



INTERNATIONAL  
OLYMPIC  
COMMITTEE

## Story script and Shot log

THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (IOC) OFFERS THE FOLLOWING VIDEO NEWS RELEASE TO ALL NEWS AGENCIES, BROADCASTERS FREE OF CHARGE

**STORY HEADLINE:** Olympic Flame for Tokyo 2020 provides beacon of hope following lighting ceremony in Ancient Olympia.

**LOCATION:** Ancient Olympia, Greece

**EVENT:** The lighting of the TOKYO 2020 Olympic Flame and the start of the Olympic Games Torch Relay.

**DATE:** 12 March 2020

**LANGUAGE:** English, Japanese & Greek

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

### STORY SCRIPT:

The Olympic Flame for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 was lit today in Ancient Olympia, Greece. This marks the start of its journey to Japan where, in only 134 days, the Games of the XXXII Olympiad will begin. As a symbol of peace and hope, the Olympic Flame will now travel on towards Tokyo, conveying the Olympic Values.

The President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), Thomas Bach and several guests joined the lighting ceremony, showing their unified support for the Games. These included the President of the Hellenic Republic, Prokopios Pavlopoulos, the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee acting President, Toshiaki Endo, IOC Tokyo 2020 Coordination Commission Chair John Coates and Hellenic Olympic Committee President Spyros Capralos.

“This ceremony demonstrates once more our commitment to the success of the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020. Nineteen weeks before the Opening Ceremony, we are strengthened in this commitment by the many authorities and sports organisations around the world which are taking so many significant measures to contain the spread of the coronavirus,” said IOC President Thomas Bach.

“At the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 we will stand together, united in all our diversity. We will be united by our commitment to the Olympic values. We will be united by our emotions. This makes each and every one of us a member of this unique Olympic community. This Olympic community will show the entire world that our shared humanity is stronger than all the forces that want to divide us,” he added.

In his speech during the Olympic flame-lighting ceremony, President Bach also praised the Organising Committee: “Our Japanese friends are interpreting the noble mission of the Olympic Games in an outstanding way. Japan will demonstrate its ground-breaking innovation and boundless creative energy with regards to sustainability, technology and human-centred growth,” said the IOC President.



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Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee acting President Toshiaki Endo said: “The Olympic Torch Relay in Greece is the origin of so many wonderful episodes and stories, and I very much hope that the torch relay that begins today will engender many dreams and aspirations, and bring hope for tomorrow.”

Held near the Temple of Hera, the traditional ceremony celebrates the Olympic Games Greek heritage, reaffirming the connection between the modern Games and their historic origins.

During his visit, President Bach also offered his gratitude to the Hellenic Olympic Committee and its President, IOC Member Spyros Capralos, for the close cooperation with the Greek government to ensure the flame lighting could take place despite the COVID-19 virus. Given the unprecedented circumstances the world is facing, the health and safety of the thousands of torchbearers, spectators and staff will be the first priority along the route of the Olympic Torch Relay both in Greece and Japan.

Following the ceremony, the Olympic torch began its journey with Olympic gold medallist from Rio 2016, Anna Korakaki from Greece. It was then passed to Japanese athlete Noguchi Mizuki, the winner of the women’s marathon race at the Olympic Games Athens 2004.

A week-long tour of Greece then follows before the Japan leg of the Olympic Torch Relay begins on 26 March. There, supported by four Presenting Partners, including IOC TOP Partners Coca-Cola and Toyota, around 10,000 torchbearers will carry it through all 47 prefectures, incorporating 859 local municipalities, for a period of 121 days, before arriving in Tokyo for the Opening Ceremony.

Once the flame is lit at the Olympic Stadium on 24 July, just over 11,000 athletes, representing 206 National Olympic Committees and the IOC Refugee Olympic Team will compete in what will be the first gender-balanced Olympic Games in history.

### SHOT LOG:

00:02 Wide shot of Temple of Hera.

00:06 Priestess drumming.

00:13 Various Priestesses entering the Temple of Hera.

00:24 High Priestess lights the Olympic Flame.

00:31 Close up of the Parabolic mirror lighting torch.

00:48 Close up shot of the Priestesses.

00:52 High Priestess passes Olympic flame to fellow priestess.

01:10 The national flags of Greece, Japan and the International Olympic Committee are raised.

01:15 Behind shot of the ceremony.

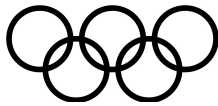
01:21 Camera pans past Prokopios Pavlopoulos, President of the Hellenic Republic.

### **01:28 SOUNDBITE: IOC President, Thomas Bach (English Language).**

*“Today marks the beginning of the journey of the Olympic Flame to Japan, when the Olympic Flame returns to Tokyo after 56 years, hope will light the way across the entire country. The Olympic Flame represents our hope for a better future.”*

01:54 The national flags of Greece, Japan and the International Olympic Committee are raised.

### **01:57 SOUNDBITE: IOC President, Thomas Bach (English Language).**



*“Nineteen weeks before the Opening Ceremony we are strengthened in this commitment by the many authorities and sport organisations around the world who are taking so many significant measures to contain the spread of the coronavirus.”*

02:10 Pan shot of audience

**02:20 SOUNDBITE: Toshiaki Endo, President of the “TOKYO 2020” Organising Committee (Japanese Language).**

*‘The people of Japan are moving forward with hope in their hearts, and with the help of our friends from around the world, we have overcome numerous hardships. The lighting of the Olympic Flame today marks the beginning of the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020. The concept underpinning the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Torch Relay is ‘Hope Lights Our Way.’*

**02:50 SOUNDBITE: Georgios Georgiopoulos, Mayor of Ancient Olympia (Greek Language).**

*‘In the modern Olympic Games, the most successful sporting, cultural and social institution of our world, that unites people and does not separate them, the universal values of fair play, solidarity and brotherhood of peoples and peace, are the same values of excellence, beauty, justice, democracy of the high value of the game in the human life and of truce, moulded anew through the evolution of the modern man.’*

**03:22 SOUNDBITE: Sypros Capralos, President of the Hellenic Olympic Committee (English Language).**

*‘The Olympic Games bring humanity together in a truly peaceful worldwide event, in this ceremony, most regretfully, we had to downsize turnout to protect public health, however the live broadcast and the beautiful images from this historic location where the Olympic Games began, capture in their entirety the Olympic spirit.’*

03:52 Toshiaki Endo, Georgios Georgiopoulos, Sypros Capralos and IOC President Thomas Bach walk into the temple.

03:59 Close up shot of ceremony members.

04:02 Wide shot of Priestess walking through tunnel towards the camera.

04:07 Various shots from the Olympic Flame ceremony.

04:33 High Priestess lights the Olympic torch of the first torchbearer, Anna Korakaki.

04:40 Close up of first torchbearer Anna Korakaki with Olympic torch.

04:48 Various shots of Anna Korakaki running with Olympic Flame.

-- ENDS --

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