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ATTN: All Members of the Press

December 17, 2020

NEWS RELEASE

Tsukuba International Academy for Sport Studies

**～SFT Sport Academy Formation Support Project～
International Sport Academy Conference
- Achievements, Legacy and Continuity 2020 –
3rd International Sport Academy Three-university Conference**

**Announcing the culmination of a 7-year effort in anticipation of the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games
Promoting the establishment of a hub for international sports human resources development to advance the
future world of sports**

Event dates: December 11 (Fri.), 2020, 14:00-16:00 / Format: Online conference (Zoom Video Webinar)

Tsukuba International Academy for Sport Studies (TIAS), a part of the Sport for Tomorrow program by which the Japanese government is promoting the sports and Olympic/Paralympic movement, held an online conference on December 11 (Fri.), 2020, titled "International Sport Academy Conference – Achievements, Legacy and Continuity 2020 – the Third International Sports Academy Three-University Partnership Conference." Hosted in conjunction with the Nippon Sport Science University Coach Developer Academy (NCDA) and International Sport Academy at National Institute of Fitness and Sports in Kanoya (NIFISA), the conference represented a culmination of a seven-year effort begun in fiscal 2014, and included presentations of the results produced and future prospects.

161 participants attended on the day of the event, including officials of sports-related governmental authorities and sports-related organizations, students of various universities, and members of the press. The conference began with opening remarks by International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach. These were followed with addresses by Koji Murofushi, who was appointed Japan Sports Agency Commissioner in October 2020, and Hidemasa Nakamura, the games delivery officer (GDO) for the Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.



**International Olympic Committee
President Thomas Bach**

Olympic values are needed more than ever before

"The worldwide coronavirus crisis has brought into bold relief the crucial role that sports play in society. Sports represent a critical element of our struggle against infectious disease. Through this conference, we have an excellent opportunity to emphasize the contribution that sports can make as an essential element of solutions for recovery from this crisis. In the post-COVID world, the unifying power of sports, and the Olympic values of excellence, friendship, respect and solidarity will be crucial. I am greatly gratified by and thankful for the crucial activities that the University of Tsukuba and its partner organizations are undertaking to promote Olympic values around the world. As an honorary doctorate of the University of Tsukuba, I am proud to share these personal bonds as we pursue our shared goal of sports in the service of humanity."



**Japan Sports Agency
Commissioner Koji Murofushi**

Crucial results in international sports achieved over 7 years

"This project began with the purpose of building a central hub that will advance the acceptance and fostering of the human resources that will form the core of the sporting world's next generation. This fiscal year marks the seventh year of the project undertaken for the Japan Sports Agency, and it has produced numerous crucial results. At the University of Tsukuba, a new academic project has begun, providing a program for excellent students from around the world who have earned postgraduate degrees to apply their talents at sports-related institutions worldwide. At NSSU, the Coach Developer Academy (NCDA) is a program especially implemented to foster coaching talent, and is drawing interest as one of the world's few institutions offering international qualifications in this field. The National Institute of Fitness and Sports in Kanoya (NIFISA) operates the first state-of-the-art domestic sports performance research facility in Japan, which is implementing human resources development that makes the best use of distinctive regional characteristics. My hope is that these three universities will partner to pass on the know-how that each is developing."



**The Tokyo Organising Committee of
the Olympic and Paralympic Games
Games Delivery Officer (GDO)
Hidemasa Nakamura**

TIAS colleagues have become Organising Committee leaders

"What we are debating is not whether the Games can be held, but how to hold them safely. Up to now, I had always thought that the Olympics must exist as the world's No. 1 event. In thinking about it again amid the coronavirus pandemic, I feel strongly that sports and the Olympics are a part of society. When society cannot function, the Games must naturally be postponed. I sense the immensity of the capacity sports have as a shared force that binds us together worldwide. In that sense, I think that this program has made an extremely crucial mark. Our TIAS colleagues on the Organising Committee are sharing the knowledge and experience accumulated through thorough training as they serve as leaders drawing us forward. I pray that everyone participating today will be active and make a contribution to the international world of sport."

Although the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games have been subject to the first postponement in their history, I think that the effort to promote the establishment of a hub for international sports human resources development is helping to provide a driving force for development of a future international sports world and sports business. At the conference, reports on the fruits of seven years of steadily accumulating progress were given by alumni active in domestic and overseas sports institutions, Organizing Committees of the Olympic and Paralympic Games in various countries, sports federations, and government authorities responsible for sports, as well as the three member universities focusing efforts on international sports education programs. It is a program that we expect will continue despite issues of language and the coronavirus pandemic.

<Content of presentations by alumni>

■ TIAS alumnus Dyan Puspito Rini (joining from Indonesia, photo lower left)

"I am currently working at a sports institution in Indonesia. At TIAS, I have learned many things from the instructors and people who are active in the IOC and other international sports institutions. These lessons have changed the way I think about topics such as sports tourism, communication, sports for peace and development, and Olympic values education. Together with the many friends I have made, I hope to contribute to the development of Indonesian sports."

■ TIAS alumnus Shema-Maboko Didier (joining from Rwanda, photo lower right)

"I currently serve as Permanent Secretary of the Rwanda Sports Ministry. I was able to learn about sports development, and how sports can provide the motive force that leads societal transformation. With so little academic research on sports development in Rwanda, I hope to contribute to the application of sports to societal transformation in Rwanda, while also contributing to a new generation of world sport."

■ NIFISA alumnus Ryan Conners (joining from the United States, photo upper right)

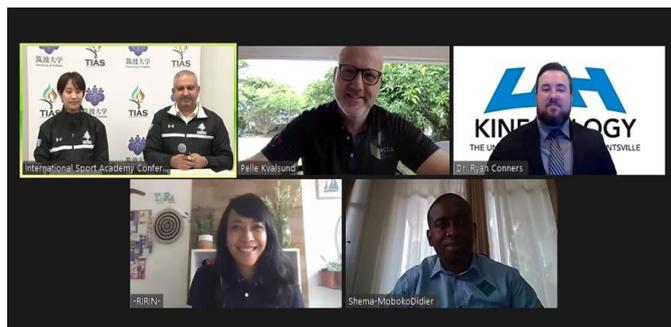
"I am currently an assistant professor at the University of Alabama. I learned a lot from the professors on using the research facilities, and from their knowledge and advice. And what I learned from experiencing kendo, judo and traditional Japanese culture, as well as interacting with my host family, has been an irreplaceable, precious experience. Moreover, I have made lifelong friends, written three papers. Being able to continue to advance Olympic education in this ways has been a big result."

■ NCDA alumnus Pelle Kvalsund (joining from Norway, photo upper row center)

"I am currently a coach developer and advisor for the Norwegian Olympic and Paralympic Committee. At NCDA, I found it stimulating to learn with world leaders and the leaders of the next generation. In addition, being able to learn about Japanese culture, undergo the international program and expand the worldwide coach developer network enabled me to support regional coach development for Norway, South Africa and other regions."

After presenting their results, alumni from Japan and overseas interacted with the TIAS Faculty MCs of the webinar and the audience and took their questions.

They exchanged opinions on the results obtained by participating in the program. Asked what they had learned, alumni responded with remarks such as these: "My thinking changed quite a bit as my perspective broadened." "In addition to just acquiring knowledge, I became able to take on efforts from different perspectives by exchanging ideas with people from different countries and working at different institutions." "I learned about societal transformation and human resources development through sports, which is influencing my new work."



MCs: Prof. Randeep Rakwal, Ms. Mariko Sakai, University of Tsukuba (photo upper left)

<Reports on results from 3 universities>

■ Prof. Hisashi Sanada, Chairman of TIAS, University of Tsukuba, (photo upper right): **'Toward TIAS 2.0'**

"Our purpose in conducting this graduate school program is to foster international sports human resources while promoting the Olympic and Paralympic movement under the philosophy of 'Olympism' put forward by Jigoro Kano. The master's degree available through this program is the only one in the world conferred in the field of Sports and Olympic Study. Each year, the number of applicants has increased, and we now have a great many applicants from more than 50 countries across all five continents. Our ties with the IOC and IPC have advanced, and our alumni are now powerfully active on the IPC and IF, and in the national federations and Olympic/Paralympic committees of each country, as well as in sports-related industry, government bodies and educational institutions. I think that this body of international sports human resources will be a legacy of the Tokyo 2020 Games. Considering its crucial importance and the results they are producing, the decision was made to continue TIAS, and in October of this year, we began administering it as 'TIAS2.0,' an educational program based in a cyclical model."

■ **Prof. Masamitsu Ito, Deputy Director of NCCA, (photo upper right): 'Student-centered coach developer education'**

"In partnership with the International Council for Coaching Excellence (ICCE), we are implementing this program with a tight focus on fostering coach developers who will serve as advocates for the formation of a better coaching culture. We are aiming for activities that can enable coaching to provide sports participants worldwide with access more abundant circumstances. The role of a coach developer is that of supporting the training of coaches who can nurture athletes who excel in ways that go beyond competitive performance to project a sense of human appeal and personal fulfillment through being an athlete. The program is administered under a philosophy by which students learn on their own initiative. We think that it is crucial to engage in a program of creating coaching culture characterized by 'glocalization,' tailored to those who are actually present, their backgrounds and cultures, while also keeping international frameworks in mind."

■ **Futoshi Ogita, Executive Committee Chairman of NIFISA**

(photo below)

"We have been active in the pursuit of our mission of becoming a hub for development of human resources that make a diverse and high-level contribution to the sports world on a global basis. My aim has been for us to serve as a role model in developing specialized professional sports expertise with a global mindset. A total of 177 participants from 48 countries and regions joined in the sport management and sports performance courses that we held. Particularly high praise was received for the kendo experience, and the simulation experiments using state-of-the-art equipment at the Sports Performance Research Center, which is soon to be enhanced."



< Conference Details >

- Title: International Sport Academy Conference- Achievements, Legacy and Continuity 2020 – The 3rd International Sports Academy 3 University Collaboration Conference
- Date and time: December 11, 2020 (Friday) 14: 00-16: 00
- Holding format: Online conference (Zoom Video Webinar)
- Organizer: Tsukuba University's Tsukuba International Sports Academy (TIAS) (Japan Sports Agency consignment project)
- Co-sponsored by: Nippon Sport Science University (NCCA), National Institute of Fitness and Sports in Kanoya (NIFISA) (Japan Sports Agency consignment project)
- Scheduled to be sponsored: Japan Sport Council (JSC)
Japan Olympic Committee (JOC)
Japan Paralympic Committee, Japan Para-Sports Association (JPC)
Japan Sports Association (JSPO)
Japan Anti-Doping Agency (JADA)
- Program: Greetings (planned) * Pre-recorded VTR
 - Chairman of the International Olympic Committee Thomas Bach
 - Koji Murofushi, Commissioner of the Japan Sports Agency
 - Tokyo 2020 Games Organizing Committee Games Delivery Officer (GDO) Hidemasa Nakamura
- Announcement of graduates
 - TIAS graduate (Dyan puspito Rini 、 Shema-Maboko Didier)
 - NIFISA graduates (Ryan Conners)
 - NCCA graduate (Pelle Kvalsund)
- Discussion
- Question-and-answer session
- Results report by 3 university representatives and future prospects
 - Professor Hisashi Sanada, Director of Tsukuba International Sports Academy, University of Tsukuba
 - Professor Masamitsu Ito, Deputy Director of NCCA, Nippon Sport Science University
 - Professor Futoshi Ogita, Chairman of the NIFISA Seminar, National Institute of Fitness and Sports in Kanoya
- Question-and-answer session

< Main speakers >



Hisashi Sanada

Professor of Physical Education, University of Tsukuba, Ph.D. (Human Science). He is engaged in research on the history of the Olympic Games and Jigoro Kano.

Since 2015, as the director of the TIAS Academy, he has been responsible for training 20 graduate students from all over the world every year. He is involved in Olympic and Paralympic education as a member of the Tokyo Organizing Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games and a member of the Cultural Education Committee of the Organizing Committee. Since 2019, he has been involved in promoting Olympic movement research as a member of the IOC Olympic Research Center Research Grant Selection Committee



Masamitsu Ito

Professor of the Faculty of Physical Education, Nippon Sport Science University, director of the Coaching Excellence Center of Nippon Sport Science University, a member of the Research Committee of the International Coaching Excellence Council, and the first vice chairman of the Asian Coaching Science Association. He has been deeply involved in the development of the coaching model core curriculum and has conducted various activities at home and abroad to spread the concept of athlete-centered coaching.

In addition to training human resources who aim to become teachers and professional coaches, he is making efforts to develop Japanese coaching studies through dissemination activities to various sites.



Futoshi Ogita

Assistant to the President of the National Institute of Fitness and Sports in Kanoya, specializing in Ph.D. exercise physiology (respiratory and circulatory system regulation / energy metabolism, low oxygen training, high intensity training). He is a member of the Science Council of Japan, a director and expert of the High-altitude Training Environmental Systems Study Group, a former chairman of the Japan Training Science Society, and a member of the International Conference for Adaptations and Nutrition in Sports, Executive Committee, and is a bridge between the field and the laboratory. As involved in the development of training science.