

Matsumae Cup 2019



The 16th edition of the Matsumae Cup International Judo Tournament was held in Vejle, Denmark, on February 16th – 17th, 2019. The tournament was arranged and hosted by Vejle Judo Club in collaboration with the Danish Judo Federation. It was the third consecutive time that Matsumae Cup was held in Vejle and the venue was once again DGI-Huset. In addition to support from Tokai University and Tokai University European Center (TUEC), the City of Vejle along with the committee for promotion of elite sports in Vejle also supported the tournament.

The 16th Matsumae Cup gathered more than 600 participants from over 20 different countries, including USA, offering matches for pre-cadets (U15), cadets (U18), juniors (U21), seniors, as well as para-judo for the visually impaired. The tournament also included mixed-teams competition as a new element in the program. Matches were streamed live online, and medals, trophies and prize money were presented to the winners. The Embassy of Japan in Denmark was also present at the tournament, represented by Deputy Chief of Mission and Counsellor Mr. Yoshifumi Sasatani, who spoke on behalf of the embassy at the official opening ceremony. The opening ceremony also included speeches by Vejle's deputy major, Mr. Dan Arnløv Jørgensen, chairman of the Danish Judo Federation, Mr. Søren Studsgaard, and the director of TUEC, Mr. Takayuki Yamamoto, who also delivered a message from TES president, Dr. Tatsuro Matsumae.

During the weekend of the tournament, a number of side-events were arranged for the entertainment of both athletes and audience in the hall outside the arena. These events included a creative activity corner, stands promoting Japanese culture, e-sports, drone-flying, live music, promotion of Vejle as a tourist destination and also promotional material about Tokai University and Bosei Sports Folk High School.

As with all Matsumae Cups, the two-day tournament program was followed by a two-day training camp, lead by Tokai University's head coach, Professor Hidetoshi Nakanishi, and giving the non-Japanese participants a wonderful opportunity for training under Japanese guidance and with Japanese peers. A special event for approximately 500 local school children also took place allowing them to experience judo and other martial arts, and the unique opportunity for seeing judo demonstration by Tokai University students.

As a new addition to the Matsumae Cup concept, the City of Vejle initiated a business event as an add-on to the core focus on sport and culture of Matsumae Cup. Along with a business delegation from Japan, Mr. Sasatani of the Embassy of Japan and Mr. Yamamoto of TUEC attended portions of the business event.

A delegation from Tokai University consisting of 25 students and 6 leaders participated in Matsumae Cup. The Tokai University delegation was headed by Professor Toshiaki Hashimoto as leader, and Professor Hidetoshi Nakanishi as vice-leader, and Tokai University won all three team competitions at the tournament including the men's, women's and mixed team's trophies. In addition to participating in Matsumae Cup, the Tokai-delegation also visited TUEC (where they heard about Danish history and culture), visited the historical Jelling Stone Monuments near Vejle and H.C. Andersen's museum in Odense.

The International Budo University also participated in the Matsumae Cup.

