

## First 6 months DC report to IAF members

The **newly elected DC** is now 6 months in operation and we like to update you on our activities. As DC headed by Kei Izawa, we represent in age both **Doshu's** generation and the generation of the future Doshu. We are devoted to be of assistance to our members, the Ueshiba Family, and the Aikikai. As global level sports activities increase, IAF has inevitably become more involved in some of those global initiatives and IAF needed to reposition our role within the Aikikai structure. Our first step has been to request to the Aikikai an annual coordination meeting to streamline our strategy and activities with those of Aikikai and Doshu. For this purpose the Aikikai under the guidance of Doshu, established an **IAF-Liaison Office headed by Dojo-cho Mitsuteru Ueshiba**. The first meeting of this Liaison Office with the IAF was held successfully with the entire DC in Tokyo 13 and 14th February 2017. On that occasion IAF presented its draft action plan for the upcoming 4 years under the slogan "**Friendship by Keiko on the Tatami**". This four year strategy will be formulated together with the IAF Liaison Office. During this meeting **Doshu** expressed his directive that the IAF is part of Aikikai. **Doshu** also pointed out that the IAF should revise its statutes, to cope with the desired direction of inclusiveness, that multiple Hombu recognized organizations within a country could become part of the IAF.

To make our plans concrete for our members, beside the installation of the IAF Liaison Office with the Aikikai, as IAF have also installed some working groups as we need more expertise and resources to implement major changes.

A) **Working groups**. Five working groups are in different stages of progress, all formed as a circle of delegates of the member nations.

- The Gender Working group. The aim of this working group is to promote equality among the ranks of senior instructors and board members. It has currently 17 members from 16 member nations.
- The Youth Working group. The aim of this working group is to promote international exchange projects for young Aikidoka's in the age group of 12 to 16.
- The EU-funding Working group. The aim of this working group is to apply for EU funding for combined projects of member nations within the EU and around the Mediterranean Sea. The working group has now 5 members.
- The Disability Working group. The aim of this working group is to promote the access to Aikido for persons with Disabilities.
- The Members fee Working group. The aim of this working group is to prepare proposals to our members for a new members fee structure as discussed in Takasaki.

**For all these working groups we call for delegates from the member-nations to participate.**

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B) Two of the DC members who are also professional lawyers, will create the sixth working group for Lawyers, aimed at the concrete and actual **revision of the statutes** at the next congress.

C) A **media team**. Besides the different working group the IAF is now working with a media-team for external communication, consisting of 5 appointed members; a content director, a webmaster, a

press-officer, a content-producer and a design director. These activities will be more visible to all but we shall take even more proactive role in web/media and branding relations which we will notify the members later.

D) Internal communication within the DC. The DC itself has started to use a information and project sharing platform among DC members to make our time management and coordination more efficient.

E) With limited operational budget, IAF can not take very proactive role in projects but we will look for efficient ways to consolidate and network the operations of the national federations. We will also plan actively to look for ways to increase members (recruitment efforts underway) as successful as the last Congress. IAF will also focus on some strategic regions where we need to assist Hombu to strengthen the presence of genuine Aikido.

We can report you that the IAF have attended the 2017 Sportaccord Convention in Aarhus Denmark in April 2017, to discuss the possible future Combat Games for which the next one is scheduled in 2019. IAF, for your information, has requested the organizers that the name of the event be changed from Combat Games to something that includes Martial Arts.

The new DC, would like to make sure that you are informed of the activities undertaken by us but also would like to highlight that we would welcome member's ideas and involvement and assistance for some interesting projects. Your involvement will make the programs more fruitful and enjoyable. Please help us push the slogan, "Friendship by Keiko on the tatami". Thank you.