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## **ADELAIDE WINS WORLD MARTIAL ART EVENT**

South Australia's bid to host the 13th World Tang Soo Do Championship has been successful, with the martial art event to be staged in Adelaide in October and November 2009.

Tang Soo Do is martial art which traces its origins to Korea. The event was secured by the Adelaide Tang Soo Do Academy in a bid supported by the Adelaide Convention Tourism Authority and the South Australian Tourism Commission.

"The win further strengthens Adelaide's reputation as a world-class events host and marks the first time the World Tang Soo Do Championship will be staged in Australia," says Acting Tourism Minister John Hill.

"The International Tang Soo Do Federation is a non profit organisation founded in 1974 in the United Kingdom with affiliates in Australasia, Asia, the Americas, Europe and Korea.

"With this global level of involvement spanning four continents, the Championship is expected to bring 400 to 500 competitors and officials from around 16 countries to Adelaide for the event.

"It will be a fantastic opportunity for Adelaide as the host city to show off the best we have to offer to hundreds of visitors and for accommodation and tourism businesses to share in the benefit, particularly in employment immediately before, during and after the event."

Mr Hill says organisers also deserve praise for their efforts to extend the reach of the World Tang Soo Do Championship into the South Australian community.

"The organisers will provide opportunities for tourism, recreation and sports management students from the University of South Australia to undertake professional placements during the event which will count towards their studies," Mr Hill says.

"This is a wonderful initiative, giving local students exposure to practical work in their areas of professional training during an international event.

"Entry to the championships will be by gold coin donation with proceeds going to the Women's and Children's Hospital, contributing to a very worthy cause and maximising the opportunity for many South Australians, including families, to share in the spectacle."

Australia's Chief Instructor Master Michael D'Ambrosio says that the hosting of the world championships is a great achievement for the city of Adelaide and Tang Soo Do in Australia.

"To host and deliver this event in a world class venue will provide a unique experience for our International dignitaries and participants," says Master D'Ambrosio

"The professionalism and support received from the events industry in South Australia will see Adelaide stage the best World Tang Soo Do Championship to date."