

Unificationist Martial Artists Feed Panama in During the COVID Pandemic

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Soke Fabio Pérez receives an award from Don Nito Cortijo, the president of Panama, for the work of Hisao Lee Academy in distributing food throughout the nation in 2020 and 2021.

Since 2006, I have known Grand Master Fabio Pérez, a martial artist who trained thousands of young people in Panama out of faith, love and patriotism.

When I taught him the Divine Principle, he was stunned, amazed at the clarity of its content. He quickly got two hundred black belts from his organization to listen to the lectures. Finally, he and fifty couples received True Parents' marriage blessing and completed all the corresponding steps. The Hisao Lee School has fourteen clubs with their respective teachers, one of which is the Tong-II Moo-Do Club with thirty-three associated black belts. Master Fabio asked me if he could report this recognition to the Korean representatives of Central America and especially to True Mother.

Objective accomplished

The Panamanian organization of martial arts called the Hisao Lee School is about to turn fifty years old. Soke Fabio Pérez leads the organization, which the president of Panama, Don Nico Cortizo, recently recognized for their great work of packaging food to ship to the entire country during pandemic in 2020 and 2021.

Despite the pandemic, none of the four hundred Hisao Lee volunteers who participated in this task were infected with COVID-19 or any other disease. They kept respecting the protocol, working hard and drinking yerba mate with algae micro chlorella, which kept them in good health.

A little history

In 2006, Soke Fabio Pérez made contact at a tournament in the Philippines with me, who has been responsible for the Tong-II Moo-Do style throughout Latin America since 2001. On that occasion, Soke Pérez deeply studied the Unification philosophy.

When he returned to his country, he brought together the eight closest masters to listen to the content. Later it was extended to two hundred black belts and finally fifty families received the marriage blessing and carried out all the corresponding steps.

At an early age, Soke Fabio Pérez met a master of Karate and a master of Kung Fu, who taught him their styles with a peaceful spirit. He received the enlightenment that his school would be made up of men and women of light or warriors of light, called *sung shi da*. Those masters told others that they had to prepare because in the future the other men and women of light would come from the east and that they would have to unite with them for the good of God and humanity.

It should be noted that the Hisao Lee School throughout its history did not allow masters of other arts to teach courses to its students. However, they opened the external and internal doors of their organization for the teaching of Tong-II Moo-Do.

Guardians of the country

Hisao Lee Academy is essentially a highly disciplined and spiritual group. All of Panama talks about them. Their 3,500 members are considered guardians of the country.

Four hundred of their instructors are part of the National Civil Defense Force, who take action against any disaster that occurs in the country.

The group is constantly on the move.

Interestingly, the group is made up of many professionals, young people who in the past did not have a clear future due to poverty or the loss of their families. Soke Fabio invited them to his academy, trained them to focus on values and they became great professionals. The Ministry of Social Development, with the presence of the president of Panama, Don Nito Cortijo, paid tribute to the country's volunteers, highlighting the enormous value of their contributions toward transforming and improving lives. The national government supports and will always support their efforts, because they are committed to strengthening volunteering at the national level.



The importance of martial arts

What is the Federation of Martial Arts for World Peace and its objectives?

True Parents founded the organization in March 1997 in Washington DC in the US. Its first president was Master Sun Myung Duk, the second president was Grandmaster Dr. Joon-ho Seuk and the third and current president is Grandmaster Pyun-rae Moon.

The Martial Arts Federation for World Peace held its Inaugural World Convention in Washington DC March 23-27, 1997, bringing together more than four hundred leading martial artists from eighty-three nations to discuss how their disciplines could cooperate to provide moral leadership and contribute to the establishment of world peace. It has tried to transcend all the differences that exist between people who practice martial arts. The federation respects all martial arts and is dedicated to achieving unity and cooperation for a greater purpose, namely world peace.

To achieve world peace, the federation emphasizes teaching I-Unificationist thinking and strengthening the spirit of martial artists through education. In this regard, Tong-il Moo-Do will actively support the Martial Arts Federation for World Peace and will be at the forefront in providing spiritual education for martial artists through the Tong-II Moo-Do philosophies.

Currently, its headquarters are in Korea, and there are delegations in Japan, the United States and in the other countries where the work of Tong-il Moo-Do is being carried out.

What is Tong-il Moo-Do? The core of it is the unification principles. It is the path of unified martial arts, which when centered on the unification principles, harmonize and systematize circular movements (smooth movements) as the subject, and linear movements (hard movements) as the object, and give them meaning and value. The technical aspects of Tong-il Moo-Do are to harmonize and integrate the very essence of all martial arts techniques, improve all existing techniques, and also create new techniques. Through Tong-II Moo-Do training, students can learn the Unification Principle and feel the Principle through their body and implement the Principle in your daily life. The Divine Principle is the absolute universal values based on the heart, true love and conscience, which unifies spiritual and material values, harmonizes traditional and contemporary values, integrates Eastern and Western values. The central idea of Tong-II Moo-Do is the idea of "Love heaven, love humanity and love the nation." It is a new principle that can unify mind and body, help create a happy family, and achieve a peaceful world with true love.

The main goal of learning Tong-II Moo-Do is for all students to achieve mature character, establish a true family, and make a great contribution to the prosperity of society and world peace. The ultimate purpose of Tong-II Moo-Do training is to build together a world of coexistence, co-prosperity and co-justice, which is the world culture of the heart.

A brief history of Tong-II Moo-Do

On January 5, 1979, Dr. Moon instructed Dr. Seuk to teach Tong-II Moo-Do at the Belvedere Training Center and Unification Theological Seminary in America. Shortly after that, he also told her to teach Tong-II Moo-Do to all the security guards in East Garden, including four "Kyokushin Karate" black belt holders. On Easter Sunday, April 15, 1979, Dr. Moon visited the gymnasium at Belvedere to see the guards training at Tong-II Moo-Do. After watching a short exposition, he wrote a calligraphy with the words "Going boldly with discipline." This was the official beginning of Tong II Moo Do.

In 1980, representatives of four martial arts groups -- Chongdosul, Kyokushin Karate, Joon Rhee Tae Kwon Do and Tong-II Moo-Do -- gave an exhibition. On January 2, 1983, Dr. Seuk became the leader of CARP-USA and began a tour of American college campuses giving Unification Thought lectures and Tong-II Moo-Do exhibits. The title of the tour was "Martial Arts and Unificationism." It began in the winter at Boston University and continued through the University of Texas at Houston, the University of

Wisconsin at Madison, and the University of California at Berkeley.

In those days, these universities were famous strongholds of the left-wing student movement.

During the first martial arts tour, left wing students did their best to oppose the tour. However, most of the students showed interest in the lectures. During the second tour, the power of the leftists was greatly weakened. In 1986, Kensaku Takahashi, one of the best Tong-Il Moo-Do instructors, visited England and Germany and held a European Continental Martial Arts Seminar in the Netherlands.

Michael Kellett established a Tong-Il Moo-Do school in San Francisco, and a Finnish apprentice returned home and established the first branch of Tong-Il Moo-Do in Europe. Soon after, he established a Tong-Il Moo-Do school in Estonia, which at that time was still part of the Soviet Union. Through the founding of Tong-Il Moo-Do in Estonia, Dr. Seuk and Mr. Takahashi were able to enter Russia even before True Father made his trip to Moscow in April 1990. After that, Mr. Takahashi was sent to Eastern and Western Europe, Argentina, Kenya, the Philippines and Thailand to carry out special Tong-Il Moo-Do training programs, through which during this time many members new ones joined the church. Gerry Servito began teaching Tong-Il Moo-Do in the Philippines. In the 1980s, during its heyday, they produced more than a hundred black belts. Under the instruction of these black belts, thousands of students studied Tong-Il Moo-Do. To teach all these students, a branch was established in Manila and forty new branches were opened in the Philippines. Many of the Filipino instructors traveled to various countries in Southeast Asia, Africa and South America to spread Tong-Il Moo-Do.

In Argentina, when I was the national leader of FFWUP, I introduced Tong-Il Moo-Do in Brazil, Uruguay and some other countries.

He once gave an exhibition of Tong-Il Moo-Do in front of 5,000 people at the Luna Park stadium in Buenos Aires. During their heyday in Kenya, instructor Henry Mungai, who graduated top of his class, and Francis Njiru opened 32 Tong-Il Moo-Do clubs with more than 1,000 students as members. They also opened clubs in neighboring Ethiopia and Rwanda. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tong-Il Moo-Do was introduced in 1990 by a Philippine brother named June Flores.



Hisao Lee Academy members working hard preparing food packets during the pandemic.

Remaining active

Despite the pandemic, Tong-Il Moo-Do has not stopped holding seminars, leader's meetings and online competitions. We recently had a competition organized by the World Mastership Chonju with the practitioners from twenty-one countries and 175 practitioners of just Tong-Il Moo-Do style.

This competition is on its way to be the new "Olympics" for martial arts. It brings together twenty-two styles of traditional martial arts and is promoted by the government of the South Korea's North Chungcheon Province.

In December, a world tournament organized by the Kenyan Tong-Il Moo-Do Federation will take place in person, led by Master Clarence Mwakio Ingala, with the Kenyan government's support.

Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, the Mother of Peace and co-founder of the Federation of Martial Arts for World Peace and Tong-Il Moo-Do, co-founded, in 2016, with Grand Master Seuk, the Il Won Do style, composed of gentle circular movements similar to Tai-Chi and Wu-shu (Kung Fu). In addition, the Il Won Do style also uses exercises practiced by True Father in Hungnam Prison and aerobic exercises proposed by True Mother.

Through this article, it is hoped that readers will take a greater interest in martial arts for the sake of their health but more than anything as a tool for testifying to the work of the Mother of Peace.