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To whom it may concern:

My name is Shojiro Sugiyama. Over the past 60 years, I have been developing innovative methods for instruction of Shotokan Karate. I also focus on the integration of Ki, in the application and understanding of Kime in traditional karate and have authored numerous publications covering these topics as well as traditional kata and kihon training.

I am writing this letter of recommendation for Professor Dr. Ilija Jorga. I have known Dr Jorga for about 15 years. He was first introduced to me by a number of students of mine who had immigrated to the United States. They had begun their karate training with Dr. Jorga in Europe. Dr. Jorga made a number of trips to the United States and came to my dojo to visit. I was impressed by Dr. Jorga's interest in expanding his already broad experience in karate and his interest in understanding the physical and medical aspects of Ki. I believe this characteristic is a fundamental quality of Dr. Jorga and explains why he has become a driving force in expanding the understanding of Budo. Even with his extensive contributions to traditional karate he continues to be a student of the art.

Through my interactions with Dr Jorga and his former students, I am aware of many of his contributions as a leader in the development of karate in Europe. He also makes contributions world wide through his visits to the US, where he has shared his understanding of traditional karate with a unique blend of medical knowledge. In addition, Dr. Jorga has facilitated the interaction with some of my chief instructors to travel to Europe and participate in clinics and tournaments in Dr Jorga's organizations and exchange our philosophies and vision for the future of traditional karate. These actions as well as his extensive publications; his ability to build and maintain Traditional karate Organizations; and his efforts in travelling world wide to teach and strengthen the fundamental concepts of traditional karate; speak volumes as to the significant contributions Dr. Ilija Jorga has made to the growth of traditional karate.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely yours,

  
Shojiro Sugiyama