

## < Introduction about Chinese Taipei >

### <The history of Kendo in Chinese Taipei >

In 1895 Japan started ruling over Taiwan and then Kendo was transmitted to there from Japan.

At present in Taiwan there are an over 80-year-old Master of Kendo and many people who speak Japanese very well.

Taiwan has taken part in the World Kendo Champion ship from the first as Chinese Taipei because of its historical background.

During 15 Champion ships the male team of Taiwan got 2<sup>nd</sup> prize once and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize 5 times, so Taiwan is strong country in Kendo.

### <Present situation of Kendo and the background of participants >

The population of Chinese Taipei is 23 million, and its population/area of land are about 1.1 times the size of Kyushu Japan. They say that though the registered population of Kendo is over 10,000, about 6,000 is real active number.

Chinese Taipei is near to Japan both in the distance and history, so there are lots of people who start Kendo from their elementary school days, and many people from Chinese Taipei participate in the Nihon Budokan Champion ship held under the sponsorship of the Doujo (training hall) Federation during summer holidays.

Master Chen(陳) Shingfan the 8<sup>th</sup> grade living in the southern city Takao participates in this event this time.

His pen name is “Musashi” and he speaks Japanese very fluently.

He has a Doujo(training hall) in the Butokuden(武德殿) which is one of the national important cultural assets in Chinese Taipei.



In Mar. every year International Champion ship is held there where famous Masters visit from Japan.

Mr.Chen(陳) Chenlin is a representative Kenshi of Chinese Taipei who participated in the event held in Glasgow(2003), in Chinese Taipei (2006) and in Brazil(2009).

Mr.Ryu(劉) Itien is also a representative Kenshi who took part in the event held in Glasgow(2003), in Brazil(2009) and in Italy(2012).

We expect them to show great activities in Atsugi Champion ship.

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

### <Wonderful story between Kendo of Chinese Taipei and Kendo of Atsugi >

In addition to the introduction about the situation of Kendo in Chinese Taipei, I'd like to tell you about the Wonderful relation between Chinese Taipei and Atsugi as follows.

It started from that summer of around 50 years ago when I was a student in the 4<sup>th</sup> year of Meiji University (1963).

Celebrating the 1<sup>st</sup> prize in the All Japan Student Kendo Champion ship I was delegated from the University to participate in a friendly game held in Chinese Taipei. I went there together with general manager, coaches and 10 colleagues.

Next year Tokyo Olympic was held and trip to foreign countries was liberalized, however it was very hard work for us to prepare trip to foreign country because those days we had to be permitted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

I still remember that we were surprised to receive so many interviews from journalist with cameras when we arrived at the Air Port of Taiwan.

We did 2 matches at the gymnasium of Taipei University being full of 5,000 people and continued 10 days trip going around Taichu(台中), Tainan(台南), Kagui(嘉義), and Touen(桃園) etc where we were welcomed very much.

It was an unforgettable great memory of my young days.

When we went back to Taipei on the final day of the trip, we were requested to give a lesson to the students of Nankai (南海) High School Kendo Club in Taipei who had been training Kendo zealously.

We did trial match with boys and gave a lesson to them in front of the teachers and students in the school grand.

They were delighted very much with our visit.

A few years ago I was surprised to meet again a gentleman the 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

I did training with him at the training event in Kyoto Champion ship. He was wearing Kendo uniform with name plate written as Chinese Taipei · Kyo(許). After that, when I told him that I visited Taiwan long time ago and received warm hearted welcome there, he asked me around when you went, and we kept talking and then suddenly he told me that he was one of students whom I met during that my first trip to Taiwan to where I was delegated from Meiji University.

And I was surprised again to read the list of 5 Chinese Taipei Kenshis who come to Atsugi Kendo Festival this time, because I found one memorandum requesting us to take care of 5 Chinese Taipei Kenshis who were selected as excellent ones, and saw the name of person who attached that memorandum, it was that Master Kyo(許) , person in charge of delegation.

I feel that it is a wonderful story for me passing over 50 years.

(Written by Kenji Takizawa, Chairman of Atsugi Kendo Federation)