



## **2<sup>nd</sup> 6-month report of the IAF**

November 2022

for the term 2021–2024

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

As the world is slowly opening up again in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic, the second 6 months of activities in the IAF were inspired by the credo of the 1st 6 months report - to bring Aikido “Back On Track” again. In many countries dojos and federations resumed their normal activities and practice after a long period of abnormality. The “Back On Track” initiative was also strongly needed to counterbalance the global felt tension - due to the current war in Europe - within the Aikido World Community in doing the Martial Art of Peace.

#### **World Games in Birmingham, Alabama, 10-14 July 2022**

With a delegation of 40 Aikidoka from 10 countries, including Irie Shihan with a team from Japan and Hendricks Shihan heading the team of the USA consisting of members of the USAF, the AWA and the Californian Aikido Association, the IAF presented itself again as a demonstration sport in the World Games after being absent since 2005. By training together in friendship and respect for each other’s background, the Aikidoka from these 10 countries created an Embu program which caught the onlooker’s imagination. Whilst it was executed through personal excellence, it was created by efficient cooperation.

The IAF team members for this event were Wilko Vriesman, Kei Izawa, Adam Manikowski and media officer Irina Gaspar.

#### **Youth Working Group**

IAF Youth Event 2022, Papendal , the Netherlands

In cooperation with the Aikikai, who dispatched Toshio Suzuki Shihan to the event, and with the presence of the Japanese Ambassador in the Netherlands, Mr. Hidehisa Horinouchi and his wife, 8 countries presented themselves with their youth teams in the age group of 12-17 years old. The event was combined with a meeting between Suzuki Shihan and the delegates of the European Youth Working Group (wg) to discuss the pedagogy of teaching Aikido to this age group.

Due to war in Ukraine it was decided to postpone the differentiation of the Europe Youth wg into an Eastern Europe and Western Europe section. The Europe Youth wg is now headed by a new chairperson, Irina Kushelevich from Lithuania, who took over this role from Pia Moberg from Sweden.

The Europe Youth wg and the ULA Youth wg will soon be accompanied by a section of the Youth wg focused on the Arabic World. As one of the aims of the Youth wg is to create a curriculum for instruction

and teaching to the youth, a request was made to the Aikikai to create a taskforce for the Aikikai to interface with the Youth wg of the IAF. In August a taskforce was installed by the Aikikai consisting of Irie Shihan, Katsurada Shihan, Oyama Shihan and Nakamura Shidoi.

The Youth wgs for ULA and for Europe are coordinated by Kei Izawa, and the Youth wg for the Arabic Region by Wilko Vriesman.

### **18+ Young Adult Working Group**

Before the pandemic a test project was launched in France, Belgium and Chile to each form a 18+ Young Adult national team. It was planned for these teams to take part in the All Japan Aikido Embukai in 2020. This event has now been postponed to 2023. To keep the teams motivated they were part of the recently held online version of the World Martial Arts Mastership in South Korea with help and support of our member in South Korea, the Korean Aikido Federation.

This 18+ Young Adult wg is the natural follow-up of the Youth wg, which is focusing on the age range from 12 until 17 years old.

After the initial start of 3 countries the new wg will be officially launched in November 2022 with an open call to all the member countries to form such teams and train with them on a national level. The IAF from its side shall provide a wg platform where delegates from different countries are present. IAF shall also organize events specifically targeted at 18+ Young Adults ( age range 18-25, minimum Shodan). The plan is that in the future these teams can participate in the IAF part of the All Japan Aikido Embukai as well as in specific events created for this group.

The first such specific event for 18+ Young Adults will be an event in Kyoto on 15-17 September, 2023. The event will be organized by DC member Yoko Okamoto Shihan with the participation of Dojo-cho as a coordinated project between the IAF, the Aikikai, and the Kyoto Aikido Renmei. Specific details will be provided by the midst of January.

Coordination of the 18+ Young Adult wg is currently done by Wilko Vriesman.

### **Forming of Umbrellas**

Switzerland

An umbrella has been formed between the former member ACSA and Aikido Switzerland.

Mexico

With the support of the ULA-IAF wg an event to celebrate the forming of the umbrella in Mexico, Aikikaikan-Union Aikido Mexico, was held on 29-31 July in Mexico City. This event also became the starting point for the formation process of umbrellas for Argentina and just recently, with the support of the Aikikai, for Brazil.

### **IAF 100 project**

The DC decided, after a consultation process with the Aikikai, to accept Iraq, Syria, Kenya and Samoa as Associate Members of the IAF.

Coordination of this wg is in the hands of Dorin Marchis.

### **Wada Working Group**

This wg is in the hands of Frederic Heylbroeck, assisted by Corrie Human.

### **Administration**

Upcoming Events:

- An IAF Arabic Summit for IAF members in the region is scheduled on 16-18 February 2023 in Riyadh, hosted by Saudi Arabia;
- A Young adult event, a seminar with Dojo-cho, is scheduled on 15-17 September 2023 in Kyoto;
- Combat Games 2023 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Information about this event will be provided by the middle of December. Each member of the IAF can nominate one person in the age range of 18-45 ( 2<sup>nd</sup>– 4<sup>th</sup> dan) for this event. The host provides the flights and accommodation. The TD for this event is Adam Manakowski;

IAF Summit 2024 in Tokyo is scheduled for 30<sup>th</sup> September – 6<sup>th</sup> of October, 2024.