

# Filipino Martial Arts

## PHILIPPINE KARATE ASSOCIATION

Digest

Special Edition  
2007

1970 - 1986



Dante Q. Nagtalon  
President

**Publisher**

Steven K. Dowd

**Contributing Writers**

Emmanuel ES Querubin

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We solicit comments and/or suggestions. Articles are also welcome.

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## From the Publishers Desk

Kumusta

This Special Edition brings back some memories when KARATE was the word in the Philippines and thought it would be very interesting for you the reader. Many thanks to Emmanuel ES Querubin for he contributed almost all the information and definitely pictures for this Special Edition.

Also to Mataw Guro Luis Rafael Lledo, Jr. for bringing up that Karate in the Philippines was once a major martial art there, and sparking the memories of a part of Philippine history.

Though the PKA is not around, Philippine Karate still exists through the PKF. So I hope you will enjoy this Special Edition.

Maraming Salamat Po



The PKA seal is a symbol representative of oriental philosophy.

- The outer circle symbolizes the "Ultimate Reality of All Existence" or the Great Origin.
- The extreme left right denotes the negative element with the extreme right ring denoting the positive element.
- Intertwined between these elements are seven other rings which symbolize the four carnal virtues of justice, prudence, temperance and fortitude, and the three theological virtues of faith, hope and charity.
- In oriental mythology, the number seven is regarded as the perfect spiritual number.
- Adding the two elements to this number for universality, permanence and steadfastness.
- The open hand symbolizes the basic innocence and spirituality of Karate.

## Karate in the Philippines 'The Golden Years'

By Emmanuel ES Querubin

In 1955 a non-commissioned officer in the Philippine Air Force started teaching military personnel and their dependents the Filipino fighting arts of Sikaran and Arnis de Mano. The group called themselves the Eagle Karate Club (mainly because of the similarity of Sikaran and Karate techniques). Upon hearing of the existence of this club, several civilians sought instructions from the leader of the group. Since most civilian members have no access to the military base, it was decided to rent a building outside the base to serve as headquarters and in 1958 renamed the group the Karate Brotherhood of the Philippines. This marked the first step to the journey without an end.

1964 marked the advent of the rise to power of the Philippines in the Karate world. It was the year that the Karate Brotherhood of the Philippines became the fourth member of the Asian Karate Association. On its inception, the Asian Karate Association was made up of Japan, Korea and China.

It was the year Sikaran, then known as Philippine Karate, was first introduced in the outside world of the martial arts, on the occasion of the First Asian Karate Championships held in Tokyo, Japan on March 14, 1964. It was the first time that a Filipino received an international award as the "Most Courageous Fighter."

All of these "firsts" can be credited to one person, Meliton Geronimo, Grandmaster of Sikaran and founder of the Karate Brotherhood of the Philippines.

Under the aegis of the Karate Brotherhood of the Philippines and the leadership of Meliton Geronimo, more awards were garnered by the Philippines in the subsequent Asian Karate Championships.



Some of the Asian Karate Championship delegates pay a courtesy call to Philippine Air Force Commanding Officer General Victor Dizon.

**L-R:** Carlos Quejoy, Eddie Mirafior, Major Mendoza, General Victor Dizon, Captain Meliton Geronimo, Bernard Belleza, Greg Agaloos, and Major Melqueas Jurilla.

On August 2, 1965, Bernard Belleza won the gold medal in the heavyweight division. In the same tournament held in Seoul, Korea, Emilio Galicinao won the gold medal in the middleweight division. Eddie Miraflor won the silver medal in the lightweight division, while Greg Agaloos won the “Most Courageous Fighter” award.

The 3rd Asian Karate Championships was held in Manila, Philippines on November 6, 1966. This year was the most memorable date in the history of Philippine Karate. On this day, Meliton Geronimo’s dream that he has held in his heart and mind since he was first introduced to Sikaran, came true. After years of fighting for it, which started in 1958, the Asian Karate Association recognized Sikaran, Philippine Karate, as a fighting art of a distinct origin. For all his efforts, Meliton Geronimo was awarded the 10th Degree Red Belt as Grandmaster of Sikaran.

Not to be outdone in 1966 were Jimmy Magbanua and Ariston Bautista. Magbanua was crowned heavyweight gold medalist while Bautista won the gold medal in the lightweight division. Again, Eddie Miraflor won the silver medal in the lightweight division.

On October 10, 1967, in Tokyo, Japan, the 4th Asian Karate Championships saw a new Filipino winner. Amando Diaz won the gold medal in the lightweight division.

It was on the 5th Asian Karate Championships held in Seoul, Korea on October 27, 1968 that the Philippines again won in the heavyweight division when Antonio Ganiela won the gold medal. Amando Diaz, now a bit bigger and heavier, won the gold medal besting his teammate and former middleweight gold medalist Emilio Galicinao, who settled for silver. Jimmy Geronimo, younger brother of Meliton Geronimo was named “Most Courageous Fighter.”

November 6, 1966

The Asian karate Association accepted Sikaran as a fighting art of a distinct origin.



Grandmaster Kwai Byeung Yun  
Asian Karate Association  
President



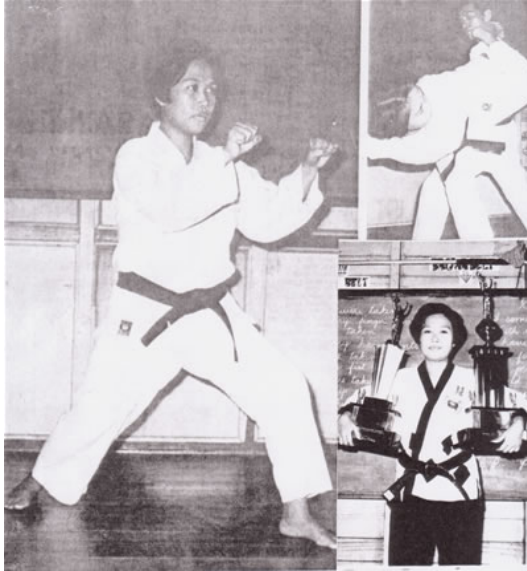
Hwang Kee  
Grandmaster Korean Tang Soo Soo



Koichi Kondo  
Grandmaster  
All Japan Karate Federation

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Meliton Geronimo was promoted to 10th  
Degree Red Belt as Grandmaster



Gloria Rapsing shows the form that made her 1968 KBP greater Manila regional championships gold medalist.



Emilio Galicinao, Middleweight Gold Medalist in the 2nd Asian Karate Championships, displays his natural gymnastic ability with his flying double back kick.

The 6th and last Asian Karate Championships was held in the City of Marikina in the Philippines on October 26, 1969. Malaysia has joined the Asian Karate Association. Patrick Lim of Malaysia won the gold medal in the middleweight division. Lim is also an indirect student of Meliton Geronimo. Patrick Lim's instructor was Emmanuel Querubin, a follower of Meliton Geronimo.

### 6th Asian Karate Championships Philippines - October 26, 1969

#### China

Hon. Head of Delegation - Isidro Ongsip

Hon. Vice-Head of Delegation - Antonio Paredes

Head of Delegation - Antonio Limqueco

Vice-Heads of Delegation - Chua Chong Peng, Mario Chua, William Tiu, Gerry Limpe

Secretary General - Jose See Bun

#### Players

Chan Kok Bin

Antonio Young

Manuel Catay

Antonio Chua

Eddie Tan

Tony Dy

So Yi Chiao

Yu Giok Hiong

Jimmy Bautista

Gerry Ong

Go Sio Hong

Co Si Ben

Mario Lee

Li Kok King

Go Chito

Romeo Dykengwan

**Note:** In view of the inability of the Taiwan Karate Association to participate, the Philippine Lo Yan Chu Memorial Athletic Institute (Kong Han) will represent Nationalist China with the permission of the Embassy of China.



### **Japan**

Hiromasa Toyokura - Team Leader  
Sadaji Akiyama - Team Captain  
Teiju Suzuki - Heavyweight  
Nobuchika Kobayashi - Heavyweight  
Makoto Toyoshima - Middleweight  
Toru Iba - Middleweight  
Isao Shimoda - Lightweight  
Katsutoshi Takaaki - Lightweight  
Nestor Muyot - Philippine Coordinator

### **Malaysia**

Patrick Lim - Head of Malaysain Team -  
Middleweight  
Loke Meng Kwang - Lightweight  
Emmanuel ES Querubin  
KBP Senior Instructor for Malaysia Coach  
Hermelando 'Tata' Bautista  
Philippine Coordinator

### **Korea**

Hiwang Kee - Official  
Kwei Byuong Yun - Official  
Shim Tae Yu - Official  
Han Un-Chang - Official  
Chung Chul-Woo - Heavyweight  
Hwang Jin-Mun - Heavyweight  
Park Yong-Hwan - Middleweight  
Kang Byung-Ill - Middleweight  
Yang Sung-Ryal - Lightweight  
Yu Box-San - Lightweight  
Emilio Galicinao - Philippine Coordinator

### **Philippines**

Captain Meliton C. Geronimo - Team Leader  
Bernard Belleza - Team Captain -Heavyweight  
Angel Ebuenga - Heavyweight  
Serafin Pangilinan - Heavyweight  
Amando Diaz - Middleweight  
Ener Samia - Middleweight  
Roger Mesina - Middleweight  
Jaime Geronimo - Lightweight  
Cilfred Espina - Lightweight  
Eddie Miraflor - Lightweight  
Dalmacio Veneracion - Coach



Gold medalists in the 3rd Asian Karate Championships. L-R: Ariston Bautista (lightweight) Philippines, Makoto Yamatoya (middleweight) Japan, and Jimmy Magbanua (heavyweight) Philippines.



Japanese team to the 3rd Asian Karate Championships. Head of the Japanese delegation receives trophy from PAAF President Antonio De Las Alas. Third from the right, second row is Melton Geronimo, on his left is all Japan Karate Federation Master Koichi Kondo.

On October 10, 1970, Meliton Geronimo and Emmanuel Querubin represented the Philippines in the formation of the World Union of Karate-do Organizations (WUKO).

## **Philippine Karate Association 'Culmination of the Dream'**

By Emmanuel ES Querubin

### **Philippine Amateur Karate Organization (PAKO)**

In 1966, the Philippines almost stole the show in the Karate world when the most ambitious dream in the country was undertaken - the unification of the different major brands and styles of Karate under the Philippine Amateur Karate Organization (PAKO). At that time there were only 3 major associations and one strong but relatively minor group.

The biggest and oldest association is the Karate (Sikaran) Brotherhood of the Philippines (KBP), headed by Meliton Geronimo, its lifetime president. The KBP claims a nation-wide membership and a solid organization with a twelve-year history based on its core organization, the Eagle Karate Club. The KBP also boasts of participating in 2 Asian Karate Championships topped by 2 Asian Karate Championships Gold Medals.

Another major association which is the closest rival of the KBP, as far as standing is concerned is the Philippine Amateur Karate Association (PAKA), under Latino Gonzales. The PAKA also claims nation-wide membership, an eleven year old history of organization and having the first commercial Karate school (Commando Self-Defense Club) in the country. The PAKA follows the Shorin-ryu style of Okinawan Karate and is affiliated with the Okinawa Shorin-ryu Karate Kyokai.

The Last of the major associations is the All Philippines Karate Federation (APKF) under Ceferino Vasquez, Jr. and is affiliated with the Japan Karate Association (JKA). The APKF was classified as a major association, not because of its membership, but by virtue of the JKA's standing in the Karate world.

A minor but considerably strong group is the Karate Federation of the Philippines (KAFEPHIL). Headed by Jimmy Galez, the KAFEPHIL chose not to join the PAKO only because of the "undemocratic" manner with which the PAKO was rammed down its throat. They were not even invited to its formation.

Control of the PAKO was comfortably vested in the Karate (Sikaran) Brotherhood of the Philippines by virtue of its international standing. Latino Gonzales, fondly called the "Grand Old Man of Karate in the Philippines", held the glamorous sounding, yet insignificant position of National Adviser with nothing but advisory privileges. The vice-presidency, another office of insignificance (until the death, incapacitation or termination of the term of the president) was given to Ceferino Vasquez, Jr. of the APKF. All other positions of relevance were vested on KBP people with Meliton Geronimo at the top as President.

An elaborate athletic calendar was programmed by PAKO, including the holding of a National Open Tournament and hosting the 3rd Asian Karate Championships. Seminars and workshops were undertaken by PAKO, under the imprint of the KBP, to set new standards in instructions, promotions, grading and tournament officiating, based on the rules of the Asian Karate Association.

Having set the schedule of activities and the new Constitution and By-Laws, the PAKO applied for membership in the Philippine Amateur Athletic Federation (PAAF) – the country's government agency dealing with amateur sports associations.



However, the KAFEPHIL's refusal to join the PAKO, caused the PAAF to withhold the much-needed and awaited government sanction. Representations were made by PAKO but to no avail. The PAAF stand was firm – all associations must merge into one controlling body before action may be taken regarding the case of Karate.

With the non-acceptance of the PAKO by the government sponsored PAAF, the former was disbanded. The first real attempt to unify Karate in the Philippines was a failure and fell smack right on its face before anything concrete was accomplished.

The 3rd Asian Karate Championship was held as scheduled under the sole auspices of the KBP. The national open tournament never materialized.

When the PAKO failed to achieve the purpose for which it was created, dissension broke out among the individual associations.

From the Philippine Amateur Karate Association (PAKA), the “old boys” put up an extension from the mother group. The Karate Association of the Philippines (KAP), under Dionisio “Johnny” Carranza, the Shorin-kai Karate Association (SKA), under Antonio Logan and the Martial Arts Association of the Philippines (MAP), under Ben Beltrano all decided to go on their own merry way.

The KAFEPHIL was divided into four factions. The group that maintained the name KAFEPHIL was headed by Johnny Chiuten. Jimmy Galez thereafter called his group the Black Master Sphinx Karate Clan of the Philippines (BMSKCP). The group under Jimmy Franco became known as the Black Kimono Karate Association (BKKA). The last to leave was Vic Tayo and his Vilcat Amateur Judo and Karate Association (VAJKA).

When the representation of the JKA was relinquished by the APKF, some members joined the former while others were absorbed by Meliton Geronimo's KBP. Ceferino Vasquez, Jr. remained independent.

A Japanese thereafter took charge of the JKA in the Philippines. As is the practice of most Japanese-run associations, they have assumed a “let-me-alone” attitude.

The Karate Brotherhood of the Philippines (KBP), in spite of its maturity was not free from split-ups. The powerful Bacolod City based Moo Doo Kwan Karate Association (MDKKA) under Casimiro Grandeza, severed its ties with the KBP. However, the Manila based Moo Doo Kwan group under Eddie Mirafior, called Crimson Kimono Karate Club (CKKC) stayed on with the KBP.

The Angeles City group Beaux Karate Brotherhood (BKB) headed by the Casero brothers, also called it quits. A small group from Olongapo City, called Philippine Kung-fu Association, headed by Carlito Lanada, decided to go on its way.

Thereafter, the splinter groups assumed the identity of an association, but were in fact individual small clubs with more than just a handful of members.

### **Filipino Amateur Karate Union (FAKU)**

The second major attempt took place 2 years later in 1968, when the Filipino Amateur Karate Union (FAKU) was formed by Latino Gonzales's PAKA, the breakaway groups of Dionisio “Johnny” Carranza (KAP), Antonio Logan (SKA), Ben Beltrano (MAP), Guillermo Lengzon (who replaced Johnny Chiuten as president) of the KAFEPHIL, the dissenter groups of Jimmy Galez (BMSKCP), Jimmy Franco (BKKA),

Vic Tayo (VAJKA), Carlito Lanada (PKFA) and the Moo Doo Kwan Karate Club (MDKKC), represented by Eddie Miraflor who has also left the KBP.

Hoping to pressure the PAAF, the FAKU organizers decided to utilize the political power of the Office of the Vice-President of the Republic of the Philippines by naming Vice-President Fernando Lopez, FAKU President.

This time it was Meliton Geronimo's KBP's turn to hold out and shy away from the FAKU. Giving the dissenter and break-away groups equal footing with the major associations was not the KBP's idea of unification. Geronimo did not budge an inch from this decision. Negotiations, representations and mediations were made, but the KBP stood pat on its decision. KBP was willing to unite with the major associations but not with the minor ones. Furthermore, the KBP claims that these groups cannot even comply with the requirements and qualifications to be classified as an association. They were in fact small individual clubs, such as Eddie Miraflor's Crimson Kimono Karate Club, Tony Logan's Shorin-kai Karate Association which is the same as the Nunchaku Karate Club, Carlito Lanada's Philippine Kung Fu Association which is made up of one club in Olongapo City and all the other dissenter groups. At that time the KBP boasts of member clubs from Northern Luzon to the Jolo Archipelago, not counting the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Moreover, the KBP applied for membership on its own.



Grandmaster Meliton Geronimo

At first the PAAF Membership Committee tried to convince Geronimo to join the FAKU so a favorable action may be taken in the case of Karate. The FAKU organizers, knowing the futility of their attempt for PAAF membership without Geronimo's KBP, tried to compromise with Geronimo by offering him a top position in the FAKU. Geronimo however would not settle for anything less than the presidency. But that position was already filled by no less a personality than the Vice-President of the Republic of the Philippines.

To further boost Geronimo's claim that the KBP is the representative body of Karate in the Philippines, a comprehensive and extensive report was prepared by the KBP's Directorate of Research and Standards. Copies were passed around to the media and members of the PAAF Membership Committee. Some members of the PAAF and the Philippine Sportswriters Association were swayed to Geronimo's side while others backed up the country's Vice-President led FAKU.

This division irked the Executive Committee of the PAAF who was feeling the pressure of public opinion through the mass media.

With this divided support, no action was taken in spite of the almost weekly conferences among representatives of PAAF, FAKU and KBP. More than 20 meetings were held but no compromise was reached.

Finally, when all intercessions and mediations failed to effect a merger between the FAKU and the KBP, the PAAF Membership Committee handed down its formal reply, which reads in part: *"In view of the fact that the Karate heads themselves could not*

*find a way to unite, Karate had failed to comply with the first basic requirement for membership”.*

When the unfavorable action was handed down, the FAKU, like its predecessor died a natural death.

Further dissension broke out among the major associations and even among the splinter groups. Although each individual group continued with its own activities, Karate politics in general was in shambles. A cold war prevailed even though no real confrontation took place.

## **Second Asian Festival of Combat Arts**

In 1970, the Wrestling Association of the Philippines (WAP), headed by Pocholo Bereciarte, sponsored the Second Asian Festival of Combat Arts. Billed as the main attraction, was a Karate exhibition. However, the problem of which Karate group to invite to demonstrate came up one more time. Individually, each group vied for the opportunity claiming to be the true representative of Karate in the Philippines.

Four years prior, when the First Asian Festival of Combat Arts (sponsored by the Philippines Sportswriters Association) was held, the Karate Brotherhood of the Philippines represented the art much to the acclaim of the public. Bernard Belleza, then the Asian Karate Heavyweight King, together with Emilio Galicinao, Asian Middleweight Karate Champion were the stars of the show.

To resolve the controversy, a suggestion was made by WAP President Pocholo Bereciarte. Taking a bold step forward, he suggested that instead of a Karate demonstration, all Karate associations be invited to hold a national Karate open tournament. Acting as mediator, the WAP invited the heads of the various Karate associations to draw up a plan for the open championships – the first of its kind to be held in the country.

The first organizational meeting was a failure. Of the invited groups, only 2 responded the KBP and the PAKA. Another meeting was called. This time 4 groups attended. Still another was called and finally all invited groups attended. However, nothing concrete was achieved. The major associations (KBP, PAKA and KAFEPHIL, which has assumed the status of a major association) denied the minor groups equal status. A valid reason was presented. The minor groups were dissenters from the major associations and as such should not be given equal standing with their mother organization. Moreover they demanded that these break-away groups should instead rejoin their mother organizations. Close door meetings were held between each head of the feuding groups and the organizers of the affair.

Finally a compromise agreement was reached. Each competing group would field 24 players, all certified black belts to compete in 6 individual championships and 2 team championships. This drastically reduced participation of some groups for failure to field qualified black belts.

The clincher to the compromise agreement was all tournament officials will only come from the 3 major associations, which would supply 2 referees and 4 judges each. Pairing, weighing of participants and assigning of officials will be undertaken by the organizers of the meet under the supervision of the heads of the major associations.

The elimination bouts were scheduled for 3 nights. The tournament was divided into 2 categories - the “control” system and the “full-contact” system with the use of protective armor. Weight classification in the full-contact system was based on the standards of the Asian Karate Association – lightweight not more than 140 pounds; middleweight 141 to 170 pounds and heavyweight 171 pounds and above. As was expected the “full contact” system with the use of the protective armor (in essence a knock-out competition) was dominated by the KBP.

Although seminars, clinics and workshops were held to standardize the officiating and the interpretation of the rules, problems and protests arose during the matches. Personal affiliations and favoritism prevailed. Wrong and biased decisions were prevalent and almost all the decisions were booed by the spectators and by some of the officials and organizers of the meet themselves. Perhaps to show their maturity and to let nature take its course, the heads of the different groups remained civil during the national open.

### **Philippine Karate Association** *(Samahan sa Karate sa Pilipinas)*

In the course of the meetings for the national open, the idea of unification again came up. The heads of the different groups, now all geared up and conditioned for unity, decided to forego all personal animosities and unanimously voted for a unified Karate.

In the first organizational meeting for unification, the name *Samahan sa Karate sa Pilipinas* was suggested. The reason given was to give the association national color. However, objections were raised and the majority insisted that since Karate is now an international sport the name of the association should be in English. Thus it came to be called Philippine Karate Association (PKA). The acceptance of the new name was approved without any further objection.

Representatives of the various groups drew up the administrative rules and regulations. Likewise a draft of the constitution and by-laws was laid out. However, election of officers was deferred so as not to influence the national open.

Even while the national open was in progress, the heads of the different groups started campaigning and lobbying under wraps for significant position in the would-be new association. KBP’s Meliton Geronimo seemed certain to clinch the top position of president. His closest rival, PAKA’s Latino Gonzales was willing to concede. Nobody else seemed to be a possible contender against Geronimo. All indications at that time pointed to Geronimo, being the unchallenged lone bet for PKA’s presidency and therefore the sure winner.

Shortly after the national open, however, things took a turn for the worse as far as Geronimo’s bid for presidency was concerned. The heads of the other Karate groups backed out from their support of Geronimo.

With this new development, KAFEPHIL’s Guillermo Lengzon announced his desire to be the president. PAKA’s Latino Gonzales also changed his mind and indicated he would like the position. This made the president’s post a highly contested position. Intrigues and under the table deals (including promotion to a higher degree) followed.

For a moment the idea of unification again seemed to be shelved behind the clash of personalities, until WAP’s Pocholo Bereciarte came to the rescue. Bereciarte argued that the only way for the Karate heads to be united was to relegate all their authorities to a

president who did not belong to their clique; a president whose personality would not be subservient to any group, but rather command the respect of the feuding Karate heads. He further suggested that the heads of the different groups will be called the Board of Directors or Council of Administrators. Everybody voted for the latter.

Names were nominated by the different Karate groups. Some were nominated for political reasons; some for personal relation and affiliation and still some for being types that could be swayed to favor one group or another.

Again, it was Bereciarte who came to save the day for Karate. He recommended a man who has done a great deal toward promoting amateur sports without being involved in sports politics. The man he recommended is above and beyond personal aggrandizement. The man is a complete stranger and unknown to all of the Karate heads. Bereciarte nominated Dante Q. Nagtalon, a retired military officer, retired chief of police, politician, educator, lawyer, bank executive and businessman.



Dante Q. Nagtalon

The nomination of Dante Q. Nagtalon raised cheers from some quarters and jeers from others. They asked questions like who is Dante Q. Nagtalon; what does he know about Karate; what is his grade; what style does he practice; what can he do for Karate; how can he command the respect of the Karate leaders? Objections were raised by those whose Karate political career was threatened. Others were apprehensive for fear that the high grades they bestowed on themselves will not be confirmed and worse be taken away. Still others were skeptical about a non-Karate man to head a Karate association.

Like a candidate for a Master's degree defending his thesis, Bereciarte strategically read Nagtalon's record of accomplishment and achievements with oratorical eloquence. The Karate leaders were impressed, partly by the record and partly by the way it was presented. But they still needed to be convinced. That was Bereciarte's clue. It was high time these feuding Karate leaders meet the man destined to lead them. Bereciarte scheduled a luncheon meeting between the Karate heads and Dante Q. Nagtalon.

At the meeting, the Karate leaders were not too anxious to meet Nagtalon, an unassuming executive of the Central Bank of the Philippines. Unlike the Karate heads who have boldly and arrogantly declared who they were, the powerful politicians they know, what they have done and what they can do (except they never get to doing), Nagtalon kept comparatively silent. This attitude left the Karate leaders wondering and bewildered. Nagtalon did not have to speak because the record Bereciarte read spoke for itself.

After Nagtalon assured the Karate heads that the grade they hold (or assumed) will not be questioned, Nagtalon's nomination was finally almost unanimously accepted. Only KBP's faction countered the nomination. This action led to the childish finger-pointing and exchange of accusations, charges and counter-charges right in front of Nagtalon. Nagtalon kept his composure. But feeling like a weird creature in a carnival, Nagtalon, for the first time broke his silence. Slowly but firmly, in a manner familiar only to people bred in a military fashion, he said: *"I was invited here to help you help yourselves. I am going out of this hall. Should you decide to let me help you, then call me."*

*If not, do not bother. I will give you only 5 minutes to decide.*” The Karate leaders were taken aback by this attitude. More than anything else, this curt statement made Nagtalon the undisputed to-be President-elect of the Philippine Karate Association.

The man of action that he is and realizing that against these men the best defense is a good offense Nagtalon put the Karate leaders in a defensive position... One by one they were called to the stand by Nagtalon and a stern but polite question was asked of them. *“Do you want a unified Karate under me?”* The unanimous answer was a firm *“Yes”*. Acting as chairman of the meeting, Bereciarte passed out a form which among others was a pledge to keep Karate unified under the leadership of Dante Q. Nagtalon. All signed without the slightest hesitation. KBP’s Meliton Geronimo signed with red ink to signify his Red Belt Degree. On September 16, 1970, The Philippine Karate Association was formally organized.

After the dissolution of the Asian Karate Association, Meliton Geronimo and the Karate Brotherhood of the Philippines, the only internationally recognized Karate bodies in the Philippines was invited to the formation of the World Union of Karate-do Organizations (WUKO) and compete in the First World Karate Championships to be held in Tokyo, Japan.

In October 1970, KBP’s Meliton Geronimo and Emmanuel Querubin, representing the Philippines, became signatory members of the WUKO.

This move by the KBP rocked the PKA from its very foundation. However, because the PKA is not yet a government-sanctioned body, it was helpless and can not do anything.

Again in 1972, Meliton Geronimo and the KBP represented the Philippines in the Second World Karate Championships in France.

After returning from the Second World Karate Championships in France, Meliton Geronimo pulled out from the PKA in order to devote his time in the propagation of Sikaran. Geronimo even completely dropped the term Karate in the propagation of Sikaran, the Filipino Art of Foot-fighting, renaming the Karate Brotherhood of the Philippines the Sikaran Brotherhood of the Philippines.

The KBP’s withdrawal from the PKA did not deter Dante Q. Nagtalon. He is a man on a mission and nothing can stop him from accomplishing his goal.

Dante Q. Nagtalon came in the sordid picture of Karate when it was in the brink of death. He applied the proverbial shot-in-the-arm which injected new life to the art of the empty-hand. Nagtalon is a no-nonsense government executive with diverse experience. Although not a “samurai” he adheres to and lives the code of “bushido”. He is a leader with a progressive leadership technique. Nagtalon does not prescribe and avoids authoritarian statements. Instead he defines, opines and discusses problems breaking them down to their smallest component. The Karate leaders who came to him were eager to debate dogmatic precepts, but such was alien to Dante Q. Nagtalon’s understanding of leadership. He preferred to ask questions and encourage others to think for themselves. Those who came to him discovered the need for hard work – selfless hard work for the cause of Karate. He drove them tirelessly, instilling in them a sense of selflessness directed towards the ultimate success of PKA. Those who were willing to make the effort were accepted. Those who do not make the effort, instead of being scornfully rejected were re-directed and re-oriented and shown the way not by lectures or absolute assertions but by example. The major themes he expounded for the PKA can be



summarized briefly: *“The purpose of the association is to provide for the welfare and well-being of Karate practitioners and enthusiasts. No association can be governed by restrictive rules and negative punishments. The leader must set a positive example by his own personal behavior. Leadership is best which leads less and dedicates itself to the development of the character and culture of its members.”*

According to Dante Q. Nagtalon, Karate’s highest aspirations were all attainable, but only if a rational moral virtue could be instituted. He was realistic enough to see the difficulty in bringing this about, but he was idealistic enough to think that it could be done. He outlined the qualities of the rational moral virtue: self-respect, magnanimity, earnestness and benevolence. He asserted: *“show self-respect and others will respect you; be magnanimous and you will win all hearts; be sincere and men will trust you; be earnest and you will achieve great things; be benevolent and you will be fit to impose your will upon others.”*

By positive example he has instilled this rational moral virtue into the very consciousness of the Karate leaders. Dante Q. Nagtalon knew then he was won half the war.

A careful and methodical worker in all he did, Dante Q. Nagtalon was never known to be impulsive. On the contrary he is always many steps ahead of everybody. This quality of Nagtalon, more than anything else served as the life-saver for Karate.

He has noted that in the past Karate was always on the losing side as far as government sanction was concerned. A critical thinker, he recognized and analyzed what went wrong. In the first attempt, the approach was more on the military attitude of “ordering.” In the second attempt, politics was injected in the approach. Both methods did not help the cause of Karate. Armed with this knowledge, he made a careful and diligent study of the system. Possessed of a powerful mind molded in the anvil of self-discipline and shaped by experience, he made a perspicacious analysis, not only of the problem - government sanction - but more of the problem giver – those who will grant the much-needed sanction.

As a military man who has gone through hell and high water, Nagtalon was familiar with an all-out blitzkrieg in war and the skirmishes and hit and run tactics of guerilla warfare. As a tried politician, he knew how to sway to the tune and how to make his own music. As an educator, Nagtalon knew how to come to a final conclusion either by deductive reasoning or by cynical virtuosity. As a lawyer he knew how to confuse or clarify even to distort truth by reason and logic or to find it in its purest essence. Failure was given no place in any of Nagtalon’s endeavors. Another word that he never used is “impossible”. Failure and impossible are temporary lapses that Nagtalon use as stepping stones rather than stumbling blocks.

During the national open Dante Q. Nagtalon, witnessed a major problem that was causing a disgrace to the cause of Karate. Tournament officiating not only was below par but was a discredit to Karate and needs not only improvement but a total revamp. This was his first priority.

Nagtalon needed a small group of impartial, fair and loyal people whose character is beyond reproach who will be the PKA’s officiating panel. He gave the panel the title of Executive Technical and Officiating Panel.

He called on Emmanuel Querubin, who has left the KBP, to head this panel and appointed him Chief Referee and Chief Instructor of the Foreign Division.

Querubin's credentials include being Philippine Delegate to the formation of the World Union of Karate-do Organization (WUKO) in 1970; participation in the WUKO's referees clinic and the First World Karate Championships in Tokyo and Osaka, Japan in 1970; Philippine Correspondent of Black Belt Magazine (published in the West Coast) and Official Karate Magazine (published in the East Coast); Chief Foreign Karate Instructor of the Karate Association of Malaysia (1967-1968) and KBP Director for Research and Standards.



Some signatory members of the World Union of Karate-do Organization (WUKO), Tokyo, Japan October 1970. First row third from left, Meliton Geronimo of the Philippines, to his left is Dr. Kwai Byeung Yun of Korea. Second row third from left behind Geronimo is Emmanuel Querubin. Only Geronimo and Querubin have represented the Philippines in the formation of WUKO.

Querubin accepted the appointment only after he was assured that the panel will be independent and beyond the touch of any and all appointed or elected official of the Philippine Karate Association. Querubin affirmed that the panel will swear allegiance only to the Philippine Karate Association, officially and Dante. Q. Nagtalon, personally. This was necessary in order for the tournament officials to render a fair and impartial decision free from pressure from their mother club or organization.

The Karate leaders agreed with Nagtalon's forming of this independent panel but disagreed with appointing Querubin to head the panel. Querubin, although he has resigned from the KBP, is still identified too much with the KBP and was called Geronimo's alter ego. Nevertheless Nagtalon stood firm with his decision.

Nagtalon gave Querubin a free hand in selecting and training the members of the Executive Technical and Officiating Panel. For his part, Querubin requested each Karate group to send at least 4 black belt members, 3rd Degree or above who are interested in being trained and become a member of the officiating panel.

After a thorough screening and process of elimination, in the end the national panel, headed by Querubin was formed made up of Kunio Sasaki, Ceferino Vasquez, Jr., Luis Raphael Lledo, Jr., Amado de Vera, Amado Lim, Oscar del Rosario, Lorenzo Tayo, Rodolfo Oanes, Joe Gumba, Rodrigo Espiritu and Maty Munieza.

The panel went through a rigid and extensive training of the rules of officiating based on the rules promulgated by the World Union of Karate-do Organizations. After the members of the panel were officially certified as PKA National Referees, they held

seminars and workshops in all the regions in the country to familiarize the Karate heads with the WUKO rules of competition and to train regional officials for local tournaments. Thereafter it was required that all PKA sanctioned tournament be officiated only by the Executive Technical and Officiating Panel. Local intra-group contests may use their own clubs' officials. However, upon request local intra-group meets may also avail of the services of the national or regional panel.

When the Karate players were exposed to the rules of international competition set forth by the WUKO, the quality of Karate play in the country was elevated to a higher level never expected or even thought of to be possible.

## **Council of Administrators**

Where are they now?



**Dante Q. Nagtalon**

President  
1970 - 1986  
Deceased



**Vicente Tayo**

Vice-President for Luzon  
Vilcat Judo and Karate Club  
Deceased



**Guillermo Lengzon**

Vice-President for Mindanao  
Karate Federation of the Philippines  
Deceased



**Dionisio 'Johnny' Carranza**

Vice-President for Visayas  
Karate Association of the Philippines  
(Siete Pares Karate Association)  
National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Agent  
Killed in the line of Duty



**Jose Ma. Bereciarte**

Chairman  
Committee on Membership  
Where a bout's Unknown



**Ireneo Campos**

Chairman  
Committee on Budget & Finance  
Where a bout's Unknown



**Jesus "Jess" Arino**  
Executive Secretary  
Deceased



**Eddie Miraflor**  
Treasurer  
Crimson Kimono Karate Club  
Where a bout's Unknown



**Carlito Lanada**  
Auditor  
Maharlika Kuntaw Association  
Residing in the United States



**Albert Joseph**  
Public Relations Officer  
Where a bout's Unknown



**Ben Beltrano**  
Martial Arts Association  
Where a bout's Unknown



**Antonio Logan**  
Nunchaku Karate Club  
Shorin-Kai Karate Dojo  
Deceased



**Ernesto Presas**  
Arjuken Karate Club  
Founded Kombatan  
Headquarters in Manila



**Jimmy Franco**  
Black Kimono Club  
Deceased



**Jimmy Galez**  
Black Master Spinx Karate Club  
Where a bout's Unknown



**Latino Gonzales**  
Okinawan Shorin-Ryu Karate Kyokai  
Philippine Amateur Karate Assoc.  
Deceased



**Remy Presas**

National amateur Karate Organization

Founded

Modern Arnis Federation

Deceased

### **Executive Technical and Officiating Panel**



**Emmanuel Querubin**

Retired

Oakland Police Department

Residing in the United States

(Currently working on first and only authoritative  
book on Sikaran)



**Raphael Luis Lledo Jr.**

Founded

Amara Arkanis

Co-Founder

Sword Stick Society (USA)

Residing in the United States



**Kuno Sasaki**

Japan Karate Assoc. pf the Philippines

Still Heads JKA of the Philippines



**Ceferion Vasquez Jr.**

Where a bout's Unknown





**Amado Lim**

Presently Director of  
Shorin-ryu of the PKF



**Rodolfo Oanes**

Killed in the line of Duty  
Philippine National Police



**Rodrigo Espiritu**

Retired - Philippine Navy  
Officer - Kapatirang Sikaran ng Pilipinas



**Maty Munieza**

Residing in the United States



**Joe Gumba**

Deceased



**Oscar Del Rosario**

Presently member of the PKF  
Officiating and Coaching staff



**Lorenzo Tayo**

Where a bout's Unknown

## March 7, 1973 - PAAF Probationary Member

The media took notice of the quality of play and the quality of officiating and started covering even minor Karate competitions. The PAAF officialdom also took cognizance of Karate. This cognizance culminated in the probationary acceptance of the Philippine Karate Association into the folds of the PAAF on March 7, 1973. It was the turning point for Karate. Should Karate make it and be an officially recognized national sport then the PKA can rest on its glory. But should it fail then everything is gone. Once provisional acceptance is withdrawn, PKA will find it doubly difficult, if not totally impossible to re-apply for membership. It was for Karate make or break.

In June 1973, the Second Palarong Pilipino was held with Karate only as a semi-official event due to the fact that it was only a probationary member of the PAAF. Unlike in the past, instead of mixed participation, this time regional champions from all over the country came to vie for the national crown. This fact proved that the PKA has maximized membership representing a more justified and more national representation.

The professionalism that the players and the officiating panel displayed impressed the PAAF and was given an excellent rating by the media.

Some quarters started celebrating what they believe is a sure acceptance of the PKA as a regular member of the PAAF. On the surface, everything seems to be going fine and dandy, but those on the know were well aware that it was not so. Some Karate leaders were jealous of what they perceived as undue importance and unlimited power Nagtalon was giving to Querubin and his group. Since they have no authority over the group they resented it more. They started bickering and complaining especially after they learned of a plan that promotion to black belt degree will be taken over by the PKA which they mistakenly thought will also be handled by Querubin's group. The truth of the matter was although the paperwork was being prepared by the group, actual examination and promotion will be handled by the Council of Administrators (Karate leaders), the same people who were protesting. This was one of Nagtalon's selling points in the formation of the PKA.

Mr. Dante Nagtalon  
President  
Philippine Karate  
Association  
M a n i l a

*This is to inform you that the PAAF Executive Committee at its meeting last Wednesday, March 7, 1973, approved the application of the Philippine Karate Association (PKA) for Probationary Member of the PAAF.*

*In this connection, we are enclosing herewith for your information and guidance, the list of Rights and Privileges of PAAF Probationary Members and a copy of Rep. Act 3135.*

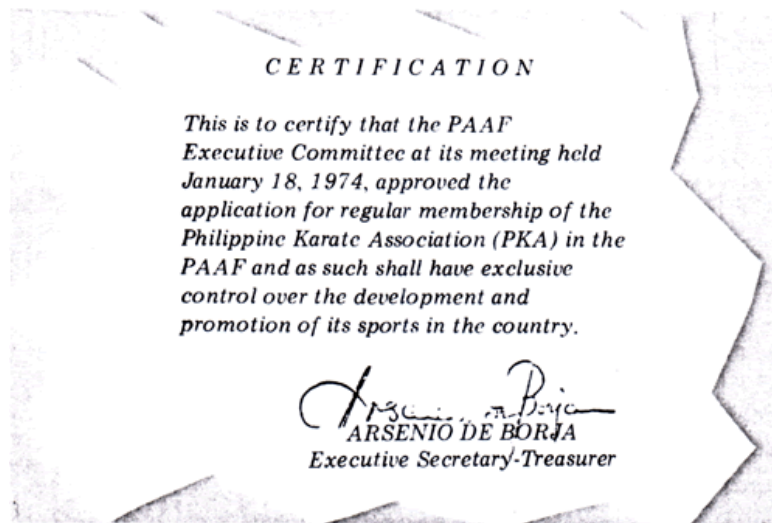
*I wish to take this opportunity to wish your Association and your Administration the best of everything.*

Very truly yours,

  
ARSENIO DE BORJA  
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

Nagtalon's energetic and all-encompassing leadership survived all the squabbles and proved to everybody that Karate leadership has at last matured.

### **January 8, 1974 - PKA an Official National Sports Organization Approved by PAAF**



Finally on January 8, 1974, the Philippine Karate Association demonstrated once more the stuff it is made of. The PAAF, not in a gesture of pressured action but in recognition of an excellent national sport organization accepted the PKA as its 21st member giving Karate an official status as a government recognized and sanctioned national sports organization. The

dream of unification and government sanction finally came true.

Through the PKA, great things are happening to Karate. New dimensions are shaping up. A brighter future awaits in the rising. Karate is moving ahead and the PKA is moving forward into the brave productive Karate controlling body that it is.

Readily apparent among the changes brought on, was the new appearance and spirit pervading the Karate environment – all manifesting the exhilarating spirit of concern, cooperation and unity under the PKA.

Even while the PKA was awaiting the approval of the PAAF, Dante Q. Nagtalon and Emmanuel Querubin were already working on something even bigger than anything else that the Philippine Karate world has seen before. First they secured the sanction of the WUKO as the official karate body in the Philippines. Second they tried to get WUKO to hold the 3rd World Karate Championship in Manila. However, WUKO was already committed to hold it in Long Beach, California in 1975.

In order to capitalize on the momentum created by the PAAF approval, the PKA officialdom agreed that an International Invitational Karate Championship instead will be held in the Philippines with the sanction of the WUKO.

### **1st Philippines International Invitational Karate Championships**

On June 19, 1974 to July 3, 1974 the PKA hosted the First Philippines International Invitational Karate Championships held in 5 different cities in the Philippines (Manila, Bacolod, Cebu, Davao and Baguio cities).

In order for Querubin to attend to all the assignments Nagtalon gave him and his group, it became necessary to delegate the title and functions of Chief Referee to Luis Raphael Lledo, Jr. on the occasion of the First Philippines International Invitational

Karate Championships. Lledo, thereafter was in charge of the International Referees' pool that included the Philippine's Kunio Sasaki and Amado de Vera, Japan's Hirokazu Kanazawa, and Ohru Arakawa, Okinawa's Seigi Shiroma, Katsuyuki Shimabukuro and Cesar Manacsa, China's Chow Lee Liang, Hong Kong's Kai Takahashi and Japan Goju-kan's Shuji Tasaki.



Ryoichi Sasakawa, (standing) welcomes the official delegates to the formation of the World Union of Karate-do Organizations (WUKO). Seated on his left is Federation of All Japan Karate-do Organizations (FAJKO) Eiichi Eriguchi. Extreme right with back turned to camera is Philippine Delegate Emmanuel Querubin. To his left is Meliton Geronimo.

For the first time in the history of Karate in the Philippines, Grandmasters Gogen Yamaguchi of Japan Goju-kai, Grandmaster Hwang Kee of Korean Moo Doo Kwan, Grandmaster Katsuya Miyahira of the Okinawan Shorin-ryu Karate Kyokai, Grandmaster Masatoshi Nakayama of Japan Karate Association, Master Eiichi Eriguchi, representing WUKO's President Ryoichi Sasakawa and Masters Kimio Itoh and Takashi Fujiwara of the Federation of All Japan Karate-do Organizations (FAJKO) were on hand to grace the affair. They were jointly received by Republic of

the Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos and Philippine Karate Association President Dante Q. Nagtalon.

Highlight of the affair was the conferring of the Honorary 9th Degree Red and White Belt on President Ferdinand Marcos by Grandmaster Gogen Yamaguchi of Japan's Goju-kai.

The spectacular affair was a stunning success not only for the PKA but also for the individual Karate leaders and players who developed a new sense of discipline and an awareness of responsibility for the common welfare.

In early 1975, regional tournaments were held to select the national team who will



President Ferdinand Marcos receives Honorary 9th Degree Black Belt from Grandmaster Gogen Yamaguchi of the Japan Goju-kan on the occasion of the First Philippines International Invitational Karate Championships. Back turned to camera is PKA President Dante Q. Nagtalon.

represent the Philippines in the 3rd World Karate Championships to be held at Long Beach, California, USA in September 1975.

The Philippine National Team was finally selected composed of regional champions. They were Priscilo dela Paz, representing the PKA national headquarters; Rogelio “Sison” Baula, representing Greater Manila; Philip Dizon, representing Central Luzon; Ruperto Torres, representing Southern Tagalog; Oscar Obsioma, representing Visayas and Evilio Dumagsa, representing Mindanao. Named national coach was Vic Tayo. However, Nagtalon made it clear that preparation and training of the national team was to be undertaken only by Querubin and his group. This revived the Karate leaders’ antagonism against Querubin and his group. But again Nagtalon will not be pressured to change his decision.

On September 25, 1975 the point men of PKA, composed of Dionisio “Johnny” Carranza PKA Vice-president for Visayas, Emmanuel Querubin Delegate to the 3rd World Karate Congress and Luis Raphael Lledo, Jr. International Referee arrived at Long Beach, California, USA. After a week-long hands-on training and examination, the trio were certified WUKO Class ‘A’ International Referees.

October 1975, marked the culmination of PKA’s dream. Querubin, on the occasion of the WUKO’s 3rd World Karate Congress was able to secure for Dante Q. Nagtalon the position of WUKO Director for Asia. The Philippine National Karate Team won 4th place in the 3rd World Karate Championships attended by 44 countries.



**Philippine National Karate Team**

3RD World Karate Championships

**Front row L-R:** Rogelio Sison Baula (Greater Manila) Presently bodyguard of a Saudi Arabian Royalty, Priscilo De La Paz (PKA National Headquarters) Retired from the Philippine National Police

**Back row L-R:** Philip Dizon (Central Luzon) Presently an Agent of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and Games and Amusement Board, Ruperto Torres (Southern Tagalog) Member of the PKF Officiating and Coaching Panel, Emmanuel Querubin (Delegate to the 3rd World Karate Congress) Retired from Oakland Police Department Presently residing in the USA working on First Authoritative Book on SIKARAN, Evilio Dumagsa (Mindanao) Unknown, Oscar Obsioma (Visayas) Unknown.



## **1st (Philippines) World Invitational Karate Tournament and Goodwill Matches**

On June 19 to July 3, 1974, the Filipino Karate enthusiasts were offered a ringside view of top-notch Karate competition. This 15-day affair was brought through the auspices of the Philippine Karate Association, the national governing body of Karate in the country. The meet was brought with the support and sanction of the Philippine Amateur Athletic Federation and the National Olympic Committee. The Sports Development of the Philippines and various government and private agencies and instrumentalities also backed up this spectacular sporting event.

No less than his Excellency President Ferdinand Marcos, endorsed and took active participation in this biggest happening for Philippine Karate. This tournament was indeed a very significant event - a memorable landmark in the history of Karate in the Philippines.

This is the first time that an international tournament of such magnitude was held in the country. This also was the first international Karate meet sanctioned and supported by the PAAF - the government agency charged with supervision over amateur sports and the World Union of Karate-do Organizations (WUKO), the world ruling body of Karate.

For the first time Karate, masers from Japan, Okinawa, and Korea were on hand to grace the affair.

Initially, the PKA plan was to invite a team from the countries associated with Karate, such as Japan, China, Okinawa (birth place of Karate) and Korea and a team from each continent. However, problems arose when politics entered the picture. After confirmation of participation by the South African team, the invitation was withdrawn after the Department of Foreign Affairs rejected it due to apartheid. The team from South America, to be represented by the Karate Association of Chile only sent an official, who arrived too late. Three teams from the United States claimed to be official representatives. To resolve the situation a team from the United States Navy stationed in the Philippines represented the USA. The only European team from Germany did not arrive as scheduled.

Despite the participation of only seven foreign teams, the First (Philippines) International Invitational Karate Tournament and Goodwill Matches was a resounding success.



President Ferdinand Marcos welcomes officials, delegates, players and guests on the occasion of the 1st International Invitational and Good Will Matches.



## Awards



President Ferdinand Marcos awards Grandmaster Cogen Yamaguchi of Japan Goju-Kan the Tamaraw award. Behind President Marcos is PKA President Dante Q. Nagtalon. Partly hidden is Gerry Quadra of the Department of Labor and PKA Advisor.



President Ferdinand Marcos awards Master Eiichi Eriguchi of the World Union of Karate-do Organizations (WUKO) the Tamaraw award.



President Ferdinand Marcos presents PKA Dante Q. Nagtalon Presidential Plaque of Recognition.



PKA council of administrators display their award on the occasion of the 1st Philippine International Invitational Karate Championships. L-R: Dionisio "Johnny" Carranza, Guillermo Lengzon, Eddie Mirafior, Jimmy Galez, Carlito Lanada, Latino Gonzales, Albert Joseph, Senator Ambrosio Padilla, PKA President Dante Q. Nagtalon, Jimmy Franco, Tony Logan, Kunio Sasaki, Remy Presas and Jose Gregorio.



Luis Raphael Lledo Jr. receives award as Philippines' youngest International Karate referee from Philippine Senator Ambrosio Padilla. Behind Lledo is Hong Kong Kai Takahashi, (middle - in dark shirt) is Okinawa's Seigi Shiroma, partly hidden by Padilla is Albert Joseph, PKA's Chairman for membership, extreme left is PKA President Dante Q. Nagtalon.



Japan's Hirokazu Kanzawa receives award from Senator Ambrosio Padilla.



United States team official Allan Crump receives award from Senator Ambrosio Padilla.



Japan's Tohru Arakawa receives award from Senator Ambrosio Padilla.



Johnny Chiuten, coach of the Eastern Visayas team receives award from PKA President Dante Q. Nagtalon.

## 1st World Invitational Karate Tournament and Goodwill Matches Teams

### Japan

Eiichi Erguchi - Official  
Kimio Iton - Official  
Takashi Fujiwara - Official  
Hirokazu Kanazawa - Official  
Tohru Arakawa - Official  
Norimasa Hayakawa - Official  
Akihito Isaka - Player  
Shinobu Tsuchiya - Player  
Kunio Murakami - Player  
Masahiko Tanaka - Player  
Yoshiharu Osaka - Player



Japanese team L-R: Norimasa Hayakawa, Yoshimaru Osaka, Shinobu Tsuchiya, Kunio Murakami, Masahiko Tanaka, Masatoshi Nakayama, Hirokazu Kanzaawa, Tohru Arakawa and Kimio Itoh.



Japanese team led by Shinobu Tsuchiya.

### Demonstrations



Japanese team demonstrating defense against multiple opponents.



Japanese team performs group Shotokan kata Hangetsu.



Hirokazu Kanazawa shows classical form of Shotokan karate.



## **Japan Goju-Kan**

Shuji Tasaki - Official  
Goshi Yamaguchi - Official  
Akio Takahashi - Official  
Suji Sugimoto - Player  
Katsuichi Ishihara - Player  
Machida Kazunobu - Player  
Giichi Tanaka - Player  
Takeshi Kaijyo - Player  
Miss Wakako Yamaguchi – Player

## **Okinawa**

Katsuyuki Shimabukuro - Official  
Seigi Shiroma - Referee Judge  
Caesar H. Manacsca - Official  
Morinobu Maeshiro - Captain  
Seikichi Higa - Player  
Kazuo Tamanaha - Player  
Yoshiaki Kohagura - Player  
Masamitsu Omine - Player



Masamitsu Omine of Okinawa against Earl Sullivan of the United States.



Seikichi Higa of Okinawa against Mitch Mignano of the United States. Hirokazu Kanazawa officiating.

## **China**

Chang Chi Chung - Official  
Chen Ching Shin - Official  
Chow Lee Liang - Official  
Johnny Chang Hsin Lein - Official  
Shian Juh Yeh - Captain  
Sheng-Yeou Her - Co-Captain  
Lu Shee Yeaul - Player  
Chen Chen - Player  
Her Yu Ming - Player



Handshake of friendship between Chen Chen of China and his unidentified Filipino opponent.



China's Chen Chen catches kicking leg of Japan's Shinobu Tsuchiya.



Republic of China team showing off their medals and trophy. L-R: Chen Chen, Shian Juh Yeh, Chang Chi Chung, Sheing Yeou Her, Chen Ching Shin and Johnny Chang Hsin Lein.



Republic of China team, L-R: Her Yu Ming, Shieng Yeou Her, unidentified muse, Shian Juh Yeh, Chen Chen and Lu Shee Yeaul.

### Demonstration



China's Shieng Yeou Her performs Shotokan kata Bassai Dai.

### Hong Kong

Kai Takahashi - Official  
Poon Chi Lung - Official  
Li Sa Li - Official  
Tong Kwok Ming - Player  
Kwok Chi Sun - Player  
Ho King Chee - Player  
Mak Tat Kwan - Player  
Shair Wah Kwan - Player



Hong Kong team, L-R: Mak Tat Kwan, Ho King Chee, Tong Kwok Ming, Shair Wah Kwan, Kai Takahashi (official) and Rudy Gumba (Philippine coordinator).

## Demonstration



Hong Kong team performs group Goju-ryu kata Sanchin as Kai Takahashi supervises.



Mak Tat Kwan of Hong Kong performs Goju-ryu kata Sanchin.

## Malaysia

Patrick Lim - Official  
 Jimmy Loh Tham Sang - Official  
 Casey Leong Say Hai - Official  
 Emmanuel ES Querubin - Official  
 Kam Chin Kuan - Player  
 Saik Wai Loon - Player  
 Kee Guan Beng - Player  
 Lim Chong Poh - Player  
 Chen Kok Hwa - Player  
 Kwok Sue Sang - Player  
 Seh Fook Meng - Player



Malaysian Karate team, L-R: Kee Guan Beng, Chen Kok Hwa, Seh Fook Meng, Jimmy Loh Tham Sang, Emmanuel Querubin (official), Saik Wai Loon, Kwok Sue Sang and Lim Chong Poh.



Malaysian team shows off their medals and trophy. First row L-R: Kee Guan Beng, Lim Chong Poh, Chen Kok Hwa, Kwok Sue Sang, and Seh Fook Meng. Second row L-R: Emmanuel Querubin, unidentified bystander, Saik Wai Loon, Dante Q. Nagtalon, Jerry Quadra, Jimmy Loh Tham Sang and Ben Beltrano.



### **West Germany**

Hideo Ochi - Official  
Peter Betz - Official  
Horst Handel - Captain  
Woflgang Hagedorn - Co-Captain  
Wolfdieter Wichmann - Player  
Norbert Dalkman - Player  
Burghard Rebmann - Player  
Jurgen Willrodt - Player  
Michael Strauch - Player  
Roland Lowinger - Player

### **United States**

Alan Crump - Official  
John Michael Hunt - Official  
Benjamin Kamaka - Player  
Dave Ramirez - Player  
Reginald Brooks - Player  
Roger Crisostomo - Player  
Mitach Mignano - Player  
Carl Beck Jr. - Player  
Joseph Rawls - Player  
Lyn Earl Priest - Player  
Earl Sullivan - Player  
Gary Smiley - Player



United States team L-R: Jay Ellis, Allan Crump, Carl Beck Jr. Mitch Mignano and Earl Sullivan.



Earl Sullivan of the United States against an unidentified opponent. Hirokazu Kanazawa officiating.



Allan Crump of the United States scores with a kick against Okinawa's Yoshiaki Kohagura. Hirokazu Kanazawa officiating.

**Philippines**  
**National President1al and Regional Teams**

**Team A**

Albert Joseph - manager  
Viecente L. Tayo Sr. - Coach  
Antonio U. Logan - Trainer  
Ruperto Torres - Player  
Ruben U. Suggang - Player  
Dan Clavo de Comer - Player  
Diosdado Calderon - Player  
Reynaldo Dizer - Player

**Presidential Team**

Raymund F. Johnson - Manager  
Kunio Saski - Coach  
Amado de Vera - Trainer  
Moises Aquino - Player  
Prescilo De La Paz - Player  
Alton tirol - Player  
Giovanni Guarino - Player  
Ricardo Dupo - Player

**Northern Luzon**

Fernando Bautista Jr. - Manager  
Bernabe Paragas - Coach  
Arsenio Bawingan Jr. - Trainer  
Ireneo Ocampo Jr. - Player  
Rodolfo Patao - Player  
Ambrose Sagalla - Player  
James Mastinggall - Player  
Ludovico Morillo - Player

**Eastern Visayas**

Moises Isma - Manager  
Johnny T. Chiuten Jr. - Coach  
Gerardo Alcuizar - Trainer  
Narciso Alino III - Player  
Oscar Obsiona - Player  
Teodulo Edig - Player  
Edgar Rodriguez - Player  
Benjamin Balmori - Player

Atty. Rodolfo Magnaye - Manager  
Lito Molina - Trainer  
Noel Flores - Player  
Virgilio Pili - Palyer

**Team B**

Benjamin Beltrano - Manager  
Vincente L. Tayo Sr. - Coach  
Antonio U. Logan - Trainer  
Rogelio Sison - Player  
Willie Sancho - Player  
Jerome Logan - Player  
Johnny Pintoy - Player  
Rodolfo Oanes - Player

**Central Luzon**

Sonny Pineda - Manager  
Juanito de Catro - Coach  
David Bernardo - Trainer  
Rogelio Mesina - Player  
Augusto Ong - Player  
Orlando Condono - Player  
Jaime Lanada - Player  
Loreto Villacarlos - Player

**Southern Luzon**

Emilo S. Tan - Manager  
Fr. Manuel R. Camu - Coach  
Juanito Diaz - Trainer  
Edgar Castaneda - Player  
Romy Moraleda - Player  
Bernabe Papa - Player  
Arturo Ranola - Player  
Wilfredo Misalas - Player

**Western Visayas**

Fernando Ngo - Manager  
Clemente Dumdum - Coach  
Romeo Dumdum - Trainer  
Wilfredo Leonor - Player  
Bobby Villaruz - Player  
Marcelo Bernas - Player  
Inocencio Glaraga - Player  
Erwin Cristales – Player

**Mindanao**

Orlando Catadman - Coach  
Prosperador Basan - Player  
Nestor Gaité - Player  
Namor Agcopra - Player



Philippine team led by flag bearer Rogelio "Sison" Baula.



Philippine team led by Ruperto Torres - left, and Ruben Sucgang - right.



Dan Clavo de Comer of the Philippines against Masahiko Tanaka of Japan. Amado de Vera is corner judge.



Philippines Inocencio Glasaga against China's Chen Chen.



Giovanni Guarino of the Philippines against an unidentified opponent.



Oscar Obsioma of the Philippines squares off with Chen Chen of China, officiating is Hirokazu Kanazawa.



Philippines Jerome Logan faces an unidentified opponent.



Philippine's Manny de Leon squares off with Japan's Masahiko Tanaka. Officiating is Kai Takahashi of Hong Kong.



Reynaldo Dizer of the Philippines scores with a reverse punch against China's Shieng Yeou Her. Officiating is Kai Takahashi of Hong Kong. Philippine's Luis Raphael Lledo is corner judge.



Oscar Obsioma of the Philippines receives trophy from PKA President Dante Q. Nagtalon.

### Demonstrations



Remy Presas, Founder of the International Modern Arnis Federation displays his expertise in the use of the Filipino live blade during the 1st Philippines International Invitational Karate Championships.



Members of the Modern Arnis Federation demonstrate the Filipino art of stick fighting (Arnis de Mano).



## **Official Tournament Rules Philippine Karate Association**

### **I. Match Area**

1. The match area shall have a flat surface with the necessary measures taken for the prevention of hazard.
2. The size of the match area, in principle shall be eight (8) meters square.
3. Two (2) parallel lines, each one (1) meter long, shall be drawn at a distance of 1.5 meters from and on both sides of the center point of the match area, perpendicular to the line where the referee stands at the beginning of the match and those shall be the standing lines for the contestants.
4. Borders of the contest area shall be marked with a white or other easily visible material.
5. In case internal contest area is elevated from the main floor, a ring with 4 rope strands (1" diameter each) shall be provided.
6. In case contest area is elevated, outer area shall be at least one meter away from borders of internal contest area.

### **II. Regulation Outfit**

1. The contestants shall wear clean, white and unfigured Karate suit and one of them shall fasten a white string while the other fasten a red string around their waist.
2. The contestants shall keep their nails short and shall not wear metallic objects or the like on his body which may cause injury to his opponent. In principle, the contestant is not allowed to wear bandages or supporters.
3. The contestants may not use devices for protection. However, safety devices may be permitted if so approved by the judges to prevent hazards.
4. In case body protectors shall be used, they must be of contrasting colors for easy identification.

### **III. Methods of Match**

1. The types of match shall be as follows:



- a. Individual Match
  - b. Team Match
- 2. The matches (both individual and team matches) shall be classified as follows:
  - a. First point match – the one who makes the first point is declared the winner.
  - b. Two out of three matches – the one who makes the first two points is declared the winner.
  - c. Time-limit match – the match is extended to the full two (2) minutes and the one who makes the most number of points is declared the winner.
- 3. The number of persons comprising a team shall be an odd number.
- 4. The team matches shall be conducted according to two methods:
  - a. Number of winners of individual matches – the final result shall be decided on the basis of the number of individual matches.
  - b. Successive winning matches – the winner emerging from an individual match shall continue to fight new contestants of the opposing team until he is defeated and the victory shall be awarded to the team whose member defeated the last contestant of the opposing team.
- 5. When a team ties with its opposing team, the decision shall be made on the basis of the result of an extra match conducted between the representatives of the contending teams.
- 6. The extra match shall be fought between one chosen representative from each team, repeatedly and successively until a winner is established. However, in case the number of extra matches is extended beyond two, the representative from each team shall be replaced by another member of each team.

#### **IV. Conduct of Matches**

- 1. The contestants shall take up their respective positions, make a bow to the officiating table, to one another and with the referee's signal of START, shall begin the match.
- 2. When a signal BREAK is given by the referee, the contestants shall return to their original position for further instructions, and resume at the referee's signal of START AGAIN.
- 3. When the referee signals TIME or THAT'S ALL, the contestants shall return to their original position and wait for the decision of the match. When the decision is given, they shall make a bow to each other and to the officiating table and the match is over.
- 4. Matches shall be conducted exclusively by the instruction of the referee.

#### **V. Tournament Officials**

- 1. The judgment of a match shall be made by the following:
  - a. 1 referee
  - b. 4 judges

2. The referees and judges shall have one vote each.
3. Other officials are:
  - a. An arbitrator to ensure the fairness of the conduct of matches and judgments rendered thereon.
  - b. Time-keeper
  - c. Scorer

#### **VI. Protest**

1. The contestants cannot personally protest to the judges against their decision.
2. When the decision given by the referee and the judges is suspected as having violated the Rules of the Match or the Rules of Judging, the responsible official of the team involved (ordinarily the manager) may protest to the arbitrator against the decision.
3. In case a situation not foreseen or the inapplicability of the existing rules on a given situation, the judges, referee and the arbitrator shall consult among themselves to find a solution thereto.
4. There shall be a 'Protest Fee' in the amount of P500.00 to be deposited with tournament officials prior to the start of the tournament.

#### **VII. Score**

1. Victory or defeat shall be awarded on the basis of a half-point, point, victory by decision, defeat due to a foul or disqualification.
2. The scoring areas shall be the following:
  - a. Chest
  - b. Abdomen
  - c. Back
  - d. sides

#### **VIII. Criteria for Deciding Points**

1. A Point shall be decided according to the following requirements:
  - a. When an exact, effective and powerful blow (punch, strike or kick) is delivered to the recognized areas under the following conditions:
    1. Good form
    2. Good attitude
    3. Proper timing
    4. Correct distancing
    5. Proper balance
  - b. Two half-points shall be considered a Point.
  - c. An effective technique delivered simultaneously with the time-up signal shall be counted into the score.
  - d. An effective technique delivered outside the prescribed match area shall be invalid. However, if the contestant delivering such a technique was within the boundary of the match area when t\he delivered the technique, it shall be considered as valid.

- e. Blows with open hand techniques, back-fist and hammer-fist shall not be counted as a point and/or half point.
- 2. Techniques delivered under the following conditions shall be considered as **Point** even if they were somewhat insufficient in power.
  - a. An attack delivered at the very nick of time when the opponent started to move toward the attacker.
  - b. An attack delivered at the very nick of time when the opponent was thrown off balance by the attacker.
  - c. A combination of successive and effective attacks.
  - d. A combined use of the punching and kicking techniques.
  - e. A combined use of the striking and throwing techniques.
  - f. When the opponent lost his fighting spirit and turned his back to the attacker.
  - g. Attacks delivered on the defenseless parts of the opponent.
- 3. Techniques delivered under the following conditions shall not be considered as Point:
  - a. Techniques delivered when both contestants are outside the match area.
  - b. Techniques delivered after the Time-Off signal.
  - c. When the contestant who delivered the blow loses his balance.
  - d. Throws as individual techniques shall not be considered as Point.

#### **IX. Criteria for Decision**

- 1. In the absence of Point, or defeat due to a foul or disqualification during the prescribed time of a match, a decision shall be awarded on the basis of the following:
  - a. Whether there has been a half-point.
  - b. Whether there has been a warning due a foul.
  - c. the number of escapes outside the match area.
  - d. the comparative excellence in the fighting attitude
  - e. the ability and skill
  - f. the degree of the vigor and fighting spirit
  - g. the number of attacking moves
  - h. the comparative excellence in the strategy used.

#### **X. Prohibited Acts and Techniques**

- 1. Direct attacks to the face and/or testicles. Direct attacks to the head and neck region.
- 2. Persistent attacks directly on the shin.
- 3. Direct attacks on the hip joint, the knee joints and the insteps.
- 4. Grabbing, clinching or bodily crashing against the opponent unnecessarily.
- 5. Dangerous throws or throws other than foot sweeps and reaps.
- 6. Excessive moving out of the match area or wasting time.
- 7. Any unsporting behavior such as abuses, provocation or needless utterances.
- 8. Attacks with the elbows and the knees.



9. Violation of rules set prior to the start of the tournament.
10. Each and every warning will be considered as a half-point deduction.

#### **XI. Foul and Disqualification**

1. When a contestant is about to or has already committed a prohibited act, the referee shall give him a warning or announce a foul.
2. In case the contestant, after having once been warned commits another act warranting another warning he shall be considered as having committed a foul.
3. When a foul has been announced, immediate disqualification shall be imposed on the party committing a Foul.
4. When a contestant commits an act falling under any of the following conditions, the referee shall announce the defeat of the offending contestant. If the members of the panel of judges so agree such a contestant may be barred from future matches:
  - a. In case a contestant fails to obey the orders of the referee;
  - b. In case a contestant becomes over-excited, to such an extent that he is considered by the referee as a danger to his opponent;
  - c. In case the act or acts of a contestant are considered as malicious, willfully violating the rules prohibiting them;
  - d. Other acts which are deemed violating the rules of the match and the code of sportsmanship.

#### **XII. Injuries or Accidents During the Match**

1. When a contestant who suffered a minor injury not serious enough to disenable him refuses to continue with the match or requests for permission to quit the match, he shall be declared the loser.
2. In case an injury sustained during the match for reasons not ascribable to one contestant disenabled one or in case both are injured at the same time for reasons for which both are responsible, the contestant who quits the match shall be declared the loser. In case the reasons causing the injury is not ascribable to any of the contestants, the match shall be declared a draw.
3. A contestant who is disenabled to continue to fight for reasons other than injury or who requested for permission to quit the match for such reasons shall be declared the loser.

#### **XIII. Power and Duty of Judges**

1. The panel of judges of a match shall comprise one referee and four judges.
2. The judges shall vested with the following power:
  - a. The referee shall have the sole power to conduct matches (including the announcing of the commencement and time-off of the match), to award Point for an accurate and effective technique or Half-point for a technique almost comparable to Point, to explain when necessary the grounds on which he awarded such decisions, to announce fouls, to issue warnings

(prior to or during the match), to take other disciplinary actions (to dismiss or suspend a contestant from a match) to obtain advice from judges, to decide victory by his casting vote in case of a tie decision and to extend the duration of matches.

- b. The judges shall take up their positions at prescribed location outside the match area, carrying a pair of flags (contrasting colors) and a whistle, and shall assist the referee, shall give their honest and independent opinion regarding the awards given, shall signal their judgment by means of flags or whistle regarding Point, Half-point, or Foul, and shall exercise their right to a vote for decision of matches.

#### **XIV. Starting, Suspending and Ending Matches**

1. The referee shall take up his position and following an exchange of bows between the contestants, the match shall start with the announcement by the referee of START.
2. When the referee observes and recognizes a technique executed by a contestant as POINT he shall so announce, stop the match and order the contestant to their original position.
3. When the referee observes a technique which he recognizes as not quite adequate for a Point but as effective, he shall so announce, stop the match and order the contestants to their original position.
4. When time is up or the match is finished, he shall so announce and order the contestants to their original position. Having allowed the judges time for weighing their judgment, he shall call for the judges' decision and shall decide the winner by majority vote. He shall then declare the winner by raising his hand on the side of the winner or call the match a draw. In such a case the judgment of the referee shall be reflected on the decision.
5. When faced with the following situations, the referee shall announce BREAK and halt the match temporarily and when resuming the match he shall announce START AGAIN. In case of necessity (as when the match is held up for more than ten seconds) the referee may instruct the time-keeper to deduct the time during which the match is held up from the match time.
  - a. When both or either of the contestants are out of the match area, the referee shall signal OUTSIDE and order the contestants to their original position and forthwith re-open the match.
  - b. When the referee orders the contestants to adjust their uniform.
  - c. When the referee notices a contestant about to commit a prohibited act or when he receives a signal from a judge regarding the same, the referee shall immediately stop the match and give a warning to the contestant against such act.
  - d. When a contestant commits a prohibited act or when the referee receives a signal from a judge regarding the same, the referee shall forthwith stop the match, call the judges together to determine whether the rules have been broken or not. In case of a

- foul, the referee shall declare the guilty contestant the loser due to a foul.
- e. When the referee deems that one or both of the contestants cannot continue with the match owing to injuries, illness or other causes, he shall immediately stop the match and call the judges together to decide as to whether the match should be continued.
6. The judge shall carefully observe the actions of the contestants within his range of vision and in the following case, he shall at once signal the referee by means of whistle or flag, correctly giving their opinion:
    - a. When he observed Point or Half-point.
    - b. When he notices that a contestant is about to commit or had committed a foul, or prohibited act.
    - c. When he found the injury or illness of a contestant before the referee noticed it.
    - d. When both or either of the contestants moved out of the match area.
    - e. In other cases when he deems it necessary to bring something to the attention of the referee.
  7. In case of a difference of opinion between the referee and the judges on a given matter, the judge can with the concurrence of other judges oppose the judgment of the referee.
  8. Each judge shall continuously evaluate the relative excellence of Karate manship of the contestants and form his opinion independently.
  9. When the referee calls for the decision, each of the judges shall give his opinion in the prescribed manner.
  10. The time-keeper shall give signals by a gong or buzzer indicating time-on or time-up. He shall raise a green flag indicating time-on and a yellow flag indicating time-off.

## **XV. Protest to the Arbitrator and Revision of Decision**

1. When a protest is made thru the arbitrator, the referee shall on behalf of the judges and himself explain to the arbitrator the circumstances and grounds on which his decision was made. In case the arbitrator demands a review of the decision, a revision or confirmation of the decision must be made on the basis of a full concurrence of the referee and the judges.
2. An arbitrator shall be appointed for each match. He shall oversee the operation of the match and the decision of the referee and when necessary, he may give his opinion to the referee.
3. When he receives a protest against a decision from the manager of a team to which the contestant belongs, he himself shall review the complaint, may call for an explanation of the referee and/or judges and in case he finds the decision patently unreasonable, he may demand the panel of the judges to revise its decision.
4. Matters relating to judgment not prescribed in these rules shall be discussed among the judges and the decision thus reached shall be referred to the arbitrator of the match and the chief judge for approval.

## **XVI. Rules for Operation**

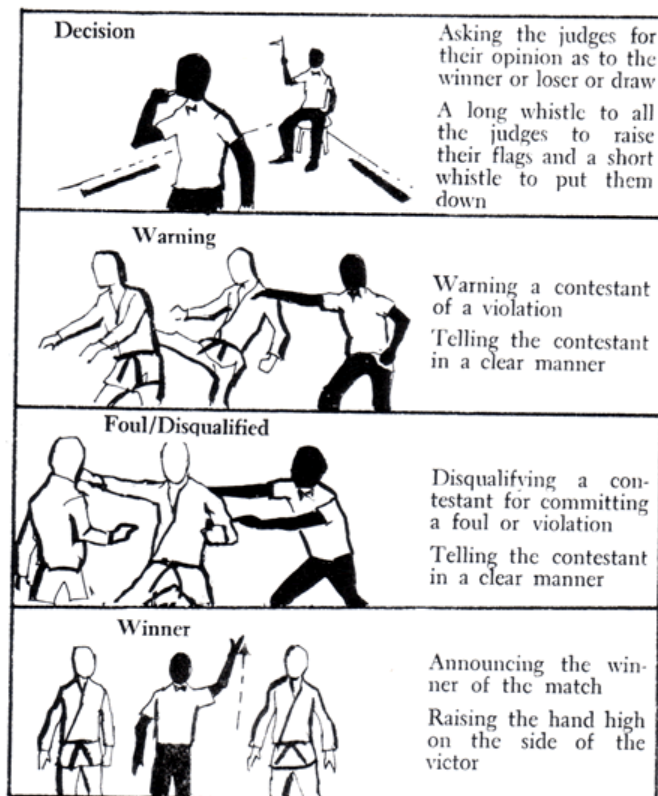
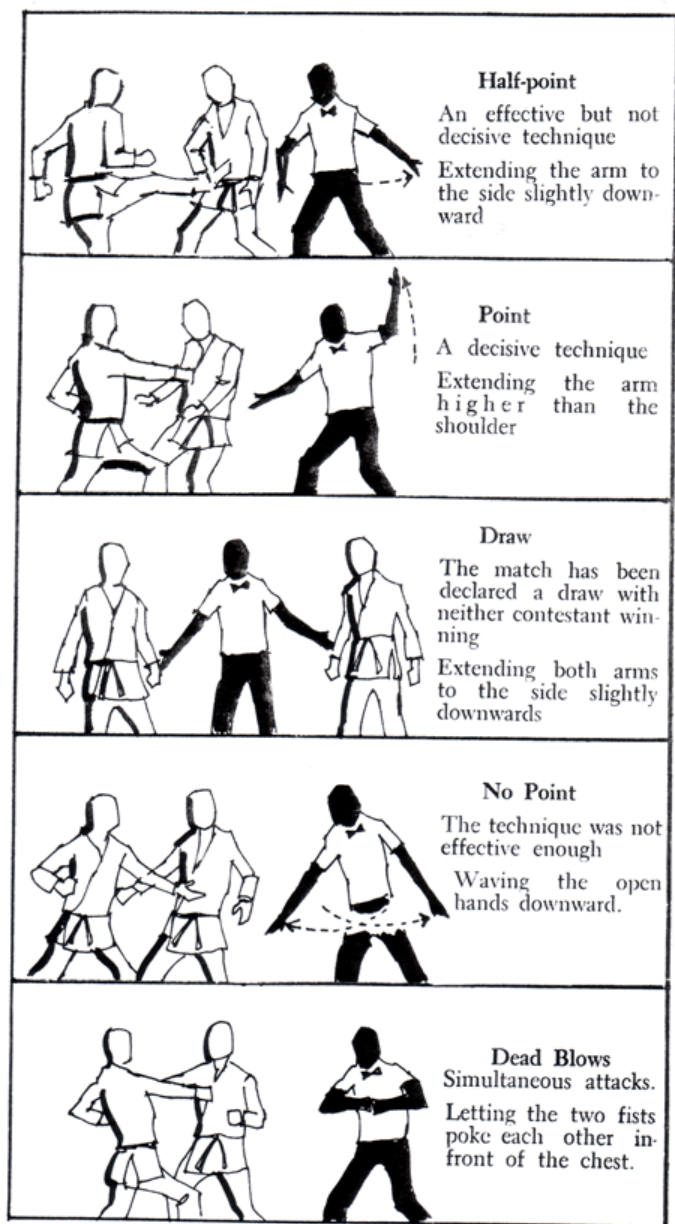
1. When a judge signaled (by flags or whistle) indicating an effective technique delivered by one of the contestants, the referee may ignore the signal and continue with the match. However, when two or more judges signaled likewise, he must suspend the match, listen to their opinion and render a decision on the match.
2. Only the referee shall have the authority to suspend or terminate the match. No one other than the referee shall be permitted to halt the match arbitrarily. An attack, even if effective, delivered after an order to stop the match shall not be recognized as such nor shall it constitute a base for decision.
3. When the contestants moved out of the match area, the match shall be considered effective until such time as the referee orders stoppage of the match.
4. The power of the arbitrator for supervision of the match shall include supervision, inspection and direction of the time-keeper and those of the record-keeper. Records kept at the match shall become official records subject to the approval of the arbitrator.
5. In case of disability of a judge owing to an accident or other causes, the arbitrator and the chief judge shall by mutual agreement nominate and assign a substitute judge to his place. The composition of a panel of judges cannot be changed at the discretion of the judges alone.
6. When a match develops into an in-fighting, with neither of the contestants delivering effective techniques, the referee shall call BREAK and separate the contestants. In this manner he shall take necessary precautions to prevent confusion or injuries.
7. When the match develops into a deadlock without the exchange of effective techniques between the contestants, the referee may temporarily stop the match, order them to their original position and then resume the match. When a contestant seizes his opponent by hands, the referee shall forthwith separate them.
8. The referee and the judges shall bear in mind the following points:
  - a. The referee and judges must conduct themselves impartially and fairly.
  - b. They must comport themselves with dignity and self-possession.
  - c. They must concentrate their full attention on the match and judge every action of the contestants correctly.
  - d. Propriety or lack of it, of the attitude and the moves of the referee and the judges taken in relation to the conduct of the matches and judgments thereon has an important bearing upon the reputation and public esteem of Karate. Their attitude and moves taken during the match must therefore be vigorous, agile and refined.
9. In case of an injury of any of the contestants, the referee shall at once halt the match and give the injured a prompt and effective treatment.

10. In case a contestant is deemed unable to continue with the match owing to the injury or any other physical reason on the basis of the advice of the resident physician or of the referee's own judgment, the referee shall terminate the match or suspend the injured from the match.

## XVII. Terms, Meanings and Signals used by Referees

TERM	MEANING	METHOD OF SIGNALLING
Start	Start of the match	Right hand is brought down in the middle of contestant
Break	Temporary stop of the match	Separating the contestants
Start Again	Resumption of the match	Bringing open hands together to the front.

That's All	The match is over	Separating the contestants
Continue	Resumption when the match has stopped without the order of the referee	Bringing the open hands together to the front
Outside	Informing the contestants they are outside the match area and ordering them back to their original position	Pointing to the border
Time-off	The signal to the time-keeper to stop time count	Making a letter T with both hands
Time-on	The signal to the time-keeper to continue time count	Pointing to the time



## XVIII. Methods of Signaling Used by the Judges

As the judge signals his opinion, he informs the referee by blowing the whistle:

**Point** – Holding out the flag higher than the shoulders with the arm extended.

**Half-Point** – Extending the arm sideways.

**Draw** – Crossing the two flags above the head.

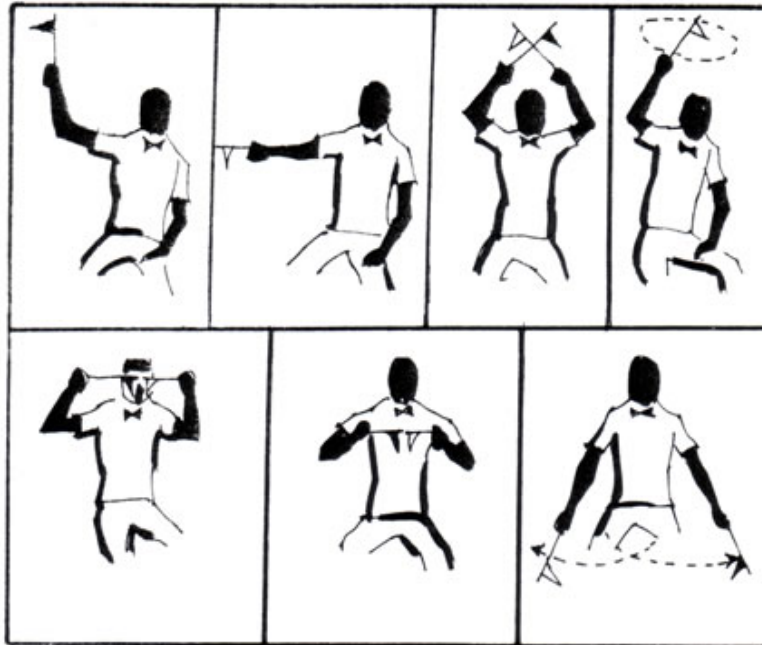
**Foul** – Turning the flag several times above the head.

**Blow not actually seen** – Covering both of the eyes with the flags.

**Dead Blows** – Poking the upper edges of the flags toward each other

in front of the chest.

**No Point** – Waving the flags downward.



### **XIX. Table for Judgment**

When the judges are required to indicate the winner, one vote by referee and one vote by the judge are equally regarded as a vote of the same quality.

1. W W W W - Victory of white
2. W W W R - Victory of white
3. W W W D - Victory of white
4. W W D D - Victory of white or a draw depending upon the judgment of the referee
5. R R R R - Victory of red
6. R R R W - Victory of red
7. R R R D - Victory of red
8. R R D D - Victory of red or draw depending upon the judgment of the referee
9. D D D D - Draw
10. W D D R - Draw
11. W W R R - Draw or victory of one depending upon the judgment of the referee
12. W D D D - Draw
13. R D D D - Draw
14. W W R D - Victory of white or draw depending upon the judgment of the referee
15. R R W D - Victory of red or draw depending upon the judgment of the referee



**The Referee and Judges must have authority and control to ensure fair competition in tournaments.**



Luis Raphael Lledo Jr., the PKA youngest International Referee in an animated pose. Lledo, himself a competitor above par prior to his "retirement" never fails to make his impact felt on any tournament by his ability to impose fair play and sportsmanship.



## **Unknown Pillars of Karate in the Philippines**

By Emmanuel ES Querubin

*“Choosing the role of anonymity, they have remained in the Background and away from the limelight”.*

Dante Q. Nagtalon has already been accorded by the sports historiographers several honorific epithets: Karate life-saver; First successful Karate Leader; Lion among men; personality not a person and other equally impressive titles. By consensus, Dante Q. Nagtalon, more than any other Karate leader, embodies a leadership genius.

Few, however, have adequately given time and took pains to find out what makes Dante Nagtalon, the successful leader that he is. Fewer still know the other many successful men who have helped and are helping Nagtalon in his fight for the cause of Karate; men whose success in their own particular field cannot be questioned or doubted; men who by their own choice have remained in the background and away from the Karate limelight; men like Nereo C. Andolong, Jose D. Aspiras, Godofredo C. Camacho, Gregorio S. Cendana, Manuel Collantes, Romeo F. Edu, Cesar S. de Guzman, Juan L. Manuel, Troadio T. Quiazon, Guillermo C. de Vega and the many others who have chosen the role of anonymity – The Unknown Pillars of Karate in the Philippines.

Dante Q. Nagtalon met the first unknown pillar during the Second World War.

In 1937, Dante Q. Nagtalon was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant in the Philippine Army. When the Second World War broke out, the Philippine Army was absorbed by the United States Armed Forces in the Far East (USAFFE). When Bataan fell to the Japanese the young Nagtalon was captured and eventually took part in the infamous Death March. Miraculously, he survived only to be sentenced to die while confined in the equally infamous Capas Concentration Camp.

Nagtalon managed to escape and joined the famed Maharlika (Noblemen) Guerillas then headed by Lt. Ferdinand Marcos. Starting as a junior officer, Nagtalon became the Maharlika's Assistant Operations Officer and later the Intelligence Officer of the Military Police Company of the Philippine Army under the USAFFE. Ferdinand Marcos rose to the Presidency of the Republic of the Philippines.

In the period between the war and Malacanang Palace, Ferdinand Marcos and Dante Q. Nagtalon, became very close friends. When Dante Nagtalon's son, Dennis, was born, Ferdinand Marcos was the Godfather.

When the Philippine Karate Association was formed, President Ferdinand Marcos became Dante Q. Nagtalon's biggest and staunchest supporter.

**Ferdinand Marcos**  
**President**  
**Republic of the Philippines**



**Nereo C. Andolong**  
General Manager  
Philippine Charity  
Sweepstakes Office



**Jose D. Aspiras**  
Secretary  
Dept. of Tourism



**Godofredo C. Camacho**  
Technical Assistant  
Office of the President



**Gregorio S. Cendana**  
Director  
National Media Production Center



**Manuel Collantes**  
Undersecretary  
Dept. of Foreign Affairs



**Romeo F. Edu**  
Commissioner  
Land Transportation Commission



**Cesar S. De Guzman**  
Chairman  
Board of Transportation



**Juan L. Manuel**  
Secretary  
Dept. Of Education & Culture



**Troadio T. Quiazon Jr.**  
Secretary  
Dept. of Trade



**Guillermo C. De Vega**  
Presidential Assistant

In 1986 when President Ferdinand Marcos was removed from office, the PAAF (re-named Department of Youth and Sports Development DYSD) was disbanded and replaced by another government agency, The Philippine Sports Commission. The Philippine Karate Association was disbanded ending Dante Q. Nagtalon's 16 year tenure as the first and only President of the PKA. A new association, the Philippine Karate Federation under a different leadership came into being.

## Philippine Amateur Karate Association

(Okinawa Shorin-Ryu Karate Association)

(United Karate-Do Association)

(Commando Self-Defense Club)

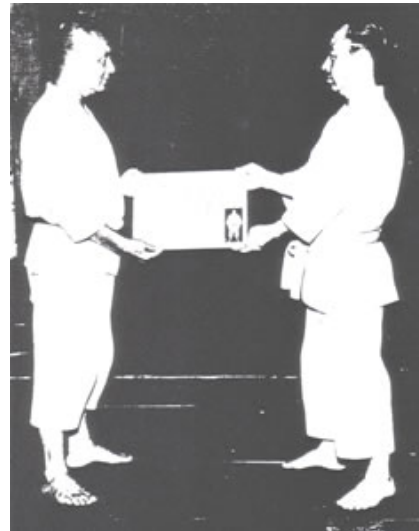


Latino Gonzales is known as the “Grand Old Man” of Karate in the Philippines. In the mid 1950’s he established the first commercial self-defense club in the Philippines, which he called the Commando Self-Defense Club. He taught Arnis de Mano, his version of Filipino Ditso (Ju-jitsu) and Kodokan Judo. Assisting him were his sons Rolando and Roberto, both experts in the fighting arts. Latino started teaching the Kyukoshinkai style of Japanese Karate but later switched to the Shorin-ryu style of Okinawan Karate. In 1958 he formed the Philippine Amateur Karate Association.

To upgrade his style of Okinawan Karate, Gonzales availed of the services of Seikichi Iha, a senior instructor in the Miyahira Shorin-ryu Karate Association. After Iha, the PAKA also took advantage of another Shorin-ryu instructor in the person of Seigi Shiroma.

Grandmaster Katsuya Miyahira of the Okinawa Shorin-ryu Karate Kyokai visited Latino Gonzales frequently to check on the progress of Shorin-ryu Karate in the Philippines. When Miyahira was promoted to the 10th Degree Red Belt, he assumed the leadership of the Shorin-ryu Karate system in Okinawa. Latino Gonzales was promoted to the 9th Degree while Roberto and Rolando were promoted to the 7th Degree.

Roberto Gonzales authored a book in Shorin-ryu entitled Karate Complete.



Latino Gonzales receives his promotion from Grandmaster Katsuya Miyahira.

After Latino Gonzales retired from the politics of Karate, he moved to the United States and left the administration of the Okinawa Shorin-ryu Karate to his sons. Although Shorin-ryu is still a very popular style in the Philippines and is being propagated by Latino Gonzales’ senior students, the association he founded is gone. In its place are several factions headed by his breakaway disciples.

Latino Gonzales passed away peacefully in the United States.



Angelina Galvez, the karate "Tigress" with Grandmaster Katsuya Miyahira of the Okinawa Shorin-Ryu Karate Kyokai.



Roberto Gonzales left - spars with his brother Rolando.

## Karate Code of Conduct

**By: Dante Q. Nagtalon**  
**President**  
**Philippine Karate Association**

I will uphold and obey the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines and subsequent laws promulgated under it and the Constitution and By-Laws of the Philippine Karate Association.



I will defend my country, the established government and the democratic principles it stands for.

I will safeguard and preserve my cultural heritage and the natural resources of my country.

I will promote sportsmanship and understanding among my countrymen in conformity with the ideals of the New Society.

I will strive to unite all efforts to direct and develop Karate-do toward the common goal of peace for mankind.

I will lead a life of righteousness ever ready to come to the aid of the weak and the oppressed.

I will use my knowledge of Karate-do only as an instrument of extreme self-defense.

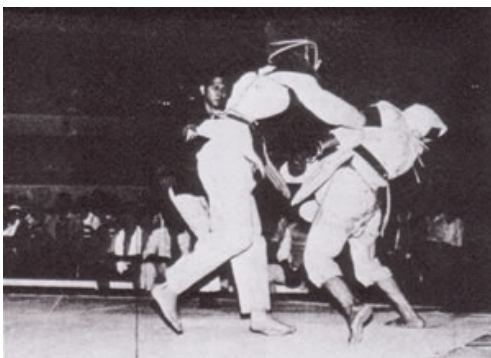
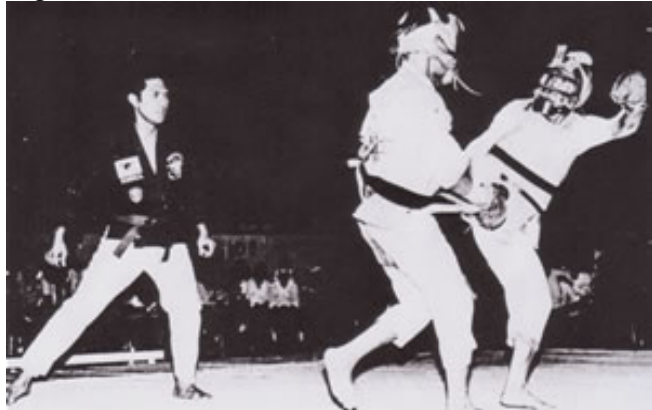
I will appreciate other styles and arts that may be different from mine.

I will strive for the spiritual and physical perfection of Karate-do as a way of life.

I will adhere to the principles of the Golden Rule.

**To all these I pledge my life and honor, to God and my Country.**

To avoid serious injuries in this full-contact tournament, the Asian Karate Association requires the use of protective gear.



Luis Raphael Lledo Jr. officiating bout between  
Her Yu Ming of China (facing camera) and Masamitsu Omine of Okinawa.



PKA is now the PKF



**MEMBER**



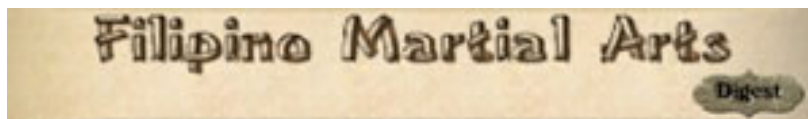
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