

## NAHA CITY ASSEMBLY

### Declaration of “Town of Karate and Kobudo”

Okinawan karate is a combat method that was born during the Aji period (12nd to 14th century). It originates from Okinawan traditional martial art combined with Chinese martial art and developed according to Okinawa’s natural features. It is also said that this martial art is called “karate” (literally empty hands) since no weapon is used.

The source of Okinawan karate is called Tii (literally hand). Among many styles, three mainstreams, Naafa-dii (Naha-te) in the village of Naha, Suui-dii (Shuri-te) in the castle town of Shuri and Tumai-dii (Tomari-te) in the village of Tomari are all located within the city of Naha. Therefore, only Naha City is entitled to proclaim itself the “birthplace of traditional Okinawan karate”.

It is said that over 60,000,000 people in over 180 countries are learning karate. Beyond borders, languages, religions, and races, karate is loved by many and still spreads worldwide. There is no other culture of Okinawa that is spread into every corner of the world like karate. Inherited from generations to generations throughout the history of Ryukyu, the charm and splendor of karate are unlimited.

The belief of “Heiwa no Bu” (martial art for peace) resides in karate, which fundamental principle is the “respect for life”. The Ryukyu Kingdom prospered as a trade nation with a peace-oriented diplomacy. Karate represents the spirit and philosophy of Okinawa, our proud traditional culture that contributes to world peace.

Regarding Okinawan traditional kobudo (traditional weaponry), kobudo and karate are inseparable like the two wheels of a cart. Inherited from the Ryukyu Kingdom Era in Shuri and Naha till today, we are also very proud of this traditional martial art.

Therefore, Naha City Assembly proudly announces that our city is the origin of “Okinawa Traditional Karate and Martial Arts” and continuing to wish happiness for all and world peace, we declare Naha “Town of Karate and Kobudo”.

We pass the resolution as above on June 18, 2012.

Naha City Assembly