

Statement by Ambassador Ishikawa Hiroshi at  
Budo reception

27 November 2025

Mr. KAWABATA Tatsuo, Head of the Japanese Budo Delegation,  
Distinguished guests, Ladies and gentlemen,

Good evening. It is my greatest honour to welcome the Japanese Budo Delegation, which consists of 12 different types of disciplines, headed by Mr. Kawabata. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to all those who have been dedicating themselves to promoting Budo, or Japanese martial arts, and making it better understood in Singapore.

I am proud that, thanks to all the endeavours you have been making, there are a number of Dojos, or schools, of Budo across Singapore, where many Singaporeans are diligently engaging in Budo training. Today, Budo has certainly become a significant pillar of our bilateral friendship and mutual understanding, with the spirit of Budo being widely embraced by a growing number of Singaporeans. I firmly believe that this visit by the Japanese Budo Delegation will accelerate this welcoming trend.

Indeed, the visit to Singapore at this particular time is extremely timely, and instrumental to enhancing our bilateral relationship. Next year, Singapore and Japan will celebrate the 60th anniversary of our friendship. This milestone provides us with invaluable opportunities to share the culture and tradition of Japan even more deeply with our Singaporean friends. In particular, the Budo performances that are scheduled in the coming days will greatly contribute to further cultivating Singaporean's interest in and love for Japan.

To make the most of this shared momentum, the key players are all of you who work tirelessly to train Singaporeans with Budo skills and spirits. In this regard, today's gathering is a wonderful opportunity for us all to learn more about the spirit of Budo in person from the top Japanese players and trainers of 12 different Budo disciplines. I sincerely hope that you can fully enjoy exchanges this evening, and possibly come up with some inspiring ideas on further development of Budo in Singapore.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.