

I will make my speech in Japanese.

This Angkor Wat International Half Marathon is now 18 years old. With 7,500 participating runners from 75 countries, on a scale exceeding last year's event, it will be held tomorrow extravagantly.

This year marked the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Cambodia and Japan. Of which, this marathon event has become a bridge across two countries for the first time, through sports, to develop the power of live.

At that time, we desired peace for civil war-torn Cambodia, we bounced ideas and thoughts off, we supplemented the lack, and we built together.

Then, we, Hearts of Gold, who has mainly organized (the event) for 18 years, decided to transfer the organization (of this event) fully to Cambodian who have dramatically improved their technical and operational aspects.

Nothing gives me more pleasure than this. As a two time Olympic Games medalist winner, I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for my encounter and experience for my second career and pay tribute to the effort and exertion of all of you.

I very much hope that it will become an event to be loved and treasured by many people, and to be the peace and pride of Cambodia, and through sports, it will become the symbol of world peace for years to come.

At the end, for participating runners, please gain a wonderful energy with your best smile, with your best goal, tomorrow, at this Angkor Watt.

Goold lucn and thank you,

Yuko Arimori