

The 32nd World Amateur Go Championship Shimane Tournament Reception

Saturday 28 May 2011

Good evening everyone, I am the Governor of Shimane Prefecture, Zembee Mizoguchi.

We are grateful and honored to hold the 32nd World Amateur Go Championship Tournament in Matsue City. I would like to extend my warm welcome to each of you, coming from all over the world.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Nihon Ki-in, Hideo Otake, members of the Nihon Ki-in, as well as branches of Nihon Ki-in in Shimane including the Matsue branch, for making arrangements to hold this tournament in Matsue.

We are very happy to host this world tournament with such a long history in Shimane, as many prominent Go players such as Honinbo Dosaku and Honinbo Kunwa were from our prefecture.

I would like to thank all the countries which have helped Japan, following the earthquake and Tsunami on March 11. We are aware that many people around the world are concerned about the safety in Japan. To some extent, we were worried about the possibility that some foreign participants would not come to Japan for the tournament.

However, we have managed to hold the tournament. Seeing you gather here today from many different countries and regions for the tournament shows your strong devotion towards Go and your trust and friendship to Japan.

I believe this will show to the world that Japan is striving powerfully towards reconstruction. My wish is to see further bonding and solidarity of countries, regardless of borders, taking this opportunity.

Matsue city as well as the rest of Shimane is a place where rich natural beauty and the culture and history of old Japan live on strong. I would be delighted if you will take this opportunity to explore this old and beautiful part of Japan.

Finally, I wish all the participants good luck in the tournament and I hope all of you will have a pleasant and enjoyable time here. Thank you.