

CLOSING REMARKS BY MR. TOMIO SAKAMOTO, CHARGE D'AFFAIRES AT THE EMBASSY OF JAPAN, ON THE OCCASION OF THE GENOCIDE MEMORIAL KARATE CUP AT AMAHORO NATIONAL STADIUM IN REMERA ON 14TH JUNE 2015.

Mr. Uwayo, President of FERWAKA!

Mr. Mori, Managing Director of JKA, Japan Karate Association!

Mr. Emmanuel, Representative of the Ministry of Sports and Culture!

Ladies and gentleman,

It is my great honor to be here together with all of you for this competition.

First of all, I would like to congratulate the winners of today's competition for their performances, but also encourage all participants to further train themselves in Karate. And I would also like to welcome three instructors and trainers of JKA from Japan who have visited Rwanda for the first time.

I am very glad to see that such a large number of people including players of the very young generations are practicing Karate here in Rwanda. I understood that Karate is one of the most popular sports in Rwanda. I hope that it gains more popularity through the events like this competition.

The Embassy of Japan organized the first Karate-do Japan Ambassador Cup in August last year, and this cup will take place this year as well. The Embassy of Japan will give its support whenever possible to advance further this traditional Japanese martial art in Rwanda as well as the cooperation between our two countries in this sport.

In this regard, I would also like to congratulate FERWAKA for joining JKA by acquiring its membership. I am convinced that this new stage of the relationship between both organization, namely FERWAKA and JKA, will strengthen the basis for practicing Karate in Rwanda and also level up the skills of Rwandan Karate Players.

In concluding, let me express again my sincere congratulations to all stakeholders for the successful implementation of this competition.

Murakoze Cyane.

