



PRESS RELEASE

Tokyo 2020 Accelerates Preparations for the Paralympic Games

Tokyo 22 August, 2018 – On 25 August, it will be exactly two years to go until the opening of the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games. As this milestone approaches, the Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (Tokyo 2020) is pleased to confirm that preparations for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games are on track and continue to progress.

International Paralympic Committee (IPC) President Andrew Parsons confirmed their satisfaction with overall progress in a video message, saying, "I have no doubt these will be exciting Games, technological Games and engaging Games. The Japanese people will demonstrate their *omotenashi*, the traditional hospitality embedded in Japanese culture. All the world will be brought together. At the Opening Ceremony, I am confident I'll be able to say that this is probably going to be the best Paralympic Games ever. I can't wait for the Opening Ceremony and to be with you all in Tokyo."

To mark the occasion, we're excited to announce progress in nine major areas, all of which are helping to inspire positive change in Japanese society.

1. Integrating the Paralympics in all aspects of the Games' preparations

Since its establishment in early 2014, Tokyo 2020 has functioned as a united entity responsible for organising both the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games. In August 2017, we further reinforced Paralympic integration by setting up a Paralympic Games Integration Office. The Paralympic Games Integration Office reports directly to the CEO, and is responsible for both Paralympic integration and accessibility measures. In addition, a member of staff responsible for promoting Paralympic-related issues has been appointed in all Functional Areas (FAs). All these staff members work towards promoting a basic understanding of the Paralympics and mutual understanding of issues that affect multiple FAs, as well as allocating roles and task sharing.

2. All domestic partners support both Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020

As of today, 56 companies—20 Gold Partners, 30 Official Partners and 6 Official Supporters—are supporting the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games. Notably, all of the domestic partners support both the Olympic and Paralympic Games, similarly for the first time in the history of the Games.

Sponsors can be checked at the following URL:

<https://tokyo2020.org/en/organising-committee/marketing/sponsors/>

3. Sports

The IPC Governing Board approved the venue for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic road cycling events at its meeting held in PyeongChang in March 2018. With this approval, all 22 of Tokyo 2020's Paralympic sport venues have been finalised. On 6 August, following confirmation of the Triathlon events, the entire Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games programme covering all 540 events in the 22 sports was announced. Badminton and taekwondo, two sports that will make their Paralympic debut in Tokyo, have been assigned 14 and 6

The Worldwide Olympic Partners



Tokyo 2020 Gold Partners



TOKYO 2020

medal events respectively. Canoe, which made its Paralympic debut at Rio 2016 with six medal events, will have nine medal events due to the inclusion of three va'a class events.

Tokyo 2020 plans to hold test events for sports that are unique to the Paralympic Games or that require technology to be tested, and for all newly added sports. The test event schedule will be submitted to the IPC by the end of August 2018, and the competition schedule is expected to be announced after the IPC Project Review meeting in mid-October 2018.

4. Venue preparations

Construction of all 21 Tokyo 2020 Paralympic venues is underway and making steady progress with accessibility being incorporated at and around all venues. Six new venues are being constructed: the Olympic Stadium by the Government of Japan, the Ariake Arena, the Sea Forest Waterway, the Olympic Aquatics Centre, and the Dream Island Archery Field, by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, and the Olympic Gymnastic Centre by Tokyo 2020. Construction of the Paralympic Village, the International Broadcast Centre and the Main Press Centre is also underway, and Tokyo 2020 will ensure all construction is completed in time for the test events and for the Tokyo 2020 Games themselves.

5. Improving accessibility based on the Tokyo 2020 Accessibility Guidelines

In March 2017, Tokyo 2020 formulated its Accessibility Guidelines, which are based on the IPC Accessibility Guide. Efforts by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, municipalities of other host cities and by the owners of existing venues to improve accessibility based on these guidelines are well underway. Furthermore, experienced IPC staff members and other relevant parties are visiting Japan regularly to inspect venues and to meet with venue representatives to advise on potential improvements to accessibility. At the end of August, delegations from the IPC and the National Paralympic Committees (NPCs) of about 20 nations are scheduled to visit Tokyo for the 2nd NPC open day event and will ensure the best possible conditions will be available for athletes and others.

The Tokyo 2020 Accessibility Guidelines can be viewed at the following URL:

<https://tokyo2020.org/en/organising-committee/accessibility/>

6. Accessible Routes

In April 2018, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and Tokyo 2020 published "Accessible Routes", which show the pathway to access the sporting venues of the Games for spectators with accessibility needs. Their guidelines stipulate that venues should provide universal entry and exit points for all spectators, implying that all access points should cater to universal needs. Tokyo 2020 aims to specify accessible routes for all the venues by the Paralympic Games in 2020.

"Accessible Routes" can be viewed at the following URL (in Japanese only):

<https://tokyo2020.org/jp/games/transportation/data/20180412-appendix.pdf>

7. Paralympic educational programme extended across Japan

Tokyo 2020 is actively promoting an IPC-approved textbook entitled *I'mPOSSIBLE* to schools across Japan. *I'mPOSSIBLE* is a set of teaching materials developed by the IPC to broaden the appeal of the Paralympic Games among as many children as possible through school education. The name "*I'mPOSSIBLE*" embodies what Paralympic athletes represent – that seemingly impossible things can be achieved ('I'mpossible') with some thinking and ingenuity. The first edition of the textbook for grades 1 to 6 was distributed to over 20,000 elementary schools last year and is already in use in many classes. In May 2018, Tokyo 2020 additionally published editions for middle-school and high-school students. In all, the new textbooks have been distributed free of charge to around 36,000 schools nationwide.

I'mPOSSIBLE can be viewed at the following URL.

<https://education.tokyo2020.org/en/teachers/texts/iampossible/>

8. Multi stakeholder initiatives for improving accessibility

Tokyo 2020 has been working together with the Government of Japan and the Tokyo Metropolitan Government to ensure further accessibility for successful Games delivery of the Tokyo2020 Games.

In February 2017, the national government established its "Universal Design 2020 Action Plan", under which it will redouble efforts to promote universal design across Japan, with the aim of creating a more

Tokyo 2020 Vision

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"Striving for your personal best (Achieving Personal Best)"

"Accepting one another (Unity in Diversity)"

"Passing on Legacy for the future (Connecting to Tomorrow)"

inclusive society. The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, subsidises the owners of hotels and Japanese style inns (*ryokans*) for the renovations which improve the accessibility of accommodation facilities. In June 2018, the governmental committee summarised a report of an inquiry in order to promote accessibility of hotels which includes the revision of the standard of the number of wheelchair guest rooms. Based on the current standard, hotels with more than 50 gross guest rooms should have at least 1 guest room accessible for wheelchair users. After the revision of the standard, hotels with more than 50 gross guest rooms will be required to make at least 1% of the gross guest rooms accessible for wheelchair users as 'legacy' initiatives. The new standard will be implemented within 2019. This will also help pave the way for Japan to become a society friendlier to people with impairments and for the growing numbers of the elderly.

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government is additionally making tangible and intangible efforts to make the city physically and psychologically barrier-free. For example, more streets around the Tokyo 2020 competition venues are being made accessible, as are bathrooms in public parks, and more platform screen doors are being installed at the city's train stations to enhance accessibility. It is also promoting to make information accessible to all people regardless of their abilities.

In July 2018, Toyota, Worldwide Partner of the IPC, announced its intention to provide "Mobility for All," regardless of age or ability to move on their own, and aim to give officials, athletes, and spectators an experience of the future of mobility.

Universal Design 2020 Action Plan can be accessed via the following URL. (in Japanese only)

https://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/singi/tokyo2020_suishin_honbu/ud2020kkkaigi/

9. Multi stakeholder initiatives for raising interest

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government is actively providing more environments where people with impairments can enjoy sports and para athletes can improve their competitiveness, as well as providing information about para athletes and their achievements, and details of the wide range of Paralympic and other para sports.

Private sector companies are also proactively supporting the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games; their television commercials and other promotional events often feature Para-athletes. In June 2018, the Nippon Foundation Para Arena opened, providing an improved athlete training environment. The facility is expected to be used for training by the Japan team and by local clubs, as well as by the general public.

For more information: [Tokyo 2020 Online Press Room](#), ID: *media* password: *tokyo2020media*

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