



Japan September 2024

Letter to KAKKHR members
(April 2024)



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Dear instructors and members of KAKKHR,

the Kobayashi Aikido Japanese Academy is now close to its birth.

We can now count the days until this momentous event, which will take place in Kyoto in the third week of September 2024.

All of you should have received, together with a letter from Cognard Hanshi, the schedule, written in several languages and full of useful and detailed information, concerning the events (stages, demonstrations, sightseeing) planned in Japan from 5 September (or alternatively, if you can stay for a shorter period, from 11 September) and culminating in the founding ceremony of the *Nippon Kobayashi Hirokazu Aikido Shinko Kiko Association*.

I already had the opportunity to write to you in June 2023 to invite you all, as members of KAKKHR, to support the project.

Today, I would like to thank you for the support you have provided over the past few months, and I wish to involve you further personally in the adventure that will see Cognard Hanshi solemnly and officially sanction the official rebirth of Kobayashi Hirokazu Sensei's aikido in Japan.

This is a milestone in the history of Kobayashi Ryu Aikido, a moment destined to bear much more fruit and deepen its roots the more we participate in large numbers, with the enthusiasm and energy that distinguishes Kobayashi Aikido practitioners.

In my previous message I wrote: «A circle can thus be closed and we too can contribute, each according to our possibilities, to the realization of this circle. In this regard, I would like to recall the profound symbolism that in *shodo* is associated with the figure of the circle, the *enso*: it designates the infinite, the foundation of all beings, the here and now of the spirit in a precise moment; it is also a symbol of a happily concluded transformation, an effective signal that invites new transformations of consciousness and experience».

Thinking about the events scheduled for September in Japan and the future of our school, it comes naturally to me to integrate the image of the circle with those of two other geometric figures, the square and the triangle. Square, triangle and circle – in Zen thought as well as in many symbolic illustrations of Aikido provided by O Sensei Ueshiba Morihei – are intimately connected. In order to be able to close the circle, to reach its perfection and to release the maximum amount of energy, solid foundations such as those on which the square and the triangle (with its invitation to aim high, to elevate oneself, i.e. to evolve) rest, are necessary.

Beyond the profound symbolic value, the creation of the Kobayashi Aikido association in Japan and the events scheduled for September are of crucial importance, with concrete repercussions, for the very future of Kobayashi Ryu Aikido not only in the country where it originated but throughout the world (including Europe). It is necessary to build solid foundations in Japan (where, almost paradoxically, the memory of Kobayashi Soshu and his style have risked falling into oblivion) to guarantee our school's evolution in space and time.

It is with these images in mind and in this spirit that I renew my invitation to you, whatever your role and rank within KAKKHR, to support this great adventure and, if possible, to take part in it with your active presence.

I remind you that in order to communicate your adhesion, and to receive information (both logistical and on payments), you can write to: aaasecretariat@aikido.fr

Thanking you sincerely for your attention, involvement and enthusiasm, I remain sincerely yours.

Andrea Debiasi
(Chairman of KAKKHR)