

**REMARKS BY H. E. MR. KIYOSHI KOINUMA,  
AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR'S  
KARATE CUP, Multipurpose Center, ISL, LUSAKA,  
8<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2015**

Ms. Agness Musunga, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Youth and Sports,  
Mr. Simba Mangaba, President of Martial Arts Karate Federation of Zambia,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to hold the fourth Japanese Ambassador's Karate Cup. Last year was a very significant year for Japan and Zambia, as it marked the Golden Jubilee of the independence of Zambia as well as the 50th anniversary of the diplomatic relationship between Japan and Zambia. To celebrate the milestone in the history of Japan and Zambia, Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Akishino visited Zambia at the end of June last year and our cordial relationship was further strengthened.

Japan and Zambia have maintained a cordial and steadfast relationship since the independence of Zambia. Now, I believe that it is important that the friendly relationship between the two countries is enhanced even more in the next 50 years on the basis of the good relations which we have enjoyed over the last 50 years. From this point of view, I would like to continue to promote interaction of people between our two countries, not only in economic fields, but also in the field of culture, arts and sports.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have been told that, since the introduction of Karate to Zambia in the

1970s, it has spread to 8 different styles, and now in total, over 2,000 Karatekas exist here in Zambia. I believe that Karate is an effective way of polishing character by enhancing a sense of high morals and cultivating an attitude of respecting good manners.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In 2013, Tokyo was selected 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 people, and will be an eye opener for the inherent power of sport, to realize dreams, hopes and aspirations, to strengthen bonds between people, and thus to experience within ourselves the initiative to have greater impact in our respective lives the world over. Unfortunately, so far we have failed to realize the long-cherished wish to have Karate as an Olympic sport, but I hope that Tokyo Olympics will generate positive influence on the future.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank the Executive Committee of the Kyokushin-kan Karate Association of Zambia for having successfully organised 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.

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. It is significant to the development of Zambia that we learn more about Japan and build up noteworthy characters through Karate training. Certainly, this will broaden the bilateral relationship between Japan and Zambia. I hope everyone will become an accomplished Karateka through further training.