

Very good afternoon,

Distinguished guests, Ladies and gentlemen,

It's my great privilege to celebrate the inauguration of the first ever United Arab Emirates Kendo Championship. I'd like to congratulate the organizer and all staff, on this remarkable achievement of successfully organizing this Japanese cultural event in Dubai. I also have a great pleasure to observe this Japanese spiritual sports culture is introduced into the Middle East upon the authority of the UAE Kendo Federation and Bushikan-Dojo Ajiman. Congratulation.

Kendo is a kind of the Japanese heart and soul. It aims at building the human character through practice of sword martial-arts and mind discipline. According to the principles of All Japanese Kendo Federation, a man should serve and devote his highest efforts for training the Kendo faithfully with politeness, decorum and courtesy, consequently contributing the peaceful nature of international community and prosperity of all human kind. This clearly represents the virtue of Japanese culture.

In any part of the world, there are traditional sword cultures which had been derived from original practical use such as fighting or protecting from dangers. Nowadays, such sword cultures have been associated with each nation's tradition and ceremony. For example, the UAE has a "sword dancing" to extend the heartfelt welcome at celebration occasions, as an essential culture.

In Japan, Kendo had been originally introduced as a discipline for Samurai warriors, hundreds years ago. Now, it has advanced to the character building through the discipline of minds by training the skills.

Kendo is often depicted that it begins with paying courtesy, and ends by paying courtesy. A Kendo master says, when a man practices a technique for thousand times, it becomes a great skill. And, he practices hundreds more, it becomes the art of discipline. It also requires a person to be model citizens before becoming an expert of Kendo swordsman. Kendo is definitely the Japanese spiritual sports culture which prioritizes what human should be.

Ladies and Gentleme,

Today, we start “Japan Week” in Dubai and Northern Emirates. In the Japan week, we have a Japanese national day reception in Dubai; In Sharjah, Japan is a guest of honor at the world biggest international book fair; A Japanese cultural envoy demonstrates the music performance in the UAE; we also have many arts and cultural events under the auspice of Japan Week. I’m very happy that a Japanese spiritual sports culture, Kendo, kicks-off the Japan Week today under the championship event with its celebrated inauguration.

Finally, I wish you good luck on the today’s championship, and hope all you in this hall enjoy the this memorable event.

Thank you very much.