



# International Taekwon-Do Federation

Office Of the President

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Master Trần Triều Quân, President

## Subject: UPDATE FROM ITF ABOUT ITS LEGAL STATUS - APRIL 1ST, 2004

*There was a lot of confusion after our Founder, the former President of the ITF, General Choi Hong Hi, passed away on June 15th, 2002. The confusion resulted from the actions of two individuals, each of whom proclaimed himself president of the ITF; rumours spread very quickly and inaccurate information was widely circulated. Members of the ITF were understandably anxious about the future.*

*A lot has happened since our Founder's death: Legal action has been taken and key figures in the ITF, those who were in a position to witness certain important facts and events, have made very serious allegations.*

*The following report is offered in order to give all members of the ITF - particularly Grand Masters, Masters, Instructors, and national leaders - accurate and up-to-date information about the legal status of the ITF. This information is essential so that they will be able to make an informed choice about affiliation.*

*The ITF is a legal entity registered as a not-for-profit organization in Vienna (Austria) since 1986 when its headquarters was moved to Austria from Ontario (Canada).*

***There is ONLY ONE ITF, that led by the officers of the Federation who were elected at the Congress Meeting in Warsaw (Poland) in June 2003.*** Our lawyer has checked the records in Vienna, and our ITF officials are recognized by the authorities in Austria as the legitimate leaders of the ITF (See appendix 1 for a copy of registration).

*Mr. Chang Ung and his supporters did try to register him as president of the ITF, claiming that his self-proclamation as ITF president during their so-called Congress Meeting in Pyongyang (North Korea) was valid. It is common knowledge (and they do not dispute it) that they did not give adequate notice or follow appropriate procedures of that meeting, as required by the Constitution of the ITF. Instead, they surprised those attending the ceremony of remembrance of the death of General Choi Hong Hi by transforming that event into an unconstitutional Special Congress Meeting.*

*Witnesses present at that event, such as Master Tom MacCallum from the ITF headquarters, Mr. Clint Norman of the Canadian Taekwon-Do Federation, and Mr. Norman Bernard of Philippines Taekwon-Do, have made public what happened. They confirmed that two supporters of Mr. Chang Ung, Masters Leong Wai Meng and Phap Lu, had admitted in Pyongyang that the meeting was illegal. Also, Master Meng, as Chairman of the C-Council, wrote a letter to Mr. Russell MacLellan and Mr. Chang Ung dated October 22nd, 2002 in which he admitted this (See appendix 2).*

*The ITF is registered as the legal owner of the headquarters building in Vienna. Early in 2004, Master Trần, the legitimate President of the ITF, gave instructions to Mag. Suppan, the ITF's lawyer, to take legal action to expel the North Koreans who are living illegally in the headquarters building and to register with the Land Office in Vienna in order to prevent the sale of the building by Mr. Chang Ung's group. Master Trần and the ITF's lawyer are confident of a positive outcome.*

*The argument presented to the court by Mr. Chang Ung and his supporters is very weak, based solely on their contention that the proclamation of Mr. Chang Ung as the ITF president at the meeting in Pyongyang was valid.*

*It's certainly interesting that, in the documents presented to the Austrian court by his lawyer, Mr. Chang Ung's group is now represented as the "Korea Taekwon-Do Committee" (a North Korean entity), whereas they refer to the ITF team led by Master Trần as "the ITF".*

*Mr. Chang Ung had publicly announced his intention to find “any solution or compromise” in order to merge the ITF with the World Taekwon-Do Federation led by Mr. Kim Un-Yong. In January 2004, Mr. Kim resigned as President of the WTF after being charged with corruption, bribery, and embezzlement. Mr. Kim has since been suspended from his duties as a vice-president of the International Olympic Committee.*

*Grand Master Hwang Kwang Sung, who is still listed on their Web site as Secretary General of the ITF under Mr. Chang, wrote an open letter to all members of ITF, dated February 20, 2004. In that letter, Grand Master Hwang stated that Mr Chang Ung is involved in a pay-off scandal with Mr. Kim Un-Yong. Calling for the resignation of Mr. Chang because of this pay-off scandal and because of his mismanagement of ITF funds, Grand Master Hwang noted that Mr. Chang had rewritten the ITF Constitution to give the president more power, with the result that it is no longer a democratic organization. He concluded that only if Mr. Chang resigns will the ITF be free from political influence.*

*In a recent article posted on the Internet news site [www.taekwonline.com](http://www.taekwonline.com) (in Korean), Grand Master Hwang Kwang Sung made a number of serious allegations against Mr. Chang Ung. Grand Master Hwang is quoted as saying that, although he was present, he did not actually hear General Choi’s last words. General Choi was so weak he could not speak loudly, so one of the North Koreans present relayed the Founder’s last words to those assembled, including the statement that Mr. Chang Ung was to be his successor as president of the ITF. Grand Master Hwang says that he believed what he was told at the time. However, he now believes that it was part of a North Korean plan to take control of the ITF. (See appendix 3).*

*Mr. Chang Ung’s true nature and his intentions for the ITF have been exposed. His management without regard for the Constitution of the ITF is in stark contrast to the clear, transparent approach of the legitimate ITF management team.*

*The progress of the ITF team led by Master Trân has been well documented on the official ITF Web site [www.tkd-itf.org](http://www.tkd-itf.org). Remarkable progress has been made since the Congress Meeting last June. The Constitution has been revised and By-Law No. 1, which details the administrative structure of the ITF, has been written in collaboration with the Board of Directors and approved by them. Each member of the team has well-defined responsibilities, objectives, and action plans.*

*The doors of the legitimate ITF are wide open for those who want the ITF to be a democratic, well-structured, properly run organization. In the real ITF, they will find their sweet home.*

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