

Asia Zone Referee Seminar Report

This is a report on the Asia Zone Referee Seminar hosted by FIK, held in Taipei, Taiwan on March 1st and 2nd.

The seminar was conducted by Head Instructor: Hanshi Koda (Ibaraki), Instructor for 7th Dan and above: Hanshi Yamazaki (Aichi), Instructor for 6th Dan and below: Hanshi Funatsu (Osaka).

Two people from Australia, Kuramochi Sensei and Fukuda, participated.

The instructors and organizers gave a lecture on the necessity and importance of referees from Asian countries other than Japan and Korea, as well as the identification and training of referee candidates for the 2027 WKC, and the official announcement of the 2026 AOKC.

During the practical training,

- ① We returned from the provisional rules to the regular rules, but many questions and opinions were exchanged on the difficult decision to resolve the tsuba-gakari-ai.
- ② We also observed that if ① is not well-familiar, many discrepancies occur in the judgment of fouls.
- ③ I also learned that if I am too distracted by ①, it can affect my judging of friendly strikes.
- ④ I learned a lot from watching the practical techniques of the students who participated, including Yamamoto Hanshi, Yamanaka Hanshi, Terachi Hanshi, Miyazaki Hanshi, and Ijima Hanshi, and I would like to make use of the importance and necessity of what I learned in our many conversations in my future refereeing.
- ⑤ Overall, I felt that there is a big difference in refereeing skills between Japanese teachers and Asian teachers.
- ⑥ I have gained a lot of experience, and I hope to be able to spread the skills and knowledge I acquired by participating this time to Australian kendo practitioners.

That concludes Fukuda's participation report.