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STORY HEADLINE: TOKYO ON TRACK AS CELEBRATIONS MARK ONE YEAR TO GO UNTIL THE START OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES 2020

DATE: 24 July 2019
LOCATION: Tokyo, Japan
LANGUAGE: English & Japanese

Broadcast quality footage available at the IOC Newsroom: http://iocnewsroom.com

STORY SCRIPT:
A series of celebrations have taken place in Tokyo to mark exactly one year to go until the start of the Olympic Games 2020.

Excitement in Japan is already growing, as seen by the huge demand for tickets, with more than 3.2 million already sold, more than 200,000 people have applied to be volunteers and International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach says he has never seen an Olympic host city as well prepared with a year to go.

President Bach was speaking at a ceremony at the Tokyo International Forum, which will host weightlifting at the Olympic Games next year. It was also attended by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, IOC Coordination Commission Chair John Coates, Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike, and the President of the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee, Yoshiro Mori.

During the ceremony, President Bach symbolically handed invitations to the Presidents of the National Olympic Committees (NOCs) of Greece, China, France, the United States of America, Senegal, Australia and Japan, as well as the Chef de Mission of the IOC Refugee Olympic Team, Tegla Loroupe. Among the NOCs represented were the country where the Olympic Games originated and several host countries of upcoming Games and Youth Olympic Games editions.

President Bach said: “One year from now, Japan will make history. It will be a wonderful and unique moment for our gracious Japanese hosts to show the world the best of Japan: your rich history and traditions, your cutting-edge innovation, your culture of hospitality, and, of course, your love for sport.”

“Preparations are making excellent progress, thanks to the amazing work of the Organising Committee and with outstanding cooperation and support from the government and the business community. There is so much to look forward to. I have never seen an Olympic city as prepared as Tokyo with one year to go before the Olympic Games.”
Tokyo 2020 will use a total of 43 venues, made up of eight new permanent venues, 25 existing sites and 10 temporary venues. Construction of the new venues is well on track, five of the new venues are already complete, and the remaining three are due to be ready by February, six months before the start of the Games.

Tokyo 2020 President Mori said, “I believe Tokyo 2020 Games will be passed down to the next generation as an important turning point in Olympic history. It will be the second time that Tokyo hosts the Olympic and Paralympic Games where the world is united as one, regardless of the difference of nationality, race, culture and religious view. I strongly hope the younger generation who learned to respect, understand and recognise each other through the Games will play a central role in realising an inclusive society.”

Accepting the invitations from President Bach on behalf of the NOCs present were Hellenic Olympic Committee President Spyros Capralos; Chinese Olympic Committee President Zhongwen Gou; French National Olympic and Sports Committee President Denis Masseglia; United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee President Susanne Lyons; Senegalese National Olympic and Sports Committee President Mamadou Diagna Ndiaye; IOC Refugee Olympic Team Chef de Mission Tegla Loroupe; Australian Olympic Committee President John Coates; and Japanese Olympic Committee President Yasuhiro Yamashita.

In the morning, as part of the Let’s GoGo event that allowed residents of Tokyo to try Olympic sports, IOC President Bach practised fencing with local children before formally inviting the athletes of the world to the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.

In addition to the formal presentation of invitations to the NOCs, the ceremony included the unveiling of the Tokyo 2020 medal design, as well as a rhythmic gymnastics performance by Japanese Olympian Honami Tsuboi. Tokyo 2020 Mascots Miraitowa and Someity were also part of the celebrations. Live music was performed by the Yoshida Brothers and by the Tokyo Ska Paradise Orchestra.

Tokyo will host the Games of the XXXII Olympiad from 24 July to 9 August 2020.

**SHOTLIST:**

00:03 Rhythmic Gymnast performances at the Tokyo 2020 One-Year-To-Go event.
00:08 Traditional Japanese Guitar players perform on the Tokyo 2020 One-Year-To-Go stage.
00:15 Shinzō Abe, Japanese Prime Minister walks to podium.

**00:18 SOUNDBITE: Shinzo Abe, Japanese Prime Minister (Japanese language)**

“Sport connects the whole world. And, it is sport that gives every one of us an equal opportunity. We learned this from the first Tokyo Olympic Games, 50 years ago. The Olympic Games next year will be the very opportunity to represent it to the world.”

00:43 Thomas Bach, IOC President walks to the podium.

**00:46 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English language)**
“One year from now Japan will make history when the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 get underway, the eyes of the world will be on Japan. More than half of the world’s population will follow the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.”

01:10 Yoshiro Mori, President of the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee walks to the podium.

01:13 SOUNDBITE: Yoshiro Mori, President of the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee
(Japanese language)
“The Olympics and Paralympics will be held in Tokyo for the second time. It is the stage where the whole world becomes one beyond the differences of countries, race, cultures, and religions. I hope that all the young people who have learnt how to accept each other can play a main role to support our convivial society.. For the success of this event coming up within a year, I would like to appreciate your cooperation, from everybody here today and from our people of Japan. Thank you very much.”

01:51 Unveiling of Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 medals
02:01 Presentation of the official invitation to Tegla Loroupe, Chef de Mission of the Refugee Olympic Team for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.
02:10 Various shots from the One-Year-To-Go-Event.
02:39 02:44 Sped up time lapse video of building process of Olympic/Paralympic Village, Tokyo, Japan.
02:55 Various shots of Olympic/Paralympic Village, Tokyo, Japan
03:10 IOC President Jacques Rogge announces Tokyo as the host city for the Olympic Games 2020. Date: 2013. Location: Buenos Aires, Argentina.
03:14 Celebrations of the Japanese Olympic bid team.
03:19 Shots of IOC President Thomas Bach handing over of the Olympic flag at the Closing Ceremony of the Rio de Janeiro Olympic Games 2016 to Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike.
03:35 Mario Kart animation and Prime Minister of Japan Shinzō Abe at closing ceremony from the Olympic Games Rio 2016.

FIVE new sports at Tokyo 2020
04:00 Shots of Baseball / Softball players in action
04:07 Action from a Karate match during the Buenos Aires Youth Olympic Games 2018
04:17 Various shots of Sport Climbers in action at the Buenos Aires Youth Olympic Games 2018
04:29 Various shots of Skateboarders in action.
04:39 Shots of 2 Surfers in action

04:57 IOC President Thomas Bach and former UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon applaud the Refugee Olympic Team.

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