

一般社団法人大日本武徳会

Dear DNBK ID Reps, Coordinators, and Dojo Heads:

We hope you are having an excellent New Year in all fields of your endeavors.

Honbu DNBK is also facing a great challenge for the New Year with a fresh vision and new structural change which was implemented last December 3, 2012. They held the first general session with such noble intent in February 11, 2013. All title holders were requested to attend to join in such official session. It was a major paradigm shift in terms of DNBK's historical continuity and transformation.

As you know, the Dai Nippon Butoku Kai was historically the most powerful and prestigious Budo/Bujutsu society in Japan for the advancement of the classical traditional Budo arts since such institution was established in 1895 during the celebration of 1100th anniversary of imperial capital of Kyoto. Back then, we had over 3 million memberships at one time and huge assets, including the renowned Butokuden built for DNBK and the adjacent Budo center with dominating backing from the imperial house of Japan and the central government. DNBK was the most prominent force in Budo/ Bujutsu and it helped Japan modernize in all fronts and especially for the young men and women to prepare for the critical mental and physical readiness in the most challenging historical times from the end of Sino-Japanese war in 1895 to 1941, before WWII. It was an independent and autonomous professional Budo institution led by the most prominent leaders in their domain for promoting the spirit of traditional Budo and Bujutsu as intended. It was an incorporated foundation and organization for charitable and educational purpose sanctioned by the Japanese government. Budo Senmon Gakko, Busen created by DNBK was exclusively the accredited professional academy or college of Budo sanctioned by the national government in Japan at that time. However, in 1941 after the start of WWII, the nation was fallen into the power of militarism-regime and its national immobilization policy in 1942.

As a result, DNBK was restructured into quasi-national governmental arms of the department of defense, ministry of health and welfare and consequently, General Tojo of the imperial army took over the administration and became a

chairperson of DNBK board as he was also a prime minister at that time. It was most regrettable and unfortunate time of DNBK's history that the traditional Budo society was exploited by the ruling political and military interest. For that matter everyone and every organization in the whole nation was fallen into the desperate fire of inevitable historical force. In 1945, after the total defeat, Japan faced the unconditional surrender to the allied powers. General MacArthur's GHQ officers conducted demilitarization of Japan so fiercely and completely throughout every segment of societal institutions. In Budo world, GHQ dissolved and dismantled DNBK and took away all assets, including Butokuden in Kyoto and all its facilities spread in Japan and terminated all officers as a part of postwar policy. High ranking DNBK members in Kendo decided to reestablish their own group with the name of Zen Ken Ren and pushed sport aspect of Kendo with Shinai. It was thus called Shinai Kyogi (Shinai sport competition). At that time, many Budo men of high caliber with DNBK certifications and credentials left DNBK and created their own Budo groups such as Japan Kobudo society and etc. Such diverse movement was carried out pervasively to avoid further prosecution generated by GHQ. During the time of a nation at lost and crises filled with sense of fathomless shame and grieving of 3 million people dead as a result of hapless war, Japan had to endure the most painful period of her history. Yet, one thing was absolutely certain despite the incalculable hardships. It was the soul of Japan people believed in and that it was never perished.

In general, people assumed DNBK would never have had a chance to be revived again. However, after the San Francisco peace treaty in 1952, by regaining Japanese sovereignty, Hanshi Ohno and a few surviving elite members decided to restart the historical DNBK traditions once again. It was in 1953 that DNBK was reborn with the same crest, a new charter, new vision and quasi-corporate structure as before, but it had no corporate sanctioning from the Japanese national government. However, for the last sixty years, DNBK persisted and existed with the highest pride and honor backed by the glorious historical accomplishments. In the light of historical linkage with DNBK and the imperial household, Sosai, Higashifushimi, Jigo, uncle to the current emperor Akihito of Japan continually served in the capacity of symbolic force. Eventually, DNBK opened officially the gate to the international community at large in 1992 after the America Butoku Sai held in Old Dominion University Norfolk Virginia by

creating the DNBK ID division in Honbu while the first DNBK shibu dojo already had started in 1965 in USA. Since then, many international Budo artists were privileged to become a member of DNBK and to receive official recognitions in Budo rank and titles as well as partaking in their prestigious sanctioned events. In addition, many meaningful opportunities were afforded for learning and sharing Budo spirit and skills through notable WBS, WYBS, and various seminars and events throughout the world. Consequently, many qualified Budo enthusiasts from the international community became DNBK ID members and have enjoyed the immense opportunities given by Honbu DNBK.

However, in Honbu board of directors for the last sixty years, they always had a yearning desire to bring back the old glory of DNBK. So, they had attempted several times to regain such government sanctioning as an official corporate entity, but failed all their efforts for one reason or other. It had been the case of dislocation and apathy in some members and remained in no-action status till the end of October, 2012.

Then, we announced to the board that this status had to be changed at once since all of us pledged to make a change in the signature year of 2012 when we just conducted 50th JBS and 4th WBS in the celebration of DNBK's great spirit and glorious past, present and the future. I decided to architect and campaign this challenging initiative singlehandedly to carry out the toughest legal barriers and technical glitches which had to be done within three weeks. After the board approval, I pushed this surmountable agenda with the aid of legal teams in Tokyo and spent hundreds of hours in day and night of conferences with Kuwahara and Takada Hanshi to reconstruct the bylaws fitted to the today's standard for legal approval. Finally it was completed to meet the deadline of December 3 and Kyoto Government Notary Office gave us the official endorsement of 一般社団法人大日本武徳会 Ippan Shadan Hojin Dai Nippon Butoku Kai, which is the General Corporation of DNBK. For sixty years long, DNBK was a private organization and nothing was done to change it, but in three weeks time, DNBK once again became a government sanctioned corporate organization. Former standing board members were stunned that it was actually done in such short time with unthinkable speed.

However, the real change was what took place afterwards as a result of such major shift. All current board members were asked to resign from the post and to serve in the new role of Budo Professional Specialist in their expert domain.

Only a five remained in the board to meet the governmental regulations and guidelines. We envisioned the classical Busen, Budo Specialist Professional Academy of the prewar times is our cardinal model, which inspired the nation in the early times of DNBK. With this major change and paradigm shift, organizational structural format was redesigned to meet the challenge of the present and the future. We brought in more young Budo artists and talented individuals both men and women in the specialist category. Current board is very small but highly efficient and much focused on practical solutions with great speed and precision.

It is other-directed and more resource allocation toward the programs and activities for the members. It is more dynamic with highly intense energy toward the common visions set forth. We believe DNBK is poised to make great move in returning to the old glorious presence of spirit once again. As a result of this shift, DNBK ID and international community will be greatly benefitted in terms of more opportunities and strong connection with Honbu.

Our times here in this world are so limited and temporary, but we wish to do the best we can to make a difference in the world through Budo we love and respect. DNBK Honbu stepped up in one major leap of progress and now we expect the DNBK ID as part of major force of Honbu DNBK will strive for their excellence where they can be very proud of.

True renaissance of any given organization must be found in heart and soul of those people who are committed to the spirit of nobility more than the body and structural governance. We can envision the brilliant future ahead with every member's commitment here and abroad to the spirit of traditional Budo.

Thank you.
Tesshin Hamada
Chair, DNBK ID
Kyoto, Japan