

**Speech by H.E. Mr. KUMAMARU Yuji,
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan
To the Kingdom of Cambodia
on the occasion of the inauguration ceremony of the Project for
Constructing Cambodia-Japan Traditional Martial Arts Center
in Phnom Penh.
12 December, 2015**

- H.E. Mr. Hang Chuon Naron, Minister, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport,
- Mr. Nang Ravuth, President of Cambodia Aikido Association,
- Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to attend today's inauguration ceremony of the Cambodia-Japan Traditional Martial Arts Center in Phnom Penh, in the presence of H.E. Mr. Hang Chuon Naron, Minister of Education, Youth and Sport. First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the members of Cambodia Aikido Association for their efforts in implementing this project.

This project aims to promote Japanese martial arts in Cambodia, by constructing a new two-story building for daily trainings and official matches. This new Center will provide better training opportunities for many martial arts association in Cambodia, including the Cambodia Aikido Association, the Cambodia Bokator Federation, Cambodia Kobudo and Jodo Federation, and Phnom Penh Kendo Club. It is expected that the new Martial Arts Center will develop as a key site for Japanese martial arts and it will attract more and more martial arts practitioners.

Japanese martial arts try not only to develop physical strength of practitioners, but also to cultivate their mind, in particular, sense of improving oneself, perseverance, politeness and morals. I believe that cultivation of such mind of the young generation will goes a long way in human resource development and nation building.

I also hope that this Martial Arts Center will become a symbol of the friendship between Japan and the Kingdom of Cambodia. I hope it will be maintained well for many years to come.

Lastly, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all the people who have contributed to the project implementation and the construction. It is my sincere hope that the cooperation in the area of sports will further strengthen the friendly relations between Cambodian and Japanese people.

Thank you very much for your attention.