

**REMARKS BY
H. E. MR. AKIO EGAWA, AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN
TO THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA ON THE OCCASION OF
THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR'S JUDO TOURNAMENT
AT OLYMPIC YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTER, LUSAKA
26TH OCTOBER 2013**

Mr. Boniface Nalishiwa, Acting Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Youth and Sports,
Mr. Alfred Foloko, President of the Zambia Judo Association,
Representatives from the National Sports Council of Zambia
Participating Judokas,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to be here today to witness the finals of the Japanese Ambassador's Judo Tournament, 2013 and to make some remarks on behalf of the Government of Japan.

The Japanese Ambassador's Judo Tournament was inaugurated as a major annual event in 1986 and ran until 2002. It was re-introduced in 2005 and has been held every year since then. This occasion marks the third time that I have been afforded the opportunity to witness this annual event.

Judo was originated in Japan in the late 1800s, but now, Judo is not merely confined to Japan as martial arts. It is a worldwide sport and more than 200 countries and regions belong to the International Judo Federation.

There is a Japanese proverb that says "Weak but pliant can overcome strong and hard." Judo is a sport of making use of the

opponent's power, and it is sometimes seen at a Judo event that a small Japanese player throws a big international player. This clearly represents the essence of Judo.

The basic underlying philosophy of Judo is "mutual prosperity between oneself and others". It is about gaining respect for civility and trusting each other. Therefore, it is said that Judo is not only for overcoming an opponent, but also for gaining mastery over oneself.

Judo was introduced to Zambia in the 1970s. Since then, the Japanese Government has been associated with Judo in Zambia and has dispatched many Judo experts through JICA and the Japan Foundation. Japan also provided the first grant for Judo equipment including Judo uniforms and Judo mats in 1998. On top of that, the additional Judo equipment was handed over to the Zambia Judo Association in 2002 and again in 2010, which is worth about K400 million in total. I have been told that there are now over 3,000 Judokas here in Zambia.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On September 7, 2013, Tokyo was selected to host the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Considering that Judo was adopted as an official Olympic sport in the 1964 Tokyo Olympic, I believe the 2020 Tokyo Olympics will be meaningful in the history of Judo. Among Japanese martial arts, Judo is the only one which has been adopted as a formal event at the Olympic Games. It is my sincere hope that by perfecting this acumen, Zambian Judokas will reap medals in the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games.

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank the Executive Committee of the Zambia Judo Association for having successfully organised today's tournament; the sponsors for providing financial and other forms of assistance; as well as the competitors for the high level of Judo skills they have displayed during the contest.

In closing, I would like to congratulate the finalists and wish all of them the very best as they compete for the topmost position this afternoon. May I also commend all the Judo clubs that have taken part in this year's competition, without whose participation the tournament would not have been possible. It is significant to the development of Zambia that we learn about Japan and build up a spirit of mutual prosperity through Judo training, because it will lead to establishing a society of joint support. I believe Japan and Zambia will continue the cooperative relationship under the spirit of mutual prosperity. I hope everyone will become an accomplished Judoka through increased training.

Thank you.