

January 16, 2007

To: ITKF Members

Dear Member,

The year 2007 comes with many promising possibilities for our art of Traditional Karate. At the same time, we must always be aware of the ways in which current kicking and punching games threaten to destroy the art of karate unless we make an effort to take a step in the right direction.

After World War II, there was a need to fill a feeling of emptiness in people's lives. Karate-do quickly caught the public's attention because the Budo in karate filled them with renewed spirit and energy. As a result, karate rapidly developed and spread worldwide.

As karate became popular internationally, many in the so-called kicking and punching sports, which have no Budo at all, began to use the word "karate" for business purposes. Soon "karate" came to be perceived as simply another sport or game.

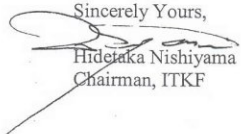
During the transitional stages of karate, when kicking and punching sports became popular, some ITKF members received political and economic pressure in their countries but continued to retain the principles of Traditional Karate, seeking further development and teaching the high ideals of their art. In time, the public interest returned once more to the original art of karate.

Finally, in response to the renewed interest in Traditional Karate, ITKF developed an epochal Traditional Karate system based on original Karate-do Budo principles, the effectiveness of which has been demonstrated by the research of sports' scientists. Top ITKF instructors studying this system at the 2004 International Camp in San Diego.

At this time, ITKF is beginning to reorganize for the purpose of protecting Traditional Karate from the threat of meaningless kicking and punching sports. The most important matter however, is for all ITKF instructors to learn the new Traditional Karate Training System and educate people in their countries by demonstrating to the public the true meaning and ideals of Traditional Karate.

This new year I strongly urge all instructors to participate in the International Camp in San Diego in July 2007 and, if possible, attend all official ITKF events such as the World Championship, World Cup, European or Pan American Championship, etc.

Sincerely Yours,

  
Hidetaka Nishiyama  
Chairman, ITKF