

Dear International Hayashi-Ha Shito-Ryu Karate-Do Federation Members,

First of all, I wish you all a healthy, happy and productive New Year!

Our biennial International Championship was held in Budapest, Hungary December 3-5, 2021. Beyond the tournament, we included the requisite educational kata seminars that were stewarded by Hanshi Thiry and Shihan Katherine Thiry. A Kumite Seminar was conducted by guest Sensei Fisher, the Coach of the Hungarian Olympic Bronze Medalist, Karoly Gabor Harspataki as our Olympic debut. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the myriad of instructors who have brought so much honor and recognition to our organization for decades. Evidenced by the talent and karate-do in our competitions, within the learning and testing environment/s, and as citizens in their respective countries and communities, our vigorous and vested talent reflects incredible dedication.

The International Dan Promotion test/s consisted of 22 Yudansha who completed elite level promotion requirements per their eligible rank. These promotions require the highest levels of physical readiness, mental stamina, and a long standing reputation for good conduct. Each candidate has requisite time invested, consistency in technique and application, demonstrates loyalty to the tenets of karate-do and has devoted efforts toward edifying their communities of which they are a part. Kudos to this exceptional group.

As expected, the Championship was a success even as last minute fluxes in covid travel protocols differed widely from country to country; many registrations were not able to participate at the last hour. There were many airline cancellations as well. Even as Entry to Budapest, was further complicated by the virus test requirements, so many athletes managed to make it through and exhibited the tenacity on the floor that got them there. Katas were outstandingly performed. Likewise, the kumite skill sets manifested as vigorous and controlled. We always take pride in our safety record.

On behalf of the Federation, I wish to express a special thanks to Shihan Janos Meszaros. His leadership made the Championship possible. Dr. Meszaros is active as the President of the National Hungarian Karate Federation and as President of all Sport Federations. Along with his assistant, Tournament director Sensei Marton Falushi, another excellent tournament was completed with safety, enthusiasm and an international friendship that grows commensurate with our international community. Many thanks to those who work tirelessly behind the scenes with graciousness and professionalism. Our senseis never rest, are forever dedicated to the long development of each student, and live a life style of selfless dedication. For the youngest members, our recognition must never fail to mention those parents who are involved at every level and support their respective senseis, respect the organizational mission, and remain instrumental in embodying core values. I salute and thank you all. Ossu!

Best Wishes,
Hanshi Thiry