

April 13, 2020

I.K.O.N.国際空手道連盟極真会館



**Notice of Temporary Dojo Closure and Event Cancellation due to the Covid-19 pandemic**

Dear Friends, Students and Parents,

As part of their efforts to contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the Japanese government issued a State of Emergency on April 7 2020 to several hard-hit cities, including the Kansai area where most of our dojos operate. With this new development, we have decided to temporarily close our Honbu dojo and its satellites, effective from April 7 until May 6 2020. (※To students who belong to branch dojos, please ask your instructors directly about plans for your dojos.)

With regard to special events, I.K.O.N. had originally planned to hold four major tournaments, summer/winter camps, and spring/fall belt exams this year. As you know, one of the tournaments, March's Japan Karate Classic 2020, was already cancelled, as was April's belt exam, which would have attracted hundreds of students from Kobe and Osaka. We will continue to closely monitor the situation in Japan, and make decisions along the way for the May event, and others scheduled for the following months.

For the past forty years, the operation of our dojos has always been with a goal of contributing to the community's wellbeing. The decision to close our dojos and cancel events is in keeping with our mission to secure the safety of our students, families, and members of our communities. It is our belief that respectfully following the direction of our government is the best way to support our communities in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.

I realize how much our students around the globe look forward to dojo training and the exciting events that they train so hard for. I am also grateful to our sponsoring companies, who provide generous support. Regretfully, I would like to prepare you for the fact that the probability of additional cancellations is very high, unless there is a dramatic turnaround in the spread of infections.

I strongly hope that our instructors and students remain resilient so that we can overcome this unprecedented situation together. On behalf of I.K.O.N, I wish you well. Please stay safe and healthy, and continue your training on your own until our dojos reopen.

Best regards,

Masanaga Nakamura  
International Karate Organization Nakamura  
Daihyo (Director)