

IIS (JSW Sports, India) Judokas Training in Japan : A Report on International Cooperation through JUDO at University of Tsukuba–TAIKU-and TIAS Legacy

Following the signing of an LOI between University of Tsukuba (UT)-Faculty of Health and Sport Sciences and the Inspire Institute of Sport (IIS; as part of the JSW Group-led not-for-profit initiative in SPORT) two (2) Women Judokas from IIS (India) travelled to Japan (Tsukuba) for training-practice from September 4th to 19th, 2019, in a first such initiative.

Both Ms. **Thangjam Tababi Devi** (Youth Olympic Games, 2018- Silver Medalist) and Ms. **Linthoi Chanamban** trained/practiced at the UT - Martial Arts Gymnasium with their Coach **Mr. Mamuka Kizilashvili** (Head Coach- IIS Judo Program) and overseen by Head Coach (Prof.) **Hiroataka OKADA** and Assistant Coach **Takashi ONO**.



We are happy to note that this training session, as was imagined, has provided **relevant Japanese (international) exposure** and a **fruitful learning experience** for these two young and promising Judokas, which was clearly seen during the 2 weeks of constant training (morning and evenings). These Judokas had the chance to not only have opportunities to train with UT Women Judokas but also high-school and Secondary School Judokas, which provided a diversity of training partners. Prof. Okada was **highly impressed** by their dedication and skills and passion for Judo. **Coach Mamuka** was more than happy to see his Judokas train well **and thanks greatly Okada sensei and the Judo Team at UT** for this excellent opportunity and to welcoming them at their Judo Hall. Further Coach Okada invited these 2 young Judokas to a training session at **Shukutoku University (Judo-bu) for an all Womens' Judokas training**, which was a great opportunity to interact with so many women Judokas and also their coaches (including Coach Nose Eigo - All Japan Judo Federation-Women Junior National Team; and Coaches Keisuke Miyake-Chukyo University and Takeru Sato-Kogakkan University). **Coaches Okada and others** were greatly impressed by these 2 Judokas, and remarked that they see a **great hope and future for them being champions**, in the coming years with this kind of progress and energy; and would like to welcome them again for training in Japan.



2-Days Training @SHUKUTOKU UNIVERSITY (Judo-bu) with UT Women Judokas & other University Women Judokas and Coaches

The exposure to **training alongside Japanese athletes (Judokas) will be an invaluable part of the development of these young Indian athletes (Judokas)** in the international arena, and UT is proud to have them here as part of our international cooperation and collaboration through sport. Thank you **Prof. Takeshi Nishiyasu, Dean of Faculty of Health and Sport Sciences**, and **Coach OKADA** for facilitating this cooperation and training program.

To quote, Coach Mamuka – *“I want to tell thanks for your help to get training camp in Japan as a coach for me it was great experience. for my athletes It was important to see them what is culture of Judo also fight with Japanese athletes which is big experience for them; as a coach my goal is to united join and give them mixed combination Georgian still and Japan still this will be perfect judo for me I will continue working to be make it better and real.”*

Finally, it was a pleasure welcoming and working with such wonderful and disciplined young Judokas, and we all wish **Thangjam Tababi Devi** and **Linthoi Chanamban** the best in their athlete careers and future competitions, and look forward to continuing our partnership – inviting these (and other young) Judokas back for continued training programs.

Thank you.

Sincerely Yours,



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References and Thanks:

- <http://www.estrade.in/inspire-institute-of-sport-ties-up-with-university-of-tsukuba/>
- <http://tias.tsukuba.ac.jp/> ; <http://www.taiiku.tsukuba.ac.jp/en/>;
<https://www.jsw.in/sports/inspire-institute-sport>
- The Judo program is overseen by Head Coach Hirotaka OKADA (1992 Barcelona Olympics Bronze medallist) and Assistant Coaches Takashi ONO (2x World Championship Bronze medallist) and Hiraoka HIROAKI (2012 London Olympics Silver Medallist).
- Appreciate the initiative of **TIAS 2nd Batch student Mr. Aman SHAH (now at JSW Sports Private Limited, Lead - Media & Communications)** for this program along with **Prof. Hisashi SANADA (Chair TIAS)**, and support of Indian students, especially **Mr. Lalhaba Oinamcha (PhD student, HBP, UT)** for support during their stay in Tsukuba.
- Thank you Shukutoku University (<https://www.shukutoku.ac.jp/>) and Coaches