

MARTIAL ARTS TOURISM

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Conference of IMACSSS and JAB in Osaka, Japan as a scientific event, including its importance for research into fighting arts and for martial arts tourism

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Abstract

Problem. The first goal is to describe and evaluate a scientific event, plus digressions (on some martial arts traditions) and observations. Then we look for answers to the problem question, what is the reason why specialists come to such a meeting, what attracts them. Is it the charm of the place or is it a strictly scientific purpose? Moreover, what does the analysis of the photographic material show? This is a contribution to knowledge about martial arts tourism.

Method. The authors used visual sociology as the qualitative analysis method, analyzing approximately 200 selected photos. In addition, the qualitative methods recommended in the General Theory of Martial Arts were used: participant observation and broad discourse analysis.

Results. The analysis of the photos confirms that the standard of the scientific event is maintained as well as its established, specific character. The scientific goal clearly dominated, but the arrival (or absence) of participants was influenced by many factors, the influence of which was not sought. The following were taken into account: the specific symbolism of the place, ritual roles and functions, scientific discourse, cultural dialogue, and social and organizational dimensions, which are typical for scientific and congress tourism. **Conclusions.** This is a factual report of another scientific event for fighting arts researchers. It was a successful conference with a high scientific level. Novel items) included: 1) parallel analysis of the example of martial arts, scientific and strictly cultural tourism; 2) description of the conference organized with direct participation after the pandemic break; 3) exchange of the latest knowledge - results of empirical research and theoretical findings from various scientific centers.

Introduction

Thousands of years ago, men were primarily warriors and hunters. They had to hunt and fight with wild animals and with other people. They used animal traps, for example, self-shots and self-shot traps [Lips 1957: 89-91], which are also used in guerrilla warfare in a sim-

ilar form today. Man trained himself in fighting with a stick and a club, an oar and a spear, a bow, and a sling. In anthropology, it was once believed that certain stages of civilization development were regular [*cf.* Lips 1957]. However, the development of civilization was not the same everywhere. Some cultures remained in the early stages of technological development while others devel-

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oped more rapidly. This also applies to martial arts.

Tribes from southern Africa, Australian Aborigines, or Maori developed specific weapons and these warriors trained in combat [Pawlik 2009]. However, these were relatively primitive forms that did not meet the definition of martial arts adopted in the General Theory of Fighting Arts / GTFA [Cynarski 2019]. Martial art is „a historic category of flawless methods of unarmed combat fights and use of weapons combined with a spiritual element” [Cynarski, Skowron 2014: 63]. A high level of technical perfection and tactical thought should be accompanied by spiritual/psychological preparation and a connection with a code of ethics, which results in a kind of educational system.

It is the special heritage of China and Japan that they gave the world original martial arts. Many other nations have imitated and continued to imitate these patterns, creating their own martial arts traditions [Vide: Cynarski 2013b; Moenig 2015]. Thanks to outstanding humanists such as Jigoro Kano, Japanese *budo* [Sasaki 2009; Uozumi 2013; Nakiri 2015] has gained and brought additional pedagogical values. Its unique development, advanced institutionalization and globalization make Japan a very important destination for international martial arts tourism. *Budo*, as a noble path, original system and set of traditional Japanese martial arts, attracts enthusiasts of *judo*, *aikido*, *kendo*, *karate*, *kobudo* and other related fighting arts (martial arts and combat sports) from many countries around the world [Figueiredo et al. 2020; Pawelec, Swider, Cynarski 2020].

There are also other martial arts that are less known internationally. An example is the Mexican *xilam* – described by G. Jennings as the Aztec-inspired martial art of native Mexico [Jennings 2016; Jennings, Cynarski 2019]. However, this art is completely absent from tourist guides to Mexico, when it could be a tourist attraction, but the name itself does not even appear [Laughton, Hennessy, Bell 2004]. So perhaps *xilam* is little-known in Mexico itself.

In the case of Japanese martial arts, only some schools, styles and organizations are less known. Not every master teacher is also marketing-savvy, or not everyone finds people to help with promotion and sponsors. Therefore, the value of a school and a teacher does not depend on his fame/popularity. There are also large organizations – pan-Japanese and international – that have significant power.

JAB – the Japanese Academy of Budo [Jap. *Nihon Budo Gaku Kai*] – was established in 1968. It is a large, pan-Japanese organization that deals with teaching, studying, and researching martial arts, especially those from the Japanese tradition. It is also the publisher of the scientific journal „Research Journal of Budo”. IMACSSS – the International Martial Arts and Combat Sports Scientific Society is a strictly scientific association bringing together scientists from many countries around the

world interested in the multifaceted area of fighting arts.

For the scientific event described and reviewed below, the theoretical base is co-created by the theories of scientific tourism and martial arts tourism, as well as GTFA / General Theory of Fighting Arts [Cynarski 2015, 2019, 2020; Blach, Swider, Sieber 2020]. The issue concerns the arrival of martial arts researchers from many countries around the world and from Japan itself to Osaka for a few days, basically, people who practically study martial arts, and basically to obtain new, reliable knowledge provided by academic science.

The specificity of the place

When someone travels thousands of kilometers, they usually want to get to know the destination with all their senses – they try to see things worth seeing, taste the local cuisine (tourist tasting), and feel the atmosphere of a given city day and night. In the case of Japan, for a „tourist” practicing martial arts, the Land of the Rising Sun is a special place. The principles of honorary ethos, weapons and armor, as well as the defensive architecture of medieval knights of Europe and Japan of the *bushi* culture are compared [Takagi 1996]. The trips are of a para-pilgrimage nature [Cynarski 2020].

Osaka is Japan's third largest city with approximately 2.7 million inhabitants. It is situated at the mouth of the Yodo River on Osaka Bay. The main monuments include Osaka Castle (*Osaka-jo*) [photo 9] and the *Shitenno-ji* Buddhist temple. The temple was built in 593, and the Castle (called the Golden or Brocade Castle) – in 1597. Its founder was Toyotomi Hideyoshi. There are gardens and a museum next to the castle. But where is this city on the martial arts tourism map?

There are places that are particularly associated with martial arts and are a magnet for martial arts tourism, such as the Chinese Shaolin center (*Shaolin kung-fu*) [Skowron-Markowska, Nowakowska 2021], Okinawa (*karate* tourism) [Gonzalez de la Fuente 2021] and, to a large extent, Bangkok, Thailand (*Thai-boxing*) [Cynarski 2012; Satchapappichit, Iesue 2022]. Osaka is not directly associated with *budo*, especially with any one discipline, style or school. However, this city is also interesting from this point of view.

People looking for a *budo* teacher in the 1980s found, among others: the then-famous *sensei* Shogo Kuniba from Osaka. In particular, commercial international martial arts organizations tried to legitimize their activities by admitting to their ranks authorities – real specialists, such as the master teachers.

Shogo Kuniba (1935-1992) was a teacher of several varieties of *budo*: *karate*, *iaido*, *jujutsu* / *goshin-jutsu* and *kobudo*. In karate, he was soke of the *Motobu-ha* / *Kuniba-ha Shito-ryu karate* style, 10th dan. He was the creator of *Kuniba-ha Mugai-ryu iaido* & *kobudo*, and

Kuniba-ryu goshindo, as well as the founder and leader of the International Karate Kobudo Union in Osaka.

In his martial arts journey, it was no accident that it was the first *Shito-ryu karate*. It was in Osaka in 1934 that the creator of the *Shito-ryu* style – GM **Kenwa Mabuni** (1889-1952) from Okinawa opened his *karate* school/club. Later, his firstborn son and successor – *soke* **Kenei Mabuni** (1918-2015, 10th dan) – lived in Osaka, taught and promoted the *Shito-ryu karate* style [cf. Mabuni 2009].



Photo 1. *Shudokan* building in Osaka [photo B. Piwowarska].

And what do martial arts look like on the map of Osaka literally? *Shudokan* has been operating here for over 60 years [photo 1] – a school and palace of martial arts, the equivalent of Tokyo's *Budokan*. Various budo disciplines are taught here – *aikido*, *judo*, *kendo* etc. In addition, there is a school of „classical” *Daito-ryu (aiki-jujutsu)*, *Kyokushin karate*, Chinese *kung-fu*, as well as Brazilian BJJ – Gracie Jiu-Jitsu Academy (for over 5 years). There is also the Osaka Bay Shaolin Martial Arts Holistic Health Association, which functions as if on the border between the traditions of martial arts and traditional Chinese medicine. Since this is the second time in several years that the local branch of JAB (Japanese Academy of Budo) is organizing an international conference here, it means that it is one of the leading centers of this pan-Japanese organization.

The so-called „tourist tasting” is not without significance for the tourist, multi-sensory reception of a place. Exploring the cuisine of a given country is an important element of cultural tourism, also important for martial arts tourism [cf. Matusiak 2009; Cynarski 2020: 83-84; Arguile 2023]. In this respect, there is a huge selection of different types of eateries in Osaka.

Methodology

Following existing methodological guidelines and research to date, the authors have embraced the use of the adopted visual sociology as a method of qualitative

analysis [Cynarski 2015; cf. Burns, Palmer, Lester 2010; Richards, Munsters 2010; Banks 2018: 5-192]. From among about two hundred photographs taken, 12 and 19 were selected for publication and qualitative content analysis. In addition, two qualitative methods recommended by GTFA have been used, namely participant observation, and the analysis of a broad discourse [cf. Pawelec, Yu, Cynarski 2020].

Osaka Conference ,2023

JAB (Japanese Academy of Budo) is an organization that has been closely cooperating with IMACSSS and IPA (Idokan Poland Association) for many years. This is confirmed by the anniversary book of this organization [Nakiri 2019], where the leaders of the mentioned associations appear in numerous photos. This is also evidenced by announcements from numerous conferences with the participation of representatives of these organizations, especially joint projects and publications [cf. Litwiniuk, Cynarski 2006; Obodynski, Cynarski, Kubala 2008; Sasaki 2011; Cynarski 2013a; Cynarski, Kubala 2013; Kuwamori *et al.* 2013].

The pioneer of dialogue and cooperation between JAB and researchers associated with IPA, IMACSSS, and „Ido Movement for Culture”, was Prof. Dr Taketo Sasaki. He participated in conferences organized in Poland since 2006. Then – from the Japanese side – among others, professors – Dr Fumiaki Shishida and Dr Funimori Nakiri. They presented papers at IMACSSS conferences, and European researchers from IMACSSS presented papers at conferences organized in Japan.

IMACSSS conferences are held every year, although formally the first one was organized by Dr Sergio Raimondo in Genoa in 2012. This time it was the 12th consecutive conference, including the fifth time in Asia, the third time in Japan, and the second time in Osaka (earlier – in 2017). First of all, it was also the 56th Japanese Academy of Budo Conference. Therefore, it was a conference devoted to *budo* – various fighting arts researched scientifically – from a multi-aspect perspective, from an interdisciplinary perspective.

The host on the Kyoiku University campus was Prof. Yoriyasu Ota, and from JAB – Prof. Teruo Oboki, President of this organization. The patron was IMACSSS.

Scientific programmes/papers and discussions

In a rather unusual way, the organizers limited the participation of foreign researchers to video presentations. The authors of 5 out of 17 such presentations were Malaysians. Their works concerned various aspects of various fighting arts. In turn, 4 works by Poles (23.5%) in this conference session concerned Polish historical fencing (*Signum Polonicum* school). These presentations were available from September 1 to 12.

On September 4, the requested plenary lecture and Q&A took place. The topic was: The *current situation and*

trends in European Martial Arts research, and the keynote speaker was Prof. Cynarski [photo 2, A13]. Dr Alexander Bennett (7 dan) [photo A14] translated simultaneously from English into Japanese. The lecture concerned the state of research and publications in Europe, with an emphasis on specialized scientific journals published in Europe. The full text is to be published in the "Research Journal of Budo", the JAB scientific journal.



Photo 2. Plenary lecture by Prof. Cynarski – keynote speech, Osaka, 2023 [photo B. Piwowska].

Then, in the same main hall of Kyoiku University (room A314), a symposium on the controversial issue of gender and transgender in sports was held [cf. Walaszczyk 2023]. Thematic sessions and most abstracts were in Japanese, without translation. Here, the analysis of source materials on the history of *aiki-jujutsu* and „ki” in *Shinto-ryu* seems particularly interesting [Kudo 2023; Moriyama 2023].



Photo 3. From the left: Prof. Fuminori Nakiri, Ms Aleksandra Skaza (translator), and Prof. Wojciech J. Cynarski – awarding the IMACSSS Gold Medal of Honor and Merit to two Japanese professors. Sept. 3, 2023, Osaka [from the collection of W. J. Cynarski].

Accompanying events

Among others, Prof. W. J. Cynarski, Dr hab. Juliusz Piwowski and Barbara Piwowska from Poland were invited to a welcome reception of the Board of Directors JAB, which took place on Sunday, September 3, 2023. In

front of the gathered JAB leaders, Cynarski – as President of IMACSSS – thanked them for their cooperation so far and presented the IMACSSS Gold Medal of Honor and Merit to two Japanese Professors – Fuminori Nakiri (8th dan, former long-time leader of JAB) and Taketo Sasaki (8th dan). In turn, Prof. T. Oboki, as President of JAB, thanked the IMACSSS leader for fruitful cooperation [photos 3, A9].

Rzeszów University Press provided the conference organizers with a set of books on fighting arts by W. J. Cynarski. They were exhibited during the Conference in the poster session room [photo 4].



Photo 4. Books by Cynarski from the University of Rzeszów – exhibition during the Osaka Conference. Sept. 2023 [photo W. J. Cynarski].

The traditional *sayonara* took place in a small group in a traditional Japanese restaurant. But the tasting of Japanese cuisine, both tasty and healthier, took place every day, starting with breakfast at the hotel [photos 8, A17, A19].

There was an official meeting with the rector, Dr Ikuko Okamoto. It was attended by: Y. Ota, W. J. Cynarski, A. Skaza (translator), I. Okamoto, T. Oboki, F. Nakiri, and K. Matsui [photo 5]. As usual, the rector offered tea to the members of this delegation.



Photo 5. Meeting of IMACSSS and JAB leaders with Dr I. Okamoto, President of Kyoiku University (in a dark suit). Osaka, September 2023 [from the collection of W. J. Cynarski].

J. Piwowarski received the IPA certificate for 9th dan in kickboxing. It took place during a meeting of IMACSSS members [photo 6]. Prof. Piwowarski is also a holder of 10th dan in *karate*. He is the rector of the "Apeiron" University of Public and Individual Security in Krakow and also spoke about Polish-Japanese cultural relations from the perspective of security culture in one of the parallel sessions.



Photo 6. Certificate for 9 dan in kick-boxing for *shihan* J. Piwowarski – during a meeting of IMACSSS members in Osaka [photo B. Piwowarska].



Photo 7. Mrs Yasuko Komura *soke* in the car, on the way to the conference. Osaka, September 2023 [photo W. J. Cynarski].

Among the VIPs of the martial arts world present at the IMACSSS Conference/JAB Congress was Ms. Yasuko Kimura [photo 7], the 17th *soke* (successor and leader) of the *Tendo-ryu*¹ school. The first car that transported participants from the hotel to the conference venue on the university campus (Kashiwara Campus), located

¹ Composite martial arts school was founded in the 16th century. It contains 200 techniques with several types of weapons, but the most famous one is the *naginata-jutsu technique* [Kimura 2023a; more: Kimura 2023b?].

quite far outside the center of Osaka, took Mrs. Kimura, Prof. Cynarski (President IMACSSS, GM of *Idokan*, 10 dan *jujutsu*, 9 dan *karate*), Prof. Fuminori Nakiri (former JAB President and Vice-President IMACSSS, 8th dan *kendo*), and Prof. Teruo Oboki (current JAB President, 7th dan *kendo*).

Before the JAB General Assembly and the end of the congress, Dr Mohamed Nizam Shapie (9 dan) presented a video encouraging participation in the next IMACSSS Conference. It will be held in Putrajaya (Malaysia) on October 14-16, 2024.

Tourist and cultural programme

Day before

After arriving in Osaka, there was time for sightseeing or other activities only the day before and the day after the conference – before the return flight. First, there was a meeting at the airport and an evening *sushi* tasting [photo 8].



Photo 8. In one of the many *sushi* bars in Osaka [photo W. J. Cynarski].

The tropical climate – high temperature and humidity – surprised the visitors a bit. The sightseeing plan included, first of all, the castle – *Osaka-jo*. The guide for the three Poles was Prof. Nakiri. The castle built by General Toyotomi Hideyoshi looks stately; built on a hill, it is visible from a distance [photo A3]. It is a specific castle architecture in the Japanese style. The fortifications were adapted to the use of cannons at that time (outer walls in a bastion arrangement). On each floor of the castle, there are permanent exhibitions of the Osaka Castle Museum [photos 9-10, A4; more: Brochures 2023].

In the park adjacent to the castle there is a large martial arts dojo – Shudokan, as well as the National Museum and the monument to H. Toyotomi [photos 1, A5-A7].

The day after

The participants visited the famous Buddhist Hozenji Temple [photo 11], which was built in 1637. It pays

homage to Fudo Myo-O, one of the five guardians of Buddhism. It is supposed to ensure prosperity in family life for visitors to this temple.



Photo 9. Osaka-jo – side elevation [photo B. Piwowska].



Photo 10. Axiometric projection of the fortifications of Osaka-jo Castle [photo W. J. Cynarski].



Photo 11. Hozenji Temple [photo B. Piwowska].

Another point recommended in tourist guides is the *Tsutenkaku* Tower (TV tower) [photo 12], with viewing areas, museum exhibitions, numerous shops, and the ubiquitous demon of getting rich – *Tsutenkaku*, who resembles *Bubu* from the *Dragonball Z* cartoon.



Photo 12. *Tsutenkaku* Tower – TV tower [photo B. Piwowska].

After sightseeing, there was still time for some small shopping before going to the airport and returning home [photo A20].

Analysis of photographic material

Photos 5, 7 and A8 indicate the so-called pecking order. Seniority is strongly emphasized in the hierarchical Japanese society, and even more so in the *budo*/martial arts environment. Relations between hosts and guests, between leaders of various organizations, between the leaders and people lower in the hierarchy (students from the organizing committee) are characterized by respect for authority, discipline and the willingness to act for the common good.

The photo material includes events from conference proceedings, but also from places visited and sightseeing. The fact of warm, hospitable reception results from a longer acquaintance and good cooperation so far, as can be judged by the photographic evidence. Japanese leaders were also hosts and guides for participants coming from Europe. In front of many conference participants (*Vide*: photo 2), only a few foreign guests were treated with honors due to authorities in the world of martial

arts and science [photos A1-2, A18-19]. This may be due to long-term close cooperation [Nakiri 2019] and friendly relations that result from it.

Symbolism and historical cultural/national tradition were emphasized. This applies to visited places and national or organizational symbols [photos A11, A16]. This issue has been described as the diffusion of symbolic content [Korobeynikov, Czarny, Cynarski 2022].

In the Idokan organization, the holder of the highest degrees (9-10 dan) has the right to use the following belts: black, white, and red or red; at their discretion. In photo A15, *shihan* Piwowarski is wearing a white and red stripe, which is justified by the fact that these are the national colours of both Poland and Japan.

The photo material is a kind of photo reportage – photographic factography illustrating the tourist route (in the areas of scientific and cultural tourism, and martial arts tourism) – from arrival in Japan (Osaka Kansai airport), through the following events, sightseeing, welcome banquet, entrance to the building – conference venues [photo A10], preparations and lecture/participation in the plenary session [photos A12-14], to check-in at the airport for the return home [photo A20].

The theory of martial arts tourism provides for various functions and social roles, such as „special guest” (A6 or B2) [Cynarski 2020: 50]. In this case, it concerns an invited keynote speaker [photo A12] and a professor who is a high-ranking master teacher/holder of the highest degrees and titles (10 dan, *soke*) [photos 6-7]. The elite group included the leaders of the organizations patronizing the conference described and the rector of the university, which is the direct organizer of this scientific event. However, friendly Japanese professors, such as Prof. F. Nakiri and members of the organizing committee were also guides for foreign participants of this conference.

The photos show the conference venue (Kyoiku University), Osaka’s tourist attractions (especially *Osa-ka-jo* Castle), and places for social gatherings. Tourists are also delighted with Japanese cuisine, which is widely considered to be both tasty and healthy. The described scientific and tourist event also confirms the state of advancement in the institutional development of organizations operating in the areas of fighting arts and science. These are especially IMACSSS, JAB, and IPA – Idokan Poland Association, which cooperate closely with each other.

Discussion and summary

The conference was a smaller event than several previous ones (Tokyo, 2012; Tsukuba, 2013, Osaka, 2017) [Cynarski 2013a, 2020; Cynarski, Kubala 2013]. It was attended by over 200 people, including participants (probably from six countries) and organizers. It was a

kind of experiment to limit the international debates (in English) to one plenary session and a video presentation with an electronic Q&A mode.

Together, the participants pursued their scientific goals (scientific tourism), sightseeing (cultural tourism) and acquiring knowledge in the area of fighting arts (martial arts tourism). Cognitive goals also included learning about Japanese cuisine, including the local traditions of the Osaka region [cf. Arguile 2023; Osaka 2021; Kyoto, Osaka, Nara ... 2023]. However, the visual dimension of tourist reception remains undoubtedly dominant [cf. Burns, Palmer, Lester 2010].

The analysis of the photographic material indicates the specificity and symbolism of the place, ritual roles and functions, conference scientific discourse, cultural dialogue, and social and organizational dimensions. At the same time, the hierarchical system that characterizes the Japanese tradition of martial arts and the social observance of order, discipline and moral principles are strongly emphasized [cf. Cynarski, Piwowarski 2016; Banks 2018; Pawelec, Yu, Cynarski 2020].

The novelties here are: 1) parallel analysis of the example of martial arts tourism, scientific and strictly cultural; 2) description of the conference organized with direct participation after the pandemic break (COVID-19); 3) exchange of the latest knowledge in the area of fighting arts (martial arts and combat sports) – results of empirical research and theoretical findings from various scientific centers.

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Photo A2. Welcome and transfer from the airport: K. Matsui, J. Piwowarski, B. Piwowarska, F. Nakiri [photo performed by W. J. Cynarski].

Other sources

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Photo A3. On the way to *Osaka-jo Castle* [photo performed by F. Nakiri].

Annex (additional photos)



Photo A1. Welcome and transfer from the airport: J. Piwowarski, B. Piwowarska, F. Nakiri, W. J. Cynarski [photo performed by K. Matsui].



Photo A4. Cannon next to the entrance to *Osaka-jo Castle* [photo W. J. Cynarski].



Photo A5. View from the castle – inside: park and *Shudokan* dojo [photo B. Piwowska].



Photo A6. The building of the National Museum in Osaka [photo B. Piwowska].



Photo A7. J. Piwowski and W. J. Cynarski in front of the Toyotomi Hideyoshi monument [photo B. Piwowska].



Photo A8. JAB figures – K. Matsui, T. Oboki, and F. Nakiri – before the welcome party begins. Osaka, September 3, 2023 [photo B. Piwowska].



Photo A9. A gift from the President of JAB (Dr Teruo Oboki) for the President of IMACSSS (W. J. Cynarski) [from the collection of W. J. Cynarski].



Photo A10. Entrance to the conference building of Kyoiku University [photo B. Piowarska].



Photo A13. Lecture by Prof. Cynarski [from the collection of W. J. Cynarski, made by Dr Takahiro Kitamura].



Photo A11. Polish accent at the Osaka Conference – IMACSSS and IPA group. From the left: J. Pokojski, J. Piowarski, W. J. Cynarski, K. Pokojski [from the collection of W. J. Cynarski].



Photo A14. – Dr Alexander Bennett explains the lecture by Prof. Cynarski into Japanese [photo B. Piowarska].



Photo A12. Technical arrangements before the presentation [photo B. Piowarska].



Photo A15. Two karate teachers from Poland: W. J. Cynarski 9 dan and J. Piowarski 10 dan [photo performed by B. Piowarska].



Photo A16. Participants of the IMACSSS meeting after the end of the Conference with the IMACSSS flag. Osaka 2023 [from the collection of W. J. Cynarski].



Photo A19. Japanese lunch, in a Japanese restaurant. At the table: T. Oboki, J. Piwowarski, T. Nakiri, W. J. Cynarski [photo B. Piwowarska].



Photo A17. Sayonara party in a Japanese restaurant – specialties of Japanese cuisine [photo B. Piwowarska].



Photo A20. Conversations about scientific and political issues – at Kansai airport in Osaka, on the way back from the conference [photo B. Piwowarska].

Konferencja IMACSSS i JAB w Osace, Japonia, jako wydarzenie naukowe, w tym jego znaczenie dla badań nad sztukami walki i dla turystyki sztuk walki

Słowa kluczowe: turystyka, konferencja, *fighting arts*, IMACSSS, JAB, Osaka

Streszczenie

Tłó. Pierwszym celem jest opis i ocena wydarzenia naukowego plus dygresje (na temat niektórych tradycji sztuk walki) i spostrzeżenia. Następnie poszukujemy odpowiedzi na pytanie problemowe, co jest powodem przybywania specjalistów na podobne spotkanie, co ich przyciąga. Czy jest to urok miejsca, czy raczej cel *stricte* naukowy? Ponadto, co wynika z analizy materiału zdjęciowego? Jest to przyczynek do wiedzy o turystyce sztuk walki.

Metoda. Autorzy przyjęli zastosowanie adoptowanej socjologii wizualnej, jako metody analizy jakościowej, analizując około 200 wybranych zdjęć. Ponadto zastosowano zalecane w Ogólnej Teorii Sztuk Walki metody jakościowe: obserwacji uczestniczącej, oraz analizę szerokiego dyskursu.



Photo A18. After dinner together [photo made by F. Nakiri].

Wyniki. Analiza zdjęć potwierdza zachowanie standardu imprezy naukowej, a jednocześnie jej ustalonego, specyficznego charakteru. Dominował wyraźnie cel naukowy, przy czym na przyjazd (lub absencję) uczestników wpłynęło wiele czynników, których siły wpływu nie poszukiwano. Uwzględniono: specyfikę symbolikę miejsca, rytualne role i funkcje, naukowy dyskurs, dialog kulturowy, oraz wymiary towarzyski i organizacyjny, co jest typowe dla turystyki naukowej i kongresowej.

Wnioski. Jest to faktografia kolejnej imprezy naukowej badaczy *fighting arts*. Była to udana konferencja, stojąca na wysokim poziomie naukowym. Novum stanowiły: 1) równoległa analiza przykładu turystyki sztuk walki, naukowej i stricte kulturowej; 2) opis konferencji zorganizowanej z udziałem bezpośrednim po pandemicznej przerwie; 3) wymiana najnowszej wiedzy – wyniki badań empirycznych oraz ustaleń teoretycznych z różnych ośrodków naukowych.