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COMMITTEE

Story script and Shot log

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STORY HEADLINE: Tokyo 2020 Olympic Flame handover ceremony delivers message of hope.

LOCATION: Panathenaic Stadium, Athens, Greece

DATE: 19 March 2020

LANGUAGE: English & Japanese

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

STORY SCRIPT:

The Olympic flame has officially been handed over to Tokyo 2020 in a ceremony in Athens.

No members of the public were present at the Panathenaic Stadium to help contain the Covid-19 pandemic.

Olympian Naoko Imoto received the flame on behalf of Tokyo 2020 from Hellenic Olympic Committee President Spyros Capralos in the traditional symbolic moment which marks the transfer from Greece to the next host city.

Capralos said: "We bid farewell to this great Olympic symbol, which brings together humanity, antiquity and modern times.

"I wish to believe that the journey of the Olympic flame in your country will offer joy and hope to the people of the whole world, who are currently in pain and challenged."

Imoto, who was part of Japan's swimming team at the Olympic Games Atlanta 1996,, stepped in after the representatives from Japan stayed in Tokyo as part of their measures against the spread of COVID-19. She is currently living in Greece, where she works as head of education for the United Nations' children's agency UNICEF.

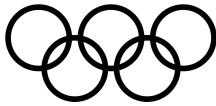
The Olympic Torch Relay through Greece preceding the handover was cut short due to the coronavirus pandemic, but two Greek priestesses entered the arena and watched on as Greek gymnastics Olympic champion Eleftherios Petrounias brought the flame into the stadium, which was used for the first Olympic Games of the modern era in 1896.

He ran a lap of the historic track before handing the flame to Olympic pole vault champion Katerina Stefanidi to light the cauldron.

It was then lit in a gold ceremonial cauldron which had been placed in the centre of the stadium.

The flame will be carried in a miner's safety lamp for the duration of its flight to Japan.

The "Tokyo 2020 Go" plane is scheduled to land at the Matsushima air base tomorrow, local time.



Tokyo 2020 President Yoshiro Mori was originally due to travel to Athens, but instead sent a message by video-link.

Judoka Tadahiro Nomura and wrestler Saori Yoshida, who are both triple Olympic champions and were scheduled to participate in the ceremony, but remained in Japan were "in readiness for welcoming the Flame at Matsushima", Mori added.

Both Nomura and Yoshida also sent short video messages expressing their disappointment at missing the handover.

They each ended with the words "Hope Lights Our Way", the slogan of the Tokyo 2020 Torch Relay.

Mori repeated the statement of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) that "there is no need for drastic action such as a cancellation or postponement of the Games at this stage", with the Opening Ceremony scheduled for July 24.

"Tokyo 2020 commits to be ready," he said.

SHOT LIST

00:01 Wide shot of Athens, Panathenaic Stadium.

00:08 Raising of the flags.

00:14 Greek and Japanese delegates keeping two meters distance in the stands.

00:17 Wide shot of the Panathenaic Stadium.

00:21 Entry of the olive branch with the High Priestess.

00:25 Wide shot of Priestesses.

00:31 Wide shot of Greek, Olympic and Japanese flags in the breeze.

00:36 Wide shot of the Olympic cauldron and Priestesses.

00:39 Wide shot of the Olympic torch arriving..

00:00 Japanese delegates applauding

00:00 Lighting of the Olympic cauldron

01:00 SOUNDBITE: Spyros Capralos, President of the Hellenic Olympic Committee and IOC Member (English Language)

"I wish to believe that the journey of the Flame in your country will offer joy and hope to the people of the whole world who are currently in pain and challenged. Let us hope that the Olympic flame, a symbol of peace and solidarity, will extinguish the virus and defeat it! And then the Olympic Movement, united and free from this vicious enemy will gather in Tokyo to celebrate the biggest sports event that unites the whole world, the Olympic Games. Good luck our Japanese friends."

01:28 AERIAL shots of the stadium.

01:35 Close up of the Japanese and then Olympic flag..

(LIVE broadcast message into the ceremony)

01:50 SOUNDBITE: Yoshiro Mori, President of the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee (Japanese Language with English subtitles)

"The concept of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Torch Relay is 'Hope Lights Our Way'. I hope that the light will shine on the hearts of people all over Japan, and that will shake off the dark clouds hanging over the earth to lead the excitement of the Olympic Games which people all over the world are looking forward to. I hereby pledge that, on 24th July, this flame will be lit at the new Olympic Stadium in Tokyo."

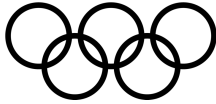
02:28 Official spectators at the ceremony

02:34 Lighting of the Torch by the High Priestess

02:43 Handover of the Torch to the HOC President and IOC Member Spyros Capralos by the High Priestess.

03:00 Handover of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Flame from HOC President Spyros Capralos to Naoko Imoto, Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee representative.

03:25 Olympic Torch lights Tokyo 2020 Olympic Flame lantern.



Story script and Shot log

03:40 Departure of the Olympic flame.

03:46 Wide shot of the Panathenaic Stadium, Athens, Greece.

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