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A Moving Farewell for Kuniyoshi Nokura Sensei at SIAC

This Sunday was a special day for all members of Shanghai International Aikido Club. At the usual scheduled time for the Sunday afternoon Keiko the dojo in Jianguo Xilu became unusually crowded. And when Nokura Sensei opened the keiko session one could feel an exciting spirit; this should be the last regular keiko under Kuniyoshi Nokura Sensei.

About 80 members of the club made it to this event to express their gratefulness for so many years of teaching. Most of them by actively participating in the keiko, but even some people who could not join the keiko just came to show their respect. The highlight at the end of the keiko was for every one to take one farewell ukemi from Nokura Sensei. With these 65 nage he displayed once again his high level jiuwaza.



After the closing of the keiko session in addition to the special “farewell handshake” Nokura Sensei had prepared another farewell gift: an Aikido key ring as souvenir, which he handed in person to everyone. Then it was the time for photo shooting. Many people took the chance to take a photo together with Nokura Sensei and his wife Masako San.

Then a cordon of Aikidoka moved to the nearby restaurant for the dinner party. With excellent food and many toasts for the Nokura couple’s past teaching and good wishes for their future the party went on. The highlight of the evening then was the ceremony to hand over the official gift from the club to the couple: a T-shirt with the colorful fingerprints of all members who participated in the farewell keiko plus a photo album with pictures of all members with their individual personal greetings and wishes. Moreover many photos of the rich club history were included. Everyone was really moved when Nokura Sensei and Masako San turned the pages one by one and some members could hardly hold back their tears.



After more than nine years from the establishment of the club Nokura Sensei’s job requires him to return to Japan. But he and his wife Masako San will continue to guide the Club and promised to frequently come to Shanghai again. With this strong commitment the club will certainly enjoy a flourishing future development.