

Report on the third International Martial Arts and Combat Sports Scientific Society (IMACSSS) Conference

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REPORT

Abstract

The present report provides a brief account of the Conference "Man - Martial Arts - Humanism", held by the International Martial Arts and Combat Sport Scientific Society (IMACSSS) on October 15th - 17th, 2014 in Rzeszów, Poland. During this international conference, scientists from various universities presented their actual projects and results of their latest projects in the field of martial arts and combat sports (MA&CS). Subjects covered a wide range, starting with anthropology, sociology, history, philosophy, psychology, reaching up to pedagogy and didactic methodology, bio-technical approaches and theoretical structures in MA&CS. The conference drew more than 120 participants and contributed to the formation of a close network in the community of the scientists conducting research within the field of MA&CS.

Keywords: martial arts; combat sports; scientific research; scientific meetings; congresses; IMACSSS.

Informe sobre el tercer congreso de la International Martial Arts and Combat Sports Scientific Society (IMACSSS)

Resumen

El presente informe resume brevemente la conferencia "Man - Martial Arts - Humanism", organizada por la International Martial Arts and Combat Sport Scientific Society (IMACSSS) entre el 15 y el 17 de octubre de 2014 en Rzeszów, Polonia. Durante esta conferencia internacional, científicos de diversas universidades presentaron sus actuales proyectos y los resultados de sus últimas investigaciones en el ámbito de las artes marciales y deportes de combate (AM&DC). Los temas cubrieron un amplio abanico de disciplinas, incluyendo antropología, sociología, historia, filosofía, psicología, y también pedagogía y metodología didáctica, enfoques bio-técnicos y estructuras teóricas de las AM&DC. La conferencia reunió a más de 120 participantes y contribuyó a la formación de una red íntimamente conectada en la comunidad de científicos que desarrollan investigaciones en el ámbito de las AM&DC.

Palabras clave: artes marciales; deportes de combate; investigación científica; reuniones científicas; congresos; IMACSSS.

Resumo do terceiro International Martial Arts and Combat Sports Scientific Society (IMACSSS) Conference

Resumo

O presente texto resume a conferência "Man - Martial Arts - Humanism", organizada pela International Martial Arts and Combat Sport Scientific Society (IMACSSS), entre 15 e 17 de outubro de 2014, em Rzeszów, Polónia. Durante esta conferência internacional, científicos de diversas universidades apresentaram os seus projetos e os resultados das suas últimas investigações no âmbito das artes marciais e desportos de combate (AM&DC). Os temas abrangeram um amplo leque de disciplinas: antropologia, sociologia, história, filosofia, psicologia, e também pedagogia e metodologia didática, enfoques bio-técnicos e estruturas teóricas das AM&DC. A conferência reuniu mais de 120 participantes e contribuiu para a formação de uma rede intimamente conectada com a comunidade de científicos que desenvolvem investigações no âmbito das AM&DC.

Palavras-chave: artes marciais; desportos de combate; investigação científica; reuniões científicas; congresos; IMACSSS.

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1. Introduction

In October 2014 the 3rd Conference of the International Martial Arts and Combat Sport Scientific Society (IMACSSS) took place in Rzeszów, Poland. Previous IMACSSS conferences have been held in Genoa, Italy (see Vertonghen, 2012) and Tsukuba, Japan (see Cynarski & Kubala, 2013). Indeed it was in Rzeszów where the IMACSSS itself was founded, during the 2nd World Congress of Martial Arts in 2010. This foundation of the IMACSSS has been one of the main outcomes of several meetings regarding martial arts and combat sports (MA&CS) held since the 1990's. This time more than 120 participants, guests and associated persons joined for three days listening to 83 various oral or poster presentations. The abstracts of these contributions can be found in the proceedings of the conference (Cynarski & Niziol, 2014).

2. The Conference

The structure of the conferences of IMACSSS is still in transformation, depending also on the topics of the presenters. In Rzeszów, the General Assembly of the institution took place first, just before the official Opening Ceremony. Keynote speakers opened the proceedings, followed by a Plenary Session, which on the first day implemented an interdisciplinary approach. After a break, the first day continued with three Parallel Sessions including, for the first time, a specific session with a special opportunity for "Young Researchers" to receive an award. The day closed with parallel Poster Sessions and a Congress Banquet. On the second day, the first Plenary Session was followed by another Plenary Session and all participants stayed in the town hall of Rzeszów for the rest of the day enjoying different Workshops and the Martial Arts' Gala. The third day concluded after the Plenary Session with a Closing Ceremony. The initial idea of the congress was to provide an opportunity for the participants to exchange thoughts and ideas, which the organizer took into account by scheduling the time for breaks, dinners and more social events. Thus allowing the participants to meet and talk personally about their projects and research.

In the General Assembly of IMACSSS, which took place at the very beginning of the conference, Prof. Dr. Cynarski from Poland was re-elected president, as were the rest of the members of the IMACSSS Board and Commissions. The Society is still a young organisation, therefore not all members are familiar with each other. When the elections took place for the different roles, there was a bit of confusion. Finally, all posts of the board and the commission were newly elected and the conference officially begun. For future conferences for this process to run more efficiently it would be ideal to encourage the members to describe the scope and tasks of the posts of the board. Then candidates would provide papers, including photos and short résumés to be considered for election. This could be carried out at the last General Assembly, allowing more time for members to get to know one another.

The congress itself was held under the motto: "Man – Martial Arts – Humanism", focusing on anthropology, but keeping open to all other research fields, which were structured in different sessions, most being interdisciplinary, without a specification or concentration of topics. Hence, it was difficult for the different specialists to come together and share their interests. On the other hand it opened the opportunity to bring all different researchers together to share their ideas. In total there were four plenary sessions, three parallel sessions and two poster sessions.

The four keynotes held in the congress showed the mentioned interdisciplinarity and open ranged approach of the conference. Prof. Dr. Nakiri (Japan), presented the "Concept of Budo and the history and activities of the Japanese Academy of Budo", Prof. Dr. Sterkowicz (Poland), spoke about the "Energy system contribution to special judo fitness test: effect of throwing method", Prof. Dr. Willy Pieter (Czech Rep.) focused on "The Oregon taekwondo research project: a review and re-analysis", and finally Prof. Dr. Wojciech J. Cynarski (Poland) on the "Moral values of the noble way of martial arts".

The first Plenary Session consisted of the first two keynotes held by Prof. Dr. Nakiri and Prof. Dr. Sterkowicz, followed by three paper sessions, focused on the following topics: "Interdisciplinary", "Man – Martial Arts – Humanism" and the "IMACSSS Young Researchers Award", initiated to encourage young people to join with contributions the conference. Finally two Poster

Sessions took place: “Young Researcher Awards” and “Interdisciplinary”. The winners of the award were Javier Courel Ibáñez (Spain), for “Does ranking position predict the match outcome in young judo athletes?”, Chang Liu (China), for “Technical analysis of ‘Seiryoku zen'yō Kokumin taiiku’ seen from the perspective of Karate and Chinese martial arts”, and Matteo Cucchelli (Italy), for “Rough-and-tumble play to cope with physical aggression in particular settings: an exploratory study with young adolescents”.

The second day started again with the keynote of Prof. Dr. Willy Pieter followed by two Plenary Sessions focusing on different topics and martial arts. Finally the last day commenced with another Plenary Session in which Prof. Dr. Cynarski held the keynote about the “Moral values of the noble way of martial arts”, summarising the motto of the conference in a very successful manner.

Again the diversity of topics by the researchers was impressive, and for the future the usefulness of dividing the sessions, or even the yearly conferences, into homogeneous topics, maybe using the already existing eight divisions of IMACSSS as a basis could be considered. Presenters could choose by handing in the abstracts in which division they want to present and the participants could choose the fields they are interested in. This method would allow experts to find each other and build up a network more easily. For most of the presenters ten minutes to develop their ideas was very short, as the oral presentations followed each other very quickly. The ten minutes given for end discussion was again too short, having in mind that the researchers hoped to get more feedback of their work. However, having more breaks and social events, it was still possible to discuss the presentations further. Also those participants who registered but could not attend the congress should inform the organizer in time, ensuring a flow of the program.

One difference of a conference of MA&CS, compared to many other conferences of the academic world, is the possibility to integrate practical sessions and exhibitions, which ‘unstiffen’ the theoretical structure. So in cooperation with the Idokan Poland Association there was on Thursday 16th a workshop in the huge ‘Podpromie Hall’ in which the participants had the chance to experience several MA&CS disciplines such as; silat (Dr. Mohamad Nizam Mahamed Shapie, Malaysia), Katori Shinto-ryu kobudo (Mr. Sergio Mor-Stabilini, Italy), Mukashi-to Kindai jujutsu (Dr. Jan Słopecki, Poland), aikibudo CERA (Dr. Michal Vit, Czech Republic), aikido Aikikai (Dr. Zdenko Reguli, Czech Republic), and combat hopak (Mr. Vladimir Pilate, Ukraine). These workshops were followed by a Martial Arts Gala where many different martial artists, among others of the above mentioned showed their skills (European, historical fencing, by Dr. Gabriel Szajna and Slovak team; Signum Polonicum fencing, by Mr. Zbigniew Sawicki, Poland; Cacoy Doce Pares eskrima, by Mr. Michał Szczęsny, Poland; kendo and iaido, by Mr. Maciej Murzyniec, Poland; Dragon dance and Chow Gar kung-fu, by Mr. Tomasz Płaza, Poland; taiji jian, by Prof. Dr. Sergio Raimondo, Italy; taekwondo ITF, by Prof. Dr. Jacek Wąsik, Poland), judo, by Dr. Rafał Kubacki, Poland. As one of the participants of the Gala could not join the event, a young Chinese scholar and wushu practitioner, Liu Chang, student at the Waseda University, Tokyo, filled up the gap spontaneously and gave an excellent wushu performance - in his civil clothes, which was very impressive! As noted, practice should be an important element of a Martial Arts conference. However practice should be applied to theory and combined with a preceding theoretical explanation of what will happen. This would prove to be very beneficial and this can always be supported by an abstract.

The closing ceremony included presenting the Young Researchers Awards and honour awards for Prof. Dr. Nakiri, Prof. Dr. Kernspecht and Dr. Słopecki, beside Anniversary medals IPA for Prof. Dr. hab. Starosta (15th Anniversary), Prof. Dr. Gutiérrez-García, Prof. Dr. Pieter and Prof. Dr. Raimondo (all 20th Anniversary).

3.- Conclusion

It is great to see such a variety of disciplines coming together to research so many different fields of the Martial Art. Dividing the sections or the conference topic more clearly to enable specialists to work more closely together would be an important step to improve future proceedings.

In conclusion, it can be said that the third IMACSSS conference was very well organised by Prof. Dr. Cynarski and his team. The conference enabled scientists and martial artists of the whole world to come together, connecting with each other personally and on an academic level, thus developing further relations for cooperation in the researches of MA&CS, creating a sizable and effective network, which hopefully will be continuously developed in the next conference in Turkey, which will be organised by Prof. Dr. Fatih Hazar, October 14th to 16th 2015.

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