

History of Aikido/ Part 2 - Austria

O-Sensei's disciples's influence and Austrian History

- Main sources:

- 1) Table of O-Sensei's disciples by Stanley Pranin
- 2) Aikijournal web-archive, www.aikidojournal.com or www.blog.aikidojournal.com
- 3) Aikikai Foundation/Hombu Dojo web: <http://www.aikikai.or.jp/eng/index.htm>
- 4) Interview with Robert Bessler May & June 2012
- 5) interview with Martin Topfizer in June 2012
- 6) interview with Günther Steger 29.7.2012
- 7) Wikipedia
- 8) Web-page of Aikidoschools, www.aikikai.at
- 9) Web-page of Aikinomichi dojo, www.aikinomichi.at
- 10) Web-page of ÖAV-AAA, www.aaaikido.at
- 11) Web page of Birankai Dormbirn, www.aikikaidornbirn.at
- 12) Web page of Aikikai Liechtenstein, www.aikido.li/
- 13) E-mails with Peter Poltsch & telephone calls with Margit Melcher 2-3 September
- 14) E-mail exchange with Georg Meindl September 2012
- 15) Interview of Fritz Kemler in <http://members.aon.at/aikikai-wien/interview.pdf>
- 16) Telephone calls with Gert Pöckl 6&7 Sep 2012
- 17) Improvements/advice via e-mail from Friedrich Kemler 7.Sep 2012

- + own additions

- Version 5, 7. Sept. 2012 Matti Joensuu

THE PRINCIPAL DISCIPLES OF MORIHEI UESHIBA



合気道開祖
植芝盛平

Aikido Founder
Morihei Ueshiba
1883-1969

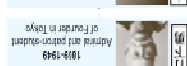
1920s



井上 義隆
Inoue Yoshitaka
1902-1994
Miyagi of Fuzhou, etc.
Shin in 1950s



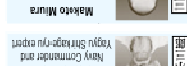
浅谷 朝生
Asano Sakyo
1907-1949
Waseda Univ. Tokyo
Aikido teacher, etc.



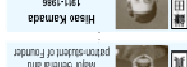
滝下 勇
Takeshita Isamu
1899-1949
Admiral and post-graduate
of Fuzhou in Tokyo



遠藤 廉二
Tomiki Kenta
1906-1973
Waseda Univ. and later
senior officer in Yamaguchi



後藤 小十郎
Goto Kosojiro
1885-unknown
Army Commander and
Yagyu Shingyo-ryu expert



村岡 政子
Mura Masako
1875-unknown
Mother of founder and
post-graduate of Fuzhou



鎌田 久生
Kamada Hisao
1911-1988
Army officer and early
Aikido teacher



稲田 肇
Inaba Hajime
1909-2003
Early Tokyo post-graduate
Waseda Univ. graduate



三木 稔
Mochizuki Minoru
1907-2003
Comptroller-in-chief and
Tokaido Aikido 1st



村西 有左衛門
Murashige Arisachiro
1895-1994
Judge who later taught in
Brussels and Belgium

1930s



船橋 薫
Funahashi Kaoru
1901-unknown
Kokugaku Univ. Osaka from
1921-1940s



古塚 健蔵
Futsuki Kenzo
1873-1960
Famous geisha (Futsuki)
known as "Sh. Brown Flair"



米澤 重治
Yonokawa Shigeharu
1896-2005
Fukushima prefecture, ap-
parent in Korea days photo



白田 玲子
Shirata Ringo
1912-1993
Fukushima prefecture and
senior officer in Yamaguchi



久米 高子
Kumigashira Takako
1911-2000
Art director and illustrator
of Daito Yamatsu



川口 辰雄
Yukiawa Tatsuomi
1911-1942
Aikido teacher and
senior student of founder



塩田 五郎
Shioda Goro
1915-1994
Kobukan prefecture 1st
Tokaido Aikido 1st



杉野 洋三
Sugino Yozo
1904-1998
Kanto Shingyo-ryu expert
and post-graduate of Fuzhou



赤澤 善次郎
Akazawa Zenzaburo
1919-2007
Kobukan prefecture active
in Ontario Budd Shingyo



平 忠正
Hira Tadamasa
1909-1979
Osaka Aikido House dep-
artment and later Daito-ryu



富田 健太
Tomita Kenta
1907-1977
Osaka Prefecture Chief and
senior student of founder



田中 善愛
Tanaka Saneatsu
1912-1998
Osaka prefecture
operated Aikido dojo



大沼 重信
Ohnuma Shigenobu
1923-2008
Began study in Morioka,
Aikido senior officer



太田 啓一
Tabei Kaichi
1920-2011
Aikido Shinto Budokai later
1st. Shin Shin Toku Aikido



渡辺 三郎
Watanabe Saburo
1902-1989
Famous sports member
known as "Tennyu"



平 稔
Hirai Minoru
1903-1998
Kobukan General Aikido
Jardinet, etc. Komodo Aikido

NOTES

This chart presents the major disciples of Aikido Founder Morihei Ueshiba during his teaching career which spanned the period of 1920 to 1959.

Members first began teaching Daito-ryu Aikido in Akioka in 1922, and then released it to the public in 1927. His well-known ex-planation during the 1930s before the establish-ment of modern Aikido in post-war Japan.

The founder made regular trips to the Kan-sai area including Osaka, as many members of their instruction from Morihei Ueshiba (*)

These names are listed with an asterisk (*) first stated training at an earlier date before their main study under the founder.

Some of the persons listed were included primarily due to their prominent roles in the dissemination of Aikido rather than duration of training under the founder. Responsibility of this selection rests entirely with me.

Feedback concerning any errors or com-missions to this chart are welcome. The chart should be considered as an ongoing project.

Shingyo Press
Editor: Aikido News/World Journal
February 2007

二代目主 植芝盛平丸
3rd Gen. Ueshiba Morihei (1883-1969)

現主 植芝盛平丸
Present Gen. Ueshiba Morihei (1883-1969)

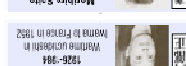
1940s



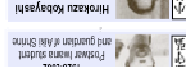
大沢 清太郎
Osawa Kisaburo
1911-1991
Senior Aikido teacher
and post-graduate of Fuzhou



磯間 金満
Sunadomari Kaname
1923-2010
Kobukan prefecture and
later Morioka Aikido



阿部 達志
Abe Tadashi
1926-1984
Waseda University in
Miyagi in 1950s



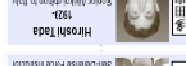
斎藤 昌
Saito Mamoru
1920-2002
Former Aikido student
and founder of Aikido Shingyo



小林 弘和
Kobayashi Hirokazu
1923-1998
Osaka prefecture
member of Aikido in Europe



相川 貞次
Aikawa Sadaatsu
1903-2003
Senior Aikido teacher and
founder of Aikido Shingyo



伊藤 寛
Ito Hiroshi
1921-1971
Senior Aikido student in Italy
from 1961-1971



伊藤 寛
Ito Hiroshi
1921-1971
Senior Aikido student in Italy
from 1961-1971

1950s



山口 清生
Yamaguchi Seigo
1924-1996
Senior Aikido student,
Kobukan prefecture 1st



畑 道夫
Hatakeyama Michio
1925-2004
Known as "Hatakeyama" in 1950s
and 1960s



西尾 将二
Nishio Shoji
1927-2005
Aikido 1st. Aikido
international



磯間 福次郎
Sunadomari Fukuji
1916-2006
Morioka Aikido and Aikido
Fujin Budokai



田原 信昭
Tanura Nobuyoshi
1933-2010
Former Aikido student
in France in 1960s



野戸 康通
Noto Yasumichi
1935-1995
Former Aikido student in France
in 1961, etc. Komodo



黒川 義生
Kurokawa Yoshio
1922-2010
Former post-graduate of Fuzhou
and writer on Aikido



佐々木 昌夫
Sasaki Masao
1929-1997
Aikido student and
later Aikido teacher



藤田 昌孝
Fujita Masataka
1927-1987
Aikido student and
German Aikido Director



浅井 勝典
Asai Katsunori
1942-1992
Aikido student in Germany
in 1960s



小林 直人
Kobayashi Naoto
1930-1996
Former Aikido student
and post-graduate of Fuzhou



ノケット
Noquet Andre
1913-1989
French judo champion and
Aikido 1st. 1957-1987



太田 明
Tohei Akira
1928-1999
Aikido student in Chicago,
USA in 1972



山本 義光
Yano Yoshimitsu
1928-1998
Former Aikido student
in New York in 1964



森田 清二
Masuda Seijuro
1930-1996
Aikido student, presently
Aikido student in Japan



千葉 和夫
Chiba Kazuo
1940-1996
Former Aikido student in UK
1965, now in Scotland

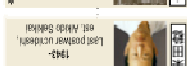
1960s



佐藤 光
Sato Mitsugu
1937-1997
Former Aikido student in London
and Aikido student of London



ドブソン
Dobson Terry
1937-1990
Early Aikido student in
London and later Aikido



栗田 稔
Kurita Minoru
1942-1994
Last post-graduate student,
etc. Aikido Shingyo



市橋 徳彦
Ichihashi Norihiko
1940-2001
Aikido student, and later
Aikido teacher in Yamaguchi



清水 健二
Shimizu Kenji
1940-1994
Aikido student, etc.
Tokaido Aikido



遠藤 清生
Endo Seisiro
1942-1994
Aikido student, presently
Aikido teacher in Tokyo



杉沼 盛夫
Suganuma Morio
1942-1994
Aikido student, 1970
Fukushima Aikido 1st



山根 久和
Maeyama Korekazu
1936-1996
Aikido student, joined
Shin Shin Toku Aikido



菅野 達志
Sugano Satoshi
1939-2010
Former Aikido student in
Tokyo, etc. Aikido 1st



丸山 修治
Maruyama Shuji
1939-2008
Aikido student in USA
1960s, etc. Aikido 1st



加地 満典
Kashi Mitsunori
1939-2008
Aikido student in USA
1960s, etc. Aikido 1st



渡辺 信行
Watanabe Nobuyuki
1939-2008
Aikido student in USA
1960s, etc. Aikido 1st



栗田 裕太
Kurita Yutaka
1940-1994
Former Aikido student
in London in 1970s

Global non-Aikikai schools

- Gozo Shioda: Yoshinkan aikido (Japan riot police)
- Koichi Tohei: Ki-aikido (Shin shin Toitsu Aikido or Ki no Kenkyukai)
- Morihiro Saito: Iwama ryu
- Kenji Tomiki – Competition aikido

Hombu Instructors abroad 1. (August 2012)

- **Yoshimitsu Yamada** New York Aikikai
- **Kazuo Chiba** San Diego Aikikai
- Ichiro Shibata Berkeley Aikiki
- **Mitsugi Saotome** Aikido Schools of Ueshiba (Florida)
- Hideki Shiohira (California)
- Isshu Ishiyama Vancouver West Aikikai
- Osamu Obata JCCCAikikaic/Toronto
- Katsutoshi Kurata Federacion Aikikai Argentina
- Reishin Kawai Uniao Aikikai do Brasil
- Makoto Nishida Federacao Paulista de Aikido, Brazil
- Ichitami Shikanai Brasil
 - **Bold= Direct O-Sensei disciple, *Kursiv= influence to Austria***

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Hombu Instructors Abroad 2. (August 2012)

- Yutaka Kurita Kurita Juku, Mexico
- Minoru Kanetsuka British Aikido Federation, England
- ***Katsuaki Asai*** Aikido Schule K. Asai, Duesseldorf, Deutschland
- *Masatomi Ikeda* Association Culturelle Suisse D'Aikido Zuerich, Switzerland, (this is old information – he has returned to Japan!)
- Yoji Fujimoto Aikikai Milano-Dojo Fujimoto
- *Hideki Hosokawa* Aikikai D'Italia Rome, Italia
- Yasufusa Kitaura Acociacion Cultural Aikikai de Espana
- Motohiro Fukakusa Aikido Asociacion Thailand
- Jun Yamada Academy Aikido Jyuku Malaysia
- Nobuo Takase Auckland, New Zealand

O-Sensei's direct disciples with permanent (direct or indirect)influence to Austria:

- *Juo Iwamoto – **the only O-Sensei's disciple who has lived in Austria**
 - → Gert Pöckl, Robert Bessler, Ronald Karnik →
- Hiroshi Tada → Hideki Hosokawa (Italy)→
- Seigo Yamaguchi → Christian Tissier (France) →
- ***Nobuyoshi Tamura → many austrian aikido teachers**
- Masamichi Noro → Ronald Karnik →
- Andre Noquet → through Germany →
- Kazuo Chiba → through Birankai →
- Seishiro Endo → Gert Pöckl, Margit Melcher, Matti Joensuu →
- Morihiro Saito → Paolo Corallini (Italy)→
- Shoji Nisshio (?) →
- Yoshimitsu Yamada (influence after 2011)
- Masatomi Ikeda → ÖAV 82-83, Aikidoschools →
- Sadateru Arikawa → Tiki Schewan (France)→
 - *=more details on later pages

Visits to Austria by O-Sensei's disciples without permanent influence

- Kisaburo Osawa 1984 to Vienna (ukes: Seki Sensei and Kuribayashi Sensei)
- Kenji Shimizu – in Graz 2-3 times invited by Peter Poltch
- Seiichi Sugano - ÖAV invited him to Vienna, Graz and Linz 4 times between 1986 and -87. His last visit was 2007
- Mitsunari Kanai – in Graz 1988?

Juo Iwamoto 1.

- Had been practising Judo in Japan.
- He was truly impressed by O-Sensei and changed to aikido.
- O-Sensei's disciple „from pre-war times“, but doesn't appear on the Disciple table.
- Lived in Austria 1968(or -9) -1992. He arrived as 4th dan with a teaching-licence from Hombu Dojo.
- First practises were in school-halls, after 2 years in the 5th Bezirk, fitness studio „FitNeiss“
- Worked as a shiatsu therapist and had education in classical japanese singing. His living conditions were poor – students built him a shower.
- Many funny culture-clash stories – the students needed to get him out of trouble often.
- Complicated relationship to Junichi Yoshida
- Mr. Hajime Seki (from Japanese Embassy, later 6-7. dan) had his permission to teach aikido in Budocenter 1984, when it opened.

Juo Iwamoto's main students

- Gerd Pöckl
 - first 1. dan to 4.dan in Austria, excluding Junichi Yoshida
 - Taught in Budocenter and „Fitness studio“
 - Established Meiyukai
 - Later invited Hosokawa Sensei from Italy, and Endo Sensei from Japan together with Margit Melcher
- Ronald Karnik
 - Started jujutsu dojo (with Karl S.?),
 - aikido dojo in Baden b.Wien (now not operational) and Aiki-no-michi Dojo (as he studied with Noro Sensei „ki-no-michi“)
- Robert Bessler
 - 1 dan from Iwamoto, 2 dan from Hosokawa.
 - Funny stories about visiting Doshu (Kisshomaru Ueshiba) and the Imperial Dojo in Tokyo
- Elisabet Feber (now stopped aikido),
- Veronika (Vera) Molitor

Nobuyoshi Tamura Sensei (1933-2010)

- Entered Hombu dojo in 1953, dispatched to Marseille, France 1964
- Large following/sister organisations in France, Italy, West Germany, UK, Belgium, Switzerland (and Sweden??)
- First visit to Austria 1977 invited by Junichi Yoshida
- Main teacher in Austria – visited 2 times a year
- ÖAV was founded Oct 1979 (or -8). Tamura Sensei was the technical commission with Juo Iwamoto Sensei

Tamura Sensei's main disciples, living abroad and teaching in Austria

- Toshiro Suga
 - Visits Enshiro Dojo Salzburg & Wien and Shobukan Dojos Vien
- Jeff Raji
 - Often shares seminars with Toshiro Suga
- Claude Pellerin
 - Technical director of Shumeikan – a seminar every 3 months or so
- Tiki Shewan
 - He is an iaido swordsmith and expert on Iaido and Jodo. Studied aikido under Arikawa Sensei
- Stephane Benedetti
 - visits yearly Graz (?),
- Pierre Chassang
 - Taught winter-seminars invited by Aikido Union Linz. These seminars were later taught by Toshiro Suga. Organiser changed later to Enshiro Dojo.
- Michael Neary, „street children in Birmingham“ – no recent visits (?)

Tamura Sensei's and Junichi Yoshida's early students

- Friedrich „Fritz“ Kemler, started the first dojo in Wien (Aikikai Wien.)
 - His students then started other dojos. He could be called the Father of dojos in Wien.
- Maria Widl, stopped practising, moved to Germany?
- Rupert and Karin Strobl
 - traveled to Vienna and brought Aikido to Graz. Now stopped practising
- Günther Steger
 - helped to start many dojos in Austria, Hungary, Ukraine, Slovakia
 - Technical Director of ÖAV for 22 years, organised&taught e.g. Black Belt Seminars
 - Now on technical Board of Mutokukai Europe
- Thomas Hamberger → Linz
- Jörg Swetina, later chairman of ÖAV, reconciliation with Iwamoto group.
- Wolfgang Linert → Musubikan Wien
- Wolfgang Fürst – now General Secretary of AAA-ÖAV
- Karlheinz Reiter → Shobukan Dojo 1993
 - Teaches also in Germany, France, Italy, Hungary
- Georg Meindl → established Austrian Aikidoschools.
 - He teaches also in Germany, Croatia, Slovakia and Hungary
- Frank Koren, now teaches in Graz and is – with Junichi Yoshida – the only 6. dan in AAA-ÖAV

Junichi Yoshida

- Started aikido in Osaka in dojo of Bansei Tanaka 1969
- Came to Austria as 1.dan 1972
- Started teaching 1977 as 2nd dan with Jujutsu group in USI (then UTA)
- Didn't get well along with Iwamoto Sensei
- invited Tamura Sensei to Austria 1977
- Was deeply involved in development of aikido in Austria and started the core dojos in Wien, Graz and Linz.
- Stopped teaching 1984 and returned to Japan 1986
- His main students (see previous page)

Current major other teachers

- Seishiro Endo Sensei 8. dan
 - First visit to Austria 1995 in Linz (ÖAV invitation)
 - Visits once a year since 1996 Wien (Meiyukai invitation), receives dan-exams.
 - Kimusubi Dojos have organised international teacher seminars 2004 and 2005.
- Christian Tissier 7. dan
 - Arrived first time 1988 invited by Aikidoschools to Wels
 - Visits Aikidoschools and Ki-no-Michi dojo every 2nd year
- Yukimitsu Kobayashi 7.dan
 - visited first time 2003 by invitation of Aikidoschools as part of Hombu development program. Irony is, that the same year ÖAV had received Hombu recognition. He was later followed by→
- Koichi Toriumi Sensei 7. dan
 - First visit to Austria via Hombu development program
 - Visits once a year to Aikidoschools since, receives dan-exams
- Matti Joensuu 6. dan
 - established Kimusubi Dojos in Austria 2002
 - teaches in Austria , Finland, Spain, Hungary, Germany, Canada etc.

Timeline of history 1

1968 (or 69)	Juo Iwamoto arrived to Austria as 4. dan. He tried first to teach aikido to the police.
1969→	A slow start phase, characterised by aikido being unknown, and students (Ronald Karnik, Gerd Pöckl, Robert Bessler) absorbed the culture clash between a soldier-samurai and culture in Austria.
1972	Junichi Yoshida arrived to Vienna as 1. dan.
1977	<p>Started teaching (separately from Iwamoto Sensei) Oct 1977</p> <p>Fritz Kemler and Maria Widl started aikido. In the following years, Rupert and Karin Strobl traveled to Vienna and took aikido to Graz.</p> <p>First visit of Tamura Sensei, invited by Junichi Yoshida.</p>
12.10.1978	Gert Pöckl (started aikido in 1970) graded the first 1. dan in Austria to Iwamoto Sensei.
1978	Günther Steger started to practise aikido

Timeline of history 2

Oct 1978 (or -79)	ÖAV (Austrian Aikido Federation) was founded by Aikido Union Wien (Maria Widl), Aikikai Wien (Friz Kemler) and Aikido Union Graz (Robert Strobl). Günther Müller was the president, Junichi Yoshida the General Secretary, Iwamoto and Tamura Senseis were the Technical Commission, and Pierre Chassang the adviser (student of Tamura Sensei)
1983- 1984	Junichi Yoshida stopped teaching. National teachers started to emerge. Ikeda Sensei taught seminars in Graz 1983,-84,-85 invited by ÖAV
1984	Gert Pöckl received 3.dan 1.6.1984. The ÖAV „Ranking“ that year was: 2.dan: Ronald Karnik, Fritz Kemler, Maria Widl 1.dan: Rupert Strobl, Karin Strobl, Gerhard Fürst, Günther Steger, Margit Tesar, Irene Guldt, Walter Holzer

Timeline of history 3

1984	Budocenter opened – Hajime Seki started teaching there. His „home dojo“ was the Imperial Dojo in Tokyo (not Hombu dojo etc.).
1985?	Junichi Yoshida graded 4. dan as the first in Austria. At the same time Karin and Strobl Rupert, Gerhard Fürst, Günther Steger graded 2.dan
1986	Junichi Yoshida moved back to Japan. Then there were 6 members in ÖAV: Aikido Union Wien (Maria Widl), Aikikai Wien (Fritz Kemler), Aikido Union Graz (Irene Guldts), ASKÖ Aikido Club Graz (Rupert Strobl), Aikido Union Linz, Aikido Union Salzburg. Average number of persons was about 15 – so a total of 90-100 aikidokas in Austria. (NOTE: does this exclude students of Iwamoto Sensei?)
1987	Hajime Seki returned to Japan, leaving responsibility to Gerd Pöckl
1992	Juo Iwamoto returned to Japan
1994	Hosokawa Sensei's first visit to Vienna invited by Meiyukai
1995	Endo Sensei's first visit to Austria invited by ÖAV

Timeline of history 4

1999	ÖAV book-keeping had 17 clubs with about 20 members each, so about 350 aikidokas in Austria. This figure likely excludes independent dojos, dojos with Iwamoto-background and Aikidoschools.
Oct 1999	Federation of Austrian Aikidoschools was established by Georg and Regina Meindl and Martin Hölzl. From 2000-2002 Masatomi Ikeda was the technical director.
2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Ikeda Sensei became ill. -Gert Pöckl received as the first austrian 5. dan 8.Sept.2002 -Matti Joensuu, 5.dan and Andrea Stitzel, 2.dan arrived to Austria from Japan in August 2002 and established Kimusubi Dojos in Kärnten with the help of Günther Steger. The first 5.dan in Austria was a Finn?
January 2003	ÖAV received Hombu Recognition. Curiously enough, the same year Kobayashi Yukimitsu Sensei had a seminar with Aikidoschools. Since then Hombu dojo has sent a teacher (now Toriumi Sensei) invited by Aikidoschools.

Timeline of history 5

2006	Hombu Dojo recognised Aikidoschools as equally representing aikido in Austria as ÖAV.
2008	Matti Joensuu received the first 6. dan in Austria
August 2009	Birankai Continental Europe (Chiba Sensei) was dissolved. This lead to Birankai Austria in Dornbirn to receive Hombu Recognition in 1. March 2010.
9. July 2010	Tamura Sensei died.
July 2010→	After a period of shock, all the hell broke loose in aikido organisations in Austria. Tamura Sensei had not organised his European-wide legacy. Hombu Dojo – being not aware of the local situation - organised a „blanket coverage“ and asked Yamada Sensei, from New York, to supervise the situation. Junichi Yoshida, having been absent from Austria for 24 years, claimed the status of „responsible of Austria“ after meetings in Hombu Dojo.
End-of-2010	ÖAV had a clearly dominant position in Austria. It was also very open-minded to include dojos from other aikido styles than from Tamura Sensei – e.g. Kimusubi dojos had joined ÖAV in 2008. ÖAV had then 30-32 dojos as „members“ and 16 as „non-member“ – not comprehensive list of dojos as e.g. Birankai was not listed. Nobody actually knew how many aikido dojos there were in Austria and from what background.

Timeline of history 6

2011 to mid-2012	Intentionally left BLANK
August 2012 Status:	<p>Hombu Recognised Federations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">AAA-ÖAV: has 17 dojos and 1 abroadAikidoschools: has 11 dojos and 6 abroadBirankai: has 2 dojos in Dornbirn <p>Federations with Hombu-recognition application pending:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Kimusubi Dojos: has 2 dojos in Austria and 2 abroad <p>Dojos belonging to Mutokukai Europe: 3 (in Vienna, Graz, Feldkirch)</p> <p>Dojos belonging to Aikikai Liechtenstein: 2</p> <p>One could estimate that there are 45 dojos in Austria, so 7-10 dojos are independent, although follow some definite style (e.g. Ki-no-michi follows Tissier Sensei).</p> <p>Austria is not represented in IAF.</p>