

most part of the Chinese empire with the east side of the continent that was closer to mainland Japan. In 1933, the Japanese military began an east to west railroad through China. The railroad proved to be a source of work and food for many from all countries in the region. The majority of the work-

**“Through Nam’s leadership of the Chang Moo Kwan, KTA and WTF, the Chang Moo Kwan was able to be the foundation of WTF Tae Kwon Do.”**

ers were Chinese and the Japanese military traded food for work on the railroad. Japanese martial arts masters came to China to work on the railroad as well. Some workers became friends and many shared their knowledge of Chinese arts with Korean practitioners. Many well-trained Japanese martial artists worked with the beleaguered Chinese work force. Korean masters that traveled throughout Asia during the war included Yono-shul Choi, Geka Yung, Hyung-ju Choi, Won Kuk Lee, Pyong Chil Ro, Pyung In Yuri and Young Chul Choi. Many of these individuals went on to form Korean organizations and spread their art upon returning home. During World War II, Korean practitioners were allowed to train in Japan where many received formal training in Chinese based Karate.

The Korean martial artists were providing money to the impoverished nation by training Americans. Most of the military stationed in Korea during the Korean War came from Okinawan military bases. American soldiers were stationed in Tokyo and Okinawa until 1950. The same soldiers stationed in Tokyo and Okinawa were sent to South Korea to repel the North Korean invaders. Some had trained in Okinawan styles and some in Japanese styles. American military personnel were greatly interested and motivated to train in Korean martial arts. The American military proved to be a source of good income for Korean masters. The American presence proved to be a



*Nam Suk Lee at the Kukkiwon in Seoul*

boon for the Korean martial arts community and may have been instrumental in the cooperation that occurred later. Unification was seen as a way of improving and standardizing the Korean martial arts.

In 1953 and 1955 many of the most influential Kwans met to discuss uniting and becoming more organized. Government recognition and sponsorship was important to the Kwans and many saw that unification had many benefits. In 1955, nine Kwans met and agreed to unite. Everyone in attendance agreed to use a new name, Tae Kwon Do, to

demonstrate unity. Hwang Kee from the Moo Duk Kwan did not attend the meeting. He was supportive of unification and claimed that Tang Soo Do and Soo Bahk were the only Korean styles with ties to



*President Lee during his visit to the Republic of China*

past styles. Hwang Kee later sought government recognition for his organization. In 1959, the Korean Kong Soo Do Association and the Korean Tang Soo Do Association merged and became the Korean Soo Bahk Do Association. The Korean Soo Bahk Do Association petitioned the Korea Amateur