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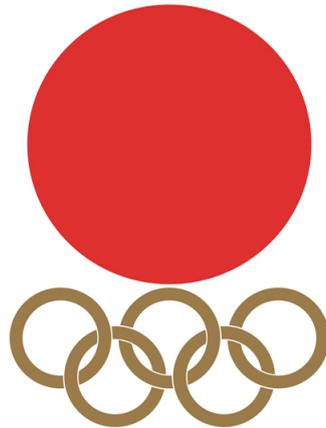
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TOKYO 1964



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

Alchemy =

A seemingly magical power to combine some ordinary elements to make an amazing thing (historically gold)

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

Stagnant =

Not moving or flowing (negative meaning)

Legacy =

Something handed down from the past

Unveil, unveiling =

To make something known to the public (usually positive)

Motorway =

British English for highway

Six years to the day before the start of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, its **top brass** predict the Games will have as significant an impact as those of 1964, which marked Japan's emergence as an economic power.

After hosting the Games 50 years ago, Tokyo's second Olympics will begin on July 24, 2020 with organizers hoping to recreate the same **alchemy** following two decades of **stagnant** growth and three years after a deadly tsunami and nuclear crisis.

"The 1964 Games left countless invaluable **legacies**—still cherished half a century later," Tokyo 2020 chief executive officer Toshiro Muto told AFP. "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 **unveiling** of the iconic Bullet Train symbolised the country's rise from humiliating defeat in World War II to its emergence as a major international player.

The 2020 Olympics is expected to boost the Japanese economy by an estimated three trillion yen (\$30 billion) as building and tourism-related stimulus power growth, with about half the **bonanza** enjoyed by Tokyo. The 1964 Games were also a catalyst for other huge

infrastructure projects such as Tokyo's **motorway** system, while many of the venues still look as modern today and, more importantly, remain in regular use.

Muto insisted a similar template would be followed for 2020, despite a row over designs for the rebuilding of Tokyo's National Stadium, which critics slammed as too expensive and a potential **eyesore** on the vast city's skyline.

"The world has changed beyond recognition 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, although some assembly members 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 set to be moved is the canoe slalom course at a seaside park after opposition from environmental

groups, while basketball and badminton could also be bumped well outside the main waterfront area near the Olympic village.

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.

For a nation which also staged the Winter Olympics in 1972 and 1998, the Games have come to represent the revitalisation of Japan as it tackles challenges domestically and overseas.

They include rising government debt, the spiralling social welfare costs of its rapidly ageing population, as well as economic and territorial rivalries with China.

Meanwhile, fears over the safety and long-term effects of the nuclear meltdown at the Fukushima power plant in March 2011 still linger, as communities devastated by the tsunami which triggered the crisis struggle 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."