



Dear Fellow Athletes

Tokyo, 10 April 2020

Hope you are doing well, and we wonder how you are spending your days at troubled times like this.

No one could begin to imagine how bewildered and irritated you are that you are losing your opportunity to train like you used to, and not being able to take part in competitions in the year you have been assured to become a success after putting everything into preparation to be able to run 0.1 second faster, to throw 1cm longer, to jump 1cm higher and to score 1 point more for this summer's Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Despite the circumstances, we all must not be defeated.  
We must look forward and move forward.

Tokyo2020, together with the International Olympic Committee and the International Paralympic Committee, have committed for the 23<sup>rd</sup> July and the 24<sup>th</sup> August openings for next year instead of cancelling the Games.

All the Tokyo2020 staff members have united and started preparing how we can best safeguard the athletes and the competition environment next year after the world overcame the threat from COVID-19.

It has been a little more than 6 years since the establishment of the Tokyo2020 Organising Committee and we are determined not to waste what we have built up until now, rather we will take advantage of it and do what we can at this moment.  
I believe the mindset on your end is same.

The reason why we could look forward, is that we have a mission to prepare a place next year where you can achieve your best and that has become the motivation of ours.

The Olympic and Paralympic Games next year will be phenomenal.  
But for you and us, we must put the protection of the health as the top priority now.  
Let us overcome together and we hope to see you in Tokyo!

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Hammer Throw Gold Medalist at Athens2004

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**The Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games**

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