

# Countdown to the 2011 Muaythai World Championships



Only 6 weeks to go until the IFMA World Championships in Tashkent Uzbekistan, which will be another important event towards IOC recognition.

Over 1000 athletes and coaches from 80 countries will participate in this historical event, held from the 20<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

The event is fully supported by the Uzbekistan Government and many dignitaries from around the world will be present.

“Muaythai has truly become a world recognised sport and it fills me with joy to see how the world is coming together in such large numbers in an event outside the Kingdom of Thailand” – a statement from privy councillor H.E. General Pichitr Kullavanijaya, honorary president of IFMA and WMC.



General Chetta Thanajaro, President of the WMC the sole governing body for professional established under the directive of the Royal Thai Government said “muaythai proudly originated in Thailand, but I am delighted that so many countries are coming together in peace, harmony and share cultural understanding. The fact that 80 national federations are set to participate at this event truly shows us that Muaythai is truly on the right path to becoming IOC recognised”.

Dr. Sakchye Tapsuwan, President of IFMA stated “the last 10 years have been important in the history of muaythai with the inclusion of muaythai into SportAccord, inclusion at the Indoor Asian Games, recognition by TAFISA Sport For All, the successful 1<sup>st</sup> SportAccord Combat Games under patronage of the IOC in Beijing just to name a few major mile stones.... I am thankful for the government of Uzbekistan and for the hard work of the Uzbekistan National Federation to stage this major event. Thailand will do its best to host the World Muaythai day in February 2012”.



HE Karim Massimov, PM of Kazakhstan, Vice President of IFMA/WMC and President of FAMA stated “sport is an important tool for uniting cultures from around the world. Muaythai is a martial art with ancient traditions and important social values. It brings those values friendship and tolerance to the younger generations. I am looking forward to attending this historical event, especially in my position as President of FAMA, the Asian continental federation for muaythai.”

Sherzod Tashmatov, President of the Uzbekistan Amateur and Professional Muaythai Federation stated “The 20<sup>th</sup> of September will see the opening of the biggest single-sport event ever to be held in Uzbekistan. It is more than just a sporting event. It is a forum for cultural exchange at which 79 countries will be present to enjoy our beautiful country and learn more about our cultures and traditions. Uzbekistan will also learn the cultures from all 5 continents. The event is fully supported by our government and we are looking forward to welcoming our muaythai family, our friends from SportAccord and IOC and all visitors from around the world.



Stephan Fox, General Secretary of IFMA and Vice President of the WMC said “The 2011 World Championships in Uzbekistan will be a festival of friendship and it shows that muaythai truly has gained world recognition. 80 countries in a single sport event is a number to be proud of. Most teams come with the full support of their highest sport authority and/or national Olympic committee. In 2006, muaythai became a world recognised sport with its inclusion in SportAccord and very soon it will gain IOC recognition.”