

## <Introduction about Kendo in Brazil>

The following introduction of Kendo has relation to Aikawa.

The year before last I received a telephone from my friend of Aikawa (Aikawa is a town in Kanagawa prefecture) kendo Dojou (training hall). He told and requested me as follows.

“Here is a Master named Ishibashi coming from Brazil in order to challenge the examination to be the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Could you accept me to take him there?” Needless to say I accepted it immediately. He was a perfect and favorable gentleman who had beautiful body made by hard workout which exudes quiet and warm heart.

He came here several times to practice in order to challenge the promotion test to be the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, however unfortunately he could not pass it and went back to Brazil leaving word “I never give up, so I’ll be back to challenge again!!”

Then exchanging e-mail with him started, and I have come to feel his attractive personality stronger and deeper whenever I received mails from him.

I guess that it may be the reason that he still has good quality that Japanese must have had naturally but already may had forgotten. At the bottom of his heart he still can recognize something what we Japanese has overlooked, so it makes me to expect that I would be a Japanese like him.

His married lady works in Aikawa now and I hear that he does training at Atsugi and Aikawa to challenge again the examination to be the 8<sup>th</sup> grade on Nov.27 2014. This time he will come to Japan together with Sr.Ruiz Guirmont the 5<sup>th</sup> grade from the opposite side of Japan which has 12 hours’ time difference.

We hear that the population of Kendo in Brazil has decreased to 800 registered in the Federation of Kendo of Brazil.

We can understand from the report of Sr.Ishibashi that the situation of Kendo in Brazil is facing difficulties.

Followings are quotation from the mail of Master Ishibashi.

While the number of Kendo group reached around 100 persons by the support of Suzano city which Sr. Guirmont took the lead in doing, it has decreased to 30 who have kept training up to now because many people are so poor to pay the fee to the Federation.

10 tools of Kendo were contributed by Sr.Guirmont.

While a group of around 100 persons were born in Rio Grande located in the most southern side of Brazil, I’m afraid how many people can remain because there are many people who cannot buy even bamboo stick of Kendo.

In addition to these 2 gentlemen a Master the 8<sup>th</sup> grade will come to the Atsugi Kendo Festival, so I’d like introduce him briefly.

It is Master Robert Kishikawa who was born in Sao Paulo and promoted the 8<sup>th</sup> grade at the examination in last autumn for the first time among the persons who started Kendo outside of Japan. He participated in the World Champion ship 5 times. All the member of his family, including his farther and younger brother, have the 7<sup>th</sup> grade, so his family is very famous for the family immortalizing “The Spirit of Bushi-dou (Samurai)” to Brazil.



From the Brazil Educational Synthetic Association they received an honorable decoration of Grand Cruz which is given to the person who has a great influence upon the Brazilian Nation. (Photo on the right)

Now he lives in Hong Kong as a businessman and coaches Hong Kong National Kendo Team.

He will join the Atsugi Kendo Festival together with colleagues of Hong Kong this time.

(Written by Kenji Takizawa, the chairman of Atsugi Kendo Federation)

