



**Speech by H.E. Mr. KUMAMARU Yuji
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan
to the Kingdom of Cambodia**

**At the inauguration of the project for constructing a gymnasium for Japanese
Martial Arts,
March 24, 2013**

- H.E. Dr. Hang Chuon Naron,
Minister for Education, Youth and Sport
- Mr. LACH Chan Sovan,
President of Cambodia Karate-Do Federation,
- Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to attend today's inauguration of the Cambodia-Japan Martial Arts Centre. I would like to thank the presence and support of H.E. Dr. Hang Chuon Naron, Minister for Education, Youth and Sport. I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to Mr. LACH Chan Sovan, President of Cambodia Karate-Do Federation, and all the people who have worked hard for successful completion of the centre's building.

Mindful of the Olympic Games in 2020 in Tokyo, the Japanese government launched a new initiative of promoting cooperation with countries in the world in the area of sports. The initiative is called "Sports For Tomorrow". Under this new initiative, Japan intends to assist other countries for building sports facilities and providing equipments. It aims to enhance awareness of the value of sports around the world. I believe that the present project of constructing a centre for Japanese martial arts in Cambodia, along with providing equipments for competition and daily training, coincides with such intention of the Japanese government.

I am delighted to note that Japanese martial arts such as Karate-do and Jyu-do are becoming more and more popular in Cambodia. I would like to see this trend to grow further. I also note, however, that shortage of gymnasiums for practicing of Japanese martial arts and the insufficient equipments hampered many young students of Japanese martial arts from doing training. I strongly hope that newly constructed martial arts centre will help alleviate the difficulties. I further hope the centre will contribute to upgrading the level of Japanese martial arts in Cambodia.

I am sure many of you know more than I do that Japanese martial arts have the philosophy of enhancing not only physical fitness but also the mental strength and the morality. They cherish the virtues such as modesty, endurance and respect for others. I sincerely hope that many young Cambodian people will strengthen such virtues through the training of Karate and other Japanese martial arts. For young people planning for future, there is nothing more important than mental and physical strength.

Finally, I would like to express my earnest hope that the Cambodia-Japan Martial Arts Centre will be made most use of by many Cambodian people. I also wish Mr. LACH Chan Sovan and Karate-Do Federation all the best for his earnest endeavour.

Thank you very much.

(END)