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STORY HEADLINE: IOC President Thomas Bach sees International Broadcast Centre in Tokyo ready for action.

LOCATION: Tokyo, Japan
DATE: 13 July 2021
LANGUAGE: English

STORY SCRIPT:
International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach has visited the International Broadcast Centre (IBC) at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, to see how the Olympic Games will use cutting-edge technology to bring the action to viewers across the globe. With ten days to go until the Tokyo 2020 Opening Ceremony, President Bach viewed the unprecedented operation, which will broadcast double the coverage of the Olympic Games Rio 2016 across TV and digital and uses technology that enables ‘virtual’ support in stadiums to cheer on the athletes.

SHOTLIST:
00:01 Wide shot of entrance to International Broadcast Centre (IBC), Tokyo
00:06 Close up of IBC sign
00:10 Wide shot of broadcasting area with booths and sanitiser close in shot
00:14 Slow pan mid shot of broadcasting booths while empty

Question: How important is it for these Olympic Games to take place and provide sources of hope and joy around the world?
00:31 SOUNDbite: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English Language)
“The athletes, and I think the whole world, are longing for these Games. These Games will send a message of unity and solidarity during this still ongoing pandemic and the message of hope to so many people around the world. And we have seen so many reactions like never before, who were exactly in this sense. Please have these Olympic Games happen and show that the world, with the 205 National Olympic Committees and the IOC Refugee Olympic Team can finally meet in one country, in one city, in one Olympic Village, in one stadium. And this will be the great message of these Games. And this we are sure will give hope to so many people around the globe.”

Question: How confident are you in the preparations for the Olympic Games?
01:29 SOUNDbite: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English Language)
“Safety and security was always our first principle in particular, after the postponement of the Games. And there we have undertaken very huge efforts to make these Games safe and secure for literally everybody; the participants of the Games and the Japanese people. You see the most strict measures which have been taken through the Playbooks. And these Playbooks are based on the assumption that there is no vaccination. On top of these
Playbooks, we have established a worldwide vaccination programme, which is making sure that about 85% of the members of all the delegations coming here will be vaccinated. That the IOC Members and IOC staff will be close to 100% vaccinated or immune. That we have on top then delivered, through our partnership with Pfizer-BioNTech, 60,000 more vaccinations to the Organising Committee, so that also the people working with the athletes and working with the delegations can be vaccinated. And then nevertheless they will be tested, there will be social distancing. There will be no mingling. There will be no more public transportation and so on and so on. We really have done whatever we could do, together with our Japanese partners and friends, and based on scientific evidence and advice, to make these Games safe and secure.”

03:26 Mid shot of stacks of monitors inside Olympic Broadcast Services (OBS) studio gallery area with sports action on screens
03:30 Depth shot journalists at OBS workstations
03:35 Wide of monitors in gallery
03:38 Empty workstations ready for use
03:41 Low shot beneath studio monitor stack
03:45 Wide of studio monitor stack

Question: You must be disappointed that spectators won’t be able to attend so many venues?

03:53 SOUNDBYTE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English Language)
“We have supported this decision of having no spectators in most of the venues with a heavy heart, because we wanted, like every sports fan, to have full stadia. And this is not only about the spectators. It’s first of all, about the athletes. They want to feel the atmosphere in the stadium and the support coming from the public. But this decision and our support for this decision, shows that we are walking the talk. We do not only say ‘safety first’, we deliver on it, even if it was a difficult decision. And then, this at the end makes broadcasting and the broadcasters even more important because they then again can participate in a way to create at least a part of this atmosphere normally created by live spectators.

We are very grateful there to OBS and the broadcasters around the globe that they’re very creative and innovative in this. And I’m promised that we will see some very good innovations and surprises. And we are looking forward to this, together with the athletes, who will enjoy some support, even without so many live spectators.”

05:27 Slow move up on sanitiser with journalists working on desks in IBC
05:35 Close sign on wall “Mask Up!”
05:38 Wide shot of people in conversation on IBC floor space
05:41 Close up of Internal location map on wall of International Broadcast Centre (IBC)

Question: How can Olympic fans around the globe show their support for their heroes?

05:48 SOUNDBYTE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English Language)
“There I heard and I am informed that the OBS will make sure that these athletes and that these TV spectators can contribute, that they can communicate. There we will have the cheer map, which will allow the spectators around the globe to clap, not only for their athletes but for all the Olympic athletes. There will be the opportunity for a number of athletes to communicate with their families and their friends immediately after a competition. And then in the stadia we can look forward to a really great innovation with an immersive audio system, which will create a new atmosphere by recreating the atmosphere of previous Olympic Games. And I think this is just fascinating to hear. And it will set a benchmark for the whole TV industry.”
06:59 Mid shot from outside building of camera in studio within
07:03 Numbered broadcasting booths overlooking the Olympic Stadium
07:05 Internal low wide of empty studio
07:08 Low shot of small external broadcasting building in full
07:12 Close up of window of small studio building

**Question:** What are you hearing from the athletes already starting to arrive?

**07:19 SOUNDbite: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English Language)**

“Now, these athletes are grateful that these Olympic Games are happening under these circumstances and that all the measures are being taken to get their confidence that these Games are safe.

And that finally, after all they had to overcome during this last year - where they did not know whether the next competition will take place, where they did not know whether they can go to training the next day, they did not know where they would meet with their coach again - that after all this additional stress to the pandemic, finally they can shine on this Olympic stage. And I hope that they will, under these circumstances nevertheless, enjoy it to the fullest.”

08:14 Olympic rings close up outside of Tokyo 2020 stadium
08:18 Sign for staff entrance to Tokyo 2020 stadium, with staff member ‘walk past’
08:21 Close up of Japanese language sign with social distancing reminder picture
08:24 Wide internal of empty Tokyo 2020 stadium
08:29 Display screen shows anti-Covid message: “Help us stop the spread of infection”.
08:34 Close up TV camera ready to capture the action.

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