

**REMARKS BY H. E. MR. KIYOSHI KOINUMA,  
AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR'S  
JUDO TOURNAMENT AT OLYMPIC YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
CENTER, LUSAKA, 6<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2016**

Mr. Raphael Mulenga, Acting Director of Ministry of Youth and Sport,  
Mr. Alfred Foloko, President of the Zambia Judo Association,  
Representatives from the National Sports Council of Zambia,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to hold the 12th Japanese Ambassador's National Judo Tournament.

First and foremost, I would like to thank the Zambia Judo Association for having successfully organized the tournament, the sponsors for providing financial and all other forms of assistance, as well as the competitors for the high level of Judo skills.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At last year's tournament, I mentioned that 2014 was the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the diplomatic relationship between Japan and Zambia and that it is significant for the enhancement of a cordial and steadfast relationship even more in the next 50 years. This year, 2016 is also a very important one for both countries. Allow me to mention today that the 6th Tokyo International Conference on African Development, TICAD VI, will be held in the Republic of Kenya this month. This conference will be the first-ever TICAD to take place on the African continent in its over 20 years of history. The TICAD process has always

been built on a key principle, “African ownership”, and holding TICAD in Africa clearly manifests the strong African ownership. I believe that TICADV I will elevate the relationship between Japan and Africa into a new phase. I am strongly expecting active participation from Zambia in the conference.

Judo was originated in Japan in the late 1800s, and now, Judo has become a worldwide sport. More than 200 countries and regions belong to the International Judo Federation. I have been told that Judo was introduced to Zambia in the 1970s. Since then, the Japanese Government has been associated with Judo in Zambia and provided the first grant for Judo equipment including Judo uniforms and Judo mats in 1998. On top of that, the additional Judo equipment, which is worth more than eight million Kwacha in total, was handed over to the Zambia Judo Association in 2002 and 2010. I have also been told that there are now over 3,000 Judokas here in Zambia.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

When Tokyo was selected to host the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Japan launched a new initiative called “Sport for Tomorrow” and committed to providing prioritized assistance to further contribute to the promotion of world peace and international understanding through sport, over the period until 2020. In upholding this noble initiative of “Sport for Tomorrow”, I would like to continue to expand our assistance towards spreading and promoting the Olympic movement among people of all generations including the youth, who represent the future. Among Japanese martial arts, Judo is one of the sports which have been adopted as a formal event at the Olympic Games. It is my sincere hope that Zambian Judokas will reap medals in the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In closing, I would like to congratulate the finalists and wish all of them the very best as they compete for the topmost position. 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 said that the basic underlying philosophy of Judo is "mutual prosperity between oneself and others". It is about gaining respect for civility and trusting each other. It is significant to the development of Zambia that we build up a spirit of mutual prosperity through Judo training, because it will lead to establishing a society of mutual support. I believe Japan and Zambia will continue the cooperative relationship under such spirit. I hope everyone will become an accomplished Judoka through increased training.

Thank you.