



EMBASSY OF JAPAN
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Karate is a martial art which trains you to discipline yourself both mentally and physically. The deep rooted Japanese traditional values found in karate have taught such values as mutual respect for one another, to work hard and to maintain sportsmanship. The controlled movements of karate also epitomize strength but also demonstrate the beauty of simple movements.

This year is the 150th anniversary of Japan's first diplomatic mission to the United States, sent by the Tokugawa Shogunate aboard the Kanrin Maru and the Powhatan in 1860. It is also the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, which underpins our bilateral alliance. Through learning karate, many Americans have increased their interest in Japan over the decades and karate has also contributed to strengthening the Japan-US friendship. This Karate Championships organized by the AAKF remind us of Japan's enduring friendship with the United States and highlight the importance of crossing borders and creating lasting relationships between cultures and countries.

I would extend my best wishes to all participants for a very fruitful experience.

Sincerely,

Ichiro Fujisaki
Ambassador of Japan