

A.K.I. 東戸塚本部道場25周年へのお祝いメッセージ

海外 A.K.I. より届いたメッセージを御紹介致します

武田道場 25 周年おめでとうございます。
私が合気道を始めた頃、湘南合気道連盟の武田師範が新しく東戸塚に道場を建てられた、と古い先輩方が噂しているのを聞いたことがありました。
数年後、その武田道場に通り始めた時も、まだ他の道場と比べて新しく若い道場で、外国からの生徒の方々も多く、やる気が充満している、と言った印象を受けました。その後、会の名前も合気道研究会と新たになり、数多くのイベントや多くの生徒の方々、自分の国に戻って武田道場を広めようという外国の人材を数多く輩出し、今では世界中に A.K.I. の繋がりが広まり、いまだ発展し続けて止みません。その功績は 25 年間とは思えない程膨大に思えます。
これからも、新たに武田道場が発展しつづけることをお祈りしています。一会員として心よりお祝い申し上げます。

A.K.I. Australia Ayano Seymour**Higashi Totsuka Takeda Shihan AKI dojo**

The grand opening of Higashi Totsuka dojo in 1984 brought much excitement to Australia. It was an opportunity for us to expand our knowledge and practice under the direct guidance of Takeda Shihan. The Higashi Totsuka dojo presents a central point for many Australian students to come and explore the unique Aikido experience that Takeda Shihan generously offers.

One of Takeda Shihan's most dedicated Australian students was the late Bob Gibbon sensei. Bob travelled to Japan many times to train with Takeda Shihan and most of his visits also coincided with the annual Hachimangu embukai. He earnestly represented the growing numbers of AKI students in Australia. The enthusiasm generated by Bob's practice in Japan was later shared with many of his students' back in Australia.

Over the years, many other Australian AKI students made the same pilgrimage. For many of these the Higashi Totsuka dojo holds many fond memories.

The 25 year anniversary of Higashi Totsuka dojo is a significant occasion. AKI Australia also celebrates the maturity and endurance of the relationship between AKI Australia and AKI Japan. We are extremely grateful that Takeda Shihan and his senior students have continued to support us. Countless exchange visits, particularly from Suzuki Sensei, have enabled the ongoing evolvement and exchange of our Aikido practice and ideas.

On behalf of the AKI students and teachers in the Canberra Australia region I would like to congratulate Takeda Shihan for nurturing this special relationship and look forward to many continuing years of exchange between our cultures.

A.K.I. Australia Canberra Bruce Lowes

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate Takeda Shihan and the members of his Higashi Totsuka Dojo on their 25th anniversary. Higashi Totsuka Dojo has been an incredible source of inspiration to countless numbers of Aikido students all over the world, and has produced some of the most gifted Aikido teachers we have today. Since my first visit in 1998, it has captured my imagination and my heart. For me it is a place of boundless joy and freedom, a place of research and endless discovery, where revolutionary ideas and approaches to training are constantly evolving. There is a sense of excitement and electricity before each class as we wonder, "What will Sensei create today? In which new directions will he lead us?", for it is always different.

Takeda Shihan and the members of Higashi Totsuka Dojo offer a wonderful example and priceless gift to the world through their open-hearted, inventive practise. I congratulate you all on 25 wonderful years, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for allowing me to share in your journey, and I look forward to many more years of inspiring training and wonderful friendship together.

Warmest regards,

AKI Australia Sydney City Berin Mackenzie

We're really pleased to be visiting Japan again and representing our small, regionally-based dojo at these important anniversary celebrations. We look forward to celebrating the 30th anniversary of Shonan Aikido Renmei and to congratulating Takeda Sensei on the 25th anniversary of his own dojo.

The celebrations will provide the opportunity to renew old and valued friendships, as well as to make new friends with people from the range of countries that will be represented. Even more so than the 2005 anniversary tour, this will be an international gathering with all the rewards and excitement that such events bring.

It is our hope and belief that these celebrations will fittingly acknowledge the lifetime achievement of Takeda Sensei in exploring the essence of Aikido and spreading his love of the art around the globe. A big country congratulations to Takeda Sensei, as well as to all his sempai and students in Japan, from all at Aikido Kenkyukai in Central West NSW.

A.K.I. Australia Orange Stephen Nugent and Fiona Hawke

Dear Takeda Shihan"

On behalf of all members of AKI Canada I offer our warmest congratulations to you and all members of your organization. On the day of the 25th anniversary of Higashi Totsuka Hombu dojo, Aikido members of Japan and of the International community have gathered with you to celebrate and honour your unparalleled dedication, your genius and remarkable enthusiasm that influenced so many of us.

We are deeply touched and indebted forever for the exquisite teachings you have provided over the years. Today is a very joyous day indeed.

May you be blessed with many more years of training and introspective research.

Thank you very much for your encouragement and support over the years.

A.K.I. Canada Jean-René Leduc

CONGRATULATIONS on 25 years!

I can still remember my first keiko in Higashi Totsuka Dojo! It was in 1987 and it was a Tuesday night. I was 3kyu and had only arrived from the USA a few days earlier. I didn't understand any Japanese.

That night, I was very impressed with the high energy in the dojo and the wide range of levels. There were many yudansha. I was very nervous - even scared. But by the end of the night, I felt completely welcome. I felt like I couldn't do any of the waza, but it was ok. Even without language, we could communicate.

During my stay in Japan, Higashi Totsuka Dojo became like a home and family for me. Relationships were formed there that have lasted many years and will no doubt last many more.

A.K.I. U.S.A. Lia 鈴木**Greetings and congratulations on 25 years!****We wish you many, many more years.**

Next year, AKI Pennsylvania will be 15 years old, but AKI Pennsylvania would not be alive without the help, support, and spirit we have received from all of the AKI members in Japan and all over the world.

Aikido has changed my life. I still remember my first time visiting Higashi-Totsuka dojo in 1988. I had never tried aikido before. I remember how very kind and patient all the members were and the special feeling in that place. My body can remember my first time to take ukemi from Takeda Sensei! And I was very lucky to meet and train together with many dai senpai. The feeling I remember from all of you stays with me always and I still try to catch that feeling every day - in keiko and in my life.

The AKI Pennsylvania members can not join you in Japan this Spring - it is a great disappointment to us, but our feeling and best wishes are with you. And especially our grateful thanks are with you all.

Sincerely,

A.K.I. U.S.A. Steve Trinkle and AKI Pennsylvania Members

I write to celebrate the contribution to aikido of the Higashi-Totsuka dojo, under the guidance of its founder and teacher Takeda-sensei, and of the Hachimangu dojo, not only under his guidance but also that of other teachers. I remember when Higashi-Totsuka was in rice fields and we walked there from the station along a country track. I also remember when Kamakura was very quiet and seemed far from Tokyo. Now these dojos seem part of the city. Once inside them, however, the feeling is the same. So is the opportunity to explore the centred and expansive awareness that aikido provides. I wish everyone well who is part of these anniversary celebrations and I look forward to the next anniversary in twenty-five years time.

A.K.I. Australia Melbourne Ralph Pettman

Congratulations on 25 years of international outreach for AKI. The Victoria University of Wellington (New Zealand) Kenkyukai club is extremely grateful to be part of AKI. It is privilege to be able to follow and train under Takeda sensei's leadership. We also greatly appreciate the time and effort that your representative Numata sensei has generously given to our club.

AKI NewZealand Mike Lubomudrov and AKI NewZealand Members**25 years Higashi Totsuka AKI. Connection**

It was 1983 when I first became aware of the Takeda Dojo. I had already nine years of practice and love for Aikido. I was always accepting of trying new experiences within Aikido expression and after joining Shonan Renmei Aikido in Australia I made the commitment to continue with this joyful feeling and method of practice. I was always impressed by how liberating and expressive this new method of movement made me feel. Our new Aikido group and the connection with experienced Japanese instructors and friends, worked at training very very hard. Takeda sensei and his senior student members often visited Australia for regular super intensive training camps in Canberra, Sydney, Gold Coast, Newcastle, Wollongong and Noosa.

Noosa Fudoshin Dojo is my personal expression created by the influence of sensei's Shonan Renmei and the recent Aikido Kenkyukai International network.

From its early beginnings more than 25years ago the Takeda Dojo and its influence began to spread from within the Kamakura area and gradually moved beyond Japan to Australia, Canada, the USA, and in more recent times South east Asia, South America and with expressions of interest in parts of Europe.

There is a wonderful energy building from the enthusiasm the old and new members are showing within our A.K.I. Network. Members are carrying their confidence and are travelling to many countries meeting friends and sharing the beauty of their individual Aiki experience with the world and their contacts. We need to realize and appreciate that our Aikido manner is in communion with the dream and pure ideals of the founder O'Sensei UESHIBA. In this realization we need now to connect with Aikido members outside our friends and regular training family, move further from the comfort zone and introduce ourselves to more Aikido groups global.

The Takeda Dojo and all the members and active Leaders should take heart in knowing the great benefit they have had in contributing to The Higashi Totsuka Dojo and continue to grow and expand into the new future.

A.K.I. Australia Fudoshin Dojo Chicko Xerri