

**Remarks of Mr. Hidenobu Sobashima, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Zambia on the Occasion of the 7<sup>th</sup> Japanese Ambassador's Karate Tournament at Zambia Centre for Accountancy Studies on 22 October 2017**

Ms. Agnes Musunga, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Youth, Sport and Child Development of the Republic of Zambia,  
Mr. Munyaradzi Mangaba, President, Martial Arts Karate Federation of Zambia, and Organizers and Sponsors,  
Karateka Participants,  
Representatives from the Media,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour and pleasure to host the 7<sup>th</sup> Japanese Ambassador's Karate Tournament.

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Martial Arts Karate Federation of Zambia, the Kyokushin-kan Karate Organization, Karate clubs, and Karatekas, coaches, referees, and judges participating in this tournament, as well as the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Child Development, the sponsors, and the music band upstairs, and indeed all of you present here, without whom this tournament would not have become possible.

Thank you very much.

Three years from now, Tokyo, Japan, will host the 2020 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games.

There Karate has been selected as one of the Olympic Games for the first time in history.

Congratulations!

Ever since I arrived in Zambia at the end of October last year, I have repeatedly stated on various occasions that, as Ambassador of Japan to Zambia, I am determined to do my best, building upon the long-standing cooperative relations between Japan and Zambia extending from political and economic to cultural and other areas, and in cooperation with the

Japanese experts, volunteers, NGOs and companies in Zambia, to further advance our bilateral relations.

Promotion of Karate in Zambia is one area for such advancement.

I understand that Karate was introduced in Zambia in 1970's, and currently about 2,000 Zambians are practicing Karate.

I believe that the Japanese martial arts including Karate have the following three characteristics:

First, strength, of course.

Secondly, beauty of movement.

Thirdly, respect for the opponent.

Practicing Karate may result not only in physical strength, but also in mental and humanitarian strength.

In conclusion, I look forward to good matches of Zambian Karatekas, who are goodwill ambassadors of Zambia not only to Japan, but also to the entire world.

Thank you.