



Shuseki Shihan Dr Frank Woon-A-Tai, 10th Dan

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Happy New Year!

I hope this message finds you and your loved ones safe, healthy, and optimistic for the year ahead. As we enter 2025, I am filled with gratitude and hope for the future of the International Karate Daigaku (IKD). The challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic tested our resilience, yet we persevered. Thanks to the collective efforts of our members, instructors, and leadership, IKD is steadily recovering and moving forward.

Strengthening Our Global Community

The success of IKD relies on the contributions of its diverse and talented members. From grading examinations to international seminars, every milestone is a result of teamwork.

In 2024, highlights included promoting Shihan Claude Deschenes to eighth dan in Quebec, where he joined Shihan Bryan Mattias and the late Guy Bourgon at this esteemed rank.

Congratulations are also extended to Shihan Janice Pyke and Shihan Clive Hinds for achieving the esteemed rank of eighth dan, recognizing their years of dedication and skill. Chief Instructor Nicole Lambie of Trinidad and Chief Instructor Shihan David Richards of Jamaica were also promoted to seventh and eighth dan respectively. Their dedication and leadership continue to inspire us all. Similarly, the Hon. Senator and Attorney General Claudette Joseph of Grenada was awarded seventh dan in honor of her outstanding contributions.

We also celebrated the promotion of Ken Woon-A-Tai to seventh dan. Ken's promotion reflects the culmination of a lifetime of rigorous training, deep study, and meticulous preparation. To achieve this rank, Ken presented and defended an extensive 200-page thesis on the standardization of IKD katas, showcasing his profound technical expertise and analytical approach. His Unsu and Gojushiho Sho demonstrations were exemplary, further solidifying his well-earned promotion. His achievements remind us that rank is a testament to merit, dedication, and hard work.

For those of you interested in receiving a copy of his thesis, copies will be made available at the next World Camp in June 2025.

The 4th IKD World Cup in Georgetown, Guyana, was another significant milestone, showcasing the unity and dedication of our global family. The event, opened by the Hon. Captain Gerry Gouveia, National Security Advisor to the President of Guyana, brought together athletes and instructors from around the world. Participants also had the opportunity to experience the rich culture of Georgetown through organized tours and a grand gala.

Recognizing Recent Promotions

As we celebrate the achievements of our members, I would like to extend heartfelt congratulations to the following individuals who advanced in rank:

Canada

- Guy Bourgon, 8th Dan, July 7, 2021
- Bernice Hughes, 8th Dan, November 25, 2023
- Claude Deschenes, 8th Dan, March 2, 2024
- Clive Hinds, 8th Dan, July 17, 2024
- Janice Pyke, 8th Dan, November 29, 2024
- Alain Dumas, 7th Dan, June 25, 2022
- Michael Enright, 7th Dan, November 25, 2023
- Ken Woon-A-Tai, 7th Dan, July 17, 2024

Barbados

- Neil Skeete, 8th Dan, July 4, 2023
- Gerard King, 8th Dan, July 4, 2023
- Jimmy Marshall, 7th Dan, July 4, 2023
- David Clarke, 7th Dan, July 4, 2023
- Winston Mascoll, 7th Dan, July 4, 2023

Trinidad

- Frieda Shim, 8th Dan, July 8, 2023
- Nicole Lambie, 7th Dan, July 8, 2023
- Earl Wilson, 7th Dan, July 8, 2023

Guyana

- Amir Khouri, 8th Dan, April 21, 2024
- Cheteram Mortley, 7th Dan, August 13, 2023

Grenada

- Claudette Joseph, 7th Dan, July 15, 2023

Australia

- Hamid Mostofizadeh, 7th Dan, November 19, 2023

These accomplishments represent years of dedication, discipline, and mastery, and we are proud to honor their achievements. Let these promotions inspire us all to strive for excellence in our karate journeys.

A Call to Action

As we continue to grow, we must also invest in the future. The Dr. Frank Woon-A-Tai Budokan, now the home of IKD's Technical Headquarters, represents a significant step forward.

In April, I travelled to Guyana and began work on our prestigious 12,000-square-foot dojo on an acre of prime land I acquired from then-President, now Vice President, Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo, with continuous and generous support through the receiving of grants from current President, His Excellency, Mohammed Irfann Ali, along with the support of the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport the Honorable Charles Ramson, MP.

Although the Budokan was officially opened during a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by the Prime Minister, Brigadier Mark Philips during the 4th World Cup in July of 2024, we welcome your continued support in elevating this facility to a state-of-the-art dojo that reflects the excellence of our organization and will offer in the future academic and physical university degree programs.

Contributions toward this endeavor will benefit generations to come. Donations can be made directly to fwikd@outlook.com.

Upcoming Events

We are pleased to announce the return of the IKD World Camp that will be held from June 13-15, 2025 at Camp Wanakita in beautiful Haliburton, Ontario. During the camp, we will also be hosting the annual IKD Senate General Meeting, where all members of the Shihan-kai Senate and the Shihan-kai are expected to attend and play an essential role in the above technical matters.

More details to follow shortly on camp information and registration, including guest instructors and other programs that will be featured.

Lastly, we are considering hosting the 2027 World Cup in Montego Bay, Jamaica at a resort. We welcome your feedback on this upcoming event and hope that it will be the largest attended World Cup in IKD's history.

In Gratitude and Unity

Thank you for your unwavering dedication to IKD's mission. Together, we have overcome challenges and achieved remarkable milestones. I look forward to what we will accomplish in the year ahead as we continue to embody the values of respect, perseverance, and excellence.

Wishing you a bright, safe, and prosperous New Year.

With Gratitude,



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