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WORLD KARATE CONFEDERATION

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2nd WKC World Championships in Bochum, Germany

The highlight of WKC in 1999 were the 2nd World Championships in Bochum, Germany. The athletes and officials of more than 50 federations gathered in the heart of the former mining area of Germany to find in fair and exciting competitions, the best karateka of WKC worldwide. The conditions of the place were good. The stadium, the Ruhrlandhalle, was just the right size to accommodate the almost 3000 spectators at the two-day event and the five tatamis for the competitors.

At the two day referee and coach seminar Messrs. Bernd Hirschberger (Shobu Ippon) and Gerold Reifenauer (Shobu Sanbon) were teaching the rules for the competition. Dr. Rony Kluger, Dean of the International Budo Academy, was giving lectures on the history and meaning of Budo. Our technical advisors E. Codrington (Wado Ryu), H. Ochi (Shotokan), T. Ogawa (Goju Ryu) and Y. Ishimi (Shito Ryu) were giving practical lessons in their styles to both, referees and coaches.

The championships were officially recognized and supported by the foundation "Japan in Germany 2000" and the Japanese Embassy in Germany. In the lobby of the stadium a cultural program of typical traditional Japanese arts like Ikebana and Origami were displayed. Japanese food was served as well. The Lord Mayor of the city of Bochum, Mr. Ernst-Otto Stüber, welcomed all officials at a reception at the City Hall and opened the championships. The Honorary President of the Championships, His Royal Highness Prince Adan Czartoryski Borbon, was present at the tournament and the official meetings. Prince Adan is a 5th Dan Shito Ryu and his teacher was Master Y. Ishimi, the WKC technical advisor for Shito Ryu.

The championships were opened by a traditional music band of miners in their old uniforms. A choir of Japanese ladies sang classical Japanese songs. A mixed German-Japanese group of drummers named "Tentekko" displayed various forms of Japanese drums. The audience was filled with enthusiasm. Acrobatic Brazilian dancers were performing the self defence art of "Capoeira" and typical Brazilian dances. The whole opening ceremony was accompanied by a fantastic laser show. So, the opening ceremony displayed German and Japanese tradition combined with modern and exotic aspects.

On the first day of the championships all team events were held and on the second day all individual categories. There was a fair and friendly spirit at all the various events. Only one small incident of misbehaviour with two officials of a federation occurred. They were banned for the next events by the WKC board. WKC will not tolerate any misbehaviour.