



من الشعب الياباني
From the People of Japan

Embassy of Japan in Lebanon

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Press Release

Conferment Ceremony of a decoration of Japan to Mr. François Saade, President of the Lebanese Judo Federation

On December 23, 2020, H.E. Mr. OKUBO Takeshi, Ambassador of Japan to Lebanon, conferred a decoration "The Order of the Rising Sun Gold and Silver Rays" on Mr. François Saade, President of the Lebanese Judo Federation.

The decoration was conferred in appreciation of his outstanding contribution to promote Judo in Lebanon, thereby further strengthening friendly relations between Japan and Lebanon. Mr. Saade has served as a strong engine to improve Judo skills and talents in Lebanon since the establishment of Federation in 1994. His achievement culminated in sending Lebanese "Judoka" to the Olympic Games more than once.

The conferment ceremony took place at the residence of Japanese Ambassador in Baabda with the presence of deputy Simon Abi Ramia, President of the Parliamentarian Committee for Youth and Sports, Mr. Mohammad Oueidate, Head of Sports Department, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Mr. Hashem Haidar Vice-President of the National Olympic Committee and representatives from the local sports community.

Ambassador OKUBO expressed deep appreciation to Mr. Saade for his long-standing contribution not only to strengthening the bilateral relations but encouraging the Lebanese people in difficult moment as well.

For his part, Mr. Saade expressed his gratitude to the decoration stressing that this special offering embodies the depth of the bilateral relationship between the two nations. He also appreciated Government of Japan for its support in promoting Judo and other martial arts in Lebanon in the form of grant aide, equipment, trainings and others.

