



PRESS RELEASE

Celebratory Events Mark One Year to Go to Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games



Front row: Shingo Kunieda, Duane Kale, Yui Kamiji

Second row: Yuriko Koike, Mitsunori Torihara, Markus Rehm, Yoshihide Suga, Yoshiro Mori

The Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (Tokyo 2020) and the Tokyo Metropolitan Government jointly hosted a series of packed events on 25 August celebrating the one-year-to-go milestone until the Opening Ceremony of the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games. A total of around 10,000 local residents joined the festivities, held in Yoyogi Park in central Tokyo. They watched Paralympic athletes demonstrate some of their unique skills, and were able to try out some of the Paralympic sports for themselves.

The highlight of the day was Markus Rehm, a German two-time Paralympian long-jump gold medallist, breaking his current T64 world record jump of 8.48 metres during an exhibition event. He leapt 8.50 metres on his third attempt. It will not count as an official record, but the spectators were able to experience his skill and passion firsthand, cheering him on as he made his run-ups.

Worldwide Paralympic Partners: Atos, BRIDGESTONE, Panasonic, TOYOTA, VISA. Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Gold Partners: Alibaba Group, Coca-Cola, OMEGA, P&G, Asahi, asics, Canon, ENEOS, 東京海上日動, 日本生命, NEC, NTT, NOMURA, FUJITSU, MIZUHO, SMBC 三井住友銀行, 三井不動産 MITSUI FUDOSAN, meiji, LIXIL. TOKYO 2020

Said Rehm afterwards, “If I have one more year to train and if we have good conditions in the stadium, great people who cheer for us, I’m sure I can break this record officially. And I could set a new record at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.”



Markus Rehm at Tokyo 2020 Paralympic 1-year-to-go countdown event

David Behre, a German Paralympic sprinter (bronze medal in London 2012 and gold medal in Rio 2016 in the 4 x 100m relay), ran 100 metres against Japanese para-athletes Shunsuke Itani and Kazushige Yoshida.

Japan’s three-time Paralympic wheelchair tennis gold medallist Shingo Kunieda and Paralympic bronze medallist Yui Kamiji drew a large crowd at their exhibition doubles match with Japanese comedians Yoshio Kojima and Garibenz Yano. Spectators had a rare opportunity to see Kunieda and Kamiji play a match against each other.

International Paralympic Committee Vice President Duane Kale, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga, Tokyo 2020 President Yoshiro Mori, and Tokyo 2020 Vice President Toshiaki Endo played boccia with Japanese Paralympic boccia players Takayuki Hirose and Hidetaka Sugimura. It was a close battle.





David Behre and Kazushige Yoshida (top left), Garibenz Yano, Shingo Kunieda, Yui Kamiji, Yoshio Kojima (top right)

Yui Kamiji and Yoshio Kojima (bottom left), Hidetaka Sugimura, Toshiaki Endo, Yoshiro Mori, Yoshihide Suga, Duane Kale, and Takayuki Hirose (bottom right)

Later on 25 August, Tokyo 2020 and the Tokyo Metropolitan Government jointly held a countdown ceremony at the NHK Hall in Tokyo's Shibuya district. During the ceremony, Japan Paralympic Committee President Mitsunori Torihara announced that, commencing next year, 25 August will be known as "Japan Paralympic Day." "I hope awareness of para sports will deepen across the nation, and that mutual understanding between all people, regardless of impairments, will accelerate," he said.



*Mitsunori Torihara (top left), Duane Kale at countdown ceremony (top right)
Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Medal designer Sakiko Matsumoto at countdown ceremony (bottom left),
Unveiling of Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Medals (bottom right)*

Added Kale, “Here in Tokyo, interest, awareness and knowledge levels of Para athletes and Para sports are well ahead of where they were with one year to go until London 2012, a Games widely regarded as the best ever. This is testament to the great work of the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee, the JPC, the national government, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, local municipalities, respective national federations, and commercial and broadcast partners who have all shown great enthusiasm for delivering an outstanding Games next year.”

The Tokyo 2020 Paralympic medals were also unveiled during the event. In addition, a new animated short video of Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Mascot Someity playing some of the Paralympic sports was shown, and a Tokyo 2020 mascot robot -- Someity Robot -- also made its first appearance. Someity Robot demonstrated a range of human-like movements such as waving, shaking hands and high-fiving members of the crowd. The mascot robots will welcome athletes and guests at venues and other facilities throughout the Tokyo 2020 Games.

Downloads:

The Paralympic mascot animation and image of Paralympic mascot robot can be downloaded from <https://media.tokyo2020.org/en/press-room/press-kit/mascot/#movies> (ID: media, password: tokyo2020media).

For more information: [Tokyo 2020 Online Press Room](#),

<https://media.tokyo2020.org/en/> ID: *media* password: *tokyo2020media*

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Source:

The Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (Tokyo 2020)

Tokyo 2020 Vision

Sport has the power to change the world and our future. The Tokyo 1964 Games completely transformed Japan. The Tokyo 2020 Games, as the most innovative in history, will bring positive reform to the world by building on three core concepts:

“Striving for your personal best (Achieving Personal Best)”

“Accepting one another (Unity in Diversity)”

“Passing on Legacy for the future (Connecting to Tomorrow)”