

OLYMPIC
FOUNDATION
FOR CULTURE
AND HERITAGE

TOKYO 2020

Olympic Summer Games

From 23 July to 8 August 2021, the greatest sporting event in the world will be in Japan, in Tokyo.

Thousands of athletes from across the world will come together in the Japanese capital. It has been over 50 years since Tokyo hosted the Olympic Summer Games, and the event is therefore highly anticipated. In addition, it is being held in a unique context, nearly 10 years after the earthquake that ravaged Japan and caused the explosion at the Fukushima nuclear power station, and after the emergence of the coronavirus (COVID-19) led to its postponement.

This Games edition is synonymous with hope and revival, in a country that aspires to rebuild itself and have a global impact.

After the Olympic Games, the Paralympic Games will make use of the same infrastructure between from 24 August to 5 September 2021.

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WHERE IS TOKYO?

The capital of Japan, Tokyo, is on the island of Honshu, the largest of the archipelago which represents around 60 per cent of the country's total surface area.

With almost 14 million inhabitants living in this vibrant city, and 43 million people if we take into account its surroundings, Tokyo is the most populated urban area in the world.



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In Japanese, Japan is Nihon or Nippon, which means “the sun’s origin”, probably due to the country’s position in the eastern hemisphere. This name originated in the letter from Prince Shotoku (574-622) to his Chinese counterpart, which began as follows: “From the Son of Heaven in the land where the sun rises to the Son of Heaven in the land where the sun sets” (as China is west of Japan).

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OLYMPIC PROPERTIES

THE EMBLEM

The harmonised chequered emblem by Japanese designer Asao TOKOLO is based on two of country's traditional elements: the chequerboard, or "ichimatsu moyo" and the indigo blue colour, "aizome".

Composed of three varieties of rectangular shapes, the design represents the various participating countries, cultures and ways of thinking. The indigo and white alternate, representing the notion of full and empty, forming a circle. A neat summary of one of the core concepts of the Tokyo 2020 vision: "unity in diversity".



The Actor Ichimatsu Sanogawa performing the Spear Dance

© Museum of Fine Arts collection, Boston (USA)



© The Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games



© The Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games

The Olympic and Paralympic emblems

Both are composed of 45 shapes and the same traditional elements.

Inspired by tradition

In Japan, the chequerboard was fashionable in the 18th century under the name of "ichimatsu", thanks to the kabuki actor Sanogawa ICHIMATSU, who liked clothes featuring this design.

The indigo blue dye "aizome", also known as "Japan blue", is a traditional dye that has existed for many centuries. One of its main characteristics is to help combat irritation and other skin problems caused by friction and sweating, as demonstrated by certain clothing still used in martial arts today.

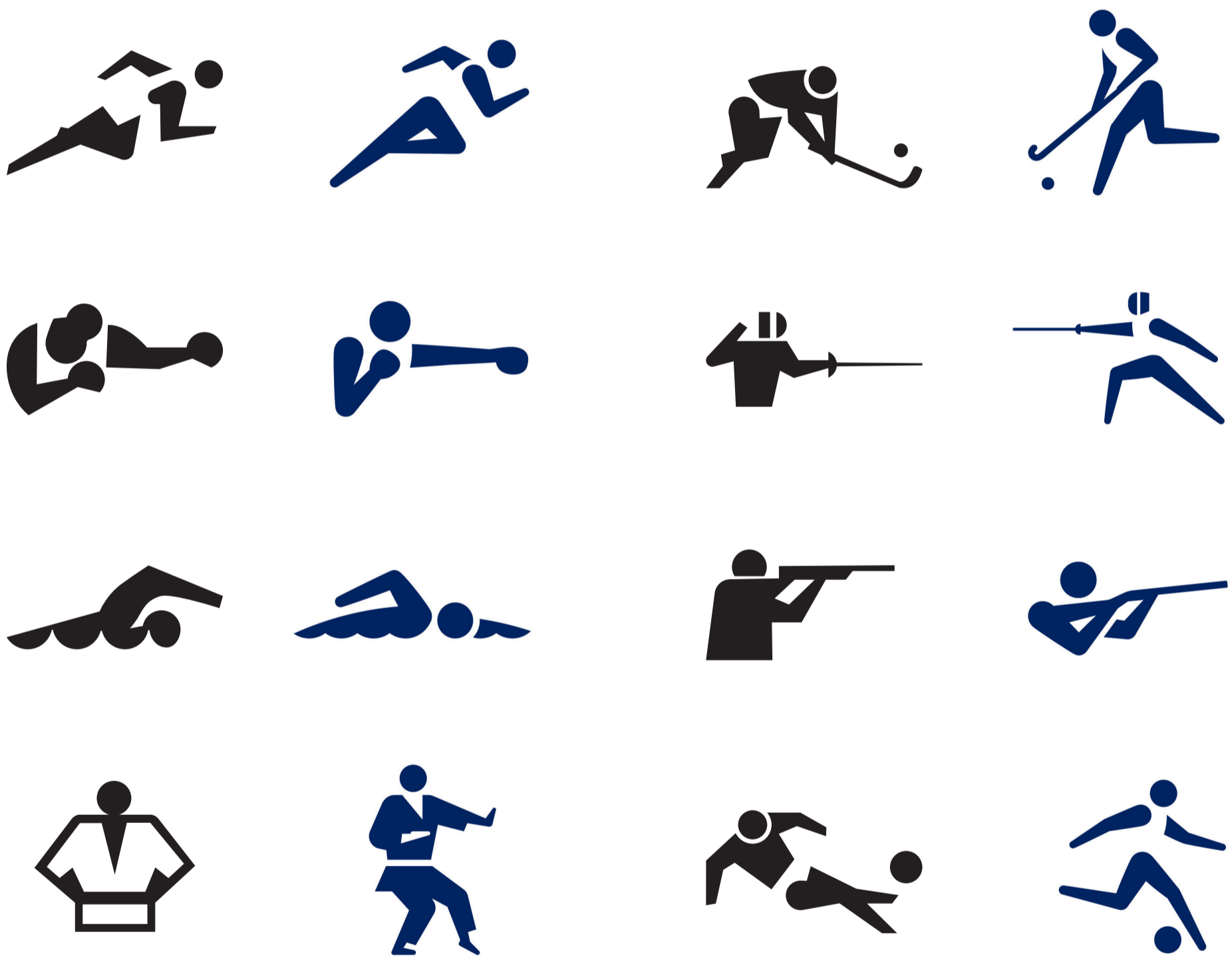
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OLYMPIC PROPERTIES

THE PICTOGRAMS

The 50 pictograms, created by a team of Japanese designers led by Masaaki HIROMURA, pay tribute to their 1964 predecessors. As there are several disciplines in some of the 33 sports, there are a total of 50 pictograms.

1964 vs 2020



Tokyo 2020 pictograms

Simple schematic shapes perfectly capture the dynamics of the silhouetted athletes' movements.

They have been created in six colours: the indigo blue of the emblem, plus five traditional Japanese colours: "kurenai" (dark red), "ai" (royal blue), "sakura" (cherry blossom pink), "fuji" (violet) and "matsuba" (green).

Some history

Olympic pictograms first appeared at the 1964 Games in Tokyo, in response to the need for effective visual communication for participants and spectators from all over the world. The organisers created a language of images: pictograms of the Olympic Games were born!

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OLYMPIC PROPERTIES

THE MASCOTS

Graceful figures with big friendly eyes, pointy ears and superpowers...

Chosen by Japanese schoolchildren, the 2020 mascots, created by the illustrator Ryo TANIGUCHI, are straight out of the world of manga.



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MIRAITOWA

The Olympic mascot is called Miraitowa (pronounced mi-rai-to-wa), a combination of the Japanese words “mirai” (future) and “towa” (eternity). With a blue chequered outfit, it wears a stylised samurai-style helmet.



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SOMEITY

The Paralympic mascot is called Someity. This name is inspired by the Japanese word “someiyoshino”, a very popular variety of Japanese cherry tree, anglicised to sound like “so mighty”. With a pink chequered outfit, it has cherry blossom on its ears.



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OLYMPIC PROPERTIES

THE TORCH

The torch gradually opens out into five sections to create elegant metal flower petals, culminating in a “sakura” cherry blossom, from which the flames emerge.



Colour: sakura and gold
Height: 71 cm
Weight: 1,2 kg
Composition: extruded (i.e. seamless) aluminium
Fuel: gas canister
Designer: TOKUJIN YOSHIOKA INC.

Did you know?

Approximately 30 per cent of the torch is made from recycled aluminium originally used in temporary housing units after the 2011 earthquake and tsunami disaster that devastated Japan’s eastern Tohoku region. Tokujin YOSHIOKA wanted this as a way of showing the world how the area affected by the disaster is getting back to normal and damaged lives are being rebuilt.

The Olympic Torch Relay

The torch relay is an integral part of the modern Olympic Games. Numerous celebrations are held along the way, allowing the local population to share in the Olympic spirit.

The slogan chosen for 2020, “Hope lights our way”, evokes a country engaged in rebuilding after the earthquake and tsunami in 2011 and the dawn of a new era.



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OLYMPIC PROPERTIES

THE MEDALS

Even if most people will never experience the joy of winning an Olympic medal, the Tokyo 2020 Games have given the Japanese the chance to be involved in their creation. Between April 2017 and March 2019, people were encouraged to take their old smartphones, games consoles, cameras and laptops to collection centres. In all, more than 78,985 tonnes of electronic items were collected, including more than 6.21 million phones!

This operation produced:

- 30.3kg of gold;
- 4,100kg of silver; and
- 2,700kg of bronze.

These metals have been melted down and used to make the medals.



Created by Junichi KAWANISHI, the design represents the daily striving for victory by the athletes, as well as their energy and that of the people who support them. The ribbons employ traditional Japanese design motifs, with:

- “ichimatsu moyo”, the chequered pattern; and
- “kasane no rome”, traditional kimono layering techniques for the women of the imperial court.



Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games medal Design
© IOC/Shugo TAKEMI



Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games medal Design
© IOC/Shugo TAKEMI

TOKYO 2020

NEW SPORTS

TIMES ARE CHANGING!

Wanting to engage new audiences and make the Games even more attractive, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) offers each host country the possibility to include new sports on the Olympic programme.



Athens 2004 OG, Baseball Men - Preliminaries, Japan (JPN) 3rd - Chinese Taipei (TPE). The Japanese players congratulating each other.

© 2004 Kishimoto / IOC / YUBA Yasuo

But don't worry...

Adding these new sports does not affect the number of athletes or events in the sports already on the Olympic programme. And the next host cities are not obliged to include them, either. For example, the Paris 2024 Organising Committee has decided to keep surfing, skateboarding and sport climbing, but to add another new sport: breaking.

Trad or fun? Popular! The Tokyo 2020 choices

The Organising Committee for the Games in Tokyo opted for five sports that combine traditional and new elements. The idea is to engage young people and reflect the current trend of increasingly urban sport.

Karate, baseball/softball, sport climbing, surfing & skateboarding

18 events

474 athletes

A first: same number of men and women



Buenos Aires 2018 YOG, Climbing, Combined event Men - Final, General view of the venue during the climbing of Filip SCHENK (ITA), during the Lead Event

© 2018 / Comité International Olympique (CIO) / RUTAR, Ubald

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NEW SPORTS

SKATEBOARDING

4 Events

Street & Park



OG Tokyo 2020, Games preparation, 2017 - «1000 days to go», skateboard demo

© 2017 / The Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games of the XXIX Olympiad 2020 in Tokyo / International Olympic Committee (IOC)

Characteristics

Skateboarding developed in the USA at the end of the 1940s. The sport was created by surfers seeking the same sensations on the street that they found on the waves. By the 1990s, skateboarding had become popular all over the world and created its own counter-culture.

Assets

While this spectacular sport rhymes with flexibility and coordination, it allows the development of living spaces through skate parks in urban spaces. The «rider» spreads a creative non-conformist culture, imbued with a spirit of escape, mixing the intoxication of speed with the taste of surpassing oneself in the wildest figures.



Gai Tokuda competes in Skateboard Street contest during the Shonan Open on July 15, 2018 in Fujisawa, Japan

© Photo by Matt Roberts / Getty Images

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NEW SPORTS

KARATE

8 Events

Kata : pre-arranged sets of movements

Kumite : conventional combat between two opponents

3 weight categories

Characteristics

Even though karate is today associated with Japan, its origins go back more than a thousand years to China and India. The Japanese branch of karate, meaning “empty hand”, appeared on the islands of Okinawa around 1507, when a royal decree prohibited the use of weapons . While karate was known in northern Asia for centuries, it did not spread to the rest of the world until after the Second World War. Karate has even become part of popular culture thanks to cult martial arts films like The Karate Kid in 1984.



Tetsuya FURUKAWA (JPN) competes on his way to winning the gold in the Men's Individual Kata Karate during the 15th Asian Games Doha 2006 at the Qatar Sports Club on December 12, 2006 in Doha, Qatar

© Photo by Gilham / Getty images for DAGOC



Sara YAMADA (red) of Japan and Viktoria SEMANIKOVA (blue) of Slovakia compete in the Women's Kumite -55kg Pool 2 Round 1 match on day one of the Karate 1 Premier League at Nippon Budokan on September 6, 2019 in Tokyo, Japan

© Photo by Kiyoshi Ota / Getty Images

Assets

A long-standing part of traditional Japanese culture, karate requires concentration and a sense of observation. A true philosophy of life, it requests respect for others, humility, or the use of courteous and respectful language.

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NEW SPORTS

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL

2 Events

Baseball (men)
Softball (women)

Characteristics

Baseball as we know it today developed in the USA in the 1830s thanks to Abner DOUBLEDAY. It quickly spread across Asia, starting with Japan, where it has been one of the country's favourite sports since the end of the 19th century.

The female version of baseball, softball, which was created in 1887 again in the USA, developed throughout the 20th century. The first softball world championships were held in 1965 with women's teams, and a year later with men's teams.



Beijing 2008 OG, baseball Men - Bronze Medal Game, United States of America (USA) 3rd - Japan (JPN) 4th. Shuichi MURATA (JPN) is about to pitch the ball

© 2008 / Comité International Olympique (CIO) / JULLIART, Richard



Athens 2004 OG, Softball Women - A Chinese player at pitch during the preliminaries, China (CHN) 4th - Japan (JPN) 3rd (0-2)

© 2004 / Kishimoto / IOC / TANAKA, Shinichiro

Assets

Baseball is not only focused on studying the trajectory of the balls. It develops rapid decision-making and requires a sense of collective organization and strategy.

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NEW SPORTS

SPORT CLIMBING

2 Events

Event combining lead, speed and bouldering

Characteristics

Climbing, both indoors and outdoors, developed in the 19th century when the enthusiasm for mountaineering reached its zenith in Europe. The first Alpine clubs were created in England in 1857, but it was after the Second World War that climbing really took off, especially in the USA, which dominated the climbing world in the 1960s.

Synonymous with healthy living and respecting the environment, climbing has now taken over the city, as it can be practised on indoor climbing walls in the heart of any city.



Buenos Aires 2018 YOG, Climbing, Combined event Men - Final, General view of the venue during the climbing of Filip SCHENK (ITA), during the Lead event.

© 2018 / Comité International Olympique (CIO) / RUTAR, Ubald



Buenos Aires 2018 YOG, Climbing, combined event Women - Final, Vita LUKAN (SLO) 2nd during the Lead event.

© 2018 / Comité International Olympique (CIO) / CHAVES, Nelson

Assets

This sport develops not only balance but also concentration and analytical skills: it is necessary to decipher the «map» of the block. At the foot of the walls, we advise each other a lot, we also assure each other what promotes trust in each other.

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NEW SPORTS

SURFING

2 Events

Shortboard (women)
Shortboard (men)

Characteristics

Originating in the Pacific islands, in particular Hawaii, surfing – or “he’e nalu” in Hawaiian – was being practised already in the 15th century as part of various rituals. The chiefs of tribes gained respect by defying the sea and its waves on long wooden boards, demonstrating their strength and superiority. For their part, the Polynesians competed against one another in the form of duels, with

the winner then enjoying greater standing within his community.

Hawaii’s Duke KAHANAMOKU is regarded as the father of modern surfing. Already in 1912, this three-time Olympic swimming champion wanted surfing to be part of the Olympic Games! “Wave riding” is by definition a sport that is close to nature.



OG Rio 2016, City view – Surfers at Copacabana beach

© 2016 / International Olympic Committee (IOC) / LEWIS, Matthew

Assets

Father of sliding sports, surfing very quickly claimed the values of freedom and closeness to nature.

Involved in the preservation of the coastline and oceans, surfers are key players in the fight to protect the environment.

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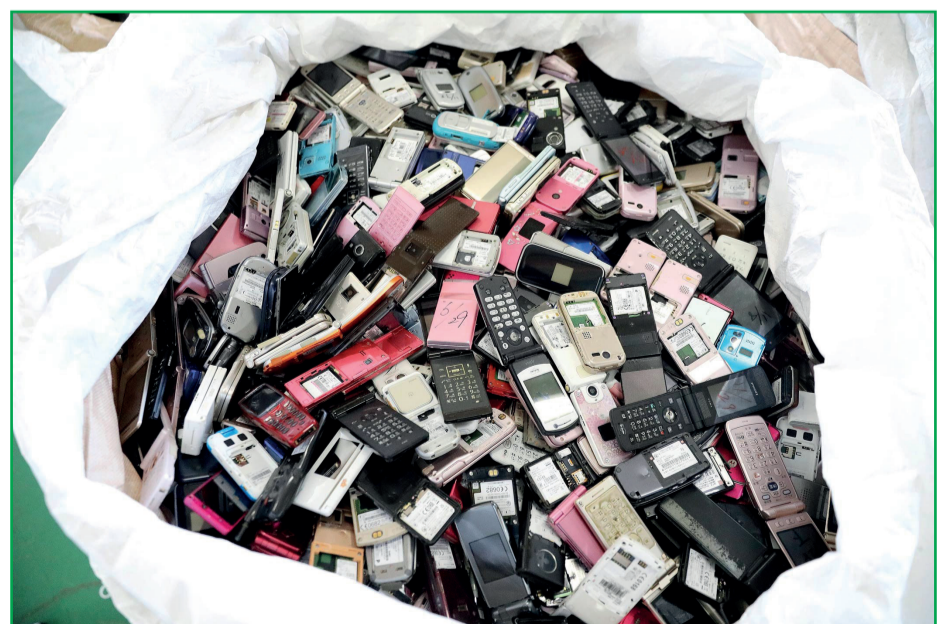
SUSTAINABLE, UNIFYING GAMES

Like the rest of the planet, Japan is facing major environmental challenges. For these Games, the city of Tokyo has taken a number of environmentally responsible civic initiatives in line with the slogan for this edition: “Be better, together – for the planet and the people”:

- Make use of the legacy of the 1964 Games by holding competitions at venues such as the Yoyogi National Gymnasium;
- Recycle certain materials; and
- Use carbon-neutral transport.



Tokyo 1964 OG, Olympic venues - Aerial view of the Yoyogi sports Center, with the National Gymnasium and the Annex
© 1964 / UNKNOWN COX / BARREU INCONNU



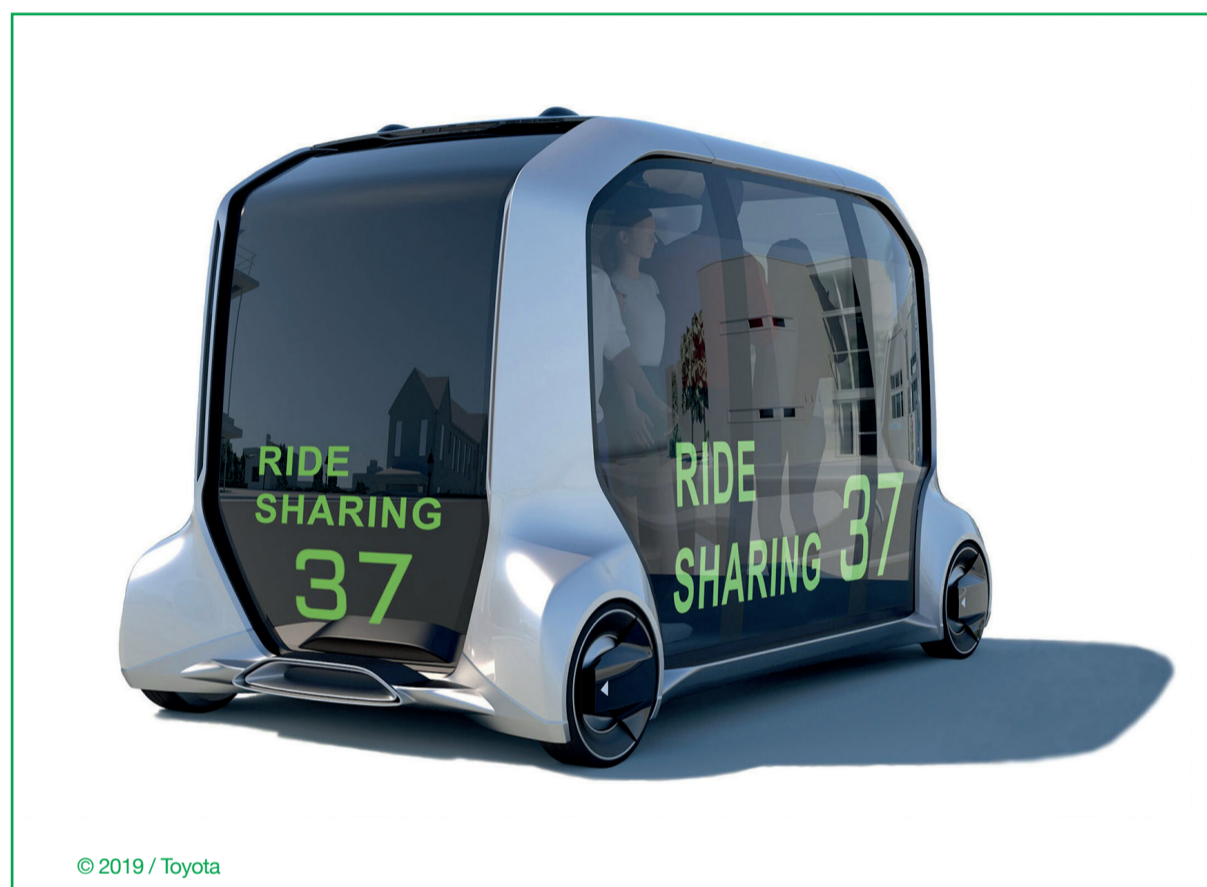
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SUSTAINABLE, UNIFYING GAMES

The podiums

The podiums are made from recycled plastic collected by the public or recovered from the sea as part of an initiative by Procter & Gamble and the Games Organising Committee.



The cars

Toyota is supplying a range of zero-emission vehicles, including fuel cell electric ones, in line with Japan's carbon emission reduction objectives.

Around 200 APMs (Accessible People Movers) to transport visitors and staff will be used for people with accessibility problems (elderly and disabled people, pregnant women and families with small children). These all-electric vehicles will be used for short journeys, and have a maximum speed of 19 km/h. Their battery gives them a maximum range of around 100km.

Bedding

The airweave Inc. company is providing a broad range of products for the Olympic Village: beds, mattresses, pillows, pillow cases, duvets, etc.

In all, 18,000 beds will be needed for the Olympic Games and 8,000 for the Paralympic Games.

The innovation here is that these beds are made of reinforced cardboard, which can take weights of up to 200kg. In addition, each mattress can be personalised for each athlete. Perfect for achieving their Olympic dreams!

