

## Message from Head Director of KIF

The following is part of the message I sent to the representatives of each country two years and 4 months ago.

In a context where all our member countries are suffering from the circumstances brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, the KUDO International Federation (“KIF”) would like to share its plans with regards to the resumptions of activities as the crisis abates,

KIF would like to progress towards the following objectives.

- a) Increase the number of countries that are members of KIF (including provisional licensed branches). For this purpose, the approval conditions will be reviewed to make it easier to open a new branch.
- b) Stimulate activities worldwide.
- c) Actively seek approval by the NOC (National Olympic Committee) or NSA (National Sports Authority) of each country, and obtain membership in the GAISF (Global Association of International Sports Federations) and IWGA (International World Games Association).

Fostering the holding of international tournaments and seminars shall be a means of advancing b) above. Theme c) would come thereafter as a focus of our efforts.

To anyone practicing KUDO, tournaments are not only a place where to seek competitive excellence, but also a precious opportunity to train mental and physical strength.

I believe that providing such an opportunity to all of its members is one of the key roles of KIF.

Based on this policy, KIF has encouraged and supported the holding of international seminars and continental championships since May 2022, even though the coronavirus pandemic has not yet subsided. Furthermore, the “KIF Regulations for Continental Committee” were established, and also Continental Committees were established in Americas, Asia & Oceania, Europe, and Middle East & Africa. The important role of the Continental Committee is to hold international events regularly such as the Continental Championships, and KIF had supported the holding of international events such as:

May 2022	South Asian Seminar (India)
May 2022	European Seminar (France)
July 2022	European Junior Championships (Malta)
September 2022	Pan Am Championships (Brazil)
October 2022	Italian Open Tournament (Italy)
November 2022	Asian Invitational Tournament (Japan)
March 2023	European Junior Seminar (Malta)
May 2023	6 <sup>th</sup> World Championships (Japan)
May 2023	3 <sup>rd</sup> World Junior Championships (Japan)
September 2023	European Seminar (Denmark)
September 2023	Kaliningrad Friendship Cup (Russia)
October 2023	European Championship (Lithuania)
November 2023	North American Championships (USA)
February 2024	European Junior Championships (Malta)
April 2024	European Seminar (Malta)

I believe that participating in these international events not only motivated the athletes, but also provided a great stimulus to everyone other than the athletes. In the future, we have the following plans:

June 2024	European Championship (Italy)
July 2024	European Junior Camp (Lithuania)
July 2024	Central Asian Seminar (Kazakhstan)
September 2024	Europe & Middle East/African Seminar & Training Camp (Spain)
September 2024	Southeast Asian Seminar (Vietnam)
October 2024	Pan Am Championships (Mexico)
October 2024	Eurasian Cup (Armenia)

In addition to continuing these activities, KIF will also undertake new activities. With the approval of the Board of Directors, KIF has established a new specialized committee named “Kudo for All Committee”.

This Committee is further composed of 3 subcommittees, as follows:

1. a subcommittee tasked with activities towards the youth
2. a subcommittee tasked with activities towards Gender Equality
3. a subcommittee tasked with activities towards inclusivity for people with disabilities

Regarding "activities towards the youth," KIF have appointed Mr. Vladimir Bredikhin from Malta and Mr. Vilius Tarasevicius from Lithuania as committee members, and started new activities. They have been active in mentoring juniors. I would like to share that with you all. We are currently creating a new program to develop juniors in Europe. We will share more about this initiative with you soon.

Regarding "activities towards Gender Equality," KIF have appointed Mr. Mehul Vola (Director of KIF) from India as a committee member. A majority of board members are already women in India. They also provide self-defense instruction, especially to women. In future, the Indian Kudo Federation and KIF will work on a new self-defense technique that takes advantage of Kudo's characteristics. As a first step, KIF will hold a self-defense seminar the day after the European Championships in Italy in June.

Regarding “activities towards inclusivity for people with disabilities”, KIF have appointed Mr. Kenichi Osada (Deputy Head Director of KIF) from Japan as a committee member. He has been interested in martial arts (Budo) education for people with disabilities and has been involved in exchanges with overseas organizations outside the Kudo Federation. Actual activities have yet to begin, but we hope that, with the other two subcommittees, it will provide new stimulation to you all.

We will increase the number of members of each subcommittee and strengthen their activities. We are also considering establishing a new subcommittee. We will share these activities with member countries around the world. Through these efforts, we are further strengthening our position as a lifelong sport.

April 22, 2024

Hideaki TAKAHASHI



Head Director of Kudo International Federation