

Message from the Head Director of KIF regarding the World KUDO Cup

It has been decided that the 3rd World Kudo Cup will be held in Burgas, Bulgaria on July 5th and 6th this year. KIF is very grateful to the organizer, the Bulgarian Kudo Federation, and the co-organizer, the City of Burgas.

As I have said before, KIF believes that ideologies and beliefs, including religion, should not be a factor in discriminating against athletes in the world of sports and Budo. Any principles and assertions, including religion, should not be the factors in discriminating athletes in the world of sports and Budo. KIF supports the essence of the IOC Code of Ethics, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which state:

“respect for human dignity, reject discrimination of any kind on whatever grounds, be it race, colour, sex, sexual orientation, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status”.

Following the policy of the Bulgarian Ministry of Sports and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the organizers and co-organizers have decided that Russia and Belarus cannot participate. KIF understands this policy and accepts the decision. However, I would like to ask you as follows:

- The world is becoming more and more divided from various angles, such as division by war, by nation, by religion, and by politics. I would like to ask you all whether it is okay for things to continue like this.
- I believe that sports and arts such music can contribute to resolving such divisions. From this perspective, Kudo would like to contribute to world harmony.
- I sent out the following message on June 29, 2022. I would like you to reflect on this again.
「Please take another look at the following "What Kudo means" shown on the KIF official website (<http://ku-do.org/what-is-kudo/>). This does not directly answer the current problems, but as one of the attitudes we take towards karate, we would like to share the "Kudo spirit" written down by founder Takashi Azuma.」
*For an explanation of "What Kudo means" in Japanese, see <https://ku-do.or.jp/kudo/>
- I hope that the 3rd World Kudo Cup will be an opportunity for everyone to reaffirm the "Kudo spirit."

I sincerely hope that the 7th World Kudo Championships and the 4th World Kudo Junior Championships scheduled for 2027 will be a place where all member countries can come together, without the current divisions.

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Hideaki Takahashi



Head Director of Kudo International Federation (KIF)