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STORY HEADLINE: USAIN BOLT SENDS GOOD LUCK MESSAGE TO ATHLETES ON EVE OF WINTER YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES IN LAUSANNE AS OLYMPIC TORCH ARRIVES IN HOST CITY

LOCATION: Lausanne, Switzerland
DATE: January 8, 2020

LANGUAGE: English and French

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

STORY SCRIPT: Eight-time Olympic Champion Usain Bolt sent a message of good luck to athletes assembling in Lausanne for the third edition of the Winter Youth Olympic Games (YOG).

The Jamaican sprinter was an ambassador for the first ever YOG in Singapore in 2010 and he told the competitors to enjoy every moment of their experience at Lausanne 2020.

As the first wave of athletes gathered at the Olympic Village, known as the Vortex in Lausanne, International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach attended a special welcome event for the 15-18-year-old Olympians from around the globe ahead of the official opening ceremony on Thursday (January 9).

President Bach spoke of the special significance of these Games for the IOC. He said: “It’s a great moment for the IOC. Lausanne in Switzerland is our home and we have for the first time a great Olympic event at home here and this makes it very special I think for the people of Lausanne, for the Swiss people but also for us, so we are eagerly looking forward to when it finally starts.”

Earlier on Wednesday (January 8), the Olympic torch relay came to a symbolic end on the streets of the host city.

The route through the city known as the Olympic Capital was measured at 20.20 KM and 200 runners carried the flame on the final day of the relay that has crossed Switzerland since September 19, 2019, the day after its traditional lighting in Athens, Greece.

1,872 athletes from 79 National Olympic Committees will be in action in Lausanne and 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.
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.) and one new sport, Ski Mountaineering with five events: Women’s and Men’s Individual, Women’s and Men’s Sprint and Mixed NOC Relay.

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:

00:04 SOUNDBITE: Usain Bolt, Eight-time Olympic Gold Medalist (English Language).
“To all of you kids out there I want to say all the best of luck. That’s where I started, you know what I mean, that's where your future starts to take shape so go out there, do your best and enjoy yourself, that's the key thing, enjoy the experience, you’re this young, take your time, develop and get great. So, all the best and stay up, alright!”

00:28 Aerial view of the Olympic House
00:32 Close up of the Rings outside Olympic House
00:35 The Olympic torch is carried to Olympic House
00:42 Lausanne 2020 mascot Yodli waves to the crowd

00:44 SOUNDBITE: Christelle Boivin, BMX World Champion (French Language)
“It was a dream and I hope everybody can live it one day because it's unbelievable.”

00:50 The Olympic torch is passed onto the next leg in front of the Rings at Olympic House

00:54 SOUNDBITE: Jonathan Lareau, Lausanne 2020 Olympic torch bearer (French Language)
“For me, the Olympic torch relay engulfs olympism, it means friendship and surpassing your expectations, it has always been a dream for me [to be a torch bearer] and it came true today.”

01:04 Pan of the city of Lausanne
01:08 Close up of the Olympic torch
01:15 The Olympic torch continues its journey through Lausanne
01:22 The Olympic torch bearer ‘high-fives’ school children
01:27 School children run with the torch bearer

01:29 SOUNDBITE: Philippe Leuba, Chef Departement Economie de l’innovation et du Sport du Canton de Vaud (French Language)
“It’s a unique event. We have never had the Olympic flame in Lausanne before and it also means the arrival of the Youth Olympic Games in Lausanne, we have worked on it for a long time with the IOC.”

01:44 The Olympic torch continues its journey through Lausanne
01:47 Volunteers pose with the Olympic torch

01:49 SOUNDBITE: Grégoire Junod, Syndic de Lausanne (French Language)
“We are at 24 hours before kick off, and the flame is a really stirring symbol - really strong. She has travelled from Athens and now she arrives in Lausanne.”

01:59 The Olympic torch is lit in Lausanne
02:02 Torch bearers pose for pictures
02:04 Wide shot of volunteers at Olympic Museum
02:07 The torch makes its way to Olympic Museum
02:18 Close up of the Olympic torch being lit at Olympic Museum
02:30 Close up of the Olympic flame
02:33 Pan of volunteers outside Olympic Museum
02:42 Shots of IOC President Thomas Bach dancing with athletes
02:48 Lausanne 2020 volunteers entertain the athletes on stage

02:49 SOUNDBITES: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English Language).
"It's a great moment for the IOC. Lausanne in Switzerland is our home so we have for the first time a great Olympic event at home here and this makes it very special. I think for the people of Lausanne, for the Swiss people but also for us, so we are really eagerly looking forward to when it finally starts."

03:12 Wide shot of media interviewing IOC Thomas Bach and Virginie Faivre, Lausanne 2020 President

03:16 Close up of IOC President Thomas Bach being interviewed

03:18 SOUNDBITES: Virginie Faivre, Lausanne 2020 President (English Language).
"Here is the Olympic Capital, it’s the home of the Olympic movement and we have been dreaming of these days to come. We have been working hard to welcome the best athletes of the World to these Winter Youth Olympic Games. It’s really a special moment for Switzerland and Lausanne."

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