

It is for me an honour and a privilege to pay homage to our Italian companions karatekas about these 10 years of successful work, to Tora Kan, Honbu Dojo IOGKF Italy, and very specially to my dear friend Sensei Paolo Spongia, whose devotion and knowledge have made possible the recognition of karate not only in Italy, but at international level during these last 20 years.

We all know the difficulties related to create, manage and maintain dojo and, above all, making karate a recognized and valued sport.

Tora Kan, led by Paolo, has been an example for all during these 20 years of trajectory; 20 years of hard work that today are compensated. I believe that Italy must feel proud of the inestimable and disinterested work made by Paolo, an expert of this sport that owns greatest confidence and is held in high esteem among karatekas worldwide.



Recently we have been witnesses once again of the professionalism of Paolo in Spain and its delivery and respect to karate in the past Gasshuku that we have celebrated in Murcia. Paolo and his group honoured us with its inestimable presence that gave us and all those that organized this event a pleasing memory, since they not only showed us that they are good connoisseurs of the tradition of karate, but their affection and cordiality that have been marked in our memory.

The Italian IOGKF, that celebrates with enthusiasm its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, always maintained the interest by the traditional lessons and the safeguard of the traditional techniques that Sensei Morio Higaonna transmits us continuously from the origins of the IOGKF.

We must congratulate us by these years of matchless trajectory, not only the protagonists and karatekas in dojo Tora Kan, but also those that in a way or another have been implied and fortified in their lessons by the professionalism of Paolo, of which all we feel indebted.

But it is not only important to know that there are many years of trajectory, it is left an significant challenge (all the lovers of karate have this challenge): to transform these good results into resources for the future, following the way marked until now to continue and making grow karate in Italy, and teach us all. You must continue marking the way for all of us that followed and supported you with pride.

And although it is certain that this effort has allowed to grow karate in Italy, we must work to obtain the effectiveness that Tora Kan has obtained. I would like to animate you to continue working for the future and we encouraged you like friends and companions.

From these lines I want to send a very close regard to those that made possible the birth of the IOGKF in Italy, to the students of Tora Kan, to those who were formed in Paolo's dojo and to those that in some form have been implied and have felt next to the IOGKF Italy throughout these years. For your work and affection, happy anniversary to all.

Sensei Luis Nunes  
IOGKF Spain chief Instructor