

## A CONGRATULATORY ADDRESS

Congratulations on the 37th Genkai Flag Junior High School Judo Tournament!

I understand that the Genkai Flag Junior High School Judo Tournament is a prestigious tournament that has been held since 1986, and has produced many Olympic athletes and world championship medalists. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to everyone involved in the organization and operation of this Tournament by overcoming the global pandemic of the Covid-19 and above all in having warmly received the Polish and Ukrainian teams.

Ukraine continues to face a very difficult situation. While the international community, including Poland, is making efforts to support the reconstruction of Ukraine in the future, Japan's sports community is also carrying out various support activities, including the holding of this tournament. As Ambassador of Japan, I would like to express my sincere respect and gratitude.

Dear junior high school students participating in the competition,

I hope that you will interact with Japanese athletes not only at the tournament, but also through practice and other events. Judo and other sports have no borders. I hope that you will play a leading role in international exchange and, by extension, serve as a bridge between Poland, Ukraine, and Japan in the future.

In closing, I would like to once again congratulate you on the opening of this tournament, and wish that through judo, the circle of friendship and goodwill among Ukraine, Poland, Japan, and the international community as a whole will continue to expand.

23th September 2022

Ambassador Extraordinary and  
Plenipotentiary of Japan to Ukraine

Kuninori Matsuda