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Story Headline: International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach discusses preparations for Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 with six months to go until the Opening Ceremony.

Location: Olympic House, Switzerland.

Date: 22 Jan 2021.

Language: English.


Story Script: With six months to go until the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach took the opportunity to address some questions about preparations for the Games.

President Bach spoke today (22 January) with all 206 National Olympic Committees (NOCs), and confirmed all are fully committed to the Games. He added that, with the full support of the Japanese government and IOC Members there is a real determination to make these Games “the light at the end of the tunnel that we are all still in”. However, “our first priority is a safe and secure Olympic Games...and there can be no taboo for securing a safe and secure Olympic Games for every participant”.

President Bach also said that a range of scenarios are being discussed, and as the Games approach the countermeasures needed will become clearer.

He said: “We are putting together a huge toolbox of measures, and then we will decide at the appropriate time which of the tools we need to address the situation. This goes from immigration rules, from quarantine rules, over to social distancing in the Olympic Village, to the question of rapid testing methods, to the question of vaccination, to the question of spectators. How many? Can there be spectators? How will life in the Olympic Village be organised? So it's really a huge undertaking, but we are very much encouraged in this because we can see already now that big sports events, even world championships, are happening and being organised in a safe and secure way, even without having access to any kind of vaccination.”
The postponed Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 will take place from July 23 to August 8 2021.

SHOTLIST:

Question: ‘Six months ahead of the Tokyo Games, what is the overall feeling at the moment?’
00:10 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English Language)
“Six months ahead of the Games the entire Olympic Movement is looking forward to the Opening Ceremony on 23rd July. I had the opportunity today to speak there with all 206 of the National Olympic Committees of the world and they are all fully committed, they are looking forward to these Games. We are enjoying the full support of the Japanese government and we had another consultation with all the IOC Members yesterday. Everybody is really determined to make these Olympic Games in six months from now the light at the end of the tunnel in which at this moment we are all still in. But all the prospects are good, we are working hard, and these Games, the first priority will be to make them safe and secure for all participants.”

Question: ‘What do you hear about the preparation of the athletes?’
01:19 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English Language)
“We have been talking with our Athletes’ Commission and they are in regular contact with the entire athletes’ community across the globe, and they have all confirmed to us that the athletes, while being in difficulties at this moment with their training, with the competition, with the qualification in some sports even, but they are all enthusiastic. They are preparing for these Games, they are looking forward to these Games, and I will take the opportunity also in a couple of days to speak with the athletes’ community also personally, and to get then a first-hand impression on their attitude. But we know how passionate Olympic athletes are and this is why we know they will be flexible enough and they will adjust to this situation we are all in now, and then they will enter the Olympic stadium on 23rd July with full pride and sending an important message not only to the world of sports, but to the entire world - a message of resilience, of Olympic passion and of Olympic values like solidarity and peace.”

Question: ‘Which countermeasures are being considered for the Games?’
02:55 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English Language)
“We are working to prepare for all the potential scenarios we may face in July-August this year and this is a wide range. So we are putting together a huge toolbox of measures and then we will decide at the appropriate time which of the tools we need to address the situation. This goes from immigration rules, from quarantine rules, over to social distancing in the Olympic Village, to the question of rapid testing methods, to the question of vaccination, to the question of spectators. How many? Can there be spectators? How will life in the Olympic Village be organised? So it’s really a huge undertaking but we are very much encouraged in this because we can see already now...
that big sports events, even World Championships, are happening and being organised in a safe and secure way, even without having access to any kind of vaccination. So everybody can rest assured our first priority is a safe and secure Olympic Games and when we are talking about the measures there can be no taboo for securing safe and secure Olympic Games for every participant."

**IOC FILE FOOTAGE**

04:30 Exterior of Olympic Stadium, pan down to Olympic rings
04:46 Tourists posing in front of Olympic rings
04:51 Exterior Olympic Stadium
04:55 Interior Olympic Stadium, pull out from seating
05:05 Exterior Japan Olympic Museum
05:09 Close up Japan Olympic Museum sign
05:14 Exterior Athletes’ Village
05:22 Interior room in Athletes’ Village, ends on view of Tokyo Bay
05:40 Close up Olympic rings in Tokyo Bay
05:43 Wide Olympic rings
05:47 Tokyo Aquatics Centre time-lapse construction (ext)
05:52 Tokyo Aquatics Centre time-lapse construction (int)
05:56 Tokyo Aquatics Centre, pool
06:01 Horse jumps at Equestrian Park
06:05 Pan, Oi Hockey Stadium
06:14 Wide, Sea Forest Waterway
06:21 Close up target, Yumenoshima Park Archery Field
06:26 Miraitowa and Someity, Tokyo 2020 official mascots
06:31 Wide, illuminated Ariake Arena (night)
06:37 Wide, illuminated Aquatics Centre (night)
06:43 Wide, Tokyo Bay (night)
06:47 Close up, illuminated Olympic rings (night)
06:52 Wide, Senso-ji Buddhist temple (night)
06:58 IOC President Thomas Bach hands Olympic flag to Yuriko Koike, Governor, City of Tokyo, at closing ceremony Olympic Games Rio 2016
07:04 Close up Yuriko Koike

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