

Dear IAF member federations

As we approach to the end of 2018 and the beginning of 2019, we, at the Directing Committee would like to send our special seasonal greetings to all of you.

We feel that with your help and the participation of many of you, we are making some steady progress to make IAF a more functional and productive organization for all of you and a nice support group for our motherhouse Aikikai.

This Directing Committee wishes to be an active group reaching for more interaction with its members. We feel that it is essential that Aikidokas that are part of Aikikai interact more with each other as Aikido is not only a martial art for training but it is part of a more comprehensive lifestyle. The Japanese came with a term "Ikigai" (生き甲斐 :a Japanese word whose meaning translates roughly to a reason for being, encompassing joy, a sense of purpose and meaning and a feeling of well-being. The word derives from iki, meaning life and kai, meaning the realisation of hopes and expectations) and we certainly believe Aikido is part of our Ikigai). Our General Secretary presented this concept of activities at the last September 2018 Directive Committee meeting at Hombu and most probably we will incorporate some activities at the next General Assembly in 2020 in Tokyo.



Your DC wishes to interact with more federations in areas that seemed to have received less support up until now. With small resources there is a limit of what we can do but we plan to pay more attention and creative efforts in those areas where support is needed. Please let us know your needs. We have started to get more engaged in Latin America, Asia and to some extent in Middle East. Just in case, we will attach our e-mail addresses so you can get directly in touch with us. Dorin Marchis, a DC member is actively holding discussions with those HROs that are interested in applying for membership to IAF.

Th 2016 -2020 term DC's motto is "friendship through keiko" and we would like to expand on this concept in our next gathering in late September 2020.



Doshu has given us all a directive to make the IAF open its doors to all those Aikikai recognized organizations that wish to join to be able to be part of IAF. We encourage for you to look into the possibility to work together with the other HROs in your country and try to create a national umbrella with activities to strengthen Aikido presence in the world.

Your DC has increased the coordination efforts with Aikikai and continues to be active on many international sports federations such as GAISF, IWGA and AIMS, all under the guidance of our Senior Council, Technical Council, Dojocho and Doshu.

As you would agree, Aikido is a treasure for mankind and we would like to work together with you to succeed in all those activities reported to you in our 6 months report and more. In this festive season, let us conclude this message to you with a Doka by O Sensei:

True Harmony  
Is much more  
Than a written term or spoken phrase  
Don't endlessly discuss it --  
Learn how to make it really happen!

Source:

The Heart of Aikido  
The Philosophy of Takemusu Aiki  
By Morihei Ueshiba

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Izawa'.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wilko Vriesman'.

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