

American Tong-Il Moo-Do students win at World Open Martial Arts Tournament

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On October 28th, over 200 participants from martial arts schools around the world gathered at the Newton Farias Stadium in Anapolis, Brazil to compete in a six-day martial arts tournament. American Tong-Il Moo-Do students Zachary Beebe, Laimis Shinozaki, and Janina Cernova-Shinozaki took home both gold and silver medals.

Beebe received a gold medal in Tong-Il Moo-Do color belts sparring, and Shinozaki, who is 13, received gold in his age group's Tong-Il Moo-Do sparring. Cernova-Shinozaki took silver in the women's Tong-Il Moo-Do form competition, and Shinozaki took silver in the same competition for his age group. Beebe also received a bronze medal in the point sparring competition. All three USA students traveled to Brazil thanks to sponsorship from various donors, including FFWPU International Vice President Dr. Ki Hoon Kim and Kodan.

True Father first developed what would become Tong-Il Moo-Do in 1979. Today, the sport has spread to five continents and has thousands of students. Tong-Il Moo-Do is a Unification form of martial arts, which emphasizes spiritual harmony and respect above individualism.

After the awards ceremonies, Anapolis City Court Judge and tournament competitor Carlos Limongi Sterse spoke with representatives from each country and explained the goals and vision of the tournament organizers: through martial arts, one can become a spiritual leader who encourages people to serve, pray for, and strengthen their families and communities. At the end of the tournament, each judge was given a lantern to symbolize the inner light that we must shine and share with the world.

