

## PRESS RELEASE

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## <u>Friendly Wrestling Match between a Japanese Diplomat and a Sudanese</u> Wrestler

A friendship wrestling match between a Japanese Diplomat, Mr. Yasuhiro Murotatsu, Head of Culture and Information Section, known as Muro, and a Sudanese wrestler, Mr. Al-Mudiriya, took place on 23<sup>rd</sup> August, attended by the Japanese Ambassador in Sudan, H.E. Mr. Ryoichi Horie, and the staff of the Embassy. Mr. Al-Mudiriya narrowly won the game after heatedly contested wrestling with Muro.

This was Muro's 4<sup>th</sup> match against Sudanese wrestlers in the frame of sports exchange between Sudan and Japan at the grassroots level. Muro lost his first match against Mr. Dahiya on 8<sup>th</sup> February and 2 matches against Mr. Ahmad Shabaka on 3<sup>rd</sup> May and 5 th July respectively. Despite his successive defeats, Muro in an interview after the match said that he will never give up and will wrestle again and will achieve a historical win that he will tell his grandchildren about it.

Ambassador Horie after the match said that he really felt the Sudanese enthusiasm throughout the match, expressing his deep appreciation to the hospitality shown towards the Japanese wrestler, Muro. He said that he is astonished and amazed by a large audience that attended the game despite the heavy rains in the morning. He hoped to see Muro winning next time as he is one of the fans of the Sudanese wrestling, wishing success to this sport that played a role in strengthening Japanese-Sudanese relations.