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**STORY HEADLINE:** Future Olympic Hosts benefitting from ‘Games Experience Programme’ at Olympic Games Tokyo 2020

**LOCATION:** Tokyo, Japan  
**DATE:** 2 August 2021  
**LANGUAGE:** English, Chinese, Italian, French

**STORY SCRIPT:** The International Olympic Committee (IOC) is factoring in the future during the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, with a programme for future hosts to acquire vital knowledge.

Throughout the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020, the Organising Committees of Beijing 2022, Paris 2024, Milano Cortina 2026 and LA28 are taking part in the IOC’s Games Experience Programme (GEP).

This is part of a long-term Information, Knowledge and Games Learning (IKL) project to support the planning, delivering and legacy for upcoming Olympic Games hosts.

The IKL’s Associate Director Chris Payne explained the importance of the project to future hosts: “The critical element for us is identifying their learning needs so we really understand what will work for them and how we can tailor all of our services to support them in the best way possible, for their context and their specific delivery in whichever city or location it is.”

More than ten Organising Committees have benefited from this programme over the past two decades, and there are 120 observers in Tokyo from the four upcoming Olympic Summer and Olympic Winter Games hosts. The GEP runs for 42 days, with 135 activities across both Games involving the Main Operations Centre, venues, sport-specific requirements and stakeholder operations.

Future host representatives have described a positive and productive experience in Tokyo. Ye Chang of the Beijing 2022 Organising Committee said: “We have witnessed the whole operation of the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games which are valuable experiences for Beijing 2022 to stage our Games.”

Anne Descamps from the Paris 2024 Organising Committee added: “It is very important for us to participate in the IKL activities because the Olympics are a relay race, and we have...”
to get ready to take the baton. By being here, we are looking and learning from our friends in Tokyo.”

**SHOTLIST:**
00:02 Wide staff holding “Games Experience Programme” sign at MPC (Main Press Centre)
00:07 Wide future Host observers in masks entering MPC
00:12 Tracking shot close of “Games Experience Programme” sign held by staff
00:16 Midshot observers front-on walking through MPC
00:21 Close of staff member holding GEP sign as press conference set up
00:26 Wide of media briefing
00:31 Wide of cameras on a raised stage and camera operators filming conference
00:34 Depth shot of the four speakers at conference
00:37 Pan of interpreter booths
00:41 Depth shot of media seated at conference
00:44 Close shot media at conference

**Question:** Please explain how GEP support works?

**00:49 SOUNDBITE:** Chris Payne, Associate Director, Information, Knowledge and Games Learning (IKL) (English Language)

“Everybody working within the Games, we treat as a knowledge worker, we believe they have the right to access good quality information and knowledge from a multitude of different sources to decomplexify some aspects of the operational delivery and help them make very sound planning decisions, that in essence is what we try to achieve”

**Question:** Please provide specific examples of how the GEP supports your preparations under the pandemic conditions?

**01:11 SOUNDBITE:** Ye Chang, Division Chief, Media and Communications Department, Beijing 2022 (Chinese Language)

“How to deliver a large-scale event like the Olympic Games safely under the pandemic conditions, this is a new tough task that the future Organising Committees will face. Through the GEP, we have seen the efforts of the Tokyo Organising Committee, including the issue of Playbook, the application of activity plan management; use of health monitoring applications, daily nucleic acid testing, wearing of masks for personal protection, and keeping social distancing; packaged food, etc. These service standards for stakeholders and the level of competition operation have provided useful reference and inspiration for us to determine relevant policies. All this will help us in our preparations for our Games.”

**Question:** How is the GEP helping you with your own Paris 2024 games?

**02:23 SOUNDBITE:** Anne Descamps, Communications Director for Paris 2024 (French Language)

“All the actions of transfer of knowledge between Paris 2024 and TOCOG are essential for us, in order to better prepare our Games. The Games are a relay race. We are preparing to take over from Tokyo in a few months. And all this teaching, all the expertise and experience that TOCOG is gaining will enable us from the outset to better prepare for the Paris 2024 Games, which will take place in three years.”

02:45 Mid shot media at joint IOC & Tokyo 2020 daily press briefing
Question: What are the most important points that you got from this transfer, from coming here to Tokyo?

03:00 SOUNDBITE: Anne Descamps, Communications Director for Paris 2024 (French Language)

“The first most important thing to remember from this transfer of experience is, first of all, the importance of coming to the site. To see the teams, to see the working conditions, to really immerse ourselves in the atmosphere of the Games, this is really what allows us to project ourselves into 2024 in the context of the Paris 2024 Games. We were able to observe the venues a lot. It is extremely interesting for us to see the distribution of the teams, the choices also that were made by the teams in terms of technology, organisation and relationship with the stakeholders of the project, so a lot of things. But what we remember in particular is the need to come on-site, meet the teams, all the secondment actions which are also very interesting to put ourselves in the shoes of our future activities in 2024.”

03:49 Pull shot from close logo on arm of ‘hoodie’ of Iacopo Mazzetti, Head of Legacy, Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026

Question: What are the most important points that you got from this transfer, from coming here to Tokyo?

03:55 SOUNDBITE: Iacopo Mazzetti, Head of Legacy, Milano Cortina 2026 (Italian Language)

“It is essential, because for those of us who have never experienced the Games it is a way to get in contact with the real nature of the Olympic and Paralympic Games; thus, it is fundamental for us to treasure what we learned at Tokyo 2020 and use this richness to improve our own Games, namely Milano Cortina 2026.”

04:18 Close side shot of Iacapo Mazzetti in mask taking notes

Question: What are the most important elements that you have considered for your Games?

04:23 SOUNDBITE: Iacopo Mazzetti, Head of Legacy, Milano Cortina 2026 (Italian Language)

The most important elements are definitely being in contact with the real nature of the Games and with the key people of IOC [International Olympic Committee] who helped us in Tokyo, and then also everything related to the experience of organising Tokyo 2020, even though – as we organise Winter Games – we will have to use some different features. As a first experience, however, I think it is essential for all of us.”

Question: How is the GEP help?

04:49 SOUNDBITE: Takaya Masa, Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee spokesperson (English Language)

“Participating in these Games is always a great opportunity for the future OCOGs to listen and learn from those experiences. Indeed I was able to participate in three Games in the past - in Sochi, Rio, and of course PyeongChang - and each of those it was a great, great opportunity to listen and learn from their experiences.

05:19 Close logo of “Games Experience Programme” on the observer's backpack with zoom out to wide of the Main Press Centre (MPC).
05:25 Wide from low position of observers gathered and listening in MPC

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