



**Message from Dr. Sakchye Tapsuwan  
President of the International Federation of Muaythai Amateur (IFMA)**

**President of the Amateur Muaythai Association of Thailand, under Royal Patronage (AMTAT)**

I am honored to be here today for what is a historical moment for Uzbekistan and muaythai. This year's World Championships will reunite a remarkable number of athletes from all five (5) continents, in promotion of the spirit of fair-play, ethical behavior and cultural tolerance.

This is in fact more than just a competition, it is a cultural exchange and a memorandum of peace in a world that is desperately looking for harmony. Sport has the power of uniting athletes from all races and social classes under the same dream and hopes. These athletes are role models, they are ambassadors for our sport and clearly show that regardless of religious, social or political differences, the important thing is to follow moral values, which let us put aside our differences and let us focus on a common goal, with the same understanding and good will.

Competitions such as the IFMA World Championships, are not about winning or losing, they are rather about pride and unity. Everyone that is present here today is already a winner, but most of all, it is the country of Uzbekistan showcasing all its culture and its beauty, and our sport, that win through such extensive global spread reached by IFMA in the past few years.

Thai people are very proud of their national sport, yet we take even more pride in the fact that muaythai has truly become an international sport and hence now belongs to the world. Through muaythai, practitioners from all around the world have learned of the values and traditions which play an important part in the sport.

I must give my biggest gratitude to the Uzbekistan Amateur and Professional Muaythai Association, their President, Mr. Sherzod, the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the center for Oriental Martial Arts, and certainly the IFMA international team led by its General Secretary, Mr. Stephan Fox.

I would like express my appreciation to everyone that has been involved in the preparation towards this World Championships and as the President of IFMA, I would like to welcome everyone, wish all the athletes a great success in your competitions, and I have no doubt the 2011 IFMA World Championships will stay in our memories for a long time.

**Dr. Sakchye Tapsuwan**

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