



Newsletter from Prefectural Headquarters of Gifu District

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**Looking at the first sunrise of the year
Are the children dreaming a dream?
What a divine beauty they are!**
by Chogo

初日見る
夢を見る子の
美しさ
長剛

The bells of New Year's Eve didn't sound as loud as previous years because of the calmly falling snow. "But they must be heard by now." I turn off the TV at the end of the annual grand music show. I don't hear the snowfall but feel the unusual snow beyond the window. Romping children open the curtain and peep out, delicious smell of buckwheat noodle comes from kitchen, happy feeling spreads, oh what a peacefulness we are in! Each country has its own atmosphere for the eve and I swear Japan's is still the best. I can celebrate the ever splendid New Year's Day for this year thanks for the snow.

Closing my eyes, I hear the bells in the distance. With the concentration of consciousness they penetrate into the bottom of heart gently and powerfully as if they mellow the thick armor of invisible human desires. The bells should stop sounding any more, but is it an illusion that they still ring at the bottom of heart? The Japanese culture must be inherited in the depth of our body even if the time and life style change and we can hardly explain the meaning of austerity, refinement, and simplicity of Japanese mind.

The New Year's Day of 2010, the familiar garden was decorated in white as pure as a sheet of fresh paper or a bleached uniform. Puerile as ever, I privileged an early bird and walked the garden with a big first footmark.

Our kids, getting up with sleepy eyes, begin to talk on their New Year's trance. As they try hard to explain the contradiction of the dream, the story stops suddenly when they notice the snow in the garden, and they run out with narrowed eyes.



"Look at that snow-white!"

I wanted to listen to the end of their story, but gave up because it must be a never-ending story... Seeing the eyes of children rejoicing with the snow, I rethought they must feel this godly gift with their full body. I trusted these kids would paint a big dream over the canvas as white as a snowy field in their heart when the time comes.

Gifu-ken Headquarters Dash for 2010!

At the beginning of January, each branch and dojo held the elaborate ceremonies of cutting New Year mochi, first training session, and midwinter exercise. Gifu-ken Headquarters who made remarkable progress in 2009 had an annual New Year celebration at Gifu Grand Hotel on January 30, Saturday. The following day on 31, Sunday, they were actively starting the training course of kata and kumite and the examination of ranks. There will be Gifu-ken Meet on April 29, celebratory Thursday, and 5 days later on May 4, observed Saturday, and Tokai-Hokuriku Regional Match is scheduled to open in Gifu locality. We earnestly hope all the leaders, members, and parents from each branch, and the headquarters will jointly do their utmost for the grand success.



Seminar for Referees after JKF Rule Revision

Japan Karatedo Federation, a nonprofit organization, held a seminar to follow the recent revision on the game rules in Tokyo and Osaka in January. Mr. Yoshimura attended the Tokyo meeting as a representative of Gifu Headquarters on January 16, Saturday. More than 500 referees gathered from Hokkaido through Kyushu at Japan Karatedo Hall freshly built in November last year. At the seminar that began at 1 p.m. lively and hot discussions were held as to the transition to the new rules, the explanation of summary, and the simulation of games. During the session of questions and answers a number of regional referees who are familiar with real and actual scene of games posed a lot of fine questions on the measures that should correspond with the occasions unmentioned in the new rule book but possibly expected during the games. Looking into the contents of questions, deep sense of responsibility and strong pressure with "referee spirit" and the love for the players were extensively felt.

Among those who were present at the seminar many teachers came from the divisions of Shoto Federation as we are and greeted the New Year and exchanged opinions and information on karate with great enthusiasm. The following week, on January 23, Saturday, Mr. Yamamoto, Mr. Nagano, and Mr. Tanase attended in the Osaka meeting from Gif-ken Headquarters. More than 400 referees joined it from all parts of Japan. The seminar was as heated as that in Tokyo.

While puzzled with the repeated revisions of the rules, all the attendees nodded their consent to the explanations by JKF that "this isn't a 'change' but a 'progress' for more extensive penetration of karatedo on the globe to make it take deeper root targeting for the approval as one of the official games of Olympics. So please accept likewise because the new rules are needed for the international unification." The Japan-born karatedo is now worldly recognized, and a signboard of KARATE is seen where we wonder "why in such a place?" What a huge scale it is to exercise for the same target under the same rules in unknown cities and towns of the world! We think it a mission of the leaders to carry the fact that this tsuki and that keri are connected to the world so the children can concentrate in the games with confidence and security.

The new rules will be applicable on April 1, 2010. As the branches of respective prefectures and municipalities are scheduled to hold the referee training courses, we expect all the leaders to attend them by all means.

Japan Karatedo Hall

Location: 1-1-20 Tatsumi, Koto-ku, Tokyo

Land Space: approx. 1,200 square meters

Floor Space: approx. 720 square meters

Total Floor Space: 2,555 square meters (5 layers and 3 floors)

Facilities: 1st floor - office, conference room, warehouse, lobby

2nd floor - medium dojo, instructors room, locker room, training room, shower room

3rd floor - grand dojo



Schedule of Main Events in 2010 (that of Shoto Federation only, and that of prefecture and municipal level is omitted)

- March 14, Sunday - Examination of Kyu and Dan promotion/Executive Directors Meeting & Directors Meeting, at Gifu Arena
 - April 29, National Holiday - Gifu-ken Karate Championship/Japan•NIS Friendship Karatedo Meet, at Memorial Center
 - May 4, National Holiday - Tokai & Kitashin-etsu Karatedo Championship, at Gifu Arena
 - June 20, Sunday - Examination of Kyu promotion of Gifu area/Seminar of technique in the afternoon, at Gifu Arena
 - July 31 & August 1 - All Japan Karatedo Championship, at Ehime-ken Budokan in Matsuyama-shi, Ehime-ken
 - September 12, Sunday - Examination of Kyu and Dan promotion, at Gifu Arena
 - November 27, Saturday - Examination of higher Dan and ranks of Tokai & Kitashin-etsu area, at Memorial Center
 - November 28, Sunday - Seminar of technique for Tokai & Kitashin-etsu area, at Memorial Center
 - December 26, Sunday - Examination of Kyu promotion of Gifu area, at Gifu Arena
- *All above are firm in schedule as of January 2010. Earlier contacts are preferable with the respective divisions for details and deadlines.

We earnestly look forward to hearing any comments and advice from all the readers. Happy New Year and Best Wishes for 2010. Thank you.

by Public Relations Office of Prefectural Headquarters of Gifu District

