



Hwa Rang Do

Hwa Rang Do® Annual Event – Luxembourg 2018 (first part)

(MISSION STATEMENT OF THE WORLD HWA RANG DO® ASSOCIATION)

HWA RANG DO®:

*A legacy of Loyalty, Relentlessly seeking Truth,
Empowering Lives, Serving Humanity*

The Hwa Rang Do® Club Luxembourg led by Grandmaster Taejoon Lee hosted the World Hwa Rang Do® Association (WHRDA) Annual Events, which is a week-long full emersion, starting from the 7th until the 14th of July 2018 with the support of the National Government Organization under the Ministry of Sports – FLAM (Federation of Luxembourg Arts Martial).



Korean Arts



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Many Tae Soo Do® and Hwa Rang Do® students from across the globe - USA, Netherlands, Italy, Luxembourg, Germany, UK gathered together in Luxembourg for the World Championships, Black Sash Conference, Open Seminars, and the Black Sash Degree Examination. Moreover, it is a family reunion to strengthen our bonds, create new ones, and to recharge our spirit through hard work, critical self-examination, and discipline. It is the most valuable and most important event where we have an opportunity to meet and learn directly from the source of our beloved art, the Founder of Hwa Rang Do Supreme Grand Master Dr. Joo Bang Lee (10° dan) and his eldest son, Grand Master Taejoon Lee (8° dan) President of the World Hwa Rang Do Association. Studying Hwa Rang Do with these two legends of the Korean martial arts is a rare opportunity, which was truly an enlightening and inspiring experience.

The first day of the Annual Events started Saturday 7th of July, with the two Grand Masters teaching seminars on self-defense and weapon fighting with hundreds of participants.

The large training hall of the National Gymnasium, D'Coque was packed with enthusiastic warriors, eager to learn what



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Dojoonim Dr. Joo Bang Lee (Owner of the Art) and Kusanim Taejoon Lee had to share. Grand Master Taejoon Lee started by teaching an informative and exciting session on Gumtoogi (Sword fighting) and Bongtoogi (Stick Fighting), planting the theme of this year's events into the minds of the participants – "To challenge the self to come up with the right questions in order to discover the foundational truths in all that we do." This set the tone for the entire event, which kept everyone in deep reflective thought, the practice of mindfulness at all times.

Dojoonim ended the day with a wealth of knowledge in how simple it is to injure, maim, and even kill a human

being, yet how increasingly more difficult it is to implement as simpler the technique is. He shared the value of mastery, of beauty, of appreciation to simplicity, yet the underlying duality in all things – in weakness there's strength, true power lies in what is not visible, and wisdom overcoming knowledge and strength.

On Sunday and Monday 8th & 9th of July the countless divisions of the Hwa Rang Do World Championships took place: from weapon forms to open hand forms, from point sparring to continuous sparring kick / punch / throw / quick submit fighting (Yongtoogi), from grappling (Gotoogi) to weapon fighting (Gumtoogi and Bongtoogi), all the



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possible martial competitions were covered in these two days. The finals of the Black Sash Championships and the Team Competitions were performed on Friday 13th of July during the "Warrior Spirit" Martial Art Gala at the most historical and iconic building in Luxembourg, Neimenster Abbey Theater. It was a beautiful evening where spectators enjoyed in luxury the exciting competitions in a theatrical setting as well as the dynamic Masters' demonstrations. There were many VIPs in attendance and awards were presented to a few who were recognized by the World Hwa Rang Do Association for their outstanding support, service to their community, and country. Among them were: Mr. Serge Schaul - FLAM President, Mr. Norbert Baecker - FLAM Vice-President, Ms. Nadejda Trotsenko-Muller - FLAM Administrative Director.

All the remaining days we had seminars and conferences of different levels with important goals: from proper ways of teaching to school management, from acrobatics to sparring and grappling, from color belt programs to black belt



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advanced techniques and forms. On Saturday 14th of July the Hwa Rang Do Black Sash Degree Examinations took place. There were many candidates for 1st Dan, 2nd Dan, and even for 3rd Dan. For these candidates the testing process started from the first day the weeklong events. They endured two days of competition, countless hours of training daily (up to 8-9 hours a day), sleepless nights of in depth discussion, live competition and performances at the Martial Art Gala, and after being battered, worn, tired, and sore, they had to endure a seven hour testing process to be promoted to a Hwa Rang Do Black Sash Dan Holder of which only one out of 10,000 ever achieve, accepting the honor of the inheritance of the Ancient Hwarang Knights to preserve and further the Hwarang Spirit!

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