

Remarks of Mr. Hidenobu Sobashima, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic  
of Zambia on the Occasion of the 30<sup>th</sup> Japanese Ambassador's Judo  
Tournament on 24 November 2018

Ms. Bessie Chelemu, Director of Sports, Ministry of Youth, Sport and Child  
Development of the Republic of Zambia, Representing the Minister,  
Mr. Alfred Foloko, President, and Other Officials of Zambia Judo  
Association,  
Representatives from the Media,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour and pleasure to host the 30<sup>th</sup> Japanese Ambassador's Judo  
Tournament.

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Zambia Judo  
Association, Judo clubs, and each Judoka participating in this tournament,  
as well as the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Child Development, the music  
band there and sponsors, and indeed all of you present here, without whom  
this tournament would not have become possible.

Two years from now, Tokyo, Japan, will host the Summer Olympic and  
Paralympic Games.

We look forward to receiving strong Judokas from Zambia in Tokyo and  
viewing them win medals!

Ever since I arrived in Zambia about two years ago, I have repeatedly stated  
on various occasions that, as Ambassador of Japan to Zambia, I am  
determined to do my best, building upon the long-standing friendly and  
cooperative relations between Japan and Zambia extending from political  
and economic to cultural and other areas, and in cooperation with the  
Japanese experts, volunteers, NGOs and companies in Zambia, to further  
advance our bilateral relations.

Promotion of Judo in Zambia is one area for such advancement.

Judo was established in Japan in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and has spread to the world, and currently more than 200 countries and territories are members of the International Judo Federation.

In Zambia Judo was introduced in 1970, as the first Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers to Zambia were Judo teachers.

In addition to familiarizing Judo to Zambians, Japan provided such equipment as Judo uniforms and mats to Zambia Judo Association.

Zambia sent Judokas to the London Olympics in 2012 and the Rio Olympics in 2016.

We understand that at present more than 3,000 Zambians are practicing Judo.

I believe that the Japanese martial arts including Judo have the following three characteristics:

First, strength, of course.

Secondly, beauty of movement.

Thirdly, respect for the opponent.

Practicing Judo may result not only in physical strength, but also in mental and humanitarian strength, fostering what my predecessor called the “spirit of mutual prosperity”.

I look forward to witnessing Zambian Judokas, particularly the finalists, demonstrate these, when they compete for the top position, as the winners of this tournament may be going to Tokyo in 2020 representing Zambia.

In conclusion, I look forward to good matches of Zambian Judokas, who are goodwill ambassadors of Zambia not only to Japan, but also to the entire world.

Thank you.