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Visit of delegation from the Tsukuba International Academy for Sport Studies (TIAS) and Faculty of Health and Sport Sciences, University of Tsukuba to the Academic and Sport Organizations in Republic of Tajikistan on 12-17 March 2016

SANADA Hisashi *, UBAIDULLOEV Zubaidullo *, and EGAMI Izumi **

Abstract

Delegation from the Tsukuba International Academy for Sport Studies (TIAS) and Faculty of Health and Sport Sciences, University of Tsukuba visited Republic of Tajikistan on 12-17 March 2016. The faculty members and students of School of Health and Physical Education visited Tajikistan Institute of Physical Education in 2014. The purpose of this visit is to establish and strengthen the relations and cooperation with Tajikistan in the field of sport and physical education, in particular with Tajikistan Institute of Physical Education named after Saidmumin Rahimov, National Olympic Committee of Tajikistan and sport federations. Two Judoka from our faculty demonstrated Judo techniques in the Japan Days cultural event and taught it to students in Judo school in Dushanbe. The students in Dushanbe welcomed us and they were very pleased to be taught by Japanese Judoka. We noticed that they were interested in Japanese national and traditional sports and martial arts. It was splendid thing for our delegation to exchange each other through the Japanese martial arts, Judo.

We made good relations with sport federations and academic institute in Tajikistan and we would like to continue to cooperate with them for the development of sport federation and academic institute in Tajikistan.

Introduction

Delegation from the Tsukuba International Academy for Sport Studies (TIAS) and Faculty of Health and Sport Sciences, University of Tsukuba visited Republic of Tajikistan on 12-17 March 2016. Therefore, the purpose of this visit is to establish and strengthen the relations and cooperation with Tajikistan in the field of sport and physical education, in particular with Tajikistan Institute of Physical Education named after Saidmumin Rahimov, National Olympic Committee of Tajikistan and sport federations.

Delegation included the following people:
1. Prof. Hisashi SANADA – Provost, School of Health and Physical Education, University of Tsukuba / Chairman, Tsukuba International Academy for Sport Studies / Counsellor to CEO of the Organizing Committee of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games (head of delegation).
2. Prof. Zubaidullo UBAIDULLOEV – Associate Professor, Tsukuba International Academy for Sport Studies, Faculty of Health and Sport Sciences, University of Tsukuba (coordinator of trip).
3. Ms. Izumi EGAMI – Visiting Professor, School of Health and Physical Education, University of Tsukuba.
5. Mr. Shun KONDO – Second year student of Master Program in Health and Sport Sciences, University of Tsukuba. Holder of 3rd dan in Judo.

13 March 2016: JAPAN DAYS, Embassy of Japan in the Republic of Tajikistan.

The delegation members attended the JAPAN DAYS cultural event in Dushanbe, capital city of Tajikistan, organized by the Embassy of Japan in Dushanbe. One of the programs of this event was BUDO Festival (festival
of Japanese national and traditional martial arts. Two members of delegation, the Judokas Ms. Sayuri Yamamoto and Mr. Shun Kondo participated in the Budo festival and demonstrated some techniques of Judo.

We had also meetings with President of Tajikistan Sumo Association Mr. Foteh MUKHTOROV and Vice-President of Kyrgyzstan Sumo Federation Mr. Emil JAMANGULOV. They made presentation to our delegation about the history, achievements and future plans of their Sumo federations. Tajikistan Sumo Association was officially established on 28th June 2005 by approval and registration of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic Tajikistan. During these 11 years of association’s existence, Tajikistan sumo wrestlers have significant achievements as the winners and medalists of open sumo tournaments held in Austria, Italy, USA, etc. However, association still doesn’t have own office and training place. The association rents and uses occasionally some gym halls in Dushanbe city for training and preparation for international tournaments and competitions.

14 March 2016 (1):

Committee of Youth Affairs, Sport and Tourism of the Government of Republic of Tajikistan.

The delegation members visited the Committee of Youth Affairs, Sport and Tourism of the Government of Republic of Tajikistan and had a meeting with the Chairman of this committee Mr. Ahtam ABDULLOZODA. Chairman Abdullozoda welcomed the delegation members and expressed that the committee has a desire and interest to cooperate with University of Tsukuba in the field of sport. Particularly he mentioned that in Tajikistan many people and athletes are interested in Japanese national and traditional sports and martial arts. In this regard, the exchange of experience of Japanese experts, coaches and athletes are necessary and important for Tajikistan. Head of delegation Prof. Hisashi Sanada mentioned that the exchange of experience of Japanese experts, coaches and athletes from University of Tsukuba to Tajikistan is possible. He also expressed that the staff of committee can apply to international exchange and degree programs in University of Tsukuba in the field of sport and physical education. They may increase their knowledge and experience in Japan and implement it for the development of sport in Tajikistan.

14 March 2016 (2):

Tajikistan Institute of Physical Education named after Saidmumin Rahimov.

This institute was established in 1971 by the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of USSR, when Tajikistan was one of the Soviet republics. It was established on the basis of the Faculty of Physical Education of Dushanbe Pedagogical Institute. Students and alumni of the institute achieved remarkable results in the Olympic Games, world championships and other competitions. For example, Mr. Yuriy Lobanov became an Olympic champion in sprint canoe in 1972 Olympics. Y. Lobanov during his career also won 14 medals at the ICF Canoe Sprint World Championships (10 golds, two silvers and two bronzes). Student of this institute Ms. Zebiniso Rustamova got a bronze medal in archery at 1976 Montreal Olympics. She became the USSR champion in archery 15 times and world champion in archery three times. During the independence period, since 1991 despite country’s
difficult economic situation, students and graduates of the institute, such as Mr. Rasul Boqiev got a bronze medal in Judo in 2008 Beijing Olympics, Ms. Mavzuna Chorieva got a bronze medal in women boxing in 2012 London Olympics and recently Mr. Dilshod Nazarov became the Olympic champion in hammer throw in Rio 2016 Olympics. Dilshod Nazarov’s gold medal in Rio 2016 is the first Olympic gold medal of Tajikistan since it started joining the Olympic games in 1996 Olympics as an independent country.

This institute at present is the only university of physical education in Tajikistan. It has five faculties: Faculty of Physical Education, Faculty of Sport, Faculty of Tourism, Faculty of Military Defense Preparation and Faculty of Distance Learning.

Institute is the member of International Federation of Sport Universities and International Association of Universities of Physical Education and Sport. Institute has signed the bilateral agreements on exchanges and cooperation with Mongolian National Institute of Physical Education, Kyrgyz State Academy of Physical Education and Sport, Moscow State Academy of Physical Education, Sport and Tourism, Beijing Capital University of Physical Education and Sport, Mashhad University of Physical Education (Iran), Kazakhstan Academy of Physical Education, Sport and Tourism, Ukraine National University of Physical Education and Sport, Ural State University of Physical Education (Russia), Belarus State University of Physical Education, Latvia Sport Pedagogy Academy, and others.

When we visited the Tajikistan Institute of Physical Education named after Saidmumin Rahimov on 14th March 2016, its Rector, Vice-Rector, faculty members and students warmly welcomed our delegation. At first, we had a brief meeting with the Rector of institute Prof. Shodi SAFAROV. Both sides expressed their readiness and interest to promote the friendly and fruitful cooperation. They discussed a plan to sign an agreement of cooperation and exchange in near future between the University of Tsukuba and Tajikistan Institute of Physical Education named after Saidmumin Rahimov and start exchange of students, experts and athletes. Rector Prof. Shodi SAFAROV expressed that the institute can establish a department of BUDO Japanese national sports and martial arts (Judo, Sumo, Karate, Kendo, etc.). Then the joint symposium was held in the main hall of the institute, which was full of the faculty members, students and staff of institute, as well as representatives of the Committee of Youth Affairs, Sport and Tourism of the Government of Tajikistan, federations of various sports and mass media, including TV Tojikiston, TV Varzish (Sport) and TV Safina. First of all, Rector Prof. Shodi SAFAROV and Prof. Hisashi SANADA made an opening speech. Rector Prof. Shodi Safarov once again expressed his strong interest in having a friendly and fruitful cooperation and exchanges with the University of Tsukuba in sport and physical education. Then, Associate Professor of Tsukuba International Academy for Sport Studies, Faculty of Health and Sport Sciences of University of Tsukuba Prof. Zubaidullo UBAIDULLOEV made a comprehensive presentation about the history, achievements and structure of University of Tsukuba. Prof. Ubaidulloev in his presentation also introduced international exchange and degree programs of University of Tsukuba in sport, physical education and Olympic movement, where the students and experts of Tajikistan Institute of Physical Education named after Saidmumin Rahimov can apply and study. This was followed by a presentation by Ms. Izumi EGAMI, Visiting Professor of School of Health and Physical Education of University of Tsukuba, about Japanese culture, manner and traditional clothes.
15 March 2016 (1):

In the morning we – members of the delegation from the University of Tsukuba made a visit to the UNDP Country Office in Tajikistan. We paid the floral tribute to late Dr. Yutaka Akino (former Associate Professor of the University of Tsukuba), laid flowers, honored and remembered him. Dr. Yutaka Akino lost his life in Tajikistan on 20th July 1998, while on active service as a Civil Affairs Officer of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT), along with three other UN employees.

15 March 2016 (2):
Karate-do Federation of Tajikistan

We visited the Karate-do Federation of Tajikistan and had a nice and productive meeting with the President of federation Mr. Isroil ISMOILZODA and Honorary President of federation Mr. Umarkhon MADVALIEV. Karate-do Federation of Tajikistan has been operating since 1992. It is officially recognized by the World Karate Federation (WKF) and the Asian Karate Federation (AKF). The Federation operates in four areas of Karate: Shotokan, Shito-ryu, Goju-Ryu and Wado-ryu. It has established itself on the world stage and has secured the corresponding place in the world ranking. At present, the Karate-do Federation of Tajikistan has more than 1,500 athletes, among them 19 world champions, 4 medallists of the Asian Championship, 1 champion of the World Universiade, 1 medallist of the Asian Games, 35 champions of Central Asia and more than 100 winners of international tournaments. The current president of

*Mr. Saidmumin RAHIMOV:
Multiple champion of Tajikistan in sambo, judo and free-style wrestling;
Champion of USSR in sambo in 1973, 1975;
World champion in sambo in 100kg in Minsk, 1975;
Chairman of State Committee of Physical Culture and Sport of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan in 1995-2004;
federation Mr. Isroil ISMOILZODA is a bronze medalist of 1994 Asian Games in Hiroshima, Japan and 2002 Asian Games in Busan, Republic of Korea.

We discussed the issues related to future cooperation. In particular, the leadership of Karate-do Federation of Tajikistan made a proposal to our delegation to establish the BUDO Center in Dushanbe city, which can bring and unite the Japanese national and traditional sports and martial arts in one center. This center can introduce Japan and Japanese culture to Tajikistani people through national sports and martial arts of Japan.

15 March 2016 (3):
National Olympic Committee of the Republic of Tajikistan

On the same day in the afternoon, the delegation visited the National Olympic Committee of the Republic of Tajikistan and had an important and constructive meeting with Secretary General Mr. Bahrullo RAJABALIEV and other staff of committee. Secretary General of NOC Tajikistan Mr. Bahrullo RAJABALIEV made some important proposals, such as: (i) sending the coaches of Judo and Karate-do from University of Tsukuba to Tajikistan to teach the Tajikistani athletes; (ii) signing an agreement of cooperation between University of Tsukuba and NOC Tajikistan; (iii) exchange and study of the staff of NOC Tajikistan and federations in different programs of University of Tsukuba in sport and Olympic and Paralympic movement. Head of delegation Prof. Sanada expressed that it is possible to realize those proposals and plans. In particular he mentioned that the founder of Judo Prof. Kano Jigoro served as the principal of Tokyo Higher Normal School (forerunner of Tsukuba University) for 23 years during 1893-1920. Therefore, Judo in University of Tsukuba has much developed and university can dispatch the Judo coaches to Tajikistan to teach the local athletes.

15 March 2016 (4):
Judo Federation of the Republic of Tajikistan

Then we visited the Judo Federation of the Republic of Tajikistan and met its president Mr. Nurullo LOIQOV. Future cooperation and exchanges in Judo were discussed. It was mentioned that Judo is the second most popular sport in Tajikistan after Tajiki traditional wrestling. The Tajiki traditional wrestling is centuries old and very similar to Japanese Judo. The first ever Olympic medal of Tajikistan in independence period since 1996, when Tajikistan joined the Olympic Games as an independent state, was a bronze medal of Mr. Rasul Boqiev in Judo. National Olympic Committee of the Republic of Tajikistan has included Judo to the list of priority sports in Tajikistan. More than 100,000 people in Tajikistan practice Judo. It is a huge number in Tajikistan when its population is eight million. President of the Judo Federation of the Republic of Tajikistan Mr. Nurullo Loiqov invited the head of delegation Prof. Hisashi Sanada to send a Judo athlete from the University of Tsukuba to join and compete in the 4th International Judo tournament “Cup of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan” to be held in Dushanbe on 5th October 2016 this year. This tournament is organized by the Committee of Youth Affairs, Sport and Tourism of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and Judo Federation of the Republic of Tajikistan. The invitation was accepted with pleasure.
Our delegation returned well from Dushanbe the capital city of the Republic of Tajikistan to Japan on 18th March 2016 with lots of good memories and impressions.

We would like to sincerely thank everyone who were related with this trip for their valuable support, contribution and cooperation, especially the Embassy of Republic of Tajikistan in Japan and Embassy of Japan in the Republic of Tajikistan. We cordially thank the leadership of the Tajikistan Institute of Physical Education named after Saidmumin Rahimov, National Olympic Committee of Tajikistan, Tajikistan Sumo Association, Karate-Do Federation of Tajikistan, Judo Federation of the Republic of Tajikistan and government of Varzob district for their warm Tajiki hospitality and local arrangements.

We believe that with this trip we made another small but important contribution to promote a relationship, friendship and cooperation between Japan and Tajikistan through sport.