



International Boxing Association

## **President's Report for 2010 AIBA Congress**



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## **Report from AIBA President for 2010 AIBA Congress (October 4, 2010)**

Dear Presidents, Secretaries General and Members of National Federations,

I am pleased to submit a brief report on AIBA development in the past 4 years as the President of the International Boxing Association.

Immediately after the Congress in Santo Domingo in November 2006, AIBA set up a Reform Committee in order to review all issues related to the sport of boxing and AIBA organization. The AIBA Reform Committee consisted of a 10-member panel including four AIBA Executive Committee members and six external experts. The Reform Committee was chaired by IOC Executive Board member – Mr Gerhard Heiberg.

Before the first AIBA Reform Committee meeting in February 2007 in Taipei, an extensive survey was conducted to collect the voices of AIBA Member Federations. All boxing specialists around the world had the opportunity to present their opinions to the Committee. The final recommendations were then presented at the AIBA Executive Committee meeting held in June 2007 in Lausanne and were approved unanimously at the AIBA Extraordinary Congress held in October 2007 in Chicago.

As a result, AIBA was able to enhance considerably the profile of boxing as one of the leading global sports, focusing its attention on the athletes, Confederations, and Member Federations, as well as enhancing its own brand values.

Over this period, AIBA has made some great progress in strengthening the image of the noble sport of boxing within the Olympic Movement and further developing it to the benefit of the global boxing family.

The value of a brand determines the success and defines the image of an organization. For the 2006 – 2010 quadrennial, AIBA made its best effort to rebuild its reputation and the confidence so that the brand value of the sport of boxing could be enhanced. The most visible reflection of this came with the launch of the new logo and brand identity. The new logo, in two parts with text, shows the dynamism and vitality that stimulated the new development of international boxing.

To establish a strong structural framework for the new AIBA, the AIBA Articles were amended and renamed as the AIBA Statutes. Furthermore, AIBA Bylaws and Code of Ethics were drafted for the first time and implemented to strengthen the commitment to AIBA's reform activities.

Over the past four years, a number of new initiatives tailored specifically at changing the perception of the Member Federations were developed. Initiatives such as the open scoring system in competition, computerized draws, new Referee & Judge Management System and a professional approach to anti-doping and are a clear demonstration of AIBA's commitment to honesty and transparency.

AIBA has worked with external partners, such as members of the International Olympic Committee (AIBA Advisory Council), members of the boxing family and athletes to enhance the reform movement by organizing an AIBA Forum in December of both 2008 and 2009. For the first time, AIBA openly discussed key topics such as ethics, judging and the development of women's boxing. Contributions from members of the boxing family and external partners have helped to shape the blueprint of AIBA's future.

Previously, there were two AIBA continental governing bodies per continent but during the past four years, AIBA merged these into one and established one AIBA Confederation on each continent. Moreover, the creation the AIBA President's Cup has fostered greater unity at continental level, since this team competition involves boxers from the same continent competing together. This helped to build closer relationships through boxing.

AIBA's ambitious development projects over the past four years have seen the groundwork done for the new AIBA Boxing Academy and the start of the first pre-tournament training camps for emerging countries and boxing emerging nations. The pre-tournament training programs, identified as "Road to..." followed by the host city of the competition (Road to Milan, Road to Baku, and Road to Barbados), generated considerable interest and ultimately helped to boost the participation at major AIBA events.

During the 2006 – 2010 quadrennial, AIBA welcomed Guinea Bissau, Tanzania, Malta, Guam and Kiribati as provisional members of AIBA. These five countries are waiting for the 2010 Congress in Almaty to be ratified for a full membership status.

AIBA understands and acknowledges the importance of the Member Federations and believes that the Member Federations play a pivotal role in the development of boxing programs around the world. That is why in this four-year period AIBA has made it a priority to build strong and positive cooperative relationships with Member Federations.

Having started with four staff members in 2006, the AIBA HQs Office has now expanded to a staff of fifteen working across five departments. The new staff members recruited over the past four years has now built up the necessary experience and knowledge to enable them to be fully integrated in the AIBA programs and projects. Moreover, ten different nationalities are represented, a diversity which is particularly valuable.

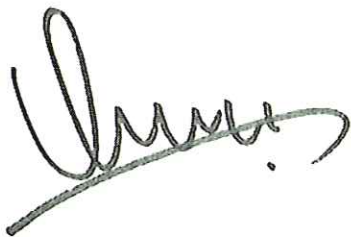
The past four years have been marked by reform – a reform that has made our sport cleaner and more transparent and which has brought boxing in line with the other sports at the Olympic level. After a lot of excellent work by our Member Federations, our Commissions, our Executive Committee members, and the AIBA HQs Office staff over the past four years, I see this only as a start. A lot was achieved, yet a lot remains to be done.

Firstly, we are poised to continue our comprehensive development programs. The new AIBA Boxing Academy will become a global hub for the development of boxing at all levels, for all stakeholders such as boxers, coaches, ringside physicians, etc. The programs which will be held at the Academy will allow building successful training camp programs and increasing the quality of competition and its management over the long term.

Secondly, we are about to revolutionize the sport of boxing with the World Series of Boxing – the first-ever AIBA world league with new rules and a new competition format. This gives the world's best boxers a secure career and regular competition on one hand, while offering a significant revenue stream to allow AIBA to finance its ambitious development goals on the other hand. Ultimately, the revenues expected from the WSB will be invested in AIBA's development programs to ensure a healthy future for the sport of boxing.

The people involved in the development and promotion of AIBA worldwide are too numerous to mention. I would nevertheless like to take this opportunity to thank all Member Federations for their continuous support and hope that the next four years will be more successful and rewarding for AIBA, as a result of the firm foundation that was established over the past four years.

Best personal regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ching-Kuo Wu', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ching-Kuo Wu  
President