



## Featured News

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Tadanori Nobetsu

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**Kokusai Budoin • Kokusai Budorenmei International Martial Arts Federation**

**Japan HQ 2022 Calendar**

January 1 to December 31, 2019

January 8, 2019: HQ Office Opens

February 9: Board of Directors Meeting  
• 12: 30 pm - 2: 30 pm

March: Board of Examiners Meeting  
• 1 through 5 Dan Examination Review

April 21: Japan Budo Seminar  
Seidōkan Dojo • Ageo city, Saitama  
• 1 pm - 5 pm

June or July: All Japan Budo Exhibition  
Date to be Announced

July: Board of Examiners Meeting  
• Title and 6 through 8 Dan Candidates

July 6: Board of Directors Meeting  
• 12: 30 pm - 2: 30 pm

August 5 ~ 14: Summer Break - HQ Office

October: Gendo Newsletter no. 65

October: Board of Examiners Meeting  
• 1 through 5 Dan Candidates

**Japan HQ Office Business Hours**

Tuesday to Friday from 9 am to 4 pm

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Due to government mandated restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, during 2020 and 2021, Kokusai Budoin • Kokusai Budorenmei domestic and international activities were limited. However, we are hopeful that soon everyone will be able to resume regular activities, including daily practice, local, regional, and international events, at the earliest opportunity.

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.



To all Directors of the International Martial Arts Federation, Overseas Branches

On behalf of the Japan Headquarters Board of Directors, I would like to wish all members, their families, and friends, a happy new year.

While the past two years have been difficult, I trust you will join me in celebrating the victories we have shared, as well as offering sympathy to all of whom may have suffered losses.

Meanwhile, the Board of Directors, as well senior members, in Japan have been extremely fortunate as we have all come through this ordeal in good condition. I attribute this to the positive health effects of martial arts practice, and, in particular to the effectiveness of breathing techniques common to traditional martial arts.

Indeed, I suggest we all use this unique moment to reflect on both our challenges and successes in order to deepen our commitment to budo.

In the future, I look forward to once again holding national, regional, and international seminars each year, and thereby providing guidance and instruction for members of all levels, with a special focus on senior instructors, as a means of encouragement, advancement, and promoting fraternity among members everywhere.

Currently, the Japan Headquarters Board of Directors and HQ Office are working hard to organize upcoming events. Please expect more news to follow.

I pray for good health and best fortune for you, your families, friends, and people throughout the world.

Tadanori Nobetsu, Chief Director of the International Martial Arts Federation

**2019 Kokusai Budoin • Kokusai Budorenmei All Japan Budo Exhibition, Ageo Municipal Sports Center**  
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**Kokusai Budoin • Kokusai Budorenmei 70th Anniversary**

Established in 1951, a group of Japan's most prominent martial artists from a variety of disciplines gathered in November of that year to discuss how to rebuild Japan, which was devastated during World War II. Unified in their commitment to help the people of their country, in January of the next year, The National Japan Health Association was founded. It would later be called the Kokusai Budoin, International Martial Arts Federation (IMAF).

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 (Great, great uncle of Emperor Naruhito, and former lieutenant general in the Imperial Army), and was followed by Prince Higashikuni (the first post World War II Prime Minister, the only member of the Japanese Imperial Family to have held this post).

The Federation was officially inaugurated at the first post World War II exhibition of traditional Japanese martial arts in Hibiya Park in 1952. Since its founding, IMAF members have continued to promote peace and fraternity through the practice of Japanese martial arts and understanding of Japanese culture throughout the world. continued on page 3

## 2019 Kokusai Budoin • Kokusai Budorenmei All Japan Budo Exhibition, Ageo Municipal Sports Center

Senior proponents and their students gathered from across Japan to demonstrate techniques of classical Japanese martial arts at the 41st Kokusai Budoin, IMAF All Japan Budo Exhibition.



Iaido Demonstration



Okinawa Kobudo Demonstration



Ryushin Shouchi Ryu Demonstration



Karate-do Demonstration

## 2019 Kokusai Budoin • Kokusai Budorenmei International European Congress and Seminar



Iaido Seminar Participants

Members and friends gathered for two days of intense practice, to celebrate old and new friendships, and to hold the annual officers' meeting.

The training included Aikido, Iaido, Karate-do, and Nihon Jujutsu under the direction of senior Japan Headquarters instructors: Nobetsu Tadanori, Kokusai Budoin, IMAF Chief Director, Karate-do Hanshi 10 Dan, Iioka Hitoshi, Headquarters Director, Karate-do Hanshi 8 Dan, Kumazawa Masayuki, Headquarters Director, Iaido Kyoshi 8 Dan, John Gage, Headquarters Director, Nihon Jujutsu Kyoshi 7 Dan, Komoto Jun, Headquarters Staff, Aikido Kyoshi 6 Dan.

Sincerest appreciation is due to all Branch, National, and Regional Representatives, senior instructors and their students, members and their families, friends, and to the Mayor, and the representatives of the City of Strasbourg, France, all of whom contributed to the monumental success of the seminar and congress.

## 2022 Kokusai Budoin, IMAF Americas Regional Seminar



A handful of dedicated martial artists gathered for the first time since the beginning of the Covid pandemic challenged also by the cold weather to forge their mind and spirit during the 2022 IMAF Americas Regional Seminar hosted by John Apeña Sensei at his UASK Martial Arts Center. The event took place on January 21 and 22, 2022 in Carlstadt, New Jersey, just few miles from the Hudson River on the New Jersey/New York border.

The activities began on Friday, January 21st with a seminar on Iaido conducted by Fred T. Shimizu Sensei, a guest instructor from the New York Branch of the Ryushin Shouchi Ryu in which he taught the fundamentals and correct manners of Budo.

The activities continued with a Karatedo rank examination in which Juan Pablo Castellanos was tested and promoted to Black Belt First Dan (Shodan) under the standards set for by the United Alliance of Shoto Karatedo, UASK and Kokusai Budoin, IMAF. In addition, there were rank examinations for Kyu levels. At the Friday evening reception, the members of the UASK Martial Arts Center presented an appreciation award to Shimizu Sensei for his outstanding contributions to the event, and an award of extraordinary merit to Apeña Sensei for his leadership during these very difficult times. Also, Shimizu Sensei presented certificates of rank in Iaido to John Apeña, Jorge M. Castellanos and Juan P. Castellanos - all of whom had taken examinations prior to the pandemic.



Additionally, Jose Juan Cruz Sensei, IMAF Americas Branch Director used Zoom to announce the following Kokusai Budoin, IMAF promotions: John K. Apeña, 5th Dan Karatedo; Jorge M. Castellanos, 3rd Dan Karatedo; Alexander Ascencio Jr., 3rd Dan Karatedo; and Roderick Marquardt, 2nd Dan Karatedo.

All activities resumed on Saturday January 22nd for a long day of intensive training. Participants shared fundamentals, history, concepts, and principles of Shotokan Karatedo, Judo and Okinawa Kobudo throughout the day. We look forward to hosting more regional seminars in our effort to continue building up Kokusai Budoin, IMAF Americas.

• 2022 IMAF America Appointments: Jose Juan Cruz, Branch Director, Sabastian Velilla, Branch Director, Vincent Valverde, Regional Director

For more information about events, membership, and other activities: <https://www.imaf-americas.org/>

You can also find us on Facebook by entering: IMAF Americas – KBIA.

## Kokusai Budoin • Kokusai Budorenmei 70th Anniversary

During its 70 year history, Kokusai Budoin, IMAF has striven to expand understanding of Japanese culture and promote peace for people everywhere through establishing connections among the men, women, and children who practice traditional Japanese martial arts. Some significant milestones include the 1968 world tour when Kazuo Ito and Shizuya Sato traveled to 12 countries promoting and demonstrating traditional Japanese martial arts; the opening of the first international branches in Belgium, France, Great Britain, India, West Germany and the Netherlands in 1975; the 1st European Congress in Paris, France in 1979; the 10th Anniversary European Congress in 1991; the 10th anniversary of IMAF Americas in 1994; to name but a few of the numerous activities throughout the world.

As the federation celebrates its history, all members and friends are encouraged to redouble his or her commitment to the pursuit of our ideals; the promotion peace through fraternity found in shared interests and dedication to the practice of budo - classical Japanese martial arts, in order to develop the minds, bodies, and moral fibre of all practitioners.

## 8th Dan Iaido Promotion for Dr. Elisabeth Noisser



Following her successful examination at the 2019 Kokusai Budoin • Kokusai Budorenmei International European Congress and Seminar, Dr. Noisser was awarded Iaido 8 Dan.

Dr. Noisser began practicing Japanese martial arts in 1975, joined Kokusai Budoin in 1993, and served as a Regional Director from 1994 to 1996. From 1997 to present, she has served as the Branch Director of Austria. She has been teaching Iaido at the University of Vienna for the last 25 years, and founded Seishinkan Dojo in Vienna in 2000. In addition to supporting members in Austria, Dr. Noisser regularly visits Japan to further her studies and has worked tirelessly to encourage members throughout Europe through leading numerous inspiring seminars and lending a helping hand in Great Britain, France, Germany, Hungary, Denmark, and elsewhere.

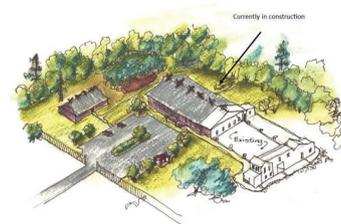
## Japanese Cultural Facility in Florida, USA

A budokan and Japanese fine arts center is being built on 20 acres in central Florida, USA. The property is owned by IMAF Americas Co-Director Sabastian Velilla and has been rezoned into a cultural institution. Arching Oaks Arts and Cultural Center is a 501 (c) (3) Nonprofit organization, located in the geographic center of Florida.

Upon completion, the facility will be dedicated to promoting and maintaining traditional Japanese arts and culture, and feature a traditional Japanese dojo, tatami room for chado, kado and Ikebana. Adjacent to the dojo is a full size art studio, including pottery-making area and guest housing. An additional 2000 sq ft dojo and gallery space is being built adjacent to the kyudojo to provide space for retreats, seminars, and other events intended to meet the growing needs of IMAF members.

Located at 37114 North Thrill Hill Road, Eustis, Florida, USA, The Kashimon Dojo offers karate-do, kyudo, and Iaido, while the Arching Oaks Arts and Culture Center offers a variety of arts, crafts, and traditional Japanese studies.

Geographically, the property is the largest Japanese culture center in the U.S., and is intended to offer guests and members a place to escape the pressures of daily life, to enjoy fellowship, and experience the beauty of Florida's natural wildlife. While the facility is still under construction, the eventual goal is to donate the property to the state of Florida in order to ensure that it will remain a place dedicated to traditional Japanese culture in perpetuity.



## 2021 Annual review Kokusai Budoin • Kokusai Budorenmei Branch Austria

2021 was another difficult year for everyone - including us Austrian budōka! We could not do our training in the usual way and seminars could only be carried out if the appropriate hygiene measures were observed.

The Covid-19 situation did not allow Seishinkan Dōjō Vienna to practice Budō in the usual school gym, so we trained outdoors, usually meeting once a week in a meadow in the outskirts of Vienna.

2021 events included the annual international Seishinkan Iaidō seminar in Opponitz/Austria in August, and the international Iaidō and Nihon Jujutsu seminar at the Budōkan in Wels/Austria in November.

We hope that everybody will get through this pandemic in best health. Stay safe!



## Utsuwa: Dishware and Other Vessels for Everyday Life

The importance of the harmonious arrangement of food and dishware in washoku (traditional Japanese meals) is understood in Japan by everyone from the top chefs of Kyoto cuisine to the humble Japanese home cook preparing a festive meal. The notion is captured in the expression "dishware is a 'kimono' for food," a phrase bequeathed by the artist, potter and epicure Kitaoji Rosanjin (1883–1959) and expressed in the wide variety of beautiful and practical dishware produced around the country. This appreciation of harmonious arrangements extends to all manner of other vessels used in everyday life, from intricate bamboo lattice ware to bonki pots for bonsai.

Highlighting Japan Vol. 15 Utsuwa: Dishware and Other Vessels for Everyday Life

<https://www.gov-online.go.jp/eng/publicity/book/hlj/20210101.html>

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