

**Najib Opens Seventh World Junior And Cadet Karate Championships**  
**Bernama**  
**October 13, 2011**

MELAKA, Oct 13 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak Thursday officially opened the Seventh World Junior and Cadet Karate Competition at the Melaka International Trade Centre in Ayer Keroh that will feature 1,200 karate exponents from 81 countries.

Najib said Malaysia was proud to be hosting this year's competition since it was also the first time the championships was being held in Asia although karate originated from Japan.

"I expect to see a healthy spirit of competition and many exhilarating moments as you pit your talent against each other," he said to the applause of more than 2,000 people, including participant who attended the opening.

Melaka Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam, Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Ahmad Shabery Cheek and World Karate Federation President Antonia Espino Ortueta were among those present.

The four-day competition offers 31 gold medals while Malaysia are aiming to win at least two gold medals, a silver and a bronze.

Najib who was honoured with the highest rank, seventh Dan and karate full attire from the competition organiser, said the spirit of the game and its motto, "Be The Legend", will inspire the competitors to be the best that they can be.

"Focus, discipline, perseverance, picking yourself back up, when you get knocked down. These are the life skills that karate teaches, and I have no doubt the experience will serve you well in years to come," he said.

He hoped karate would be recognized as an Olympic sport as the highest honor for the competitors now is the world championship.

Meanwhile, Mohd Ali who is also the president of the Malaysian Karate Federation (MAKAF) said the championships was the largest sports event held in Melaka after hosting the SUKMA last year.

He said the sport was first introduced to Malaysia in the early 60's and today it has 22 affiliates and about 50,000 active karate members in Malaysia.

---BERNAMA

Copyright © 2011 BERNAMA

Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/newsindex.php?id=619762>