

## WHITE NIGHTS "KYUDO-STYLE" 2016

### The First International Friendly Kyudo Tournament for the Cup of General Consul of Japan in Saint-Petersburg.

At the last weekend, on the 18-19th of June, 2016 in Saint-Petersburg it was held the First International Friendly Kyudo Tournament for the Cup of General Consul of Japan in Saint-Petersburg.

The organizer of the event was **Regional Public Organization "Saint-Petersburg Federation of Traditional Kyudo"**. As a co-organizer there were the **General Consulate of Japan in Saint-Petersburg** and **Interregional Public Organization "Kyudo Federation"**. The general leadership of organization was by **Saint-Petersburg Branch of "Russian Union of Martial Arts"**.

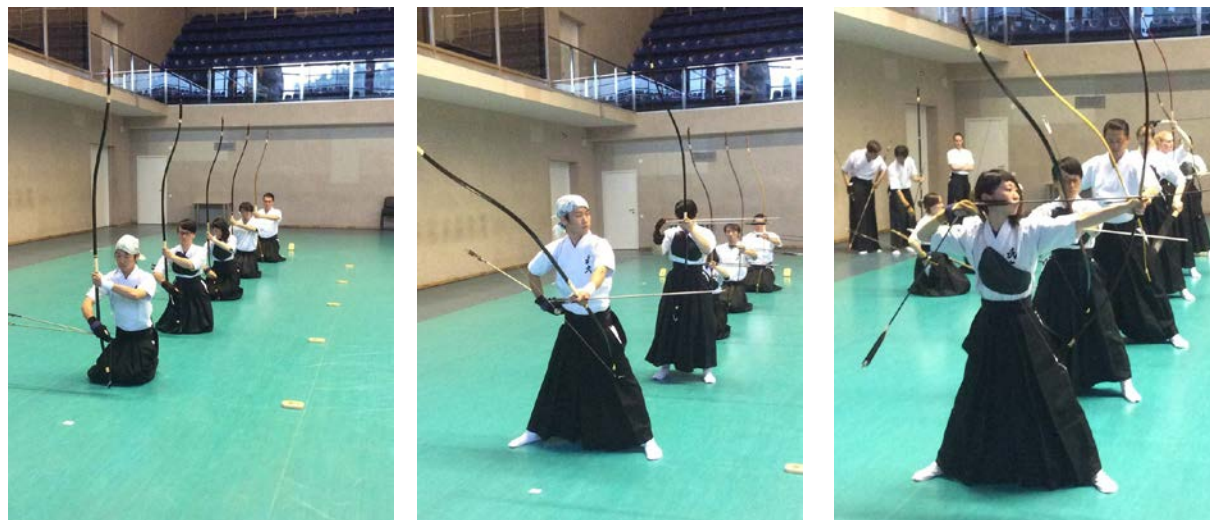


The event was held as part of 5th Annual Kyudo Festival **White Nights "Kyudo-Style" 2016**, which this year was visited for the first time by a delegation from Japan was consisted of 5 people, headed by the **Deputy of General Manager of the All Nippon Kyudo Federation (ANKF) Mr. Miike Masaki**. The delegation consists of students of the International Budo University (Japan, Kanto), who visited Saint-Petersburg in the context of the Cultural and Youth Exchange Program in the field of Kyudo through the Japan-Russia Youth Exchange Center.



On the eve of the Tournament on the 17<sup>th</sup> of June, 2016 as a part of Kyudo Festival **White Nights "Kyudo-Style"** all of the participants had the opportunity of joint training with the Japanese team, during which there was an acquaintance, exchange of experience and discussion of features, rules and methods of judging the upcoming Tournament.

The Kyudo Tournament was held in a comfortable gym of “The Volleyball Academy named after Platonov”, located on Krestovsky Island, one of the most picturesque locations in the center of Saint-Petersburg. On the first day of the Tournament it was held the Opening Ceremony of the event, upon completion of which the participants had started the competition as part of the Team championship.



As honored guests at the Opening Ceremony of Tournament were attended: Vice-Consul in Cultural area of General Consulate of Japan in Saint-Petersburg **Mr. Tomoki Nakamura**, the heads of Saint-Petersburg and Leningrad Region Branch of “Russian Union of Martial Arts” **Mr. M.Kuzmin** and **Mr. M.Shmelev**, the President of the Aikido Federation of Saint-Petersburg and Leningrad region **Mr. V.Skrylev**, the Vice-President of the National Council of the Aikido of Russia **Mr. S.Kiselev**, the Head Coach of the National Council of the Aikido of Russia **Mr. I.Novikov** and the Board Member of the Regional Public Organization “Saint-Petersburg Federation of Archery” **Mr. D.Mokhorov**.

Moreover, Solemn Opening Ceremony was attended by **Mr. Yamada Yoshimitsu** – the President of the Aikido Federation of the USA and Latin America, the Technical Director of Aikido Federation of Australia, who was with a visit in Saint-Petersburg on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary Aikido Festival “White nights 2016”.



Honored guests came out with parting words to the participants of the Tournament and wished success and fair results in an honest competition. For guests and participants of the event it was read the greetings from the Chairman of the Committee for External Relations of Saint-Petersburg **Mr. E.Grigoryev**.



In the reply word Sergey Lazo, the President of the Regional Public Organization “Saint-Petersburg Federation of Traditional Kyudo”, said the words of thankfulness to the co-organizers of the event and presented their represents with the “Gratitudes” from the Regional Public Organization “Saint-Petersburg Federation of Traditional Kyudo”.

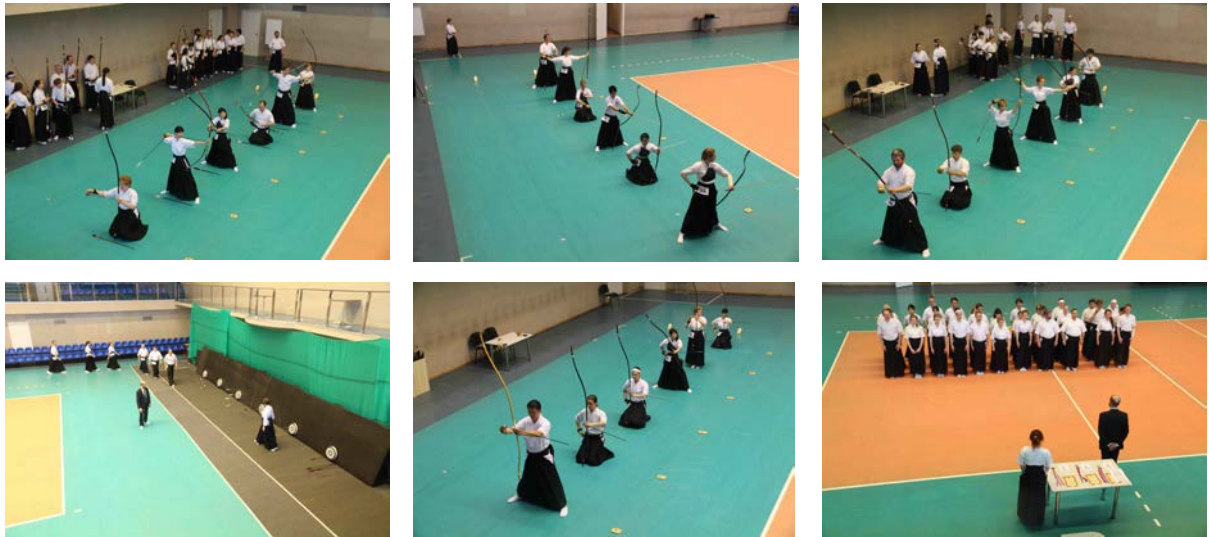


At the end of Open Ceremony for Guests and Participants of the event it was held the demonstration of Iaido (S. Kulakov, the Club of Martial Arts “Seidokan”) and of Kyudo (combined team of Moscow and Saint-Petersburg clubs).



After a short break, participants started the competition in the context of the team championship. As the name of the Tournament is “Friendly”, the forming of teams was carried out by sortition. Thus, the representatives of the Japanese delegation were divided in teams randomly, that was balanced the chances of each team. Among the participants it was formed 11 teams of 3 people. The tournament distance was 28m (Kinteki). Each of the participants was shooting for 4 arrows in one series, series number was 4. In that way, the calculating of points was made by 48 shots of every team.





At the end of team championship after the reshooting for the 3rd place, because of the equal number of points, the places distributed in the following way:

**1st place (Teams)**

Maria Minich (SPb)  
 Mayo Yamaguchi (Japan)  
 Junia Ishibashi (Japan)

**2nd place (Teams)**

Andrew Leonov (S-Pb)  
 Maria Isaeva (S-Pb)  
 Anna Alekseeva (Moscow)

**3rd place (Teams)**

Yahor Talkachou (S-Pb)  
 Rustam Khusainov (S-Pb)  
 Masaki Miike (Japan)



The winners of Team Championship were rewarded with medals, diplomas and memorable pennants from Regional Public Organization “Saint-Petersburg Federation of Traditional Kyudo”.



The second day of the Tournament was dedicated to Individual Championship. Except the traditional rewards from the organizers of the event, for the best archer of Individual Championship the General Consulate of Japan in Saint-Petersburg founded the Cup of General Consul of Japan in Saint-Petersburg.



At the tournament, 34 people took part in the context of the individual championship, including 5 representatives from Japan and the representatives of such regions of Russia as Moscow, Saint-Petersburg and Cherepovets. Each participant had to make 24 shots. They shot for 4 arrows in one series.



At the end of the sixth series it is determined, that the same number of points was scored by 4 people.

**Anna Alekseeva (Russia, Moscow), Mayo Yamaguchi (Japan), Tsubasa Ando (Japan), Momoka Mizukami (Japan)**



According to the results of some reshooting the prize places were allotted in such way:

**1st place Anna Alekseeva (Russia, Moscow)**

**2nd place Tsubasa Ando (Japan)**

**3rd place Mayo Yamaguchi (Japan)**



The winners of Individual Championship were rewarded with medals, cups, diplomas and memorable pennants from Regional Public Organization “Saint-Petersburg Federation of Traditional Kyudo”.



The best archer of the First International Friendly Kyudo Tournament, which took place in context of the Annual Kyudo Festival **White nights. “Kyudo-Style” 2016**, became **Anna Alekseeva (Russia, Moscow)**. We heartily congratulate our Russian archer, who has coped with a difficult task in the competition with our guests from Japan. She managed not only to maintain the composure at the crucial moment, but also went down in the history as the First winner of the First International Friendly Kyudo Tournament in Saint-Petersburg, preserving the Cup of General Consulate of Japan in Saint-Petersburg as a trophy of Russian archers.

Acting General Consul of Japan in Saint-Petersburg **Mr. Akira Osawa** presented the Cup from the General Consul of Japan in Saint-Petersburg to the winner of the Tournament and underscored that all of us have become the witnesses and participants of the birth of a new tradition in the field of martial arts in Saint-Petersburg, as in the field of cooperation between our countries and in the field of cultural and youth exchange. Mr. Osawa expressed the hope that this is just the beginning of a long Way, the result of which will be the participation by Russian and Japanese archers in the tournaments, conducted both in Russia and in Japan.



At the end of the Tournament Sergey Lazo, The President of Regional Public Organization “Saint-Petersburg Federation of Traditional Kyudo”, presented a memorable gift to the Japanese delegation on the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the International Federation of Kyudo (IKYF), which is celebrated this year and he thanked the Japanese colleagues for their visit and the attention to the process of Kyudo development in Saint-Petersburg in particular, and Russia as a whole.



Saint-Petersburg Branch of “Russian Union of Martial Arts” has given an appreciation for the event, which was held in the field of Kyudo for first time in Russia on the Neva River banks. It has become clear that the efforts of the recent years to the development and popularization of Kyudo in Saint-Petersburg were not in vain. The Annual Kyudo Festival White Nights. “Kyudo-Style” has got not only international format, but also has received the recognition from the founders of this ancient and very uneasy art, as the archery of traditional Japanese bow. Let us hope that this fact will bring in the future, a lot of enjoyable moments to all fans of Kyudo in Russia, allowing to meet regularly in Saint-Petersburg at the such events, exchanging experiences, improving skills and communicating in a friendly way.



Regional Public Organization “Saint-Petersburg Federation of Traditional Kyudo” thanks all participants and co-organizers of the event for their help in organization, for participation and support of this project. We sincerely hope, that the history of annual Friendly Kyudo Tournaments in Saint-Petersburg during the White Nights will continue its development.

**Organizing Committee of V-th Festival "White Nights. "Kudo-Style"  
St. Petersburg, June 2016.**