

Government Activities for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic & Paralympic Games

By Takeo Hirata



Author Takeo Hirata

A year has passed since the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games were awarded to Tokyo at the 125th Session of the International Olympic Committee in Buenos Aires. In order to make the Tokyo Games a success, it is absolutely necessary for all of Japan — the Tokyo Organizing Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (Tokyo 2020), the Metropolitan Tokyo Government, the national government, the sports community, the business community, and the regions — to come together as one for this undertaking. The Cabinet Secretariat's Office for the Promotion of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, or Cabinet Tokyo Games Office for short, for its part is working hard to make it happen. This is a report from the government's perspective on what has been done in the year since Tokyo became the 2020 host.

Sept. 13, 2013: Hakubun Shimomura, minister of education, culture, sports, science and technology, is appointed minister in charge of the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games

Preparations began in Japan for the 2020 Tokyo Games after the award. On Sept. 13, 2013, Hakubun Shimomura, minister of education, culture, sports, science and technology, was appointed minister in charge of the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games.

CHART 1

Main events since award of the 2020 Games to Tokyo

2013

- Sept. 7: IOC selects Tokyo as host city
- Sept. 13: Hakubun Shimomura, minister of education, culture, sports, science & technology, appointed minister in charge of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic & Paralympic Games
- Oct. 4: Office for the promotion of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic & Paralympic Games established in Cabinet Secretariat
- Oct. 11: First meeting of the Inter-Ministerial/Agency Liaison Council for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic & Paralympic Games (vice-minister level)

2014

- Jan. 24: Tokyo Organizing Committee of the Olympic & Paralympic Games (Tokyo 2020) established
- Jan. 31: First meeting of the Inter-Ministerial/Agency Liaison Council and State-Metropolitan Tokyo Coordination Committee (The Steering Group of the Coordination Committee held its first and second meetings on March 27 and July 30.)
- April 22: First meeting of the Ministerial Council on the 2020 Tokyo Olympic & Paralympic Games
- July 18: First meeting of the Inter-Ministerial/Agency Liaison Council concerning the Host City/Town Initiative for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic & Paralympic Games
- Sept. 30: Second meeting of the Ministerial Council on the 2020 Tokyo Olympic & Paralympic Games
- Oct. 3: Second meeting of the Inter-Ministerial/Agency Liaison Council for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic & Paralympic Games (vice-minister level)

2015

- February: Establishment of the Basic Plan for Hosting the Games (Tokyo 2020)

Source: Office for the Promotion of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, Cabinet Secretariat

Special ministers had also been appointed for the 1964 Tokyo Games and the 1972 Sapporo Games, but only after a couple of years or so had gone by since the award; the swift decision for the 2020 Tokyo Games was highly exceptional.

Oct. 4, 2013: Establishment of the Office for the Promotion of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, and the first meeting of the Inter-Ministerial/Agency Liaison Council for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games

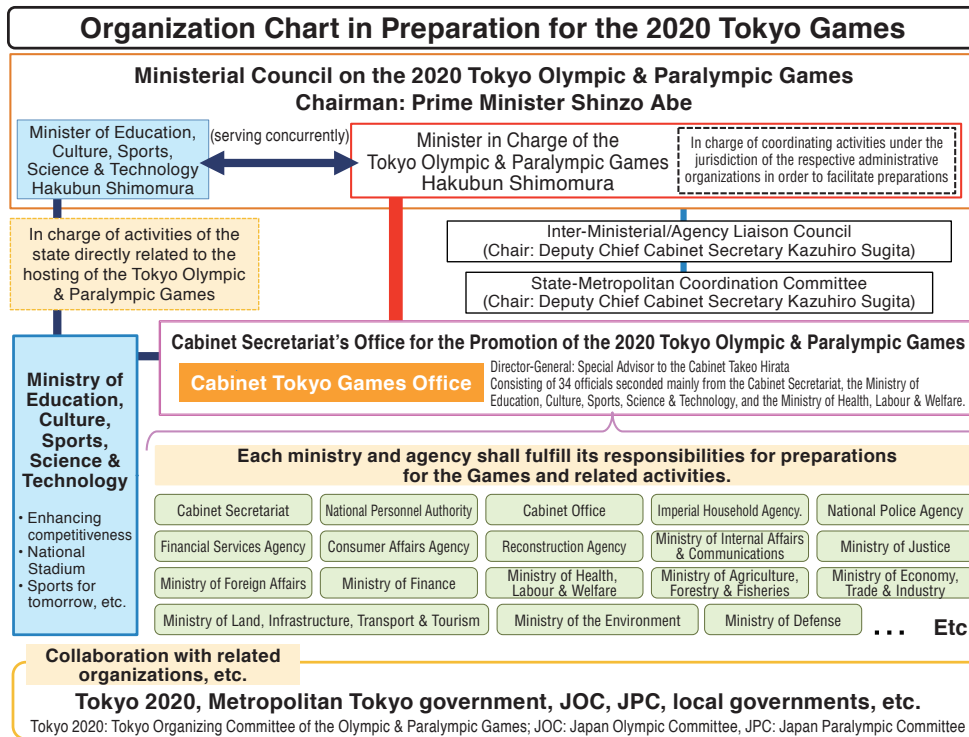
Measures must be taken for the 2020 Tokyo Games that transcend ministerial and agency jurisdictions. Thus, the Tokyo Games Office was established in the Cabinet Office on Oct. 4 to coordinate efforts under the jurisdictions of the respective ministries and agencies in order to facilitate preparations for the Tokyo Games (*Chart 2*).

On Oct. 11, one week after the establishment of the Tokyo Games Office, the first meeting of the Inter-Ministerial/Agency Liaison Council for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, consisting of vice-ministers or their equivalents of the respective ministries and agencies with Kazuhiro Sugita, deputy chief cabinet secretary, as chairman and Director-General Hirata as deputy chairman, was held. Minister Shimomura also attended the meeting, announcing that “the government will work together as one to make sure that the Tokyo Games will long be remembered for its magnificence.” Hirata requested the ministries and agencies to sort out their respective tasks for the 2020 Games.

Jan. 31, 2014: Inter-Ministerial/Agency Liaison Council and State-Metropolitan Coordination Committee (1st session) and the Inter-Ministerial/Agency Liaison Council and State-Metropolitan Coordination Committee Steering Group (1st and 2nd sessions)

CHART 2

The government organization chart in preparation for 2020



Source: Office for the Promotion of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, Cabinet Secretariat

On Jan. 31, 2014, the first meeting of the Inter-Ministerial/Agency Liaison Council and State-Metropolitan Coordination Committee was held. During the session, Vice Governor Tastumi Ando of the Tokyo Metropolitan government issued requests to the national government regarding five items aimed at the success of the 2020 Tokyo Games: 1) preparation of the sporting facilities and venues and the Olympic Village; 2) preparation of the “Three Beltways”, the “North-South Harbor Road” and other transport infrastructure; 3) promotion of impediment removal from transportation systems and public spaces; 4) reinforcement of counter-terrorism and other measures to maintain public order; and 5) development of a framework for accepting the inflow of domestic and international tourists.

The steering group established under the Coordination Committee has convened on March 27 and July 30, and has been taking care of matters at the working level in preparation for the 2020 Tokyo Games (Chart 4).

April 22, 2014: First meeting of the Ministerial Council on the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games

The first meeting of the Ministerial Council on the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games was held on April 22, 2014. The council consists of all the cabinet ministers and is chaired by the prime minister. The purpose of the council is: “Taking into consideration the integrated preparations for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic

and Paralympic Games and the Rugby World Cup to be held in the preceding year and to facilitate preparations, consult on important issues thereof and conduct liaison and coordination between the various administrative agencies.” At the meeting, Minister Shimomura explained the “Items expected of the State to facilitate preparations such as the development of the Basic Plan for the Holding of the Games” and requested cooperation from the ministries and agencies in going forward (Chart 5).

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe addressed the council at the end of the meeting and stated among other things that he wished to “communicate to the global community the power of athletics and to expand the Olympic movement” and that “the Tokyo Games, as a celebratory event for all of Japan, would be an impetus for Japan in recovering vigor and

would in particular accelerate reconstruction in the disaster areas from the Great East Japan Earthquake, which I would like to demonstrate to the global community.”

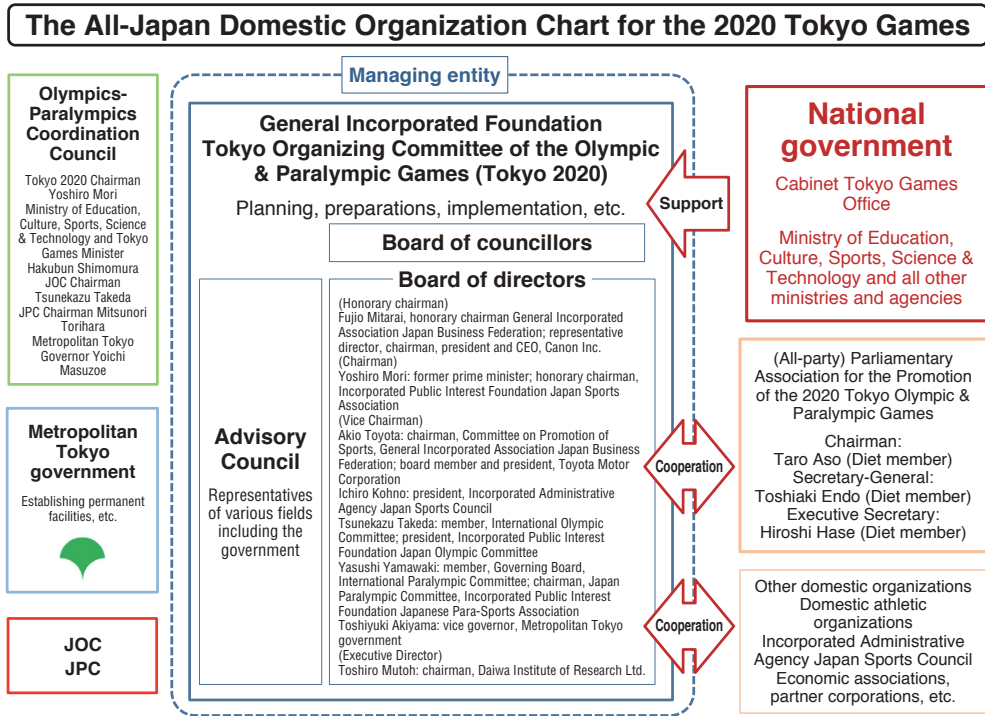
July 18, 2014: The first meeting of the Inter-Ministerial/Agency Liaison Council concerning the Host Town Initiative for the Tokyo Games

The first meeting of the Inter-Ministerial/Agency Liaison Council concerning the Host City/Town Initiative for the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games was held on July 18, 2014. The purpose of this council is to promote the Host City/Town Initiative by the government as a whole based on the Basic Policies for the Economic and Fiscal Management and Reform 2014 (Cabinet Decision; June 24, 2014) in order to benefit the promotion of human, economic and cultural exchanges between prefectures and municipalities nationwide and the participating countries and regions, and to contribute to the progress towards becoming a sports nation, further globalization, revitalization of the regions, enhancement of tourism and the like in the run-up to the hosting of the Games under the Ministerial Council on the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games (Chart 6).

Chart 7 details anticipated activities. However, they are merely there for reference. Local governments are expected to come up with creative undertakings on their own. International exchanges envisioned under the initiative are expected to take place before,

CHART 3

The all-Japan domestic organization chart for the Tokyo 2020 Games



Source: Office for the Promotion of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, Cabinet Secretariat

accelerate reconstruction through undertakings under the Host City/Town Initiative, and to show this to the world.

Sept. 30, 2014: Second meeting of the Ministerial Council on the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games and the second meeting of the Inter-Ministerial/Agency Liaison Council for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games

The second meeting of the Ministerial Council on the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games was held on Sept. 30, 2014. Prime Minister Abe addressed the council at the beginning of the session, stating “We shall make the effects of the Games felt in every corner of Japan through, among other things, the implementation of the

during, and after the Tokyo Games, with different undertakings implemented at each stage (Chart 8).

The “Questionnaire regarding Host City/Town Initiatives for the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games on Undertakings by Local Governments regarding International Exchanges” was distributed to prefectures and municipalities nationwide on Sept. 30 in order to survey the intentions of local governments regarding the Host City/Town Initiative as well as the international exchanges and other relevant activities undertaken by local governments in the previous fiscal year.

It is expected that this initiative will accelerate human, economic, and cultural exchanges between prefectures and municipalities nationwide and the participating countries and regions, generating enthusiasm towards the Tokyo Games, and that these international exchanges will not be one-off events but will be continued after the Games, promoting Japan’s globalization, regional revitalization, and tourism that will lead to the further overall development of Japan. It will also become necessary to enhance coordination with local governments in the Great East Japan Earthquake disaster areas to

Host City/Town Initiative with the participation of local governments nationwide” and “We want to have the Games give a push to reconstruction efforts by giving the Games the role of ‘Reconstruction

CHART 4

Requests from the Metropolitan Tokyo government at the Inter-Ministerial/Agency Liaison Council & State-Metropolitan Tokyo Coordination Committee Steering Group (March 27, 2014)

- 1. Preparation of sporting venues, etc.**
 - Preparing the sporting venues
 - Sound management of the Games
 - Preparing the Metropolitan Tokyo parks and offshore parks that will serve as sporting venues, etc.
 - Reinforcing disaster prevention measures in the vicinity of the sporting venues
- 2. Preparing the means of transportation**
 - Preparing the Three Beltways as well as the installation of a convenient toll rate system
 - Preparing roads in the vicinity of the sporting venues
 - Enhancing the surroundings of the key railroad stations
 - Reinforcing the functions of Haneda Airport
 - Preparing wharfs for large cruise ships
- 3. Promotion of impediment removal from transportation systems & public spaces**
 - Removing impediments from railways
 - Removing impediments from roads
- 4. Reinforcement of counter-terrorism measures & other measures to maintain public order**
 - Maintenance and enhancement of public order
 - Reinforcement of counterterrorism capabilities to protect Tokyo as the capital of Japan
- 5. Preparations for the inflow of domestic & international tourists**
 - Development of a comfortable environment for visitors
 - Promotion of “greening” and enhancement of the environment befitting a host city for the Games

Source: Office for the Promotion of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, Cabinet Secretariat

“Items expected of the state to facilitate preparations, such as the development of the Basic Plan for the Hosting of the Games”

Establishment of a Basic Plan for Hosting the Games & Other Matters Aimed at Facilitating Preparations on Which the State Is Expected to Act

1. Security, safety & reassurance

- ① Counterterrorism measures (Cabinet Secretariat, National Police Agency, Ministry of Internal Affairs & Communications, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport & Tourism, Ministry of Defense, etc.)
- ② Cybersecurity (Cabinet Secretariat, National Police Agency, Ministry of Internal Affairs & Communications, Ministry of Economy, Trade & Industry, etc.)
- ③ Disaster prevention, lifeline, safety and reassurance (Cabinet Office, National Police Agency, Ministry of Internal Affairs & Communications, Ministry of Economy, Trade & Industry, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport & Tourism, etc.)

2. Transportation

- ① Customs, immigration and quarantine (Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Health, Labour & Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries, etc.)
- ② Facilitating transportation for spectators and persons involved in the Games (National Police Agency, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport & Tourism, etc.)

3. Accepting the inflow of international tourists.

- ① Accepting the inflow of international tourists, including multi-language preparedness, promotion of Wi-Fi environment, acceptance at tourism spots nationwide, and readiness for medical services (Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport & Tourism, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Internal Affairs & Communications, Ministry of Health, Labour & Welfare, etc.)

4. Impediment removal

- ① Impediment removal at sporting venues, public facilities, etc. (Cabinet Office, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science & Technology, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport & Tourism, Ministry of the Environment, National Police Agency, etc.)
- ② Empathy for the handicapped (Cabinet Office, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science & Technology, Ministry of Health, Labour & Welfare, etc.)

5. Reconstruction & regional revitalization

- ① Collaboration with Great East Japan Earthquake disaster areas (Reconstruction Agency, etc.)

- ② Regional exchanges and revitalization in collaboration with the Games (Cabinet Secretariat, Ministry of Internal Affairs & Communications, etc.)

6. Sports

- ① Enhancing competitiveness, reconstructing the National Stadium, etc. (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science & Technology, Ministry of Defense, National Police Agency, etc.)
- ② Promotion of sports for the disabled, etc. (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science & Technology, Ministry of Health, Labour & Welfare, etc.)

7. Culture, environment, etc.

- ① Promotion, support for cultural programs (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science & Technology, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, etc.)
- ② Promotion of what makes Japan appealing such as Japanese cuisine, wood, flowers, and tatami mats in collaboration with the Games (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, etc.)
- ③ Promotion of “Cool Japan” in collaboration with the Games (Ministry of Economy, Trade & Industry, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, etc.)
- ④ Support for environmental protection and enhancement in collaboration with the Games (Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Economy, Trade & Industry, etc.)
- ⑤ Enhancement of the ICT environment in collaboration with the Games (Ministry of Internal Affairs & Communications, etc.)

8. Others

- ① Issue of commemorative coins (Ministry of Finance, etc.)
- ② Issue of lottery tickets, commemorative postage stamps, etc. in association with the Games (Ministry of Internal Affairs & Communications, etc.)
- ③ Issue of commemorative automobile license plates (Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport & Tourism, etc.)
- ④ Protection of intellectual property (Ministry of Economy, Trade & Industry, etc.)
- ⑤ Prevention of passive smoking (Ministry of Health, Labour & Welfare, etc.)
- ⑥ Cooperation with the management of ceremonies and other activities at the Games (Ministry of Defense, etc.)

Source: Office for the Promotion of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, Cabinet Secretariat

Olympics’ through such means as having the Torch Relay go through the disaster areas.”

Taken up at the session was the state of progress on the “Items Expected of the State to Facilitate Preparations Such as the Development of the Basic Plan for the Holding of the Games” which had been introduced by Minister Shimomura at the first meeting, which took place in April. I will not go into the details here, but the state of progress on eight items — “Security, Safety and Reassurance”, “Transportation”, “Accepting the Inflow of International Tourists”, “Impediment Removal”, “Reconstruction and Regional Revitalization”, “Sports”, “Culture, Environment, etc.” and “Others” — was compiled, while Minister Shimomura explained the formation of the institutional framework for counterterrorism and cybersecurity measures, regional revitalization through the Host City/Town Initiative, and the study aimed at instituting special traffic lanes for the Games, among other matters.

This was followed by the second meeting of the Inter-Ministerial/ Agency Liaison Council for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games on Oct. 3, 2012. The state of progress in the “Items Expected

of the State to Facilitate Preparations Such as the Development of the Basic Plan for the Holding of the Games” — also taken up at the Ministerial Council — was confirmed. Council Chairman and Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Sugita stated that “a ‘security steering group’ and the institutional framework for the government to act as one to undertake counterterrorism and cybersecurity measures would be formed.”

Government efforts aimed at preparations for the Games are being stepped up, with such things as the convocation of the Ministerial Council for the 2020 Tokyo Games, efforts aimed at the promotion of the Host City/Town Initiative, and the establishment of the institutional framework for the study of security matters essential to the success of the Games. Efforts aimed at preparations will continue to gather steam, with a special measures act to establish a dedicated cabinet minister to be in charge for the Games, currently assumed by the minister of education, culture, sports, science and technology, being considered for submission to the upcoming extraordinary Diet session as of the writing of this report. As I stated at the beginning, it is absolutely necessary for all of Japan to come together as one for

CHART 6

Excerpts from Basic Policies for the Economic & Fiscal Management & Reform 2014 (Cabinet Decision, June 24, 2013)

http://www5.cao.go.jp/keizai-shimon/kaigi/cabinet/2014/2014_basicpolicies_02.pdf

Chapter 2: Priorities toward progress in economic revitalization and medium- to long-term development

The 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games (“Tokyo Olympics”) are special festivals for Japan as a whole. They offer a golden opportunity to advertise the country to the world and provide an impetus for Japan to regain its vitality. The government is working as one to organize these events.

3. Building an attractive local community and revitalizing agriculture, forestry and fisheries and SMEs

(2) Preparing for the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2020

In organizing the Tokyo Olympics, the government will keep in mind that these events will have many benefits, including increased human, economic, and cultural interaction with participating countries; progress toward becoming a sports nation; increased globalization; regional revitalization; tourism promotion; and more opportunities to promote Japan’s environmental technologies and S&T innovations.⁴⁵

⁴⁵ The government will steadily carry out the host city/town initiative in which many local governments across Japan will participate, as well as disaster reduction measures in accordance with an agreement with the Tokyo Metropolitan government.

Source: Office for the Promotion of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, Cabinet Secretariat

CHART 7

Main examples of undertakings expected under the “Host City/Town Initiative”

(1) Educational exchanges

Ex. Collaborate before the Games with embassies and other representative offices in Tokyo to have elementary schools conduct studies concerning participating countries and regions (One School-One Nation Movement). Have Paralympians visit special education and other classes for the study of a harmonious coexistence society.

(2) Sports exchanges

Ex. Deepening ties with participating countries and regions by rooting for their athletes at public viewing facilities installed for the Games. Those Olympic and Paralympic athletes and local elementary and middle schools connect by playing sports together after the Games.

(3) Cultural exchanges

Ex. Conduct local traditional rites or art events, together with Japanese food-tasting events, in participating countries and regions as a means to generate enthusiasm in anticipation of the Tokyo Games. Hold local festivals before, during, or after the Games.

(4) Exchanges concerning the Paralympic Games

Ex. Invite Paralympians after the Games and have the handicapped and non-handicapped experience Paralympic events (track and field, swimming, wheelchair basketball, etc.) together. Dispatch and accept rehabilitation experts for the effective use of prosthetic devices, with a focus on support for Paralympians in developing countries.

(5) Economic exchanges (agriculture, manufacturing, commerce, etc.)

Ex. Hold product fairs, trade fairs and the like in participating countries and regions as a means to generate enthusiasm in anticipation of the Tokyo Games. Have the members of chambers of trade and commerce who have factories overseas invite business associates and have them participate in various events in anticipation of the Tokyo Games, as well as experience crafting local specialties and participate in local food-tasting events.

(6) Municipal exchanges

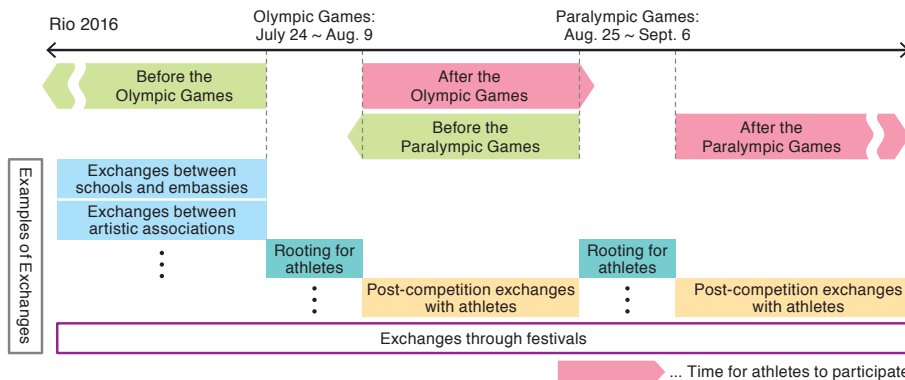
Ex. Invite Olympians and Paralympians from countries and regions on the occasion of anniversary events for sister-city relationships.

(7) Others

Source: Office for the Promotion of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, Cabinet Secretariat

CHART 8

Image of the implementation timeline for the Host City/Town Initiative



Source: Office for the Promotion of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, Cabinet Secretariat

this undertaking. There exists a wide variety of undertakings that transcend the boundaries of ministries and agencies, which cannot be allowed to act on their own. We intend to make sure there is full sharing of information and collaboration. JS

Takeo Hirata is director-general, Office for the Promotion of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, Cabinet Secretariat as well as a professor at the Sports Science Graduate School of Waseda University.