

JKA Philippines hosted the 2nd JKA Philippines International Gasshuku and Tournament (September 24-28, 2025)

The 2nd JKA Philippines International Gasshuku, Dan and Qualification Examinations, and Tournament stood as another landmark event in the Philippine karate community, held on September 24, 2025, at the Mandarin Hotel in Cebu City and from September 26 to 28, 2025, at the Amoranto Arena in Quezon City.

On September 23, 2025, the JKA Philippines delegation, headed by Gilieto Luague Shihan, JKA Philippines Chairman and Representative to the JKA WF HQ, welcomed Naka Tatsuya Shihan and Okuma Koichiro Shihan on their arrival in Cebu City's Mactan International Airport as they began their tour in conducting Gasshuku and Dan and Qualification examinations in the Philippines which will be concluded with an international tournament using the JKA standard tournament rules and regulations. These events will once again give the JKA Philippines karatekas the opportunity to progress in their journey in JKA karate and demonstrate their skills.

September 24, 2025: Special Gasshuku and Dan Examination - Mandarin Hotel, Cebu City

On this day, a special Gasshuku and Dan examination was held in the Mandarin Hotel Banquet Hall to give opportunities to the JKA Philippines members in the Visayas and Mindanao region to be able to attend Gasshuku conducted by Naka Tatsuya Shihan and Okuma Koichiro Shihan. In the morning, Naka Shihan covered various topics on kihon e.g., the tanden - the center of power; hip movement; contraction and expansion - the hidden rhythm of power and the budo power; the role of proper breathing; and tai sabaki - the art of body movement.

In the afternoon, Okuma Shihan reviewed the five Heian Katas, discussing important points in each kata. He also covered Tekki Shodan, being one of the traditional kata being practiced in karate. He discussed proper body movement and posture, execution of techniques while in kiba-dachi, and the importance of connection to the ground to maintain balance and generate power. Other katas he covered were Bassai-Dai and Jion. He discussed similar points that he discussed in Tekki Shodan but he paid particular attention to the changing rhythm and speed of the techniques in the kata. After the gasshuku, a dan examination was conducted by Shihan Okuma.

September 26, 2025: Dan and Qualification Examination - Amoranto Arena, Quezon City

This is the Dan and Qualification Examination day. More or less, there were 40 examinees testing for Nidan to Godan and for Instructor, Judge and Examiner on the D, C & B levels. In the morning session, Okuman Shihan conducted a special Gasshuku to the examinees,

reviewing what is expected in demonstrating kihon, kata and kumite skills. Naka Shihan and Okuma Shihan presided over the Dan and Qualification Examination.

September 27, 2025: Gasshuku - Amoranto Arena, Quezon City

In the morning, Okuma Shihan conducted the gasshuku. After a few kihon training, Okuma Shihan focused on gohon kumite, kihon ippon kumite and jiyu-ippon kumite. We also did a lot of kumite drills which everybody enjoyed. After the morning session, Okuma Shihan handed all the dan certificates of the examinees who passed in the last dan examination that was held in NOVADECI Convention Center.

In the afternoon, Naka Shihan conducted the gasshuku. He covered Heian Nidan focusing on its important points. He also demonstrated some applications of Heian Nidan. Another kata that Naka Shihan covered was Hangetsu. Similar to what he did in Heian Nidan, he also focused on the important points of the kata. Especially with correct movement of hangetsu-dachi. He also demonstrated some applications of Hangetsu.

September 28, 2025: 2nd JKA Philippines International Tournament - Amoranto Arena, Quezon City

This is the day of the 2nd JKA Philippines International Tournament. Riding on the success of the 1st JKA Philippines International Tournament in NOVADECI Convention Center last November 10, 2024, this year's event proved to be bigger and successful as before. The number of competitors has grown from last year's 300 plus competitors to more or less 600 competitors this year. We also had competitors coming from Russia, Mongolia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Canada and the USA. In this event, we have five tatamis compared to three tatamis last year. The tournament participants were divided into four major divisions, kids, teens, adults and seniors. There were no major incidents during the tournament as we strictly enforced that safety of the competitors was top priority. The tournament also provided an opportunity for the new Judge D and B examinees who passed the exam to train, practice and be evaluated on their judging skills as corner and center judges.

Also during the event, we were joined by some distinguished from the local government and other sports organizations.

- Guest Speaker - Honorable Gian Carlo Sotto, City Vice Mayor of Quezon City
- Mr. Carlos Gayoso, Karate Instructor and Head of Sports Development for Quezon City
- Eman Velez Shihan - SKIF Head Instructor
- David Lay - JKS Head Instructor

Over these four days of spectacular events, JKA Philippines hosted another successful Gasshuku and Tournament, which was bigger and better than before. Throughout the event, the significance of safety and teamwork was consistently emphasized, underscoring the collaborative spirit that defines JKA Shotokan Karate. The success of the gathering not only highlighted the dedication of participants and organizers but also served as a testament to the revival of JKA Shotokan Karate in the Philippines. Through these collective efforts, the organization has effectively restored the prestige and popularity that the discipline once held during its golden era in the 1960s, ensuring its continued growth and relevance in the present day. This is a testament to one of the JKA Philippines' missions of increasing the

reach and membership of JKA Philippines throughout the Philippines and its vision of becoming the largest Karate organization in the Philippines.

As we move closer to the end of 2025, a plan for next year's event in August 2026 is already underway. Technical Working Group teams are being organized to lay out the ground work for next year's event.

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