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STORY HEADLINE: Japan's Motonaga wins gold in Men's Speed Skating 1500m, Lausanne 2020

LOCATION: St Moritz, Switzerland

DATE: January 13, 2020

LANGUAGE: Japanese

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

STORY SCRIPT:

A perfectly timed surge from Japan's Motonaga in the Men's 1500m Speed Skating won him the gold medal at the Winter Youth Olympic Games (YOG), Lausanne 2020.

Arito began cautiously on the frozen lake of the historic Alpine resort of St Moritz. He was placed only 7th at the first split at the 300m mark. He was in the final time-trial pairing of the event and his early caution proved to be a tactical masterpiece.

The 17-year-old from Hokkaido swiftly gained momentum and by the final split, with 400m to go, he was in the lead.

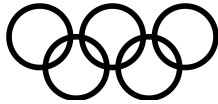
Arito maintained his form to emerge victorious by 1.5 seconds in 1:52.40.

Silver went to Pavel Taran of Russia. The United States' Jonathan Tobon won bronze.

Lausanne 2020 is the third edition of the Winter Youth Olympic Games (YOG), bringing together the world's best young athletes between the ages of 15 and 18. For the first time in Winter Olympic history the Games will have gender equality, with equal numbers of male and female competitors in the 81 medal events.

1,872 athletes from 79 National Olympic Committees (NOCs) will be in action in Lausanne, 12 of those NOCs for the first time at a Youth Olympic Games - Albania, Azerbaijan, Ecuador, Haiti, Hong Kong (China), Kosovo, Pakistan, Qatar, Singapore, Thailand, Turkmenistan and Trinidad & Tobago..

As well as the brand new sport of Ski Mountaineering, Lausanne 2020 features five new events, Women's Nordic Combined, Individual Normal Hill/4km, Women's Doubles Luge, Ice Hockey Mixed NOC 3x3 Tournament, Freeski Big Air, Snowboard Big Air.



The first Winter Youth Olympic Games took place in Innsbruck in 2012. The second edition was held in the Norwegian city of Lillehammer in 2016.

SHOTLIST:

00:05 Motonaga Arito finishes Men's 1500M Speed Skating heat to claim Gold

00:38 Medallists on podium for Mascot Ceremony

00:50 SOUNDBITE: Arito Motonaga, Japan. Gold Medallist, Men's 1500M Speed Skating (Japanese Language).

"At the beginning of the race I gave 100% and then at the end I told myself to be patient and I got the gold."

01:01 Motonaga Arito in action during race

01:04 SOUNDBITE: Arito Motonaga, Japan. Gold Medallist, Men's 1500M Speed Skating (Japanese Language).

"I'm glad to be here at the Youth Olympic Games, it is a huge event with only one every 4 years. I'm hoping to get on the senior national team so that I can continue to improve."

01:26 Motonaga Arito in action during race

01:30 SOUNDBITE: Arito Motonaga, Japan. Gold Medallist, Men's 1500M Speed Skating (Japanese Language).

"Be calm and set the mind, my race was the last one and the fastest time was the target so I just had to stay calm and focused."

01:56 Various shots of medal ceremony at St Moritz Medal Plaza

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