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M. Alain Christian KINGUE DIHANG, Président de
la Fédération Camerounaise de Judo

Mesdames et Messieurs

C'est un très grand plaisir pour moi de prendre part à cette cérémonie d'inauguration du « ***Projet de construction d'un dojo national de la FECAJUDO*** », réalisée dans le cadre du soutien aux micro-projets de l'Ambassade du Japon, contribuant à la promotion de la culture.

Cameroon's growing love and attachment to judo has been visible over the years through its rising number of judo practitioners. I commend the efforts of Mr. KINGUE, President of Cameroonian Judo Federation and all the other Judokas who have contributed in one way or the other to make judo popular in Cameroon.

Throughout the different regions in Cameroon, more and more competitions are organized, both national judo competitions and African judo competitions. Therefore, I do hope that the inauguration of this national dojo, as a gift from Japan to Cameroon will be a great boost for judokas in Cameroon and in Africa.

Let me take this opportunity to touch upon the important history of Judo and International Olympic movement. Since established in Japan in 1882 by Kano Jigoro, Judo has been practiced not only as a sport to strengthen body and mind, but also as an embodiment of the Japanese spirit and philosophy, “Juyoku Gowo Seisu” meaning, “The soft overcomes the hard; and the weak overcomes the strong.”

By practicing Judo, it will be possible for a small person to defeat a large person if he or she, with skills and determination, takes advantage of the opponent’s overconfidence and lack of attention. I believe that this judo spirit of sportsmanship and fairness was very much in line with the International Olympic movement and therefore was instrumental to Mr. Kano’s appointment as the first Asian member of the IOC back in 1909.

Judo was first included in the Olympic games in Tokyo 1964, also the first ever Olympic games to be held in Asia.

I am happy to note that Cameroon joined the Olympic competitions since 1964 and two female judokas participated in Tokyo 2020.

I very much hope that our embassy's assistance to this "Project for the Construction of a National FECAJUDO Dojo" will contribute to the strengthening of Cameroonian judo, producing more Cameroonian judokas participating in future Olympic games. The “National Juniors & Seniors Mixed Team Women & Men Judo Cup of Cameroon 2022”, which will take place here in this arena tomorrow will, I am sure, certainly kick-start this promising process toward a more successful future.

En conclusion, je voudrais une fois de plus saluer tous les efforts déployés par le Gouvernement du Cameroun, le Comité National Olympique et Paralympique du Cameroun et la FECAJUDO pour la promotion du judo et de l'esprit japonais dans ce pays.

Thank you for your attention.