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STORY HEADLINE: International Olympic Committee hails Tokyo as the best-prepared host city ever with 100 days to go until the Olympic Games 2020

LOCATION: Tokyo, Japan, Lausanne, Switzerland, & Sydney, Australia
DATE: 14 April 2021
LANGUAGE: English & Japanese
Broadcast quality footage available at the IOC Newsroom: http://iocnewsroom.com

STORY SCRIPT:
To mark 100 days to go until the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 begin, the Organising Committee unveiled a giant set of Olympic rings on top of Mount Takao, which is located in Tokyo, and statues of the Olympic and Paralympic mascots at the Tokyo Metropolitan Government headquarters.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach celebrated the occasion at the official Tokyo 2020 countdown clock in the Olympic Capital Lausanne. He was joined by a group of riders from the International Cycling Union’s (UCI) World Cycling Centre for the very moment that marked 100 days to the Games.

President Bach, himself an Olympic Champion in fencing at Montreal 1976, said 100 days is a key marker for athletes and organisers alike. He said: “Now the real countdown has started and compared to an athlete, it’s the final lap. So, we need to get ready for the final sprint with regard to the organisation, but also with regard to the athletes, and now everybody has a clear vision.

“The message to the athletes is here we go, it’s just 100 days and these final days of preparations, I know from my own experience, are very important. Our coach at the time, I think he gave us good advice with 100 days to go from our Olympic Games. He said: ‘Right now, we have discussed all the problems we might face when it comes to the Games and if anything is coming up that we have not discussed before, it’s not a problem’.

Speaking about today’s milestone, the Chair of Tokyo 2020 Coordination Commission, John Coates, praised the efforts to get the Games ready during a global pandemic. He said: “They [The Games] certainly will happen. They will commence the Games on the 23rd of July, and I think this is a great credit to what President Bach and I and others have described as the best-prepared ever Games. And the work of the Organising Committee has just been quite outstanding in this regard and I have no hesitation in saying that the Games will take place and they'll be the safest Games possible. All of the countermeasures have been put in place to deal with COVID to ensure that the public, the athletes and all of the other participants are safe. They will take place as scheduled.”
“Most importantly for the athletes they will be able to show, the Olympic Movement will be able to show, the organisers will be able to show, the people of Japan will be able to show, that this has been a victory of humankind over the pandemic and enable us to show just what can be achieved working together.”

The priority for Tokyo over the coming weeks will remain COVID-19 countermeasure planning. A key component of this will be the publication of the second edition of the stakeholder Playbooks later this month, which will further detail the guidelines to be followed at Games-time.

With more than 65 per cent of the athletes now qualified for the Games, only a few Olympic qualification events remain. Some of those will be part of the final test event programme taking place in Tokyo 2020’s venues between now and the Games.

Today is an important milestone which will help to grow the excitement in Japan and across the world as the Games approach. This comes in addition to the ongoing Olympic Torch Relay, which is well received in each location it passes through. The Olympic flame will continue its journey over the next 100 days across the country’s 47 prefectures before reaching the Olympic Stadium in Tokyo for the Opening Ceremony on 23 July.

The Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 will take place from July 23 to August 8 2021 and the Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 from August 24 to September 5 2021.

SHOTLIST: PLEASE NOTE WHERE ON-SCREEN CREDIT IS REQUIRED

00:03 Close up of Tokyo 2020 countdown clock, Tokyo, Japan
00:018 Wide shot of Tokyo 2020 countdown clock, Tokyo, Japan

Footage below requires on-screen credit: =============

“Courtesy of Tokyo 2020 and TMG”
00:33 Virtual link-up to unveiling of Olympic rings on top of Mount Takao, Tokyo, and statues of the Olympic and Paralympic mascots Miraitowa and Someity at the Tokyo Metropolitan Government headquarters
00:51 Close up of Tokyo 2020 Mascot, Miraitowa
00:55 Olympic rings unveiling on top of Mount Takao, Tokyo, presented by Organising Committee members and Japanese Olympic swimmer, Junichi Miyashita
01:04 Close up of Olympic rings, Mount Takao, Tokyo
01:09 Organising Committee members and Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike unveil statues of Tokyo 2020 mascots, Tokyo Metropolitan Government headquarters
01:15 Close up of statues of Tokyo 2020 mascots, Miraitowa and Someity*

end of footage requiring on-screen credit==============

01:25 President Bach meets with Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) World Cycling Centre riders at the Tokyo 2020 countdown clock, Lausanne Switzerland
01:39 President Bach and riders count down to 100 days to go until Olympic Games Tokyo 2020

01:48 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English Language)
“100 days to go. See you in Tokyo in 100 days from now, 23rd July Opening Ceremony of the Olympic Games. Join us and here we go.”

01:58 Tokyo 2020 countdown clock, Lausanne, Switzerland
02:08 SOUNDBYTE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English Language)
Question: What's the significance of the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 opening in 100 days?
“Now the real countdown has started and compared to an athlete, it’s the final lap. So, we need to get ready for the final sprint with regard to the organisation, but also with regard to the athletes, and now everybody has a clear vision.”

02:31 SOUNDBYTE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English Language)
Question: What’s your message to the athletes preparing for the Games this summer?
“The message to the athletes is here we go, it’s just 100 days and these final days of preparations, I know from my own experience, are very important. Our coach at the time, I think he gave us good advice with 100 days to go from our Olympic Games. He said: ‘Right now, we have discussed all the problems we might face when it comes to the Games and if anything is coming up that we have not discussed before, it’s not a problem.”

03:04 SOUNDBYTE: John Coates, Chair of Tokyo 2020 Coordination Commission (English Language)
Question: With 100 days to go, will Tokyo 2020 happen this summer?
“They certainly will happen. They will commence the Games on the 23rd of July. And I think this is a great credit to what President Bach and I and others have described as the best-prepared ever Games. And the work of the Organising Committee has just been quite outstanding in this regard and I have no hesitation in saying that the Games will take place and they’ll be the safest Games possible. All of the countermeasures have been put in place to deal with COVID to ensure that the public, the athletes and all of the other participants are safe. They will take place as scheduled.”

03:46 SOUNDBYTE: John Coates, Chair of Tokyo 2020 Coordination Commission (English Language)
Question: What kind of experience can those attending the Games and watching on TV expect?
“Well, we are an athlete-focused organisation as is the Organising Committee. The athletes will be able to enjoy the very best of facilities, the best of organisation and those watching the Games are going to see the world’s best athletes performing in this unique competition”

04:12 SOUNDBYTE: John Coates, Chair of Tokyo 2020 Coordination Commission (English Language)
Question: How important will these Games be for everyone. Athletes, fans, society as a whole?
“Most importantly for the athletes they will be able to show, the Olympic Movement will be able to show, the organisers will be able to show, the people of Japan will be able to show, that this has been a victory of humankind over the pandemic and enable us to show just what can be achieved working together.”

04:33 Chair of Tokyo 2020 Coordination Commission John Coates presenting medals at the Olympic Games Rio 2016.
04:42 Christophe Dubi, Olympic Games Executive Director walking through Olympic House.
04:55 Christophe Dubi, sitting at his desk inside Olympic House.

05:03 SOUNDBYTE: Christophe Dubi, Olympic Games Executive Director (English Language)
Q. What are the key priorities for Tokyo 2020 over the last 100 days?
“To refine the level of precision, and especially when it comes to the Playbook version two and version three. The Playbook will establish everything we as participants will have to follow as measures to safeguard the health of oneself, but also all the others. So, more precision in the Playbooks coming up. And the second thing is to test, test and test. The
teams have to be ready to face those COVID-19 countermeasure operations, but also to operate the Games. So the next 100 days will be about refining all the details and testing, training the teams. This is what we’re going to do.”

05:47 SOUNDBITE: Christophe Dubi, Olympic Games Executive Director (English Language)
Q. What role do other stakeholders have to play over the next 100 days as final preparations are made?
“Stakeholders, I would say up until today have been outstanding and they have to continue to be outstanding. And this means to maintain the close collaboration that we have, and close collaboration means sharing information constantly between us and the stakeholders. Concerns - very important - outlining difficulties, if any. Ideas, as well, because our stakeholders have been very creative. And in an environment that is a fluid and fluctuating one, we have to maintain this creativity and agility. So, this is what is expected from the stakeholders, but not only that - all of them have to inform and train their people. We want to make sure that everything that is produced by us and by Tokyo is then shared from the stakeholder to their various participants. We need people to be ready for these Games like no time before.”

06:49 SOUNDBITE: Christophe Dubi, Olympic Games Executive Director (English Language)
Q. How do you think that Tokyo 2020 will compare to previous Olympic Games?
“You see, the Games are always immensely emotional. You always have incredible moments starting with the countdown to the 10 seconds to the opening of the Games. This will be very special. We can expect that those emotions will run even higher, because of the significance of the world being together for the first time in a pandemic situation. There are so many expectations from the world community around these Games and we saw declarations from the United Nations G20, G7, and all the athletes that are now sharing their excitement, they want to be there, they want to perform to allow us to live what we all expect, which is in front of a TV or in a stadium, to have those goosebumps running down the spine. So, I would expect the athletes to be absolutely at their peak despite the conditions. They are incredibly resilient, and they are preparing for this very moment where they will shine for us to live unprecedented emotions.”

08:09 The flag of Japan
08:14 Giant Olympic Rings in Tokyo Bay, Japan
08:18 Close up Giant Olympic Rings with Cherry Blossom tree in bloom.

08:22 VOX POP1 Lady (Japanese Language)
“I do hope this will be the Olympics where athletes can have a sense of accomplishment, even if it is just for a brief moment. That is what I'm hoping for (for these Tokyo Olympics). My hope is that priority will be given to the athletes.”

08:35 VOX POP 2 Man (Japanese Language)
“I believe these Tokyo Olympics will be regarded as the event that overcame the COVID-19. I myself secured tickets for both the Olympics and Paralympics so I really hope to see these Olympics take place.”

08:48 Wide shot of Tokyo 2020 Olympic Stadium
08:53 Tourists posing for photos with Olympic Rings, Tokyo, Japan

Content also available for download
DOWN THE RIGHT HAND SIDE OF THE STORY POST
00:02 Wide shot of Tokyo street with Tokyo 2020 branding on the building.
00:06 Wide shot of Tokyo Tower and a Rickshaw
00:11 Tokyo 2020 branding
00:16 VENUE: Olympic Swimming Pool inside the Tokyo Aquatics Centre
00:20 VENUE: Olympic Climbing Wall, Aomi Urban Sports Park
00:25 VENUE: Horse jumps at Equestrian Park
00:31 VENUE: BMX track, Ariake Urban Sports Park
00:36 VENUE: Wide shot, Sea Forest Waterway
00:40 Wide shot of the Athletes' Village from the river.
00:45 Exterior Athletes' Village
00:49 Interior Athletes' Village Apartment
00:54 Interior bedroom in Athletes' Village Apartment
00:58 Miraitowa, Tokyo 2020 official mascot printed on a wall.
01:04 Miraitowa and Someity, Tokyo 2020 official mascots unveiled
01:08 Miraitowa and Someity robots.
01:18 External view of Japanese traditional temple
01:23 Wide shot of Olympic Rings, Tokyo Bay at night.
01:27 Close up of Olympic Rings, Tokyo Bay at night

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