

REMARKS BY H. E. MR. AKIO EGAWA
AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
ON THE OCCASION OF
THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR'S KARATE CUP
NATIONAL SPORT DEVELOPMENT CENTRE, LUSAKA
29TH SEPTEMBER, 2013

Mr. Simba Mangaba, President of Martial Arts Karate Federation of Zambia,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to be here today to witness the third Japanese Ambassador's Karate Cup Championship to be held in the Republic of Zambia. Karate is a major Japanese traditional martial art, which originated in Okinawa and became widespread throughout Japan in the 1920s. The typical characteristics of Japanese martial arts are balancing three factors of *shin-gi-tai* --- good spirit, technique and physical condition, and that is true for Karate. It is thought in Japan that the purpose of martial arts is to polish character by enhancing a sense of high morals and cultivating an attitude of respecting good manners. I am told since Karate was introduced to Zambia in 1970s, it has spread to 8 of 10 provinces in Zambia and 8 different styles and the number of Karateka exceeds 2,000 here in Zambia.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the IOC Session held in Buenos Aires a few weeks ago, Tokyo was elected to host the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games. I am convinced that the Tokyo Olympic Games 2020 will serve as a great source of inspiration to the peoples all over the world and will be an eye opener for the inherent power of sport to realize dreams, hopes and

aspirations and to strengthen bonds between peoples and nations. Unfortunately, so far we have failed to realize the long-cherished wish to have Karate as an Olympic sport, but I hope the Tokyo Olympics will generate positive influence on the future possibilities.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank the Executive Committee of the Kyokushin-kan Karate Association of Zambia for having successfully organized the tournament, the sponsors for providing financial and other forms of assistance, as well as the competitors for the high level of Karate skills they have displayed during the contest. It is my sincere hope that with this acumen, Zambian Karatekas will reap medals in major international tournaments in the future.

It is gratifying that Karate has been gaining popularity in Zambia. I hope more people of Zambia will know more about Japan through Karate. Understanding of each other is a foundation of the friendly relations between Japan and Zambia and Karate has played a good role in this regard. I would like to thank all those involved in Karate here in Zambia for being good friends of Japan.

In closing, I would like to congratulate the finalists and wish all of them the very best as they compete for the topmost position this afternoon. May I also commend all the Karate clubs that have taken part in this year's tournament without whose participation the tournament would not have been possible.

Thank you.