



AIKIDO INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP SEMINAR

INSTRUCTORS

As you can well imagine, it is impossible to list all of the our instructors' credentials and accomplishments. Below is just a taste.

(More comprehensive bios will be included in the program booklet to be handed out at the seminar.)

Sharing a passion and dedication to Aikido and O Sensei's legacy, each has travelled extensively and put in countless hours of mat training—all in the never-ending pursuit of polishing their Aikido and building friendships abroad. They have trained with and been inspired by countless influential teachers and peers, including the world's top direct students of Aikido Founder, Morihei Ueshiba as well as his son the late Kisshomaru Ueshiba, Aikido Doshu (Leader of the Way) and grandson Moriteru Ueshiba the current Aikido Doshu.

They bring to this seminar their combined years of experience of over 150 years of Aikido training and their desire for a better world through Aikido.



JORGE ROJO 6TH DAN, AIKIKAI - CHILE

Began Aikido in 1972. Technical Director of the Chilean Federation of Aikido. Founder of the Aikido Aikikai Cultural Centers. A major contributor to the expansion of Aikido in South America and Central America he has participated in countless activities to promote Aikido in Chile and has represented Chile in demonstrations in Japan, Germany, Slovakia and Monaco. His background includes Iwama bokken/jo certification from the late Morihiro Saito Sensei. He has also instructed seminars and has been technical advisor in places like Panama, Brasil, Argentina, Uruguay, Ecuador, Venezuela and Belgium.



NELSON REQUENA 6TH DAN, AIKIKAI - VENEZUELA

Chief Instructor Venezuela Aikikai, with 22 associated dojos. Started Aikido in 1973 and is a retired officer from the Venezuelan Navy. Teaches Aikido to Law Enforcement agencies, Technical Advisor to the Aikikai of Ecuador and El Salvador Dojos, teaches in Santa Fe, Aikido National Training Center in Caracas, has the address of the Chair of Defence Staff Police of Chacao, directs training groups for the Police Academy in Sao Paulo, Brazil and security companies in Venezuela and abroad.



GREG O'CONNOR 6TH DAN, AIKIKAI - USA

Began Aikido in 1976. Founder/Dojo-Cho Aikido Centers of New Jersey with six member dojos. Founder/Director Aikido Centers Alliance. Full-time professional Aikido instructor in the US since 1986. Travels extensively around the US and abroad both teaching and training and supporting friendships through Aikido. Represented the US in demonstrations in Japan in 1992 including the All Japan Aikido Demonstration at the Budokan, Tokyo. In 2007 began independent relationship with Aikikai/Hombu. Author of the internationally published books *The Aikido Student Handbook* and *The Elements of Aikido*.



WILKO VRIESMAN 5TH DAN, AIKIKAI - NETHERLANDS

Began Aikido in 1982 under Kanetsuka. Deshi at Hombu dojo 1990-91. With Christian Tissier since 1992. Dojo-Cho of Aikido Center Amsterdam and the Vriesman Aikido Dojo. Technical Director of The Dutch Aikikai Foundation, the Slovenian Aikikai, Aikikai Dubai, technical representative of Dutch Aikikai to Aikikai/Hombu. Travels extensively including the Middle East and Europe teaching and promoting Aikido.



DANIEL LANCE 4TH DAN, AIKIKAI - FRANCE

Doctor of Letters, Doctor of Science in Information & Communication, Philosophy specialty, Researcher, Invited to the US at Stanford University, CA. He started Aikido at Aikido Institute, Oakland, CA in 1989. His work focuses on issues of desire, violence and literature. He has taught at several universities, is a trainer and adviser to companies and institutions on issues of communication, violence and ethics. He is the author of books and articles relating to this applied theory of Aikido. He has also taught Aikido in prisons and at a center he created in the South of France for troubled teenagers.