



June 2022

1st 6-month report of the IAF

for the term 2021–2024

Dear IAF members, dear members of the Technical Council and of the Senior Council, IAF Liaison Office, Honorable Dojocho and Doshu.

After the first digital General Assembly (GA) in the history of the International Aikido Federation (IAF), the newly elected Directing Committee (DC) came into office on 13 October 2021.

The first months after the 13th IAF GA were overshadowed by the aftermath of the Pandemic and the war in Ukraine.

In spite of these dire circumstances many national members gradually resumed their activities to get Aikido **Back On Track**.

BACK ON TRACK

As soon as the Covid-19 restrictions were lifted in such a way that normal Aikido practice was again possible, the following actions and events were facilitated, initiated or supported by the IAF -

Liaison Meeting between IAF and Aikikai

On 25 February 2022 a digital IAF Liaison Meeting with the Aikikai was held to present and coordinate the IAF action plan with the Aikikai.

Besides finalizing the action plan which was later distributed to the members, it was discussed how to align the newly revised statutes with the upcoming revision of the International regulations of the Aikikai.

The concept agreed to between Hombu and the IAF is for Hombu Recognized Organizations (HRO's) in a country to cooperate by forming into an umbrella organization that becomes the member of the IAF for that country and that then strives for State recognition of that umbrella organization.

Memorandums of Understanding (MOU's)

Just before the War in Ukraine, an MOU was signed between the IAF and the Russian Sports Ministry to secure the position of Aikikai Aikido being accepted as a demonstration Sport.

On 19 May 2022 a MOU was also signed between the IAF and International World Games Association (IWGA) to ensure that if Aikido participates as demonstration Sport in future editions of the Games, the IAF as an international federation (IF) shall receive the same conditions as the other IF's representing competition Sport.

Various Aikido groups also entered into MOU's to facilitate their future participation in the activities of the IAF, or are in negotiations to do so, of which more information appears below.

Umbrella's

After visiting Morocco an umbrella was formed between the existing member, the Moroccan Aikido Foundation, and the Moroccan Aikido Group, under the name of Aikikai Morocco.

In Tunisia the current associate member changed its name to Tunisian Aikido Foundation, and an umbrella is in the making with 2 other Aikikai groups.

On 17 May 2022 in Barcelona the First National Embukai was held by our member, Spain Aikikai - the umbrella in Spain with 9 Aikikai organizations.

In Mexico the membership is transformed into an umbrella with name Aikikai Kan, Union Aikido Mexico, and it will hold in cooperation with Union Latino Americana (ULA-IAF) its first International congress for the region in Mexico City on 29-31 July 2022.

World Games, Birmingham, Alabama (USA)

The IAF is part of the biggest multi-sport event in 2022 as a participant in the World Games that takes place in Birmingham, Alabama (USA) on 07-17 July 2022.

The Aikido Embukai will be on the 13th of July 2022.

The IAF is negotiating with IWGA for conditions in line with the abovementioned MOU to be implemented for this year's event already and also for the MOU to be respected in upcoming events.

Other planned Events

A seminar of the senior council members Tissier Shihan and Asai Shihan was held in the Netherlands in combination with the General Assembly of the EAF. Asai Shihan is founder of the Aikikai Deutschland and Tissier Shihan founder of the FFAAA.

An upcoming Youth Event is scheduled at Papendal, Arnhem in the Netherlands on 22-24 July 2022 with the participation of 7 European countries (Netherlands, France, Luxembourg, Sweden, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Montenegro) and also South Africa and Saudi Arabia headed by Toshiro Suzuki Shihan from the Hombu.

Members of the DC visited the All Japan Aikido Embukai in May 2022. The planned IAF participation with 18plus teams from France, Belgium and Chile has been shifted to October 2022, when the 3 teams will do an Embu in the Hombu.

Future participation shall be in preparation for the IAF part of the All Japan Aikido Embukai during May 2023 and in training and participating in the Embukai event in Kyoto during the fall of 2023.

Administration

Upon the decision of the members during the GA, the IAF action plan related to the budget was sent out to the members after 3 months of the GA.

After 6 months the minutes of the GA were also circulated to the members.

Formal DC meetings have already been held by the DC members on 15 October 2021, 12 January 2022, 23 March 2022 and 1 June 2022 since the 13th IAF GA.

Working Groups (WG)

A new Youth working group called Eurasia Youth WG was established with Azerbaijan, Croatia, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine as members. Turkey later announced that it also wanted to join.

The Youth WG of Latin America (ULA) presented to Aikikai Hombu a teaching framework for Youth and Hombu promised to establish a curriculum creating group within Aikikai Hombu. ULA Youth WG will conduct webinars based on requirements considered to be core of instructor qualification points within the next 6 months.

IAF 100 project

Guam, Malaysia and Georgia have been accepted as associate members of the IAF by the DC.

The DC has also opened discussions with various other new potential members such as Israel, Palestine, Kenya, Zanzibar, Tanzania, Angola, Syria, Virgin islands.

Budo Taikai in Japan

In view of the strong Japanese government intent to increase inbound tourists and the fact that the government started a Budo Tourism promotion program, IAF presented some ideas to consolidate Japanese Budo and host some major international events.

The proposal was presented to Aikikai and then discussed with various stakeholders in Japan which included some of IAF's counterparts in Karate, Kendo and Sumo.

It was further discussed with other critical entities in Japan and culminated with a meeting with the commissioner of Sports of the Sports Agency who showed strong interest in the initiative.

It will take some time to create this Budo Taikai concept into actionable plans. Further meetings with some stakeholders will take place during the World Games in Birmingham, Alabama.

Ongoing War in Ukraine

Fundraising activities to benefit the victims of this war have been initiated by different European members of the IAF such as Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, the Netherlands.

Many European Members decided to offer the opportunity for refugees from Ukraine to train for free after requested to do so by the IAF.