

The proposal of Related Facilities etc. for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics & the Para-Olympics

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New union of Architects & Engineers Tokyo Branch

New union of Architects & Engineers Central Standing Committee

When we consider it a matter of the highest priority to restore the Tohoku district devastated by the mega earthquakes and the accident of Fukushima no.1 nuclear power plant, we are very skeptical about the very reason why the 2020 Olympics & the Para-Olympics should be held in Tokyo. But we also consider it a social truth that Japan assured the athletes and the people all over the world of the locale for the 2020 Olympics and the Para-Olympics. Accordingly, we think that we must fulfill our own duties.

On the other hand, Tokyo, the locale for the 2020 Olympics & Para-Olympics, may be in danger of occurrence of the earthquakes directly under this very ground with high probability. Tokyo may lose slowly its population from the peak of 2020. People of advanced age may increase in number. Restoration of the Tohoku district may make very slow progress. These are important problems by which Tokyo and Japan may be confronted

The more important problems awaiting solution are follows: When a large quantity of construction begins in a full scale for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics & the Para-Olympics, the rising cost of construction across the country may be more keenly than ever. And a scarcity of skilled workers may become intensified. Restoration of the Tohoku district, a matter of the highest priority, may be behind time. Construction which people are on the very tiptoe of expectancy may be behind time too.

So long as Tokyo decided to hold the 2020 Olympics & the Para-Olympics under these bad conditions above mentioned, we think that the authorities concerned should accomplish the sustainable program for the construction according to Agenda 21 which was adopted by the International Olympic Committee on the basis of the Olympic Charter. That is, the authorities concerned should effectively utilize the existing facilities by means of reinforcement and improvement. The authorities concerned should avoid newly building the facilities as best they can. The authorities concerned should consider the program which involves not only smaller quantity of construction but also smaller quantity of environmental destruction.

As the result of the on-the-spot survey we have done, we trust that we can technically utilize, by means of reinforcement and improvement, the many existing facilities such as

the National Stadium. And we trust that the authorities concerned should not accomplish the on-going program to build the colossal and grotesque New National Stadium. First, the authorities concerned should stop the program to pull down the existing National Stadium. We strongly demand the authorities concerned to reconsider on-going program by listening to many citizens who are considering Tokyo sincerely.

From points of views above mentioned, we, as the architects and the engineers who assume the responsibility for building “comfortable and safety Tokyo” and “verdant and beautiful neighboring towns”, have finished the following proposal. Before it is too late, we determined to come forward with this proposal. The proposal consists of 6 articles as follows:

1. Let's utilize effectively the existing sports facilities such as Komazawa Athletic Facilities by means of reinforcement and improvement!

The authorities concerned are scheduled to build newly or temporarily the many facilities at the coastal reclaimed land according to the fundamental program which calls for construction of athlete villages within a 8-km radius. Therefore, the authorities concerned has no plan to utilize effectively the athletic facilities involving 2 gymnasiums at the Komazawa Olympic Park as well as Toda boating facilities, which were constructed for the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. These facilities are able to be also utilized effectively enough for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics & the Para-Olympics. But they have no plan to utilize them. This is out of all reason. The open program for the venue involves the athletic facilities which are far from 8-km radius. Then, they have no reason to except the nearer Komazawa Athletic Facilities etc. from the program for the venue. We strongly make a proposal for utilizing effectively these existing athletic facilities.

The costal reclaimed land has difficulties in safety refuge or access. It is, rather, dangerous for the many athletes to concentrate into the crowded narrow space. Liquidity of the ground may be dangerous. We think that the authorities concerned should avoid the new construction of the athletic facilities at the costal reclaimed land. Tokyo has a good traffic network and easy of access from the metropolitan district or the suburban districts. So, we think it more preferable that the authorities concerned makes an effort to decentralize the athletic facilities appropriately. This idea may promote friendly relations between the athletes and the citizens. Decentralization of the athletic facilities seems like cordial hospitality of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics & the Para-Olympics. We strongly call for effective utilization of the existing athletic facilities by means of reinforcement and improvement. If contemporary facilities are needed, the authorities concerned should build contemporary facilities. The authorities concerned should make efforts to eliminate waste as little as possible. Inevitably if the new athletic facilities are constructed, after the 2020 Olympics & the Para-Olympics, the facilities should be

utilized in order to promote opportunities of the citizen's daily sports as long as possible. The authorities concerned should make efforts to increase the athletic facilities for citizen's daily sports without destruction of both citizen's life and their environments. Does our opinion reasonably meet the spirits of the Olympics & the Para-Olympics?

2. Let's utilize the existing National Stadium with dear memories & history by means of reinforcement and improvement!

Although they can utilize, by means of improving, the existing National Stadium which was used as the main venue for the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, they are going to destroy it. And they are going to build newly the gigantic stadium with an automatic roof which costs more than 1,700 hundred million yen. We think this is obviously a wasteful use of money. This place is the commemorative site of the main venue for the 3rd Asian Athletic Meet which was established by Asian rising countries which had declared independence after the World War 2nd. And besides, this place is also the historic site of the old stadium where the send-off meet was held for departure of students for the front during the World War 2nd. The existing National Stadium has too many various memories for citizens to be easily destroyed.

The site proposed for the New National Stadium is scheduled to be expanded after destruction of the metropolitan dwelling houses. This proposed site may be too small to seek refuge safely in a state of emergency. High walls of the New National Stadium may give a sense of oppression or wind damage to the neighboring dwelling houses.

A great problem is that the site proposed is located at the very place which was designated for the first scenic zone in this country. Therefore, height of the building had been limited below 15m. But, after the competition of city planning, the limit of the height of the building is suddenly raised below 75m according to the plan of the secretariat without any discussion at the city planning council which was held only one time. If gigantic, unsuitable stadium is constructed on schedule at the place where historically beautiful landscape should be maintained, the familiar landscape and the environment which is hard to obtain may suffer irreparable damage. Beside, maintenance and management of the gigantic stadium after the 2020 Tokyo Olympics & the Para-Olympics may be not easy. The future generation may be threatened with heavy burden. Not a few advanced citizens who are now ordered to leave the metropolitan Kasumigaoka apartment houses had been once ordered for the 1964 Tokyo Olympics to remove to this very place which is now proposed for the New National Stadium. We think it inadmissible by right of residence if the authorities concerned order them to remove again separately and to destroy their communities which have been formed for a long time with much effort.

The authorities concerned should withdraw the construction program for the New National stadium and should utilize, by means of reinforcement and improvement, the existing National Stadium. If the authorities concerned need a large quantity of seats in the stadium, they should combine the temporary seats with the existing seats. The authorities concerned should deal with difficulties by use of all available products of Japan's architectural technology at its sophistication. The expanded site may not be able to meet the necessity of the sub-track. So, they are scheduled to meet it by building the sub-track at the square in front of the Art Museum. But this program possibly changes the existing environment. So, we cannot agree with it. When the authorities concerned build the sub-track there, they should also build the access path at a minimum. They should withdraw it as soon as possible after the 2020 Tokyo Olympics & the Para-Olympics.

3. The authorities concerned should withdraw the program for building the new canoe race facilities within the Kasai Coastal Park.

The authorities concerned opened to the public to build newly the canoe race facilities within the Kasai Coastal Park which is a place of recreation and relaxation for the citizens. The canoe race has the real taste of touching nature. If the authorities concerned force their way, "the ponds, marshy grounds and trees where the citizens have ever come in touch with, which have been brought up for a long time by the citizens" may be destroyed completely. The Japan Society for Wild Birds and other citizens group hope that the metropolitan parking lots should be substituted for the canoe race facilities. If the canoe race is not held in a natural mountain stream, the authorities concerned should remove the above venue to the site of the metropolitan parking lot.

Beside, the coastal part where many athletic facilities may concentrate is a place of recreation and relaxation for the citizens, where trees and shrubs have been growing thick from the beginning of land reclamation. The citizens can come in touch with insects, wild birds and fishes there. Many programs for construction of the athletic facilities are premised on cutting down the trees and shrubs above mentioned. For instance, archery facility at Yumenoshima is one of them. Cutting down the trees and shrubs for athletic facilities is meant to destroy the ecosystem there which has been formed for a long time. This is the program which is fundamentally contrary to Agenda 21 adopted by the International Olympic Committee. The authorities concerned should return to the standing point that the existing athletic facilities should be utilized as much as possible.

4. Let's reconsider the athletes' village about "where and How?"

The authorities concerned opened to the public the program for construction of the athletes' village at Harumi. And they are going to construct them in collusion with the

civil developers, entirely to their judgments. The athletes' village is scheduled to be the multistoried buildings which accommodate about 13,000 guests, which is due to be sold as mansions by the civil developers. Then, we must pay attentions to the fact that the athletes' village costs absurdly 1,000 hundred million yen. Moreover, because the possible site is located at the outside of the tide embankment, they must not be authorized, from the first, to build the dwelling houses. The nearest station is only "Kachidoki Station", which is already overcrowded with the citizens from the multistoried mansions nearby. If they plan the site for the perpetual dwelling houses, they must solve various problems such as safety problem, access problem, public facilities problem like schools etc. The authorities concerned should work together to solve the above problems by clear decision-making how to build the dwelling houses for Tokyo citizens at the time of ageing and a demographic transformation.

5. Let's open to the public, process of choice of designers & process of design!

We love architecture sincerely. Therefore, we hope that all the information from the contents of planning and choice of designer to process of design will be opened to the public in either case of reinforcing the existing facilities or building the new facilities. And we hope that simple and excellent-designed buildings will be created by the highest priority of the demand of the athletes and the users.

6. Let's create verdant and ripe Tokyo with freedom of removal, and with highest priority on prevention against disasters!

Taking this opportunity of considering the 2020 Tokyo Olympics & the Para-Olympics, we would like to propose the sustainable Tokyo planning, which strictly prevents Tokyo from the reckless developments which seems like taking advantage of the Olympics, as follows: ① The authorities concerned should accelerate the measures to counter the zero meter zones and the overpopulated streets which are dangerous in time of the directly-under-type earthquake. The authorities concerned should form the system for the prevention against disasters by raising the communities across Tokyo. The authorities concerned should decide the detailed goals such as dwelling-houses-reinforcement-against-earthquake and system of assistance etc. The authorities concerned should reinforce the deteriorated infrastructures such as the existing public facilities, the existing bridges and the existing high-speed expressway etc. ② The authorities concerned should reconstruct the vehicles-first-town into the pedestrians-and-bicycles-first-town, the verdant town, the kindhearted town to the older persons, the handicapped persons and the families with infants in their arms, the freely-movable universal designed town and the creditable town to the Para-Olympics athletes from the foreign countries.