

## Message from the Head director of KIF on the occasion of the World KUDO Cup

KIF has announced that the 3rd World KUDO Cup will be held on June 28th and 29th next year in Burgas, Bulgaria. We hope to have participation from many countries.

We would like to take this opportunity to share again the basic philosophy of KIF that were announced at the time of the 6th World KUDO Championships.

First, the Olympic Charter states:

- The practice of sport is a human right. Every individual must have the possibility of practising sport, without discrimination of any kind and in the Olympic spirit, which requires mutual understanding with a spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play.
- Recognising that sport occurs within the framework of society, sports organisations within the Olympic Movement shall apply political neutrality. They have the rights and obligations of autonomy.
- The enjoyment of the rights and freedoms set forth in this Olympic Charter shall be secured without discrimination of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, sexual orientation, language, religion, political other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

KIF respects this philosophy and has stipulated the following in our Code of Ethics:

- There shall be no discrimination, whether on the basis of gender, race or ethnicity, religion, nationality, political beliefs, or any other ground.
- In keeping with the dignified behavior expected of Kudo practitioners, one shall refrain from slander or calumny against others. In particular, one should strictly refrain from slander on social media an similar means.

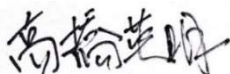
At the 6<sup>th</sup> World KUDO Championships, all participants and spectators were prohibited from making political messages or slandering as decided at the KIF board meeting. KIF strongly urged all of the participants to take the attitude of purely participating in the Budo sport named KUDO or cheering on the athletes regardless of nationality. As we hold the 3rd World KUDO Cup, we would like to share the basic principles outlined above once again.

One of Japan's leading cultures is the Tea Ceremony. The Tea Ceremony is a culture that samurai loved. Like KUDO and JUDO, the word "DO(道)" is used. The typical tea room is a narrow space of four and a half tatamis (about 3m square), and the host behaves tea to guests. The tea room is a sacred place, and one of the important spirits in the Tea Ceremony is that everyone is equal. In the tea room, there is no discrimination due to status, occupation, race, nationality, etc.

In KUDO, where Japan is the birthplace, I hope that when players step onto the competition field, they will respect each other as athletes who love KUDO, rather than what country they are from. We understand that this ideal is very difficult to achieve in today's world, but KIF sincerely hopes that the World KUDO Cup and other International Tournaments will be held as a place to pursue world peace and cooperation through a Budo sport named KUDO in a chaotic world where conflicts of various forms continue.

September 4th, 2024

Hideaki TAKAHASHI



Head Director of Kudo International Federation