

<FINALVERSION>

[CONCEPT NOTE]

**2021 4TH AFRICAN MARTIAL ARTS
CONFERENCE
(WEBINAR)**

THEME: *“THE POTENTIAL ROLE OF ICM IN AFRICA”*

ORGANISED BY

UNESCO ICM

WEB SEMINAR

1 – 2 DECEMBER 2021

1. Rationale

2021 4th African Martial Arts Conference (Webinar), which is on the theme: *‘The Potential Role of ICM in Africa’*, is being organized by the UNESCO International Centre of Martial Arts (ICM) in collaboration with the UNESCO Member States in Africa and its National Commissions for UNESCO, and various martial arts (regional) organizations are purposed to provide **ONLINE** discussion platform to dialogue on the prospective role of ICM for African youth and women development.

After a successful hosting of the 1st and 2nd African Regional Martial Arts Congress in Kenya in 2018, and Ghana in 2019, respectively, the 3rd Conference was to be held in Harare, Zimbabwe in the Southern African region in 2020. However, last year, we hosted the 3rd one online ever due to the continuous state of the COVID-19 pandemic, and this pandemic remains uncertain so far until this year, we finally have decided to host our 4th African Martial Arts Conference online (Web Seminar) too.

Therefore, we, ICM are organizing the **2021 4th African Martial Arts Conference through the web (Zoom Platform), scheduled to take place on 1st – 2nd December 2021.** The Conference is expected to convene more than **20 related experts from the UNESCO Member States in Africa, UNESCO National Offices, International and regional organizations, and the field of youth education and women empowerment** aligned with martial arts topics across the African Continent.

2. Background

Since 1984, UNESCO has defined the African Continent as a global priority area in the implementation of its mandate. In 37 C/4 Medium-Term Strategy (2014-2021), UNESCO mainstreamed Africa and Gender Equality as in its two Global Priorities to be formalized across UNESCO’s programmatic activities. In relation to this, the Operational Strategy for Priority Africa (2014-2021) has been devised which namely details 6 flagship programs related to all of the focus areas such as Education, Natural Sciences, Social and Human Sciences, Culture, Communication and Information. This strategy is closely aligned with both the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the African Union’s 2063 Agenda: *The Africa We Want*.

Likewise, UNESCO also has developed the Operational Strategy 2014-2021 on Youth as a means of mobilizing key stakeholders around common goals. According to the world youth report 2018, there are 1.2 billion young people aged 15 to 24, accounting for 16 percent of the global population. So, UNESCO encourages youth aimed at empowering young people, especially young girls and women, fostering and supporting their activities, promoting partnerships, and ensuring their recognition and visibility with its various networks and partner organizations. Along the same line, we, ICM believe martial arts is an effective educational method to teach youth and women values and life skills that are needed to build a culture of peace and non-violence. This movement can start in schools with quality martial arts education to teach all African youth and women.

Furthermore, ICM has been at the forefront of efforts to support women’s and girls’ rights to participate in our martial arts projects (e.g. Martial Arts Open School from 2017 to 2021) to achieve their empowerment and gender equality through martial arts education. We believe gender equality in education is a basic right and a prerequisite to building inclusive societies to attain the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda, particularly Goal 4 on quality education and Goal 5 on gender equality. This also supports UNESCO’s global priorities included in the Medium-Term Strategy 2014-2021 and the Gender Equality Action Plan 2014-2021 as well as UNESCO Strategy for Gender Equality through Education 2019-2025. Especially, a large gender gap exists in access to martial arts, learning achievement, and continuation in the martial arts education field in Africa. We, ICM believe that martial arts education should be strengthened as it is an effective tool for sustainable development in Africa: Improving equity, quality, and relevance of its education. This Conference will look into Africa, youth, women, and martial arts together and discuss the potential role of ICM for Africa.

3. Overview

- Date: 1(Wed) to 2(Thu) December 2021
- Venue: **Online Web Seminar** (Broadcasted in YouTube and Facebook Live)
* For Korean Participants, filming in International Conference Hall, UNESCO ICM, Chungju-city, Korea
- Time: **16:00 ~ 19:00 pm** (3 hours, Local Time in Korea) for each day

Africa Local Time (Broadcasting Time)		
Kenya (East)	Zimbabwe (South)	Ghana (West)
10:00 am ~ 13:00 pm (3h)	09:00 am ~ 12:00 pm (3h)	08:00 am ~ 11:00 pm (3h)

- Conference Theme: “**The Potential Role of ICM in Africa**”

2021 4th African Martial Arts Conference is divided into four sessions, in which scholars, martial arts practitioners, field experts in Africa and the related UNESCO personnel are invited to present various topics and opinions on the main theme

Date	Topic
Day 1 (12.1)	Opening – Opening Remarks & Congratulatory Remarks, Introduction of ICM, Ceremony of ICM 2021 Martial Arts Education Prize
	Keynote Session – UNESCO Vision and ICM with Africa Tradition and Peace
	Session 1 – SDG 4: Quality Martial Arts Education and Leadership for Children and Youth in Africa
Day 2 (12.2)	Session 2 – SDG 5: Capacity Building and Equality for Girls and Women in Africa
	Session 3 – SDG 17: Global Partnerships and Networking for Africa
	Closing – ICM-Africa Martial Arts Action Plan and Way Forward

- Language: **English** (Korean - Simultaneous Interpretation)
 - Host/Organizer: **UNESCO International Centre of Martial Arts (ICM)**
 - Participating Countries (11) : Ghana, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Rwanda, Mauritius, Tanzania, Kenya, Zimbabwe, USA, UNESCO, WoMAU and the Republic of Korea
- ※ All successful participants will be awarded a Certificate of Participation

4. Programme Schedule

Time (KST)	Programme / Topic	Speakers
DAY 1 (Wed / 1 December 2021)		
Opening & Keynote Sessions		
16:00 ~ 16:15	Opening Ceremony	MC: Changhee HAN (Programme Specialist) Congratulatory Messages (4) Opening Speech (1) 1. Changhyun Park (Secretary-General of UNESCO ICM)
16:15 ~ 16:45	Ceremony of 2021 ICM Martial Arts Education Prize	Sunghye HONG (PM of ICM Education Prize) Winner of the Prize (Kung Fu Nuns)
16:45 ~ 17:20	Keynote Session: UNESCO Vision and ICM with Africa Tradition and Peace	Prof. Geonsoo Han (1 st Keynote Speaker / Korea) Prof. Bella Bello Bitugu (2 nd Keynote Speaker / Ghana)
17:20 ~ 17:30	Introduction of ICM (Video Play), Play Video of 2021 5 th Martial Arts Open School / Intro of Session I	Changhee HAN (MC)
Session I: SDG 4 - Quality Martial Arts Education and Leadership for Children and Youth in Africa <CHAIR: Chief Michael Shamsu Mustapha (Sierra Leone)>		
17:30 ~ 17:50	1 st Speaker	Prof. Hyeyoung Jo (Korea)
17:50 ~ 18:10	2 nd Speaker	Mr. Allahjabo Suleiman Cabo (Sudan)
18:10 ~ 18:30	3 rd Speaker	Mr. Jean Claude Rugigana (Rwanda)
18:30 ~ 18:50	4 th Speaker	Mr. Sarvesh Lutchmun (Mauritius)
18:50 ~ 19:00	Panel Discussion / Question and Answer Session / Closing of Day 1	
Day 2 (Thu / 2 December 2021)		
16:00 ~ 16:05	Day 1 Wrap-up / Intro of Day 2	Changhee HAN (MC)
Session II: SDG 5 – Capacity Building and Equality for Girls and Women In Africa <CHAIR: Mr. Ghonche Materego (Tanzania)>		
16:05 ~ 16:20	1 st Speaker	Ms. Lona Abiero (Kenya)

16:20 ~ 16:35	2 nd Speaker	Ms. Vicklyn Fudia Amara-Dosunmu (Sierra Leone)
16:35 ~ 16:50	3 rd Speaker	Ms. Grace Chirumanzu (Zimbabwe)
16:50 ~ 17:05	4 th Speaker	Prof. Jerono Phylis Rotich (USA)
17:05 ~ 17:20	Panel Discussion / Question and Answer Session	
17:20 ~ 17:25	Intro of 2021 ICM International Martial Arts Photo Exhibition (VR) / Intro of Session III	
Session III: SDG 17 – Global Partnerships and Networking for Africa		
<CHAIR: Mr. Aghan Odera Agan (Kenya)>		
17:25 ~ 17:40	1 st Speaker	Mr. Sungyong, Heo (Korea)
17:40 ~ 17:55	2 nd Speaker	Mr. Apollonius Osei-Akoto (Ghana)
17:55 ~ 18:10	3 rd Speaker	Dr. Yumiko Yokozeki (UNESCO)
18:10 ~ 18:25	4 th Speaker	Prof. Kwon Huh (WoMAU)
18:25 ~ 18:35	Panel Discussion / Question and Answer Session	
18:35 ~ 18:40	Break for watching ICM's videos / Intro of Session IV	
Closing: ICM-AFRICA Martial Arts Action Plan and Way Forward		
18:40 ~ 19:00	Sum up and Closing	Changhee HAN (MC)
19:00 ~	ICM's Martial Arts Demonstration Team Video Performance / End of Conference	

5. Objectives

The 2021 4th African Martial Arts Conference intends to:

- Create an online platform for in-depth discussions on current issues in African youth and women with martial arts
- Discuss a joint resolution that has provided long-term cooperation with Africa and has obtained support and cooperation from UNESCO member states and related organization
- Promote continuous exchanges between African and domestic experts through preservation and awareness of traditional African martial arts and policy discussions.

6. Expected Outcomes

- Contribute to establishing peace and reconciliation culture in Africa by enhancing mutual understanding and interest in martial arts issues in Africa
- Establish a human network by discovering martial arts experts and researchers, and developing martial arts activities in the African region, as well as promoting experts exchanges.
- Adopt ICM-Africa Martial Arts Action Plan and propose martial arts-related policies for the youth and women development.

7. Session Description

| 2021. 12. 1 - Day 1 / Keynote Session

Session Title: UNESCO Vision and ICM with Africa Tradition and Peace



UNESCO is one of the United Nations specialized agencies and its visions have been contributing to the implementation of the SDGs through its works in many fields. Under the Social and Human Sciences Sector, UNESCO International Centre of Martial Arts (ICM) is one of kind Category II centre which utilizes the philosophy and cultural values of martial arts in providing physical and psychological activities that could contribute to youth development, leadership cultivation, and social empowerment for women. Especially, with the educational value of martial arts, ICM promotes a culture of peace and non-violence and endeavors for the development of youth women, and the achievement of the UN SDGs. This keynote session will stress the importance of martial arts in the promotion of UN SDGs and the need for promoting and developing peace education, particularly among the youth and women in Africa. Also, martial arts can be a recognized instrument for development and peace as it disregards both geographical borders and social differences. It promotes social inclusion and economic development in different geographical, cultural and political contexts. We will see how quality martial arts education promotes the cultural and social dimensions. Further, this session will look into the role of ICM is pivotal, and its main goal should be African youth development and women engagement in UNESCO priority areas, with emphases on SDGs, particularly, Goal 4 (Quality Education), Goal 5 (Gender Equality) and Goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

| 2021. 12. 1 - Day 1 / Session 1

Session Title: SDG 4 - Quality Martial Arts Education and Leadership for Children and Youth in Africa



2021 4TH AFRICAN MARTIAL ARTS CONFERENCE
The Potential Role of ICM in Africa

keynote | SESSION 1 | 1 DECEMBER 2021 WEDNESDAY
Korea 16:00-19:00 | Eastern Africa 10:00-13:00
Southern Africa 09:00-12:00 | Western Africa 08:00-11:00

SDG 4: Quality Martial Arts Education and Leadership for Children and Youth in Africa

CHAIR

- 
Michael Shamsu MUSTAPHA
SIERRA LEONE
Secretary-General
Union of African Traditional Sports and Games (UATSG)

SPEAKERS

- 
Hyeyoung JO
KOREA
Professor
Gongju National University of Education
- 
Allahjabo Suleiman CABO
SUDAN
President
Sudan Wrestling Federation
- 
Jean Claude RUGIGANA
RWANDA
IOC Young Leader Alumni /
Communication Officer
Rwanda National Olympic and Sports Committee (RNOSC)
- 
Sarvesh LUTCHMUN
MAURITIUS
Founder (Secretary-General)
Grand River South East Youth Circle

Organizer:  ICM
Sponsors: 

As UNESCO is focusing on the roles of African youth and the rights of children, more than 60% of the population is under 25 in Africa. UNESCO seeks international cooperation from the youth by considering them as partners, and furthermore, as the main agents of action and change. African youth has confronted many problems: Adolescents violence, internet addiction, domestic violence, a dropout from school, and anti-social behaviour, child labour, school violence with bullying, and youth from refugees, unemployment and health and hygiene issues, depression in youth linked with risk of suicide. We, ICM, believe martial arts have a positive effect on youth development. It improves the health of the body and mind and improves resilience that can overcome hardships and adversity. We also reckon that martial arts can provide opportunities to discover themselves in the circumstances of failure or defeat, and maintain the health of body and mind by taking care of emotions through regular martial arts activities. This session is to analyze the current status of youth programs in Africa and to seek ways to think quality martial arts education to strengthen youth competency and leadership.

■ Session Topics:

- 1) Current status and cases of the programs to strengthen youth competency and leadership in Africa
- 2) Initiative of youth participating in youth programs in Africa
- 3) Proposal of African Youth Programmes through martial arts, and its education

- 4) Martial Arts Values and Philosophies and the positive role of martial arts
- 5) Educational, cultural, the historical value of martial arts for youth
- 6) Martial arts for peace and historical reconciliation in Africa
- 7) Project improvements of ICM for youth development
- 8) Seeking ways for youth participation and planning African youth exchange
- 9) Strengthening the competence of youth through martial arts, value education, peace education, cultural and education event, and youth and society participation

|2021.12.2 - Day 2 / Session 2

Session Title: SDG 5 - Capacity Building and Equality for Girls and Women in Africa



2021 4TH AFRICAN MARTIAL ARTS CONFERENCE
The Potential Role of ICM in Africa

SESSION 2 | session 3 | 2 DECEMBER 2021 THURSDAY
Korea 16:00-19:00 | Eastern Africa 10:00-13:00
Southern Africa 09:00-12:00 | Western Africa 08:00-11:00

SDG 5: Capacity Building and Equality for Girls and Women in Africa

CHAIR

Ghonche MATEREGO
TANZANIA
Director
Creative Cultural Heritage of Tanzania / Kaleleo Sanaa Network

Lona ABIERO
KENYA
Gold Medalist / National Team Player
Kenya Tong-Il Moo-Do Federation

Vicklyn Fudia AMARA-DOSUNMU
SIERRA LEONE
Martial Arts Instructor
Vic Amara School of Martial Arts, Sierra Leone

Grace CHIRUMANZU
ZIMBABWE
Martial Artist / Zimbabwe Karate Union
2018 Zimbabwe Sportswoman of the year

Jerono Phylis ROTICH
USA
Professor and Chair
North Carolina Central University

Organizer:  Sponsors: 

UNESCO focuses on global priorities: Africa and Gender Equality. Girls and women in Africa have faced various kinds of challenges such as lack of girls and women's rights, sexual and domestic violence, and unfair opportunity for the job market, lack of women empowerment, gender discrimination. In the martial arts field, there are more: absence of physical activities, persistent biases, and barriers exist in the martial arts and sports field. Therefore, we ICM would like to hear real stories to generate measures for project improvement and cooperation for women's development such as women empowerment, overcoming gender discrimination, preventing violence against girls and women. This session is to analyze the current status of African women's competency and leadership reinforcement programs and seek ways to link quality martial arts education (or becoming martial arts athletes) to strengthen girls' and women's capacity building.

■ **Session Topics:**

- 1) Current (or future) challenges for female martial arts players (athletes)
- 2) Women's violence prevention programs and issues in gender discrimination
- 3) Barriers and achievements for African girls and women, woman leadership
- 4) Life after retirement, martial arts career, job searching for women athletes
- 5) Making women martial arts network in Africa
- 6) The role of women in martial arts and the role of martial arts in women in Africa
- 7) Health and life value of martial arts for African women
- 8) Women empowerment through martial arts
- 9) Adopt policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality
- 10) Promoting equal access and visibility for women in Africa
- 11) Reduce gender gaps and make a welcoming environment for women
- 12) Current status and cases of African women's competency and leadership enhancement in Africa
- 13) Promote participation in martial arts activities for girls and women in Africa
- 14) Strengthen the leadership of African female martial arts players, athletes, and sportswomen

| 2021. 12. 1 - Day 1 / Session 3

Session Title: SDG 17 - Global Partnerships and Networking for Africa



2021 4TH AFRICAN MARTIAL ARTS CONFERENCE
The Potential Role of ICM in Africa

session 2 **SESSION 3** 2 DECEMBER 2021 THURSDAY
Korea 16:00-19:00 | Eastern Africa 10:00-13:00
Southern Africa 09:00-12:00 | Western Africa 08:00-11:00

SDG 17: Global Partnerships and Networking for Africa

CHAIR

- 
Aghan Odera AGAN
KENYA
Executive Director
Zamaleo Arts and Culture Trust

SPEAKERS

- 
Sungyong, HEO
KOREA
CEO /
Representative of Africa Insight
- 
Apollonius Osei-Akoto ASARE
GHANA
Chief Programme Officer of
Ghana National Commission for
UNESCO, Ministry of Education,
Republic of Ghana
- 
Yumiko YOKOZEKI
UNESCO
Director of UNESCO IICBA
Acting Director for UNESCO
Addis Ababa
- 
Kwon HUH
WoMAU (KOREA)
Professor and Vice President,
Mongolia International University
Executive Board Member of
World Martial Arts Union (WoMAU)

Through the evaluation report of ICM by UNESCO, ICM received a very positive evaluation of the various programs in Africa. ICM conducted diverse projects in Africa and provided opportunities for disadvantaged youth in Africa to develop self-improvement and for women to participate in the practice of martial arts (Martial Arts Open School Projects, African Conference). So, we, ICM believe that it is important to help young people in Africa and the Conference contributes to empowering an African network for holding discussions on current issues related to African martial arts. This means ICM has embedded the UNESCO priorities and complies with UNESCO strategic objectives. We believe Africa is a major area for UNESCO and ICM for youth development and peacebuilding as well as engagements of boys and girls so we will keep in place Africa as a priority. So, ICM could develop more initiatives to increase its collaborations and global partnerships in the African Continent. Also, it would be beneficial for us to develop strategic partnerships with other organizations in the field of martial arts in Africa. Therefore, this session will discuss how to vitalize the African Martial Arts Network and how ICM supports the role of African martial artists and organizations.

■ **Session Topics:**

- 1) Current Status of African Martial Arts Networks
- 2) Presentation on the cases of regional cooperation in Africa for martial arts (or Sports)
- 3) Planning to cooperate between ICM and African martial arts networks (organizations)
- 4) Cooperative projects between public and NGOs, UNESCO, other related organizations
- 5) Projects in Africa by other institutions (NGOs, NATCOMs, Universities, Governments),
- 6) Forming strategic (Global) partnerships with ICM for Africa
- 7) The role of ICM to promote youth and women's participation in martial arts in Africa
- 8) New vision and strategy to vitalize ICM-African relationships for the future
- 9) Policies of UNESCO, ICM, and other organizations for Africa
- 10) Enhancing international support and endorsement for better implementation
- 11) Policy coherence for sustainable development in Africa
- 12) Sports (or martial arts) diplomacy, Martial Arts ODA, Provision of martial arts projects
- 13) Promoting community empowerment and participation, strategic stakeholder networks in Africa, and achieving the 2030 agendas (or Kazan Action Plan), etc.

8. Sponsors

Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, Republic of Korea, Chungcheongbuk-do, Chungju-si

9. Venue

Online Web Seminar (Broadcasted in UNESCO ICM YouTube and Facebook Live)

10. Correspondence and Contacts

All inquiries on the Conference should be addressed to:

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