

Remarks by H.E. Yoshio Yamawaki, Ambassador of Japan to Cyprus,  
at the Conferment Ceremony of 2025 Spring Conferment of  
Decorations on Foreign Nationals to Mr Costas Papacostas

Good afternoon,

Your Excellency, Minister of Justice and Public Order, Mr. Marios  
Hartsiotis,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my profound honor today, at the 2025 Spring Conferment of  
Decorations on Foreign Nationals, to celebrate Mr. Costas  
Papacostas for his conferment of the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold  
and Silver Rays.

For over half a century, Mr. Papacostas has made extraordinary  
contributions to promoting Judo in Cyprus and strengthening the  
friendship between Japan and Cyprus.

Thanks to his dedication, I believe that Judo has now become one of  
the most popular martial arts in Cyprus, captivating more and more  
people of all ages.

Among others, his achievements include establishing the Cyprus  
Judo Federation and numerous clubs, organizing the first national  
Judo tournament and instructing over 500 children. These  
accomplishments are a testament to his unwavering dedication and  
tireless efforts, which inspire us all.

His contributions extend far beyond Judo. His tireless efforts in

sharing the principles of Bushido – respect, loyalty, and self-discipline – have significantly increased understanding of the Japanese culture in Cyprus, particularly among younger generations.

In his book “Japan – The Eternal Aura of the Dojo”, he successfully makes this complex philosophy accessible to the Cypriot audience.

Furthermore, I must mention his vital role in inviting children from Japan, who were affected by the accident at the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant following the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake.

During their month-long stay in Cyprus, these 25 children were warmly welcomed, visiting government representatives and engaging with Japanese cultural organizations, such as the Go Association. This initiative significantly contributed to cultural exchange and strengthened the bonds between Japan and Cyprus.

Today, we honour Mr. Papacostas’s outstanding contributions to promoting Judo in Cyprus and friendship between Japan and Cyprus, with the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays. This is a well-deserved recognition of his exceptional dedication.

We would like to offer our sincerest congratulations to Mr. Papacostas and we wish you continued success in all your future endeavors.

Thank you.