

CULTURAL TOURISM

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The historic conference of the JAB – Tokyo 2012. Opinion about the scientific event and reflections on tourism of martial arts

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Abstract:

From the perspective of theory of martial arts tourism, humanistic theory and martial arts anthropology the author discusses the scientific event, which was the anniversary conference of the Japanese Academy of Budo, held in Tokyo from 6 to 7 September 2012. This paper presents a description of the conference and its evaluation, followed by reflections on the tourist aspect of the journey from Poland to Japan and the stay in Tokyo. The author highly evaluates Polish-Japanese and international scientific cooperation within the framework of three scientific societies: the IMACSSS, Idokan Poland Association and the Japanese Academy of Budo. It is also an opportunity for a cultural dialogue carried out on the basis of martial arts studies.

Introduction

Reports from conferences and scientific events are undoubtedly valuable to the scientific community, informing about the recent developments in selected fields (factual material). If you are enriched by in-depth assessment and reflection, presented from a scientific perspective, these articles become reviews. The author of such an article may, at the same time, express his/her own opinions, which are interpretations of the facts and explanation of certain phenomena.

This text is meant by the author to be such kind of an article. Participation in the conference is here understood as a form of scientific tourism, according to the concept of Kosiewicz J. [2011]. A jubilee conference of the Japanese Academy of Budo (JAB) is not the only issue though. As an event dedicated to the scientific interpretation of *Budo*, it was a destination of many people and is analysed here from the perspective of the concept of martial arts tourism [Sieber, Cynarski, Litwiniuk 2007; Cynarski 2010]. It also includes an anthropological category of conceptual meeting (“meetings on the way”).

An additional element to other anthropogenic and nature-related tourist values, or an aim in

itself (autotelic), is regional cuisine. From the perspective of cultural anthropology it applies to the term “culinary tourism” [Cynarski, Obodyński 2006]. It is a form of cultural perception compared even to visual perception of other attractions. It is an element quite widely used in various forms of tourism.

The concept of *Budo*, which was the centre of attention among plenary panellists, was explained in opposition to martial arts, sports, and various primitive fight-related behaviours. Most researchers agree with the thesis of humanistic theory of martial arts, that it is a subtle form of martial arts and at the same time a set of educational systems [cf. Saldern 1998; Cynarski 2004; Sikorski, Piasecki 2007; Sasaki, 2009].

Invitation of the President of the International Martial Arts and Combat Sports Scientific Society (IMACSSS [www.imacsss.com]) and the Idokan Poland Association (IPA) for the conference is the result of a developing cooperation between the scientific societies, especially in the last two years. Even this year, the author met Prof. Nakiri before the conference in Tokyo twice: during the Congress of Judo in Warsaw (Feb 23-24) and the International Conference of the IMACSSS in Genoa (May 8-10).

I. An account of the conference

This year's conference of the Japanese Academy of Budo (JAB) was scheduled for September 6-7, 2012, and as its place was selected Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology (TUAT) in the capital of Japan. The conference was officially called: *The perception of Budo – Global trends. The Japanese Academy of Budo 45th General Assembly Commemoration Symposium*. So it was a jubilee event to celebrate 45-years of the JAB devoted to the issue how Budo is received, perceived and interpreted on a global scale and how to interpret it in a scientific way from the perspective of martial arts science.

There were planned three sessions. The introductory paper was delivered by the President of the JAB, Vice-Rector of the hosting Tokyo University (TUAT) – Prof. Dr Fuminori Nakiri, the main organizer of the conference. The paper entitled *Global perceptions of Budo F. Nakiri* summarized current scientific achievements of the JAB (these include publications in the “Research Journal of Budo”) and posed questions concerning terminology and definitions of basic concepts [Nakiri 2012].

There were two more sessions of invited foreign speakers: Prof. Dr Jung Haeng Kim (President of Korean Alliance of Martial Arts, Korea) and Prof. Dr Wojciech J. Cynarski (President of the IMACSSS and IPA, Poland). Prof. Kim presented a paper *Korean Martial Arts Prospects* and a film about a comprehensive training in hand-to-hand combat, which is carried out at Yongin University (where JH Kim is the rector). Prof. Cynarski in the paper *Budo, martial arts and combat sports – definitions, ideas, theories* presented the current state of knowledge and the western informal perception, dictionary and encyclopedia definitions, and his own suggestions arising from the humanistic theory of martial arts (photo 1).



Photo 1. During the Conference

The discussion lasted about an hour. The prominent persons in the world of *Budo* included Japanese researchers who are experts in *aikido, judo, karate, kendo, kobudo and kyudo*, and a few people representing South Korea (J.H. Kim is also an outstanding *judoka*). W.J. Cynarski was here the only representative of the Western world. English-Japanese translation (in addition to the employed simultaneous translators) was assisted by Dr Alexander Bennett, an Australian living in Japan for 20 years. The Japanese traditionalists believing in the uniqueness of *Budo* did not immediately accept the fact of including Japanese martial arts pathways to a more general concept of martial arts. All in all, however, the proposal of conceptual categories: arts fighting (and combat sports), martial arts and martial ways (*Budo* and other educational systems) was accepted. At the end of the professors Kim and Cynarski received certificates with thanks and compliments of the JAB (photo 2).



Photo 2. Certificate JAB

The IMACSSS leader was also invited by the head of the section of the JAB Karate Tatehiro Toyoshima for a karate workshop and asked to lecture on the situation of karate in Europe, however, because relevant studies have not been completed yet, Professor Cynarski refrained himself from delivering a speech. Nevertheless, this partnership will probably continue. This time, Dr Toyoshima presented a paper *Internalization of karate*, in which the generalized perception of adaptation sport

karate in the United States. Is the globalization of karate always associated with sport popularization [cf.: Inoue 1998; Obodyński, Cynarski 2003]?

Out of 840 members of the JAB, there were 200 participants, including graduate students and students attended the conference. The proceedings were carried out in separate sections divided according to varieties of martial arts and a scientific perspective – humanities and social sciences, sport sciences with a focus on practice (coaching) and biological sciences (biomechanics, physiology of exercise, kinesiology). There were only oral and poster presentations and no practical training.

At the formal end of the conference there was a banquet with the representatives of Japanese ministry of sport, local authorities, the JAB's teachers and representatives of other Japanese martial arts organization. Prof. Cynarski, as the IMACSSS president, was asked to give a speech [Annex]. After that, Professor Fuminori Nakiri was awarded a diploma and medal commemorating the twentieth anniversary of the Association Idokan Poland, the first Polish scientific and educational society working in the field of martial arts [www.idokan.pl].

It can be stated that this jubilee symposium was a scientific and organizational success, both for the participants and organizers. Scientific deliberations were of a good standard. Prof. Nakiri is a perfectionist, so the whole event was well organized. It is already the tradition of the JAB that all seminars are held at a fixed, high standard.

II. Tourist aspect

The author left the house by a car on Sept. 4 at approx. 6 am. At Jasionka airport he had a connecting flight to Warsaw and Helsinki, and from there to Tokyo. From Warsaw he flew by Finnair. He reached the international airport in Narita at 8.55 without any problems on the way. It was Wednesday 5 September. At the airport Professor Fumiaki Shishida (Waseda University) and Fuminori Nakiri (President of the Japanese Academy of Budo), who are also members of the IMACSSS, were waiting for the author. They drove over 100 km in Professor Nakiri's car from the airport in Narita to Tokyo. The Polish professor then checked into a good hotel – Kichijyoji Dai-Ichi Hotel.

That day W.J. Cynarski went with Prof. Shishida for a walk in the Ginza district. There they ate lunch (of course, using chopsticks) in a charming Japanese restaurant. Meanwhile Prof. Nakiri, Vice-Rector of Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology, was dealing with some organizational issues of the

conference. In the evening the author met with him and other prominent figures of the Japanese scientific and martial arts world. It was nice to meet professor Taketo Sasaki, who had driven 500 km for this purpose. Cynarski has been working with Sasaki in Idokan Poland Association since 2006, and thanks to him, with the JAB as well [Szajna, Cynarski 2006; Szajna *et al.* 2008; Sasaki 2011].

Prof. Nakiri invited selected special guests for dinner to a Japanese restaurant. It was a real honour for the author to be included in the group of 9 respected people, alongside Prof. Naoki Murata (7 dan judo), Prof. Susumu Nagano (8 dan kendō), Prof. Fuminori Nakiri (7 dan kendō), Prof. Teruo Oboki (7 dan kendō), Dr. Toshinobu Sakai (7 dan kendō), Prof. Kiyoto Motomura, Prof. J. H. Kim and Yuji Tazawa (the translator), and Alexander Bennett (kendō). *Shihan* Cynarski (8 dan jūjutsu, 7 dan karate) expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to participate in these historic for *Budō* events and encouraged the participants to take part in the international scientific cooperation in the IMACSSS. Dinner was full of rich flavours of traditional Japanese cuisine with green tea ice cream at the end. These tastings (during the author's stay in Tokyo) had definitely a cognitive character in relation to the culture of the samurai and can be described as "touristy tasting", a special form of reception [Cynarski, Obodyński 2006].



Photo 3. In judo hall of the Waseda University

On the following day, in the morning the author, together with Dr Sasaki, went by underground from the hotel to the university, where at 10 o'clock thematic sessions began. There was still time for consultations with the interpreters who were to translate the presentations into Japanese. Earlier, while preparing the text for a multimedia presentation, the author used Linday's tips [1984] to improve the presentation. The plenary session took place from 2.30 till 5.30, followed by the banquet.

The next day, the author had the opportunity to visit Waseda University, a famous private university, one of the oldest in Japan. It was founded in 1882 by the minister Okuma Shigenobu (photo 4), a very well-deserved person for the modernization of Japan. The tour was guided by a graduate of the same University and currently its lecturer Dr. Fumiaki Shishida (8 dan *tomiki aikidō*). It was a unique opportunity to see (also from the inside) the building with big *dōjō* – gyms for practising karate, kendō, judo, aikidō and sport fencing. In a judo hall, on the wall there is still the inscription (*kanji* calligraphy) painted by master Jigorō Kanō with the principle of *seryoku zen'yō* (maximum efficiency with minimum effort, photo 3). Prof. Kenji Tomiki, the master and teacher of F. Shishida first studied and then taught in this place. Many other outstanding *karatekas* and martial arts masters as Shigeru Egami, and Tsutomu Oshima practised here.



Photo 4. Monument of Okuma Shigenobu, founder of the Waseda University. In front of – Prof. F. Shishida with author.

The author also visited the Imperial Palace grounds, where the kendo section is practising in the vicinity of the Emperor's house. Then the author had a walk through the streets of Asakusa district (photo 5), enjoyed the ancient Japanese delicacies and did a little shopping. Later in the evening there was a farewell dinner, this time at a Chinese restaurant, in a friendly company of professors Nakiri and Shishida.



Photo 5. A walk through the streets of the old part of Tokyo

The author experienced great hospitality and kindness from the hosts, as the very fact of covering by them the cost of participation in the jubilee symposium, which would not be otherwise possible due to financial difficulties at Rzeszow University. In addition, thanks to Japanese friends, it was an opportunity to do some sightseeing and through talks with experts to gain new knowledge about the history and contemporary Japanese martial arts.

By studying martial arts or just on the pathways of life, a man meets a variety of interesting people and travelling gives the best opportunity to do that. Apart from already mentioned people, the author had also the chance to meet and talk with Dr Kaori Inoshita (7 dan karate), Prof. Dr Shinichi Yamagami (8th dan kendō), Tadahiro Kitamura, met through the European Association for the Sociology of Sport, the former president of the JAB, who was T. Sasaki's teacher (7 dan judo), with Prof. Takeshi Nakajima, Dr Yukio Tanaka, Dr Katsuhiko Koyama, Prof. Hideshiro Kobayashi, Dr. Takaaki Asami and Prof. Kiyoto Motomura. He talked about the philosophy of *Budō* with N. Murata and T. Oboki.

It was interesting to meet one of the few women in the group of experts at the highest level of martial arts – *shihan* Yasuko Kimura (photo 6). Ms. Kimura, with whom the author conducted a brief interview, is a member of the board of the

International Naginata Federation and Professor of International Budo University. She teaches not only the forms of sports *naginata-do*, but, in particular, is a master-teacher of a classical school of *Tendō-ryū*, dating back to the 15th century. This school is teaching today, 200 forms in total, including more than 80 using *naginata* (originally there were 102 forms). The martial art using this weapon, used in the past particularly by samurai women, is now being practised regardless of social background and gender [Kimura 2012].



Photo 6. Mrs. Yasuko Kimura, master and teacher of *naginatajutsu* and *naginata-do*

An interesting meeting also took place on the plane from Helsinki to Warsaw. The seat next to the author's was taken by Dr. Eng. Chobei Yamabe, Professor Emeritus of Saga University in Nara. It turned out that the Japanese chemist carries out his scientific tourism in the opposite direction – from Japan to Poland, travelling to the international conference in Lublin. Prof. Yamabe said that for 25 years had been working closely with Polish scientists and is a tutor of a group of Polish and Slovak Ph.D. students.

It was the third visit to the Land of the Rising Sun for the author, but unique in a way. The study trip in 2000 and stay in Tokyo and Ageo were undertaken at author's own expenses and for his own studies (practical skills and knowledge, to collect materials for scientific work). In Sapporo (January 2008) Prof. Cynarski took an active part in the AIESEP World Congress, where he presented his papers (two papers which were the results of martial arts research), but generally it was not an event dedicated strictly to theory and practice of martial arts. Now in Tokyo, the author appeared

at a conference as an expert on the pathways of martial arts.

For many participants, this conference was the destination of their study visit, but many also came to study martial arts. Scientific tourism and tourism martial arts meet here as two forms of non-commercial tourism, motivated by cognitive and self-realization needs. The organizers, as hosts, created a good place necessary for tourism phenomenon and receiving guests.

On the day of departure on September 8 at the 7 am the author checked out of the hotel and with the help of Prof. Nakiri he used the underground, then high-speed train (*shinkansen*) and arrived at the airport in Narita. There were no problems with checking-in nor the flight to Europe. It is worth mentioning that on the Finnair plane from Narita to Helsinki the author experienced "involuntary vegetarianism" as the only meals available were vegetarian.

The further journey from Helsinki to Warsaw was by plane. As there was no flight from Warsaw to Rzeszow at this time, the author went by bus. Then he took a taxi to get a bus to the parking lot at the airport and from Jasionka airport he came back home to Strzyżów at 3 a.m.

The issue of jet lag, which is equivalent to oxygen debt in competitive sports, should also be mentioned. Although the hotel in Tokyo was very comfortable, the author used to wake up every night and stayed awake for about three hours and fell asleep again. The return was burdensome as well. The seven-hour difference in time zones meant that on the return the day was the extended to additional 7 hours. However, sleeping off allowed to get back to a good shape.

III. Direct and expected results

The abstracts of the presented papers were published, unfortunately, in Japanese. Only abstracts presented by Prof. Nakiri and Prof. Cynarski were published in English and Japanese. The author's biographical note appeared in a publication from the conference and the full text of the paper should come out in the JAB's journal - "Research Journal of Budo". Professor Nakiri's full text will be published in English in "Ido Movement for Culture. Journal of Martial Arts Anthropology", the IMACSSS and IPA's quarterly.

One of the goals of participation in the JAB conference was to make arrangements by the president of the IMACSSS connected with the JAB and IMACSSS conference scheduled from 10 to 12 September 2013. The author talked about this matter with the members of the Board of the JAB.

The official title of the conference will be *The 46th International Conference of Budo in Tsukuba*, but it will be the first international JAB Symposium. According to Prof. Nakiri's declaration, given at this year's conference in Genoa, it will be at the same time the 2nd International Conference of the IMACSSS.

It is a great success that the Japanese scientific community of the JAB agreed to make changes to its already established tradition. The author hopes that with time the IMACSSS will gain new members and supporters in Japan and Korea, and the following international scientific conferences will be clearly international IMACSSS conferences. What is more, many researchers of martial arts from Japan and Korea will participate in the third World Scientific Congress of Combat Sports and Martial Arts in Rzeszów in 2014.

Summary

Scientific research and cultural dialogue are the IMACSSS's statutory tasks. This European – Japanese co-operation is developing very well. The Japanese Budo Academy opens gradually to international co-operation within the framework offered by the IMACSSS. The conference, described above, was the beginning of a new phase of dialogue and cooperation, which is an opportunity or perhaps a necessity for developing science of martial arts. Inviting the president of the IMACSSS and IPA for the JAB conference is the result of a developing co-operation between these two scientific societies.

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(Photos: W.J. Cynarski, T. Sasaki, F. Shishida)

Annex

A speech by the President of the IMACSSS and IPA

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My name is Wojciech Jan Cynarski, I am a Professor at the University of Rzeszów (Faculty of Physical Education), the representative of the IMACSSS and Idokan Poland Association. I am a budoka from Europe, from Poland.

It is a great honour and privilege to take part in the jubilee of **Japanese Academy of Budo**

conference here. Thank you very much for inviting me to participate in this very important and historic event. It is a great honour for me to meet s great renown martial arts people – Budo leaders today.

Since childhood I have been interested in sports and martial arts. About 35 years ago I started self-defense training, jujitsu, judo and karate, wanted to be stronger, fitter. Then I wanted to know more about the traditions of ancient warriors such as in the school Tenshinshoden Katorishinto-ryu. I have been particularly interested in Budo and it became a passion of my life. I trained in Poland, France and Germany, on international seminars, also in Japan – including under the direction of Sensei Yoshio Sugino, Hisashi Nakamura, Shizuya Sato.

For 25 years I have been a teacher of martial arts. In March 1993, together with students and others I have founded the Idokan Poland Association (IPA) – the scientific and educational association of martial arts. The study of martial arts got me the degrees of doctor and doctor habilitated of physical culture in Poland. People from the IPA and Rzeszów University set up in February 2010 IMACSSS – the International Martial Arts and Combat Sports Scientific Society. Since September 2010 (2nd World Scientific Congress of Combat Sports and Martial Arts in Rzeszów) it has already become a global scientific society. After several conferences about martial arts and combat sports organized in Poland, France and Portugal, this year the first International Conference IMACSSS took place in Genoa, Italy.

The International Martial Arts and Combat Sports Scientific Society is an exceptional scientific society established in order to study and conduct research on Budo, martial arts, combat sports and related systems. It brings together practitioners, experts and academics from around the world. Our goal is to develop knowledge and integrate the research community of the martial arts.

Our International Scientific association is very young. To strengthen co-operation with scientific societies with a long tradition, such as the Japanese Academy of Budo, is for us particularly gratifying. We would like to, in future years, alternately organize international conferences in Europe, Asia and also in America.

The IPA has been publishing from 2000 a yearbook “Ido Movement for Culture”, which is also currently IMACSSS periodical – “Journal of Martial Arts Anthropology”. Since the year 2011 it has been issued as an e-journal, quarterly. It is now in evaluation of the Thomson Reuters and hopefully will receive an Impact Factor. The IMACSSS also coordinates a number of research projects, and the Board remains open to ideas for new activities.

Thanks to Sensei Sato Shizuya I was in Tokyo the last time 12 years ago. I am very happy that I was able to come here again – to see this beautiful country and take part in the wonderful, very interesting and very important conference.

I congratulate the organizers – Japanese Academy of Budo activists – on excellent organization. I’m glad that it’s going to work very well with **Professor Dr Fuminori Nakiri**, who is also the JAP President and IMACSSS Vice President. On behalf of the IPA I would like to give *Sensei Nakiri Medal twentieth anniversary of the Idokan Poland Association*.

Thank you very much.

Historyczna konferencja JAB – Tokio 2012. Opinia o wydarzeniu naukowym i refleksje o turystyce sztuk walki

Słowa kluczowe: sztuki walki, budo, turystyka, spotkania w drodze, Japońska Akademia Budo

Streszczenie

Z perspektywy teorii turystyki sztuk walki i humanistycznej teorii oraz antropologii sztuk walki autor omawia wydarzenie naukowe, jakim była jubileuszowa konferencja Japońskiej Akademii Budo, odbyta w Tokio w dniach 6-7 września 2012. Autor wziął w niej udział jako *invited speaker*, czyli zaproszony wykładowca z referatem plenarnym. Artykuł przedstawia opis programu konferencji i jej ocenę. Następnie refleksja dotyczy aspektu turystycznego podróży z Polski do Japonii i pobytu Tokio. Autor bardzo wysoko ocenia polsko-japońską i międzynarodową współpracę naukową w ramach trzech towarzystw naukowych: International Martial Arts and Combat Sports Scientific Society (IMACSSS), Stowarzyszenia Idokan Polska i Japońskiej Akademii Budo. Jest to jednocześnie sposobność dla realizowanego na bazie studiów sztuk walki dialogu kulturowego.