The 24th Adult, 15th Junior and 1st veteran EITF European Taekwon-do Championship took place in Zrečе and Slovenske Konjice, Slovenia from 12th – 17th May 2009, prior the Championship on 11th and 12th May 2009 the Umpires seminar was held.  
27 EITF member countries and more than 428 competitors attended the Championships. There had been held EITF Congress.

**RESULTS:**

**OVERALL COUNTRY ADULT**  
1. RUSSIA  
2. BULGARIA  
3. CZECH REPUBLIC  

**OVERALL COUNTRY JUNIOR**  
1. UKRAINE  
2. RUSSIA  
3. CZECH REPUBLIC  

**OVERALL COUNTRY VETERAN**  
1. ENGLAND  
2. CZECH REPUBLIC  
3. SLOVENIA  

**OVERALL COUNTRY**  
1. RUSSIA  
2. UKRAINE  
3. CZECH REPUBLIC
**XVI WORLD TAEKWON-DO (ITF) CHAMPIONSHIPS**

www.taekwondo2009.com

**ITF Technical and Umpire Seminar in St. Peterburg.**

During the 16th ITF World Taekwon-Do Championships in St.Peterburg, Russia between the 13th and 17th of Oct. 2009 the Technical and Umpire Seminar will be held between 11th and 12th of October, being followed by the Master Seminar on the 13th of Oct.2009.

This will be an official ITF Umpire Seminar and the fee of participation to the technical and umpire seminar is 50 Euro per person. The new ITF Tournament Rules and Umpire Rules to be decided.

At this upcoming ITF Congress the revised version of ITF Tournament Rules and Umpire Rules will be decided and this new regulation will be applied from the next ITF World Taekwon-Do Championships.

All the NGBs, ITF masters and instructors are encouraged to present their suggestions and opinions in regard to this revision much earlier before ITF Congress to the ITF HQs.

WELCOME TO ST. PETERSBURG
Datoship award to Dato Dr. Grandmaster LEONG Wai Meng

On 6th May 2009 at the Royal Palace in Pekan, Pahang, Malaysia, Dato Dr. Grandmaster Leong Wai Meng, Vice-president of ITF was awarded the title of Dato by the King in Malaysia, Sultan of Pahang, Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Al-Musta’in Billah Ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Abu Bakar R’ayatuddin Al-Mu’adzam Shah. The Malaysian royal title of “Dato” is equivalent to the English royal title of “Sir”.

On this occasion ITF HQs would like to extent a warm congratulation to him on his being awarded Datoship, highly prestigious title in Malaysia to be awarded to the prominent figures who have made a tremendous contribution to the society and human being. Only a few figures have been awarded this honor in Malaysia.
Message from Dato Dr. Grandmaster Leong Wai Meng

With respect and humbleness, I am thankful to His Royal Highness, the King in Malaysia, the Sultan of Pahang, Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Al-Musta’in Billah Ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Abu Bakar Ri’ayatuddin Al-Mu’adzam Shah, for knighting me and conferring on me the prestigious royal title of Dato, on 6th May 2009 at the Royal Palace in Pekan, Pahang, Malaysia. This conferment is conjunction with the celebration of His Royal Highness’ 78th birthday on 25th October 2008.

The Malaysian royal title of “Dato” is equivalent to the English royal title of “Sir”. First of all, I would like to dedicate this Dato-ship award to my beloved Parents, the late Mr. Leong Choo Wah and the late Mrs. Mok Seng Yin, who had provided me with divine parental love, life, care and upbringing, even after their passing, and to my beloved present family members and children, who have always supported me and encouraged me, even when I have to travel round the world many times over, in the propagation of Taekwon-do, and for continuing to love me, from near and from afar, in good times and in difficult times.

I would like to dedicate this award to my family’s Preceptor Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, who has all the while, before my birth, in this present life and will be in my future lives, provided me with His Divine guidance and protection. Every cell and every atom in my body vibrates His Divine name. I dedicate this award to my beloved Teacher, the legendary Founder of Taekwon-do, General Choi Hong Hi, who has provided me with the lessons and opportunities in life, thus has made me what I am today and recognised throughout the world.

I dedicate this award to the homeland of Taekwon-do, DPR Korea, its dynamic leaders and its beautiful people, who have produced such a wonderful son, General Choi Hong Hi, and art, Taekwon-do, which has made my life whole and meaningful. The Korean culture and ethics, through Taekwon-do, have touched the soul of millions all over the world.

I dedicate this award to our beloved ITF President Prof. Dr. Chang Ung, IOC member, who is always there with encouragements and fatherly advice, who has provided me with precious guidance and timely warnings, thus enriching my work in the ITF and in my life.

I dedicate this award to all ITF Grandmasters, especially Grandmaster Rhee Ki Ha who has always been my hero and an inspiration, and to all Masters, Instructors and students, for we are always there for one another.

I hope this Dato-ship conferment will be an asset contributing towards the betterment of ITF in the near future, that this award will be an example and encouragement to our young, energetic and ambitious ITF members to understand, that through excellence in Taekwon-do one could reach real heights in life, our achievements recognised and rewarded.

Thank you, all my seniors and friends, that through your support and cooperation that I am able to excel in life through the noble art of Taekwon-do. The conferment of this Dato-ship is truly not for me, but for General Choi Hong Hi, for DPR Korea and its people, for ITF and its leadership and for all us brothers and sisters in Taekwon-do, for we are One.

Date: 11th May 2009

Yours in Taekwon-do,

Dato Dr. Grandmaster Leong Wai Meng

Vice President of ITF
Secretary General of IMGC
Chairman of ITF Umpire Committee,
Chairman of ITF Consultative Committee,
President of ITF Oceania Taekwon-do Federation
THE 7th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR LATE GEN. CHOI HONG HI, FOUNDER OF TAEKWON-DO

The ceremony of the 7th Year Memorial Service for Late Gen. Choi Hong Hi, the founder of Taekwon-Do and the former ITF President was held at the Patriotic Martyrs Cemetery in Pyongyang, DPRK on June 15th 2009.

Mrs. Choi Chun Hui, the widow of Gen. Choi, Mr. Cho Tong Sol, former ITF permanent councilor, Mr. Om Jun Sik, former ITF special assistant and Mr. Han Jong Il, the brother-in-law of Gen. Choi and Mrs. Ryu Mi Yong, Chairwoman of the Korean Chondoist Chongu Party and widow of Mr. Choi Duk Sin, former ITF permanent councilor, Mr. Hwang Pong Yong, President of ATF & KTC, Mr. Ri Yong Son, ITF Executive Director General, Mr. Hossein Farid Sabbagh, Vice President & Secretary General of the Iran Taekwon-Do (ITF) Association, Mr. Johan Peter Halsoe (son of Dr. GM. Leong Wai Meng, ITF Vice President) and Steen Augo Tobias Rasmussen, Taekwon-Do student from Greenland, International Instructors, KTC instructors and students and relatives of Gen. Choi participated this ceremony.

They presented their wreaths and flowers and paid their respects to the tomb of Gen. Choi Hong Hi, the Founder of Taekwon-Do and the former ITF President.

On June 16th 2009, in Taekwon-Do Hall, there was a video show of documentary which showed the historical lifetime pictures of Gen. Choi, and deeply impressed the participants and followed by the visit to Relics Exhibition Rooms of Gen. Choi in Taekwon-Do Palace and Taekwon-Do demonstration of the Taekwon-Do demo team of Korean Taekwon-Do Committee.