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In memory of Shihan Kato,

The news of the passing of our leading master and instructor, Sadashige Kato Shihan (9th dan) has absolutely shocked and devastated me.

I would like to express my condolences on behalf of IJKA and the members of this community to his family, to the international world of karate and to everyone who will miss him dearly .

In November 2017, he appointed me as the President of World Association of IJKA in Mosonmagyaróvár. It was one of the greatest honor and one of the most important moments of my life in diplomacy.

Our 25-year long friendship was built on mutual respect, trust and the love of life. I always admired his dedication to and knowledge of karate and his personal traits.

He acquired the techniques of this sport perfectly and understood the spirit of it. He also shared his knowledge in the best way possible with everyone who was willing to learn from him. It did not matter for him whether their belts were white or black.

Kato Sadashige Shihan held seminars around the world. Thousands of masters and students followed him around the world in order to watch him teach, listen to his instructions and follow his mindset. He held this amazing organization together with his tireless work and travelled to far-away lands and countries so that he could share his knowledge with as many athletes as possible and strengthen their love of karate and the essence of its spirit.

This year we were planning to organize an international seminar even bigger than the previous ones. We wanted to invite karate athletes of even more nations to increase the prestige and recognition of IJKA in the world of professional sports. Unfortunately, life has overridden our plans.

Losing Kato Shihan is tragic not only for IJKA, but for the world of karate as a whole.

We have lost a great master, a mentor and a dear friend.

Kato Shihan, you will forever remain in our memories. We are continuing on the path you have shown us and we are carrying on with your legacy.

Shihan Kato, my friend, my mentor, my master, you will be dearly missed, but you live on in my memories, my heart and my soul forever.

Rest in peace, Kato Shihan!

Avnija Hafuzi

President of World Association of IJKA

