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JAPAN KARATE ASSOCIATION
WORLD FEDERATION
MIDDLE EAST - KUWAIT

Draft

"In the memory of O-Sensei Anko Itosu... 101 Years of Karate"

**Report on JKA-Kuwait
Annual Gasshuku and Championship (March, 2016)**

JKA-Kuwait held its annual Gasshuku and National Championship during the period 29-3/4-4/2016 with the participation of more than 130 karatekas being trained and supervised under Sensei Koichero Okuma from JKA HQ in Tokyo, Japan.

JKA-Kuwait inaugurated this annual activity under His Excellency the Ambassador of Japan to the state of Kuwait Mr. Takashi Ashiki and with the presence of Mr. Shinji Bantani the Cultural Attache in the embassy. The event was well covered by all social media in the state of Kuwait and many locals and expatriates had attended the final championship.

To honour a great Karate master, JKA-Kuwait took a decision to name this annual activity **"In the memory of O-Sensei Anko Itosu... 101 Years of Karate"**. On March 11th, 2016, it will be 101 years since the final departure, from this earthly world, of this great and creative Karate master. Itosu Sensei was born in Okinawa Island in 1831 and passed away on 11 of March, 1915. He was a very well-known Karate master and trained under the prominent Sokon Matsumura the foremost karate authority in Okinawa at that time. And because of Sensei Itosu renowned reputation, the royal palace and the educational establishment of Okinawa and the Japanese educational authorities used his services in a very good way to encourage the implementation of karate into the educational systems of Okinawa.

Itosu Sensei was, also, the master of other famous karate masters such as Sensei Gichin Funakoshi the Founder of the Shotokan Karate, Sensei Kenwa Mabuni the founder of the Shito Ryu Karate and Sensei Chosin Chibana the founder of the Shorin Ryu Kobayashi Karate. He was accredited in making the five (5) Heian katas, modified the original Bassai Dai Kata, formulated new katas such as Basai Sho and promoted Karate to the Okinawan and the Japanese authorities and to the world through his students.

JKA-Kuwait is a very active karate organization in the State of Kuwait, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Region and in the Middle East. It is headed by Sensei Marwan Sultan a 6th Dan karateka. He is the President and the Chief Instructor. JKA-Kuwait affairs are managed through the president, the general manager and the board members that represents the Championships and Qualification Department, the Financial Department, the Complaint Department and the Public Relations Department. It has seven (7) active dojo branches managed by qualified black belts. And its HQ is located in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Kuwait.

This year Gasshuku and the National Championship, as with the previous years, were under Sensei Okuma Koichiro (6th Dan) supervision. Sensei Okuma is a very qualified instructor in JKA, Japan HQ and a world champion. During the Gasshuku, Sensei Okuma covered all the basics, yudansh and mudansha katas such as Jitte, Tekki(s), the Heians and finally Kumite techniques. Sensei Okuma training was highly appreciated by the karatekas. The national championship was very successful and all age groups had participated in it; representing the seven (7) dojos of JKA Kuwait.

His Excellency Mr. Takashi Ashiki, the Ambassador of Japan to the state of Kuwait and the Japanese Embassy diplomatic staff,

valued the event as a way to promote peace in the world and to strengthen ties between the State of Kuwait and Japan.

The General Manager of JKA-Kuwait, Dr Ali Khuraibet, gave an opening speech and distributed certificate of appreciation to All JKA Seven Dojos and to the Ministry of Health (MoH) of the State of Kuwait. Then, with Sensei Okuma and the Chief instructor of of JKA-Kuwait, Sensei Marwan Sultan, they distributed the cups and medals to the winners in the championship.

JKA Kuwait is expanding steadily in Kuwait and in other countries in the Arabic Region through mutual cooperation and understanding. The core objectives of JKA-Kuwait is to cooperate fully with JKA, Japan HQ and to present and promote JKA Shotokan Karate in an excellent and ethical manner to promote peace in the world and to create a sustainable future for present and future generations.

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