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WORLD KARATE CONFEDERATION

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6th WKC World Championships in Bergamo-Treviglio, Italy

34 WKC member federations with 480 competitors from all five continents participated in the 6th World Championships. As usual the first day of competition, Saturday, 23rd June, was reserved for all team categories in *Kata* and *Kumite*. On the second day, Sunday 24th June, all individual disciplines were displayed.

The amended WKC competition rules were used for the first time at the 6th World Championships in Italy. The Referee and Technical Commission members instructed the referees and coaches at the technical seminar prior to the tournament. 50 referees and 32 coaches attended the course and the championships. Under the leadership of WKC Vice-President *Joe Mirza*, Technical Director *Ladislav Klementis* and Technical Commission Chairman *Dušan Dačić* conducted the seminar.

Unfortunately the strong teams from Russia, the USKO and the RSKF, did not get the visa for Italy and could not attend and defend their titles from the previous World Championships in Novi Sad 2005. Also the teams from Azerbaijan, the AKC-AZ, as well as the NKKA from Nepal were refused the visa by the Italian embassies in the respective countries.

The largest entry of competitors and officials came as predicted from the hosting federation FIAM. The FIAM, like many other federations, is an all-style federation and as a result picked up more medals in *Kata* than a pure one style federation. Federations practising Sanbon Shobu *Kumite* with three weight categories have three times more chances than federations having only Ippon Shobu (one weight category). It is very pleasing and shows the all round high standard in the WKC that competitors from 21 federations out of 34 participating won a medal.

One coach was disqualified because of continuously bad behaviour for one year. The WKC does not tolerate undisciplined actions from any official or competitor.

The most successful federation was the hosting Italian FIAM. Followed by the KSRS, SFKBU; SKU, AAU, ASK-SA and surprisingly the Russian ASKFK and the Czech SKB. After an absence of three years the *Union Argentina de Karate UAK* returned to the WKC championships and took the third place in the medal table. After coming a long way to compete with a nine-member team it was a great success for the South Americans.

Congratulations to all medal winners, the referees, coaches and the Organising Team of the FIAM!