



# KENYUKAI KOSHUKAI AND TAKAI 2023



## Message from Sensei Shinjo

I would like to congratulate the Uechi-Ryu Kenyukai on the grand opening of the Uechi-Ryu Kenyukai Canada Koshukai and Karate Kobudo Tournament.

Karate, which originated in Okinawa, has been passed down from generation to generation as a martial art of peace. This martial art has gained so much popularity that there are now 130 million enthusiasts around the world.

Manuel Desa Sensei, who has devoted himself to training day and night for many years since his introduction to Uechi-ryu Karate, has been training many talented students by sharing and promoting traditional karate, kobudo, and competition karate-do. He has also been devoting himself to supporting the healthy growth of young people and helping them achieve their goals. Through the annual Koshukai and tournaments, he has been active in exchanges with karate practitioners in Japan and abroad, transcending the boundaries of karate schools and factions, and has gained worldwide fame. We, four of us from Okinawa, are beyond honored to have been invited to this year's event.

There are tragic wars going on all over the world. It is precisely because of times like these, we, karate-ka (karate practitioners) of Uchinanchu (Okinawans), believe that it is our duty to transmit the Okinawan spirit to the world through karate, the "martial art of peace," and to serve as a bridge for peace in the world. I hope that you will participate in this tournament with a fresh mind and a fresh spirit, returning to the feeling where you first started karate, and reminding yourself that karate is more about "the art of mindfulness" than simple technique.

In conclusion, I would like to pay tribute to all those who have contributed to the organization of this Koshukai and wish all participants good health and continued success in the future.

July 23, 2023

Uechi-ryu Karatedo Kenyukai Okinawa Headquarter

President

*Kiyohide Shinjo*