

My Uchideshi Days --- 2015.04.25-2015.05.24  
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I heard about the Kobayashi dojo's uchideshi program first from my sensei, János Virga in Tatabánya (Hungary). I always dreamed about a travel to Japan and as much I heard about it from my sensei, I started to think, that now I really might have a chance to fulfill this dream. We contacted Balázs Szabó (MKDE president), who was currently in Japan and asked him about some details. He also gave me Hiroaki Kobayashi sensei's (Dojocho) email address and after some email change my visit was approved. Hiroaki sensei proposed a date in April and sent me all the documents about the uchideshi program.

When I arrived to Japan, Balázs helped me to get to the dojo from the airport and explained me the travelling methods.



When we arrived to the Tokorozawa dojo the afternoon practice was ongoing, so we waited until it is finished. Balázs introduced me to Hiroaki sensei and to Recep Büyükgüzel, who was already 2 years ago uchideshi. I also met with my uchideshi mates, with Alejandro and Juan (son of Alejandro) from Uruguay.

While I was watching the first practice, I understood, how different is the training in Japan from a training in Hungary. All the participants

were amazing.

My first training started in the evening. The weather was really good, about 32 degrees and the humidity was also higher, then in my country. It took me nearly a week, until my body adapted to the new weather conditions.

After that point I was able to enjoy the the trainings. I really enjoyed it, senseis were showing amazing technics, all of them were so high ranked, which I have never seen before. I really enjoyed it.

The uchideshi life was not easy, but I really liked it. So-shihan's practice was amazing, I was amazed about his movements and his training methods, he is a really great sensei with huge knowledge. I'm really happy, that I was able to attend to his practices.

Some people can find the tasks of an uchideshi really hard, but I received so much from the senseis and also from the other people on the practices, so when I was tired, had an injury or felt not well, I always told to myself, that this is nothing compared to that amount of knowledge and training, what I receive on every practice.

And we received also much more. The first amazing trip was to Imawa, where we were able to see Moriteru Ueshiba Doshu's



demonstration in Morihei Ueshiba's aiki shire and after it, the Kobayashi dojo organized lunch, a picture with the Doshu and we also visited the shire on the hill, where o'sensei spent much time.



Yuji Kasahara sensei also organized a trip on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of Golden Week, when after a practice we visited a taiwan style temple. I really enjoyed it and as the picture shows, everyone.

On the same week's wednesday Masuda Manabu sensei showed us his dojo and we were able to participate nearly one week on his trainings and on Monday he organised a trip for us with Mikio Kobayashi sensei to Nikko, which is part of the World's heritages. We were able to visit the beautiful shires and temples and also the 1<sup>st</sup> shogun's grave and the 3<sup>rd</sup> shogun's shire.



The largest event was the 53<sup>rd</sup> All-Japan Aikido Demonstration in Nippon Budokan. I have never believed that I ever would be able to participate on such an event, with nearly all member of the Kobayashi dojos.

The 1 month, what I was able to spend in Japan was a dream. I received so much. The practices were amazing, I tried to learn as much as possible from the senseis

and they also taught me, how the life of a dojo looks like.

They are not people, who are participating on a place. They are a family. They take care of each other. We also learned about the culture and the all-days of japanishe people.

There is no word, which could describe, how grateful I am for everything, what I experinced during this 1 month.

I know, that I made many mistakes and I really felt sad about them, but I always tried to do my best, to fulfill each request according my best knowledge. Thinking back to each day, I can feel myself so lucky, that I was able to be participate for a short period among these wonderful people.

”Ima made Soshihan, Hiroaki sensei, Masuda sensei, Kasahara sensei, Koyanagi sensei, Mikio sensei, minasan, honto ni arigatou gozaimashita”

