Why we call ourselves the “Deutscher Taekkyon Zirkel”
(“German Taekkyon Circle”)?

I worked at the “Han Kuk University of Foreign Studies (HUFS)” of Yong-In in South-Korea from October 5th 2001 to March 15th 2002. There, I lived in the student’s dormitory and made a lot of Korean friends. Most of them spoke English very well.

Very soon, I learnt that Korean students are quite active and social. The students gather to discuss political issues, to organize bands, festivals or to play sports. The groups are called “Dong-A-Ri”, which means “circle”.

Of course, as I had the intention to learn as much taekkyon as possible while being in Korea, I joined the taekkyon circle of HUFS. My teacher was Liu Jae-Geun.

Later, I became a member of the taekkyon school of Yong-In, which is lead by Mr. Jang Gyong-Tae (Kwan-Jang-Nim). He and his students supported my idea of starting a taekkyon group in Germany. (I am so grateful to him and them!)

My teacher even introduced me to the president of the Korea Taekkyon Association, Mr. Lee, Yong-Bok. He also supported my idea.

A few weeks prior to my dan-exam (The “Dan” is a certain level of knowledge in martial arts. In some arts, one gets a black belt then, however in taekkyon it may be blue or orange), a reporter of the Yong-In newspaper visited our taekkyon school to interview me. I don’t know how she learnt about me, but she found my plan was interesting and so she wrote an article with the headline:

“When I am back in Germany, I will organize a taekkyon circle.”

You can see this article here.

Well, “Germany” means “Dog-Il” in Korean, so I used the name “Dog-Il Taek-Kyon Dong-A-Ri” from then on. My teachers liked it and my students in Germany as well.

Furthermore, our group in Germany once began as a “dong-a-ri” in the original sense used by Koreans: Taekkyon in Germany started as a section of the sports program of my home university (in Juelich). Independently, Liu Yeonmuk started a taekkyon group at the university of Berlin in 2001.

All of the founding members were students.

Sincerely,
Hendrik Rubbeling