

**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,  
26<sup>th</sup> June, 2016**

Ms. Agnes Musunga, Permanent Secretary, Minister of Youth and Sport,  
Mr. Simba Mangaba, President of Martial Arts Karate Federation of  
Zambia,

Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to hold the 6th Japanese Ambassador's Karate Cup. First of all, 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 assistance, and the competitors for the high level of Karate skills they have displayed during the tournament. This is indeed a wonderful occasion which helps all of us gather together and provide a platform for us to emphasize the importance of sport.

At last year's tournament, I mentioned that 2014 was the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the diplomatic relationship between Japan and Zambia and that it is significant to enhance a cordial and steadfast relationship even more in the next 50 years. This year, 2016 is also a very important one for both countries. Allow me to mention today that the 6th Tokyo International Conference on African Development, TICAD VI, will be held in the Republic of Kenya. This conference will be the first-ever TICAD to take place on the African continent in its over 20 years of history. The fundamental philosophies of TICAD are "ownership" and "partnership", and holding TICAD in Africa clearly demonstrates the strong African ownership and deepening partnership among TICAD stakeholders. I am strongly expecting active participation from Zambia in the conference.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Karate is one of the major traditional martial arts in Japan. The typical characteristic of Japanese martial arts is the balancing of three factors: good spirit, technique and physical condition. I have been told that, after the introduction of Karate to Zambia in the 1970s, 8 different styles are being practiced today, and now, over 2,000 Karatekas in total exist here in Zambia. I believe that Karate is an effective way of polishing one's character by building a sense of high morals and cultivating an attitude of modesty and the respect of good conduct. In addition, Karate can instil the values of respecting laws and order into society.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

When Tokyo was selected to host the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Japan launched a new initiative called "Sport for Tomorrow" and committed to providing prioritized assistance for the promotion of world peace and international understanding through sport, over the period until 2020. In upholding this noble initiative of "Sport for Tomorrow", I would like to continue to expand our assistance towards spreading and promoting the Olympic movement among people of all generations including the youth who represent the future. Unfortunately, we have so far failed in realizing the long-cherished wish to see Karate evolve as an Olympic sport. However, it is my hope that the Tokyo Olympics will generate a positive influence on this in the future.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In closing, I would like to congratulate the finalists for their splendid performance and wish all of them the very best as they compete for the topmost position. 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. I believe that Karate training will pave way for a robust and prosperous future of Zambia. Karatekas will learn more about Japan and develop noteworthy characteristics in the process. Certainly, this will contribute to boosting the cordial relationship that Japan and Zambia have enjoyed over the years. I hope everyone will become an accomplished Karateka through further training.