

International Aikido Federation

Directing Committee Meeting

Held in Paris, 26 - 29 March 2007

Agenda

(Previously circulated by the General Secretary on 5 March 2007):

- (0 Opening)
- 1 Chairman's Report on Activities from 2004
- 2 Any Matters arising from the 2004 Congress that are not on the Agenda of the DC Meeting and need to be considered
- 3 IAF Accounts, Finances, Budget, Annual Fees
- 4 Progress Report from the Committee on Membership
- 5 Any Amendments to the Statutes to be proposed at the 10th Congress
- 6 Report on GAISF, IWGA, GAISF Martial Arts Working Group
- 7 The Competition Issue and the World Games
- 8 Applications for IAF Membership (Korea, Iran)
- 9 Date and Location of the 10th Congress, to be held in 2008
- 10 NPO Status for the IAF
- 11 Any Other Business
- (0 Closure of the DC Meeting)

NOTE: This Report follows the Agenda given above. However, (1) a more detailed Agenda & Daily Meeting Schedule was drawn up to fit the programme arranged by the IAF member-organization hosting the DC Meeting, which was the FFAAA. Thus, various changes were made and the actual business of the meeting did not actually follow the order of the Agenda; (2) accordingly, the Report is arranged to make clear the main points of the discussions only (it is not a detailed account) and the decisions taken at the DC Meeting, which are listed as an Appendix.

Present at the Meeting:

DC Members

Peter Goldsbury, IAF Chairman
Tony Smibert, IAF Vice-Chairman
Hiroshi Somemiya, IAF General Secretary
August Dragt, IAF Assistant General Secretary
Makoto Nishida, DC Member
Stefan Stenudd, DC Member
Hj Muhammad Haneef, DC Member

IAF Superior Council

Hiroshi Isoyama, IAF Superior Council Member
Yoshimitsu Yamada, IAF Superior Council Member (late arrival)

Also Present:

Kai Lofgren Shimasue, IAF Webmaster
Kei Izawa, Translator

Invited Observer:

Maxime Delhomme, President FFAAA, representing the FFAAA (occasional attendance)

0 Opening of the Meeting

0.1 The IAF Chairman opened the meeting. He apologized for the cancellation of the meeting in September. He thanked the FFAAA for their support and efforts in organizing this meeting and for covering the expenses of both the cancelled meeting and the present meeting.

0.2 The IAF General Secretary read a statement from Doshu Moriteru Ueshiba, President of the IAF, who thanked the DC members for attending and thanked the FFAAA for organizing the meeting. He wished the DC a fruitful meeting.

1 Chairman's Report on Activities from 2004

1.1 The Chairman invited discussion of the report (previously circulated), which covered the following items:

- (a) Contact with the Aikikai Hombu
- (b) The I.A.F. Website and the Matter of Malaysia
- (c) World Games 2009
- (d) P.S.C.A.
- (e) The G.A.I.S.F. and W.A.D.A.
- (f) Communications

1.2 The Chairman elaborated on the above points.

- (a) Contact with the Aikikai Hombu

1.2.1 The Chairman had regularly visited the Aikikai Hombu and had open and productive meetings with Doshu. He placed on record his thanks to Doshu for making time for these meetings and hoped that they would continue.

- (b) The I.A.F. Website and the Matter of Malaysia

1.3 After giving a brief account of action taken by the DC concerning the IAF website and the matter of Malaysia (two organizations in Malaysia claiming to be the IAF Member for Malaysia), the Chairman requested the DC to consider whether it would accept that notification of changes in the content of information concerning IAF members on the IAF website should be accepted without further scrutiny.

Action:

None; Issue Tabled.

- (c) World Games 2009

1.4 The Chairman reported that IWGA had not invited Aikido as a demonstration sport at the World Games in 2009. There was a brief discussion.

1.4.1 Assistant General Secretary August Dragt indicated that Aikido had been invited to give an unofficial demonstration and that the IAF should discuss this issue. In addition, DC Member Stefan Stenudd

had spoken to a GAISF official who indicated surprise that Aikido had not been invited to give an official demonstration.

1. 4. 2 The Chairman explained that the ROC was in a peculiar position, because they were forced by their national Olympic committee to organize competition. This created a situation that we all were aware of but had been left alone. The General Secretary had informed the Taiwanese Aikido Federation that if there was to be any demonstration, it must in no way contain any elements of competition.

1. 4. 3 The Chairman proposed that the DC should issue a statement that Aikido does not have competition. He informed the DC of a meeting held at the Hombu about this issue. The General Secretary elaborated on a visit he made to the ROC Aikido Association, where he stressed that there could be no competition in demonstrations. The ROC Aikikai had confirmed this. Mr Somemiya stated that he believed that given the complex situation, it was better that the IAF did not participate. Mr Dragt expressed concern that if the IAF did not attend, this might increase the probability that a demonstration would be given in an undesirable way, and that this might cause much confusion with the IWGA and GAISF.

1. 4. 4 IAF Superior Council Member Isoyama Shihan wondered why Aikido was not a full member of the IWGA and did not receive appropriate treatment. In addition, he asked whether the message to the ROC Aikikai was in writing, which appeared not to have been the case. He believed that such important issues should be addressed in strong words in and in writing. He supported the idea to issue a statement and proposed that the IAF write a draft that could be presented to Hombu. The Chairman explained that it was for this exact reason that he had organized the meeting in Hombu, in which Okumura Shihan, Tada Shihan and the General Secretary had participated.

1. 4. 5 Vice-Chairman Tony Smibert supported the idea of issuing a statement, and proposed that the IAF present the ROC Aikikai with a clear choice to either abandon competition or leave the IAF. DC Member Hj Muhammad Haneef proposed to take such action together with Hombu. Mr Dragt indicated that in the past such action had been proposed, but that out of courtesy towards Hombu it had never been carried out. In his opinion this made it difficult to take strong action more than 10 years later.

Action:

Further discussion later in the DC Meeting.

(d) P.S.C.A.

1. 5 The Chairman summarized his actions concerning the publication in the PSCA of an article on aikido. He circulated a copy of the magazine in which the article had been published. He pointed out that it contained a clear statement that Aikido does not have competition. In view of the matter of the World Games in 2009, with the consequent need to raise the profile of the IAF among international bodies, and after securing the approval of some individual DC members, he had decided to go ahead and publish the article. To save time, he had paid the costs of publication himself, but would ask the IAF to recompense him at a later date.

1. 5. 1 Mr Stenudd explained that from his professional experience, having to pay to publish information was a sign that it was not interesting. He advised against using any publication of such nature. Mr Isoyama recognized that the kind of pressure applied was common, and does not want to remain on the issue. He believed that the IAF should not use such publications in the future.

1. 5. 2 Mr Smibert proposed that we make the best of the situation and present the publication to relevant parties. Mr Stenudd advised against this, on the grounds that we would actually be advertising the magazine rather than Aikido. The Chairman stated that he had a copy of the article in Adobe PDF format and thought that this could be used.

Action:

Supplementary Budget to cover additional expenses.

(e) The G.A.I.S.F. and W.A.D.A.

1. 6 With the respect to GAISF and attendance at GAISF meetings, the Chairman stated that he was prevented from attending meeting during the university term, when these meetings were held outside Japan and had requested Assistant General Secretary August Dragt to be the IAF Delegate. On the other hand, Mr Stenudd stated that he believed the IAF had a problem with GAISF if the federation was not represented by its chairman.

1. 6. 1 Also in relation to the IAF membership of the GAISF, the Chairman stated that the IAF was bound to include a reference to accepting the WADA anti-doping code in its statutes.

Action:

More discussion later in the DC Meeting.

(f) Communications

1. 7 The Chairman indicated that he was striving for stronger communication among the DC members and also requested more awareness of the difference between the office held and the person holding the office. He also wanted to add the Superior Council members to the mailing list.

1. 7. 1 The Vice-Chairman expressed his support for the Chairman on this issue.

1. 7. 2 There was some discussion on the problems of spam and e-mail. The IAF Webmaster indicated that he would make a presentation later about the IAF website.

1. 7. 3 DC Member Makoto Nishida Shihan recalled that it had been agreed that e-mail communications would be published in both Japanese and English. Mr Somemiya indicated that his health situation had limited the possibility for doing so. There was some discussion about the quality of translations. Mr Smibert believed that the IAF needed a pool of interpreters, but also had to take into account the fact that some documents may need special attention due to their specific nature.

Action:

IAF Superior Council added to DC Mailing List.

2 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 2004 Congress

2. 1 There were a few remarks about the actual 2004 Congress Minutes. In the Japanese version the name of Yoshimitsu Yamada Shihan had been misprinted. In the English version the list of attendants had not been corrected yet.

2. 2 The Chairman drew attention to certain items in the Minutes of the 9th Congress:

- Working group for vision on the future (Minutes, Item 2. 2. 1)
- Organizations inside and outside the IAF (Minutes, Item 2. 3. 1)
- Names correctly spelt (Minutes, Item 3)
- Odd wording (Minutes, Item 4. 6. 1)
- Malaysia as auditor (Minutes, Item 5. 2)
- The need for an early presentation of a financial report (Minutes, Item 10. 4)
- Request to adjust membership fees to take account of the economies of member countries (Minutes, Items 10. 5. 3, 19.2)
- Late payment of membership fees (Minutes, Item 0.2.3)
- Drawing up guidelines on violence and sexual harassment (Minutes, Items 12.1.8, 12.1.13)
- Use of proxy in relationship to the issue of membership (Minutes, Items 14.13. 9, 10)
- The membership of Liechtenstein and Serbia-Montenegro

2. 3 Some of these issues were discussed:

2. 3. 1 Malaysia as IAF Auditor:

Mr Stenudd saw little problem: if Mrs Kimiko Yamada attended the 10th Congress, she could discharge her role as auditor. Mr Dragt pointed out the purpose of early election of auditors was their support at an earlier stage than the meeting. He preferred not to wait for the Congress to find out.

2. 3. 2 Early presentation of a financial report:

The Chairman indicated that at the 9th Congress the Dutch representative had requested early presentation of the financial report. He noted that the financial report for this DC meeting had not been presented until the day of the meeting.

2. 3. 3 Drawing up of guidelines on violence and sexual harassment:

Mr Stenudd proposed to leave the issue, not arouse the suspicion that this is a grave issue. Mr Dragt proposed to recognize the problem and issue a statement similar to the anti-doping code of WADA. Mr Smibert recalled a problem that took place in Australia and cautioned about liability and expenses. Mr Delhomme, who had just previously joined the meeting, observed that there were two conditions: if the student was under age, there was a case of rape, which is a criminal case. If the student is over age, there is a question whether the power exerted by the instructor added up to the use of violence and rape. He warned that instructors might not be sufficiently aware of this problem.

2. 3. 4 Discussion of some other items is recorded under the respective points on the Agenda.

Action:

General Secretary to issue corrected Minutes.

3 IAF Accounts, Finances, Budget, Annual Fees

3. 1 On behalf of the General Treasurer, Mr Somemiya handed out the balance sheet for the IAF as of 2003, 2004 and 2005. There was an extended and wide-ranging discussion, the main points of which are summarized below.

--- The Chairman inquired why the debt with Hombu Dojo had not changed. He was concerned about the difficulty of making decision with financial implications, if the information available was insufficiently clear.

--- Mr Stenudd took the strong position that the information presented was completely insufficient and placed the Directing Committee in a position of being liable. He pointed to the fact that in March 2007 the information of 2006 had not been presented. He requested the details of the arrangements made with Hombu about the debt.

--- The Chairman replied he had asked this question to the previous Doshu, Kisshomaru Ueshiba, who responded that the IAF may need the money, and that Hombu would never request payment of the debt.

--- Mr Dragt pointed to several issues: the decision to go from a broken book year to a calendar year was made in September 2004, so the presented balance sheets for September and December reflect that decision. He also pointed to the fact that the debt to the Hombu and the agreement with the Hombu had been presented at previous IAF Congresses more than once. He calculated that the budget allowed the IAF to spend a certain amount each period. He also calculated that the budget allowed the IAF to spend 3.000.000 Yen.

In addition, he proposed that the General Treasurer be requested to book a reserve for the debt with Hombu.

--- Mr Somemiya explained that the General Treasurer was in the process of preparing the statement for 2006 and that it would be circulated at short notice.

--- Isoyama Shihan indicated that he understood the issue of timing, but stated that if the General Treasurer had been informed of the date of the meeting, then information of a provisional information should have been

available. He respected the fact that Mr Ishihara was doing this as a voluntary contribution to the IAF, but thought that this limited bookkeeping of the IAF should be within the power of the General Treasurer.

--- Mr Dragt stressed the fact that everyone respected the contribution of all the members, but that each board member was accountable for his contribution. In the case of the General Treasurer he had to be able to give provisional information at any instance. If not, the board could be held liable.

--- Mr Stenudd pointed out several general points of attention when studying finances. He proposed that the DC request a statement of budget and actual expenses. He also proposed to look at the profit and loss sheet over a number of years to see how the financial situation of the IAF had developed.

--- Mr Haneef proposed to stop the discussion until the information was available. Furthermore he proposed to appoint an Assistant Treasurer to support Mr Ishihara.

--- Mr Smibert believed the DC had an obligation to request the information from Mr Ishihara at short notice, as we had a responsibility to the Congress.

--- Isoyama Shihan proposed that the IAF contact Hombu concerning the current debt and request a clear agreement for the coming period.

--- Mr Somemiya stressed that he had attended meetings in which Hombu informed the Chairman of the IAF that the IAF did not need to worry about having to repay the debt.

--- Mr Dragt presented 3 proposals as a summary of the discussion:

A. Proposal concerning the liability to Hombu (Option 1)

- Hombu has graciously covered for expenses of the IAF in the past, for an amount of nearly 8.000.000 yen
- Hombu has indicated that it will not demand the IAF to repay this amount
- The IAF has assets for an amount of 10.000.000 yen
- The IAF requests the General Treasurer to book a reserve of 8.000.000 yen to cover this liability, and book the liability as a long term debt

B. Proposal concerning the liability to Hombu (Option 2)

- The liability of the IAF to Hombu creates uncertainty in the relationship between the IAF and Hombu
- The DC requests the Chairman to arrange a new and clear agreement on this situation stating:
 1. Which sum will the liability will cover
 2. The period during which the liability be settled

C. Proposal concerning the budget and the financial statement

- The DC requests the General Treasurer to present provisional information about 2006 before the end of the DC meeting
- The DC requests the General Treasurer to present a budget for the period 2007 - 2009
- The DC requests the General Treasurer to provide the final financial information to include:
 - a comparison between budget and actual expenses
 - the development of the financial reserve of the IAF over 4 years

3. 3 After the Accounts for the very latest period had been received from the Hombu, the Chairman continued the discussion and indicated that the budget has a limit in the sense that there had been expenses that had not been budgeted for. He gave two examples: the article published in PSCA and the work of Mr Dragt in a GAISF working group. Neither of these had specifically been budgeted for, but the expenses incurred had to be met by the IAF.

3. 4 Mr Stenudd observed an unexpected increase in the revenues from membership fees that he could not explain: the interest on our \$ 100.000 bank account should add up to more than the \$ 1 or \$ 8 that was reported. He also recognizes that in 2005 and 2006 the expenses for travel were much lower than would be expected.

3. 5 In closing the discussion, the Chairman indicated that he will would have a meeting with the General Treasurer to discuss the issues raised concerning the budget.

Action:

Chairman to discuss above matters with General Treasurer;

Creation of a Supplementary Budget to cover PSCA and the GAISF/IWGA Expenses.

4 Progress Report from the Committee on Membership

4. 1 Mr Stenudd gave a general introduction. He explained how he had proceeded, further explained that he had drawn up a concise report on the situation, and believed that this document was valuable for the Congress. He recognized that choices would need to be made for the working group to get to concrete action.

4. 2 Mr Stenudd elaborated on some parts of the report:

--- The definition of nations

--- An overview of national representation

4. 3 Mr Stenudd presented a list of 8 categories that served to differentiate the situation in countries where aikido was practised.

1. IAF nations with all or most of their Aikikai aikido in its IAF member organization, and only one organization with Hombu Official Recognition

2. IAF nations with only one organization with Hombu Official Recognition, but with significantly less than all Aikikai aikido practitioners in the IAF member organization

3. IAF nations with more than one organization having Hombu Official Recognition

4. Non-IAF nations with one organization having Hombu Official Recognition

5. Non-IAF nations with more than one organization having Hombu Official Recognition

6. Non-IAF nations with no organization having Hombu Official Recognition, but with one sole or dominant Aikikai organization

7. Non-IAF nations with no organization having Hombu Official Recognition, but with two or more Aikikai organizations

8. Non-IAF nations with no organization having Hombu Official Recognition, and no known Aikikai organizations

4. 4 Mr Stenudd ended his presentation by a proposal for fact sheets per country.

4. 5 The Chairman and Vice-Chairman congratulated Mr Stenudd on the body of work he had material. There was some discussion.

---- Questions concerning the accuracy of figures in the document were considered of lower relevance. Mr Stenudd indicated that the sources for the figures were unreliable and that they were dated as well. Mr Smibert proposed the IAF should try to get reliable figures. Mr Goldsbury proposed to request Hombu support and access the files of the international department.

---- Mr Dragt proposed to start with a simple template that is put on the website, just like the contact information sheet that is now on the site. Yamada Shihan believed that it would be difficult to get the information from Hombu. He felt that the Hombu International Department should be present as observer at the DC meetings.

---- Mr Smibert argued that the IAF was trying to find its way in the future, just as the Hombu was. However, many parties complain that they are unaware what the policy of these organizations is. He argued that there must be a close cooperation between the 'engineers'.

---- Mr Dragt expressed his concern about the metaphor: the willingness of all parties to ‘build the bridge’ has been demonstrated for over 20 years. However, if the IAF wished to present an image of where it is going, it had to specify ‘which bridge it is building’ rather than discuss ‘building blocks’.

---- Hj Muhammad Haneef proposed to return to the document presented and look for specific action that can follow from it. Mr Dragt summarized the practical proposals that had been made during the discussion and presented an example for a template.

4. 6 The Chairman reminded the DC that the the report represented a work in progress and that the original task for the working group needed to be remembered:

“3. The group will have the following tasks:

(a) To conduct a survey, based on organizations that have Hombu Recognition, that investigates country by country the membership of the aikido community within the IAF and, if relevant, how it may be increased.

(b) As part of the above survey, to investigate, country by country, the possibility of finding a national organisation to correctly represent the country's aikido community as member of the IAF, where there is no membership yet.

(c) As part of the above survey, to investigate, country by country, how the recently approved statute restricting membership within national borders will affect the organization and its membership of the IAF.

(d) To report to the DC as necessary and in any case at the 2006 DC Meeting.

4. 7 Mr Stenudd requested the DC not to settle on a format for a fact sheet, because this would ‘tie his hands’. Mr Smibert thought that three steps that had to be taken:

1. Express the wish to work more closely with the Hombu International Department

2. Obtain the correct information, and add a remark to the document about the status of the current information

3. Gather the information from Hombu

Mr Dragt had a different opinion. He believed Mr Smibert is using the gathering of information as a tool to build the relationship with the International Department of Hombu. However, he believed the focus of the process should be on involving IAF members and convincing them of the importance of this information. The Chairman stated that there were different goals and therefore different ways to go ahead.

4. 8 Mr Stenudd proposed the following:

Nation fact sheets

Proposal by email at a later date

Closer relationship with Hombu International Department

Other issues in dialogue with the Chairman and the DC through e-mail

There were no objections.

4. 9 Isoyama Shihan warned that the gathering of information could create a large workload, compared to the purpose it serves: if it exceeded the capacity of the committee and additional support needed to be involved, this introduced a completely new issue. Mr Stenudd replied that he was aware of this.

4. 10 Mr Somemiya summed up what he saw as the core of Hombu’s position: that all groups that practice Aikido or are related to Aikido should belong to the international structure for Aikido.

4. 11 Other IAF Membership Issues: the Matter of Liechtenstein

4. 11. 1 The Chairman indicated that the current IAF Statutes do not allow members of the IAF to have dojos outside their frontiers. This condition applies to all members, and many members may actually not fulfil this condition. However, it is clear that the condition applies to Liechtenstein and that this causes a problem.

4. 11. 2 The Chairman proposed that this problem be dealt with in course of the work of Mr Stenudd's Committee on Membership.

4. 11. 3 Mr Nishida suggested that one way to resolve the general problem was by thinking of dojos outside the frontier as 'friendly' dojos. Mr Stenudd confirmed that this was already the case.

Action:

Membership Committee to continue working on:

Nation fact sheets;

Closer relations with Hombu International Department;

Dialogue with Chairman and DC via e-mail, with a Proposal to follow.

5 Any Amendments to the IAF Statutes, to be proposed at the 2008 IAF Congress

5. 1 The Chairman proposed that the DC members study the Minutes of the previous Congress and the Statutes themselves and circulate their comments by email. This was agreed.

Action:

Discussion via e-mail, issuing in a set of changes to be put to the 10th Congress for approval.

6 GAISF / IWGA / Martial Arts Working Group

6. 1 Mr Dragt gave a presentation on the situation at GAISF and the World Games. He indicated that the current goals appeared limited, but that there were issues that the IAF should consider.

6. 2 He explained that within GAISF Aikido is full member, but that within the IWGA it is only a demonstration sport. He believed that GAISF and IWGA are relevant platforms to present Aikido in the international sporting community. He reported that GAISF had formed a martial arts working group, and that this group wished to organize Martial Arts Games. The focus of these games would not be competition but other aspects such as the philosophy, history or teaching system. He believed that there were several issues to be considered by the DC to give direction to the participation in GAISF and the World Games.

6.3 Mr Dragt presented a list of issues:

- Membership status of the IAF
- Permanent representation
- Participation in working groups
- Participation in the Martial Arts Games
- Involvement of members
- World Games in ROC
- Future World Games

He concluded that the DC must find an answer to the standpoint on competition if it finds the presented issues relevant, because this will be a decisive factor in the presentation of Aikido at this platform.

6. 4 During the subsequent discussion several points were made:

--- The Chairman explained how Aikido became member of GAISF and IWGA. He expressed the hope that Martial Arts Games could be a way to get around the problems that arose in the IWGA.

--- Yamada Shihan took the standpoint that since Aikido has no competition the problems will not go away. He questioned whether it is necessary to be member of GIASF. Mr Somemiya indicated that it is clearly necessary for many members that IAF is member of GIASF, but he asked whether it would be possible to separate membership of GAISF and IWGA. Mr Dragt explained that this was possible, but that the members appear to appreciate the World Games very much. He believed that if Martial Arts Games came into existence, this could replace membership of IWGA and participation in the World Games. If there were no Martial Arts Games he believed it important to participate in the World Games. Mr Somemiya asks whether the Chairman agreed with this standpoint, which Mr Goldsbury confirmed.

--- General Secretary Somemiya referred to the question of competition. He referred to a meeting in Hombu where the issue was discussed and left unresolved. Assistant Secretary produced a draft of a statement on competition and this was considered by the DC.

--- Vice-Chairman Smibert returned to the issue of membership of GAISF and IWGA. He believed the IAF should look at the importance of this membership in the future and the function it will fulfill then. He supported the standpoint that the status of the IAF is determined by its membership of GAISF. He raised a further issue: he is sorry to state that Hombu Recognition is easy to obtain and has become devaluated, but that membership of the IAF is valuable because it is obtained by a clear process.

--- DC Member Stenudd pointed out that membership of GAISF is important, because if the IAF was not a member, another organization will take its place. Furthermore he believed that martial arts games would be very relevant, because it will create an environment where other sports recognize the relevance of training rather than competition.

6. 5 There were three major issues:

--- What is the standpoint of the IAF on competition?

--- What is the standpoint of the IAF on the competition held in the ROC?

--- What is the standpoint of the IAF on participation in the World Games?

7 Participation in the World Games; Non-Competition in Aikido

7. 1 Isoyama Shihan asked whether the IAF would participate in the World Games demonstration. The Chairman replied that this has already been decided by the General Assembly. Isoyama Shihan further inquired whether the lack of invoices could imply any problems concerning participation. The Chairman replied that the lack of invoices might well be due to an administrative error or lapse and that it did not have a bearing on the issue. GAISF and the IWGA were respectable and efficient organizations and it was very unlikely that they would prevent a member's participation in events by omitting to send invoices for affiliation fees.

7. 2 The Chairman stated that postponing a decision at the Congress (the year before the demonstration was due to take place) was too short a time to start preparations for participation. The IWGA started preparations much earlier so the decision in principle had to be made now. In any case a previous IAF Congress had already agreed that the IAF would give demonstrations at the World Games unless the decision was specifically rescinded.

7. 3 Hj Muhammad Haneef inquired whether the IAF will get sufficient support from the IWGA and give a demonstration that is respectable. Mr Dragt argued that there are two elements: the demonstration that should be respectable and the seminars that were there for the benefit of the members. He would have to strike a balance in the negotiations with the IWGA. The Chairman requested Mr Dragt to send a report shortly after the GAISF / IWGA meeting.

Action on Items 6 and 7:

**Assistant Secretary Dragt to attend the GAISF / IWGA / Martial Arts Games meetings and report back to DC;
Chairman to contact GAISF and IWGA concerning absence of invoices for membership fees;
Chairman to discuss with Hombu the matter of ROC and competition.)**

8 IAF Membership Applications

8. 1 The Chairman announced that Korea and Iran had submitted applications to join the IAF He added that the IAF Statutes laid down that applications had to be made 12 months before the date of the Congress at which the application would be decided.

8. 2 Korea

8. 2. 1 Mr Somemiya explained that the Korean Federation had provided all the necessary documents and that the application should present no problems at the 2008 Congress.

8. 2. 2 Mr Stenudd asked whether there are any other known organizations in Korea. Mr Somemiya indicated that there was another organization, but this organization had not replied to any communication and had been expelled from the IAF at the last Congress. He was not aware of any other organization.

8. 2. 3 The IAF Webmaster asked for permission to speak and inquired whether the Official Recognition given to that organization was still in existence. Mr Somemiya indicated that as far as Hombu was concerned this organization was no longer in existence.

8. 2. 3 Mr Dragt proposed to present this for discussion with the Hombu International Department as an example which causes uncertainty.

8. 2. 4 The Translator, Mr Kei Izawa, asked permission to speak and proposed that documents such as certificates of Official Recognition should have an expiry date.

8. 2. 5 Isoyama Shihan thought that this example demonstrated that there was a need for research into the local situation. He noticed that in the document by Mr Stenudd two organizations were listed for Korea and acknowledged that there the second organization had not responded to correspondence.

8. 2. 6 Mr Stenudd proposed to send the other organization a letter asking them to cooperate. The Chairman indicated this would only make the situation unclear, since the organization had been expelled from the IAF precisely because there had been no communication, or payment of affiliation fees.

8. 2. 7 Mr Dragt asked how the first federation obtained recognition. The Chairman explained that when the IAF was founded in 1976, all founding members had obtained Hombu recognition.

8. 2. 8 **Action: The DC decided to accept the application of Korea.**

8. 3 Iran

8. 3. 1 Mr Somemiya indicated that concerning Iran there was an issue concerning Hombu Recognition. There was a difference of opinion within the Hombu between Osawa Hayato Shihan, General Affairs Director,

and Mr M Tani of the International Department. He further indicated that in his opinion the rumours concerning the Iranian Federation warrant concern and he advised against IAF membership.

8. 3. 2 Mr Dragt warned about two issues:

8. 3. 2. 1 (1) He accepted the concerns that Mr Somemiya had raised, but he believed the IAF had to investigate the rumours and come up with clear information before the 10th Congress.

8. 3. 2. 2 (2) The IAF had to decide whether or not it could question Official Recognition given by Hombu. If it could, this would create a precedent.

8. 3. 2. 3 Mr Stenudd observed particularities in the correspondence: in a first letter there was one dojo, in the second there were three, in the third there were 3000 members in 70 dojos. This appeared highly improbable. He proposed that he studied the situation together with the Chairman and reported his findings to the DC.

8. 3. 2. 4 The Chairman read out the IAF Statutes and indicated that the General Secretary could demand additional information.

8. 3. 2. 5 The IAF Webmaster established an Internet link which showed the information about the federation given on the website. There it was stated that the organization consisted of 300 dojos, but that only the dojo of the president was recognized. Mr Dragt believes this raises questions:

- is the information provided reliable
- is the organization democratic
- which information was provided to Hombu and was is correct

8. 3. 2. 6 **Action: The DC requested the General Secretary to obtain more information before the application could be considered again.**

9 Date and Location of 10th IAF Congress

9. 1 The Chairman explained different aspects of the options available: Yoyogi Centre in Tokyo and Tanabe. He explained that he had requested the City of Tanabe to present their proposal so that it could be compared with Yoyogi in the following aspects:

- Size of the dojo available
- Location, from the point of view of access by foreign participants
- Number of participants that could be accommodated in the seminars
- Accommodation available
- Budget: Cost of holding the meeting; financial support available
- Ease or difficulty of support by Hombu

9. 2 The Chairman explained the normal procedure to choose a location for the meeting:

- General decision by the previous Congress
- Discussion in the board
- Decision by the DC
- Official letter to Hombu with request for support
- Official letter to the All-Japan Aikido Federation with request for support

9. 3 The Chairman reminded the DC that the support from Hombu and the All Japan Aikido Federation had always been excellent. He pointed to the main points that deserved attention: the financial comparison, location and accommodation. He reminded the DC that the Hombu and the Municipality of Tanabe had a special relationship and that Tanabe was the only city in Japan that celebrated its special relationship with O Sensei.

9. 4 Hj Muhammad Haneef asked whether the implication for foreign students had been considered: travel, accommodation, travel from the dojo to the hotel, etc. The Chairman confirmed this was the case. He pointed out that reaching Tanabe would be more complex and probably more expensive.

9. 5 The Chairman gave the floor to Isoyama Shihan, who was also Chairman of the All-Japan Aikido Federation. Isoyama Shihan made the following points:

- When the request from Tanabe was made, the issues that were mentioned before had been discussed.
- The availability of Yoyogi Centre was not certain. On the other hand, Tanabe offered a good alternative.
- The IAF Congress had been held in Tanabe before and with success.
- He acknowledged the issues that had been raised, but believed that reaching Tanabe was similar to reaching Yoyogi. Furthermore, the City of Tanabe has offered free transportation from the accommodations to the venues. He also pointed out that Hombu had already made arrangements to deal with large numbers of participants.
- The City of Tanabe was working together with a travel agency. This would also relieve the burden for Hombu. Initially the negotiations with Tanabe City resulted in verbal arrangements with Hombu, so he had asked for a written statement provided from Tanabe City. This only became binding if the IAF decided to hold the meeting in Tanabe.
- Also for Hombu, holding the Congress in Tanabe had serious consequences.
- He proposed to create a more serious training program during the seminars.

9. 6 DC Member Makoto Nishida asked whether the number of participants would be reduced, since half of the students at Yoyogi came from Tokyo. The Chairman replied that Doshu has indicated that he expected this to be made up by participants from the Osaka region.

9. 7 Vice-Chairman Smibert expressed his concern for the arrangements that foreign participants would be required to make. They should be smooth and well-publicized. On the other hand, he believed that this event provided an opportunity to remind participants about the origin of Aikido and the birthplace of O Sensei. He believed the IAF should focus on this in its promotion.

9. 8 The Chairman concluded that the DC was generally in favour of holding the meeting in Tanabe. He now considered the issue of the date. Hj Muhammad Haneef had pointed out that September 2008 would be the month of Ramadan, which will make it extremely difficult for practitioners from Muslim countries to participate. The Chairman stressed that he wanted the IAF to consider seriously accommodating the Muslim members of the IAF. Isoyama Shihan replied that the period of September had been selected by the city of Tanabe, but that the IAF could propose another date. However, there were issues to be considered: the staff of Hombu and the many involved parties in Tanabe City.

9. 9 Isoyama Shihan suggested returning to the original proposal made by Tanabe: starting September 14th or September 21st. He proposed the congress to start on the September 15th or September 22nd. In response Hj Muhammad Haneef explained the relevance of Ramadan to the DC, and indicated that the IAF members of Muslim background very much wished to come to the Congress, but that this was virtually impossible due to religious obligations. Mr Dragt proposed to check with Hombu and the City of Tanabe to see whether there are options in October. The Chairman supported this and proposed that that after this check—and if it were not possible, he would write a letter to the Muslim member organizations of the IAF to explain the situation.

9. 10 The DC agreed that the topic raised by Hj Muhammad Haneef was very relevant, and that the subject should be raised as a general issue during the Congress.

9. 11 **A formal vote was taken:**

--- All members voted in favour of organizing the 10th IAF Congress in Tanabe City

--- All members voted in favour of asking Tanabe City and the Hombu whether an option in October is possible

--- All members voted in favour of organizing the 10th Congress in the first week proposed by the City of Tanabe, should the October option not be possible.

9. 12 Later in the DC Meeting, Isoyama Shihan announced the results of direct consultations between the Hombu and the City of Tanabe and indicated that both parties had agreed to the following suggested schedule:

October 3 – 4	Festival in City of Tanabe (Congress participants were invited to participate)
October 5:	Official Check-in for Congress & Seminar Participants
October 6 – 10	10 th IAF Congress, with daily training seminars given by Hombu shihans
October 11	Seminar given by Doshu
October 12	International Demonstration at Kumano Shrine
October 13	Check-out

9. 13 Isoyama Shihan stressed that the City of Tanabe would work very hard in concert with the IAF and the Hombu and he believed that the 10th Congress would be a very successful event.

9. 14 **Action: The DC approved the suggested schedule with applause.**

10 NPO Status for the IAF

10. 1 Owing to lack of time and information concerning the law of Japan relating to international organizations, **this item was tabled.**

11 Any Other Business

11. 1 Items from the FFAAA

11. 1. 1 Mr Delhomme requested to speak and informed the DC about two issues that concerned the FFAAA:

11. 1. 2 Different people present themselves as representatives of Aikido, even though they do all sorts of things.

11. 1. 2. 1 There was some discussion on the definition of aikido and Mr Delhomme stated that the FFAAA wished the IAF to come up with a clear definition that allowed one to distinguish respectable organizations from others. Mr Smibert recognized the problem, which he believed had existed for a long time, but thought it might be difficult. Mr Stenudd stressed that that in the IAF Statutes aikido was defined as “created by Morihei Ueshiba”. He proposed that Mr Delhomme have the FFAAA write a clear proposal, rather than start a general discussion.

11. 1. 2 The FFAAA would present a motion against the use of voting proxies by non-members of the IAF.

11. 1. 2. 1 Yamada Shihan stated that this was a common problem and that he no longer objected to this proposal.

11. 1. 2. 2 Mr Stenudd stated that he agreed on the issue of proxy, as it is stated in the IAF Statutes.

Action:

None, pending further action from the FFAAA.

11. 2 Item from Yamada Yoshimitsu Shihan, IAF Superior Councillor

11. 2. 1 Yamada Shihan asked the DC to consider various issues relating to Hombu Official Recognition.

11. 2. 2 Yamada Shihan raised the question of the goal of the IAF. He noted that from time to time tensions arise between Hombu and individual members due to the actions of Hombu. He realized that in some sense he is part of Hombu, but at the same time he is confronted with a situation in which he feels his loyalties lie with the people who he represents. In this case he referred to the document from Mr Stenudd, which states that there were 5 recognized organizations in the USA. He was disappointed that he had to find this out in this way, since he was only aware of two recognized organizations. He pointed out that to his information some of the organizations are not really organizations or they do not even exist (anymore). He pointed out that he has been supporting more than 20 groups in South America that could not get Recognition from Hombu. He had experienced that without communication with the Shihan groups had been contacted by Hombu that they could have a direct relationship with Hombu. He gave a specific example in which the Mexican federation established an organization in the United States, with a similar name the USAF. He explained he would expect action from Hombu to counteract this. He requested the IAF to contact Hombu on these matters.

11. 2. 3 The Chairman indicated that he took the statement of Yamada Shihan very seriously. He proposed to get a smaller group together (composed of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, General Secretary) to meet with Yamada Shihan and discuss the issue further.

11. 2. 4 The working group reported its findings. It had decided that the issues presented by Yamada Shihan were so serious that they warranted direct communication to the Hombu from the IAF. Accordingly, the Chairman had worked with the Vice-Chairman and had drafted a letter to the Hombu. He asked the DC whether they wanted him to send such a letter. There was some discussion about the contents and style of the letter.

11. 2. 4 Hj Muhammad Haneef pointed out that such a letter should perhaps contain some examples that underlined the current concern. Furthermore he proposed to involve the Superior Council. The Chairman pointed out that a Superior Council member had actually brought the issue to the DC.

11. 2. 5 Isoyama Shihan stated that the Hombu was sensitive about the fact the giving Official Recognition was its private prerogative. He was concerned that sending such a letter would disturb the relationship with Hombu. He argued for proper dialogue, rather than a letter, and supported the proposal to create a document with examples.

11. 2. 6 Mr Stenudd stated that the IAF was obliged to support its members and express their concerns. He proposed a different structure for the letter.

11. 2. 7 The Chairman indicated that he regularly met with Doshu at the Hombu and that suggested he should raise the issues discussed in the next meeting.

11. 2. 8 Mr Dragt stated that he disagreed with many aspects of the proposed letter. He distinguished two aspects in the discussion: the first was the perception that organizations that do not deserve Recognition actually do get it. The second was the perception that the existing shihan structure was being disturbed by the current system of recognition. He pointed out that this concern is of a different nature and he believes there should be a dialogue between Hombu and the IAF how these concerns can be relieved.

11. 2. 9 **Action: The Chairman indicated that he would take into account the points raised in the discussion when he raised the issue with the Hombu. He would decide whether to send a letter or discuss the matter with Doshu personally, or both. This was accepted by the DC.**

11. 3 IAF Website

11. 3. 1 The IAF Webmaster Kai Lofgren Shimasue gave a presentation of the new web-site and covered the following points:

- The technical aspects had changed
- The email addresses were better protected against spam
- The possibilities for using the web-site had been improved
- There were more restricted areas
- It was possible for users to edit information on the site.

11. 3. 2 The Webmaster gave a brief demonstration of the new potential of the site.

11. 4 Brunei-Darussalam

11. 4. 1 Mr Haneef informed the DC that the newly-created Aikido organization in Brunei had requested to be invited as observers at the next Congress. **This was accepted by the DC.**

0 Closing of the Meeting

0. 3 The Chairman expressed the gratitude of the DC to the FFAAA for their efficiency in organizing the venue for the DC Meeting and for their hospitality during the DC Meeting, which was certain to become a legend.

0. 4 The IAF Directing Committee Meeting was ended by the Chairman at 16:00 and the DC members who did not have to depart immediately visited the Louvre.