



Toshiharu Sawada Shihan & Kimori Dojo Nagoya Japan

By Simon Puffett - 17/02/2008

Toshiharu Sawada Shihan was introduced to the Aikido Shinryukan members by Nobuo Takase Shihan during a seminar in Auckland of June 2002.

Unknown to us at the time was his expertise with the Jo and Bokken and the direct correlation between his weapons training and taijutsu (empty handed technique).

My first visit to Sawada Shihan's dojo in Nagoya Japan was while accompanying Nobuo Takase Shihan along with Sawada Shihan and several of Kimori Dojo's senior members on a trip to Beijing and Teinjin for a biannual grading and seminar.

On our return to Kimori Dojo in Nagoya we received an incredible amount of hospitality on behalf of Sawada Shihan, his wife and the Kimori dojo members over the period of several days.

Having trained directly with Takase Shihan since 1990 I recognized the introduction of Sawada Shihan's application of technique as a necessary addition and compliment to my technique and understanding of Aikido.

Since that initial trip to Kimori Dojo in 2002, I have made the commitment to visit Sawada Shihan every year to experience his style and application of Aikido.

This year just like every other year has proven to be an eye opener, with Sawada Shihan's technique evolving and constantly improving, yet even in his own words has become even more simplified as time goes by.

The past three years I have enjoyed the company and translation skills of Aaron McConnell Sensei who has lived within Kimori Dojo and worked in Nagoya as an English teacher and now as an instructor for children's Aikido classes.

Aaron was originally a member of Aikido Shinryukan Canterbury before moving to Japan after receiving a scholarship to Kyoto University to study Japanese language.



Toshiharu Sawada Shihan



Sawada Shihan Demonstrating
at the Kimori Weapons Seminar in February 2008



AIKIDO SHINRYUKAN

OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE AIKIKAI WORLD HEADQUARTERS, TOKYO JAPAN

Every year we meet to join forces to help each other try to attempt to unravel the secrets of Sawada Shihan's technique and movement, only to have the rug ripped out from under us as Sawada Shihan pulls something new out of his bag of tricks, that no one in his dojo has ever seen him demonstrate before.

Ultimately Aaron and I end up consoling ourselves with several cans of Suntory's finest....beer, while dissecting the days training.

This year like the last I was given the opportunity to attend the seminar of Kuribayashi Shihan from the Aikikai World Headquarters at the Aichi Daigakuen University held for all current and past attendees of the university. It was a privilege to train with many of the 100 + aikidoka of all ages and grades who attended the seminar.

In summary, I cannot speak highly enough of the level of training I receive when attending Kimori Dojo and recommend that if those Shinryukan members who wish to broaden their experience and level of Aikido, not forgetting Japanese culture and spirit.

Then you must seriously consider attending the Kimori Dojo Annual Gasshuku, which is held in Yumori Nagoya on the first weekend of September.

You are all welcome to attend! For an experience you will never forget!



Kuribayashi Shihan & Simon Puffett Sensei



Kimiko Sawada - Toshiharu Sawada - Simon Puffett

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