

JUNE 2023

Letter Cognard Hanshi

Forty years have passed since we created the Académie Autonome d'aikido. For twenty-five years, the Académie Internationale de Recherche sur l'Aikido Kobayashi (KAKKHR) has presided over the teaching of our art on an international level. Twenty years have passed since the Hombu Dojo opened and it has been wonderfully embellished thanks to your generosity just in time for this anniversary.

It's time to fulfil one of Kobayashi sensei's wishes. Twenty years before he died, he told me: "If you don't go and teach my aikido in Japan, it will disappear".

I was astonished to hear this and protested, pointing out that there were students in Japan who would ensure the future of his practice, something he denied. However, I have to admit that today I am the only one in Japan who is continuing along the path he set.

His former Japanese students, who are otherwise highly respectable, have gone in a different direction, and the highly sophisticated technical skills he developed, such as the use of meguri, have been abandoned.

So, it's time to set up the organisation that will redevelop Kobayashi aikido in Japan.

This project has already progressed. We have fulfilled some of the conditions required to create this association, the Autonomous Japanese Aikido Academy, we have found a place to house an office and have an official address, we have set up a management committee made up of Japanese members chaired by Watanabe Shosei sensei. All this means that we can now begin to approach institutions to open weekly classes in a public dojo before we can create a second hombu dojo like the one in Bourg Argental.

Our intention is to start classes in the autumn. We are also setting up another organisation, that will be known in Japanese as the "Association to support the development of Kobayashi Aikido", so that we can involve former Japanese students who are no longer practicing or who have turned to another aikido, as well as potential sponsors.

Therefore, I would like to ask for your support in consolidating our position in Japan. I think it's important for all of us, members of Kobayashi Ryu, to have this representation and this nucleus in Japan and to gather together the resources for the foundation of the Japanese Academy and the creation of the Japanese Hombu.



AUTONOMOUS JAPANESE AIKIDO ACADEMY

We must never forget where the aikido we teach comes from, and each of us must be determined to 'give something back' to this brilliant man who was my master and who has become the master of us all. "Nourishing the root" must not remain just a nice idea. Please pass on the message and send your donations to 3AKH. They will be managed in a separate account with a single purpose: the development of Kobayashi aikido in Japan.

As the creation of 3AKH was decisive in developing the whole of Kobayashi Ryu, its support will be decisive in bringing this project to a successful conclusion. This is a historic moment, and I hope you'll want to be part of it.

This summer, we will be celebrating twenty years of the dojo and twenty-five years since the creation of KAKKHR by dedicating a ceremony at the aikijinja to Kobayashi sensei and holding a Hono Embukai, a demonstration in honour of the master. All dojos, all regions and all Kobayashi groups are invited to come and present their work. Please let us know if you intend to attend by registering. As soon as you've registered, we'll let you know the duration of the demonstration and the order in which you'll appear.

Once again, spread the word.

In addition to the teaching courses, there will also be cultural events. The programme is currently being finalized. Come and take part in this great celebration.

Thank you and goodbye.