



AIKIDO SHINRYUKAN
OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE AIKIKAI WORLD HEADQUARTERS, TOKYO JAPAN

INTERNATIONAL AIKIDO FEDERATION 2009 TANABE & KIMORI DOJO, NAGOYA

By Katia Hudan - Shumeikan New Caledonia

In October 2008, the Aikido Shinryukan New Zealand and Shumeikan New Caledonia delegation went to Tanabe (Wakayama district), in Japan, for the 10th Congress of the IAF. Tanabe is located in a sacred area; in the heart of Shinto, the first Japanese religion.

This seminar was also the 40th commemoration of O'Sensei Morihei UESHIBA, who founded this martial art. Thus, the Doshu his grandson and Waka Sensei his great grandson opened and closed the ceremonies during the congress. Trainers from over 40 countries totalling around 800 to about 1,200 people during the week including Japanese Aikidoka came to this grateful event, which has given us all an exceptional dimension in the human relationship and the enriching exchange, thanks to the training of this traditional martial art.

During a full week, we were lucky to train with 15 prestigious Sensei and each of them showed us their Aikido style and application reflecting their personality. For me coming to Japan has meant penetrating the soul of Aikido because the Japanese way of life highlights the code of ethics not only on the mats but also in every trainer's life.

After the congress, several of the Shinryukan and Shumeikan participants travelled onto Sawada Shihan's dojo in Nagoya for the second part of our trip to Japan. Upon arrival no time was lost! And we quickly started the very serious and also enriching training, with Sawada Shihan demonstrating the very close relationship between weapons and taijutsu training.

Quite noticeably, Sawada Shihan's students were all of a very high level with a good rhythm and feeling during the training. Thanks to Sawada Sensei, we have become aware of our difficulties and no doubt! Aikido is definitely such a long journey! This adventure was finally so wonderful with no regret at all! And above all, we cannot forget to thank so much Takase Shihan and Sawada Shihan who were so very friendly and generous to share with us the long way of Aikido!



10th International Aikido Federation Congress 2008 – Tanabe, Japan

AIKIDO SHINRYUKAN

Hombu Dojo - 16 Aberfoyle Street, Mt Eden, Auckland New Zealand

P.O Box 13 - 3013 Eastridge Auckland Phone 0064 09 379 3777 A/hrs 0064 021 779 179

www.aikidonewzealand.com



AIKIDO SHINRYUKAN

OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE AIKIKAI WORLD HEADQUARTERS, TOKYO JAPAN

INTERNATIONAL AIKIDO FEDERATION 2009

TANABE & KIMORI DOJO, NAGOYA

By Christopher Pechberty - Shumeikan New Caledonia

From October 5th to 13th 2008, the International Aikido Federation (IAF) held its 10th Congress in Tanabe, Wakayama Prefecture in Japan. This place and the nearby Kumano Mountains are considered a sacred land in Japan. Tanabe is also O Sensei's birthplace. The IAF Congress was held in Tanabe to commemorate the 40th anniversary of O Sensei's passing.

Over 40 countries took part in the congress and a delegation of New Zealand was present, conducted by TAKASE Sensei. New Caledonians were invited in this delegation, and 9 of us readily accepted to be part of it. In addition to the administrative agenda, daily trainings were conducted by Sensei's taking turn on the mats. We had the privilege to practice under the supervision of great Sensei's:

TAMURA Shihan	TADA Shihan	ISOYAMA Shihan	YAMADA Shihan
ENDO Shihan	YASUNO Shihan	SUGANO Shihan	ASAI Shihan
SUGANUMA Shihan	SEKI Shihan	YOKOTA Shihan	FUKAKUSA Shihan
TISSIER Shihan	SMIBERT Shihan		

The Doshu conducted the last practice of the week, on the Sunday morning. In all, 600 to 1,200 aikidokas from all over the world practiced every day, making this seminar an unprecedented opportunity to meet and practice with people from various horizons and style.

On October 11th, an international demonstration was held at Kumano Hongu (grand shrine). The demonstration kicked-off with WAKA Sensei, Doshu's son and was closed by the Doshu. National and international delegations were given the opportunity to perform their best aikido. The NZ demonstration was performed by Andrew WILLIAMSON, Shane GOODWIN being the Uke.

Going to Japan and practicing aikido in Tanabe is, for any aikidoka, going to the birthplace of our art. Discovering the Japanese way of life and experiencing the traditional Ryokan was also part of the treat. We learnt what politeness, service and efficiency meant according to Japanese standards.

The seminar ended on October 13th but some of us followed TAKASE Sensei to Nagoya and trained with SAWADA Sensei for a few days. There again, we were warmly welcome by SAWADA Sensei's family and dojo members, both on the mats and outside during traditional evening meals. We definitely tied new bonds with aikidokas from the Kimori dojo and we now hope to meet them again.

Much more could be said about this flawless stay in Japan but again, we would like to thank TAKASE Sensei for inviting us (New Caledonians) and for his help and leadership while in Tanabe and Nagoya. Also thanks to SAWADA Sensei and people from the Kimori dojo for their kindness and warm welcome. To all of them, thank you so much for an unforgettable experience.

AIKIDO SHINRYUKAN

Hombu Dojo - 16 Aberfoyle Street, Mt Eden, Auckland New Zealand

P.O Box 13 - 3013 Eastridge Auckland Phone 0064 09 379 3777 A/hrs 0064 021 779 179

www.aikidonewzealand.com