

Statement by Ambassador Ishikawa Hiroshi at
Budo demonstration and workshop at the Sports Hub OCBC Arena

30 November 2025

Good afternoon, everyone.

I am delighted to join you here at the Sports Hub today to witness this remarkable demonstration of Japanese Budo skills. We are privileged to welcome these esteemed players who have travelled all the way from Japan to share their talents with us. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Mr Kawabata Tetsuo, Head of the Japanese Budo Delegation, and all the delegation members for their dedication to continued development of Budo in Singapore.

Japanese Budo, or martial arts, is a traditional culture that has been inherited through generations. The essence of Budo is not mere improving physical skills and winning a match. Rather, it is a fundamental component of Japanese culture that values spiritual integrity such as courtesy, self-control and respect for others. Therefore, practicing Budo is equal to understanding the philosophy of Japan's tradition, and passing that wisdom on to future generations.

In this regard, I hope you will enjoy not only watching today's performances but also participating the Budo workshops that follow. By practicing Budo under instruction by top practitioners of 12 different Budo disciplines, you will certainly make initial sense of the core spirit of Budo, which hopefully will make you love Japan and its rich culture.

Today's Budo performance is an extremely timely event, as Singapore and Japan will celebrate the 60th anniversary of its diplomatic relationship next year. We anticipate hundreds of commemorative events to take place in every single sector of our broad partnership, including culture, tourism, gastronomy, business and technology.

In this context, this visit by the Budo delegation from Japan as well as today's performances and workshops are certainly instrumental to heightening the momentum towards next year's celebration. This is

because the authenticity of Japanese virtues and charms, embodied in all these sectors, are crystalized in the spirit of Budo. In other words, if you experience Budo today, you may be able to feel the essence of Japanese traditions, and that will allow you to enjoy next year's celebratory events even more profoundly.

To conclude, I would like to reiterate my appreciation for the Japanese Budo Delegation for providing us with such a precious occasion. I truly wish for a success of your mission in Singapore to serve as a solid bridge between the two countries grounded on the spirit of Budo.

Thank you everyone. Now let us all enjoy this special Budo experience.