

Remarks by NAITO Yasushi, Consul General of Japan in Perth  
Welcome of Megumi Horikawa, 2022 Judo World Champion to UWA Judo Club  
On 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024

- Prof Jennifer Howell, Pro Vice-Chancellor Global Engagement, University of Western Australia,
- Mr Stockley Davis, Founder and Chairman of the UWA Judo Club,
- Mr Arun Radha Krishnan, Honorary Chairman of the UWA Judo Club,
- Ms Megumi Horikawa, 2022 Judo World Champion,
- Members of the UWA Judo Club,

Good evening, I wish to start by acknowledging the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet tonight, the Whadjuk people of the Noongar Nation, and pay my respects to their elders, past, present and emerging.

It is my honour to join you in welcoming Ms Megumi Horikawa, 2022 Judo World Champion and graduate of the University of Tsukuba, to Perth to teach, share her skills and inspire the members of the UWA Judo Club.

I would like to pay a special tribute to Mr Stockley Davis for his persistent efforts to overcome the challenges of the pandemic and continue the longstanding training exchanges and bilateral collaborations with universities across Japan, while hosting a number of guest coaches including Ms Chihiro Miyasaka, a sports science master's graduate from the University of Tsukuba.

It has been two years since my arrival and the milestone visit of Prime Minister Kishida to Perth, and since then the relationship between Japan and WA has grown even stronger. Japan and Western Australia has walked a remarkable journey over the past 140 years, overcoming difficult times to become a success model of resource and mineral cooperations, developing our two economies and building strategic partnerships based on shared values.

I am keenly aware that these developments are supported by people-to-people ties built over many years including cultural and sports interactions.

I am especially glad to say this in the presence of Mr Krishnan, the Honorary

Chairman of UWA Judo Club who established the double major of Japanese Studies here at UWA in the 1970s and believed in building human bonds and bilateral collaborations with Japan. This became an untold historical junction that nurtured a deep understanding of Japan, and has since produced many distinguished people such as Mr Stockley Davis.

The UWA Judo Club has become one of the most successful clubs in Australia, with five Senior National Champions and many junior national medalists in Judo. The club promotes Judo from various effective angles; education, academics, language training, university exchange, community engagement, while building an international standard in Western Australia.

Courses such as English plus Judo, Farm stay Judo trainings, and Education plus Judo are the key to fostering a deep understanding and bonds with Japan. The Foreign Minister's Commendation awarded to Stockley in 2019 is a small token of our appreciation.

I would like to conclude by extending a big welcome and my appreciation to Ms Horikawa for finding the time to visit Perth, where the people are as warm as the climate. Thank you for your willingness to share your skills, training methods and spiritual inspirations to our Judo friends in Perth and I hope you become a regular visitor to Perth, the most beautiful city in the world.

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