in full cooperation with UNESCO; UNESCO's Regional Adviser for SHS, Dr. Sue Vize, led the UNESCO delegation to the school, who only congratulated IFMA on this exchange initiative, promoting cultural understanding through Muaythai.

IFMA prides itself in being a family. One that prioritises social and cultural exchange and inclusiveness. The youth are our future and they carry with them the future of our sport. Let us continue to share together and celebrate not only what we have in common but also our rich diversity and backgrounds.





Conference

After previous editions, in Turkey, Uzbekistan, Russia and Malaysia, it was Bangkok's turn to host the Youth Conference as part of the Youth World Championships 2016.



The theme was "Youth, Education and the Future of Sport". The ballroom at the Ambassador Hotel was packed to capacity, with 800 athletes and officials from all 5 continents listening to presentations.

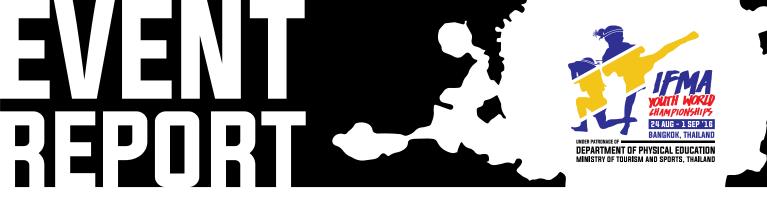
IFMA President, Dr. Sakchye Tapsuwan, welcomed all the delegates with IFMA Sports Director, Charissa Tynan, on behalf of the IFMA International Office. The representative of the Brazilian Embassy and Government, Mr. Flavio Bettarello, delivered a presentation on the 2016 Rio Olympics, Unity in Diversity.



Ms.Ornwipa Rugkhla, from UN Women spoke on Gender Equality and their partnership with IFMA and UNESCO's Dr Sue Vize, spoke on the partnership of IFMA and UNESCO on youth development and education.

IFMA General Secretary, Mr. Stephan Fox, made a detailed presentation on IFMA's continued vision for grassroots development and updated everyone on upcoming events involving the youth.





Fun Fair

A fun fair was organised for all the youth participating in the IFMA Youth World Championships, with over 20 different games. And so, the kids had a chance to play against each other in a fun way.

Some sports from the AIMS family were included like Darts, where Australia and Uzbekistan went head to head. A Sepak Takraw contest, held the day before, saw Malaysia and Thailand playing across the net.

The fun fair also featured an exciting Balloon Shooting booth with bright pink balloons - a battle between USA and Russia had the kids and the crowd cheering. There was ice cream, cotton candy and many other sweet treats that would normally be considered as 'out of bounds' for these young athletes. It was a carnival atmosphere in all parts of the cultural square of the IFMA YWC 2016.









The director of Social Responsibilities, Abigail Pamei, stated that "Besides the competition, it is vital that fun and cultural exchange is promoted at every level. This evening really showed that regardless of how diverse our athletes and participants are, together they are as one; following our theme of One World One Muaythai."





Gala Awards Night

The 2016 Youth World Championships concluded with the Youth Awards Gala. A fantastic finale that will be etched in the memories of the youth for many years. The ballroom was lit up with great splendour as well as smiling faces of all the well-deserved youth and participants of the competition.

The night honoured and awarded outstanding performances in and out of the field of play, with awards for athletes and teams that rose as champions within the competition and special awards for outstanding efforts in social responsibility and youth development. The gala night not only honoured past legends and champions that have left us but also celebrated the accomplishments and promises of the current youth who are the legends and the champions to come.



The Gala was presided over by an honoured and proud supporter of Muaythai, the Minister of Tourism and Sports, HE Kobkarn Wattanvrangkul. Her Excellency stated that she not only spoke for herself but the entire kingdom of Thailand, that this event is a testament to the fact that sporting and cultural exchanges in Muaythai goes hand in hand and that the youth of Muaythai are not just ambassadors of the sport, but also ambassadors of peace, understanding and respecting the differences we all have.

The night was hosted by the young and incredibly talented budding star of "The Voice Kids" Thailand Miss Imani Cintado-O'Donovan, who also treated the crowd with her powerful voice in special song performances. There were also performances from team Thailand of the International Cheer Union, the sensational Question Mark youth band with a special tribute to the King of Thailand and many others. IFMA's own youth performed the final winning Wai Kru and Muay Aeriobic routines, honouring the traditional elements of our sport. The entire programme of the night was hosted by the youth, while the numerous VIPs who filled up the ballroom presented the awards to the youth.

The competition season saw an outstanding number of countries going above and beyond the competitive elements of the championships. These national teams were recognised and honoured with special awards for Fair Play and Friendship, celebrating the true spirit of sport and the camaraderie within the IFMA family. Every year, IFMA pays tribute to the fallen heroes of everyone's lives and a touching ceremony was held for one for the greatest sporting heroes of all time, Mohammed Ali.

The night rounded off with a fantastic parade from the Medal Winners. As they got showered with confetti, they were led in by the loud and extravagant Thailand Cheerleader group; reaffirming IFMA's vision and focus on the youth, who are the promise of tomorrow and the bright future of the sport of Muaythai. The smiling faces of all the winners was IFMA's reward for a great Youth World Championships and for the ones that did not make it to the podium this year, may they be inspired to come back stronger in the years to come. The IFMA representative of the Athletes' Commission, Janice Lyn from Canada, summed it all up stating, "There are no losers in Muaythai, we only learn and become stronger and the lifelong friendships are gold medals that everyone takes home."



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OPENING CEREMONY - 25TH AUGUST

The IFMA Youth World Championships 2016 opened with a colourful ceremony under the united message of, "One World, One Muaythai". The aim is to advocate a message of respecting each other regardless of differences.

62 countries with proud athletes marched into a standing ovation and a massive round of applause from the stadium, chaired by the Minister of Tourism and Sports, Thailand HE Kobkarn Wattanvrangkul. Her Excellency made an emotional speech speaking from her heart. She welcomed the youth of the world, applauding the athletes for respecting the five pillars of our sport. The Minister graciously thanked IFMA's partners, UNESCO and UN Women, for their combined efforts in channeling Muaythai into making an immense social contribution to bettering the world.







Her heartfelt speech touched the hearts of the young world athletes, putting a smile on their faces as they applauded her.

Various other speakers welcomed the youth, including the Permanent Secretary of Thailand, the Director of the Department of Physical Education and most certainly, the IFMA President, Dr. Tapsuwan; who welcomed all the athletes stating that it was their time to shine and that IFMA is proud of their youth and their ambassadors and that we are assured that the future of the sport is safe.

There were various cultural and entertaining dance performances full of light and splendour, making the evening fun and thrilling for the youth. For the final performance, the boxers gathered close to the stage area, faces enrapt as they watched Minister Wattanavrangkul ring the bell declaring the Youth World Championships open and starting off a great week of friendly competition, cultural exchange and sporting friendship.

To the surprise of the ministers' handlers, an impromptu photo session followed, as many of the athletes posed for selfies with Minister Wattanavrangkul — the younger kids were delighted to see that she could pose in the Muaythai guard as well as any athlete.







DAILY COMPETITION REPORT

Day 1 - YWC Kicks off!

After months of training and qualifications and a colourful opening ceremony, the competitions officially began.

Twenty-two buses filled with athletes and officials left the event hotel for the National Stadium, where 62 exciting bouts were planned for the day. The entire event was live streamed and the area packed to the last seat. A colourful display of national flags and uniforms made this a memorable day for athletes and spectators alike.

The first day saw 57 bouts in the youth division of ages 14-17; with a fantastic day for Afghanistan, USA, Korea, France, Turkey, Ukraine, Russia, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Peru, Morocco, Iran, Brazil, Australia, Poland, Germany, New Zealand, Netherlands, Belgium, Vietnam, Hungary, Belarus, Hong Kong and certainly the home team, Thailand – all booking their place in the second round. It was difficult to pick standout fights. One male fight late in the day between Australia's Brandon Spain and Ukraine's Mykhalio Holovenko brought even the neutral observers to their feet. Latecomers jumped on hoardings to get a peek at the ring as the battle flowed one way then the other with Ukraine taking the win on points.

The hugs shared by athletes just seconds after the final bell across both rings was a living example of the Muaythai motto of Fair Play and Respect — win or lose, your opponent is always worthy.







Day 2 - Thrills and Spills at the Stadium

There was barely standing space around the rings at the National Stadium on this day! The crowd packed in to see over 60 bouts over an 8-hour programme in 2 rings, with some amazing contests. And a few close memorable matches that already have the words "must meet again" written all over them.

There were some upsets, especially for the home team, starting from the smallest division where Lithuania won kid of the day with a wonderful Wai Kru and then winning in a unanimous decision against the Thai champion. The 17-year-old division also saw the same, where Russia sent the Thai champion packing.

The other fights had mixed results with Kazakhstan, Thailand, Afghanistan, Belgium, Malaysia, Singapore, Turkey, USA, France, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Lebanon, Peru, Australia, Iran, Brazil, Iraq, Germany, England, New Zealand, Vietnam, Finland and Canada all booked their place in the next round. So many amazing fights in a truly outstanding atmosphere. This was followed by a special sporting demonstration where the two top Thai teams delivered a Sepktakraw match, with a special court built for the visitors to learn and understand the sport, which was all well received. IFMA Sport Director, Mrs.Tynan, stated that the cooperation between Muaythai and other sports is important and during the week, other sports and demonstrations will take place during the event.

Day 3 will see 76 bouts — a record for the YWC history, demonstrating the popularity of this event! The live stream from the two rings received many fantastic comments with families around the world tuning in to cheer on their kids.



Day 3 – The Future of the Muaythai Family on show

Seventy-six matches, a record number for the Youth World Championships and eight hours of fantastic performances to the capacity crowd at the 2016 IFMA Youth World Championships.

It was the smallest of the smallest athletes which produced amazing fights, standing ovations, Wai Kru performances which warmed the hearts of the audiences and demonstrated that the sport and art of Muaythai is safe.

The contest in the 10-11 year old division between Oscar Cambiaghi of Italy vs Ranaden Ondash of Lebanon, was one of the most skillful contests of the event so far with both athletes showing skills far beyond their age and outstanding sportsmanship, which made them celebrities of the day. It was Lebanon who won by a 1-point decision, but both athletes were champions in their hearts!

Germany, Australia, Thailand, USA, Lithuania, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Russia, Moldova, Turkey, Italy, Vietnam, Peru, Israel, Brazil, Portugal, Canada, all booked their place in the semi-finals, guaranteeing them medals with many outstanding contests coming up.

The event has been embraced by all media stations in Thailand for the outstanding fair-play between all the teams and the young athletes. This is more than just a competition; it is a festival of sporting and cultural exchange!











Day 4 - School Visits, the Haka and Friendship

Today many of the children took a few hours off to visit local schools and swap gifts and songs. Some really moving moments took place, crossing the language barriers with ease. Athletes from the five continents travelled to schools around the city bringing cultural gifts.

The New Zealand team did a traditional Haka dance to the delight of the Thai students. And in return one group of Thai musicians demonstrated how to play traditional instruments including the gamelan used at Muaythai shows. At another school, the Australians broke out a rugby ball, and cricket. And some Peruvian athletes demonstrated how the Salsa dance is done in their home. Brazilian and Malay students were delighted to receive traditional flowers to hang around their neck.

This type of cultural exchange reflects the IFMA motto of creating One World through One Muaythai — all of these kids are more than sportspeople, they are ambassadors for their countries.





In the afternoon the fights began again in both rings with a full crowd. Some school cheering-squads now accompany the Thai fighters adding to the atmosphere, with the large teams from Tukey and Australia in full voice — lending a real festival atmosphere to the event. Over all the cheering, is the live music from two Thai orchestras accompanying the fights. In spite of a heavy downpour in the afternoon, the crowds continued cheering right to the final fights late in the evening.

Stand-out fights included a royal battle between the Thai and Vietnamese champions in the girls 16 to 17 division, which brought the crowd surging to their feet on more than one occasion. And in the boys divisions, it was standing room only for some fights with spectators balanced on chairs to make sure of not missing any action.





Day 5 - UNESCO, Gold medals and Dancing!

REPORT

Today we went from the excitement of gold medal fights to the elegance of the Wai Khru with our first ever contest for this important part of our sport. And the day began with an inspiring meeting with UNESCO Bangkok and the signing of a partnerships agreement on youth and education. Both rings were busy from 13:00, with fights going on late into the evening due to the high number of athletes. And in the space between the rings even youngers sports fans took part in the traditional art of Muay Boran, and the much more modern Muay Aerobics. The day started with some special bouts between athletes too young for the main competition — wearing full protective gear with very restricted rules for safety. The huge grins on the faces of the Thai and German girls in the first event said it all — two more fans for Muaythai competition!

Other bouts were more serious as the older athletes were very conscious they were representing their country, and many openly showing their delight in claiming a world title. One Italian boy threw his hands wide open and the medal-giver joked he was expecting a hug.

It is of course a huge event for children, but with the dedicated support from their trainers and also families in many cases they were able to enjoy the day. Locals in the crowd from Bangkok really appreciated the Wai Khru contest, giving the winners loud rounds of applause. This ancient dance allows athletes to show respect and appreciation to their trainers — and each contestant put on a really fun show.

The international judging panel had a tough time in some of the fights as the contests were so close with a high level of talent and skill on display. If it wasn't for their size, you really wouldn't know these are just kids.

It's really encouraging for the future of the sport to see such talent in so many countries, and across both girls and boys. The day finished off with a trip to a live theatre performance based around the story of Muaythai which went down really well with the kids!



Day 6 - the Making of Champions

The final day of fights was a fitting end to a week of intense competition with so many close results bringing the crowd surging to their feet!

The closing ceremony was held in conjunction with the City of Bangkok, the Ministry for Tourism and Sport, the Department of Physical Education and the Amateur Muaythai Association of Thailand, along with the world governing body of Amateur Muaythai, IFMA.

Fights started at 11am in both rings with athletes of all ages, boys and girls, battling for the world champion title! Some countries which started out with large teams had many finalists including Turkey, Russia, Australia and Thailand. But also smaller teams fought their way to the finals including Estonia, Mexico, Lithuania, and Canada.

It's exciting to see that it's not always about travelling in large numbers but comes down to the skill and talent of each athlete.

As always it's almost impossible to highlight any fight over another — the bout between Thailand and Uzbekistan in 14-15 boys was incredibly exciting, also in the same division Canada vs Thailand at a different weight category was a royal battle! And in the girls' division for 14 to 15, Australia took on Kazakhstan in another great fight, two very different styles but great heart from both girls!









Medals were presented during the day, with a parade for each group of athletes. And after the final bouts, all of the national banners were marched into the centre of the stadium by beautiful girls in traditional dresses. Speakers from the Thai government hailed the event as a huge success, stressing this covered the cultural as well as sporting events. They praised initiatives like the school visits, and congratulated IFMA, for the historical signing of a plan to partner with UNESCO.

And naturally they called on any athletes which didn't claim a medal this week, to continue training and prepare already for next year!

IFMA President, Dr. Sakchye, thanked all the young athletes for showing us and teaching us about respect, fair play and unity — this event should be an example for many, as to how cultural understanding is possible. The President stated the future of Muaythai is in safe gloves!



And even as the athletes got ready to fly home, some of the IFMA team were starting work on the next amateur event taking place during the Asian Beach games in Da Nang, Vietnam, this month. One world One Muaythai!







MEDIA

Livestream

The entire Youth World Championship competition rings were live televised and available online. A production team was stationed on each ring, ensuring that followers and supporters from all over the world could tune in and watch the youth performance. They could switch from both ring A to ring B at their leisure.

The two channels were available on the IFMA Youtube Channel, the IFMA Website and the IFMA official Facebook page.

Website

The IFMA website was an invaluable tool for the dissemination of information, updates and news. Schedules, procedures and results were available in downloadable formats.

Highlights

There were daily highlight videos and stories posted across all social media channels each day, with special recaps and features of the standouts of the day.

Instagram and Twitter

The IFMA Instagram and Twitter networks, with a combined following of 45,000 people, were booming with hashtags and retweets. Participants and spectators sending in and sharing exciting posts from the day and the event overall. It was fantastic viewing the event through the eyes of the participants and spectators.

Facebook

The IFMA Facebook page had over half a million hits on the week of the YWC and a huge increase in following. Standout stories included our regular segment — Humans of IFMA, especially the special feature on Zahra Rezaie from Afghanistan; read by 22,432 people and continues to be shared on groups like "Female Muaythai on Facebook" and "Muslim Female Fighters".

Press briefings were held every morning from 8:00-9:00 to brief the press on upcoming activities, news and issues.



EXTRAS — AND THE MEDALISTS ARE...

IFMA Muaythai Youth World Championships 2016 Medal Name List					
			10-11 Youth Boy		
No	Category	Medal	Name	Country	
1		GOLD	THANAPHON KANUNON	THAILAND	
2	30 Kgs	SILVER	MAXWELL TZAMBAZIS	AUSTRALIA	
3	30 NJS	BRONZE	PAPST KEVIN	GERMANY	
4		BRONZE	RANADEN ONDASH	LEBANON	
1		GOLD	POONSAK SEEKAEW	THAILAND	
2	22 844	SILVER	AZIZUL AZMAN	MALAYSIA	
3	32 Kgs	BRONZE	CODY ROBINSON	AUSTRALIA	
4		BRONZE	VITO ANTONICELLI	ITALY	
1		GOLD	GIANLUCA FRANTOZI	ITALY	
2	24.800	SILVER	LEONDRO MARTINEG	UNITED STATES	
3	34 Kgs	BRONZE	BLAIR GERAGHTY	AUSTRALIA	
4		BRONZE	ILYA SHPAK	BELARUS	
1	2.00 m Tu 1	GOLD	OLIVER HANDSON	AUSTRALIA	
2	36 Kgs	SILVER	STANISLAV ASCANIO LIVERAND	ITALY	
3		BRONZE	PARAMIN S.	THAILAND	
1		GOLD	AKKARACHAI CHOMPUPUNG	THAILAND	
2	20.60	SILVER	MACIE) HERBICH	POLAND	
3	38 Kgs	BRONZE	FRANÇO FRANTOZI	ITALY	
4		BRONZE	DAVID LEAF-HALKYARD	NEW ZEALAND	
1		GOLD	BACHYNSKYI FILYPP	UKRAINE	
2	42 Kgs	SILVER	HERKUS SETKUS	LITHUANIA	
3	E-9186	BRONZE	MOHAMMED WIRFALI	LIBYA	
1	122300	GOLD	JACK KEARNEY	AUSTRALIA	
2	44 Kgs	SILVER	SUPHAPORN SLADKHUNTHOD	THAILAND	
3		BRONZE	JAYDEN HENDRIKSE	NETHERLANDS	
1		GOLD	WARIT PANAHASUWAN	THAILAND	
2	48 Kgs	SILVER	RHYME LEALAIAULOTO BICKERS	NEW ZEALAND	
3		BRONZE	ALEIANDRO ARREOLA	MEXICO	

N)	IFMA Muaythai Youth World Championships 2016 Medal Name List				
10-11 Youth Girl					
io	Category	Medal	Name	Country	
1	JISHIN AND T	GOLD	MANEEPHAO CHOMPHUNUT	THAILAND	
2	30 Kgs	SILVER	ROSIN PHELINE	GERMANY	
3		BRONZE	ASHLEY NESBITT	NEW ZEALAND	
		GOLD	PHUMTAE KAMOLLAK	THAILAND	
2	32 Kgs	SILVER	HODGSON CHARLIA	AUSTRALIA	
3		BRONZE	BRENDA MARTELL	TIMOR-LESTE	
1	7.7V -0.7V -1	GOLD	ROSSALLEN JOSEPHINE	AUSTRALIA	
2	36 Kgs	SILVER	TANUKIT PRADIPHA	THAILAND	
3		BRONZE	SANDRA HASMENHOFF	LUXEMBOURG	
1		GOLD	UNIQUE KAHAKOTI	NEW ZEALAND	
2	20.60	SILVER	KHAMPHAN WARAPHON	THAILAND	
3	38 Kgs	BRONZE	JULIET NOIPI	GUYANA	
4		BRONZE	BEPE LEOTA	SAMOA	
1		GOLD	SAVCHENKO DIRIA	UKRAINE	
2	40 Kgs	SILVER	NANKAEW PREMRUVEDI	THAILAND	
3	1955656	BRONZE	FELIZIA LUCCI	MALTA	
		GOLD	CABUAG LAUREN	UNITED STATES	
2	42 Kgs	SILVER.	NUNOI KANYARAT	THAILAND	
3 1		BRONZE	HEIDI SCHOLL	LUXEMBOURG	
1		GOLD	NESBITT EMMA	NEW ZEALAND	
2	44 Kgs	SILVER	PHETKHRUTMANEE SASIPORN	THAILAND	
3	175.1	BRONZE	EUGENIO MAILE	UNITED STATES	

L)		IFMA Muayti	hai Youth World Championships 20 Medal Name List	16
			12-13 Youth Girl	
Vo	Category	Medal	Name	Country
1	2 Saltison 1	GOLD	DOZORNOVA ANGELINA	RUSSIA
2	34 Kgs	SILVER	KUNJAREAN KAWALIN	THAILAND
3		BRONZE	CLOUDIA ALENDE	SWITZERLAND
1		GOLD	NOON-EIAD ARISSARA	THAILAND
2	36 Kgs	SILVER	WECLAWIAK WANESSA	POLAND
3		BRONZE	AMANTINI GAIA	ITALY
1		GOLD	PLAHOVA LYUBOV	RUSSIA
2	200	SILVER	ZIEMBIKIEWICZ OLIWIA	POLAND
3	38 Kgs	BRONZE	DANGCHAIYAPOOM SUNISA	THAILAND
4		BRONZE	STEPHAIU VARGAS	UNITED STATES
1		GOLD	THAMMA NATNICHA	THAILAND
2	40 Kgs	SILVER	SAFRANKO KIAUNA	CANADA
3		BRONZE	MARTA MARTINEZ	BOLIVIA
1		GOLD	PESATCHA THIMAPORN	THAILAND
2	42 Kgs	SILVER	HALABI SUZIE	AUSTRALIA
3	BATKA I	BRONZE	EVSEEUA ANASTASIIA	RUSSIA
1		GOLD	VOITOVICH MARGARITA	RUSSIA
2	377325	SILVER	ASUZUL SYAHIEAH	MALAYSIA
3	44 Kgs	BRONZE	TAOSUWAN PATTARAWAN	THAILAND
4		BRONZE	SAMANTHA STEPNEWSON	UNITED STATES
1		GOLD	KABIA KURNAZ	TURKEY
2	46 Kgs	SILVER	SANGSIMARATCHAPHOT PATRANIT	THAILAND
3		BRONZE	FATIMA FAYEM	TUNISIA
1		GOLD	BERGIN AGELYA GUDER	TURKEY
2	500	SILVER	DERE) LAURA	POLAND
3	48 Kgs	BRONZE	AOTEA TAYLOR	NEW ZEALAND
4		BRONZE	KAEWKANHA SASITHON	THAILAND
1		GOLD	ELIZAVETA EROKHINA	RUSSIA
2	50 Kgs	SILVER	PANORAM KANTIYA	THAILAND
3		BRONZE	SELYA BERNARDINO	TIMOR-LESTE
1		GOLD	SRISAWAS NOPPAKET	THAILAND
2	E PARTIE E	SILVER	SUMMER BRONCO	UNITED STATES
3	54 Kgs	BRONZE	GODFROID SARAH	BELGTUM
4		BRONZE	KLINSKA NATALIA	POLAND
1		GOLD	NUI ARISHABT AZRILEZAL	MALAYSIA
2	56 Kgs	SILVER	PHIMPHONG RATCHADA	THAILAND
3	20.395	BRONZE	MARTINA BERGER	LUXEMBOURG

N)	IFMA Muaythai Youth World Championships 2016 Medal Name List				
			16-17 Youth Male		
No	Category	Medal	Name	Country	
1		GOLD	AHMADI ALI SOHRAB	AFGHANISTAN	
2	16.000	SILVER	ONTONG WATCHARIN	THAILAND	
3	45 Kgs	BRONZE	SARAWUT NARINRAM	BELGIUM	
4		BRONZE	MAGDEYEV ALEXEY	KAZAKHSTAN	
1		GOLD	LUECHANKAN APHISIT	THAILAND	
2	40 Vac	SILVER	TEE BRYAN	SINGAPORE	
3	48 Kgs	BRONZE	BORK VADIM	KAZAKHSTAN	
4		BRONZE	ZULHILINI BINROSLI	MALAYSIA	
1		GOLD	TONG-AEM ATHIWAT	THAILAND	
2	El Vac	SILVER	ZHELIEV DANYLO	UKRAINE	
3	51 Kgs	BRONZE	MEYMET CIHAN CEKEN	TURKEY	
4		BRONZE	KANWAR ARSHIYAM	UNITED STATES	
1		GOLD	PHAOMONGKHON THAWISAP	THAILAND	
2	77.62	SILVER.	RADOV SERHII	UKRAINE	
3	54 Kgs	BRONZE	DAREN ROLLAND	FRANCE	
4		BRONZE	BURHONOV ALISTER	UZBEKISTAN	
1		GOLD	BEGYAN AYK	RUSSIA	
2	FTV-	SILVER	PHADUNGCHAT FARAT	THAILAND	
3	57 Kgs	BRONZE	SARKIRIS KONSTANTINOS	GREECE	
4		BRONZE	CCANTO MARCO	PERU	
1		GOLD	ISNGNOVL LOBT	RUSSIA	
2	CAVee	SILVER	PHOCHRAI MONTHON	THAILAND	
3	60 Kgs	BRONZE	ARASH DELIKSOON	IRAN	
4		BRONZE	TA DUC DU	VIETNAM	
1		GOLD	KONGCHAN KHOMCHAN	THAILAND	
2	63 F Van	SILVER	KHOMUTOV KIRILL	RUSSIA	
3	63.5 Kgs	BRONZE	ZAYAYKIN RUSIAN	KAZAKHSTAN	
4		BRONZE	SHARIPOV RAMAZON	TAJIKISTAN	
10		GOLD	FAPHIMAI THANAYUT	THAILAND	
2	27.50	SILVER	NELSON DAMON	AUSTRALIA	
3	67 Kgs	BRONZE	DENISOV VLADISLAV	RUSSIA	
4		BRONZE	MOISA DMYTRO	UKRAINE	
1		GOLD	CHANGELIA DMITRY	RUSSIA	
2	74.95	SILVER	TSYNIA IVAN	UKRAINE	
3	71 Kgs	BRONZE	OTTERBEIN JAN	GERMANY	
4		BRONZE	BENRT CUHADOR	TURKEY	
1		GOLD	MILIUNLIS MATAS	GERMANY	
2	25 1/2-5	SILVER	TAZHANOV AYAN	KAZAKHSTAN	
3	7S Kgs	BRONZE	DALBAS ERTUGRUL	NETHERLANDS	
4		BRONZE	PISHENIN MYKHAILO	UKRAINE	
1		GOLD	MAGOMED BADZHIEV	RUSSIA	
2	20.0000	SILVER	BIBA ALEKSANDR	ESTONIA	
3	81 Kgs	BRONZE	MAHDI SHAMEI NESPCHI	IRAN	
4		BRONZE	BENZA VLADYSLAV	UKRAINE	
1		GOLD	SAHADE KAREM	TURKEY	
2	400000	SILVER	REDKIN DMITRI	ESTONIA	
3	91 Kgs	BRONZE	ALE LOHUETA	NEW ZEALAND	
4	- countries	BRONZE	ABRAMOV DANIIL	RUSSIA	

N.	IFMA Muaythai Youth World Championships 2016 Medal Name List				
			16-17 Youth Female		
No	Category	Medal	Name	Country	
1		GOLD	YUANGYAI KHOCHAPORN	THAILAND	
2	45 Kgs	SILVER	ZAHRA REZAYE	AFGHANISTAN	
3	45 Kgs	BRONZE	ROLINSKA YANA	UKRAINE	
4		BRONZE	HUYNH HA HUU HIEU	VIETNAM	
1		GOLD	DARIA GANZKIND	RUSSIA	
2	40 Vac	SILVER	THONGDUANG THANAWAN	THAILAND	
3	48 Kgs	BRONZE	KOTRIN VEEHKUTKIUA	KAZAKHSTAN	
4		BRONZE	CAO THI LY	VIETNAM	
1		GOLD	KOSON APASARA	THAILAND	
2	F1 1500	SILVER	DOLHEGUY BRITNEY	AUSTRALIA	
3	51 Kgs	BRONZE	PILUTTI INES	FRANCE	
4		BRONZE	SOKOLOVA EKATERINA	RUSSIA	
1		GOLD	QUACH THE HOAE	VIETNAM	
2	FA 160	SILVER.	MERVE SAGLAM	TURKEY	
3	54 Kgs	BRONZE	SANMI NURMINEU	FINLAND	
4		BRONZE	TANAWATPIPAT NATTANAN	THAILAND	
1		GOLD	FODEN SAVANNAH	CANADA	
2		SILVER	TRAN THILUA	VIETNAM	
3	57 Kgs -	BRONZE	MADELUNE KETTNER	SWEDEN	
4		BRONZE	SEBAHAT UZLEKIC	TURKEY	
1		GOLD	IVANETS VIKTORIIA	UKRAINE	
2	****	SILVER	COOPER BROOKE	AUSTRALIA	
3	60 Kgs	BRONZE	KUVIKINA VIKTORIIA	RUSSIA	
4		BRONZE	SORRAL TASCAR	TURKEY	
1	es e van	GOLD	VAUGHN SASKIA	AUSTRALIA	
2	63.5 Kgs	SILVER	GIZEM SAHIN	TURKEY	
1	CO. 1	GOLD	PUTORAK ZOE	AUSTRALIA	
2	67 Kgs	SILVER	CANSU SAAI	TURKEY	
1	2883	GOLD	AKKUS TUGGE	TURKEY	
2	71 Kgs	SILVER	DUANGHATHAI THATIP	THAILAND	

