INQUIRY FOR THE CANDIDATES OF THE IFAGG COUNCIL

I am applying for the IFAGG council for 2026-2030

Name: Saori Kubota

Proposing IFAGG member: JFAGG

Education: Master of Sports Science

Profession and employer:
My prfession is the development of Gymnasts and Coaches
I am a Self-employed

Why are you applying for the IFAGG council?
I have been developing and promoting AGG in Asia. We need more Asian countries to involve in this sport. I realize I must continue to work with it and see more achievement for IFAGG.
My projects are still going forward now in IFAGG.

Which Council section you have special skills? (e.g. strategy, ethical work, development, education, finance etc.)
My profession is the development of gymnasts and coaches. I have studied for development program in sports, and I programmed the level-based training system for RG gymnasts and coaches. I am sure that my study can be affected by AGG as well.

What are your strengths?
I am active in connecting with people and I have many connections to product matters. I never give up from a matter once I realize that I can do. And I have confidence that I have done many things for IFAGG. My educational background will contribute to IFAGG educational program in judges and coaches. I love to teach many people even they are new in AGG and I can conduct them to become skillful judges and coaches.

Gymnastics and AGG background / activity on international and national level
I am the first person to achieve the IFAGG level 1 judge from Asia. I have been active in AGG since 2012. I developed AGG in Japan and send many teams to the World Cups and World Championships for years. Nowadays, Japanese teams are known widely as the unique AGG style.

I was the National team coach in RG in Japan. I sent a gymnast to the Olympics (Barcelona and Atlanta) for RG Individual as a represent Japan.

Currently, I am the chairperson of the IFAGG Asian committee to develop AGG in Asia. We have been organizing a level-based coaching course. We aim for developing “Elite coaches in Asia” to achieve a good result in the World class competition. We can see many progresses from the project such as increasing the number of Asian teams in the competition.

Other activity, positions of responsibility, other duties and networks
I established the Monica AGG Academy in Tokyo in 2020 during the covid situation. It is the first AGG Academy in Japan specialized in AGG lessons. And I create training methods in AGG.

I am the secretary-general of the Japanese Federation of Aesthetic Group Gymnastics JFAGG. I have worked on strengthening the organization and focus on involving many participants in this sport in Japan.

I am a member of the International Association for Dance Medicine & Science. IADMS is a global network of medical professionals, educators, dancers, and researchers. I try to update my teaching skills and knowledge in academically and scientifically.

What will be the main challenges of IFAGG in the future (from your point of view)?
I think the main goal is our sport to be one of the Olympics events. However, I am trying to get more countries from ASIA to be IFAGG members. Asia is too big and there are multiple cultures, races, and religions. It is very difficult to have all Asian countries to get into IFAGG in short period of time. But IFAGG needs those Asian countries for expanding the organization and realize the main goal.

The 20th Asian Games will be held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan in October this year. I am trying to get a chance to meet the person in Olympic Council of Asia to introduce our sport AGG. I think there are some chances AGG to be one of the Asian Games sports. There are many unique events in the Asian Games such as E-sports, Kabaddi, Sepaktakraw, Karate and Wushu. Those are not the Olympic events yet. We should try to connect the Asian Games somehow.

How do you evaluate IFAGG actions? What do you value in IFAGG?
After the pandemic is over, we are doing quite well, but some of the IFAGG members still have problems with the number of gymnasts or teams in the country, especially in Asia. IFAGG should take care of those members to not give up their membership. Meanwhile, IFAGG is still not a big enough organization to take care of those members. I think we need to consider more how IFAGG can construct better systems to run the organization. We need more sponsor companies or partnerships with other organizations. I realize IFAGG has potential to get sponsors or partnerships in near future.

What do you think will be IFAGG's possibilities in the future?
IFAGG has highly potential to expand members worldwide. In fact, the IFAGG members are increasing year by year. Therefore, IFAGG must build a strong system in the organization. The Council members must take responsibility to do right work for building a strong organization.
And we are not only providing an educational program or system for judges but also, we need to have an educational program or system for coaches to upgrade our sport higher.

Which matters you would promote in IFAGG?
I have been promoting our sport in many countries. And it is very nice to promote such a healthy sport according to the age category. And this is totally fit with my profession in my study. I want to make full use of my experience for IFAGG such as educational programs for judges and coaches,

How would you commit to IFAGG?
I think I have been committed to IFAGG very much since I was elected as the council member in 2017. I will keep my work for IFAGG and try to do my very best for any matters for IFAGG always.