

University of Tsukuba Hosts 2nd Tri-University Showcase Conference on SFT Sport Academy Formation Project

Tokyo, JAPAN—On December 10, the University of Tsukuba’s Tokyo Campus hosted the 2nd Tri-University Showcase Conference on the SFT Sport Academy Formation Project. The event was organised by Tsukuba International Academy for Sport Studies (TIAS), together with the National Coach Developer Academy (NCDA) at Nippon Sport Science University, and the NIFS International Sport Academy (NIFISA) at the National Institute of Fitness and Sports (NIFS).



Founded as part of the Sport for Tomorrow programme, introduced by the Japanese government to promote the Olympic and Paralympic movements, TIAS is Japan’s first international sporting academy, welcoming students from around the world as part of its efforts to cultivate the next generation of global leaders in the field of sport. The three academies’ wide-ranging, leading-edge contributions to the field of global sport also include NCDA’s focus on the in the development of top-level coaching professionals within Japan, and NIFISA’s work training young coaches from around the world.

The event featured progress reports on the three institutions’ activities since the project’s launch in 2014, along with key topics and challenges en route to making Japan a centre for the development of global sporting personnel. With the aim of promoting such a movement in Japan, there were also case studies on Dream Together Master Program (DTM) at the Seoul National University and the establishment of a new legacy department by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Over 100 people were in attendance, including students, and representatives of various businesses, organisations, and academies with an interest in sport. Teaching staff and former graduates of the

participating institutes shared details of initiatives they had taken part in and lessons they had learned in the process, followed by a lively discussion on issues faced in this field.

The opening address saw Japan Sports Agency Director General Yoko Fujie stress the importance of the project: “As well as developing the next generation of global sporting leaders, it is crucial to cement the legacy of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics,” she said. “And I am confident that cooperation among the three participating universities, along with their respective activities, will form the basis of a robust framework for 2020 and beyond.”

In the opening keynote speech, IOC Head of Legacy Dr. Tania Braga voiced her hopes for Tokyo 2020: “(As the first Olympic Games since) the IOC Legacy Strategic Approach was approved in August 2017, Tokyo 2020 is a pioneer (in the monitoring and reporting) of legacy, so I hope we will have good results to see. The legacy vision needs to be clear through the whole life cycle from planning a city’s candidacy to the end of the Games.”

Dr. Tania Braga was followed by Prof. Joon-ho Kang, Director of the Dream Together Master Program, who offered insights from Seoul National University’s pioneering Olympic Legacy programme: “The (1988) Seoul Olympic Games totally reshaped Korea. We thought it was time to give back to the international community, especially in the area of sport, by educating future leaders in sport management in developing countries. So far, we have trained 128 students from 48 countries, and as a platform for our international network we host a Dream Together Seoul Forum every year in October or November. Every year we select a topic we believe is appropriate for the international sporting community. In 2018, the topic was ‘Sport for Peace.’”

The final keynote presentation saw John Bates, President of the International Council for Coaching Excellence, talk about the body’s efforts to train dedicated Coach Developers who can go on to nurture coaching talent in their own respective countries: “The vast majority of coaches are very positive influences on the lives of the athletes, but there are also too many incidents where there can be a negative experience like abuse or harassment. Coach Developers are change agents, educating and supporting the coach to deliver positive, athlete-centred experiences. We’ve recently had a number of Coach Developer courses supported by Olympic Solidarity in different parts of the world. We now have 71 coach developers from 31 countries, and collectively they have taught over 10,000 coaches in their own home situation.”

Following the keynote speeches, the progress report was presented by representatives of the three participating universities, Prof. Hisashi Sanada (University of Tsukuba), Prof. Masamitsu Ito (Nippon Sport Science University), and Prof. Futoshi Ogita (National Institute of Fitness and Sports in Kanoya), as well as three TIAS graduates. First, Prof. Sanada introduced initiatives undertaken by TIAS, stating that the 3rd 18-month Master’s program had 19 students from 16 countries and regions, while the 4th had 23 participants from 17 countries and regions. Next, three TIAS graduates, from Sri Lanka, Japan and India, respectively, took the stage and talked about how they are using what they learned at TIAS to contribute

to the development of sporting personnel, sport marketing, and the establishment and operation of sporting organisations. Following the graduates' speeches, Prof. Ito discussed NCDA's coach development efforts, highlighting the importance the institute places on networking including through mutual exchange with TIAS and NIFISA students. Lastly, Prof. Ogita introduced NIFISA's two courses in sport management and sport science, taught in leading-edge facilities to 132 students from 36 countries and regions, and how the institute trains individuals capable of contributing globally.

The presentations were followed by a panel discussion on the theme "Olympic Legacy and International Sport Academy" between Prof. Sanada, Prof. Ito, Prof. Ogita, Dr. Braga, Prof. Kang, and Mr. Bales. The latter three expressed their appreciation for the three universities' collaboration and long-term view on developing sporting personnel. Professors Sanada, Ito and Ogita mentioned maintaining and expanding graduate networks as a challenge the universities would face going forward. Based on his experiences from working with the PyeongChang Olympics, Prof. Kang suggested maintaining cooperation between the three universities beyond Tokyo 2020, and promoting the meaning of the projects to the government and the public. Dr. Braga highlighted the importance of continuing to share data and experiences with the IOC even after Tokyo 2020 for delivering the Olympic legacy to the next generation. Following her comments, the panelists engaged in a lively discussion on the significance of Olympic legacy and future activities.



Ms. Yoko Fujie
Director General,
Japan Sports Agency



Dr. Tania Braga
Head of Legacy,
International Olympic Committee



Prof. Joon-ho Kang
Director,
Dream Together Master Program,
Seoul National University



Mr. John Bales
President,
International Council for Coaching Excellence



Prof. Hisashi Sanada
University of Tsukuba



(L-R) Prof. Futoshi Ogita, Prof. Masamitsu Ito, Prof. Hisashi Sanada, Ms. Yoko Fujie
Dr. Tania Braga, Prof. Joon-ho Kang, Mr. John Bales

2nd Tri-University Showcase Conference on SFT Sport Academy Formation Project

- Date/time: Monday, December 10, 2018, 13:00–16:40
 Location: Tsukuba University Tokyo Campus Bunkyo School Building, Conference Room 1 (B1F), 3-29-1 Otsuka, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo
 Hosted by: University of Tsukuba, Tsukuba International Academy for Sport Studies (TIAS), in association with the Japan Sports Agency
 Co-organisers: Nippon Sport Science University National Coach Developer Academy (NCDA)
 National Institute of Fitness and Sports, NIFS International Sport Academy (NIFISA)
 With: Japan Sport Council (JSC)
 Japan Sports Association (JSPO)
 Japanese Olympic Committee (JOC)
 Japanese Paralympic Committee (JPC)
 Japan Anti-Doping Agency (JADA)

Programme

Welcome & Opening Address

Ms. Yoko Fujie, Director General, Japan Sports Agency

Keynote Speeches

Dr. Tania Braga, Head of Legacy, International Olympic Committee

Prof. Joon-ho Kang, Director, Dream Together Master Program, Seoul National University

Mr. John Bales, President, International Council for Coaching Excellence (ICCE)

Progress Report by representatives of participating universities

Prof. Hisashi Sanada, University of Tsukuba

Prof. Masamitsu Ito, Nippon Sport Science University

Prof. Futoshi Ogita, National Institute of Fitness and Sports in Kanoya

Panel Discussion “Olympic Legacy and International Sport Academy”

Panelists:

Prof. Hisashi Sanada, University of Tsukuba

Prof. Masamitsu Ito, Nippon Sport Science University

Prof. Futoshi Ogita, National Institute of Fitness and Sports in Kanoya

Dr. Tania Braga, International Olympic Committee

Prof. Joon-ho Kang, Seoul National University

Mr. John Bales, International Council for Coaching Excellence

Themed session with university representatives, poster displays

(with participation from TIAS students and graduates)

Closing Address

Satoshi Shimizu, Executive Director, University of Tsukuba

About Tsukuba International Academy for Sport Studies:

Tsukuba International Academy for Sport Studies (TIAS) was founded in 2014 with the full backing of the Sport for Tomorrow programme, which was introduced by the Government of Japan to promote the Olympic and Paralympic movements, along with the field of sport in general. The academy's parent institute, the University of Tsukuba, has an historical association with the Olympic Movement that stretches back more than a century, with Jigoro Kano—the first-ever Asian member of the International Olympic Committee—serving as the school's president from 1901 to 1920. The academy's Master's Programme in Sport and Olympic Studies, whose fourth year officially begins in October 2018, represents an effort to cultivate the next generation of leaders in the field of global sport, and also provides a forum for international exchange. The programme gathers an expanding network of gifted participants from around the world and, in close cooperation with the Tokyo 2020 Organizing Committee, gives them a unique grounding in Olympic education, along with the latest approaches in diverse sport-related fields including management, teaching, and coaching. For more information, please visit <http://tias.tsukuba.ac.jp/>