



January 1, 2018

40 YEARS OF NANBUDO (1978-2018) PLATFORM FOR SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Dear friends nanbudoka,

This platform is meant to be read by all nanbudoka, clubs and organizations who nurture and develop their martial arts on the basis of teachings of Doshu Soke Yoshinao Nanbu.

As the logo is ultimately suggesting with his initials (NY), and a very clear message: "Nanbudo Yes (ossu)", the idea behind the concept is that on the basis of Yoshinao Nanbu's life work, Nanbudo as a martial art sport has a bright future.

AUTHOR

First of all let me introduce myself for those of younger generations who maybe don't know who I am: I am Petar Turković, born and living in Zagreb, Croatia. On Nov. 1st 2017 I turned 60, and as *Japanese Kanreki concept* says, I have come to the beginning again, starting a new life cycle. I realized the new cycle matches the 40th anniversary of my first Nanbudo club Gradec in Croatia, which is at the same time the anniversary of the 40 years of Nanbudo worldwide.

For me that was a strong sign I had to rethink deeply where did we as Nanbudo practitioners come from and where are we going to, and that is why I decided to share this platform for sustainable future of our beloved martial art founded by a genius martial art's creator - Doshu Soke Yoshinao Nanbu, with all of you.

Let me first go through some of my credentials, which I think qualify me for writing this platform. As a psychologist and organizational cybernetician by professional education, I also have a respectable 46 years career in martial arts. I started practicing Shukokai karate in 1971, Sankukai in 1975, opened my first club in 1978, and started practicing Nanbudo at the very beginning of its creation and development. As a competitor I was a junior karate champion in Croatia, captain of the Yugoslav kumite national Nanbudo team that won the bronze medal on the first European Nanbudo championship in Naples, Italy 1980. I took part in the first Nanbudo World championship in Monte Carlo 1987, and later was the president of CINDA committee in WNF and devoted some years to shape competition models in Nanbudo.

I started, organized and developed Nanbudo in Croatia where it became recognized by the National Olympic Committee, helped and assisted start of Nanbudo in Slovenia, Serbia, Hungary, India, Iran, Nepal, and helped a restart in Canada and Turkey.

I have served as a General secretary of WNF for many years, as well as Vice President of Croatian Olympic Committee.

Together with Ove Gusevik former WNF president, I have led the project of an attempt of WNF joining GAISF (General association of international sport

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federations) some 15 years ago, which was near to success, but eventually unfortunately failed.

Due to “hard work” of few people (with a key role of some of my Croatian students) against me in WNF, I was expelled from WNF in June 2010 with an explanation of the Founder that “due to your behavior and actions incompatible to the Statutes of WNF and expectations of a Shihan, you have come to a point in your life where you want to choose a different direction than Nanbudo”.

Someone has decided what I wanted – in my name, although there was no argument to it, as well as no opportunity to defend myself. The decision was final. My response to this (in my opinion) unjust and onesided act, was a letter called “Emperor’s new clothes” where I decided to speak up, and talk about the negativities in WNF and the way it treated its best people for many years, because of which a huge number of excellent Nanbudokas were forced to leave WNF (Jean Serge Difraja, Robert Dimeo, Grairia Camel, Gaetano Frongillo, Josep Consul, David N’Hannack, Lewis Doyle, Lahoussine Hafid, Salih Cam, Ali Smaiche and many, many others).

Although I got many positive and encouraging messages those days from many Nanbudokas (including the acting President of WNF at that time), I eventually shared the destiny of many great Nanbudokas, my predecessors, and was like many of them - thrown out of WNF (after 30 years and all my contributions to WNF developments), together with my closest associates Zilhad Mahmuljin and Srećko Ferenčak, and the whole Croatian Nanbudo federation.

Fortunately, no one could ever succeed in throwing Nanbudo out of me. I never quit. Nanbudo taught me the power of Chikara da, Yuki da and Shinnen da. I am grateful for this learning and use it every day.

UTILIZING NANATSUNOCHIKARA PRINCIPLES

What happened meanwhile? 7 years passed from 2010-2017. Every year was a great challenge for me to meditate not only on Nanbudo mitsu no chikara, but on one of the Forces from the Nanbudo nanatsu no chikara meditation.

First year I needed **physical force** to survive. Second year I used all my **courage** to start from the beginning. Third year, I had to be very careful and **precise to evaluate** what was really happening in the world of Nanbudo. Fourth year I mobilized all my **powers to act**. Fifth year my **positive energy** enabled me to develop. Sixth year, I used all my **intellectual abilities** to think deeply about the future of Nanbudo. And eventually, the seventh year, a circle was completed, my vision had become very clear, and my **vital energy** has been focused – this concept and platform was born.

IF YOUR HEART IS NOT RIGHT, YOUR NANBUDO CANNOT BE RIGHT TOO

So I am still here, and I am fighting with all my energy to unite all Nanbudo resources in the world, because we are too small and too weak to survive in any other case but united. At the same time, I forgive my executioners (*God knows*

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they did not know what they were doing), cause any further negative energy among Nanbudokas, will not serve the goal we have to achieve.

Simply, we have to be above the negative and conflictuous characters that are thinking only of their personal interest and power. We have to transmit positive energy, positive thoughts and positive messages. Maybe on longterm basis, it will work even with the persons who in this moment aren't able to act in synergy. Wisdom comes with years.

I will quote here my dear friend, great martial arts master, student of Yoshinao Nanbu - Jean Frenette, who (when discussing the future of our marital art) told his motto in martial arts was: *"If your heart in not right, your art cannot be right too"*.

I fully agree with this statement, as it also applies to Nanbudo very well, so we must start from it. We must clean and open our hearts and minds to be able to clearly see what is going on, and how we could proceed into the sustainable future of our martial art sport.

ROOTS AND ORIGINS

Why is it so important to know where did we come from?

The reason is simple – if we want to understand today's Nanbudo, we have to understand the philosophy and the technique it came from and on which basis it was created. So where did Nanbudo as an idea and concept come from?

What is the origin of Nanbudo? It is definitely Okinawa, where martial arts were developed on the basis of Chuang fa (Kung Fu) techniques imported from China, combined with local martial arts schools of Okinawa te.

It is important to say that the original roots of nabudo lead us to Shito ryu karate, which was formed by **Kenwa Mabuni in 1930ies**, as a style that combined hard and soft techniques of **Okinawan styles Shuri te Naha te and Tomari te**.

Basicaly speaking Shito ryu was the original martial art exactly because it combined elements of different martial arts. Sounds familiar?

When you know where Mabuni completed his style and call it **Shito ryu**, it sounds even more familiar. It was in **Osaka**. He was wellknown as one of the greatest karate masters of the 20th century.

Apart from his sons, one of his first students –was **Chojiro Tani**. Tani became one of the best students of Mabuni, and therefore was allowed to use the name **Tani ha Shito ryu** in his Dojo. He started teaching his own style in **Kobe University in 1946** (also at significant place and time).

Here we are coming to the very important point in which the concept of using *biomechanics* comes in. Tani was trying to perfect his style studying **biomechanics of human body and movements**, developing techniques which could be executed with maximum efficiency. Main characteristics of his stlye which he named **Shukokai**, were shorter and higher stances, double hip swing by execution of punches, which maximized the power of the punch and made this style one of the karate styles with most powerful punches. In fact, Tani himself was the creator of the term **double hip swing**, which gave the punches much greater ballistic power.

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He raised the forearm in the height of the chest instead of having it down at the hip, opened both hands in the guard position and introduced *seiryuto uke* block after the punch. He also invented *combinations* that we all know later from Sankukai and Nanbudo.

Tani became one of the greatest inovators in traditional karate which he developed in a direction of much higher speed, force and power.

One of his best students was, of course - Yoshinao Nanbu. So the line of excellence had continued (Mabuni-Tani-Nanbu). I suppose that you know the story of Yoshinao Nanbu, as one of the instructors who introduced and showed Shito ryu and later Shukokai to European karateka in the sixties. After that, he developed his own style Sankukai, and after came Nanbudo. It is interesting what exactly was developing from Shukokai through Sankukai to Nanbudo.

How did Sankukai technique differ from Shukokai?

Nanbu added circular movements called *kaiten* to Sankukai, emphasized the concept of *tehshin* and *ashi barai* technique, changed to fist against palm of the back hand...

So now let's go back to Nanbudo technique which was, at its foundation, much in front of the time. When you look at the techniques of ju randori in the late eighties and early nineties, and you look for example a ju kumite of WKF today, you will see that karate followed a lot of ideas Nanbu implemented more than 35 years ago. What were the characteristics that Nanbudo took from Shukokai and Sankukai? It is double hips swing at punches; it is a $\frac{3}{4}$ punch (realistic punch that covers seiken and tateken techniques) and it is tenshin and kaiten techniques. What was new and original in Nanbudo concept?

Nanbudo brought us the holistic idea of a martial art, health of mind and body concept, discipline of sport for all through budo competition, based on original Okinawan derivation of the martial art (Shito, Shukokai, Sankukai), combined with Chinese health system's approach, and Japanese (judo/aikido) throwing principles. As a unique and original combination of different martial arts, Nanbudo had a great start in 1978, development with its peaks in 80-ties and 90-ties, and then the slow down process after 2000.

Where are we today?

TODAY'S NANBUDO WORLD

Let's review today's situation in the world of Nanbudo:

On organizational level we have two international federations **WNF and INF**. They share the philosophical level on Nanbudo concept, and there is no dispute on that, no matter of the fact that some WNF spokesmen will try to deny it. We can all agree that Nanbudo is primarily a school of life, but let's be honest - this is the mantra many traditional martial arts adopted.

On the technical level we have a slight divergence:

One approach is more philosophical, physically recreative, aikido based, budo technique. The other is focused on more sportive disciplines developed on the origine of Nanbudo technique. So if we briefly look at these different ideas and

concepts, it might look as though they cannot be blended together, and I am pretty sure there will be people who will claim it is an implacable situation. Of course this is not and should not be true. I will easily explain why this is so.

FOUNDATIONS

Foundation, or basis of Nanbudo teaching which include budo ho, ki do ho and noryoku kaihatu ho concepts should embrace all the interpretations of Nanbudo, not divide and exclude.

Once the founder is not able to explain his ideas any more, of course it creates a situation in which anybody and everybody can do Nanbudo as he/she understands and interprets it. It is very normal and human that there will be couple of people who will claim they are the ones to interpret the last interpretation (will) of the founder, and that they are the exclusive ones who will be carrying on the teaching of Nanbudo, in the only one and right manner. Still, this is a very dangerous premise, and could easily lead to the transformation of Nanbudo into a small martial art school organizationally based on a **model of a sect**. To make world Nanbudo organization a sustainable concept – first of all Nanbudo as a martial art and as an **organization has to start being inclusive – not exclusive**. And we must admit it has been excluding too many people for too long time. Now it is time we all work together to change this. **Most important fact everyone has to be aware of, is that there will be no Doshu after Doshu**. Like there was no Jigoro Kano after Jigoro Kano in Judo (and look at the Olympic sport of Judo today, definitely best organized martial art sport on the planet). This must be clear to everyone. Only democratic and expert discussions and conversations can bring us to a higher level of understanding and organization. At the same time, it is understandable that the **person and the life work of the Founder will be protected, preserved and respected**. Which at the same time does not mean we are not allowed and able to question, discuss and develop any aspect of Nanbudo martial art sport.

TWO APPROACHES

What WNF is today presenting as Nanbudo budo technique (or as Doshu's last interpretation while he was still creating) is honestly speaking - a technique fundamentally based on aikido. I have discussed this technique with distinguished aikido masters, to make sure of what I will be saying about it, and their conclusion is - it is a pure aikido technique.

So what? If this is to be a legitimate direction for some people within Nanbudo organization – it is fine, and it should be so. We should not argue it. Let this be one of legitimate Nanbudo directions and disciplines.

If there are teachers and leaders who want to build on and develop in that direction and bring Nanbudo basically very close to aikido, and if at the same time they have practitioners who want to study this type of martial art – this is to be accepted. And they can call it **only and true Nanbudo**, as far as they fulfill one condition:

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It is of crucial importance – that there is a free space made for different interpretations. Each interpretation must of course have an idea and a concept behind it. If part of nanbudoka are going to follow the line of Nanbudo based on Aikido philosophy and technique, that is fine, but the awareness of the line which is to be followed must be clear.

Another approach, idea and a concept is that martial art sport called Nanbudo which follows the Okinawan development line from Shito ryu through Shukokai and Sankukai to Nanbudo, has a free space to develop and be presented to the public, and get those who want to do martial art sport and competitions to work together towards the goal of spreading and developing Nanbudo as a recognized martial art sport around the world. Solely, because original Nanbudo technique and teaching also deserves to be brought to different groups of people, and to affect changes in different parts of population of martial art sports fans.

So basically, these two different approaches can be embraced, nurtured and developed parallelly in a compatible manner under one world organization. Different approaches can cooperate and benefit from each other's achievements. There is space for everyone and every approach. Egos and negativities must be suppressed and put aside. Focus must be only on the benefit of the future of Nanbudo as a martial art and as a sport brand.

When we have these two approaches, we must now come back to origins, and pay attention to what we are talking when talking about the lines whose developments we can follow today.

First line is the Chinese line and Chuan fa (kung fu, shaolin boxing) with health/therapeutic systems of Tai chi and Chigong.

Second line is the Okinawan martial arts line under Chinese influence (from Okinawa te, traditional styles as Shito ryu, Goyu Ryu, Shotokan, to modern versions as Shukokai and later.

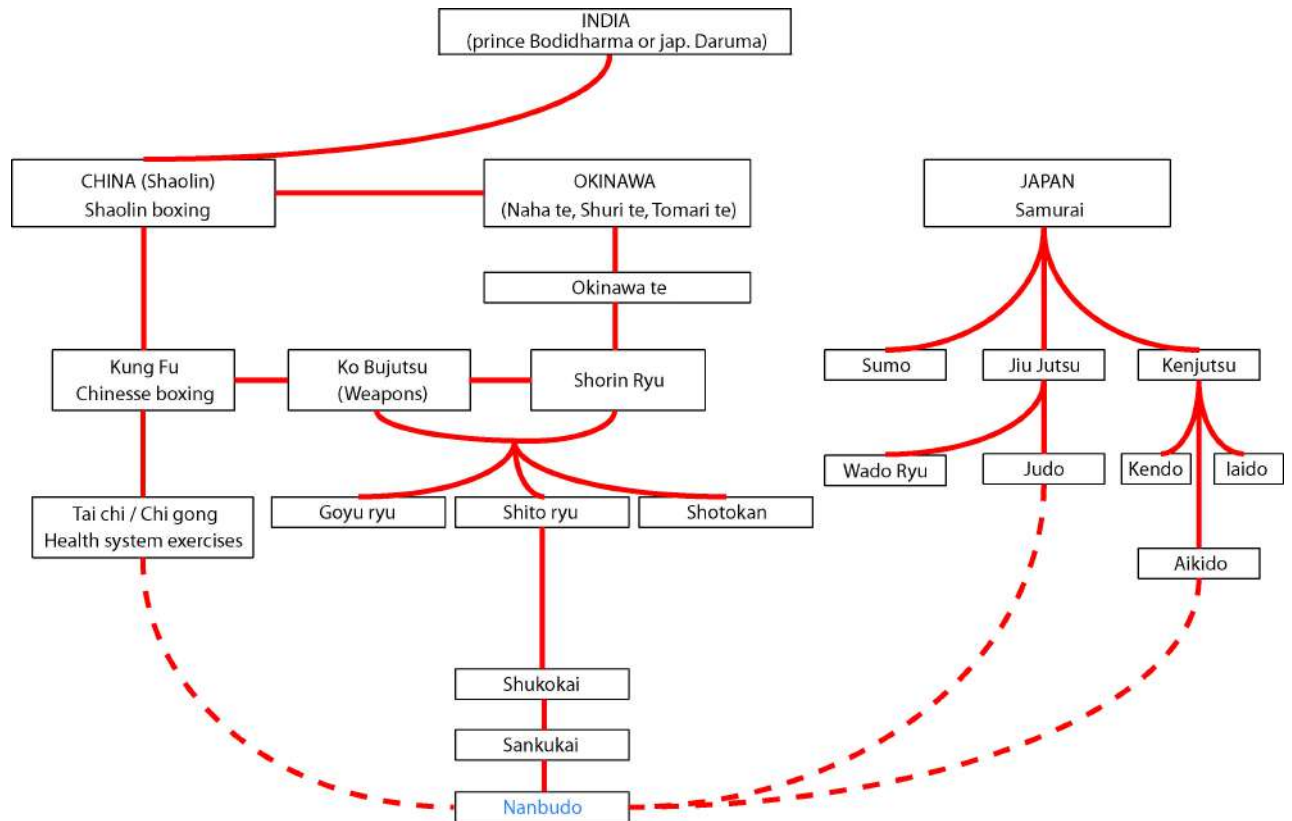
Third line is the Japanese line from Samurai, through Sumo, Ju jutsu and Kenjutsu, to Wado ryu, Judo, Kendo and Aikido.

So when Sankukai and Nanbudo were created they followed its original Okinawan line, but when completing Nanbudo - Founder also used Chinese and Japanese knowledge and heritage to form an original martial art combining these elements into a unique martial art discipline.

Thus, what I am strongly advocating – is to keep awareness of the original line since it is the heart of Nanbudo. That means that Nanbudo was and is an original martial art that was based on (and itself advanced the basis of) - karate, and as such even contributed to the development of contemporary competitive karate disciplines. I know there will be questions on how can we accept this thinking, when the Founder developed things in different direction last couple of years? The answer is simple: Founder was a genius when he created Nanbudo in 1978, but maybe last 10 years he adapted the technique to his age, maybe he started thinking differently, and maybe he went other direction than the one we should take if we want to develop and promote original line of Nanbudo through martial art sport and competitions. I also know this might sound heretic to some people and they will use it against this platform, but we have to use the common

sense, knowledge, experience and expertise - and above all – **Take the responsibility for the future of Nanbudo, public martial art sport founded by Dohsu Soke Yoshinao Nanbu.** The emphasis is on **public martial art sport** – cause this is what Nanbudo is in many countries. In some countries it is perceived as a private brand and school of martial arts, but this is not the basis on which we can develop and grow. That concept is a secure way to stay unimportant in the martial arts world.

Graph 1: Where does nanbudo come from and which line do we want it to follow today?



HOW DO WE DEVELOP AND GROW? The PLATFORM

INF sent several proposals to WNF for cooperation in the direction of starting a conversation to find a common interest, during 2017. At the meeting in Paris, in Spring 2017, high grades from Cameroon, Switzerland, Italy, Hungary and Norway supported the proposal for cooperation. The rest few who were deciding in the name of WNF - ignored it. I can understand the distrust, the fear and the suspicion. But we have to overcome those kind of reactions, cause there is no real reason for it, except personal animosities. If there is a will of majority of Nanbudo nations to envision the future I am talking about, than there will be no problems to implement it.

Personally, I am the first one ready to put my person out of the focus, and put the future of Nanbudo in focus. I will definitely not be the reason why WNF and INF and all positive Nanbudo forces in the world could not work together towards the new future.

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The platform for the future of Nanbudo martial art sport consists of a few crucial elements:

1. **Critical mass of positive personalities with open hearts and minds**, and no hidden agenda, but the sustainable future of Nanbudo martial art sport.
2. **The person and life work of the Founder** - respected, nurtured, protected and regularly celebrated.
3. **Professional platform** for scientific approach, organizational excellence, modern concept and common denominator for all Nanbudo organizations.
4. **A responsible Kick off team** of experienced Nanbudo high grade people, who are able to use the power of arguments, and are ready to act now, and start working immediately towards the benefit of the new organization of Nanbudo martial art sport in the world.
5. **New organization on the World level** – an organization (no matter of the name, it can be WNF, INF or a third name organization which will be an umbrella organization to protect and nurture different directions, programs and concepts of Nanbudo martial art and sport.
6. The new organization must have such a set up that it automatically allows **space for all concepts**, programs and directions which can develop freely and without conflicts of interest. Common interest is the **interest of Nanbudo martial art sport and its recognition** and development around the world. Only people who are ready to work under such conditions can be leading the new organization.
7. **Department for Nanbudo only as a martial art** – can have its own leaders and organization and develop independently under united organization. **Department for Nanbudo as a martial art sport**, can also have its own leaders and organization and develop independently under united organization. Both departments can use each other's achievements, and support each other's activities.

KARATE OR INDEPENDENT MARTIAL ART SPORT? (GAISF, SPORTRECOGNIZED....)

While discussing such a development, two basic goals must be taken into consideration regarding the future set up of Nanbudo as a martial art and sport. There is a thinking that Nanbudo should be attached to karate for the sake of development and competition. Connection to French karate federation is one way of realization of this idea. WKA Italy and WUKF is another version of the same direction.

This type of attaching Nanbudo to karate federations has its positive but at the same time its negative effects. Positive is that Nanbudo could easily become the part of karate competition in katas (as nanbudo katas are and will be recognized for competitions in karate), and therefore theoretically compete in the Olympic sport discipline.

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The other thinking sees Nanbudo as an independent martial art sport, seeking international recognition as such. Nanbudo's regular or provisional membership in National Olympic Committees in Cameroon and Croatia (maybe somewhere else also) should be a lighthouse for the development direction in this other version. Recognition of nanbudo as a sport in both mentioned countries is a great achievement, and once it is achieved and opens up possibilities for other countries to go that way, maybe it would be a step back to look for recognition of Nanbudo only as one of many karate styles. Again, karate is now an olympic sport – but who knows if it will stay so, and how realistic is that Nanbudo sportists could reach the level of karate performances to enable them to take part in Olympics one day?

If we succeed to get certification from a certain number of national sport authority organizations, that Nanbudo is a sport in their respective countries – we could achieve the recognition as an independent sport from GAISF (General association of international sport federations), which reviewed our application some 15 years ago when we failed because of lack of national recognitions, while Savate, Muy Thai and Kick boxing entered GAISF at the same time. All of them achieved regular memberships by many national Olympic committees around the world, which meant a lot for development of their sports on national levels. Meanwhile INF became a member of SportREcognized (SRE), new international federation for different sports who are not still members of GAISF. SRE membership is also a way to fight for the recognition of Nanbudo as an independent sport. For example, UWKF (a non olympic karate federation) is among other sports, also a member of SRE. So these two approaches must be evaluated, discussed and decided to see what is more beneficial for Nanbudo on a longterm basis. Maybe both approaches could be combined at a time, where present association with karate federations may be a good promotion for Nanbudo as a competitive discipline, which can later continue as a struggle for independent recognition of a unique martial art sport.

Last but not least, this platform is an **invitation to all Nanbudo organizations and federations in the world**, to rethink Nanbudo's origine, present and future perspectives, and take responsibility in developing its sustainable future by taking part in a democratic process of creating a way for all Nanbudokas to unite under one common idea and concept, and therefore help each other to shape a new way of communication among themselves – in the best manner we were taught by the Founder of Nanbudo – by “Endless conversation”. When there is a conversation – there is always a possibility to solve problems. When there is no conversation – there is no such possibility.

Fortunately, thanks to wise people in WNF and INF, the conversation has already begun and the process is now inevitable and irreversible. I sincerely hope you will have enough **Force, Courage and Conviction** to join it.

Happy 40th Aniversary!



Petar Turković

Ossu!