

Visit to Hombu Dojo, October 2015

Report by Samuel Hui

In June 2015, I started planning to visit again and practise in Hombu Dojo in October. During the conversation with friends in the Association, I found that there are others who also were planning to go to Hombu dojo for practice in this year. Finally, I joined the team which consisted of Steve, Justin, Felicia, Oscar and me.

There were five main objectives in this trip to Hombu:-

1. As an Aikido practitioner, it was necessary for me to go to Hombu to experience and to receive training. This trip realized that I came to perceive the teaching and demonstration of various Shihans.
2. Some of the members met with and paid our respects to Doshu.
3. We met with Mr. Tani and Mr. Barudi of the International Department of Hombu and updated them on the activities of and developments within the Association over the past year.
4. We had a dinner with Sugawara Shihan and discussed HKAA matters.
5. We visited the Gakushuin University's Aikido dojo where Mr. Arita (a former Chief instructor of HKAA) provided teaching on Aikido. We practised with the students there and built up friendship.

With excitement and pleasure, I appreciated much that my trip to Hombu Dojo this time was sponsored by the Association. Although it was a weekend when we reached, we have joined the training in four classes. Since the third day of the trip was a Japanese public holiday, we took a break and walked around the city and bought some daily necessities. Then, from the fourth day to the seventh day we joined more than ten classes in different time slots.

During the six days of training in Hombu Dojo, it was very beneficial to my Aikido technique and skill from the teaching of various Shihans and from the practice with the practitioners in Hombu Dojo both from Japan locally and from other foreign countries.

Besides experiencing other practitioners' technique and skill in the classes, I could feel also their respect and passion to Aikido. For instance, they put on very neat Dogi and warmed up spontaneously in order to get ready as soon as possible before each class. They did not speak much while they were practising with focus in each class. They felt responsible to clean up the Dojo immediately after each class so that the dojo would be ready for the next class. Besides learning technique of Aikido, I think it is necessary to improve our quality by learning how they respect and treasure Aikido.