

## Tokyo Powerlifting Association Celebrates the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The Tokyo Powerlifting Association (TPA) celebrated the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding. The celebration was held on March 4<sup>th</sup> 2018 at TOTENKO Chinese Restaurant near JR Ueno Station, Tokyo. Though somewhat chilly, blessed with fine weather of limpid sky, the participants numbered well over 70. Thanks those who came from Aomori and Osaka for coming such a long way!

The celebration began at 1:00p.m. with an opening address given by Masaaki Komori, Chief Director of the Association, followed by offering silent prayer for the deceased directors.

TPA Chairman Sanzo Hosaka gave a welcoming address on behalf of the association, and then congratulatory messages were offered by the four VIPs ; Ms Yuriko Koike, the Governor of Tokyo, Mr. Hidenao Miyamoto, Chairman of the Japan Powerlifting Association (JPA), Ms Kiyoko Ono, the former Chairman of the TPA and Mr. Keizo Takemi, a member of the House of Councilors.

One of highlights of the program was a commendation ceremony to the directors who contributed for TPA management and activities for long period. A memorial shield was presented to each of them: 4 directors of especially distinguished service, 10 directors of distinguished service, 4 directors who got special results as world powerlifting and or benchpress champion, 4 directors who got results in the world powerlifting and or benchpress championships, and a letter of appreciation was awarded to three persons including the deceased.

Finally, a letter of thanks was awarded to TPA Chairman Sanzo Hosaka by JPA Chairman Hidenao Miyamoto praising his long-term contribution to the promotion of powerlifting.

Also the banquet was a great success what with an attraction tap-dance and with a slides show introducing pictures of old and dear powerlifters and benchpressers. The closing address was given by TPA Vice-Chairman Nobuhiro Takahashi. Anyway March 4<sup>th</sup> was a never-to-be-forgotten day for all present at the celebration.

Reported by Masaaki Komori