

Certified NPO Solidarity of Judo Education

18th Lecture 「A Gift from God」

Kayoko Hosokawa

Chairperson of

Yuki no Tsubasa, Wings of Courage Inclusion NPO

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Opening address

Secretary General Keiko Mitsumoto

I would like to begin Solidarity of Judo Education NPO's 18th lecture. My name is Keiko Mitsumoto and I am the office manager at this NPO.

We are very grateful so many people have taken time out of their busy schedules to attend here today. We will start with the welcoming address given by the Chairman of the board Mr. Yamashita.

President Yasuhiro Yamashita



Good evening and I'd like to say a big thank you to everyone for coming in such great numbers to the Solidarity of Judo Education NPO's 18th Lecture. Today is the 18th lecture however I still recall the first lecture which was actually held 11 years ago in December. The first lecture was given by Mr. Hiroshi Okuda, chairman of the Japan Business Federation. In the 11 years since then our NPO has progressed greatly thanks to the support of our members and sponsors.

This year also we are further developing our activities through the donation of Judo uniforms and tatami mats to other countries, the sending of our instructors abroad and receiving instructors from other countries.

This year marks the 8th year that we have held a coaching seminar for instructors from all over the world. We invited nine instructors from 8 different countries including Israel and Palestine all of whom worked exceedingly hard. They will be formally introduced later.

Today is the last day of the current seminar. As in recent years a presentation will be held after today's lecture which will be followed by a reception.

On a different note we were also able to further develop our relations with neighboring countries China and Russia this year.

2017 Report on Activities

And now on a different subject, we were able to further develop ties this year with neighboring countries China and Russia. In October to mark 45 years of diplomatic relations with China, the Japan male judo team coach Kosei Inoue held a training session at the Japan-China friendship Nanjing Judo Hall which was set up by our NPO with the support of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The success of the event was a big surprise even to Mr. Inoue and was featured on NHK's news watch 9. I also visited Qingdao in November. I took part in an event to mark the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Japan-China Qingdao Friendship Judo Hall mainly by our NPO. To mark the event The Consul Cup Qingdao International Judo Championship was held.

Next I'd like to report on our activities in Russia. It was 100 years ago that the first friendly match took place between judoka from Hokkaido and Vladivostok. It is considered to be the very first international friendly match in judo's history.

To mark the 100th anniversary a friendly international match was held in Vladivostok in

September for males and females under 20. The match coincided with the 2017 Eastern Economic Forum which was also held in Vladivostok. The Forum was attended by the Russian President Vladimir Putin, Mongolia's President Khaltmaagiin Battulga and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. In actual fact not only is President Putin a judoka but Mongolia's President is too. He is the chairman of the Mongolian Judo Federation. Many Heads of State gathered at the Forum however unfortunately the Far Eastern Federal University where it was held did not have a judo hall. At Tokai University where I am Vice-President we have various academic exchange agreements with the Far Eastern Federal University and have developed a number of collaborative activities so with the cooperation of Tokai University and our NPO we were able to provide them with a judo hall. A judo program will start at the Far Eastern Federal University from October. We sent Kenji Mitsumoto, teaching instructor and coach with our NPO along with Nobuyuki Asai in charge of Russian Exchange over there. We hope that this will further develop relations between Japan and Vladivostok through judo. We are able to develop such grassroots activities thanks to the continued support of our members. I'd like to again offer our sincere thanks.

Kayoko Hosokawa – The Special Olympics –

Today's lecture will be given by Kayoko Hosokawa. As you all know she is from Kanagawa Prefecture. Mrs. Hosokawa's husband Morihiro Hosokawa is a former Prime Minister and has long been the governor of Kanagawa Prefecture and I have also known Mrs. Hosokawa for a long time.

It must be about 20 years ago that I received a phone call from Mrs. Hosokawa asking if she could meet me to discuss something. She wanted to ask for my support to set up the Special Olympics in Japan to help people with disabilities through sport. There was no way I could say no as I was on friendly terms with both Kayoko Hosokawa and her husband the lord of

Kanagawa. It seems like yesterday that I offered her whatever help I could give.

Since then Kayoko Hosokawa has also been involved in activities other than the Special Olympics which offer support to people with disabilities. Her activities have developed rapidly working closely with many people.

New beginnings

with the All Japan Judo Federation

I took the position of Chairman of the Japan Judo Federation in June. I have always thought that to improve life in the 21st Century society needs to encourage more women to take an active role. Kayoko Hosokawa is an excellent example of such a woman. We are working to make the Japan Judo Federation and the Judo world organizations easier for women to take a part in.

In addition the All Japan Judo Federation started an affiliation with the Japan Blind Judo Federation NPO two years ago and is developing various activities. A recent approval was made by the Board of Directors of the All Japan Judo Federation to set up a group to promote Judo for people with intellectual disabilities from January 2018. Fellow director and I have devised a plan to hold the first judo championships for people with intellectual disabilities in 2018 either at the Special Olympics or in collaboration with Kodokan.

The aim of the Championships is not to find the winner. Not to simply experience 'The joy of winning' or 'The disappointment of losing' but to build friendships and enjoy taking part.

Our activities are becoming more influential in changing the environment and I feel they are helping to make things as they should be.

As President of this NPO and of the All Japan Judo Federation and also Vice President of Tokai University I hope to continue striving to make a meaningful contribution to society and internationally. Apologies for the length of my speech which I would

like to end here. Thank you very much.

Mrs. Mitsumoto Let's move on now and hear from Mrs. Kayoko Hosokawa.

「A Gift from God」

Kayoko Hosokawa

Good evening everyone my name is Kayoko Hosokawa. I would love to hear more from President Mr. Yamashita and feel very honored to stand before you here today.



It's not really a very good way to start a lecture but I'm afraid I'm actually in ill health. I have a friend who will stand in and give a speech on my behalf if I take ill.

As you heard just now from Mr. Yamashita I am involved with the Special Olympics. I'd like to ask everybody if possible. Could you please raise your hands if you have one, heard of the Special Olympics and two, if you know anything of our activities?

Thank you very much. I see a lot of people raised their hands however probably not even half of the people in this hall maybe a third? I have a feeling not everybody here has heard of us. Today is a gathering of people from the judo world so many of you have heard of us but when addressing the general public even fewer people are able to raise their hands.

Special Olympics

The setting up of the Special Olympics

The first time I encountered the Special Olympics was 25 years ago. We began to set up the Special Olympics at a time when it was hardly known by anyone. The reason I began lies in the following

powerful words. No matter how technology has developed, at least 2 per cent of babies will be born with intellectual disabilities. They are a gift from God, to teach human beings the importance of kindness and consideration. In fact these people are born with amazing abilities. They bring out the kindness and thoughtfulness of the people around them. These were the words of a preacher.

Disabled people tend to have difficulty speaking up for themselves. However if they do not speak up nothing will ever change. The world tends to view them as people who are unable to do anything themselves, people who deserve pity. The situation in Japan is that nothing is expected of them.

I don't believe that these people are to be 'felt sorry' for, that 'God is so unfair', 'Why do people have to be born like this?' 'What an outrageous God'

What shocked me when I heard this was how it was the opposite to my way of thinking up until now. These people are actually a gift from God. If you believe that these people are incapable of doing anything and don't allow them to do anything but simply protect them from the world in some cases going as far as families hiding them from away. This way of thinking was prevalent 20-30 years ago. That was indeed how I thought until I heard this story.

My husband is a politician so I get to attend various meetings. At one such meeting I had the chance to hear from the mothers of children with disabilities.

The thing they pleaded for was a facility where their children could live safely. 'We worry about what will happen to our children after we die' they told me. They explained that Japan was very behind in providing such facilities.

My reaction to this was. 'That is terrible. There's nothing I can do but I will talk to my husband and hopefully he will be able to provide a little help.' I thought to myself, 'How terribly unfair God is. It's such bad luck that they were born that way. I'm thankful our three children were born normal.'

The only thing I managed to do was comfort these

women telling them how sorry I felt for them. Everything changed when I heard 'They are a Gift from God.' How could I have been so stupid? Everyone has a place in the world and a reason for being born. Each of us have a role to play. Nobody is born simply to be unhappy.' I was convinced of this and decided then to make it my job to help them.

How it all started

Meeting Tomoko-chan

I wasn't sure what to do though. As luck would have it I spotted an article with a photo of a 10 year old girl with Down's syndrome who was holding a silver medal and had a wonderful smile. I thought it was amazing that a girl with Down's syndrome could win a medal in a world event and continued to read the article. It said that all athletes who persevered until the end were given a commendation. I had never heard of an Olympics like that and decided I wanted to meet with Tomoko's mother. Her mother told me the event was called the Special Olympics. She told me that Tomoko's teacher was a lady called Mrs. Nakamura and that she was a gymnastics instructor. I am involved in many activities and bring together a lot of people but was eager to ask just how she became involved in such an amazing event. That is how I found out that in the Special Olympics everyone who takes part is given an award. Tomoko's journey began when she was told, 'There aren't many competitors so if your parents agree then please come and take part.' Her mother wasn't really sure what to expect.

When it was her turn at the competition and her name was called she was supposed to make her way down to the mat but she didn't. Tomoko-chan is deaf and could not hear her name being called. The coach was panicking, shouting 'You're up!' but she couldn't hear him. Her name was called three times but she didn't flinch so one of the volunteers told her to go but she said no and missed her turn. Her mother and coach were devastated. That was the end of it. Her mother wondered why she had come all this way from

Kumamoto to be here. The coach and everyone was despondent. Her mother was packing ready to leave when a member of staff came and said. "Don't give up Tomoko, try again, you can have another chance."

"Really?" she replied. "You won't be able to win first place but you can have another chance so do your best." Tomoko was called up again and performed her gymnastic routine. Her coach and mother thought that as she had been given special treatment that she would not be given any kind of award. When the award ceremony music began Tomoko came out first looking very proud. Everyone was looking, wondering why Tomoko was out there. Tomoko stood in 8th position, last. She was given a special award for effort, a silver medal.

Her mother and coach thought it was all over but she went out there, performed and won a medal. They were so happy. I was amazed and moved to hear that such a wonderful Olympics existed in this world when I heard her story. These values are missing in Japan. If you work hard your efforts will be recognized. In the Olympics the only way to win is to beat your opponents, this was a different and wonderful world. My only thought was that I wanted to bring the Special Olympics to Japan and make Japan a more thoughtful and considerate nation. Of course it wasn't going to be an easy task but that's how it all began.

A competition where everyone can stand on the podium

I was advised by many people to go and talk to the Member of Parliament who was the head of the Special Olympics at the time. So I made the journey from Kumamoto to Tokyo. His position was that though the Special Olympics are a wonderful event they had established a National Sport's competition for the disabled which was being run by the government and each prefecture. He suggested I leave it at that.

He told me that the group who had been in charge of the Special Olympics had disbanded but if I wanted

to restart it I was welcome to.

It was a bit of a shock after flying all the way from Kumamoto to be told, "Go ahead do it yourself." After returning to Kumamoto I wondered what to do next. In the national and prefectural competitions I envisaged that the best athletes would win and the rest would leave disappointed.

The Special Olympics however gives everyone a chance, they can all stand on the podium and be recognized. I wanted to bring this kind of Olympics to Japan. I came back to Kumamoto and discussed my thoughts with everybody. That's when the decision to go ahead was made by a number of people who were passionate about it. Hence the Special Olympics began in Kumamoto.

Nagano Special Olympics

First hosting of Winter World Championships

I'm sure there are a lot of interesting stories to follow but 12 years after establishing ourselves we were able to make a bid for the International Special Olympics. Everyone on the committee was against making the bid. My thought was if we don't do it now we are going to lose impetus. The whole point of holding an international competition here and gaining support was because of how little the Special Olympics were known in Japan. To avoid any problems I set up another organization. I was lucky enough to meet up with the people in Nagano after the Olympics. Due to the huge success of the games we were able to organize a winter event. It took 3 or 4 years to set up and it was all my responsibility so I put all my efforts into it. I was so passionate about it my attitude was 'I don't care if I die.'

Half way through however I stopped breathing and became ill. I was warned by the doctor not to work. He told me if I continued I could die at any moment. I felt it was something I had to continue though so I made sure I always carried my medication with me and took it if there was a problem with my heart. I traveled all around Japan carrying the torch

and involving 5,000,000 people along the way. There are endless things I could tell you. I was not doing it for self-interest and thanks to all my efforts the games were an amazing success.

I wanted more than anything to continue working on the Special Olympics however I was forced to quit in order to look after my father who was 90 years old and my mother who was 80. Up until then I had given all my energy to working on the World championships and hadn't spent any time looking after them. I knew I would regret it for the rest of my life if anything happened to them so two years after the championships I resigned. At the moment I am the Honorary Chairperson and am still traveling around Japan meeting disabled people. Despite the fact that these people possess amazing abilities they are still considered useless in Japan. I continued to work hard in areas other than sport to change people's points of view and hope to make Japan a country where disabled people can live happily.

I worked hard without any rest then 2 or 3 years ago in Fukuoka on the morning of the opening ceremony of the Summer Championships I collapsed at my hotel. When I came to I had no idea why I had been lying down still at the hotel. It was about lunchtime when I remembered. It's the Summer Championships in Fukuoka. That's why I am here! However I wasn't even able to get up. I called into the office and told them I wasn't well and wouldn't make the opening ceremony. The Championships went well but my health began to fail since then.

I want everyone to know that they have the potential and ability

I truly believe I've had a wonderful life. I have been able to experience so much joy and also suffering. I'm at the age now when I could go anytime but my life has been absolutely wonderful. I have been able to achieve things that nobody else could. I'm the happiest woman alive. A great friend of mine is here today. I have friends all over Japan and all over the

world. Meeting them is the thing I am most proud of.

That too is all thanks to the disabled people I have come into contact with. I dream of a world where we are always grateful to them and they are able to be active and find happiness.

It's a shame that it might not be possible in my lifetime. I very much hope that you all will gain an understanding of the wonderful knowledge and potential that disabled people have and offer your support to them. I'd like to end my speech there with that wish. Thank you very much.

Mrs. Mitsumoto Thank you very much Mrs. Hosokawa. We will now watch a video clip of the Special Olympics.



VIDEO NARRATION

The Special Olympics is an international organization that aims to provide sports training for people with intellectual disabilities and organizes events and competitions in which they can take part.

It started in 1962 when Eunice Kennedy-Shriver, the younger sister of the late President J. F. Kennedy, started a camp for kids with intellectual disabilities to play sports. It was designed to for disabled children who because of their disability had never taken part in sports before.

Her elder sister Rosemary was born with intellectual disabilities. The Special Olympics were founded in 1968 by the Joseph Kennedy Junior Foundation and went from being a national event in America to being a worldwide event. At present around 4 million athletes and 1 million volunteers are actively involved in over 170 countries.

The Special Olympics were established in Japan in

1994. In 2012 we became a certified foundation and began operating as the Special Olympics Nippon Foundation. Our activities have now spread to all 47 prefectures with around 8000 athletes and 15000 volunteers.

We call disabled people who take part in the Special Olympics athletes. We refer to the Special Olympics in the plural as it refers not only to one Championship but also to regional, national and international events and programs. National teams get to show the results of their training in summer and winter games every four years. The world championships is not only about breaking records and getting a good result it's about meeting and exchanging with other athletes from all over the world. The 13th International Championships were held in Athens in 2011. Athletes from 170 different countries and regions took part and competed against each other.

There is a different set of rules at Special Olympic competitions and championships. Athletes are split into divisions where they compete against other athletes of a similar ability. All athletes are awarded not only for their result but also for persevering until the end.

The aim of the Special Olympics is to foster the sporting abilities of the athletes and also their courage and confidence. The skills they earn in training and competition also offer them an opportunity to integrate into society. We create a society with the involvement of not only the athletes but also their families and volunteers creating a deeper understanding of each other.

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Mrs. Mitsumoto Thank you very much. I was very moved when Mrs. Hosokawa said all her efforts were to make Japan a nation of thoughtful and considerate people. I'd like to offer our continued support for the Special Olympics.

Thank you very much again Mrs. Hosokawa.

Coaching Seminar Closing Ceremony

Mrs. Mitsumoto Our NPO's coaching seminar 2017 was held from the middle of November to December 15th. We will now hold the closing ceremony for the 8 trainees from 7 countries who took part.

I'd like to take this opportunity at the beginning of the ceremony to ask for your understanding concerning photography here today. At our seminar we have trainees from Israel and Palestine. Last week Donald Trump announced that he would recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. This has caused a great deal of tension in the region and the possibility of war. We would therefore like you to avoid taking photos of our trainees from Israel and Palestine together. The reason being that a photo on the internet could very likely cause trouble. As far as we can gather our Palestinian trainees could be accused of befriending Israelis which would cause trouble for them and their families. In a worst case scenario they could be imprisoned for spying. During the seminar I was also careful to take two sets of photos. I'm sure some of you will be taking photos today so please give us your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

I would like to begin the opening ceremony now. Firstly we will hear a summary of the month from our NPO's international teaching coach Kenji Mitsumoto.

International coach Mr. Kenji Mitsumoto Summary



Good evening everyone. My name is Kenji Mitsumoto and I am the International instructor at Solidarity of Judo Education. Taking the place of our very busy director Mr. Yamashita I visited eight

countries this year including Russia and China to offer instruction. With my busy schedule I was just returning to Narita after completing another role when our trainees arrived in Japan. All of the trainee coaches who took part in the seminar are very young however they worked exceptionally hard in their month at the Tokai University campus.

The aim of the coaching seminar is not only to cover the teaching of judo techniques but also the job of coaching from many different angles.

With the help of teachers from Tokai University's physical education department trainees also gained knowledge about rehabilitation after an injury, taping, sports massage and the mental training of athletes. As part of our regional activities we visited Asahi Judo Hall and various junior high schools. In fact we also made a visit to a school for children with special needs. This overlaps with what Mrs. Hosokawa talked about in her lecture but the trainees were able to experience the situation in Japan concerning support for children with disabilities.

The Friendship Judo Halls set up by our director Mr. Yamashita in Nanjing and Qingdao are very well run and successful. I am also considering a way to facilitate judo for people with disabilities in China. I'm very grateful to the trainees who have returned to China and expressed an interest in helping with such activities.

To give our trainees a taste of Japan they had to opportunity to try kendo and iaido. We organized trips to visit Kyoto and Hiroshima.

The world we live in is not one of peace. I have been to Israel and Palestine many times. As someone who has been there I truly appreciate how wonderful it is that trainees from both countries can have an opportunity to work together here. Through judo we can build friendships and increase understanding which will help lead to peace. Hopefully this will lead to the realization of our slogan. 'Judo Friendship Peace'

Mrs. Mitsumoto The trainees have all prepared a speech to express their gratitude. We will hear from them next.

Speeches from trainees

Zaur Babayev (Azerbaijan)



Good evening. My name is Zaur and I'm from Azerbaijan. Coming from Azerbaijan I am very grateful to have the opportunity to take part in such a wonderful seminar. We did not only study judo but also Japanese culture and ways of thinking. My impression is that Japanese people value peace and friendship. In 2018 the world championships will be held Baku in my country. We very much hope you will come. If I have the chance again I would definitely like to take part in this seminar. I hope everyone remains happy and smiley. A big thank you to you all, Mr. Yamashita, Mr. Mitsumoto, Keiko, Kenji, Madoka and Kotaro.

Hana Benca (Bosnia Herzegovina)



Good evening and nice to meet you all my name is Hana Benca from Bosnia Herzegovina. This seminar has been an amazing experience for me, being able to make new friends and train as a coach alongside everybody. I learned a lot of coaching techniques. It has been an important experience for me not only as a coach but also personally. Thank you judo, Japan and everyone.

Oday Ali Mahmoud Thuieb (Palestine)



Good evening. My name is Oday and I'm from Palestine. I'd like to sincerely thank Mr Yamashita and everyone at Solidarity of Judo Education for this opportunity. I was able to learn a lot from many instructors but in particular from Mr Mitsumoto who I received training from when he came to Palestine three years ago. I met a lot of great Japanese people during training. The visit to Hiroshima and Kyoto was also fantastic.

I was particularly impressed by the recovery of the city of Hiroshima after being completely flattened. I think it's wonderful that Japan offers a lot of support to other countries and Japanese people live in peace and happiness. Thank you to everyone.

Carlos Dionisio Sandoval Vaca Diez (Bolivia)



Good evening. My name is Carlos. I'm Bolivian. For me this coaching seminar has been a life changing experience.

I have met so many people and noticed so many differences.

However despite our cultural differences we all share the same passion and love for judo. I appreciate just how much we can change our coaching by changing our way of thinking and techniques. I was very glad to have the chance to train with so many Japanese judoka, including those who I admire so much. Peace and friendship, we gained that friendship here. I'm very happy we reached the goals of the training seminar while enjoying it at the same time. Finally I'd like to thank everyone who offers their support to Solidarity of Judo Education.

Qiu Ziyan

(China – Japan China Nanjing Friendship Judo Hall)



Hello everyone. My name is Qiu Ziyan. I am from the Japan China Nanjing Friendship Judo Hall

I'm very grateful to Solidarity of Judo Education for giving me the opportunity to attend

this training seminar. I'm also very grateful to Mr. Yamashita for his instruction and support at the Nanjing Judo Hall. I reminded myself how lucky I am every day in Japan. Thank you so much Keiko, Kenji, Mr. Sasaki and Mr. Suzuki. Thanks to you I was able to complete the seminar despite my lack of language skills. Mr. Mitsumoto is truly amazing. He doesn't simply explain things he gives us a demonstration. He takes it very seriously and gives us very detailed explanations. It was a great honor to meet him.

Teaching the culture of judo to the younger generation fosters dignity and good morals. The road ahead is still long but I will take back to China with me everything I learned in Japan. In particular I would like to pass on what I learned from the demonstrations given by Mr. Mitsumoto and at the Seicho School. Thank you very much.

Moshe Havusha (Israel)



Good evening. I am Moshe from Israel. We have reached the end of the coaching seminar. I'm very happy I had the chance to come to Japan. I learned a lot visiting beautiful and traditional places. For me the most special

place was our visit to Eishoji temple where Jigoro

Kano founded judo.

I was also very glad to be able to train with other coaches from all over the world. I am very grateful and happy I was able to make friends with everybody here in Japan. It's wonderful that we were able to make friends here in Japan. Finally I'd like to express my gratitude to Solidarity of Judo Education for giving me this opportunity. In Japan I have been able to improve my coaching techniques. I will pass on what I have learnt to the children in Israel. Thank you very much Mr. Yamashita, Mr. Mitsumoto and everyone at the NPO.

Sergey Sergeev (Russia)



Hello everybody! My name is Sergey and I'm from Russia. I am very happy to be here. I'd like to thank everyone who helped out at this seminar. I was able to talk to a lot of the coaches and athletes at Tokai

University. I was also able to learn about how the young judo athletes spend their time. I now understand a little about why Japan is so strong at judo.

The first reason is the emphasis on gaining ippon.

The second reason is the number of people involved in researching techniques.

The third reason is the emphasis on randori.

The fourth reason is Japanese culture and the way of thinking behind judo.

I'd like to express my thanks to Mr. Yamashita, Mr. Mitsumoto, Keiko, Hiroko, Kotaro and everyone else who made this seminar possible. I was able to make a lot of new friends and hope these friendships will continue. I hope to see you all again. Thank you very much.

Marko Zrimsek (Bosnia Herzegovina)

Good evening. My name is Marko Zrimsek and I'm from Bosnia Herzegovina. Firstly I'd like to say how grateful I am to everyone for their support. This coaching seminar has been a

wonderful journey. It was an honor to be able to observe not only Japanese culture but also Japanese lifestyle and traditions. It was only a month long seminar but I feel I learned so much. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone again.

"Hercegovac Mostar" the judo club I attend has a 54 year history. I would like to keep everyone at Solidarity of Judo Education in touch with our development. I'd like to thank Mr. Yamashita who a role model for all judo athletes, Mr. Mitsumoto who gave me a new way of looking at judo, Keiko and Koji who always offered their assistance and Kotaro who became a true friend, not to mention Carlos, QiuJiyan, Moshe, Oday, Hana, Zaur and Sergey. It is the start of many great friendships. A big thank you to everyone. I hope to see you all again.

Mr. Mitsumoto Finally I'd like to introduce Mr. Kotaro Sasaki. You may have heard the name Kotaro, Kotaro in some of the speeches we've heard. Over the past month he has assisted me with the seminar. When he was a student he was experienced ten days in Bhutan where he was sent by the Judo Federation as an international volunteer. Ladies and gentlemen Kotaro Sasaki.

Kotaro Sasaki

Hello. My name is Kotaro Sasaki and I am from Shimane prefecture. I'd like to offer my gratitude to everyone who supported this seminar. Working as an assistant to Kenji Mitsumoto I was also

able to learn a lot from this seminar. The main participants in the seminar are the 8 trainees however working alongside them I was also able to deepen my understanding and learn a lot. I'd like to offer everyone my deepest thanks.

Mrs. Mitsumoto Thank you very much. This year we invited one coach from Israel, one from Palestine and one from Bosnia Herzegovina, Christian and Muslim. The reason for this is our support of JICA's program to build peace through sport in an area which has been in a state of war for over 20 years.

For the whole month it was a continual exchange and understanding of different cultures. I feel that many friendships have blossomed over the month. Everyone worked so hard. I'd now like to give out the certificates of completion. Mr. Yamashita, please.



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