

Celebration of 3 Years Shanghai Xijiao Aikido Club

We all know time passes quickly but still we got surprised that our dojo has already a history of three very active years. Three years ago four members of Shanghai International Aikido Club opened the Shanghai Xijiao Aikido Club with permission of Nokura sensei. His good wishes for our new dojo in the western suburb of Shanghai matured and we now count 12 registered members and enjoyed many visitors from other regional dojos and from abroad.



Most remarkable in our young history is the substantial support by Hombu dojo, which now for the second time send their instructor for seminar and grading to us, in 2013 Irie Yoshinobu Shihan and this year Namba Hiroyuki Shihan.

Since June 2012 our regular Shanghai Open Keiko every month brought many regional Aikido friends together and we could enjoy learning from other dojo's style. Another highlight is the regular Summer Seminar with Dominique Rasclé. We are also very happy about the frequent exchange and joint keiko with our friends in Hangzhou.



Numerous other activities like organizing bigger seminars, participation in seminars, joint trips to Japan and Hong Kong show the commitment and family type atmosphere in our club.



And now it was the time to celebrate with a full day program from morning until late night. The start was marked by the first morning keiko with Kinya Lee from Taiwan who gave us the honor as guest instructor for this special day. In the lunch break we shared some nice Japanese sushi, which provided us with the necessary energy for the afternoon keiko session. After that session we watched the embukai of some of our dojo members Terence, Henrik and Francois as well as some demonstration of Kinya Lee with Peter as uke.



Having taken the obligatory group photo it was the time for having a toast with some sake and beer. For the next part of the program more than twenty of us made it to our dinner party in a Japanese Restaurant. Besides nice food and drinks we had some other interesting embukai: "Aikido for real life" by Ulrich and Francois and Henrik's saxophone performance.

This official party happily concluded about 10PM when the restaurant staff was just waiting for us to retire. A small group of us finally made it to a club with live music for a few more drinks and dancing.



We are happy for so many guests from other Shanghai dojos, as well as from Hangzhou Aikikai, UNNC Aikido Club from Ningbo, Suzhou and some other independent Aikido friends.

Many thanks to all of you who shared this happy event with us and we hope to have many more joint activities with you in the future.

Ulrich Mierswa