

## Congratulatory Message

I would like to congratulate all the parties concerned and express my sincere respect for their efforts on the occasion of the Le 19eme Trophée Maîtres Cuisiniers de France “Jean Schllinger” and La 19eme Coupe Maîtres de Service.

These two competitions have been held since 1994. This year in particular, I heard they are worthy of special commemoration, as their host, the Association De Promotion De La Gastronomie Francaise (APGF), became a general incorporated association in January and thus stands at a new starting point. It is my heartfelt hope that the APGF and all the parties concerned will continue to develop a great history of both competitions and work to cultivate human resources of all generations who are professionals in both cooking and service.

Similarly to nature and culture, cuisine is one of the key elements that play a part in tourism. For international travelers visiting Japan, cuisine is a great attraction. This is because Japan offers not only Japanese cuisine, but also international cuisine of a high standard. In particular, I believe that French cuisine has become one of the attractions offered by Japan thanks to the enhancement of techniques and the development and evolution that we have enjoyed at opportunities such as these two competitions.

Meanwhile, the tourism and travel industry has been greatly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and related businesses, such as restaurants and hotels, find themselves in an unprecedentedly severe situation. I will spare no effort for the revival of the tourism industry throughout Japan. At the same time, I sincerely hope that the pandemic will resolve as soon as possible so that restaurants and hotels can regain vitality once again, and the contestants who participated in these competitions and put such great effort into their studies will be able to play an active role in communicating the appeal of these industries all over the country.

Finally, I would like to conclude my message by wishing the best of luck to today's contestants as well as the success of the competitions.



Koichi WADA  
Commissioner of the Japan Tourism Agency  
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