

International Naginata Federation Board of Directors Meeting - 2015

Date: 2015 June 18st. From 9:00 to 11:30.

Venue: Montreal, Canada.

Were present: Mrs Hashimoto, Mrs Kimura, Mrs Tamaki, Mrs Nakano, Mrs Sunagawa, Mrs Yoshii, Mr Bennett, Mr D'hose, Mr Fromentin and Mr Robison.

Was absent, Mrs Nagahama,

- The Meeting starts at 9:00, with an introduction speech by INF President, Mrs Hashimoto.
- Mrs Hashimoto is nominated Chairperson.
- The quorum is verified.
- Mr Robison and Mr D'hose are appointed to confirm the minutes.

- Activity report by Secretary General, Mrs Tamaki

Mrs Tamaki reports on various seminars and events held in 2014 in the Netherlands and Canada.

No questions are raised regarding the activity report.

Activity report approved unanimously.

- Financial report

The financial report was sent beforehand to every directors; Mrs Tamaki therefore only explains the report briefly.

Mr Bennett notes a few spelling mistakes in the financial report.

Financial report approved unanimously.

- 2015 Budget

2015 budget is based on 2014 financial activities.

However, INF does not know the final numbers regarding the costs of the 6th World Championships; this part of the 2015 budget was thus calculated based on the expenses of the 5th World Championships in Japan.

Mr Bennett asks Mr Fromentin when will Canada give INF the final numbers. Mr Fromentin replies that it should be available a few weeks after the end of the event. Canada President Mrs d'Artois is in charge of the tournament budget.

Mr Fromentin says that the Championships budget should, in the end reach, equilibrium.

Mr Bennett says that the Board should therefore only approve this budget as "provisional".

Budget "provisionally" approved unanimously.

- Next INF term.

Vice-president Mr Bennett recommends that Mrs Hashimoto runs for one more term, but asks if there would be any other nomination.

Mrs Hashimoto is re-elected unanimously President of the INF.

- Karen Schmucker is appointed as new Panamerica zone Director.
- Mr D'hose is re-appointed as Europa zone Director
- Mr Robison is happily re-appointed as Oceania zone Director
- Takako Sensui and Midori Yasui are appointed as new Asia zone Directors.

New directors accepted unanimously.

- Next WNC

Czech Federation representatives present their bid on hosting the 7th WNC.

Czech has vast facilities in Praha, with venues possibly containing 2 shiai-jo, and 2 extra small dojo.

The Czech Kendo Federation and Czech Martial Arts Association can give logistic and financial support in organising the event. Czech naginata population is small (10 people) but there are about 160 people practicing kendo in the country who can lend a hand. It is obviously a big challenge for Czech to organise a WNC, but it is also a good opportunity to develop naginata in the area (Hungaria for example).

Mrs Nakano is concerned about the flooring at the venue. She remembers that the training hall in Praha has a plastic floor. Mr D'hose assures that the floor is OK. Czech representatives think there might be a chance to find a wooden floor in Praha.

Mr Bennett asks if Czech Federation can also organise a INF seminar before the WNC preferably in 2017. Czech says it should be no problem.

Mr D'hose says that Germany has more practitioners than in Czech, but that its federation is younger. Both federations have hosted big events already. The German Naginata Federation is not part of the country's kendo federation and thus might not get their help.

Mr Fromentin says that Germany is somehow the centre of Europe, so it would be a good location to host the event.

German Federation representatives present their bid on hosting the 7th WNC.

Germany has good manpower, vast facilities and neighbours several countries that practice naginata.

3 possible locations: Berlin, Dusseldorf and Frankfurt.

Germany is confident that they have enough people to host the event. They are the 2nd largest federation in Europe, they hosted an ENC five years ago gathering 5 countries and about 100 people. It was a successful event.

Germany can also organise an INF seminar in 2017.

Mr Bennett asks if the German kendo federation can backup the event. The answer is yes, at a “regional” level, through personal contacts. They will probably not give money support though.

Mr Bennett asks when Germany would decide on the event location. Germany answers that the preference is now for Frankfurt, but that may change depending on venues availability. The INF seminar might also be organised at a different location.

- Next INF seminars

2016 and 2018 are still uncertain:

- 2016 : Brazil? Australia? If neither can organise the event, New Zealand will do.
- 2017 : WNC host
- 2018 : England? USA?
- 2019 : WNC

- Finland / Ukraine.

Mr D’hose says that Finland and Ukraine representatives could not come to Canada unfortunately. He hands out reports about Finland and Ukraine activities.

10 people are practicing naginata in Ukraine. Naginata is part of Ukraine Kendo Federation. The country faces now internal turmoils, but they are still able to practice naginata regularly. Unfortunately however, they cannot attend international events at the moment, so ENF hasn’t seen Ukraine practitioners for several years. They keep contact by email though.

Mr D’hose thinks that INF can wait until the next BOD meeting to grant them provisory INF membership.

Finland has a 4-dan Japanese woman leading the group. The group is small (10 people), and dojo are dispatched all other the country, so it is difficult to keep connections between practitioners. Naginata in Finland in part of the country’s kendo federation.

Mrs Kimura asks why Finland does not come to INF events anymore.

Mr D’hose explains that it is mainly a money issue.

The Board agrees that Finland can be a INF provisional member, as soon as one of their representatives can come and address to the Board, during the 2016 BOD for example.

- ENF

Portugal and Israel are now provisional members of ENF. They should soon ask to be provisional member of INF.

Naginata is developing fast in Israel.

Greece and Russia are also starting naginata as well.

The ENC will be held next year in Belgium. As it will be the 25th anniversary of the federation, ENF wants to invite for the occasion all people who made ENF’s history. Mr D’hose would like to involve INF somehow.

Mr Bennett says that INF will try to get an extra budget to help organising this event.

- Draws

From now on INF will announce the tournaments ladders right after the draws.

- Miscellaneous

Mr Robison mentions that INF needs to create a new home page in tune with the latest Internet technologies. INF needs to find someone who can take care of it.

Mr D'hose asks if the situation about the 5th dan exam has evolved. No, shall be the answer. Winter is coming... He also mentions that he is working on an official international list of dojo were practitioners can train at when they travel abroad.

Mrs Nakano says that she had asked that each group during this year seminar should be led by a Japanese sensei. She is however disappointed to discover that it is not the case, and asks Japan for more cooperation.

Mrs Sunagawa replies that most sensei in Japan have a busy life with jobs, and thus cannot stay abroad for the extended period of time that a World Championship requires.

Mrs Sunagawa, Mrs Yoshii, Mrs Kimura and Mr Fromentin give a quick thank you speech as they all step down from their current position.

The meeting ends at 11:30

I agree that those agendas were discussed at the Directors Meeting on
June 18, 2015.

Signatory _____

Signatory _____