



**Greetings
from
Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson
the President of Iceland**

The people of Iceland salute the opening of the Men's Handball Championship in Kumamoto Prefecture.

May the good spirit of the games held in Iceland in 1995 characterise the event in Japan in 1997.

In Iceland, the country of volcanos, glaciers, geysers, the midnight sun and the northern lights, handball has touched the soul of the people in such a way as to make it a truly national sport.

I have enjoyed many splendid matches in my country and I hope that the players and the spectators will have many marvelous moments during the matches in Japan.

I send best wishes from the people of Iceland.