

## **Shihan Dirk Heene, 8. dan, Shotokan Ryu Kase Ha**

*Warrior of budo, respectful teacher and karateka from all his heart*

Dirk Heene has been Finnish karateka's friend already 20 years. Kase Ha Finland arranged Heene's and Finnish a 20 years celebration summer course. This interview has done before summer course in Piispala Course center Sat 24<sup>th</sup> of July 2010.

### **Dirk Heene, how is Your life outside of karate?**

I'm now pensionate from my job, as a sport teacher. Last 14 years I taught budo in a sportschool of Hasselt. O-sensei Kase past away 2004. He asked me to support and develop his idea and vision of karate. That's why I started half part job. On February 2010 I stopped completely my work and now I'm in pensionate. I continuing of teaching Kase Ha Karate and helping other countries.

### **Shihan Heene, what is Your first memory about Your karate training?**

I was 14 or 15 years, when I read something about karate in some book. I had some contact to people from Holland, who trained kyukushinkai and wadoryu karate. In that time I practiced judo.

Our judo-club invited one karateka from Holland to teach us karate and special things. After that Judo-federation from Belgium, France and Holland invited to Sensei Taiji Kase to teach karate to France. Kase taught part-time on those country.

I started studying in university 1967. In that time sensei Kase taught only big cities like Bryssel and Paris. I trained mainly kyukushinkai 1967. In the same year France's judofederation invited sensei Kase to teach as a whole day teacher.

Sensei Miyazaki, JKA instructor, came to Holland and Belgium 1968. October -68 I started my physical teacher studies, because I liked to oriented to budo. That time I started to train shotokan under sensei Miyazaki.

### **You have trained and taught ab 46 years. What is your motivation to continue teaching karate all those years?**

In very beginning I was interested to develop my physical condition and personality and of course karate-technic, budo, filosofi of budo. I want to share my experions to all, who want to train karate.

I started to my teaching in judoclub. Also I joined in the local karateclub in Gent. University was interested about karate and asked me to analyzed and teach it to other students. In that time I had brown belt. I asked to sensei Miyazaki to come once a month to teach with me to university of Gent. We found in that time Gent University Karate Club. Sensei Miyazaki asked me to national team and then I started my competition carrier. I graduated shodan.to sensei Miyazaki 1970.

### **What You like to told today for us from sensei Taiji Kase**

Karate is part of Budo. Budo is way of warrior. In the very beginning the meaning of budo was not competition. If you are warrior, you are always a warrior, in peace and in the war.

How we can keep spiritual, physical and technical principles of Budo?

I'd like to recommended to all, please train every day to develop those principles. Karate is not game. Sensei Kase told to us, there is a metafysic level of karate. This level is near connected to KI, breathing and mental energy.

Our Kihon, Kata and Kumite training develops those phenomenon. Jiyu kumite develop particulary

mental energy. Kata develops for our imagination. Kihon-kata-kumite helps us to reach sixth sense, said sensei Kase.

A budoka, who like to reach that level have to train every day. You can't train successfully alone. You need a warm Sensei-Gohai connection. Of course training alone is very important part of Budo, but it can not compare to train under sensei.

**What is Your plan in the future?**

I'm now 60 years old. I don't know how my condition and health develops. After age of 60 many peoples loose their physical power. Of course that is natural thing in aging. My target is develop my energy and vitality in the real karate-training.

**What is Your tips for Karatekas?**

Train regular together to the same target.



Foto: Kase Ha Finland's technical committee in Saariselkä, January 2009. Sensei Gallen & Lappalainen, Shihan Heene, sensei Somppi & Nettamo.

**Thank You a lot for this interview Sensei. We wish you a good health, vitality and strong power.**

**Oss.**

**Interviewer: Jani Somppi 4. dan KSKA, president of Kase Ha Finland**