

## <Introduction about Hong Kong>

We Japanese pronounce HonKon. It originates from the pronunciation of Cantonese. Hong Kong was alienated from China to England by the Nanjing treaty concluded in 1842 between China under the Manchus and England.

After that, Hong Kong became a colony of England and on Jul 1<sup>st</sup> 1997 it was returned to the Peoples' Republic of China, and later it became a Special Administrative Region of China.

Written in English of Hong Kong was kept based upon Cantonese history and it has become generalized.

Hong Kong is pronounced “Xiang Gang” in the standard language of China (Mandarin Chinese).

It is totally different from the pronunciation of Hong Kong.

Although Hong Kong is one of the Special Administrative Region of China, the currency in Hong Kong is different from that in Beijing, Shanghai and Macao, and furthermore resident of Hong Kong is required passport to enter mainland China, so Hong Kong seems to be an independent country.

Though Hong Kong is only one area of the Peoples' Republic of China, it has its own flag and Hong Kong Kendo Association was registered by FIK (Federation International of Kendo) earlier than the Mainland China because of the historical back-ground mentioned above, so Hong Kong takes part in the World Champion ship on the same level of one country.

Hong Kong has been keeping trading exchanges with many countries all over the world including Japan for a long time as a relaying trade place in Asia, and Kendo was transmitted to Hong Kong by Japanese representatives in the cultural and economic exchanges.

The population of Hong Kong is now around 7 million, and the population of Kendo has reached 700.

Mr. Wong (黄) coming from Hong Kong this time has been Chairman of Hong Kong Kendo Association and important member of FIK for a long time.



He planned Asia Hong Kong Open Champion ship and it started in 2001. This champion ship has become a big Kendo festival for lovers of Kendo in Asian countries. The number of participant reaches 700 coming from all Asian countries including Japan. I guess that it is his distinguished achievement.

In this event we can hear many languages such as Cantonese, Mandarin, English and Japanese.

Kenshi coming from various Asian countries including Japanese one made each team together to play matches, and the event swells very much into a night party. This night party looks like an alumni reunion with more than 500 participants.

I feel actually that there is a real “Kou-Ken-Chi-Ai” (real friendship made through Kendo).

And, Mr. Chang (陳) brothers of Hong Kong team have father of Hong Kong Chinese and Japanese mother, so they speaks Japanese very well.

They started Kendo at the same timing that their father started Kendo and both of them are member of Hong Kong team. I expect Hong Kong team including Chang parent and child to show nice activities at Atsugui City Kendo Championship.

(Written by Yuzo Tokura, charge in All China Area of Liaison Department of Atsugi International Kendo Festival )