



Embassy of Japan in Ireland

Irish Kendo Federation

26 May 2014

[14-10]

**The Way of the Sword and Samurai Spirit**  
**-Japanese Ambassador's Cup Kendo Championship-**

The Irish National Kendo Championship and Japanese Ambassador's Cup will be held at the Rice-Nagle Hall, Marino Institute of Education, Griffith Avenue, Dublin 9, from 10.00 to 18.00 on Saturday 31 May, with around 40 competitors taking part in the Junior, Ladies, Men's, and Team categories.

Kendo is one of the traditional Japanese martial arts that arose from samurai warriors fighting with bamboo "swords". Kendo players wear protective gear like armour over kimono-like training wear. Kendo differs from other sports. Heir to the traditional spirit of Japanese martial arts, Kendo is not solely about winning but also respects good manners and nurtures a strong spirit.

Mr. Chihiro Atsumi, Ambassador of Japan to Ireland said, "I am very happy to say that Kendo is popular among Irish people. I hope Irish Kendo players can cultivate a strong mind by practising Kendo, and get to know the Japanese spirit", and continued, "I am sure all Irish people will enjoy the Kendo matches at the Championship, and get to know what Kendo is like."

Mr. Jason Clouston, President of the Irish Kendo Federation said, "This is the highlight of the Irish Kendo calendar and a chance for members of Kendo clubs throughout Ireland to come together in a fun and friendly atmosphere and put their skills to the test. Although Kendo has its roots in Japanese culture, it has an appeal to people from around the world because of the strong values of respect for self and others that it teaches. I think this is why we are seeing such an interest in Kendo here in Ireland in recent years. It is a modern competitive sport that also emphasises personal development and growth. These traditional Japanese values taught in Kendo transcend cultural boundaries."

Kendo na hÉireann is the governing body for Kendo, Iaido and Jodo in Ireland. It is a member of the Irish Martial Arts Commission, the European Kendo Federation and the International Kendo Federation. Kendo in Ireland began formally in 1998 and there are now four established clubs: two in Dublin, one in Cork and one in Galway.

This event is held in association with Experience Japan 2014.

(Contact)

Kathryn Cassidy, Secretary, Irish Kendo Federation

Tel: 086 – 850 4163, E-mail: [secretary@irishkendofederation.org](mailto:secretary@irishkendofederation.org) Website: <http://irishkendofederation.org/>

Yuichi Yamada / Jenny O'Connor, Press and Cultural Affairs Section, Embassy of Japan in Ireland

Tel: 01 - 202 8305, E-mail: [cultural@ir.mofa.go.jp](mailto:cultural@ir.mofa.go.jp), Website: [www.ie.emb-japan.go.jp/](http://www.ie.emb-japan.go.jp/)

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