



### Introduction

It gives me great pleasure to present this report on activities for year 2014-2016. Some of the highlights include the following:

### Year 2014

- **Oceania Championships & YOG Qualifier** – This competition was held in Pago Pago, American Samoa. There were about 100 athletes that competed during the Championships. American Samoa hosted the Cadets, Junior and Seniors categories in the Freestyle, Greco Roman and Beach Wrestling styles. Special thanks goes out to UWW for providing the technical experts to assist with the competition and promoting our sport live on national television. A referee clinic was also held for new candidates and those referees seeking to be upgraded. There were 7 countries that competed in the YOG event with athletes qualifying for this event. Special thanks to UWW for donating a wrestling mat to American Samoa.
- **OCAWS General Assembly** – In attendance were 11 delegates from their respective federations. Tarkong read his report covering all aspects of activities by the Oceania Council in 2013. The members were provided with a statement of bank account activities at the meeting. Members recognized the technical assistance provided by UWW. UWW provided a \$20,000 subvention to OCAWS in order to assist with activities. The Oceania Council Members provided an update and report on all activities undertaken in their home countries. While some countries were able to make real progress in their development programs, other countries continue to struggle.
- **Coaching Course** - UWW hosted a Level 1 Coaching Course held in conjunction with our AGM and Oceania Championships. UWW sponsored 1 participant from each country to attend the course. There were a total of 11 coaches that completed the course.
- **2014 Oceania National Olympic Committee (ONOC) / Organisation of Sports Federation of Oceania (OSFO) Assemblies and Joint workshops** - With funding assistance from UWW, I was able to attend this event held at the Leo Palace Resort in Agana, Guam. There were approximately 150 delegates, 17 National Olympic Committees (NOCs) of the ONOC, 15 international sports federations (IFs), about six non-Olympic Countries and members of the International Olympic Committee. This event allowed us to talk about sports, IOC funding within our region and development of our athletes.
- **Micronesian Games** - The Micronesian Games were one of the most exciting events for our region being held in Pohnpei, FSM. The gym was packed with countless spectators of at least 500 people to watch their teams compete. For us Pacific Islanders in the North, these games are equivalent to having our own Olympic Games. There were a total of 7 teams that competed during this 3 day event in Greco Roman Style, Freestyle Mens and Womens Style and Beach Wrestling.
- **Commonwealth Games** - Australia and New Zealand participated in the games in Glasgow. Congratulations to both Tayla Ford and Sam Belkin of New Zealand for winning the bronze medals in their respective weight divisions.
- **Youth Olympic Games** - Out of the 112 wrestlers that competed in Nanjing, China at the YOG, 12 athletes were from the Oceania continent. Among the countries that competed from the Oceania Continent were American Samoa, Australia, Guam, Marshall Islands, Palau and New Zealand.
- **Senior World Championships** - Thanks to UWW, 3 member countries (American Samoa – 2 athletes, Guam-1 athlete and Palau-1 athlete) were able to compete at the WC held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. All of the athletes had a rough time at the competition. More focus and emphasis in the future should be on training preparations before sending our athletes to compete at high level competitions such as the WC.
- **Tokelau & French Polynesia** – The Congress approved both Tokelau and French Polynesia as our newest members of UWW. Altogether, we now have 17 Oceania members.



- **Oceania Regional Development Officer** – UWW appointed Ethan Lake of American Samoa as the new Oceania Regional Development Officer and would begin work on January 2015.
- **Olympic Scholarships** - Only two countries applied for the IOC scholarships. The Marshall Islands received a scholarship for their female athlete in the latter part of the year while Palau received confirmation in January 2015 for 2 male athletes.

#### Year 2015

- **The 2015 Oceania Wrestling Championships (FS, GR, FW, BW – Cadets, Junior & Seniors)** - There were 10 countries with approximately 50 athletes that competed during the Championships. The Oceania Championships was well organized and Marshall Islands Wrestling Federation was commended for a job well done.
- **The OCAWS General Assembly** – The AGM was held in Majuro, Marshall Islands. In attendance were 14 delegates from their respective federations. The meeting was very informative. Members discussed a number of issues and recognized the technical assistance provided by UWW to include a \$20,000 USD subvention to OCAWS. The Marshall Islands National Olympic Committee (MINOC) was recognized for their invaluable contribution and support to wrestling to include applying for an Olympic Solidarity Grant to assist in hosting the Regional Coaching Course and their willingness to assist with our strategic plan. Mr. Ethan Lake, Oceania RDO, explained the UWW vision, goals and the importance of taking advantage of the IOC Solidarity programs, explaining the different programs and encouraging all the NFs to apply through their NOCs. Other issues that were discussed included our strategic plan and a sub-committee being formed to review the plan, an update on the constitutional changes to include the UWW name change for Oceania, Olympic Qualification updates and the new bid requirements for hosting the Oceania Championships. The members provided a brief update and report on all activities undertaken in their home countries. Wrestling New Zealand won the bid to host the 2016 Oceania Championships.
- **UWW level 1 coaching course** – UWW hosted a Level 1 Coaching Educators Course held in conjunction with our AGM and Oceania Championships. The course was conducted by Mr. Ethan Lake, Oceania-Regional Development Officer. The participants ranged from beginners to the more experienced level coaches. The course was condensed into 3 days. The course was competency based and it covered theoretical and practical courses that focused on HOW TO COACH. There were a total of 36 participants that successfully completed the UWW Level 1 Coaches Course and have shown to be competent after taking both the practical and theoretical exams. The coaching course was an overall success. A referee clinic was also held for new candidates and those referees seeking to be upgraded.



- **2015 Junior World Championships** - Two athletes from Oceania competed in the Junior World Championships held in Salvador, Brazil from August 11-16, 2015. Ilonia Alison of the Marshall Islands competed in the FW 67kg division. Ilonia wrestled Elis Manalova of Azerbaijan and wrestled well during her match, but Azerbaijan was able to score and win the match by technical points. Ilonia ranked 14 out of 16 wrestlers. Jarvis Tarkong competed in the Mens FS 66kg weight division against Carlos Romero Millaqueo of Chili and won the match by fall for the win. Jarvis went on to advance and wrestle Antony Montero of Venezuela but lost by technical superiority. Out of 26 wrestlers Jarvis ranked 9<sup>th</sup> in the Junior WC. It should be noted that both athletes, Ilonia and Jarvis, were both on the IOC Scholarship.
- **2015 Senior World Championships** - Thanks to UWW, six athletes to include American Samoa, Guam, Palau, Marshall Islands, Nauru and New Zealand were able to receive technical assistance for 1 athlete to compete at the this event. A total of 7 Oceania Countries competed at the 2015 World Wrestling Championships held in Las Vegas, USA. The countries included athletes from American Samoa, Australia, Guam, Marshall Islands, Palau, Nauru and New Zealand. Among the Oceania Countries, one of the best performances ever was from Tayla Ford who competed in the 60kg freestyle female category. Ford eventually ranked 9 out of 15. In the mens Freestyle competition, the only other wrestler who would score was Florian Skilang Temengil of Palau who competed in the Mens 125kg weight division. Temengil ranked 17 out of 32 wrestlers.
- **ONOC & OSFO General Assembly & Conference** - Mr. John Saul, Oceania VP and Mr. Ethan Lake, Oceania RDO, were able to attend the ONOC / OSFO Assembly and Joint workshops held in Suva, Fiji. This important forum had several workshops that were beneficial to us and allowed us to talk about sports, development within our region and the type of support available to our NOC's and Sports Federations. The Sports Marketplace provided a great opportunity for sports federations to showcase their particular sport. This gathering allowed our members to meet with several NOC's and to hear from a number of successful programs happening in our region.

## Year 2016

- **2016 Oceania Championships - Cadets, Junior, Senior (FS/FW/GR/BW)** – The Championships was held in Hamilton, New Zealand. There were 10 countries that participated in these championships with a total of 174 athletes that competed in each of their respective Olympic weight classes.
- **Oceania AGM & Development Planning Forum** - The AGM was held on March 9<sup>th</sup> at the Kingsgate Hotel in Hamilton, New Zealand. There were 11 members that attended the meeting. Also in attendance was Mr. Lucas O’Ceallachain, UWW Sports Development Manager. Members discussed a range of issues to include discussion on whether to increase our membership fees, UWW Constitutional changes to include our name and logo, future hosting of the Oceania Championships, the Olympic Qualifying Tournaments, funding and policy on spending, the new UWW Bidding process, rules and dress and the upcoming ONOC Conference and ONOC funding requirements. Oceania recognized the technical assistance provided by UWW to include a \$20,000 USD subvention to OCAWS. French Polynesia did a presentation on their 2017 Oceania bid and American Samoa for year 2018. Special thanks goes out to Wrestling New Zealand for hosting the More than Medals Camp and Oceania Championships. The members provided a brief update and report on all activities undertaken in their home countries.
- **More Than Medals (MTM) Cadet Camp** – The MTM was held in New Zealand prior to the Oceania Championships. The initial concept of the camp was for UWW to bring in a top level International Cadet Coach to run the MTM as the Head coach and to have 2-3 Oceania federation coaches assist as volunteers. There were 7 countries and 19 participants that took part in the course. The camp was a success with 5 cadet wrestlers being selected to participate in the upcoming Cadet World Championships and MTM Camp.
- **NF Workshop and Development Planning Forum** – Member federations were able to take part in a National Federation workshop conducted by Mr. Lucas O’ceallachain, Development Director. The NF Workshop covered a number of topics to include the UWW Development Plan and updates of the progress of key programs and development; UWW and Olympic Solidarity Programs and types of technical assistance to include coaching courses, other programs and funding towards tournaments. Members had the opportunity to discuss and address a number of issues that were of concern with Mr. O’ceallachain. Members were provided with UWW Technical Assistance forms and applications and were asked to fill in the applications forms (e.g. wrestling mat). We were able to review and fill in the NF Scorecard and Planning Tool. The final session held on the last day included discussions with our members on types of assistance and how we can best move forward to promote and develop our plans and programs within Oceania. The topics of discussion included the current programs, hosting of the Oceania Championships, Pacific Games and other Games in the region, Olympic Qualifier, Coaching Courses and other types of technical assistance. Members discussed strategies on how strengthen our level of performance and participation at Oceania and how we could regain our status in hosting the Oceania Championships as an Olympic Qualifying event in year 2020. We discussed wrestling in the Pacific Games and how we were struggling to get wrestling back into the Pacific Games. Our focus and priority needs to be on the Pacific Games and having the games become a Continental Games and possibly an Olympic Qualifier. Oceania would like to thank UWW for allowing Mr. O’ceallachain the opportunity to travel and meet Oceania and our members. This face to face meeting was important to us as we struggle to develop our sport in our region.
- **Oceania National Olympic Committee (ONOC) & Olympic Sports Federation of Oceania (OSFO) General Assembly Meeting and Conference** – This event was held in Port Villa, Vanuatu. Mr. Ethan Lake, Oceania RDO, was able to attend this event which included a number of workshops / forums to include the Pacific Sports Partnership Program that discussed their Australian based programs; the Olympic Solidarity and Oceania Sports Education Program; Discussion by the Pacific Games Council on the future of the Pacific Games; and the fourth workshop was on the Strategic Planning for Regional Sports Federation and OSFO. The Sports Marketplace was an opportunity to discuss and answer questions for those that were interested in the different sports. There were meetings and networking with the NOC’s, IF’s and National Federations that were quite positive. There were a number of presentations at the general assembly conference for OSFO and ONOC that covered issues on a number of projects and programs for the NOC’s.



- **Africa-Oceania Olympic Qualifier** – Oceania had 6 countries that competed in Algiers, Africa. Australia was the only country to qualify with 4 athletes to include the following: Sahit Prizreni (2<sup>nd</sup> Place-FS 65kg); Talgat Ilyasov (2<sup>nd</sup> place - FS 74kg); Australia - Vinod Kumar (2<sup>nd</sup> place – GR 66kg); and Ivan Popov (2<sup>nd</sup> place – GR 130kg). Other athletes that won medals but did not qualify included Stevie Kelly (Aus) FW 63kg bronze; Tayla Ford (NZL) FW 63kg bronze; Nathaniel Tuamoheloa (ASA) FS 86kg – bronze; and Florian Temengil (PLW) FS 125kg – bronze. It should be noted that the Oceania Continent did not have a representative from our Continent representing our interest and concerns while in Africa and this was addressed to President Lalovic. Oceania hopes that UWW will recognize the Oceania Continent as having its own Olympic Qualifier in our continent for year 2020.
- **1<sup>st</sup> World Olympic Qualifier (Mongolia)** –Oceania was represented by 3 member countries to include Guam - 3 athletes, Australia – 1 athlete and New Zealand – 1 athlete. It was very tough tournament. None qualified at this event.
- **Final Olympic Qualification Tournament** – 4 countries to include American Samoa (1 FS athlete), Australia (1 FW athlete), New Zealand (1 FW athletes) and Palau (2 FS athletes) competed at the final Olympic Qualification Tournament held in Istanbul, Turkey. Unfortunately, none of the athletes were able to qualify.
- **Universality Place** – Upon completion of the Wrestling events, 4 Universality places were awarded by the Olympic Games Tripartite Commission of the IOC for the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. Florian Temengil of Palau was one of the recipients.
- **UWW Educators Course, Las Vegas** – UWW sponsored 2 coaches from New Zealand and Tokelau to take part in the UWW Educator Course. Congratulations to Mark Grayling (NZL) and Ilai Elekana Manu (TKL).

### Conclusion

There are many challenges that we face in our large and undeveloped region. In order for Oceania to develop our sport we need to have one unified strategy and focus over the next 4 years. I would like to take this opportunity to thank UWW for their support and technical assistance for developing the programs that are desperately needed to bring out change in our region. Although funding is a challenge in our region, we realize that much more needs to be done so that we can develop and implement programs in our region.

Oceania Wrestling would like to thank and acknowledge the efforts of our Oceania members of the 17 federations. Wrestling is fortunate to have our members and volunteers of valuable people working to strengthen our sport. We look forward to further achievements in the near future.

John Tarkong Jr.  
 President  
 United World Wrestling - Oceania