Dear Friends,

I am sure many have fond memories of the recent IAF Congress in Tanabe. Both the Congress and the Aikido seminars were a great success and we need to remember the hard work of all who made it possible. On behalf of the IAF, I offer public thanks:

To Doshu Moriteru Ueshiba for persuading us to choose Tanabe as the location for the Congress and for much encouragement,

To the Shihans and Shidoin of the Aikikai Hombu Dojo, for putting in an immense amount of hard work as the main Staff at the Congress,

To the other volunteers from the Hombu Dojo who made an efficient corps of support staff,

To the Mayor of Tanabe City and the officials of the Board of Education, for a vast amount of preparation beforehand and much support during the Congress itself,

To the Chief Priest of the Kumano Hongu Shrine, for your generosity in offering the Shrine as the location for a spectacular aikido demonstration,

To all the IAF member federations for presence at Tanabe and your support for the IAF,

To all the participants of the aikido seminars, whether IAF members or not, also for coming to Tanabe and participating in the training. We hope you found the experience beneficial and enjoyable.

With very best wishes,

Peter A Goldsbury
Chairman
February 15, 2009