

Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you all for joining us today for the 8th Judo Japanese Ambassador's Cup. Before we begin the final matches, allow me to share a few words about the spirit and origins of Judo, as well as its journey here in the UAE.

Judo, which means "the gentle way," is a martial art founded by Jigoro Kano in 1882. It teaches values such as respect, discipline, and perseverance. Since becoming an Olympic sport in 1964, Judo has inspired people all over the world.

In the UAE, Judo has grown remarkably, thanks to the tireless dedication of the UAE Judo Federation. Through consistent efforts to nurture young talent and host international events like the Abu Dhabi Grand Slam and World Judo Championships, the UAE has become a central hub for Judo in the region.

Since 2016, The Japanese Embassy and INPEX has co-hosted the Judo Japanese Ambassador's Cup. Tokai University had also contributed by sending expert coaches and welcoming

Emirati athletes to train in Japan – including standout talents like Maitha Mohamed who have had the chance to study and train in Japan.

In 2023, H.E. Mr. Naser Al Tamimi, Secretary-General of the UAE Judo Federation, was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays— one of the highest honors from the Japanese government—in recognition of his long-standing efforts to promote Judo and strengthen Japan-UAE relations.

We are very blessed to have such an outstanding figure and many others who have contributed to the promotion of Judo in the UAE. We extend our sincere appreciation to all those who have contributed to the success of the 8th Judo Japanese Ambassador's Cup. Thank you.