

## **Congratulatory messages for 35th Anniversary for Sweden Goju-kai**

I would like to extend my congratulations to I.K.G.A. Sweden for their 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary and also to I.K.G.A. Scandinavia for their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The former President of I.K.G.A., Gogen Yamaguchi Sensei, established the Japan Karate-do Goju-kai Association (J.K.G.A.) in 1950 in order to seek to restore Japan. He also started promoting Karate-do by training his foreign students and having them open oversea branches.

Different Karate-do Styles in Japan merged, and then in 1964, the All Japan Karate Federation was established. The following year of 1965, the International Karate-do Goju-kai Association was officially formed.

Sweden Goju-kai registered themselves as an I.K.G.A. branch in 1975.

Block Director Ingo de Jong Shihan trained himself for many years in Australia and then travelled all over the world to pursue his Karate-do. During training, Ingo Shihan not only gained Karate techniques and knowledge, but also he devoted himself to spread Goju-ryu Karate-do. Taking along his wife Ann, Ingo Shihan came to Japan to train and stayed there for a long period of time. During his stay in Japan, he mastered the official Goju-ryu Karate-do and teaching methods.

Ingo Shihan's efforts and enthusiasm for Karate-do are just incredible. In 1980, he made it possible to hold the first Sweden Seminar. After Gogen Sensei passed away, Ingo Shihan got I.K.G.A. Europe together. As I.K.G.A. Vice President and also as Block representative Shihan, Ingo Shihan made countless effort to make I.K.G.A. bigger and stronger both association wise and technique wise. Today, Ingo Shihan continues to actively promote Karate-do. I would like to thank him for his enormous efforts.

Through his 35 years of teaching Karate-do, Ingo Shihan has made remarkable achievements not only in Sweden but also all over Europe. Needless to say, he has fostered many superior instructors and students. The friendships and exchanges that Ingo Shihan has made through his teaching are of social value.

What I admire most about Ingo Shihan is that he continues to improve himself by studying philosophy and enhancing his knowledge, abilities and talents as an educator. Therefore, in March 2008, I awarded him the Hanshi title, which is the highest and most remarkable one of Shihan titles, in order to recognize his great talent.

This upcoming July, the 25<sup>th</sup> European Seminar I.K.G.A. is going to be held. Ingo Shihan has been taking the lead to conduct this official seminar since 1985. Thanks to Ingo Shihan and I.K.G.A. Europe's cooperative spirit, this event has taken place over the past 25 consecutive years, and I am very proud of it.

I would like to take this occasion to ask Ingo Shihan, other instructors, and members of I.K.G.A. Europe for their further cooperation and support to keep up their passion for Karate-do as well as commitment to their missions to infuse new breath into Karate-do. Lastly, congratulations on the 35th anniversary for Sweden Goju-kai and on the 25th anniversary for Scandinavia Goju-kai.

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and Japan Karatedo Goju-kai Association (J.K.G.A.)