

## Japan's Fujii, first female head coach of men's team

# Brazil's judo coach throws old gender barriers to the mat

RIO DE JANEIRO, July 10, (AFP): Judo is about throwing adversaries to the mat, but in becoming the first female head coach of the Brazilian men's national team, Yuko Fujii has taken down one of the biggest obstacles of all in the world of sports.

On being named to the position at the end of May, the soft-spoken, 35-year-old black belt made history — and not just in Brazil.

Fujii, who is from Japan and was previously an assistant coach with the squad, is now one of the very few women in the world to head any top-level male sports team, let alone judo.

In judo powerhouses such as France, Japan and Russia, men coach not only the male but the female athletes, and certainly in Fujii's homeland the idea of a woman taking over the men would be pretty much unimaginable.

"Japan is more traditional and macho than Brazil. The men's team doesn't have a single woman — well just one, the nutritionist," Fujii told AFP at Brazil's national training center in Rio de Janeiro.

### Unfolds

A similar picture unfolds across much of the rest of the sporting spectrum, where female coaches of elite women are rare and female coaches of men practically non-existent.

For example, Brazil briefly had a woman, Emily Lima, coach its female football team but she was fired in 2017 and replaced by a man. The same thing happened in 2015 when Spain sacked its first ever female Davis Cup captain, Gala Leon.

Brazil's new judo coach, though, is receiving a warm welcome.

"Sensei Yuko has made quite a difference. With her as our sensei, our technical level has already improved," said Ruan Isquierdo, a giant heavyweight member of the Brazilian team, calling his coach by the Japanese honorific roughly meaning "teacher."

At 309 pounds (140 kg), Isquierdo literally towers over the diminutive Fujii, but for all his strength he says he'd take nothing for granted in a judo bout with his sensei.

"If I were too slow, she'd throw me, for sure," he laughed. "She has very high skill levels."

To Fujii, the gender wars are an abstract issue compared to the immediate goal of winning battles on the judo mat, or tatame.

"I don't think, 'I'm a woman and the others are men.' I never thought about this. My focus is always: can I use my strengths to help the team?" she said.

This attitude helps explain her surprise selection by the Brazilian Judo Confederation, which had reportedly been looking at an all-Brazilian shortlist, headed by former Olympic medalist Tiago Camilo, to replace the outgoing coach.

With the 2020 Tokyo Olympics looming and a disappointing men's performance at the 2016 Rio Games fresh in their memory, Brazil's judo authorities wanted a change in direction.

The solution, it turned out, was hiding in plain sight.

Fujii had been recruited by Brazil in 2013 after having helped coach Britain's team at the 2012 London Olympics, where Gemma



Japanese 35-year-old black belt Yuko Fujii, head coach of the Brazilian men's national team, warms up before giving a class in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on June 26. (AFP)

Gibbons won silver and Karina Bryant got bronze.

In Rio, Fujii assisted coaching of both sexes and spent a lot of time with younger athletes, building deep knowledge of the national judo landscape. When Rafaela Silva, who trained especially closely with Fujii, won gold at the Rio Olympics, Fujii's star rose ever higher.

Silva credits Fujii with helping steer her

back from a harrowing disqualification in London 2012, followed by racist abuse at home, and a depression. Now Silva, who has become one of Brazil's best known athletes, thinks the men can benefit from the same touch.

### Difference

"It will help the men's team at a time when it isn't doing very well," Silva said,

watching Fujii run a class for half a dozen promising youngsters.

"People hope that since she worked with the women's team she can bring the same to the men's team. I think it will make a difference — and the guys will be able to learn a bit from the women."

Fujii is still among the exceptions that prove the rule about under-representation of women in coaching.

In the United States, Rebecca Lynn Hammon won fame when she was hired by the San Antonio Spurs basketball team, becoming the first full-time female assistant coach in the NBA. Hammon is now reportedly in the mix for a first head coach job.

But with even US college female athletes being routinely coached by men, Hammon cuts a lonely path.

It's the same in tennis.

France's Amelie Mauresmo broke new ground by coaching Andy Murray and she has just been named to take over the French Davis Cup team. But the biggest stars in the women's game, Venus and Serena Williams, use male coaches.

Fujii says the situation is improving in judo, both within the International Judo Federation and on the mat, with more female coaches and athletes getting higher profiles.

But when asked if she sees herself as pioneer, she chuckled. She knows that in the end she'll be judged on Brazil's performance at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

Her main goal: "For our athletes to do good judo and give everything," she said. "We'll see in the future if I was a pioneer or not!"

## DAI

A flyer of the event

A flyer of the event

## Technology

click

### General

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round on official working days between (9-11 am) and (5-7 pm), within a special tour program designed to cater to the needs of different age groups. The program is as follows:

Reception; Auditorium show; (according to age group); Touring the Mosque; Q & A; Art workshops; (according to age group — between 5 and 18 years old); Snack break; Distribution of the Grand Mosque publications and souvenirs; End of tour.

According to these age groups:  
Age group: 5 to 9 years old: Morning: 60 visitors max; Evening: 20; 10 to 15 years: Morning: 100 visitors max; Evening: 45; 16 and above: Morning: 140 visitors max; Evening: 105;

Tour language: Arabic- English- French; Arabic (English upon prior request); Arabic- English- French; Arabic (English upon prior request); Arabic- English- French; Arabic (English upon prior request)

Rules and Regulations:

- Please arrive in time for your visit.
- All visitors are kindly required to abide by the mosque's dress code. Male visitors should wear long pants. Shorts and sleeveless shirts are not allowed. Female visitors: should wear head cover and long loose clothing (available at the mosque).
- Foods and drinks are not allowed inside the prayer halls.
- For school visits, teachers are responsible for their students and are required to cooperate with the staff members of the Grand Mosque.
- Photography is allowed inside the Grand Mosque (please note that disrespectful poses are strictly prohibited).

If you would like to book a tour, please contact us:

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NEW YORK, July 10, (AP): Google's YouTube says it is taking several steps to ensure the veracity of news on its service by cracking down on misinformation and supporting news organizations.

The company said Monday it will make "authoritative" news sources more prominent, especially in the wake of breaking news events when misinformation can spread quickly.

At such times, YouTube will begin showing users short text previews of news stories in video search results, as well as warnings that the stories can change. The goal is to counter the fake videos that can proliferate immediately after shootings, natural disasters and other major happenings. For example, YouTube search results prominently showed videos purporting to "prove" that mass shootings like the one that killed at least 59 in Las Vegas were fake, acted out by "crisis actors."

In these urgent cases, traditional video won't do, since it takes time for news outlets to produce and verify high-quality clips. So YouTube aims to short-circuit the misinformation loop with text stories that can quickly provide more accurate information. Company executives announced the effort at YouTube's New York offices.

Those officials, however, offered only vague descriptions of which sources YouTube will consider authoritative. Chief Product Officer Neal Mohan said the company isn't just compiling a simple list of trusted news outlets, noted that the definition of authoritative is "fluid" and then added the caveat that it won't simply boil down to sources that are popular on YouTube.

He added that 10,000 human reviewers at Google — so-called search quality raters who monitor search results around the world — are helping determine what will count as authorita-

## Supports journalism

# YouTube aims to crack down on fake news

Unleashed new ways to work and play

## How Apple's app store changed our world

By Michael Liedtke

A decade ago, Apple opened a store peddling iPhone apps, unlocking the creativity of software developers and letting users truly make their mobile devices their own.

The resulting explosion of phone apps — there are now more than 2 million for the iPhone alone — has changed daily life for billions of people around the world.

It has unleashed new ways for us to work and play — and to become so distracted that we sometimes forget to look up from our screens. It has created new industries — think ride-hailing services like Uber, which would be unimaginable without mobile apps — and pumped up demand for software developers and coding schools.

But it has also opened the door to an age of technology anxiety, rife with concerns that apps are serving us a little too well

and holding our attention whether we want them to or not.

None of that was going on when Apple's app store debuted 10 years ago Tuesday. At the time, mobile phones were largely a take-it-or-leave-it proposition, with features programmed by their manufacturers and customization mostly limited to a choice between tinny electronic ringtones.

The iPhone itself was still in its infancy, with only 6 million devices sold during the device's first year. Then came the App Store, which offered 500 programs users could take or leave themselves. During its first weekend, people downloaded 10 million apps — many of them games.

Apple competitors Google, Amazon and Microsoft soon launched their own app stores. Together, these companies now offer roughly 7 million apps. Apple, meanwhile, has now sold more than a billion

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YouTube's recommendation engine and would appear in feeds without being searched.

He said it would be preferable if Google used people instead of algorithms to vet fake news.

"Facebook was reluctant to go down that path two and half years ago and then they did," he said.

YouTube also said it will commit \$25 mil-

lion over the next several years to improving

news on YouTube and tackling "emerging challenges" such as misinformation. That sum includes funding to help news organizations around the world build "sustainable video operations," such as by training staff and improving production facilities. The money would not fund video creation.

That app tsunami, and the riches it generated, spawned new economic opportunities. Billions of dollars flowed into startups dependent on their apps, from Uber to Snapchat to Spotify to game makers like Angry Birds creator Rovio. Opportunities for software developers blossomed as well.

Apple perhaps benefited most of all. Its "free" apps usually display advertising or make money from subscriptions or other in-app purchases, while others charge users to download. Apple takes a cut of this action, sometimes as much as 30 percent.

The app store is now the fast-growing part of Apple's business. Together with other Apple services, the app store generated \$33 billion in revenue over the year that ended in March. The company says it has paid out more than \$100 billion to developers during the past decade. (AP)