

Gasshuku in Guadarrama (August 2021)

By Juan Luis Silva

Translated by Javier Gil-Ruiz



The XIV Spanish Gasshuku of Shinto Muso Ryu Jojutsu was held from August 24 to 29, 2021, in Guadarrama, made possible by the respite in the pandemic we are suffering. The Gasshuku was directed by Vicente Borondo sensei, Menkyo Kaiden of SMR Jo-Do.

This event gathered practitioners with different degrees of skill and from different geographic locations, all willing to learn and improve our techniques in the spirit of harmony and brotherhood that has always distinguished our Ryu.

On Tuesday afternoon we began keiko with eagerness and enthusiasm, practicing kihon and carefully observing several embu. We beginners applied during keiko the indications patiently provided by Vicente sensei and the sempai. After the dinner we had a "mon do" session in which we were able to ask and clear doubts with Vicente sensei.

On Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday the usual teaching format was followed, consisting of morning kihon, embu of the different series that make up the curriculum and kata practice. Keiko was developed with harmony and personal growth in knowledge and application, each participant according to their level.

After dinner on Wednesday, we attended a conference by video given by Dr. Marcos Sala Ivars on the "go jo"(the five ethical values that a man should possess according to Confucianism). After dinner on Thursday we watched videos of Nishioka sensei's techniques, consolidating what we learned during the day.

Vicente sensei dedicated the afternoon keiko to Shinto Ryu Kenjutsu and the "Fuzoku bugei" arts associated with the Ryu (tanjo, jutte and kusarigama). These are of great value, since they effectively complement the techniques practiced with the Jo.



At noon there were Shodo sessions, led by Fernando Gómez, teaching beautiful Japanese calligraphy.

On Friday afternoon, after keiko, graduation exams were held that were easily passed by the participants involved.

The credentials for traditional degrees and certifications that had been previously achieved by the sempais were also handed out. Congratulations to all! And that night, as was only right and proper, we went for dinner to the village of Guadarrama!

The XIV Gasshuku has been an event in which no participant left without having advanced on the path of budo, without having met worthwhile companions and without the spirit of a job well done.

