

10th IAF Congress

Tanabe

5- 10 October 2008

Official Minutes

First Day

1. Opening of the Congress

1.1. The Congress was brought to order by the IAF Chairman.

1.2 The Congress is welcomed by the mayor of Tanabe.

2. Formal Opening of the 10th Congress by the IAF President, Doshu Moriteru Ueshiba.

2.1 Doshu Moriteru Ueshiba made a short speech welcoming the delegates to Tanabe..

3. Chairman's Opening Remarks

3.1. The chairman thanks the staff of Hombu and the staff of the City of Tanabe for their support.

He calls attention to officials that have passed away:

- Guy Bonnefond

- Giorgio Veneri

- Okumura Shihan

- Kenneth Cottier Shihan

- Mr Paul Lee

He calls attention to Mrs Teru Ikeda, who was working at the Hombu office. A minute of silence is observed.

The chairman requests members to proceed according to the statutes, to address the chair and avoid discussion and be brief in their address. He mentions that some topics must be added to the agenda. He discusses the WADA Code. He explains that the procedure for the elections will be such that members can propose candidates until the end of the second day of the assembly. The present candidates are:

- chairman

Peter Goldsbury

Proposed by BAF

- Vice chairman	Muhammad Haneef	Proposed by Malaysia
Stefan Stenudd		Proposed by Sweden
- Gen. Secretary	Kei Izawa	Proposed by Japan
- Ass. Gen. Secr.	August Dragt	Proposed by Malaysia
- Gen. Treasurer	Mr Ishihara	Proposed by Japan
- Board members		
Robert Botteril		Proposed by Australia
Joran Fagerlund		Proposed by Sweden
Maxime Delhomme		Proposed by France
Fukakusa Sensei		Proposed by Thailand
Nishida Sensei		Proposed by Brazil
Penny Ng		Proposed by Singapore
Theresa Wang		Proposed by ROC

Mr Goldsbury points out that the elections will be presided over by an ad-hoc chairman.

4. Official Roll Call (NB. All the names, correctly spelt, need to be added.)

The General Secretary took the official roll-call. The following IAF members were present or represented:

Member	Delegate 1	Delegate 2
1) Argentina		
2) Australia	S. Sugano	Haman
3) Belgium		
4) Brazil	Nishida	
5) Bulgaria	H. Michaylov	
6) Chile	J.Rojo	
7) Czech	D. Vetter	M. Kodym
8) Republic of China	H.H. Wang	
9) Finland		
10) France		
11) Germany	T. Domross	
12) Great Britain		
13) Hong Kong		
14) Ireland	J. Rogers	

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------|----------------|
| 15) Indonesia | | |
| 16) Italy | | |
| 17) Japan | | |
| 18) Macao | | |
| 19) Malaysia | | |
| 20) Mexico | A. Moreno | |
| 21) Monaco | N. Tamura | |
| 22) Netherlands | R. Berretty | |
| 23) New Zealand | N. Takase | B. Orr |
| 24) Norway | | |
| 25) Philippines | | |
| 26) Poland | | |
| 27) Portugal | | |
| 28) Russia | | |
| 29) Scotland | | |
| 30) Singapore | | |
| 31) Slovakia | | |
| 32) South Africa | | |
| 33) Sweden | M. Parele | J. Fagerlund |
| 34) Switzerland | | |
| 35) Thailand | M. Fukakusa | P. Chittaputta |
| 36) USA | M. Abrams | |
| Proxy | | |
| 37) Luxemburg | to | |
| 38) Paraguay | to Brazil | |

Observers (NB. The names of the organizations must be added.)

- Slovenia
- France
- Brunei
- Iran
- Netherland

- Serbia
- Luxemburg

5. Confirmation of the Agenda

5.1. The chairman mentions items that must be added to the agenda:

- acceptance of the WADA Code
- modifications of the IAF statutes

He proposes to accept the agenda.

6. Approval of the Minutes of the 9th Congress and the Decisions of the 2006 IAF Directing Committee Meeting

6.1. The approval of the Minutes of the 9th Congress of the IAF is postponed because some members have not received them.

6.2. The Decisions of the Directing Committee Meeting held in Paris in 2006 were approved with no objections.

7. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 9th Congress and the Decisions of the 2006 Directing Committee Meeting

7.1. Postponed.

8. Reports of the Chairman and the General Secretary

8.1. The reports of the Chairman and the General Secretary were presented..

9. Report from the Technical Councilors

9.1 Mr Sukanuma present the technical report.

10. Report of the General Treasurer

10.1. The General Treasurer gave a detailed explanation about the figures that had been handed out to the members.

10.2 Mr Abrams asks how the increased expenses for the congress have been accounted for. Mr Ishihara points out that the reserves of the IAF will cover a projected loss of 7.000.000 Yen.

10.1 Mr Fagerlund has 3 questions:

- the installment for the Dutch Federation

- whether unpaid membership fees should be booked as assets
- whether there are attending members that haven't paid and therefore according to the statutes would have no voting rights

10.3 Mr Ishihara point out that the open fees are booked correctly and letters have been sent to the particular members. Referring to the installment for the Dutch Federation, Mr Ishihara explains the background of situation.. Mr Beretty replies that the Dutch Federation has paid on outstanding fee of \$ 300 and has paid membership fee in 2008. Mr Shioda replies that the IAF has registered the payment as the fee for \$ 2009.

10.4 Mr Somemiya indicates that Belgium, Brazil, Luxembourg and Philippines have not paid the membership fee yet. He also indicates that Morocco has not paid for 10 years. He proposes the general assembly must deal with this issue.

10.5 The Serbian observers raise a question concerning the membership fees they have paid. Mr Somemiya refers this question to a later point on the agenda.

11. Items submitted by members

11.1 An issue raised by the French Federation during the DC meeting in 2006 is postponed to allow translation of a letter by the FFAAA.

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Second Day

12. Official Roll Call (NB. All the names, correctly spelt, need to be added.)
The General Secretary took the official roll-call. The following IAF members were present or represented:

Member	Delegate 1	Delegate 2
1) Argentina		
2) Australia		
3) Belgium		
4) Brazil	Nishida	
5) Bulgaria	H. Michaylov	
6) Chile	J.Rojo	
7) Czech	D. Vetter	M. Kodym
8) Republic of China	H.H. Wang	
9) Finland		
10) France		
11) Germany	T. Domross	
12) Great Britain		
13) Hong Kong		
14) Ireland	J. Rogers	
15) Indonesia		
16) Italy		
17) Japan		
18) Macao		
19) Malaysia		
20) Mexico	A. Moreno	

21) Monaco	N. Tamura	
22) Netherlands	R. Berretty	
23) New Zealand	N. Takase	B. Orr
24) Norway		
25) Philippines		
26) Poland		
27) Portugal		
28) Russia		
29) Scotland		
30) Singapore		
31) Slovakia		
32) South Africa		
33) Sweden	M. Parele	J. Fagerlund
34) Switzerland		
35) Thailand	M. Fukakusa	P. Chittaputta
36) USA	M. Abrams	
Proxy		
37) Luxemburg	to	
38) Paraguay	to Brazil	

Observers (NB. The names of the organizations must be added.)

- Slovenia
- France
- Brunei
- Iran
- Netherland
- Serbia
- Luxemburg

13. Opening remarks by the chairman

13.1 The chairman indicates that the issues that were not addressed the previous day will be dealt with first: the minutes, and issues submitted by members. He explains that the issue

concerning the anti-doping code will be addressed later during the congress.
He requests members to make use of the microphones during the congress.

14. Approval of the minutes of the 9th congress

14.1 The chairman returns to the minutes and requests approval. The minutes are accepted unanimously.

15. Matters arising from the minutes of the 9th congress

15.1 There are no matters arising from the minutes.

16. Item submitted by members that require voting

16.1 Mr Delhomme presents a motion. The motion is translated for the members. The core of the motion is confirmation that 'Aikido is only what is taught by Doshu and recognized members of the IAF'. Mr Beretty inquires what the purpose of the discussion is. Mr Goldsbury requests Mr Delhomme to present a clear motion. Mr Tamura states that we must accept that different teachers present Aikido in different ways. He recognizes that the issue of uniformity in teaching has always been a question.

17. Reports from IAF members

17.1 There are no reports from the members.

18. About IWGA and Martial Arts Games

18.1 Mr Dragt gives a summary of the history leading up to the withdrawal of participation in the World Games in 2009. He explains that the IAF joined GAISEF, and later joined IWGA. Within IWGA Aikido was invited to participate as a demonstration sport. Over the course of time it has become clear that the status of permanent demonstration sport is unacceptable to IWGA, but that the appeal to add competition to Aikido is unacceptable to the IAF. Consequently the IWGA has now excluded Aikido from the demonstrations in 2009 and is threatening to do so in 2013.

18.2 Mrs Wang explains the situation surrounding the World Games in Taiwan. She informs the general assembly that the JuJitsu Federation is now claiming to include Judo and Aikido.

18.3 Mr Dragt presents the conditions under which the IAF can participate in the Martial Arts Games. These include similar efforts that are imposed on the other martial arts, such as

‘selecting the best athletes’, ‘transparent rules and regulations’, ‘transparent explanations for the public’.

Mr Tada explains .. misogi ... Daizetsu Zukuki .. Zen would be more suited to describe the benefits of Aikido. He inquires whether the members are aware of the fact that original Bujutsu did not have competition. The Japanese martial arts evolved into the ‘art of human’ instead of the ‘art of fighting’. He points out that modern sports are aimed at training young people, which was not the goal of martial arts. He explains that the benefits of Aikido, and recognizes that other sports may not understand these yet.

The discussion is suspended.

19. Candidates for the board of the IAF

Chairman	Goldsbury
Vice-chairman	Haneef; Stenudd
Gen. Secr.	Izawa; Dragt
Ass. Gen. Secr.	Dragt
Treasurer	Ishihara
Members	Botteril (Australia) Fagerlund Delhomme Dragt (Netherlands) Fukakusa (Thailand) Nishida (Brazil) Wang (ROC) Rogers (Ireland)
Ad-hoc chair	Parele (Sweden)

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Third Day

20. Official Roll Call (NB. All the names, correctly spelt, need to be added.)

The General Secretary took the official roll-call. The following IAF members were present or represented:

Member	Delegate 1	Delegate 2
1) Argentina		
2) Australia		
3) Belgium		
4) Brazil	Nishida	
5) Bulgaria	H. Michaylov	
6) Chile	J.Rojo	
7) Czech	D. Vetter	M. Kodym
8) Republic of China	H.H. Wang	
9) Finland		
10) France		
11) Germany	T. Domross	
12) Great Britain		
13) Hong Kong		
14) Ireland	J. Rogers	
15) Indonesia		
16) Italy		
17) Japan		
18) Macao		
19) Malaysia		
20) Mexico	A. Moreno	

21) Monaco	N. Tamura	
22) Netherlands	R. Berretty	
23) New Zealand	N. Takase	B. Orr
24) Norway		
25) Philippines		
26) Poland		
27) Portugal		
28) Russia		
29) Scotland		
30) Singapore		
31) Slovakia		
32) South Africa		
33) Sweden	M. Parele	J. Fagerlund
34) Switzerland		
35) Thailand	M. Fukakusa	P. Chittaputta
36) USA	M. Abrams	

Proxy

37) Luxemburg	to
38) Paraguay	to Brazil
Czech	Slovakia
Indonesia	

Observers (NB. The names of the organizations must be added.)

- Slovenia
- France
- Brunei
- Iran
- Netherland
- Serbia
- Luxemburg

21. Opening remarks by the chairman

21.1 Mr Goldsbury draws attention to the election of board members. He will hand over the chair

to the ad-hoc chairman and leave the hall. He indicates that all candidates will present themselves, after which the congress may ask questions.

22. Elections

- 22.1 The chairman gives instructions on the proceeding:
- The process must be fair and transparent
 - The congress must elect the best possible directing committee
- 22.2 He corrects the list of candidates:
- Mrs Ng is candidate for board member
 - Mr Delhomme is candidate for vice-chairman
- 22.2 He explains the following order of the elections. If candidates are listed for several posts, they will withdraw from later elections if they are elected for an earlier function.
- 22.4 If there is only one candidate for the function, a secret election will take place if two members require this.
- 22.5 If there are several candidates, the elections may have to be repeated through a process of elimination. A candidate must have a majority.
- 22.6 The ad-hoc chairman will have to appoint an election steward and two scrutinizers.
- 22.7 Each candidate is requested to give a short presentation.
- 22.8 Mr Goldsbury gives a presentation (candidate for chairman)
- 22.9.1 Mr Delhomme gives a presentation (candidate for vice-chairman)
- 22.9.2 Mr .. asks how Mr Delhomme feels about the position of non-recognized organizations. He calls into mind that Mr Delhomme has put a proposal on the table against non-recognized organizations.
- 22.9.3 Mr Delhomme replies that the issue is fundamental: an organization of countries can only exist if there is one vote per country.
- 22.10 The candidates present themselves.
- 22.10.1 Mr Haneef gives a presentation (candidate for (candidate for vice-chairman)
- 22.10.2 Mr Urban gives a presentation on behalf of Mr Stenudd (candidate for vice-chairman)
- 22.10.3 Mr Dragt gives a presentation. He explains that at the request of Isoyama Sensei he withdraws his candidacy for general secretary.
- 22.10.4 Mr Izawa gives a presentation (candidate for general secretary)
- 22.10.5 Mr Ishihara gives a presentation (candidate for treasurer)
- 22.10.6 Mr Botteril gives a presentation (candidate for board member)

- 22.10.7 Mr Fagerlund gives a presentation (candidate for board member)
- 22.10.8 Mr Fukakusa gives a presentation
- 22.10.9 Mrs Ng gives a presentation (candidate for board member)
- 22.10.10 Mr Nishida gives a presentation
- 22.10.11 Mr Rogers gives a presentation (candidate for board member)
- 22.10.12 Mrs Wang gives a presentation (candidate for board member)
- 22.11. There are question to the candidates
- 22.11.1 Mr Abrams inquires why Mr Izawa, who is living in the USA can be member of the Japanese Federation and therefore be candidate for the Japanese federation.
- 22.12 The ad-hoc chairman Mr Parele takes the chair
- 22.12.1 A election steward is appointed: Mr Human from South Africa
- 22.12.2 Two scrutineers are appointed: Mr Yates from Great Britain; Mr Boscagli from Monaco
- 22.13 Candidates for the board of the IAF
- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| Chairman | Mr Goldsbury |
| Vice-chairman | Mr Haneef; Mr Stenudd; Mr Delhomme |
| Gen. Secr. | Mr Izawa |
| Ass. Gen. Secr. | Mr Dragt |
| Treasurer | Mr Ishihara |
| Members | Mr Botteril (Australia) |
| | Mr Fagerlund |
| | Mr Delhomme |
| | Mr Dragt (Netherlands) |
| | Mr Fukakusa (Thailand) |
| | Mr Nishida (Brazil) |
| | Mrs Wang (ROC) |
| | Mr Rogers (Ireland) |
| | Mrs Ng (Singapore) |
| Ad-hoc chairman | Mr Parele (Sweden) |
- 22.14 Elected board members
- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| Chairman | Mr Goldsbury |
| Vice chairman | M r Stenudd |

Gen. Secr.	Mr Izawa
Ass. Gen Secr.	Mr Dragt
Treasurer	Mr Ishihara
Board members	Mr Rogers
	Mr Fukakusa
	Mr Nishida
	Mr Fagerlund
Technical council	Mr Sugano, Mr Yokota

Senior council Mr Tada Mr Tamura Mr Isoyama Mr Yamada Mr Asai Mr Sugano
Mr Smibert

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Fourth Day

(Numbering must be corrected)

20. Official Roll Call (NB. All the names, correctly spelt, need to be added.)
The General Secretary took the official roll-call. The following IAF members were present or represented:

Member	Delegate 1	Delegate 2
1) Argentina		
2) Australia		
3) Belgium		
4) Brazil	Nishida	
5) Bulgaria	H. Michaylov	
6) Chile	J.Rojo	
7) Czech	D. Vetter	M. Kodym
8) Republic of China	H.H. Wang	
9) Finland		
10) France		
11) Germany	T. Domross	
12) Great Britain		
13) Hong Kong		
14) Ireland	J. Rogers	
15) Indonesia		
16) Italy		
17) Japan		
18) Macao		
19) Malaysia		

20) Mexico	A. Moreno	
21) Monaco	N. Tamura	
22) Netherlands	R. Berretty	
23) New Zealand	N. Takase	B. Orr
24) Norway		
25) Philippines		
26) Poland		
27) Portugal		
28) Russia		
29) Scotland		
30) Singapore		
31) Slovakia		
32) South Africa		
33) Sweden	M. Parele	J. Fagerlund
34) Switzerland		
35) Thailand	M. Fukakusa	P. Chittaputta
36) USA	M. Abrams	

Proxy

37) Luxemburg	to
38) Paraguay	to Brazil
Czech	Slovakia
Indonesia	

Observers (NB. The names of the organizations must be added.)

- Slovenia
- France
- Brunei
- Iran
- Netherland
- Serbia
- Luxemburg

21. Opening remarks by the chairman

10th IAF Congress
Tanabe
5- 10 October 2008

Official Minutes

Fifth Day

(Numbering must be corrected)

51. Opening remarks by the chairman

51.1 The meeting called to order by the chairman.

52. Official Roll Call (NB. All the names, correctly spelt, need to be added.)

The General Secretary took the official roll-call. The following IAF members were present or represented:

Member	Delegate 1	Delegate 2
1) Argentina		
2) Australia		
3) Belgium	absent	
4) Brazil	Nishida	
5) Bulgaria	H. Michaylov	
6) Chile	J.Rojo	
7) Czech	D. Vetter	M. Kodym
8) Republic of China	H.H. Wang	
9) Finland		
10) France		
11) Germany	T. Domross	
12) Great Britain		
13) Hong Kong		
14) Ireland	J. Rogers	
15) Indonesia		
16) Italy		

- 17) Japan
- 18) Macao
- 19) Malaysia
- 20) Mexico A. Moreno
- 21) Monaco N. Tamura
- 22) Netherlands R. Berretty
- 23) New Zealand N. Takase B. Orr
- 24) Norway
- 25) Philippines
- 26) Poland
- 27) Portugal
- 28) Russia
- 29) Scotland
- 30) Singapore
- 31) Slovakia
- 32) South Africa
- 33) Sweden M. Parele J. Fagerlund
- 34) Switzerland
- 35) Thailand M. Fukakusa
- 36) USA M. Abrams

52.2 Proxy

- 37) Luxemburg to USA
- 38) Paraguay to Brazil
- Belgium Australia
- Indonesia Australia

52.3 Observers (NB. The names of the organizations must be added.)

- Slovenia
- France
- Brunei
- Iran
- Netherland
- Serbia

53 Martial Arts Games

53.1 Mr Goldsbury presents a proposal by the directing committee.

53.2.1 Mr Delhomme inquires whether membership of IWGA costs the IAF anything. Mr Ishihara explains the membership fee is approximately \$ 1500 per year.

53.2.2 Mr Berretty inquires whether the DC is certain the membership of GAISF is not at stake. Mr Dragt confirms this.

Mr Delhomme indicates the IAF should study the statutes of GAISF to be certain about the position as a member.

Mr Dragt confirms that there is no direct link between being member of GAISF and participating in the World Games, therefore there is no direct link. However, he proposes that since the stakes are high for the IAF, a working group should study the GAISF statutes.

53.2.3 Repr. Singapore expresses his support for the DC and participation in the Martial Arts Games. He indicates that Aikido should never compromise it's position.

53.2.4 Mr Boscagli indicates that GAISF is registred in Monaco and must confirm to Monegasc legislation. He discusses conditions that the Martial Arts Games should fulfil.

Mr Rojo proposes an order in the procedure. He indicates that Chili is willing to participate in a working group.

53.2.5 Mr Smibert proposes the following:

1. the IAF seeks clarification of it's status in GAISF. This is accepted.

2. the IAF remains in the IWGA unless there is a risk to the integrity of Aikido. Mr Dragt feels this statement is not clear enough to represent within IWGA. Mr Goldsbury proposes to return to the original proposal:

5. Membership of IWGA is not at risk, but we can not participate in the World Games. The DC proposes to request the IWGA to take a formal position on the participation of Aikido in future World Games. If Aikido can not participate in the World Games in the future, the DC proposes to withdraw from the IWGA.

6. The DC request the General Assembly to empower the DC to leave the World Games and the IWGA if it considers this necessary.

Mr Rojo proposes to take the problems with IWGA to GAISF. Mr Dragt warns against this, because it will put the position of Aikido on the agenda of GAISF.

Mr Rojo warns that before we seek to leave the IWGA we should seek a solution. Mr Dragt indicates that there is no benefit staying in IWGA if Aikido can not participate. This issue is only brought to the GA because trying to find a solution has not worked for the last ten years.

He indicates that participation in IWGA will cost €7500 up to 2013 with no benefits what so ever.

Mr Goldsbury proposes to return to this issue later.

53.3 Mr Goldsbury puts the proposal of the DC up to vote. Mr Rogers questions whether there actually will be Martial Arts Games.

Mr Goldsbury rephrases the proposal: The IAF seeks to participate in the proposed Martial Arts Games. In favour: 30; abstentions 6; against 0.

53.4 Mr Goldsbury puts the proposal before the GA:

4. The DC recommends the installation of a working group that will present proposals to the DC as well as to Doshu to ascertain that the spirit of Aikido is not compromised. This proposal is accepted unanimously.

Mr Tamura states that there are many martial arts that share the concern of Aikido concerning competition. Mr Dragt requests whether Mr Tamura can provide the names of people representing this attitude in these sports, so we can 'join forces'. Mr Dragt indicates furthermore that there will be a strong cultural program in the Martial Arts Games, allowing the presentation of the particular aspects of Aikido.

Mr Tada indicates that old martial arts had a different nature than modern competition. Therefore the cooperation between the old and new martial arts is problematic. He showed a copy of a book that describe the history of martial arts. It describes the 20th century as having focus on the competitive sports. This has reached it's limits. He believes that Aikido as a sport is not a follower but a leader.

A working group is proposed: Holland, Portugal, Chili, Monaco.

53.5 Mr Goldsbury proposes to limit the questions concerning IWGA to seeking clarification of the position of IAF within IWGA and the World Games. This is agreed on.

54 Anti Doping Policy

54.1 Mr Goldsbury gives a short summary of issues involved. The acceptance of a code is the one issue that could compromise the membership of GAISF. He apologizes for the absence of Mr Stenudd, who has submitted a list of issues he wishes to point out to the members.

Several members illustrate that it is relevant to adopt the anti doping code.

The policy is accepted unanimously.

55. New members

55.1 Iran has entered documents, but they can not be confirmed by Hombu.

55.2 The reconfirmation of the Serbian Federation is suspended because issues have arisen that must be clarified.

55.3 Mr Smibert summarizes the procedure:

1. Information stage: the IAF will inform the member which information it needs

2. Documentation stage: candidate provides the requested documents

3. Investigation: relevant inquiries by the IAF

4. Consideration: available information is considered by the DC, senior council and the GA

55.4 Mr Haneef mentions that during the DDC meeting in 2007 the issue of Iran was considered, and an inquiry would be initiated. He feels that it is the mistake of the DC that the application can not be considered. He proposes to empower the DC to decide on the application of Iran.

55.4.2 Mr Goldsbury points to the statute and indicates that the general assembly can not delegate the power to appoint a member to the directing committee.

55.4.3 Mr Smibert indicates that the issues that were researched. However, the issue of Hombu recognition was not cleared.

55.4.4 Mr Tani confirms that Hombu recognition has been given in 2006.

56. Amendments to the statutes

56.1 Mr Goldsbury indicates that the statutes will be re-edited because some minor mistakes have been found, as well as translation problems in the Japanese versions.

56.2 He points to the proposal by the French Federation.

56.3 Mr .. (Russia) inquires what happened to the issue of amendments to the statutes by members at the previous congress.

56.4 Mr Goldsbury explains that these are off the table, following the decision of the DC to edit the statutes.

56.6 Mr Delhomme leaves it to the chairman to decide whether the issue is discussed now or later. If it is tabled at a later date he wishes to receive written information.

56.6 Mr Goldsbury ends the discussion.

57. Any other business

57.1 Mr Vriesman inquires what will happen to the membership of Morocco, which hasn't paid

it's membership fees. Mr Goldsbury indicates that a letter will be sent, and consequently leading to expulsion.

57.2 Mr Isoyama informs the general assembly that there is an initiative to place a statue of O' Sensei in front of a temple in Tanabe. He requests the financial support from the members.

57.3 Mr Yamada points out that again no female officials have been appointed in the IAF. He invites female practitioners to come forward in the future. He also requests candidates to make their policy or standpoints available before election.

57.4 As retiring board member Mr Smibert wishes to thank some people that have made a significant contribution to Aikido and the IAF. He refers to the previous Doshu Kisshomaru Ueshiba and the current Doshu. He refers to the efforts made by Mr Goldsbury. He refers to Mr Stenudd and Mr Dragt for their outstanding work for the IAF. He refers to Mr Ishihara's long term contribution to the IAF. Finally he refers to the work of Mr Somemiya who has been general secretary for so long. He is loved by Aikidoka all over the world and has been a 'living bridge' between the members and Hombu. The members give a standing ovation for Mr Somemiya.

58 Closing remarks

58.1 Mr Goldsbury explains that running the general assembly and that he has had the feedback that the meeting is run in too Japanese a way.

58.2 He wants to create a think tank to consider the future of the IAF in the next 20 years and invites people to volunteer.

58.3 He thanks the members for their patience and their contribution.

59. Closing of the congress

Doshu closes the congress at 13:00.