

Remarks of Mr. OMINATO Satoshi, Deputy Chief of Mission of the  
Embassy of Japan in the Republic of Zambia on the Occasion of the  
11<sup>th</sup> Ambassador's Karate Tournament on 7 November 2021

Dr. John Phiri, Permanent Secretary of Youth, Sport and Arts of the  
Republic of Zambia,  
Master Kiyoshi Imtiaz Abdulla, President, United World Karate  
Federation,  
Mr. Munyaradzi Mangaba, President, Martial Arts Federation of  
Zambia,  
Mr. Farai Mangaba, Zambia Branch Chief of Kyokushin Karate  
Organization,  
Karate-ka Participants,  
Representatives from the Media,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour and pleasure to be here on behalf of the Embassy  
of Japan on the occasion of the 11<sup>th</sup> Japanese Ambassador's Karate  
Tournament.

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to  
Dr. John Phiri for gracing this tournament with your presence. My  
thanks also go to the various Karate organizations and clubs, Karate-  
kas, coaches, referees, and judges participating in this tournament, as  
well as the sponsors.

As you may know, Karate is one of the major traditional martial  
arts in Japan. It is said that Karate was first introduced in Zambia in  
1970's and now about 8,000 Zambians are practicing Karate. I recognize  
that Karate is getting more popular year by year here in Zambia and  
I'm proud to witness it. When we take a look at the situation in the  
world, Karate was one of the sport disciplines performed at the Tokyo  
2020 Olympic Games this year for the first time in its history. I would  
like to convey my congratulations to all those who are involved in  
Karate for such an achievement.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As I mentioned earlier, Karate is one of the martial arts in Japan. It is said that the martial arts originally come from the way of life as Samurai. They calculated the level of respect for each other and valued the beauty of movement in their life. Therefore, the Japanese martial arts including Karate consist of strength, respect for the opponent and the beauty of movement. Having such characteristics, martial arts have been a part of compulsory education in junior high schools in Japan. We believe, through learning martial arts, we are able to learn how to respect each other, how to respect culture and tradition, and then how to respect each country, ultimately contributing to world peace. Considering the peaceful nature of Zambia, I believe martial arts such as Karate will gain further popularity in Zambia, becoming a strong thread connecting Japan and Zambia.

Against this backdrop, I look forward to watching good matches and seeing some of you becoming goodwill ambassadors of Zambia or whichever country you represent, to not only Japan, but also to the world.

Thank you.