

NEWS FLASHES FROM JJIF

As from September the JJIF is happy to include **CHILE** and **COLUMBIA** among its new Member Countries.

In terms of new lymph that is not the only novelty the JJIF will be able to count on in years to come: after several negotiations the JJIF is now able to welcome a **NEW PROVISIONAL MEMBER**. On September 3 the JJIF Treasurer received the application documents of the **NEPAL JU-JITSU FEDERATION** with the request to send them by return of mail all remaining papers necessary to finalise the registration.

It seems Nepal does not intend to be a spectator for long, on the contrary it has made it quite clear that it plans to take a very active part in top-level Ju-Jitsu activity. By wanting to pay the annual fee for 2004 the new Member will now be able to participate in the World Championship to be held in Spain this forthcoming November. Surely many eyes will be looking with curiosity on the debut of this Asian Member.

Apart from national considerations, the entrance of Chile, Columbia and Nepal in the JJIF will undoubtedly help strengthen Ju-Jitsu activity in the Pan-American and Asian Areas.

And Asia promises to be an area with strong Ju-Jitsu development in the short future. JJIF President, Paul Hoglund, is already in close contact with the **ASIAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE** and has managed to ensure that the JJIF be accepted as a communication partner of the AOC. The AOC is very interested in our activities and support the Ju-Jitsu development in their region. Recently, between June 28 and July 3, 2004 the President and the Assistant Sport Director were invited to present the discipline of Ju-jitsu at the AOC Congress in Doha, Qatar.

It is also thanks to this cooperation that the JJIF was recently able to welcome **IRAN** and **RUSSIA** as Full Members. Finalisation is also expected to take place with several other Asian countries such as Taiwan, Singapore, Japan and India.

Meanwhile JJIF is seizing opportunities world wide: **PORTUGAL** is now a full member, New membership applications have been received from **SERBIA-MONTENEGRO** while close contacts with East European countries are underway.

It may not be such a remote opportunity to have Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iraq, Palestine and Belarus present on the international Ju-Jitsu scenario as Observers or Member. The Board is also discussing on the opportunity of constituting a Ju-Jitsu Pan American Union (JJPAU) by combining the two existing South American Ju-Jitsu Union and the North American Ju-Jitsu Union. (To be noted, that a country can only be member of a JJIF Union, if it is a full member of the JJIF.)

However, the membership issue has been taken one step further and JJIF President has expressed interest in seeking contacts with some Organisations.

Youth Competition – Technical figures within the federation are assessing the most suitable criteria to introduce Boys/Girls, Aspirant and Junior Categories that will allow youth to take part in both Duo and Fighting competition at international level.