

Greeting for Master's Seminar

Dear I.K.G.A. Shihans,

I hope you are all doing well. I am sure all of you are making every effort to continue the spread of Karate-do in your respective areas. In 1965, Founder Gogen Yamaguchi Sensei created the I.K.G.A. After that it was established that Global and Bloc level Championships would be held once every four years within I.K.G.A. I would like to give my appreciation and thanks to all of the Shihan and other instructors from all of the Blocs and countries of all of your assistance with this.

The long-awaited 1st I.K.G.A. Master's Seminar was held in Japan in September of 2014. In attendance were 6 members from the Africa Bloc, 10 from the Asia Bloc, 11 from the Europe Bloc, 11 from the Oceania Bloc, 10 from the North America Bloc, and 12 from the South America Bloc. These 60 members first gathered for a seminar held in Matsumoto, which was then followed by a joint seminar held in Tokyo with the Japanese Shihans. This was then followed by a Budo lecture held in the Yoyogi Olympic Center and finally a joint I.K.G.A./J.K.G.A. memorial party commemorating the 25th anniversary of the death of Gogen Yamaguchi Sensei and was attended by over 200 people. The Master's Seminar was a very enjoyable and significant event where everyone was able to come together to improve their abilities and build stronger bonds of comradery. I would like to thank all of the Vice Presidents, Bloc Directors, Country Directors, and all other Shihans who were in attendance for their support at that event.

Now, the world is trying to cultivate more instructors and develop a strong sense of humanity that extends beyond the borders of any country. Now, Karate-do has been formally accepted as an event to be held in the upcoming 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games. Of course, we must continue to strive to improve the techniques and abilities used in competition, but it is imperative that we also continue to nurture and preserve the Karate-do spirit born from the essence of Budo.

The I.K.G.A. Vice Presidents, Bloc Directors and I have discussed the matter of continuing the Master's Seminar to ensure that it is a regular event. We have decided that the next seminar will be held in 2018, one year after the 2017 I.K.G.A. Global Championship to be held in Canada. With regards to the host country, we have received the approval of European Bloc Director Ingo de Jong Hanshi to hold the event in England. I would like to ask all of the Blocs and countries for your support in this event. Following this should be a message from I.K.G.A. England Director and host of the next I.K.G.A. Master's Seminar, Tony Childs Shihan. I pray for all of your continued health, wish you all the best in your teaching and training endeavors, and hope that you continue to strive to improve yourself beyond your current limits.

Goshi Yamaguchi
International Karate-do Goju-kai Association
President

December 2016