

GREETING

NAGAMIYA Shoji

It is the great honor and privilege for the Sasaki family that the Hungarian Judo Association decided to organize this Sakaki Cup tournament to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of publication of the Judo textbook written by my grandfather Sasaki Kichisaburo. On behalf of the entire Sasaki family I would like to thank all the participants in this important ceremony.

Japan in 100 years ago was totally different from today's Japan. After a long period of "lock up" of the entire Japan from any foreign countries, Japan started to open the country about 140 years ago when the Meiji Emperor took a leadership in politics of Japan. My town is located close to a town where a big company called Hitachi is located. This company was founded about 100 years ago in 1906 as a repair factory of electric motors that were imported from the United State. At around that time, almost all advanced products in Japan were imported from Europe and America.

In those days Djudo was exported from Japan to Europe. I was very interested in this fact, because, 100 years ago, Japan had almost nothing to export to advanced countries like Europe. By reading the history, the first decision to import Djudo from Japan was made by a Noble person, Szemere Miklós, who was a diplomat and later as a member of Parliament in Hungary, because he wanted to learn the secret of why Japan won the war with Russia in 1905. He suspected that Djudo might be the secret of the power of Japan.

His invitation went to Koh-Doh-Kan and my grandfather was selected as a person who teaches Judo in Hungary. He carried with him many Tatami mattress and other needed materials on the ship and arrived at Budapest in March of 2006. After he started to teach Judo in Hungary, however, he realized that a textbook would be needed. With the help of Speidl Zoltán, the book was finally written and published in 1907, exactly 100 year ago.

I would like to describe two episodes after the publication of this book. The first one is that the German Prince at that time had a private lesson from Sasaki Kichisaburo in Berlin soon after his stay in Budapest. The book was translated to German. The Prince became a great Judo fan. When it was decided for him to make a trip to Asia, he proposed to stay in the house of Sasaki Kichisaburo for a few weeks. My grandfather was surprised by this news and decided to spend his entire private savings to build a new house in Koishi-Kawa Hara-Machi in Tokyo. However, when the ship approached India, the First World War started suddenly and the entire delegation had to return back to Germany without visiting the new house of my grandfather.

The second episode is a very recent one. I organized a scientific international conference in Tokyo last June, where the Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko kindly attended the Opening Ceremony. At this conference a letter from Ozsvár András addressed to Emperor was carried by my friend Csörgő Tamás. The letter describes today's event. I handed later both his letter and the book written by Sasaki Kichiaburo to the Emperor through his surrounding person. After that, to my surprise, I received deep appreciation words from the Emperor for this event and for the book written by Sasaki Kichisaburo. I suspect if my grandfather had expected that this book was eventually read by the Emperor 100 years later. Also, I was surprised to see that many happenings worked coherently to result in an unexpected happening that the Emperor finally read the book.

The book was discovered in Budapest two years ago by the help of many friends around me. In particular, I would like to thank Professor Zimányi József who was a member of Hungarian Academy of Science, his wife, Mrs. Zimányi Magdolna, emeritus head of the department of the Computer Networking Center of KFKI, and Mr. Moldován István at Hungarian National "Széchényi" Library. Also, Professor Csörgő Tamás helped me a lot. Unfortunately, Professor Zimányi, who was one of my best friends in the work and also in the life, passed a way very recently. Without his strong help, this

book was never discovered and I wish on this occasion his eternal peace in his next life.

Coming back to the Sasaki Kichisaburo Cup, I appreciate very much for the tremendous effort by Mr. Ozsvár András. Without his enthusiasm, it was not possible to have this important occasion. I am also glad to hear the news that he decided to name his own Judo Dojo as “Sasaki Kichisaburo Judo Klub”. On behalf of the family of Sasaki, I would like to send our great appreciation to him.

After all, the most important aspect of this event is to promote cultural exchanges between Hungary and Japan. I started to know several Judo players in Japan on this occasion. Also, All Japan Judo Association helped us a lot. It is my sincere hope that this occasion is used for the purpose of significant speedup of the cultural exchanges between the two countries not only in Judo but also in other areas in cultures as exhibited today.

Thanks again for your participation and thanks to all the sponsors and to many important guests.