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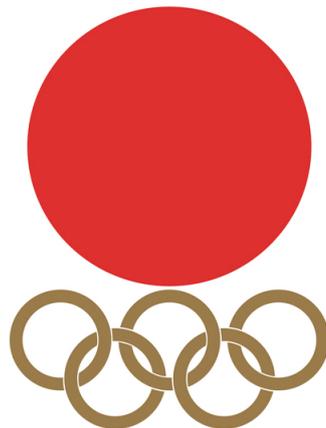
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TOKYO 1964



TOKYO 2020

Tokyo hopes for repeat of Olympics success

VOCABULARY

Top brass =

The most important or highest ranking officials in a company group or industry

Legacy =

Something handed down from the past

Ultimate =

Final, eventual, overall

Bonanza =

A source of great wealth, luck, or prosperity

Eyesore =

An ugly thing, usually a building (so ugly that it hurts your eyes)

Before reading the article:

1. Do you remember the 1964 Games? If so, what are your memories? If not, what's your image of the Games?
2. Are you excited about the 2020 Games? Why? Why not?

After reading the article:

1. Do you agree that the 1964 Games was a "bonanza"? Why? Were there any negative aspects?
2. Do you think the 2020 Games will have a strong legacy? Why? Why not?
3. What do you think about the design for the National Stadium? Is it going to be an eyesore?
4. Do you think the 2020 Games will be good value-for-money for Tokyo?

VOCABULARY

Decade =

Period of 10 years (5 decades = 50 years)

Legacy =

Something handed down from the past

Row =

Argument, strong disagreement

Permanent =

Lasting forever, not temporary

Motorway =

British English for highway

Meanwhile =

At the same time

The 2020 Tokyo Olympics will open in 6 years, and its **top brass** predict that the Games will be a great success. The 1964 Games marked the beginning of Japan's economic rise. They hope for the same success in 2020 because Japan has had 20 years of weak growth.

"The 1964 Games left many valuable **legacies** which we can still feel after 50 years" said Tokyo 2020 CEO Toshiro Muto.

"Achieving the same level of environmental, social and economic **legacy** is our **ultimate** aim for 2020," he added.

Tokyo hosted Asia's first Olympics five **decades** ago. At the same time the Japanese government launched the Bullet Train. This became a symbol of the country's economic rise after World War II.

The 2020 Olympics is expected to boost the Japanese economy by three trillion yen (\$30 billion) through building and tourism. About half the **bonanza** will be enjoyed by Tokyo.

The 1964 Games also boosted other huge infrastructure projects such as Tokyo's **motorway**

system. Many of the 1964 venues still look modern today and remain in regular use.

Muto insisted that a similar plan would be followed for 2020. However, there have been **rows** over designs for the National Stadium. Some people say it is too expensive and will be an **eyesore** on the city's skyline.

"The world has changed a lot since 1964," he said in an e-mail. "But constants remain. Japan has something unique in its culture to offer the world. The building of **permanent** sports venues will contribute to the future enrichment of lifestyles in Tokyo... and become symbolic **legacies** of the Games."

Tokyo officials estimate the cost of venues at around 150 billion yen, including the construction of 10 new facilities. However, some people fear the price could double. Tokyo Governor Yoichi Masuzoe recently ordered a review of the building plans due to concerns about costs. But IOC Vice President John Coates warned that any changes would first need IOC approval.

One of the venues that may be moved is the canoe slalom course.

Environmental groups have complained about the course at a seaside park. After opposition from environmental groups. Basketball and badminton could also be moved to outside the main Games area.

Japan has many problems such as rising government debt, social welfare costs, ageing population, **rows** with China. Many people hope the Games will be a symbol for recovery.

Meanwhile, there are still fears over the safety and long-term effects of the nuclear meltdown at the Fukushima power plant. Communities devastated by the tsunami are struggling to rebuild.

"During the efforts toward recovery and reconstruction from the earthquake and tsunami, the people of Japan once again realised the power and value of sport," said Muto. "Many athletes have visited the affected areas, interacted with the local children and gradually brought smiles back to their faces."