

Good morning judo friends,

First I would like to thank Matsu and the Kiwi Club Osaka for the invitation to be here at this tournament. It's a great pleasure to be here. I've been trying for years to come, but always had to be somewhere else. This year I should be in Paris at the Kata World Cup but I cancelled that trip so I could come to Osaka International Goodwill Tournament.

I first met Matsu when he came to New Zealand in the 1970's and he hit our little judo community like a bombshell. He threw everybody, big and small, no matter how big, and he threw us so fast we never knew what happened. It was fantastic.

Matsu was two years in New Zealand, teaching judo, and he formed a special relationship with our country and particularly the Judokwai club in Auckland, that has lasted and grown for more than 30 years,

From quite early in my judo life I have been involved in teaching and administration. Now I am president of Oceania Judo Union and vice president of International Judo Federation. I have to say that the further you get in the international judo world the more difficult it seems to be. I've had some hard and unpleasant battles, as well as a lot of pleasure working for the development of judo in the Pacific.

But for me, the Osaka International Judo Friendship Association, the Kiwi Club and the International Goodwill Tournament are the best part of judo. That includes devotion to improving technique, but also to bring the judo spirit into all parts of life and to promote friendship and goodwill.

I go from here to Samoa for the Samoa Invitation Championships, and there I will spend some time with Matsu's daughter Saeko, who is teaching judo as a member of JICA. So the friendship and goodwill continues for the next generation.

Finally I would like to thank Matsu again, not only for the invitation to this tournament, but for everything he has done and been in his judo life, as a mentor, a teacher and an inspiration to so many young people, and an example of everything that is best about judo.

Thank you.