

New Year's Greetings from the Head Director of KIF

Looking back on the past year, I am deeply grateful to all KIF members for their dedicated efforts, which have enabled the international Kudo community to achieve further growth.

The international tournaments held in 2025 were as follows:

- March: European Junior Championships (Lithuania)
- July: World Cup (Bulgaria)
- October: European Championships (Bulgaria)
- November: Asian Championships (Japan)
- November: European Junior Cup (Malta)

The World Kudo Cup, in particular, became the largest international tournament to date, with 257 participating athletes. I express our renewed gratitude to the Bulgarian Kudo Federation, the organizer, and to the City of Burgas for their support. The other tournaments also saw steady growth in scale and operational quality compared to previous editions.

Additionally, the Junior Summer Camp in Lithuania, the Southeast Asian Seminar in Singapore, the South American Seminar in Brazil, and the African Seminar in Algeria were held.

As of now, the following international tournaments are scheduled for 2026:

- February: European Junior Championships (Lithuania)
- May: East Cup Open (Russia)
- June: North American Championships (USA)
- June: Europe-Asia Cup (Georgia)
- September: South American Championships (Brazil)
- November: European Championships (Bulgaria)
- November: European Junior Cup (Malta)

In addition to these, several international seminars are currently being planned, including in Southeast Asia.

2026 will be a pivotal year, preceding the 7th World Championships and 4th World Junior Championships in 2027. The distinctive activities on each continent are as follows, and I believe this year will be one in which we can expect new developments.

Europe: While the Head Director of KIF has previously chaired the European Committee, it will now operate independently, with expectations for further development.

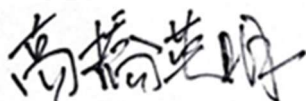
Americas: This will be the first time international tournaments are held in both North and South America in the same year. Mexico has declared its candidacy to host the 2029 World Cup, and we anticipate enhanced capabilities for organizing international events across the entire Americas region.

Asia-Oceania: Announcements regarding a new operational framework are scheduled for February. I also particularly look forward to ongoing international activities in Southeast Asia that will lead to international tournaments in this region.

Middle East & Africa: Last year, we successfully held an Africa Seminar. This year, we intend to place greater emphasis on the Middle East.

I sincerely hope that 2026 will be a wonderful year for all of you. I look forward to meeting you at international tournaments, and I also hope that together with you we can work towards a better world and personal growth through the Budo of Kudo.

January 1, 2026
Hideaki TAKAHASHI



The Head Director of KIF