

Kendo Training & Cultural Exchange Program Seminar (4 April, 2026 at Kamuzu Institute for Sports)



On 4 April 2026, the Kendo Training & Cultural Exchange Program Seminar was held at the Kamuzu Institute of Sports. The seminar aimed to strengthen cultural and diplomatic ties between Malawi and Japan through the traditional Japanese martial art of Kendo. It was also a symbol of the long-standing friendship between Toyota Motor Corporation and the Kendo Association of Malawi.

With over 30 participants, the seminar was led by Mr. NAGATA Yohei Sensei, 7th Dan, who travelled all the way from Japan to provide guidance to Kendo practitioners in Malawi. Together with the President of the Kendo Association of Malawi, Mr. Austinie Somba, 4th Dan, and other local senseis, the participants improved their skills through this seminar.

In his remarks, Ambassador Naito shared that Kendo was introduced to Malawi in 1992 through JICA volunteers. He highlighted that Mr. Austinie Somba was among the early trainees, having been introduced to Kendo at the age of 14. Years later, he started engaging with the Embassy of Japan in Malawi to support martial arts in the country. These discussions eventually led to the first Japanese Ambassador's Kendo Championship in 2014. Over the years, the Embassy of Japan in Malawi has supported seven Kendo Championships, along with championships in other martial arts such as Judo and Karate.

The event was attended by distinguished guests, including representatives from the

Malawi National Council of Sports, CFAO Malawi, as well as Kendo players and their families.

Ambassador's speech: <https://www.mw.emb-japan.go.jp/files/101008698.pdf>



Nagata sensei and participants



Kendo demonstration