



KOKUSAI BUDOIN – KOKUSAI BUDO RENMEI  
IMAF AMERICAS

Kokusai Budoin • Kokusai Budo Renmei • IMAF Americas • 2022 Newsletter

Message from Jose Juan Cruz Sensei, IMAF Americas Branch Director

As the year 2022 comes to an end, we continue to resume our activities after the end of the pandemic that has held us still for the past two years. Fortunately, Japan has opened its borders giving us the opportunity to plan a future trip to reconnect with Kokusai Budoin HQ Japan.



Traditional Karate Jacksonville Dojo members

This year the Traditional Karate Jacksonville Dojo opened in Jacksonville, North Carolina to educate the community about Japanese martial arts. In a martial arts society in which eclectic combative systems have become the dominant trend, our dojo offers an opportunity to reconnect with the roots from which Karatedo and other forms of Budo originally emerged. The main martial art taught is Karatedo from the Gima-Ha Shotokan-Ryu lineage, and other arts such as Okinawa Kobudo and Nihon Jujutsu will be soon included. So far, the student body is very diverse, ranging from children to adults and senior citizens. Our dojo is planning to host an IMAF Regional Budo Seminar by the beginning of the year 2023 with the objective to maintain educating the community and promoting the traditional forms of Budo.

**Upcoming Events & Activities:**

- 2023 IMAF Americas Seminars, dates to be announced
- 2023 IMAF Americas Regional Seminars, dates to be announced
- IMAF Americas Kyu Rank Certification to begin in 2023
- The USA National Office will provide details about all initiatives in the new year

**Congratulations to IMAF Americas Members:**

Sabastian Velilla Sensei, appointed Branch Director, IMAF Americas

Vincent Valverde Sensei, appointed as Regional Director, IMAF Americas

5th Dan Karatedo Promotion for Mr. Dorvil Robenson

5th Dan Kobudo & 4th Dan Iaido Promotion for Mr. Rodney Castillo

5th Dan Kobudo & 2nd Dan Iaido Promotion for Mr. Juan Vaccari

2nd Dan Karatedo Promotion for Mr. Carlos del Valle

**IMAF Americas Members and Affiliated Dojos**

Thanks to everyone's hard work and dedication, we now have members in six countries, and ten U.S. states. The job is not done. We continue to reach out to individuals, Dojos, and clubs throughout the Americas and welcome men and women who are interested in traditional Japanese Budo - the martial arts.

Our prospects for 2023 look even better with new opportunities to expand our activities locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally.

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Message from Sabastian Velilla Sensei, IMAF Americas Branch Director

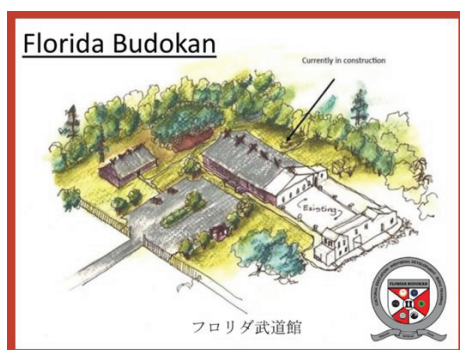
It gives me great joy to join members throughout the Americas who are once again able to train together in-person. I look forward to supporting our current and future initiatives, including holding regular regional and international events in 2023 and beyond. Please see some of the events on our calendar below.



### Kyudo Exhibition in Cuba

Long in the making, the December 9th and 10th exhibition in Havana, Cuba will include various demonstrations and presentations, and be the first of its type for the Cuban people.

Sabastian Velilla with the Japanese Ambassador to Cuba, the Honorable Kenji Hirata on April 2022 (photo).



### Florida Budokan News

Phase 5 of the Budokan construction project is now in progress. We have reached a point where the 2nd dojo can now be used for classes.

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### Japanese Arts Outreach Program

Last month our cultural center partnered with a local public school to bring Japanese culture into their arts program. The children will be working on a different Cultural Art project every month until the end of the school year. Special thanks to the Japan Foundation for their support.

### New Dojo News

Traditional Karate Jacksonville Dojo  
405 Amethyst Ct, Jacksonville, NC, United States  
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### Kokusai Budoin, IMAF A Brief History

In 1951, a group of Japan's most prominent martial artists from a variety of disciplines gathered in November of that year to discuss the first, large-scale open demonstration of Japanese martial arts since the end of World War II. In January the next year, The National Japan Health Association was founded. It would later be called the Kokusai Budoin, International Martial Arts Federation.

Kokusai Budoin, IMAF was officially founded in January, 1952 by Master Kyuzo Mifune, Master Kazuo Ito and Shizuya Sato of Judo; Master Hakudo Nakayama and Master Hiromasa Takano of Kendo; Master Hironori Otsuka of Karate-do, and Kiyotaka Wake and Sueo Kiyoura. The first Chairman was Prince Tsunenori Kaya.

1952: The 1st All Japan Budo Exhibition was held in Hibiya Park, Tokyo, Japan.

Kokusai Budoin, IMAF is comprised of the following divisions: Judo, Kendo, Karatedo, Aikido, Iaido, Nihon Jujutsu and Kobudo. As an international certification headquarters for the martial arts, IMAF commends meritorious individuals by granting degrees, grades and awards. The Federation sponsors regular exhibitions, tournaments and publishes pertinent information concerning Japanese Martial Arts.