

REMARKS OF CONSUL GENERAL
MATSUNAGA TAKESHI AT THE OPENING OF
TORONTO KENDO CLUB 45TH ANNIVERSARY
TOURNAMENT AND SEMINAR, ON JULY 12,
2025, AT MARKHAM PAN AM CENTRE

Mr Shigeo Kimura, Founder and Chief
Instructor of the Toronto Kendo Club;

Mr Hyun-June Choi, President of the
Canadian Kendo Federation;

Mr Bryan Asa, President of the Ontario Kendo
Federation;

Mr Roy Asa, former president of Canadian
Kendo Federation and former Vice President
of International Kendo Federation;

Mr Yoshiteru Tagawa, Vice President of the
International Kendo Federation and Chief
Executive Advisor to the All United States
Kendo Federation;

Distinguished guests, generous funders and sponsors, and all dedicated tournament and seminar participants;

Good morning!

It is my great honour to address you on this auspicious occasion of the opening of the Toronto Kendo Club's 45th Anniversary Kendo Tournament and Seminar.

The significance of today's milestone cannot be exaggerated, particularly in light of the fact that marking the Club's 40th anniversary was precluded five years ago in the face of the pandemic.

The kendo players have demonstrated resilience in the adversaries. Today's Tournament and Seminar is a testimony to the tremendous tenacity of the members of the Club and the broader kendo community.

Since its foundation in 1980, the Toronto Kendo Club has led the Canadian Kendo scene under the tutelage of its founder Mr Shigeo Kimura, with its credo Ko Ken Chi Yu, creating bonds through crossing swords, aiming at disciplining the human character through the application of the principles of the katana.

I pay tribute to Mr Kimura as well as Mr Koichi Miyamoto and other active and past instructors of the Club.

While valuing the traditions of the past, the Club has continued to evolve and thrive. Moreover, it has significantly increased the number of its members in recent years, currently at about 100. I acknowledge the Club's great contribution to the development of the kendo population in Canada.

I also praise the Club's efforts to nurture the next generation of kendo practitioners. With its focuses on training juniors, the Club has produced many players for the Canadian junior team.

Through its active participations in both domestic and international tournaments and events, and promoting international exchanges, the Club has developed extensive network of its alumni all over the world including but not limited to the USA, Australia, Korea and Japan. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude for the Club's tremendous contributions to promoting friendship through kendo, the martial arts which stays central to Japan's spirit.

In addition, I avail myself of this opportunity to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the leaders of the broader kendo community in Ontario, across Canada and the entire North America. Today, kendo practitioners come

from diverse communities with a variety of different nationalities and backgrounds. This ecosystem, which facilitates understanding and amity, is truly invaluable.

To conclude, I wish the smashing success of this 45th anniversary, the continued prosperity of the Club and its members, as well as the further enhancement of bonds through crossing swords among all kendo enthusiasts.

Thank you very much!