



INTERNATIONAL  
OLYMPIC  
COMMITTEE

Thomas Bach  
President

**Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, One-Year-To-Go Ceremony**  
**Tokyo, 24 July 2019**

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

One year from now, Japan will make history. When the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 get underway, the eyes of the world will be on Japan. More than half of the world's population will follow the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.

It will be a wonderful and unique moment for our gracious Japanese hosts to show the world the best of Japan: your rich history and traditions, your cutting-edge innovation, your culture of hospitality, and, of course, your love and passion for sport.

Preparations are making excellent progress, thanks to the amazing work of the Organising Committee, so ably led by President Mori, and with outstanding cooperation and support from the government, under Prime Minister Abe and Governor Koike, and the business community. There is so much to look forward to. I have never seen an Olympic city as prepared as Tokyo with one year to go before the Olympic Games.

It is exciting to see how all of Japan is uniting behind the Olympic Games. Interest in tickets has surpassed all expectations. Over 200,000 people have applied to volunteer during the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020. The engagement of the business community is at record levels. The Olympic Torch Relay will be another moment to unite the country, bringing the Olympic spirit to all of Japan's 47 prefectures.

All the elements that make up truly outstanding Olympic Games are in place. The athletes of all 206 National Olympic Committees and the IOC Refugee Olympic Team can look forward to an amazing experience.

The Olympic Games are not only the greatest sporting event in the world. The Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 will also be a celebration of the unity in diversity of all humankind.

Welcome to the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.