



国際武道院  
国際武道連盟  
Kokusai Budoin, IMAF  
International Martial Arts Federation

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2024 Gendo  
Newsletter No. 2

## 2025 Event Schedule

### 18 May

Kokusai Budoin All  
Japan Budo Exhibition  
Adachi Ward  
Hanabatake Gymnasium  
[international@imaf.com](mailto:international@imaf.com)

### 27, 28, 29 June

2025 Kokusai Budoin, IMAF  
Americas Seminar  
Japanese Martial Arts  
Center (JMAC)  
Ann Arbor, MI USA  
[info@japanesemartialartscenter.com](mailto:info@japanesemartialartscenter.com)

### 18, 19, 20 October

2025 Kokusai Budoin, IMAF  
International European  
Seminar in Germany  
Dates & Location to be  
Announced  
[imaf-germany@gmx.de](mailto:imaf-germany@gmx.de)

### 07 September

Japan Domestic Seminar  
and Examination  
Gima-ha Kyokai  
Shotokan-ryu Karate  
Dojo, Nakano-ku, Tokyo  
[international@imaf.com](mailto:international@imaf.com)

More Events to be  
Announced Soon!

The objectives of Kokusai Budoin, IMAF, include the expansion of interest in Japanese Marital Arts; the establishment of communication, friendship, understanding and harmony among members chapters; the development of the minds and bodies of its members; and the promotion of global understanding and personal growth.



### President Yasuhisa Tokugawa

I would like to extend my greetings on the occasion of the publication of the Gendo special edition newsletter.

The Paris Olympics and Paralympics this summer were certainly events that attracted a lot of attention. The judges' skills and the mysterious pairings were much talked about. Some events had made remarkable progress over the past few years, thanks to the development and improvement of new equipment. What kind of changes will shoes, clothing, etc. undergo in the future?

When it comes to the Olympics and martial arts, Kano Jigoro, who established the Kodokan in 1882, also served as an IOC member from 1877, and in 1881 he established the Greater Japan Physical Education Association and became its first president. This is the current Japan Sports Association. I read in the Japan Sports Association magazine that the teacher has experience not only in martial arts, but also in many other sports, such as land, swimming, baseball, and soccer. He also left behind many famous sayings, and when I read and interpret them, I feel that just focusing on winning or losing in what you are doing now does not mean you have achieved success as an athlete, and that you should strive to have a broader perspective. In other words, I think it means that you should have respect and reverence for your opponent, for the sport itself, for the history of the sport, for what you are living in the present, and for everything else.

These are not limited to the world of sports. I understand that this is a core story that we as humans must not forget in this world in which we live. It is natural to feel joy when you win and regret when you lose. However, I hope that you will continue to practice every day with a big heart, without regard for winning or losing, and one day, members of the International Martial Arts Federation will lead the world of martial arts in the direction of both diligence and righteousness.

### Chief Director Ikuo Higuchi

I am pleased to announce that the International Martial Arts Federation's annual events are proceeding smoothly.

At the 43rd General Martial Arts Tournament held in May in Adachi Ward, Tokyo the results of the daily training of the members of each section were fully demonstrated, and I felt the power of continuity that can be passed down to the next generation. In June, a seminar for the American branch was held in Florida, and while only two of us from the headquarters could attend, Mr. Komoto from the Aikido Division and myself, the event was supported by many high-rank international representatives.



Chief Director Ikuo Higuchi (continued from page 1)

Special appreciation is due to Americas Branch President Jose Cruz (Karate Division), and Seminar Executive Committee Chair Sebastian Velilla (Karate Division) who are working hard as instructors and current officers. However, it will take time to return to the prosperity of fifteen or twenty years ago. Most of the seminar participants were Shotokan karate practitioners, who had an opportunities to learn other martial arts during seminar, so the immediate task is to reconstruct the whole picture. Fortunately, the seminar was successful and provides us with a chance to build for the future.

At our recent board meeting, new and old members were introduced, and a lively exchange of opinions took place, and I felt a sense of rejuvenation. A new wind is blowing through the International Martial Arts Federation, which will lead the Reiwa era. After the conference, a social gathering was held, and the conversations with the teachers from each section, even though they were all from different fields of expertise, provided a fresh perspective on the big picture of martial arts and the role of martial arts in society. I look forward to IMAF inspiring communication skills, positive attitudes, and motivation, key elements for the development of our association. This summer, the Paris Olympics were held in France. It was a grand event. Three years after the Tokyo Olympics, Karate has not been adopted as a competitive sport, but it will likely remain in a tough environment for the time being. Judo, which has the qualities of a familiar martial art, is thriving. Accordingly, we need to rejuvenate our Judo and Kendo Divisions.

At this juncton, I would like to ask all members to take a proactive approach to help renew the International Martial Arts Federation to lead through its history and traditions. We need many members and supporters to achieve our goals of promoting harmony, friendship, and cooperation among martial artists worldwide. We are living in an age where a human lifespan is said to be 100 years. By incorporating intelligent martial artists in their 30's, 40's, 50's, 60's, and 70's, we can respond to change while walking the path of coexistence and prosperity with the young, the mature, and the old. That is, perhaps Darwin's words are true: "The only thing that can survive is that which can adapt to change." Therefore, I entreat all members to join forces and move forward vigorously toward the 100-year plan of the NPO International Martial Arts Institute and International Martial Arts Federation.

## 2024 Kokusai Budoin, IMAF International Seminar in France

18, 19, 20 October

Featuring Kokusai Budoin, IMAF Japan HQ Representatives and Senior International Instructors

18 Oct. Branch Director Meeting: 16:00

19 Oct. Training: 09:00 – 12:00 / 14:00 – 18:00 / 20:00 Gala

20 Oct. Training: 09:30 – 12:30

The 2024 European Martial Arts Seminar was held in Exincourt, France. The events began on October 18th with a Branch Directors' meeting. Among other topics, discussions focused on expanding membership in Switzerland, and ways to promote activities across Europe. After which, a reception was held at the city hall for all guests. The Mayor of Exincourt made a presentation, welcoming all visitors to her historical city, and the local staff ensured that everyone had a memorable evening.

At our first multinational event in five years, the Branch Directors, Regional Directors, members, and friends from numerous countries gathered for the first time in many years. The seminars were held on October 19th and 20th, with 225 people gathering at the opening ceremony to officially begin two days of Karate, Iaido, Nihon Jujutsu, and Aikido training and camaraderie.



18 October Opening Ceremony

## 2024 Kokusai Budoin, IMAF International Seminar in France

The Japan headquarters instructors included Mr. Higuchi and Mr. Sofue from the Karate Division, Mr. Kumazawa from the Iaido Division, Mr. Komoto from the Aikido Division, and Mr. Gage from the Nihon Jujutsu Division, who came from the United States. In addition, Mr. Nanase from the Karate Division and Mr. Mitsuhashi from the Aikido Division joined as assistants, for a total of seven instructors. Seminar participants joined sessions not only from the division to which they belong, but also from other divisions, giving everyone a valuable opportunity to cultivate one's own martial art, as well as to gain experience with other arts.



Karatedo Practitioners



Aikido Practitioners



Iaido Practitioners



Nihon Jujutsu Practitioners

### Mr. Nanahoshi Takeya

2024 Kokusai Budoin, IMAF European Seminar Assistant Instructor

I was a great honor to participate in 2024 Kokusai Budoin, IMAF European Seminar as an assistant instructor. The event was held in Exincourt, France, a very beautiful town with a peaceful atmosphere, where our delegation was warmly welcomed by the Mayor at a reception held at the City Hall.

225 people from France, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Denmark, Switzerland, the United States, Japan, and other origins, joined the event. It was clear from the beginning that all participants shared a love for traditional Japanese martial arts. Throughout the seminar one could see that people from many countries do not simply seek competitive sports, but rather focus on the skills of each martial art, the mind and humanity of the practitioner, and the training of the body, in other words, "mind, technique, and body." Therefore, I felt the weight of the history of the International Martial Arts Federation that has built up during the past 72 years, and realized that, as a member, I must continually apply myself to support and promote this venerable organization.

## High Rank Examinations, congratulations to all successful candidates!



Branch Directors' Meeting



Headquarters Examiners



Reception



Gala



On Saturday, an examination for a total of ten people, consisting of four from the Karate Division, two from the Iaido Division, three from the Japanese Jujitsu Division, and one from the Aikido Division, was conducted by the Headquarters Examiners.

In conclusion, special thanks is due to Mr. Antoine Torres, the French Branch Director, his staff, and their families, as well as all to all participants for their outstanding contributions and dedication that helps to make the International Martial Arts Federation a leading organization worldwide.

## International Iaido Seminar

An International Martial Arts Federation Iaido Seminar was held in Regensburg, Germany from Saturday, December 3rd to Sunday, December 5th, 2023. Due to the worldwide corona virus pandemic, we had not organized a large, multinational event since 2019. However, in light of our commitment to supporting members everywhere, it was decided to hold an international event in Regensburg. A total of 62 members from Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and Denmark attended the seminar, marking a successful return to activities for members and friends in Europe.



## Nihon Jujutsu Examination in Austria

Congratulations to Mr. Armin Kopplhuber, who achieved Nihon Jujutsu 4 Dan, and Mr. Dietmar Fröhlich, who achieved Nihon Jujutsu 2 Dan.

Special appreciation is due to Dr. Elisabeth Noisser, Austrian Branch Director, as well as Ms. Nakayama, and Mr. Maierhofer for their unwavering dedication and leadership.

## Kokusai Budoin • Kokusai Budorenmei - International Martial Arts Federation (IMAF)

Headquarters Organizational Structure, effective 10 December 2024

President	Yasuhisa Tokugawa
Chief Director	Ikuo Higuchi
Co-Vice Chief Directors	Kunikazu Yahagi, Hitoshi Iioka
HQ Directors	Masayuki Kumazawa, Toshihisa Sofue, Takahiro Kimura, John Gage, Jun Komoto
Secretary General	Jun Komoto
Auditor	Nobuaki Kasahara
Advisors	Susumu Sakuma, Terutaka Kawabata
Consultants	Masashi Hasegawa, Shinji Tsutsui, Lance Gatling
Councilors	Takeshi Amano, Takao Hara, Norio Suzuki, H-D. Rauscher, A. Fredrix, E. Noisser, A. Torres, L. Zacharias, J. Cruz, T. Wederkinch, Takeshi Takano, Shuhei Kobayashi, Michiaki Anzai, Shigenobu Miyamoto, Takamitsu Yoshikawa, Tamaki Mitsuhashi, Terumasa Hotta, Shiro Suzuki