

Report by the President of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic & Paralympic Inquiry Special Committee

The following is a report on the progress and results of the inquiry carried out by the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Paralympic Inquiry Special Committee.

This special committee, established with 11 members on December 1st 2017, has carried out a detailed inquiry into the two following matters: connecting the hosting of the games to the reconstruction and sustainable development of this city, and to the hopes and dreams of the children of this city.

The committee has thus far received a detailed briefing from relevant city authorities as well as the Fukushima Prefectural Culture and Sports Office regarding the action plans and initiatives implemented by each thus far. With respect to administrative inspections, the special committee has also carried out inquiries regarding; the Olympic & Paralympic education being advanced by Koto ward in Tokyo City, the legacy of the 1998 Nagano Winter Olympic Games held in Nagano City, and the elected sports training area in Nanao City, Ishikawa Prefecture, as well as carrying out a series of conferences and examinations as to whether this could be connected with how the 2020 Olympic & Paralympic Games are positioned.

As a result, in addition to the national positioning of the 2020 Olympic & Paralympic Games as the ‘Reconstruction Games’, with the expectation that this will accelerate

reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake of, beginning with Fukushima, those areas affected by the disaster, as this special committee it was also concluded that the 2020 Olympic & Paralympic Games be positioned as a ‘festival of gratitude’ whereby gratitude can be expressed for support received from across the world in the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake.

With this in mind, this committee carried out its’ first endeavor in March 2019: An opinion exchange with 1st and 2nd grade students from Fukushima Seikei High School, on the theme ‘How can gratitude be expressed for the global support received in the aftermath of the earthquake disaster?’, to investigate how the younger generation perceive the 2020 Olympic & Paralympic Games, and in what ways they could participate.

At the outset of the opinion exchange, the students were informed of the kinds of support held out to Japan from across the globe in the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake. Based on information from the Foreign Affairs Office, it was explained to the students that support was received not only from advanced nations such as the United States of America and Korea etc., but also from developing nations and even LDC’s (less developed countries), which despite themselves facing serious poverty, provided national support and prayers for Japan’s reconstruction, and that the 2020 Olympic & Paralympic Games represent an opportunity to express gratitude for such support. The opinion exchange was thus held with the high school students, who were still in the lower years of primary school at the time, keenly appreciating the significance of the Olympic Games being held in Fukushima City.

In group presentations following the workshop, the following open expressions and ideas, as well as opinions full of initiative were expressed one after the other.

- I want to make a video that depicts the 8 years since the disaster, and convey an image of a thriving Fukushima.
- I want to use SNS (social media) to say ‘thank you’ in a variety of languages, and also hope to express my gratitude directly during my school’s overseas research trip.
- I want to create a photo mural of flowers and smiling faces that expresses gratitude.
- I want to successfully hold the ‘Touri-lympic’ project to share our gratitude at Fukushima Seikei High School’s school festival, Touri Festival.
- I want to welcome visitors to Fukushima from overseas with their native dishes, and write my on the plate feelings of gratitude in the language of each country.

For the special committee, this was an opportunity to acquire knowledge regarding two points: that for high school students etc. the younger generations who were still small at the time, awareness of the support received from around the world in the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake will further increase interest in the 2020 Olympic & Paralympic Games, and secondly that there is a budding consciousness regarding the 2020 Olympic & Paralympic Games being held as the ‘reconstruction Olympics’.

Along with obtaining such results thanks to great assistance from Fukushima Seikei High School, with the assistance of this cities relevant authorities, this opinion exchanged was also recognized by the Tokyo Organizing Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic

Games as an event carried out as part of the official Tokyo 2020 program.

Leaving as our legacy opinions enriched by the results of the inquiry thus far and the high school students' hopes and dreams for the future, as well as the experience of the special committee, which joined the planning process of the Tokyo 2020 Games one step in advance, this special committee proposes the three following points to the office of this city.

Firstly, the Tokyo 2020 Olympics representing an opportunity for young people, such as high school students, to learn about support received from across the world in the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake and to express their feelings of gratitude for such support, is the very thing that will lead to greater interest and awareness of the Tokyo 2020 Olympics being held as the 'Reconstruction Olympics'. As such, a great number of opportunities should be established for the involvement of schools and related facilities.

Secondly, as the Tokyo 2020 Games approach and Olympic & Paralympic opportunities increase, it is consequently expected that activities independently implemented by young people will become more active. Preparations of support structures required for the initiatives of many such groups to be recognized as part of the Organizing Committees planning program, and measures that include in the Olympic & Paralympic planning each individual citizen, should thus be expediently organized.

Furthermore, as sharing with the world the activities of citizens motivated by the Tokyo 2020 Games, is also sharing the gratitude from areas affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake, it was determined that, based in the municipality law, an 'opinion letter' be

delivered to the nation in order to adopt measures for the dissemination of information and to ensure that citizens are able to appreciate that their own activities and thriving image have been conveyed to the world.

Thirdly, as the Tokyo 2020 Olympics is expected to bring such long term positive effects as the fostering of volunteer spirit within the city, the improvement of the city's status as a sports training region, and the sweeping away of the image of 'Fukushima' as associated with the Great East Japan Earthquake and the Tokyo Denryoku Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant Accident, this city should strive to have a municipal government administration that is perpetually conscious of this city's legacy: that each citizen should have pride as a host city and engrave in their hearts gratitude for, in addition to the support received thus far, the great 'Yell' across the globe that is the 'Reconstruction Olympics', and that their smiles and enthusiasm are shared to posterity in perpetuity.

Finally, along with expressing our gratitude towards all those whose assistance was received during this special committee's inquiry, we would also like to add that the Congress of this city is determined to carry out, with all their strength, the continuation hereinafter, so that the Tokyo 2020 Olympic & Paralympic Games will propel forward Fukushima's reconstruction and Fukushima to a new stage.