



**Press Release**  
Embassy of Japan in Lao PDR



12 March 2016

**The 14<sup>th</sup> Japanese Martial Arts Demonstration  
held in Vientiane**

The 14<sup>th</sup> Japanese Martial Arts Demonstration was held by the Embassy of Japan in the Lao PDR, in cooperation with the JICA Laos office and Ministry of Education and Sports, at the Lao-Japan Budo Center in Vientiane Capital on 12 March 2016. Students of the Lao Judo Federation, the Lao Karatedo Federation, the Lao National Aikido Club and the Lao Kendo Club performed in front of a large audience.

In recent years, an increasing number of young people in the Lao PDR are interested in and practice these martial arts. The level of Lao players' skill is also rising as shown in international tournaments such as the SEA games. The exciting performances by excellent players inspired many young people and contributed to a further rise in the number of those participating in *Budo* (Japanese martial arts).

The Embassy of Japan has been organizing the demonstration each year since 2005. This is a perfect opportunity for the players to demonstrate the skills they have acquired and to motivate themselves further. In Saturday's demonstration, Japanese masters also gave an excellent display of martial arts. Furthermore, H.E. Mr. Phongsavath Boupha, Minister to the President's Office, gave a karate demonstration.

The event was attended by H.E. Dr Pommek Dalaloy, President of the Lao-Japan Friendship Association, Mr. Kasem Inthara, Vice President of the National Olympic Committee, Mr. Yusuke Murakami, Chief Representative of the JICA Laos Office, and H.E. Mr. Takeshi Hikiyara, Ambassador of Japan to the Lao PDR. In addition, government officials, teachers, students and local residents, as well as family members of those who participated in the demonstration, gathered at the Budo Center to enjoy the performances.