

The 11th World Shito Ryu Karatedo Taikai

Members of the Shito Ryu Canada Karatedo Association took part in the 11 World Shito Ryu Karate Championships during July 21-23, 2017 in Osaka, Japan. The Championships featured seminars taught by experts in Shito Ryu Karate, black belt grading, and a tournament with participants from all around the world.

For the representatives from Western Canada, the contingent was the largest we've ever had from the dojo at the Arbutus Club (Vancouver), Cambie (Richmond), and Sea Island (Richmond). With athletes, families and friends, there were over 50 participants that made the trip to Japan this summer from the lower mainland.

The World Shito Ryu Karatedo Taikai takes place every other year, with the event taking place in Osaka every four years. As the event took place in July, the Vancouverites had to endure not only the jet lag, but the extreme heat and humidity. Despite the challenging environment, the members did very well at this event. The following members were able to bring home medals from this prestigious event:

- **Frank Wang** (Cambie Dojo)-Silver in *Kumite* (fighting)
- **Crosbie DesBrisay** (Arbutus Dojo)- Bronze in *Kata* (forms)
- **Ashley Braun** (Arbutus Dojo)-Bronze in *Kata* (forms)
- **Audrey Braun** (Arbutus Dojo)-Silver in *Kata* (forms)
- **Jamie Chan** (Cambie Dojo)-Gold in *Kumite* (fighting) and Bronze in *Team Kumite*
- **Jadyn Kuah** (Arbutus Dojo)- Bronze in *Kumite* (fighting)
- **Yuna Yamamoto** (Cambie Dojo)-Bronze in *Kata* (forms)

Everyone who took part in the competition tried their best and congratulations are warranted for all our local athletes.

There were several members that took part in the black belt grading at this event. The grading process is overseen by examiners, holding Masters Ranking, around the world that scrutinized each applicant's basics, forms, and the understanding of movements within the forms. For those that are successful in passing the exam, they will receive their black belt ranks from our current **Grand Master, Tsukasa Mabuni**, the granddaughter of the Founder of Shito Ryu Karate. From our group the following members were promoted:

Shodan (1st degree black belt)

- Frank Wang
- Simran Jagdeo
- John-Paul Ng
- Olivia Shan
- Jadyn Kuah

- Crosbie DesBrisay
- Ashley Braun

Nidan (2nd degree black belt)

- Harvinder Jagdeo
- Amanda Moore
- Arshdeep Jagdeo

Godan (5th degree black belt)

- Garson Ho

Congratulations on all the applicants that were awarded their ranks from Tsukasa Mabuni. The west coast members were also blessed with two of their own receiving their **Shihan Menjo** (Masters Certificates) in Shito Ryu Karate. The Shihan rank is the ultimate award, which signifies the mastery of the basics and the syllabus of the Shito Ryu style of karate. We are very proud of Alice Chung and Garson Ho Sensei in achieving this accomplishment.

Alice Chung Sensei is currently the Chief Instructor for the Arbutus Club. She has been the instructor there for over twelve years and currently runs eight classes per week, with students ranging from 6 yrs of age to 50+. Alice has approximately 70+ students at the Arbutus Club currently and the members there are some of the biggest supporters of the Taikai over the years. Alice is currently a 5th degree black belt and have been bestowed the title of **Renshi** (Polished Master) by the Nippon Karatedo Kai (Japanese Karate Association).

Garson Ho Sensei is currently one of the instructors at our Richmond dojo. Garson Sensei currently teaches classes at the Hamilton Community Centre and the East Richmond Community Centre. He also assists in teaching at the Sea Island Community Centre as well as help out in the art of kobudo at the Dunbar Community Centre. Garson Sensei is also the coach for many of the students taking part in local and international competitions. Garson Sensei has participated in many of the Taikai since 2005 and has medalled at many of the events. Garson Sensei was awarded his 5th degree black belt and has also been awarded the title of **Renshi** by the Nippon Karatedo Kai.

We are extremely proud of both Alice Sensei and Garson Sensei for their accomplishments. As newly appointed Shihan, they will continue to make our organization grow and be successful.