STORY HEADLINE: International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach praises Tokyo 2020's determination and commitment to safe Olympic Games next summer after meeting Japanese Prime Minister Suga for the first time.

LOCATION: Tokyo, Japan
DATE: 16 November 2020
LANGUAGE: English

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

STORY SCRIPT: The International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach has praised the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee for their determination and commitment to host the Olympic Games next summer.

President Bach was speaking on his first visit to the Japanese capital since the decision in March to postpone the Olympic Games until July 2021 because of the global Covid-19 pandemic.

The IOC President met for the first time with new Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga at his official residence, the Kantei. Prime Minister Suga reaffirmed his commitment to deliver a safe Olympic Games.

President Bach said: "It was a very fruitful and successful meeting and Prime Minister Suga made it clear once more how much he is absolutely determined to have these Games being organised in a safe environment next July. And this is absolutely in line with the position of the IOC. We share this commitment to the successful organisation, therefore, we could concentrate very much on the focus we have to set and these are the Covid countermeasures."

Japan recently held a gymnastics competition that involved athletes from the USA, Russia, China and Japan and was attended by several thousand fans. Baseball games have also taken place with crowds of near-capacity 30,000 at some stadiums.

Before attending the Project Review meeting at the headquarters of the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee, President Bach was at the Japanese Olympic Museum where he awarded the former Prime Minister Abe Shinzo with the Olympic Order in Gold, the highest order of the Olympic Movement.
The award was first presented by Baron de Coubertin in 1906 to an individual or organisation that has upheld the Olympic values by rendering outstanding services to the development of sport or the Olympic Movement.

The postponed Tokyo 2020 Olympics will now take place July 23-Aug 8 2021.

SHOTLIST:
00:00 IOC President Thomas Bach arrives for meetings in Tokyo Japan.
00:13 Prime Minister of Japan Yoshihide Suga walking into the meeting with IOC President Thomas Bach. 
00:18 Wide shot of meeting between IOC President Thomas Bach and Prime Minister of Japan Yoshihide Suga.
00:25 Close up shot of meeting.
00:31 IOC President Bach talking to Japanese media. 

00:37 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English Language)
"It's great to be back in this Olympic city and really very much encouraged to see the determination and commitment to the organisation of a safe Olympic Games and I’m full of admiration for the Japanese people how they respect the coronavirus restrictions and perfect countermeasures."

01:03 Cutaway IOC President talking to Japanese media.

01:06 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English Language)
"It was a very fruitful and successful meeting. Prime Minister Suga made it clear once more how much he is determined to have these Games being organised in a safe environment next July and this is absolutely in line with the position of the IOC. We share this commitment to the successful organisation, therefore, we could concentrate very much on the focus we have to set and these are the Covid countermeasures."

01:50 Exterior of Japan’s Olympic Museum.
01:55 Flags being prepared for a ceremony inside the Museum.
02:00 Line up of participants at the award ceremony of Olympic Order by the International Olympic Committee to former Japanese Prime Minister Abe Shinzo.
02:03 Long shot of IOC President Thomas Bach speaking at the ceremony.
02:06 Wide of IOC President Thomas and Japanese former Prime Minister Abe Shinzo.
02:11 IOC President Bach presenting Japanese former Prime Minister Abe Shinzo with the Olympic Order.
02:22 Pan along the line of ceremony guests.
02:27 IOC President Bach and Tokyo 2020 President Yoshiro Mori entering a press conference.
02:31 Wide shot of press conference with IOC President Bach and Tokyo 2020 President Yoshiro Mori.

02:36 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English Language)
"In nine months from now, we know that we will even have more Covid countermeasures in our toolbox than we have now. We know that there will be a more sophisticated rapid testing regime available, you see new developments by the month, if not the week all over the world. And we can also be more confident that most likely there will be vaccines available, so we can also put this into the toolbox."

03:27 Close up of President Bach and Yoshiro Mori putting on their masks.
03:31 IOC President Bach and Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike posing for media photos.
03:34 President Bach and Tokyo Governor sitting and talking.
03:39 Wide shot of the meeting room.

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