

Historic ITKF World Traditional Karate Championship in Egypt a Huge Success

The XVII ITKF World Traditional Karate Championship in Cairo, Egypt, was a tremendous success in marking the historic return of Traditional Karate to the Arabian and North African region. Sanctioned by ITKF and hosted by the Egyptian Traditional Karate Federation, this highly successful event, held November 28 & 29, 2014, received extraordinary support and security from the Egyptian government, the Egyptian Ministry of State for Sport Affairs and the Ministry of Interior.

The opening ceremony was graced by the presence of a number of dignitaries – from the highest Egyptian government officials to a number of ambassadors from Egypt’s neighboring countries and notably, the Ambassador of Japan to Egypt. Awards were presented to an assemblage of international ITKF officials and instructors who have made significant contributions to the global spread of Traditional Karate. As well, honors were given to the officials and instructors of the Egyptian Traditional Karate Federation who were tasked with hosting this world championship and keeping the tradition alive in their country. Ms. Nami Nishiyama, daughter of ITKF founder, Master Hidetaka Nishiyama, represented her family at this momentous event, over three decades after her father oversaw the 1983 World Championship in this same city.

Preceding the championship, a two-day Judging Seminar was taught by members of the ITKF Technical Committee. The busy pre-championship schedule also included sessions with the Cairo media which recognized the historic significance of the occasion, thus giving full coverage to this event.

Elimination and final matches were held at the massive Cairo stadium which, for two days, was filled with sounds of spirited competition and demonstrations of national pride as each country’s athletes – from the promising competitors in the youth events to the more seasoned elite athletes - thrilled spectators with technical skills achieved only through years of hard work and dedicated training, a hallmark of Traditional Karate.

In-between the seminars and the competition were activities that will long be remembered by all - an evening cruise on the Nile River that began with a superlative feast and traditional Egyptian entertainment, followed by a day trip to the Pyramids, where athletes in their *karate gi*'s were inspired to train at the base of this ancient wonder. The post-championship banquet featuring tables laden

with savory dishes and sweet treats rewarded the exhausted but happy participants. Truly, the hosts went to great lengths to ensure the success of this historic and pivotal world championship and everyone – athletes, officials, national representatives and guests – came away with deep appreciation for their efforts and gracious hospitality but most importantly, priceless life-long memories.
