

## Japan Funds Project to Construct the First Ever Judo Dojo in Zimbabwe

On 19 March, the signing ceremony of a project to construct a new judo dojo was held. The new dojo will be funded through Japan's Grant Assistance for Cultural Grassroots Projects (GCGP) programme, with US\$ 73,498 provided in funding. The project will be implemented by the Judo Association of Zimbabwe (JAZ). Ambassador Yamanaka and JAZ President, Mr Smart Deke, signed the grant agreements. It will be constructed at the National Sports Stadium in Harare. Also attending was the President of Zimbabwe Olympic Committee, Mr Thabani Gonye; one of the founding members of JAZ, Mrs Pat Warren; and two-time Olympian and double female African judo champion Mrs Debi Jeans.

The members of JAZ have been dreaming about having a dojo for many years, and this will be the first ever specialised dojo in the country. It is expected to allow judoka to hold more extensive training and competitions, contributing to the stronger performance of Zimbabwean judoka in international competitions.

Also at the signing ceremony, young judoka gave demonstrations of their skills.



Group Photo



Signing of Grant Agreements



Exchange of Grant Agreements



Ambassador's remarks



Remarks by JAZ President, Mr Smart Deke



Remarks by Zimbabwe Olympic Committee President, Mr Thabani Gonye

