

**Remarks by NAITO Yasushi Consul-General of Japan in Perth  
At the University of Western Australia Judo Club  
March 7, 2023**

Mr Stockley Davis; the Founder and Chairman of UWA Judo Club  
And the members of the UWA Judo Club,  
Good Evening;

I am Naito Yasushi, Consul General of Japan in Perth. Thank you for inviting me to the practice session. As the Government of Japan presented Foreign Minister's Commendation in 2019 to Mr Stockley Davis, the Founder and Chairman of the UWA Judo Club, we highly value your activities. We are so fortunate to have the most active Judo Club in whole Australia so close to us, at Perth.

Soon after I arrived here in last October, we received Prime Minister of Japan, Mr KISHIDA Fumio here in Perth. Bilateral relations between Japan and Australia was uplifted further. Prime Minister visited Perth this time because all the important elements of Japan Australia relations were concentrated here in Western Australia, namely partnership on energy, mineral resources and security cooperation. Profile of WA in Japan was uplifted and many good things are following since then. Premier McGowan visited Japan a month ago and there was an announcement of resumption of Perth Tokyo direct flights later this year.

We are keenly aware that these developments are supported by people-to-people ties build over the years including cultural, sport exchanges. We have so many good will ambassadors both as individuals and organizations in WA, bridging Japan and Australia. UWA Judo Club is certainly one of them. We thank your contribution in friendship between Japan and Australia through Judo since 1988.

I was reading the activity paper of the UWA Judo Club and I was impressed that Club tries to promote Judo from every effective angles; education, academics, language training, university exchange, community engagement, and off course building international standard in Western Australia. It also attaches importance to Japanese community ties including coming Perth Japan Festival later this month. English plus Judo, Farm stay adventure Judo trainings, Education plus Judo are all genius ideas.

I personally practiced Judo in my Junior High up to brown belt. 20 years later when I worked at the Japanese Embassy in South Africa, my Embassy colleague was 5<sup>th</sup> dan from Fuchu correctional service coached National Judo Team of South Africa and I joined as his interpreter. But many mistakenly thought I am great veteran of Judo and Ladies National Team members asked for randori and thrown me badly. So do not mistake. But I am a fan of Judo.

So all the best, enjoy and share the fun of Judo and we wish you further success and development of Judo in Western Australia and in Australia.

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