

COMPETITION

23 countries and 180 competitors participated from the following continents:

Asia

Europe

Oceania

Africa

Pan America 1 (Canada)

The organization of the event was average and the quality of the competition was generally not high. Several countries brought competitors to get experience, not medals, and it showed.

Spain with a total of 3 gold, 1 silver and 2 bronze medals and Japan, with 2 gold, 3 silver and 3 bronze dominated the results tables. The 2 golds were in individual kata (Wakai) and open kumite (Shibuya). Japan also scored a silver in kata (Wakabayashi) with Spain hot on their heels taking two bronzes. Spain won team kata with an excellent kata performance and flawless bunkai, followed by Venezuela for silver, Malaysia and Thailand taking bronzes. Spain also collected a gold for team kumite, fighting Slovakia for the top place, Japan and Luxembourg taking bronze.

Clearly these countries take karate very seriously.

Canadians Btissima Essadiqui from Quebec, as well as Nancy Sham and Nao Nakatsuka from BC performed remarkably well considering the appalling lack of infrastructure to support their endeavours. In the -53 Kg kumite, Btissima narrowly lost a bronze by losing to Japan's Fujioka to overtime. However she made it to the semi finals, making her among top 6 at this event. Next time Btissima!

Nancy beat Malaysia in the 1st round then lost in the second round to Venezuela, who did not make it to the medal rounds, depriving Nancy of a shot at repechage.

In the open division, the same two gutsy -53 kg fighters achieved similar results.

Btissima beat Indonesia 1-0, then Luxembourg 2-1, before facing Japan's Shibuya, the eventual gold medallist, to whom she lost 1-0 in a very exciting overtime fight. In repechage she won over Vietnam 2-0, but lost to the bronze finisher, Germany 1-3.

Nancy fought off Bangladesh 4-3 in the 1st round, then faced Japan's Sato to whom she lost 0-3. Sato did not progress to the medal rounds, again depriving Nancy of a medal shot.

In individual kata, Nao faced off Slovakia winning 3-0 followed by Hong Kong again 3-0, but losing to Venezuela 2-1. However, Venezuela lost to Wakai, so no repechage for Nao, but these efforts put her in the best 8.

However, the potential of our Canadian competitors seems to be emerging, so we should start seeing some WKF medals if these ladies can maintain their momentum.