

World Kudo Cup Report from the Head Director

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Unfortunately, several countries were unable to participate due to visa issues or war, but still, there were approximately 280 athletes from 25 countries entered this World Kudo Cup 2025. This is the largest number of participants in an international Kudo tournament to date, and the tournament venue was also the largest. KIF would like to express our deepest gratitude to the Bulgarian Kudo Federation for hosting this World Kudo Cup, and to the City of Burgas for their tremendous support as co-hosts.

Since three years ago, even as the COVID-19 pandemic continued, KIF has actively planned international tournaments and seminars, and worked to train referees. I believe that this World Kudo Cup is the culmination of those efforts. I feel that the level of the athletes has definitely improved, and the skills of the referees have also improved.

Below are some excerpts from the closing ceremony speeches. I hope that you will once again become aware of this.

At the opening ceremony, I said that “victory and defeat is often decided by a small difference”.

Many of you are very close in ability. It will not be easy for the winners of this tournament to continue to be winners in the next international tournament. What ´s important is what you learn from this tournament. This applies both to winners and losers.

I believe that those who learn more through this tournament, think about what to do next, and striving for the future, will be the winner at the next international tournament. Those who continue to learn and strive will continue to be winners.

I hope that the winners of this World Kudo Cup will continue to be winners in the future, and I hope that the losers will become the next winners. I hope that you will start moving forward toward the next tournaments. I hope that the experiences and learnings you will gain from this World Kudo Cup will lead you all to greater heights.

This is the way to Kudo.

Following this World Kudo Championships, the European Championships and the Asian-Oceanian Championships will continue, and next year, the European Junior Championships and the Eurasian Cup etc. are planned.

Further ahead, in November 2027, the World Kudo Championships will be held. Here, we plan to officially hold a senior (masters) tournament as well.

I hope that many of you will continue to work hard toward the World Kudo Championships two and a half years from now.

Once tournament results from the Bulgarian Kudo Federation are provided, I will publish them promptly.