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TOKYO 1964



TOKYO 2020



Tokyo seeks repeat of Olympics legacy bonanza from 2020 Games

VOCABULARY

Top brass =

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

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

Motorway =

British English for highway

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 Japan's emergence as an economic power. They hope 2020 will have the same **legacy**.

After hosting the Games 50 **decades** ago, Tokyo's second Olympics will begin on July 24, 2020. The organizers hope to recreate the same magic following 20 years of weak growth.

"The 1964 Games left many valuable **legacies** which we 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.

When Tokyo staged Asia's first Olympics five decades ago, the Japanese government's launch of the Bullet Train symbolised the country's rise after World War II and its development as a modern power.

The 2020 Olympics is expected to boost the Japanese economy by an estimated 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 rebuilding of Tokyo's National Stadium. Critics 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 Japanese officials that any changes would first need committee approval.

One of the venues likely to be moved is the canoe slalom course at a seaside park after opposition from environmental groups. Basketball and badminton could also be moved to outside the main waterfront area.

Tokyo beat Madrid and Istanbul for the 2020 hosting rights in last September's International Olympic Committee (IOC) vote, having lost out to Rio in the race for the 2016 Games.

The Games have come to represent the revitalisation of Japan as it tackles problems domestically and overseas. The problems include rising government debt, social welfare costs due to its rapidly ageing population, and economic and territorial rivalries with China.

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."