

## News from JKA Finland

**Topics: JKA starts operating again in Finland; Sensei Willy J. Ortiz retired; JKA Finland's 1<sup>st</sup> 2018 Winter Gasshuku held December with Okuma Sensei; JKA Finland relationship with the Embassy of Japan in Finland; and Naka Sensei is going to teach in 2019 Summer Gasshuku in Finland.**

After some years of quietness JKA has been activated again in Finland. Sensei Willy J. Ortiz has retired and resigned from all JKA positions in Finland and named Mr. Juha Kreuz for his successor. Sensei Ortiz brought JKA Karate-Do to Finland in 1975 and after 44 years he decided to retire at 78 years of age. Now Mr. Kreuz is Chairman of the Board of the Japan Karate Association Finland ry and also a vice chairman of the JKA Dan College in Finland which is led by Mr. Anssi Kaltevo.

New JKA Finland organized its first Gasshuku at 7<sup>th</sup> until 9<sup>th</sup> of December 2018 under guidance of Koichiro Okuma Sensei. Nearly one hundred participants from Finland and Estonia received professional instructions on Kihon, Kata and Kumite. Many of the participants from member clubs of JKA Finland has a long history with JKA style, but because of lack of JKA activities during the last years, Okuma Sensei concentrated on JKA principles and techniques. Okuma Sensei also gave information about how to operate as a JKA Branch.

Visit to Finland at December was both warm and freezing for Okuma Sensei since he decided to join the ice swimming with the Finns at frozen lake while taking sauna.

Okuma Sensei and Mr. Kreuz also visited the Embassy of Japan in Finland and met First Secretary Ms. Masako Saito from Cultural Affairs and Public Relations department. Japan and Finland celebrate their 100 years of cultural and political relationship in 2019. JKA Finland will be one of the official partner organizations during the celebration year.

JKA Finland will arrange its 2019 Summer Gasshuku in 28<sup>th</sup> until 30<sup>th</sup> of June under instructions of Tatsuya Naka Sensei. We would like to invite all JKA Europe members to join and share our common enthusiasm and high-level JKA karate training with us.

If you need more information about JKA Finland or our 2019 Summer Gasshuku with Naka Sensei, please contact to Mr. Juha Kreuz ([juha.kreus@jkafinland.fi](mailto:juha.kreus@jkafinland.fi) and +358-400-627 367 or visit [www.jkafinland.fi](http://www.jkafinland.fi), [www.facebook.com/jkafinland](https://www.facebook.com/jkafinland)).

OSS!

JKA FINLAND Director Juha Kreuz.

Okuma Sensei and Mr. Kreuz with Ms. Masako Saito from Embassy of Japan in Finland.



Group photo



Black belts



Yōi!



Karate-do begins and ends with *rei*



Mae geri



Mae geri



Oi zuki



Oi zuki



Higher belts kumite training



### OYO for Heian Shodan



### Explanation and demonstration



Okuma Sensei



Students listening





## Straight lines and rows



## Tekki



Leaving Finland with smile: Sensei Okuma and Mr. Kreuz



Kiitos Okuma Sensei!

OSS!