

OCTOBER 2023



Letter Cognard Hanshi

The momiji have not yet started to bloom in Japan. The weather is mild and summer is slow to fade. Yagyū is enchanting as ever and, as soon as we arrived, everyone realised just how beautiful it is to live here: the Masakisaka dojo and its eternal vibrancy, the embrace of the forest, the peace emanating from the Hotokuji and penetrating the hearts of those who approach it, the soul of Mieko Sensei who, in harmony with those of the greatest samurai in Japanese history, attends the arrivals.

It is the beginning of autumn also at the Hombu Dojo in Bourg Argental.

I heard that it rained. Our trees must be delighted. I can picture the roof of the Aikijinja dripping with rain and still find myself marvelling at your inner strength that made such a feat possible.

Autumn is the time of year when registration for Dai Nippon Butoku Kai (DNBK) opens. This year, we are called upon to further consolidate our position within this organisation that encompasses all Budo in Japan.

The goal is to keep Kobayashi Ryu inscribed in the great history of traditional martial arts as well as in the history of Japan.

Kobayashi Ryu is the only Aikido Ryu officially recognised as a traditional martial art and we must make further progress. I rely on all of you, instructors and assistants, academy and dojo leaders, to encourage your students and members to join this organisation.

I am also relying on all Shihankai members to create a solid core and to disseminate this information widely.

It is important for the school, but also for each of you.

From the second year of membership, you can apply for recognition of your rank by the DNBK, the oldest Budo organisation in Japan, under the aegis of the imperial family, which trains professional Budo masters.

You can also apply for 'samurai' titles (Renshi, Kyoshi and Hanshi), which the DNBK is the only organisation authorised to award under the authority of the Emperor of Japan, as these are titles of nobility. Please find out more about this topic!

Please pay attention to the emails that will be sent to you by the team led by Jolly Shihan, which will allow you to register or renew your DNBK membership.

The beginning of the new academic year in our dojos is well underway and I wish you all a wonderful time as students and instructors. To teach is first and foremost to want the best for everyone, to have a deep-rooted desire to see others grow, free themselves and be happy.

My definition of spirituality can be summed up with a simple question, which I put to you: "Do I do as much good as I can for everyone who approaches me?".

This year will go down in the history of Kobayashi Ryu. Riondet Shihan wanted to join us with his entire group.

He was one of the very first people to meet Kobayashi Sensei in Europe. He stayed in Japan in order to study under his guidance and found happiness there by meeting the woman who became his wife.

These two people meant a great deal to Kobayashi Sensei, who had a special affection for them. Their humility is matched only by their kindness, and they are both models for us all. It is therefore a great joy for me to welcome the whole of Bu Iku Kan Provence to our Kokusai Aikido Kenshukai school. Always give a warm welcome to all the students of Riondet Jean François Shihan and Tomoko Shihan and learn from the smile they always have.

The Kobayashi Dojo project in Japan is progressing. I have been given a few interesting insights and perhaps we will pursue our goal sooner than expected. We had the opportunity, I along with the entire group of practitioners currently in Yagyū, to visit a dojo, and today I have taken steps to try to purchase it. There is some work to be done, but nothing too demanding. The creation of a Japanese Hombu is key in the overall project to revitalise Kobayashi Sensei's Aikido in Japan, in terms of technique as well as spirit.

After the two seminars in Yagyū, I will begin a short tour of various dojos whose instructors have shown a desire to follow us and take part in this project.

Like the Hombu Dojo in Bourg Argental, the Japanese Hombu will also belong to our school, because without your donations and your work nothing would have been and nothing will be possible. I kindly ask instructors to inform their students on how they can contribute to this project by financing it with a donation.

A group, like an individual, needs to know itself and to develop, to elevate itself. It needs kime, strength and determination, and the kime of the group depends on the ki of each individual, on the energy and the strength of their spirit.

More than ever, at this decisive turning point in our history, I am relying on all of you to work together in order to revive the fabulous practice of Kobayashi Sensei in Japan.

The legend is written day after day by the actions and will of each individual. Otherwise, it is written anyway, despite everything, but with blood. Making history means making peace prevail.

Thanking you for your attention, I wish you all the best