



International IMGKA Master's Seminar – Vila Nova de Gaia - Portugal

# INTERNATIONAL IMGKA MASTER'S SEMINAR



國際明武館剛柔流空手道連盟



**AKIHITO YAGI**

9th DAN (HANSHI)  
CHAIRMAN OF IMGKA

**MEITATSU YAGI**

10th DAN (HANSHI)  
SOUKE OF IMGKA

## PORTUGAL 8/9 JUNE 2024

Inscrições em: [www.meibukanportugal.com](http://www.meibukanportugal.com)



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Message from Sensei Ricardo Leite, Chief Instructor

Dear friends,

I'm delighted to announce that the International IMGKA Master's Seminar will be held on 8 and 9 June in Vila Nova de Gaia, with Souke Meitatsu Yagi 10th Dan and Hanshi Akihito Yagi 9th Dan in attendance.

Souke Meitatsu Yagi is second in line to Meibukan Gojyu-Ryu karate-Do.

The first was his father, the great master Meitoku Yagi, founder of IMGKA and direct student of Sensei Chojun Miyagi, creator of the Gojyu-Ryu style.

It will be the first time that Portugal receives a visit from such an illustrious master, who has the title of "Person of Cultural Merit" awarded by the prefecture of Okinawa.

Souke Meitatsu Yagi will come with his son, Hanshi Akihito Yagi, 3rd in the line of succession to Meibukan Gojyu-Ryu. Hanshi Akihito Yagi is the current president of IMGKA and is ultimately responsible for the fate of this great international organization.

It will be the second time that we receive a visit from Hanshi Akihito Yagi and it will certainly be, like last year, another great moment of learning, sharing and conviviality.

To all the practitioners, coaches, managers, and family members who accompany them and live the art of Karate Do with enthusiasm, I want to express my appreciation and invite all of you to be part of this amazing event and share with us the true essence of karate.

I wish you all great moments of practice, learning, sharing, conviviality and friendship.  
We are waiting for you!

Sensei Ricardo Leite, Chief Instructor

*Ricardo Leite*







## **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF VILA NOVA DE GAIA**

### **WELCOME TO VILA NOVA DE GAIA**

It is with a huge honor that Vila Nova de Gaia will host, on the 8th and 9th of June, the International IMGKA Master's Seminar, an event that comes to our city through the hands of the Dojo VILAGAIA/Meibukan Portugal team. Welcome to this magnificent city.

Over time, Vila Nova de Gaia has established itself as a destination of choice. One of its distinct marks, in a territorial context, is its Historic Center, an emblematic place where its streets intertwine in an almost rustic way, with its warehouses that house the famous Port wine. Visiting Vila Nova de Gaia means discovering a diversity of points of interest that extend throughout the entire municipality, from the award-winning beaches with extensive walkways, to the lush green parks. Gaia provides those who visit it with unique moments and a gastronomic and ethnographic richness that delights the senses. During your stay, be sure to discover these extraordinary potentialities.

To the organizers, I extend my sincerest congratulations for knowing how to masterfully execute an event of this magnitude. To the athletes, participants and everyone interested in general, enjoy, make the most of it and know that you will always be an example of overcoming and determination.

Finally, I leave a special message for those who will be here for the first time. Visiting Vila Nova de Gaia means experiencing moments of leisure and entertainment that intensely mark people's experiences and, little by little, harmonize with the city's euphoria. Whether you stay for a day or a week, one promise is guaranteed: Vila Nova de Gaia will never leave your memory!

**Best regards,  
Eduardo Vítor Rodrigues  
President of the City Council of Vila Nova de Gaia**



**2<sup>nd</sup> Souke Meitatsu Yagi, Sensei**

2nd Souke Master Meitatsu Yagi, 10th Dan is the eldest son of the late Grand Master Dai Sensei Meitoku Yagi founder and 1st Souke of Meibukan Goju-Ryu. Souke Meitatsu Yagi began his training under his father in 1949 at the age of five years old, he didn't read books or watch training videos to gain his expertise in Karate. He was being tutored directly by Dai Sensei Meitoku Yagi. By training under his only teacher, his father, for over fifty years, he was groomed and trained to carry on the legacy of Meibukan Goju-Ryu Karate. One of Souke Meitatsu Yagi's goals has been to spread Meibukan Goju-Ryu Karate throughout the world whenever possible. This being said, Souke Meitatsu Yagi has lived, worked, initiated new dojos and taught Meibukan Goju-Ryu outside of Okinawa and around the world. Souke Meitatsu Yagi lived in the US from 1964 to 1970; in Guam 1971 to 1975; in Saipan 1995 to 1997 and in the Philippines 1997 to 1998.



**Hanshi Akihito Yagi, Sensei**

Akihito Yagi, Hanshi, 9th Dan, is the oldest son of Souke Meitatsu Yagi Sensei. He began training in Karate at the age of three. First under his grandfather, and then later under his father. He is the current President of the IMGKA. Continuing the work begun by his father, Hanshi Akihito Yagi travels all over the world to teach seminars on traditional Meibukan Goju-Ryu Karate. He has a teaching style that reflects his affection for others, growing and learning together. Alongside his father, Hanshi Akihito Yagi is the current General Secretary of the Okinawa Karate Kobudo Association and has recently been voted into a second term with this organization. Hanshi Akihito Yagi has been assisting promoting tourism in Japan and has been working with both Japan Tourism on various projects promoting Okinawa and Japan around the world. Hanshi Akihito Yagi is not only a great martial artist but also a lover of music and all things Elvis. He has been a past spokesperson for Orion Beer as well. Of most notoriety he was one of the stars of the movie "Kuro Obi-Black Belt", as well as the author of the children's book "Karate Man".



## **VILA NOVA DE GAIA**

Vila Nova de Gaia is a municipality belonging to the Metropolitan Area of Porto. Located in the district of Porto, the city is in the Northern Region of Portugal.

With 300.000 inhabitants it is the most populated municipality in the North Region and one of the most populated municipalities in the country.

Vila Nova de Gaia has been known nationally and internationally for its Porto wine companies for centuries. However, other industries (cars and glass) help the municipality to be acknowledge due to their economic weight.

Vila Nova de Gaia is also a land of artists. Sculptors as Soares dos Reis (n. 1847- f. 1889), and Teixeira Lopes (n. 1866- f. 1942); writers as Maria Alberta Menéres (n. 1930 – f. 2019), and Diogo de Macedo (n. 1889- f. 1959) are key figures of portuguese culture, born in the municipality.

Some athletes from Vila Nova de Gaia have also distinguished themselves by their brilliant careers. Cases such as Vanessa Fernandes (Olympic triathlete medalist), her father Venceslau Fernandes (winner of Volta a Portugal, Cycling Tour at 39 years old) and Vítor Baía (former international goalkeeper and one of the players with most trophies won in the world).

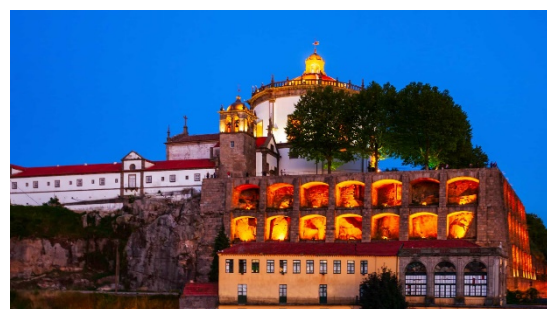


TODO UM MUNDO

## WHAT TO VISIT

Vila Nova de Gaia has a privileged geographical location, with over 15km of Atlantic coastline and almost 2 dozen beaches distinguished with “Blue Flag” for their environmental quality.

The Riverside area, on the south bank of the Douro River, in front of the city of Porto, is the welcome card of the district and must-see site. Here, you can find the well know Port wine cellars and know more about its history.







## **PORTO AIRPORT**

The International Airport Francisco Sá Carneiro is about 20km away of the event venue, Pavilhão da Escola Almeida Garrett – Vila Nova de Gaia. It should take you around 20min to reach by car, taxi, or uber. There is also the possibility to catch the subway.

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

- March 1st: Online Registration available
  - From March 1<sup>st</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup> all registrations will benefit from a 50% discount (60€ both days)
  - Groups of 5 or more participants from the same dojo/association will benefit from an additional 10% discount
- June 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, International IMGKA Master's Seminar
- June 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, Private classes on the Hombu Dojo Vilagaia (20€ each)

## **REGISTRATIONS**

The registrations will be open on March 1st of 2024 through this link: (not yet available)

The registrations can be done either individually or by a group. A group registration is valid when a Dojo/Association signs a minimum number of 5 participants.

After the registration, within 5 days, we will reach you by email with the payment details. If you register as a group, the email will be sent to your Dojo/Association or its representative. The registration will be concluded upon receipt of proof of payment.

## **EVENT VENUE**

Escola Básica Anes de Cernache - Escola Básica de Vilar de Andorinho

[https://maps.app.goo.gl/pKJfQonsUDNX6V4D6?g\\_st=iw](https://maps.app.goo.gl/pKJfQonsUDNX6V4D6?g_st=iw)

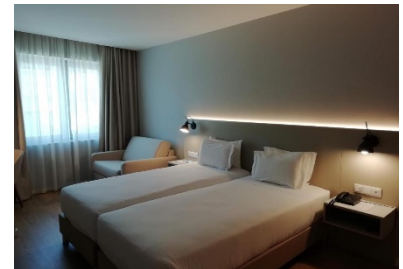


## **MEALS**

The organization will provide lunch at the event venue to all participants who choose that option in the online registration. You must choose between a dish of meat, fish or vegan. You can also pick a dish to your family and friends if they join you for lunch. The meals will be self-service, and each meal will cost 8€ per person (includes a dish, drink, dessert and coffee).

## **ACCOMMODATION**

The organization established a partnership with Clip Hotel in Vila Nova de Gaia. There will be discounts available to who registers through our online form. Following the form, we will reach out to you with more details about your accommodation.



## **MERCHANDISE**

At the event venue there will be merchandise available for purchase. However, you can acquire your t-shirt at the moment of the online registration for 15€. At the event venue the t-shirt will have a price of 20€.

A preview of the official t-shirt will soon be available on the website of Meibukan Portugal.

The following will be available:

- Official t-shirt of the seminar
- T- shirt Meibukan Portugal
- Jackets Meibukan Portugal
- Other items



## **SCHEDULE**

### **WEDNESDAY JUNE 5<sup>TH</sup> and THURSDAY JUNE 6<sup>TH</sup>**

**19h - 20:30h – Private classes at Hombu Dojo Vilagaia**

### **SATURDAY JUNE 8<sup>TH</sup>**

**08h – Reception/Registration of the participants**

**09h / 11h – All graduations 12 years old and above**

**11h / 11:20h - Dojo/Group photo (Stay for the opening ceremony)**

**11:30h – Open ceremony**

**12h / 12:45h – All graduations up to 11 years old (**Arrive at 11h**)**

**12:45h / 13h - Dojo/Group photo**

**13h / 14:30h – Lunch break**

**15h / 17h – All graduations 12 years old and above**

**17h/17:30h - Dojo/Group/Individual photos**

**17:30h / 18:00h - Autograph session**

**19:30h – Welcome dinner (Members of Meibukan Portugal and guests)**

### **SUNDAY JUNE 9<sup>TH</sup>**

**08:30h – Reception/Registration of the participants**

**9h / 11h – All graduations 12 years old and above**

**11h / 11:20h - Dojo/Group photo**

**11:30h/12:15h – All graduations and all ages (Seminar closing training session)**

**12:15h / 12:30h – Closing seminar photos**

**12:30h / 14h – Lunch break**

**14:30h / 17h – Graduation exams (Hombu Dojo Vilagaia)**

**20h – Sayonara Party**

## **INFORMATION**

All information related to the seminar will be available on our website:

<https://www.meibukanportugal.com/>

Any doubts or questions will be answered by the event organization.

For any additional information please reach out to +351 913 602 139 / +351 969 456 832, or through our email [geral.meibukanportugal@gmail.com](mailto:geral.meibukanportugal@gmail.com) (preferential)