

TORU TAKAMIZAWA 7th Dan Kyoshi

- Born December 1942 in Nagano Prefecture, Japan.
- Gained 1st Dan in Judo at the age of 15.
- In 1962 he entered the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies after winning a scholarship.
- While at University he studied Wado-Ryu under Jiro Otsuka Sensei and his father Hironori Otsuka Sensei the founder of the style.
- Within two years Takamizawa Sensei had achieved the grade of 2nd Dan.
- In his last year at University he became captain of the University Karate team, giving them the most successful year the University had experienced up to that date.
- In January 1966 at the grade of 3rd Dan he came to Britain to assist Tatsuo Suzuki Sensei.
- Just after he arrived in Britain, Takamizawa Sensei went to Swansea, to help establish Wado-Ryu in Wales.
- He achieved 5th Dan status with the late Grandmaster H. Otsuka the founder of Wado-Ryu Karate-Do in the early 1970's.
- In the late 1960's and early 1970's Takamizawa Sensei travelled all over Britain teaching Wado-Ryu, opening his famous Temple Karate Centre in Birmingham in 1969.
- In 1975 he applied for British nationality and became a British citizen.
- In the mid 1980's he created his own group the Takamizawa Institute of Karate with students who had remained loyal to him over many years and who wanted to continue to study deeply.
- When M. Shiomitsu Sensei in 1989/90 created the Wado-Ryu Karate-Do Academy, Takamizawa Sensei took his group into the Academy and was then able to study again deeply with his teacher H. Otsuka II 10th Dan Saiko Shihan.
- In the early 1990's Takamizawa Sensei was awarded 7th Dan Kyoshi by his teacher H. Otsuka II 10th Dan Saiko Shihan and the Wado-Ryu Karate-Do Renmei, Japan.
- There are so many people today in the Karate world, who owe so much to this quiet, polite and modest man. He is regarded by many as being one of the most important pioneers of Karate in Europe.
- Very sadly Takamizawa Sensei passed away on 8th June 1998.