



UNITED WORLD  
**WRESTLING**  
**ASIA**

**Activity report**  
**2022-2023**

**June 2023**  
**Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**

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Dear colleagues, friends and wrestling fans,

On behalf of United World Wrestling, I wish to welcome you to Bishkek, the host city of U23&U17 Asian Championships and UWW Asia General Assembly. We are proud to have the best wrestlers from all over the world and UWW Asia officials in Bishkek and to have another opportunity to remind us all of the Olympic Values - friendship, respect and excellence. Wrestlers who will take to the mat next days will inspire next generations and bring positivity through sport which must be protected, same as distinguished members of Asia General Assembly will, I am deeply ensured, continue preserving it.

It is with a pride for UWW family to be back in Kyrgyzstan and to organize our U23&U17 Asia Championships and Asia General Assembly in its capital, same as it is my deep personal satisfaction to remind all of you that new, young and strong generations are the future of wrestling family. Bishkek is a city that wholeheartedly embraces the sport of wrestling, so the upcoming Championships is the perfect opportunity for it to once again prove its special position in our sports.

I would also like to give special thanks to the Kyrgyzstan Wrestling Federation, Organizing Committee, as well as the City of Bishkek, its authorities and Ministry of Culture, Information, Sports and Youth Policy of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, same as to all of the official of UWW Asia for making these two important events to happen.

I am delighted to wish all competitors the very best and encourage them to leave everything on the mat, same as to wish all of my colleagues from UWW Asia every success in the upcoming years of their dedicated work.

Thank you.

Nenad Lalovic  
UWW President  
IOC member



On behalf of UWW Asia I cordially welcome the delegates of the General Assembly of the Asian Wrestling Council as well as the participants, guests and organizers of the Asian Wrestling Championships 2023 U17&U23 in Bishkek!

First of all, I would like to note that Asia has a stable position in terms of wrestling development in the world. It is impossible not to appreciate the significant contribution of athletes and teams representing Asia at various levels of competition, including the World Championships last year in Serbia.

We need to cover high-priority tasks in the development of wrestling on the continent. Among them are such as increasing the number of continental wrestling bases; educational programs - we need help from UWW and international experts to improve the training and education of our coaches; competitions for children and young athletes, more professional competitions, and many others.

UWW today underscores its intention to take wrestling to new heights, and we still have much to do together, our achievements underscoring the stability and unity of the solid foundation we have built together over the past years.

I express my gratitude to the distinguished members of the Executive Committee of the Asian Council for their commitment to leading Asian wrestling in today's realities.

The coordinated, diligent work of the federations, coaches, teachers, athletes and all those who provide the necessary conditions for the preparation and participation of wrestlers in sporting competitions is to be commended. I express my deep gratitude for this work to all national federations of the continent, for the outstanding contribution to the development of Asian wrestling, which will always be appreciated in the years to come.

I wish all of us success in achieving our goals and only victories!

Daulet Turlykhanov  
UWW Asia President  
UWW Bureau member



## Foreword

From the outset of 2022, the UWW Asian Wrestling Council, with the support of the United World Wrestling, has successfully orchestrated a series of events aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of wrestling activities in Asia. This concerted effort marks a growing inclination to redefine the role of national wrestling federations and their functions within the international sports infrastructure. Experience has shown that this is a complex and lengthy process that requires the collective efforts of the entire wrestling community, along with a commitment to constructive dialogue.



UWW Asia maintains close collaboration with UWW to identify potential organizers for official UWW continental championships. The past few years have presented immense challenges for the wrestling community due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, which severely restricted most activities throughout 2019, 2020, and partially in 2021. However, it is evident that United World Wrestling, in conjunction with its affiliated continental councils, has successfully overcome

these obstacles by organizing all events in 2022 without exception. Furthermore, unified events format has generated increased interest from potential organizers in hosting Asian championships. As a result of this innovative approach, United World Wrestling Asia witnessed notable shifts in hosting geography in 2022, with Bahrain successfully hosting their inaugural Asian championships and demonstrating exceptional capabilities of their respective national wrestling federation.

United World Wrestling has received bids to organize events in 2023 from countries that have never previously hosted continental wrestling events but expressed a strong desire to do so. Notably, Jordan is preparing to host the U20&U17 Asian Championship this July, exemplifying the growth and popularity of wrestling within the region and the Asian Council's ongoing efforts to promote our beloved sport in Asia.

The following wrestling events were organized in Asia in 2022 and during the first half of 2023:

- Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (April 19-24, 2022) - Asian Senior Championships
- Hanoi, Vietnam (May 17-19, 2022) - Southeast Asian Games
- Almaty, Kazakhstan (June 2-5, 2022) - B. Turlykhanov Cup Ranking Series Tournament
- Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (June 19-26, 2022) - combined U23 & U17 Asian Championships
- Manama, Bahrain (July 2-10, 2022) - combined U20 & U15 Asian Championships
- Astana, Kazakhstan (December 12-13, 2022) - World Championship - Kazakh Kuresi
- Phnom Penh, Cambodia (December 16-18, 2022) - Southeast Asian Championship
- Astana, Kazakhstan (April 9-14, 2023) - Senior Asian Championship
- Phnom Penh, Cambodia (May 14-16, 2023) - Southeast Asian Games
- Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (June 1-4, 2023) - third ranking series
- Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (June 10-18, 2023) - combined U23 & U17 Asian Championships



The United Wrestling World Development Department, in collaboration with UWW Asia and the Kyrgyzstan Wrestling Federation, organized the annual holistic development program "More than Medals" on the occasion of the U17 Asian Wrestling Championships in Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyzstan. This program aims to provide comprehensive support to young athletes and their coaches through a series of educational activities and the organization of an international training camp.



## 1. Activity of UWW Asia President during the year 2022

### 1.1. UWW Congress, UWW Commissions and Bureau Meetings

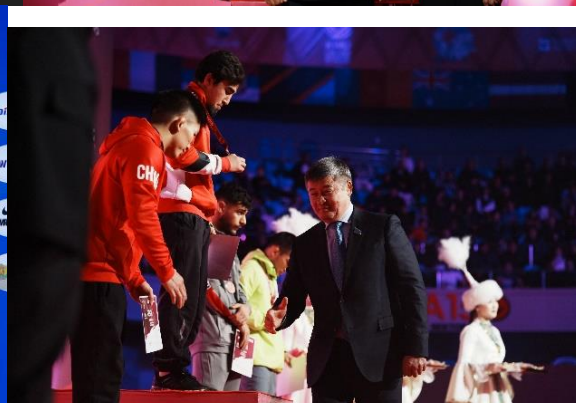
Date	Location	Event
January 20, 2022	Online Meeting	UWW Bureau Meeting
March 2, 2022	Online Meeting	UWW Bureau Meeting
May 23, 2022	Online Meeting	UWW Bureau Meeting
September 08, 2022	Belgrade, Serbia	UWW Bureau Meeting
September 09 2022	Belgrade, Serbia	UWW Congress
September 10, 2022	Belgrade, Serbia	UWW Technical Assistance and Development Commission Meeting
October 15, 2022	Belgrade, Serbia	UWW Bureau Meeting
October 27, 2022	Online Meeting	UWW Bureau Meeting
November 14, 2022	Online Meeting	UWW Bureau Meeting
December 19, 2022	Online Meeting	UWW Scientific Commission Meeting
April 4, 2023	Online Meeting	UWW Bureau Meeting





## 1.2. Inspection Visits / Technical Delegation

Date	Location	Activity
March 19-24, 2022	Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (Online)	Asian Wrestling Championships (Seniors), Technical Delegation
May 15-19, 2022	Hanoi, Vietnam	31 <sup>st</sup> South East Asian Games (Seniors), Technical Delegation
August 15-21, 2022	Sofia, Bulgaria	U20 World Championship, Technical Delegation
June 10-18, 2023	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan	Asian Wrestling Championships (U17&U23), Technical Delegation





### 1.3. UWW Asia General Assembly and Executive committee meetings

Date	Location	Event
June 7, 2022	Online	UWW Asia Executive Committee meeting
June 18, 2022	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan	UWW Asia General Assembly (hybrid)
December 19, 2022	Online	UWW Asia Executive Committee Meeting
March 24, 2023	Online	UWW Asia Executive Committee working meeting
April 11, 2023	Astana, Kazakhstan	UWW Asia Executive working Committee meeting



## 2. UWW sports events in Asia

Date	Location	Event
19-24 March 2022	Ulaanbaatar, MGL	2022 Asian Championship (Seniors)
15-19 May 2022	Hanoi, VIE	31 <sup>st</sup> South-East Asian Games 2022 (Seniors)
2-5 June 2022	Almaty, KAZ	2 <sup>nd</sup> Ranking series 2022, B.Turlykhanov Cup (seniors)
19-26 June 2022	Bishkek, KGZ	2022 Asian Championships (U17&U23)
2-10 July 2022	Manama, BRN	2022 Asian Championships (U15&U20)
12-13 December 2022	Astana, KAZ	2022 World Championships Kazakh Kuresi (Seniors)
16-18 December 2022	Phnom Penh, Cambodia	2022 South East Asian Championship (Seniors)
9-14 April 2023	Astana, KAZ	2023 Asian Championship (Seniors)
14-16 May 2023	Phnom Penh, Cambodia	32 <sup>nd</sup> South East Asian Games 2023 (Seniors)
1-4 June 2023	Bishkek, KGZ	3 <sup>rd</sup> Ranking series tournament 2023 (seniors)
10-18 June 2023	Bishkek, KGZ	2023 Asian Championships (U17&U23)

In 2022, the sporting year in Asia kicked off with the successful Asian Senior Championships held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. While the championships were well-executed, UWW Asia acknowledged the relatively low participation of national federations, with only 19 out of 40 full members of UWW Asia taking part. Active participation from national federations in major UWW events across all age categories is crucial for the development of wrestling on the continent.

Another noteworthy event was the 31st Southeast Asian Games held in Hanoi, Vietnam, in May 2022. Seven out of the 11 countries in the region participated in the Games. During the UWW Bureau meeting on January 20, 2022, the inclusion of specific 'Regional Games' into the ranking system was confirmed to explore their potential for future programs. The Southeast Asian Games were among the selected Regional Games. This increased significance of the Regional Games within the ranking system aims to encourage greater athlete participation from the region and foster increased government support for wrestlers representing their respective nations on the global stage.

In preparation for the SEA Games, the United World Wrestling development team organized several educational activities for coaches and referees from the Southeast Asian region. These activities play a vital role in the development process, and UWW Asia strongly supports such initiatives, particularly when there is a demand from national wrestling federations.

Throughout 2022, Asia hosted five wrestling championships across different age groups: U15 & U20 in Bahrain, U17 & U23 in Kyrgyzstan, and the Senior Championship in Kazakhstan.

For a detailed analysis of the participation of continental federations in the Asian and World championships in all ages groups, please refer to the point on No. 8 and to Annex No. 1 of this report.

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Moving on to the current year, 2023, the Asian Championship was originally slated to take place in India but was subsequently relocated to Kazakhstan for valid reasons.

The 2023 Asian Wrestling Championships for seniors were held from April 10th to April 14th in Astana, Kazakhstan. The event saw the participation of 331 athletes from 21 Asian countries competing in three different wrestling styles. Despite the challenges posed by the ongoing Covid pandemic, the participation rate significantly increased compared to previous years, instilling hope within United World Wrestling Asia for greater athlete involvement in the qualification events for the 2024 Olympic Games. This competition holds immense importance for national federations as it offers quotas for the upcoming world wrestling championships in Belgrade, Serbia, scheduled from September 16th to 24th. Moreover, it serves as the initial stage of qualification for the Olympic Games in Paris, where the top six performers in each weight class will earn the coveted opportunity to participate.

For a detailed analysis of the participation of continental federations in the Senior Asian Championship, please refer to Annex No. 2 of this report.

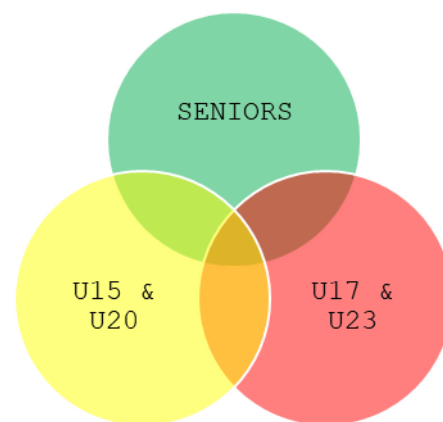
The 32nd edition of the Southeast Asian Games, also known as the SEA Games, took place from May 5th to 17th, 2023, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The event was organized in collaboration with the Southeast Asian Games Federation and involved participants from the 11 countries of Southeast Asia.

Hosting the SEA Games has long been a cherished aspiration for Cambodia. For smaller sporting nations like Cambodia, hosting events of this magnitude is a vital catalyst for the development of sports. We deeply understand the value of sports and the multitude of benefits it brings to society. Moreover, we recognize the significance of hosting the Games as a means to secure a promising future for the Kingdom's sporting landscape.

Detailed analysis about the SEA games in Cambodia is attached to this report (annex no.3).

### 3. New Format of Asian Championships / organizational fees

It is worth noting that the Asian Continental Wrestling Council introduced a significant initiative in 2021, which was subsequently approved. This initiative involved combining two continental championships into a single event. The proposal was accepted by the UWW Bureau members in 2021, granting the organizers of the aforementioned events the opportunity to accommodate a larger number of athletes and enhance the overall image of the championships for promotional purposes. Moreover, the adoption of the new "combined format" played a pivotal role in the development and official recognition of the U15 and U23 age group competitions at the continental level.



Before 2022, these two competitions were conducted on an experimental basis and were not recognized as official annual events. The inclusion of these age groups as official Asian

Championships events on the annual UWW calendar will undoubtedly provide a tremendous boost to wrestling development and ensure a smoother transition for athletes from junior to senior age groups. The establishment of the annual U15 Asian Championships will foster a highly competitive environment during the crucial youth stage of athletes' development.

The proposal put forth by UWW Asia to reduce the organization fees for the Senior Asia Championships from 46,000 CHF to 25,000 CHF should be regarded as a pivotal moment for the Asian continent. This reduction will expand the range of potential organizing countries and positively impact the participation rate at the continental level. The proposal received support from both UWW Bureau members and the UWW Executive Committee.

The decisions mentioned above are expected to significantly accelerate wrestling development in Asia for various reasons. Firstly, national federations have displayed increased interest in hosting Asian Championships due to the improved conditions of organization, including lower fees, a unified format, and an increased number of participating countries. Although the new age categories currently experience relatively lower participation numbers, UWW Asia predicts that the numbers will progressively increase each year, eventually establishing these categories as popular among Asian wrestling federations in the long run.



#### 4. 2022 Financial Report

<b>Financial Report of the United World Wrestling Asia (UWW-Asia) as of 31.12.2022</b>				
Funds Available as of 01.01.2022			44 549 \$	
Subsidy Received for the Year 2022			40 000 \$	
Total amount			84 549\$	
<b>Expenses</b>		<b>Budget Approved</b>	<b>Actual Expenditure</b>	<b>Balance of Planned Budget</b>
1.	Technical Assistance to Developing Countries	6 000\$	1587\$	4413\$
2.	Courses and Seminars	1 500\$	0	1500\$
3.	Conference and Executive Committee	6 000\$	7605\$	(-1605\$)
4.	Projects to Develop and Promote Wrestling in Asia:	40 000\$	18000\$	22000\$
4.1.	Nominations award 2021	18 000\$	18000\$	0
4.2.	Coach Traveler – three countries	19 000\$	0	19000\$
4.3.	Publication of an annual magazine	3 000\$	0	3000\$
5.	Presentation Expenses	3 500\$	13195\$	(-9695\$)
6.	Travelling Expenses (According to the Events)	6 000\$	6000\$	0
7.	Website (targeting)	950\$	950\$	0
8.	Administrative Expenses	4 099\$	4099\$	0
9.	Salaries	12 000\$	12000\$	0
10.	Taxes	4 500\$	4500\$	0
Total costs		84 549 \$	67 936\$	16 613\$
Balance as of 31.12.2022 16 613\$				

## 5. 2023 UWW Asia budget [planned]

<b>2023 United World Wrestling Asia (UWW-Asia) Draft Budget</b>		
Available Funds at 01.01.2023 - 16 613 \$		
1.Income		
	<b>Name of the Article</b>	<b>Estimate Settlement</b>
1	Subsidy	40 000 \$
	Total	56 613 \$
2.	Planned expenditures	
1.	Technical aid to the Asian National Wrestling Federation	8 000 \$
2.	Conference and Executive Committee	7 500 \$
3.	Nomination Awards for the Year 2022	35 000 \$
3.1.	Promotion projects for Wrestling Development in Asia	6 000 \$
3.2.	Coach Traveler Project Implementation in 3 Countries	25 000 \$
3.3.	Publication of an annual magazine	4 000 \$
4.	Travel Expenses	9 000 \$
5.	Website	1 000 \$
6.	Administrative Expenses	4 113 \$
7.	Salaries	16 500 \$
8.	Taxes	3 500 \$
	Total	84 613 \$
2. Calculation		
1.	Available Funds	56 613 \$
2.	Planned Expenses	84 613 \$
3.	Over-expenditure	28 000 \$

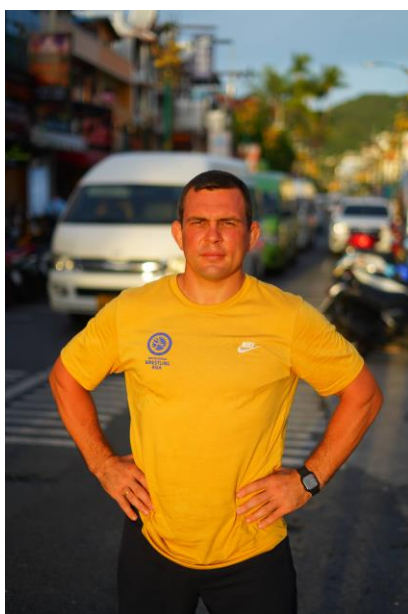
## 6. Social Media Report

### Instagram

The number of followers on United World Wrestling Asia's official Instagram account was 47,000 as of January 1, 2022; as of June 2022 - 80,000, as of December 1<sup>st</sup> – over 109 000, as of 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023 – 118 000. Gradual progression of the Instagram account clearly demonstrates high content quality and engagement with general audience.



### **Coach Traveler**



In early May 2023, UWW Asia announced the launch of the second season of the Coach Traveler Project. In this new installment, the UWW Asia project team produced work in Southeast Asian countries like Thailand, Indonesia, Cambodia, and the Philippines.

As a coach-traveler served Artem Kotov, who knows the region well, a former athlete, a master of sports of international class in freestyle wrestling.

In total media group UWW Asia was 20 days in the above four countries and tried to cover the development of wrestling, culture, life, visited the athletes, as well as directly visited the offices of national federations.



The first film of the project in Thailand is scheduled for release in July 2023.

## **7. UWW Asia Awards 2022 - "Asia's Best Wrestler, Asia's Best Coach"**

The United World Wrestling Asia contest has become a tradition for the Asian Continental Council, with its first edition held in 2019, followed by 2021 and now 2022.

The winners' list was prepared based on a thorough analysis of Asian athletes' performances at the Asian and World championships, as well as the results of the Ranking Series tournaments in 2022. According to the UWW Asia contest provisions, athletes with the highest total points at the end of the year are declared winners. In the case of a tie in points, as is the case in freestyle wrestling in 2022, performance is assessed based on the effectiveness of results from higher-ranked events to lower-ranked ones (e.g., World Championships, Asian Championships, Ranking Series).

### **The Best National Federation 2022**

The award for the "Best National Wrestling Federation of Asia 2022" was granted to the Wrestling Federation of Kyrgyzstan, as decided by the UWW Asia Executive Committee meeting held on December 19, 2022.





### The Best Greco-Roman Wrestler 2022

**Akzhol Makhmudov** of Kyrgyzstan unquestionably secured the title of the "Best Greco-Roman Wrestler of Asia 2022". Makhmudov triumphed in two major championships in the 77 kg weight category: the Asian Championships in Mongolia and the World Championships in Belgrade, Serbia. Additionally, Makhmudov claimed first place at the 3rd Ranking Series Tournament in Almaty, accumulating a total of 100 points in accordance with the UWW Asia contest provisions. He was also the winner of the Islamic Games 2022 (not part of the contest).



**Zholaman Sharshenbekov**, also from Kyrgyzstan, secured the second place in the same category (70 kg weight division). Sharshenbekov, who won the Asian Championships and the Senior World Championships, scored a total of 85 points. He was also the winner of the Islamic Games 2022.

Athlete	NF	weight	WC	AC	RS Turkey	RS Kazakhstan	RS Italy	RS Tunisia	
Makhmudov A.	KGZ	77 kg	50	30		20			100
Sharshenbekov J.	KGZ	70 kg	50	30		5			85
Ortikboyev J.	UZB	55 kg	30	10		5			45

### Best freestyle wrestler 2022



In the category of "Best Freestyle Wrestler of Asia 2022," **Taishi Narikuni** from Japan emerged as the winner. Narikuni claimed victory at the Asian and World wrestling championships in 2022, accumulating a total of 80 points. Narikuni did not participate in Ranking Series events, thus no points were added. Amouzadkhalili R. M. from Iran, who also won gold at the continental and world championships in 2022, secured the same number of points. Azamat Dauletbekov of Kazakhstan, the Asian

champion and bronze medalist at the world wrestling championships, won the UWW Ranking tournament in Tunisia and placed 5th in the 3rd Ranking Series tournament, held in Kazakhstan. Dauletbekov also collected 80 points.

Based on the provisions in case of tie number assessment begins from higher priority events (OG>WC>AC>RS). Therefore, Narikuni (JPN) and Amouzadkhalili (IRI) obtained identical number of points and demonstrated similar results at world and Asian championships in 2022. Both wrestlers competed five matches at world championships; both athletes won 49 technical points; Amouzadkhalili (IRI) – lost 13 technical points, while Narikuni (JPN) lost 15; Amouzadkhalili (IRI) gained 16 classification points in accordance with UWW regulations at WC 2022, while Narikuni (JPN) – 19. Narikuni T. won two matches by technical superiority and one by fall, while Amouzadkhalili (IRI) won only one match by technical superiority and all others by points. Dauletbekov A., based on the criteria stays on the 3<sup>rd</sup> place in this contest.

Athlete	NF	weight	WC	AC	RS Turkey	RS Kazakhstan	RS Italy	RS Tunisia	
Narikuni T.	JAP	70 kg	50	30	***	***	***	***	80
Amouzadkhalili R. M.	IRI	65 kg	50	30	***	***	***	***	80
Dauletbekov. A.	KAZ	86 kg	30	30		5th		20	80

Based on the information presented above, and by the decision of UWW Asia Executive committee, it was decided to announce Narikuni (JPN) as a best wrestler of the year in 2022

### The Best Female Wrestler of Asia 2022



Zhamilya Bakbergenova from Kazakhstan emerged as the "Best Female Wrestler of Asia 2022." Bakbergenova earned 110 points by winning the Asian Seniors Championships and two Ranking Series tournaments (Turkey and Kazakhstan). She also claimed a silver medal at the Senior World Championships in 2022. Although Japanese females dominated the world and continental stages, they did not participate in the Ranking Series events, thereby missing the opportunity to collect extra points. Ozaki N. and Morikawa M. both won world and Asian championships in 2022 but did not wrestle in any Ranking Series event.



Athlete	NF	weight	WC	AC	RS Turkey	RS Kazakhstan	RS Italy	RS Tunisia	
Backbergenova J.	KAZ	72 kg	40	30	20	20			110
Ozaki N.	JPN	62 kg	50	30					80
Morikawa M.	JPN	65 kg	50	30					80

### Best Greco-Roman wrestling coach 2022

**Mohammad Bana**, the Greco-Roman national team coach of Iran, was honored as the "*Greco-Roman Wrestling Coach of the Year 2022*". Under his guidance, Iranian athletes won 10 medals at major events in 2022, accumulating 315 points. The second and third places were taken by the head coaches of the national teams of Kyrgyzstan (255 points) and Kazakhstan (255 points).



### Best freestyle wrestling coach 2022



In the category of "*Best Freestyle Wrestling Coach 2022*", **Pejman Dorostkar**, the head freestyle wrestling coach of Iran, emerged as the winner. Iranian freestyle wrestlers showcased exceptional results among Asian wrestlers, earning Dorostkar a total of 515 points. The Japanese wrestling coach secured second place with 245 points and 7 medals, while the Mongolian head coach claimed the third place with 135 points and 6 medals.

### Best Women's Wrestling Coach 2022



**Ryo Kanehama**, the coach of the Japanese national women's wrestling team, was honored as the "Best Coach in Women's Wrestling 2022." Under his leadership, Japanese wrestlers won a total of 18 medals, including 9 gold

medals at the World Championships 2022 and 7 gold and 2 silver medals at the Asian Championships. The head coach of the Mongolian team secured the second place with 255 points and 11 medals, while the Kazakhstani women's team coach took the third place with 165 points and 5 medals overall.

## 8. Statistics

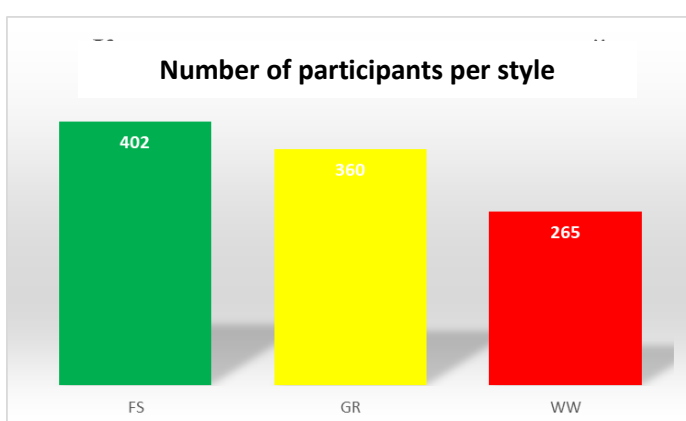
To monitor and evaluate performance of Asian athletes among different age groups, United World Wrestling Asia develops and improves various analytical tools. For this reason, all Asian and World Championships are analyzed based on the official competition protocols. The main purpose of this work is to identify gaps and areas for improvement for upcoming years. Based on the analysis, staff members are able to evaluate following aspects:

- participation rate at major UWW events (national/regional/continental levels). This helps to identify level of activity of each national wrestling federations, regions (several national wrestling federation), and the continent as a whole
- performance results at continental/ world levels
- gaps and weak areas: age group; wrestling style; region
- development trends

For this purpose, UWW Asia uses a dynamic approach of analytical comparison, instead of single “snapshots”, which do not allow us to understand the broader picture. Based on dynamical assessment, UWW Asia can evaluate trends related to development or counter development and most importantly, take the necessary urgent measures to fix any issues at hand. This report represents general information about the conducted data analysis, while concerned stakeholders (UWW; regional wrestling associations; national wrestling federations of Asia) can request information that is more detailed.

Below, United World Wrestling Asia provides brief analysis of participation and performance of Asian national wrestling federation at continental and world wrestling championships in 2022.

### 8.1. Asian Championships 2022

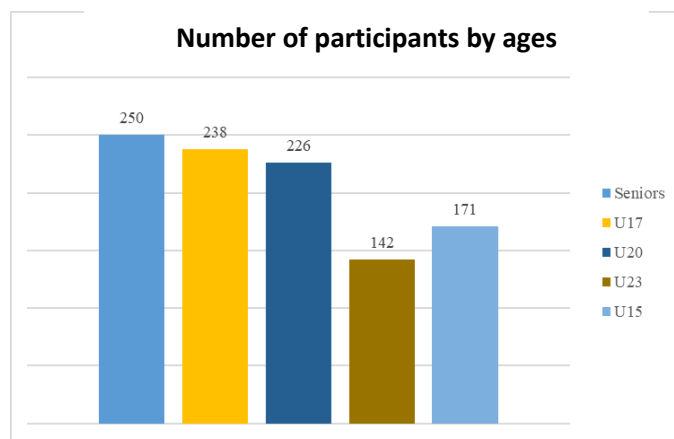


A total of **1,027 athletes** participated at the Asian Championships in 2022 among 5 age categories and 3 wrestling styles, which is relatively high number for the Asian continent. The most popular style was freestyle wrestling, which brought together the largest number of participants [**402**] in all individual ages. Greco-Roman wrestling had fewer participants [**360**], which highlights the need to develop this style at the continental level to increase consistent

athlete participation and to improve the performance of Asian athletes at the world level. Despite the fact that Asian athletes are among the best in the world, the quantitative component at the continental level is still relatively small for the full development of women's wrestling at the continental level. Total of only [**265**] female athletes competed at the Asian Championships among five age groups.

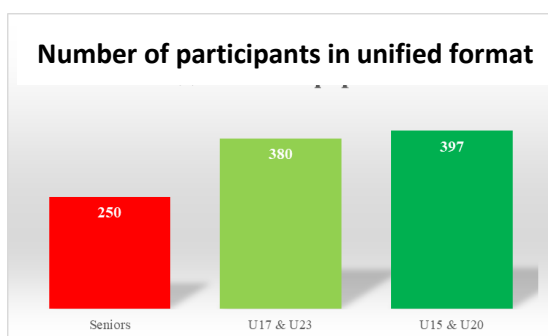


The most attended age category was seniors. A total of [250] athletes took part at the Asian Senior Championships 2022, which was held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. It is worth noting that some teams, traditionally taking part in this event for certain reasons, could not take part: China, North Korea. Therefore, it can be argued that this figure should potentially be higher than the current one and the numbers can potentially reach up to 280-290 athletes.



The second most popular event based on the age group was Asian cadet championship (U17), which was held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. This championship attracted a total of [238] athletes. The under 20 age group had a similar result, namely [226] athletes.

The newly introduced age groups up to 15 and up to 23 years old have the lowest results by far and this is primarily due to the lack of additional funding from the relevant government agencies in some countries. This result was predicted by the Continental Asian Wrestling Council even before these championships. [171] athletes competed in the under-15 category and [142] athletes under the age of 23. UWW Asia expects a progressive increase in the number of participants in the above championships of 10 - 15% annually, until the number reaches the average number of participants among the main age groups, where a 5% annual increase is also projected.



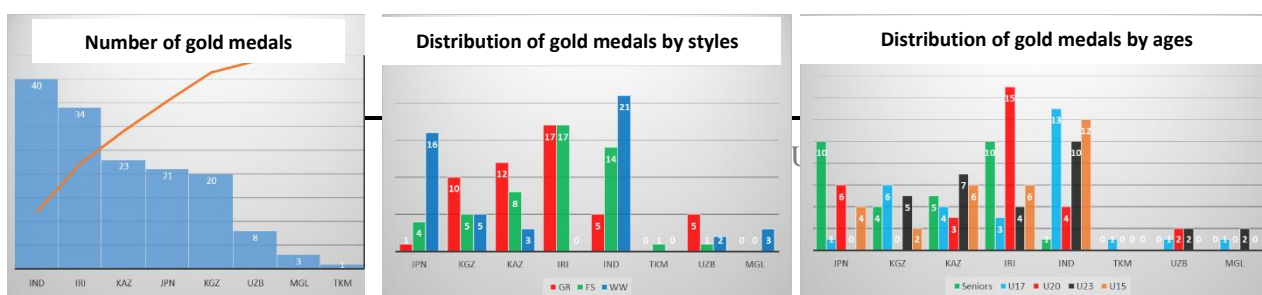
If we look at the number of participants in terms of the new format, the most attended Asian championship was the U15 + U20, which was held in Manama, Bahrain. This event attracted [397] participants, not to mention officials, coaches, doctors and other representatives. The U17 + U23 combined championships held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan attracted [380] wrestlers, while the senior continental championships only [250] athletes. Undoubtedly, the prestige of holding the

senior championships is many times greater than all others, but with the activation of the new format, the financial component for the organizers is more advantageous when hosting championships in a unified format. Given the projected growth dynamic in the number of participants among all age categories, there is no doubt that the **organizers will be able to hold any event not only without financial risks, but with a guaranteed profitability.**

## 8.2. Asian Championships 2022 performance statistics

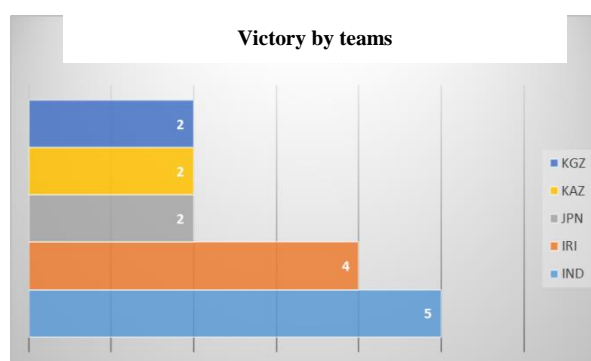
150 sets of gold medals have been awarded to Asian wrestlers across 3 wrestling styles and 5 age groups in 2022. The largest number of champions was prepared by the Wrestling Federation of **India**, which managed to win **40 gold medals**, most of which are in women's wrestling [21], [14] in freestyle, and only [5] in Greco-Roman. It is worth noting that the Indian athletes most of the medals [13] won in the U17 age category, [12] medals in the U15, [10] U23, [4] U20 category, and only one comes from seniors.

In turn, the national teams of **Iran**, were more stable, but lost to India in the number of



champions with a result of [34] **gold medals**, which were equally distributed between Freestyle [17] and Greco-Roman wrestling [17]. The most productive age group among the Iranian athletes were the juniors under 20, who won [15] gold medals. It is worth noting that the Iranian federation had one of the best results in terms of the performances of the senior teams, who won a total of [10] gold medals. The distribution of medals by age is detailed in the figure above.

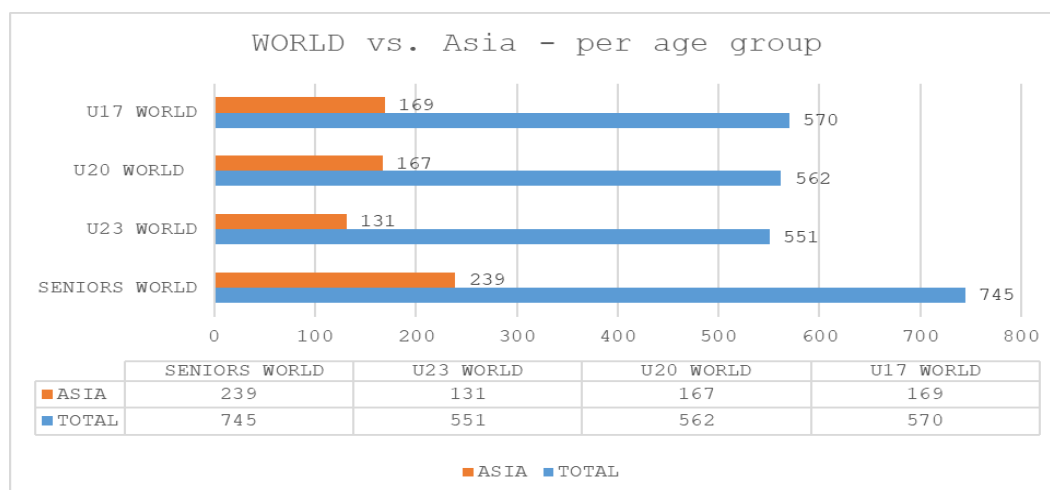
**Kazakhstan** with the result [23] **gold medals** completes the top three teams in Asia. There is a subjective stability in the performance of the athletes of the national teams of Kazakhstan among the age categories. It should be noted that Greco-Roman wrestling is the leader among other styles. Out of 23 champions, [12] were wrestlers of Greco-Roman style, [8] Freestyle, and only [3] Women's.



Given the results above, team of India has secured a clear lead in the number of team titles won, surpassing other Asian teams five times. India is followed by Iran, which managed to win 4 championship titles. In turn, the teams of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Japan managed to climb to the top of the team podium 2 times each.

### 8.3. WORLD WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2022 – GENERAL

United World Wrestling successfully organized four world championships in 2022 among different age groups (U17, U20, U23, SENIORS). 2428 athletes participated in total across these 4 championships, while 706 (29%) of them represented Asia. This can be considered as a good result, but UWW Asia must strive to increase representation of the continent to increase performance results. Table below represents general information about number of entries among different age groups. It is evident that seniors world wrestling championships is the most popular event, which gathered 745 wrestlers from all around the world. Other age groups have relatively

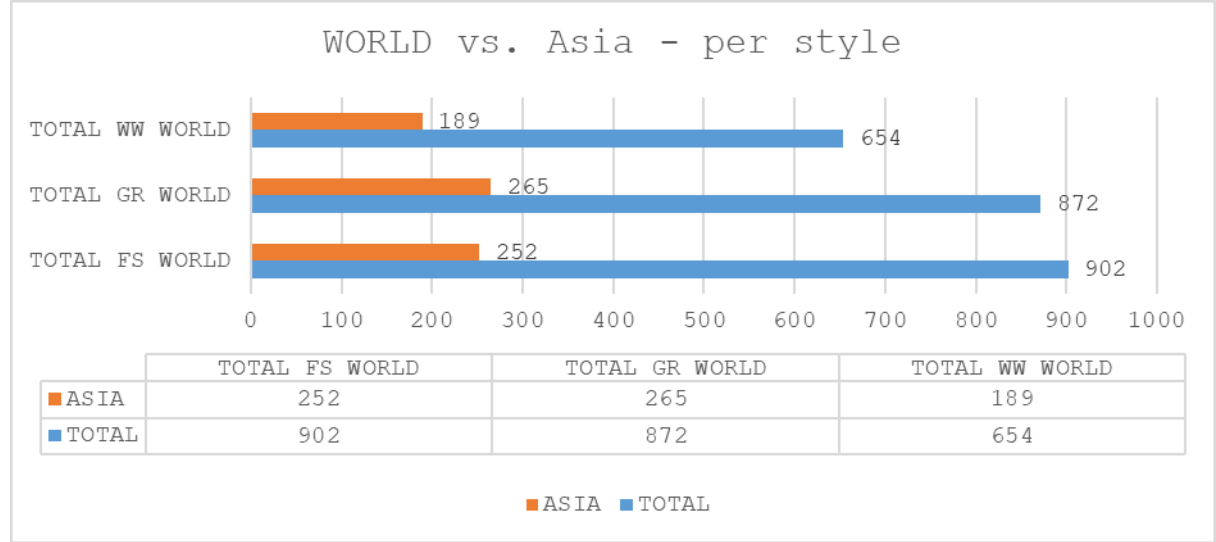


similar number of participants with an average number – 560 athletes per each event.

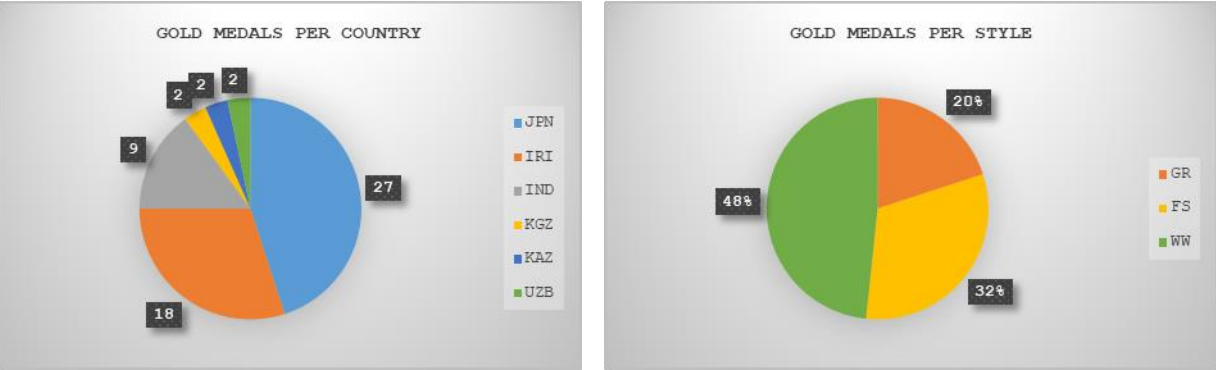
As it was noted previously, Asia has its consistent representation at world wrestling championships with an average ratio 1/3.

Comparison of entries among different wrestling styles demonstrates approximately same trends with an average of 30% representation (against total number of entries). 902 freestyle wrestlers were registered at seniors’ world championships, 872 in Greco-Roman, and 654 women. Chart below represents information related to participation of Asian wrestlers across 3 wrestling styles in comparison to the total number of entries per style.

In 2022, Asian wrestlers won 60 gold medals (50%) out of 120 possible at world championships among four age groups: seniors – 11; U17 – 15; U20 – 18; U23 – 16. The most medals won by

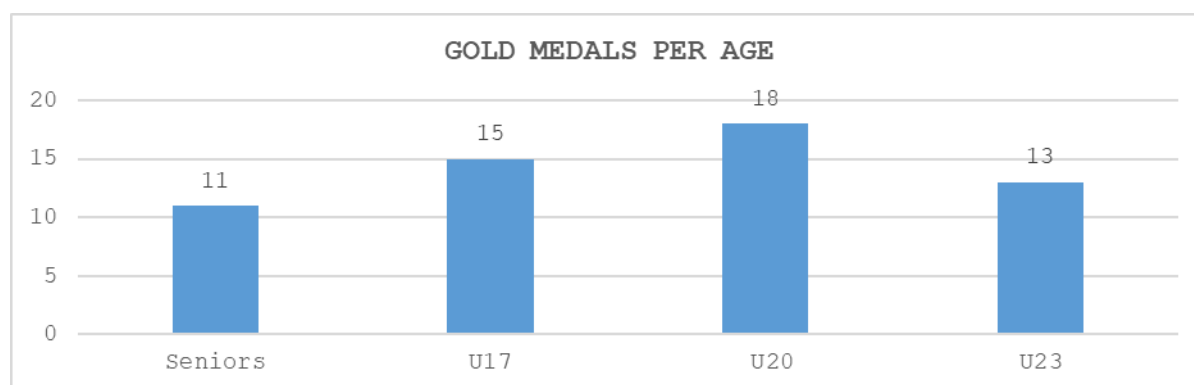
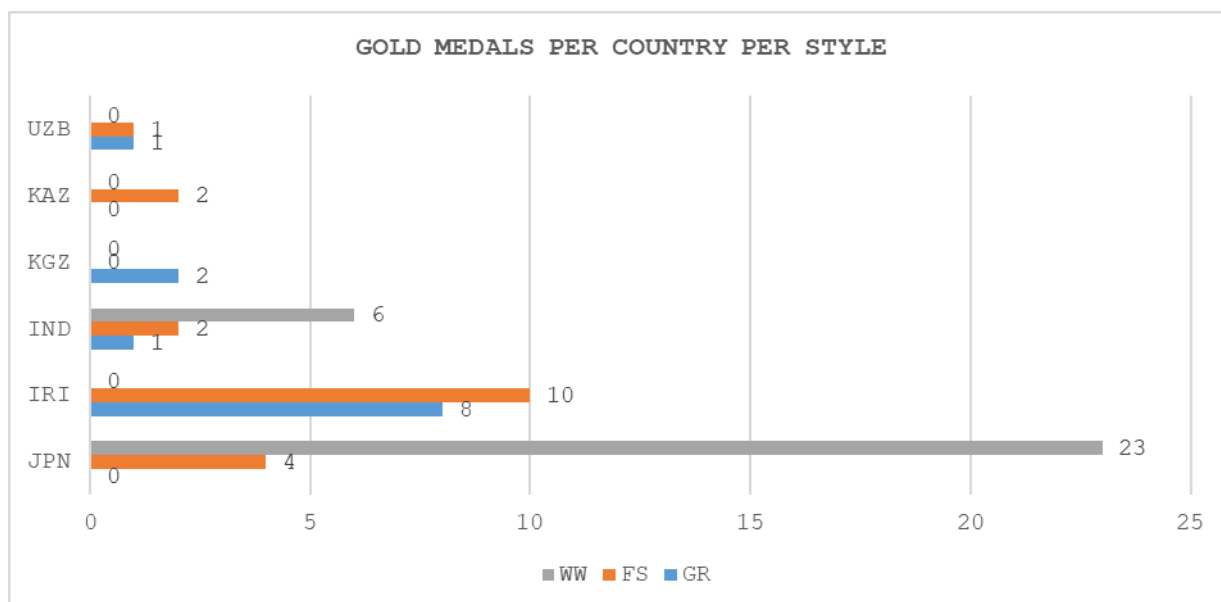


Japanese Wrestling Federation – 27 (45%), while 23 of them belong to women; four to freestyle wrestlers; and none for Greco-Roman. Second team by its performance effectiveness was Islamic Republic of Iran with 18 gold medals (30%) in total (10 FS; 8 GR). At the same time, India continues to improve its performance by winning nine world titles in 2022 (6 WW; 1 FS; 2 GR). Charts above represents visual information about performance of Asian wrestlers at world stage.



#### 8.4. Seniors World Championships 2022

World wrestling championships among seniors took place in Belgrade, Serbia in 2022. In total 745 wrestlers competed for world titles across 3 wrestling styles. This data demonstrates participation increase by 95 athletes (13%) in comparison to the year 2021. The most attended style was FREESTYLE with 276 athletes, who represented 60 national wrestling federations, while in 2022 only 53 countries sent their athletes to the seniors' world championships. Greco-Roman style gets closer in terms of participation at worlds among seniors with a result of 274 wrestlers in total from 51 countries. Women are still growing numbers with only 195 athletes from 43 nations.



However, Asia demonstrates its great activity in the area of participation and performance (described below). Out of 745 competitors, 239 athletes [32%] represented Asia across 3 styles of wrestling (90 FS; 77 GR; 72 WW). However, it is worth mentioning that only 15 national wrestling federations of Asia participated at seniors' worlds: China, India, Iran, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Palestine, Syria, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Vietnam. Representation of teams was completely different from country to country: China – 29 athletes, India- 30, Japan – 29, Kazakhstan – 30, Uzbekistan - 25, Korea – 25, Mongolia - 20, Kyrgyzstan – 15. These national federations should be considered as active in accordance with participation standards set by UWW Asia. However, there are countries that are only building their teams and trying to send only few athletes to the world championships at this level: Palestine – 1, Turkmenistan – 3, Syria – 1, Tajikistan – 2.



Asian wrestlers were able to claim 11 world champion titles across 3 wrestling styles at seniors' level in 2022 out of 30 possible. That being said 37% of gold medals belong to Asian wrestlers. At the same time, it is necessary to mention that only 3 countries were able to produce these results: Japan – 7 gold medals (2FS & 5 WW); Kyrgyzstan – 2 gold medals (2 GR); and Iran – 2 gold medals (2 FS). Considering percentage of Asian athletes' participation (32%) and number of winners in percentage (37%), it is clear that Asia is being effective in terms of participation & performance\*.

Japan, without any doubts, claimed a team title among women, while China ended up on third place. In freestyle wrestling, Iran managed to obtain second position by losing to the United States of America. Japanese wrestlers brought freestyle team onto the third place in overall ranking.

*\*silver and bronze medals were not taken into consideration. Further detailed statistical analysis is required to compare performance with other continents.*

### **8.5. U23 World Wrestling Championships 2022**

In total 551 athletes from 44 countries took part at the U23 world wrestling championships in 2022. Similar participation trends as at seniors event were observed at this event: majority of wrestlers (205) participated in freestyle, while Greco-Roman had slightly less athletes (200); women only 146. However, out of 551 wrestlers 139 represented Asia (51 FS; 51 GR; 29 WW).

U23 world championships participating nations from Asia: Iran (20), India (10), Japan (30), Kazakhstan (30); Kyrgyzstan (15); Mongolia (1); Philippines (3); Sri Lanka (8); Chinese Taipei (5); Turkmenistan (9). Total number of Asian federations participating at U23 World championships – 10. Uzbekistan, Korea, China did not take part.

This event was more productive for Asian athletes and their national wrestling federations in terms of performance. 16 gold medals won by Asia wrestlers out of 30 possible across 3 wrestling styles at U23 world wrestling championships. Japan was able to claim 8 gold medals (7 WW; 1 FS), while Iran 7 (3 GR; 4 FS). One athletes from India stepped on the top of U23 world podium in FS wrestling. Considering the amount of world champions from Asia (53%), it can be concluded that Asian athletes dominated the event.

Japanese women's' performance brought their athletes on the 1<sup>st</sup> team ranking place, while Iran claimed its title in Greco-Roman wrestling and took 2<sup>nd</sup> place in freestyle wrestling medal tally at U23 world championships.

### **8.6. U20 World Wrestling Championships 2022**

U20 world wrestling championships gathered 562 athletes from over 42 countries. Interestingly enough, but Greco-Roman style had the highest participation number - 222 wrestlers (40%), while 191 athletes (34%) represented freestyle wrestling, and women by (27%). At the same, 167 athletes represented Asia at U20 world championships, which is almost 30% out of all participants (59 FS; 62 GR; 46 WW). Following 10 Asian national federations ensured participation of athletes at this event: India – 30; Iran – 20; Japan – 27; Kazakhstan 30; Korea – 7; Kyrgyzstan – 22; Mongolia – 4; Chinese Taipei – 6; Tajikistan 2; and Uzbekistan -19.

Performance results of Asian wrestlers at U20 world wrestling championships should be considered at the most successful among other age groups. Asian athletes claimed 18 gold

medals out of 30 possible. That being said, 60% of world champions among U20 age group are from Asia. Without any surprises, Japanese wrestling federation is still on top of the medals chart with total of 9 gold medals (8 WW; 1 FS). Iranian wrestlers won title of the world champion 7 times (4 GR; 3 FS). Indian women's team had one world champion, while Uzbekistan claimed one in freestyle wrestling.

It is necessary to highlight that team titles across all 3 wrestling styles were swiped by Asian national federations: freestyle – Iran; Greco-Roman – Iran; women – Japan. Moreover, India got 2<sup>nd</sup> place in overall women team ranking after Japan, and also placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in freestyle wrestling.

### **8.7. U17 World Wrestling Championships 2022**

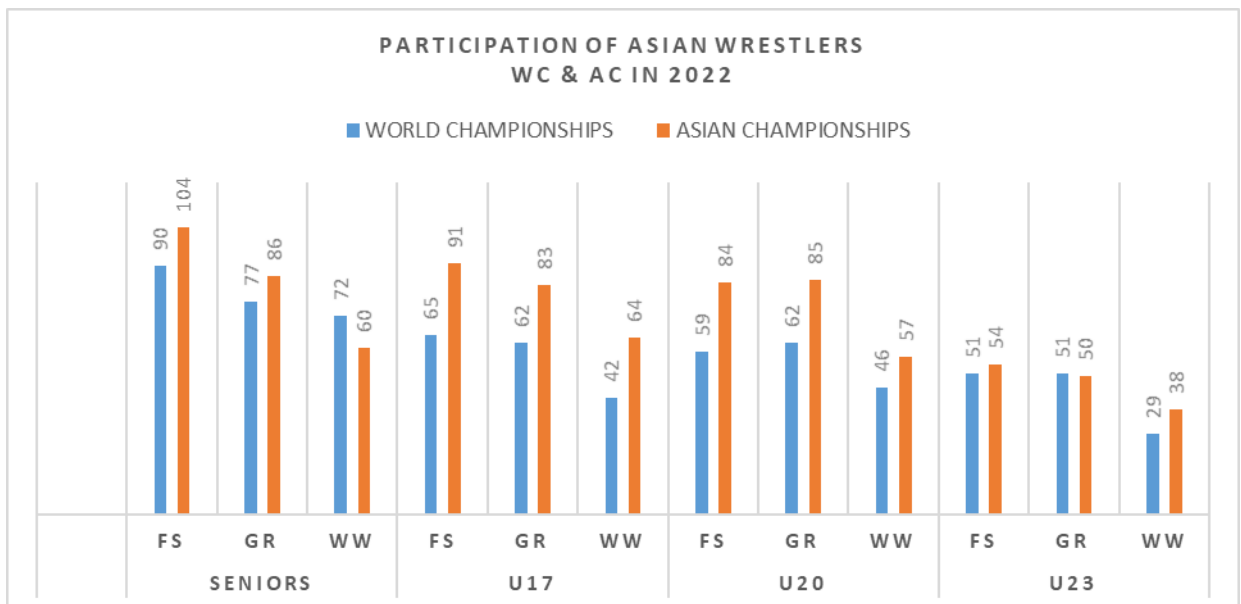
570 wrestlers took part at the U17 world wrestling championships 2022 across 3 wrestling styles. Freestyle and Greco-Roman events gather relatively similar number of participants 200 (35%) and 206 (36%) respectively, while only 164 (29%) girls wrestled for U17 world champion titles. 169 athletes represented Asia, which is 30% of total number of participants (65 FS; 62 GR; 42 WW). Following 10 national wrestling federation sent their teams to one of the U17 world wrestling championships: India (30), Iran (20); Japan (29); Kazakhstan (27); Kyrgyzstan (21); Mongolia (1); Chinese Taipei (15); Tajikistan 1; Turkmenistan (6); and Uzbekistan (19).

Wrestlers from Asia among U17 age group demonstrated great results across 3 wrestling styles at world championships in 2022. In total 50% of all gold medals were swiped by Asian wrestlers – 15. Notably, in comparison to other age groups, Asian athletes were able to show better diversity among world champions representative: 5 different countries were able to claim one or more U17 world champions: Japan – 3 (3 WW); Kazakhstan – 2 (2 FS); Iran – 2 (1 FS; 1 GR); India – 7 (1 FS; 1 GR; 5 WW); Uzbekistan – 1 (1 GR).

Despite its outstanding gold performance, Indian women's team placed 2<sup>nd</sup> after Japan. Iranian Greco-Roman wrestling team won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the team ranking. At the same time, India was able to step on the 2<sup>nd</sup> place in freestyle team ranking.

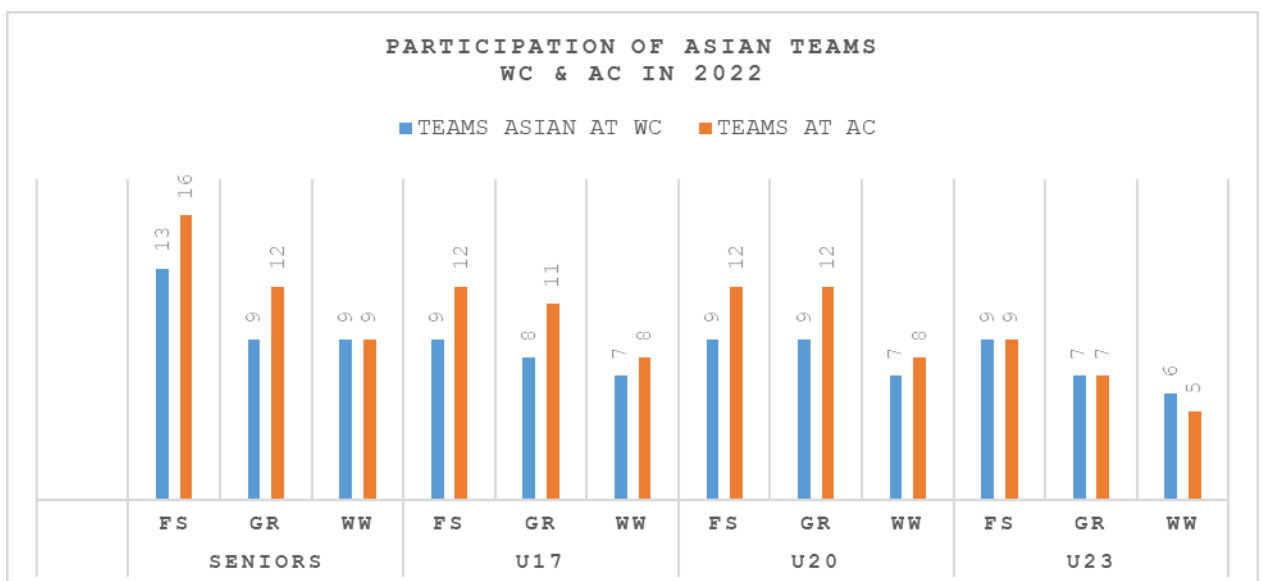
### **8.8. Participation consistency at Asian vs. World championships.**

In order to gain better understanding about participation trends among Asian national wrestling federation, United World Wrestling Asia analyzed and compared difference in participation rates of Asian wrestling federations at Asian championships and World championships in 2022. Chart below provides information regarding this matter.



It is clear that in most cases number of participants at WC is lower than at Asian championships. This can be explained by several factors: national federations' budget; athletes' level of preparation. As it is shown in the chart only number of senior women athletes participating at world exceeds the number of wrestlers at Asian championships.

Moreover, number of teams and their trends of participation were also analyzed. Results provided in the chart below.



It is evident that seniors' world championships gather most of the athletes and teams in general perspective. However, United World Wrestling Asia has a concern concerning overall number of Asian teams participating at world events. Since there are forty officially registered national federation in Asia, the number of countries taking part at world championships is still low. Therefore, one of the main aims for UWW Asia is to increase general number of participants and teams at AC and WC respectively.

More in depth analysis and qualitative research will be required to identify real issues causing inactivity of 75% of Asian national wrestling federations