



Itosu-kai Karatedo Ireland Karate & Kobudo Association

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Ballinasloe Karate in Malaysia

Itosu-kai Karatedo Ireland attended an international conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The conference was attended by all affiliate country representatives. The Irish karateka were led by Leo Mulvany, 5th Dan and Chief Instructor of Itosu-kai in Ireland and included Tony Dolphin, Claire Harte, Marie and John Dolphin. Also travelling with the group were Martha Mulvany, Claire Dolphin and Fiona Whyte.

Besides discussing Itosu-kai karate matters on a global scale, planning and organising the 2009 Itosu-ryu Karate World Championships took up most of the meeting. This event will be held in Kuala Lumpur in August, 2009. Having a presence and input into such an event is very important from an Irish point of view and planning and coaching for this event will start early next year in Ireland. Mulvany Sesnei makes the point that forward planning is essential for success in such competitions and says the association in Ireland has steadily gained experience over the years from participating in International events (Canadian Karate Championships 2003 & 2004) and World Championships such as Tokyo in 2002 and Los Angeles in 2005.

The group also attended a day-long technical seminar presented by Sadaaki Sakagami, the 4th Soke of Itosu-kai and President of Japan Karatedo Itosu-kai. This turned out to be a masterclass in basic karate technique involving balance of mind and body and the mechanics of movement. Sakagami Soke is very well respected in the world of karate. He currently serves as the regular director of Kanagawa Prefectural Karate do Federation and vice president of Yokohama Karate do Federation. He also holds many titles, JKF Karatedo Hanshi, Kendo Kyushu 7th Dan, Iaido 5th Dan, Jodo Kyushu 6th Dan and Ryukyu Kobudo Shihan, to name a few.

To train with and receive instruction from such a master is indeed a great honour. The Irish Association has trained with Sakagami Soke in Copenhagen, Toronto, Japan and recently in Malaysia.



Standing, L→R: Claire Harte, Tony Dolphin, Leo Mulvany (Chief Instructor, Ireland), John Dolphin and Marie Dolphin.

There are nine clubs in Ireland of which five were represented in Kuala Lumpur, Ballinasloe (Leo Mulvany), Newinn (Tony Dolphin), Galway (Claire Harte), Kiltormer (Marie Dolphin) and Eyrecourt (John Dolphin).

At the Itosu-ryu conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, seated, Soke Sadaaki Sakagami (Chief Instructor, Japan and head of Itosu-Ryu worldwide),