

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2025 Spring Conferment of Decorations

Nicosia, 29 April 2025

On April 29, 2025 (Japan Time), the Government of Japan announced the recipients of the 2025 Spring Conferment of Decorations on Foreign Nationals. Among the distinguished recipients is Mr. Costas Papacostas, President of the Cyprus Olympians Association.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions to the promotion of Judo in Cyprus and the strengthening of ties between Japan and Cyprus, Mr. Papacostas will be awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays.

Decoration: Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays

Service: Contributions towards promoting Judo in Cyprus and friendship between Japan and Cyprus

Name: Costas Papacostas

Major Title: President of the Cyprus Olympians Association

Address (Nationality): Limassol (Cyprus)

Costas Papacostas is a former Olympic judoka who represented Cyprus at the 1980 Moscow and 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games. He formally trained with Japanese nationals at the Tokai University in Japan. He remained deeply engaged in the sport—first as a competitive athlete, then as coach of the Cyprus National Judo Team—contributing significantly to the development and promotion of Judo in Cyprus. Following his retirement from active competition, he has continued to foster cultural exchange by delivering lectures on Japanese culture and by sharing his experiences of Japan.



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Established in 2018, the Embassy of Japan in Cyprus is committed to its ongoing mission of introducing Japanese culture in Cyprus through events, educational activities, and grant programs.

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