

### **SHITEIKATA SEMINAR**

The instructors were Mr Shiomi (Goju) helped by Mr Muramatsu, Mr Tsuyama (Shotokan) assisted by Mr Kagawa, Mr Hisatomi (Shito) assisted by Mr Iwata and Mr Arakawa (Wado) assisted by Mr Yanagita. Each instructor was supposed to cover 2 shiteikata within 3 hours on days 2 and 3, and free kata on the first day. The free kata consisted of Goju Kururunfa, Shito Gojushiho, Shotokan Unsu and Wado Kushanku.

The narrow rectangular room was carpeted with structural columns in it, supporting a very low roof. The dimensions were such that no-one at the ends could see anything, nor could anyone who was anywhere but in the front row within about 3 yards of the instructor.

Totally unsuitable for such an occasion.

The JKF have ordered a reprint of the Shiteikata book that has the same pictures in it, but different English, again not proofed by a native speaker, so problems arise there.

Sometimes the instructor who was responsible for "defining" the Shiteikata was at odds with the published photographs. The "camera angles" were wrong, or the move was wrong, or the printed description of a move was wrong. Sometimes the instructor himself was "wrong"!

The course lasted three days and was conducted in a manner that was not conducive to learning how to judge kata better or learning the kata, because they simply were not taught. Hours were spent tunneling into trivia that could not help a kata judge. Questions like "how long is the zenkutsu dachi in Shito Ryu" for example, required fully 35 minutes to answer, which accounted for 30% of the time allotted to actually studying the kata.

Tommy Morris, Chairman of the WKF Referee Council found it virtually impossible to have the instructors reconcile with the book or to define the acceptable limits of variations. The result is, that there cannot really be a precise standard version of the Shitei kata at the moment since the responsible Shito, Shoto and Goju instructors couldn't really agree 100% with the text, which is supposed to be the authoritative WKF standard kata reference. This is a good thing for us in Canada, as it means that considerable variations will be acceptable. As long as the kata is clearly one style or the other, no-one will be too picky about whether or not your front stance is twice your shoulder width or 2.1 times your shoulder width.