

15 July 2015

Mr. John D. Coates, Chair
Coordination Commission for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games
The International Olympic Committee
Chateau de Vidy
Case postale 356
100 Lausanne (IOC), Switzerland

CC: Mr. Mark Adams
Director of Communications

Dear Mr. Coates:

I am writing on behalf of the Custodians of the National Stadium, a citizens group who are seriously concerned about the planned new National Stadium for the 2020 Summer Olympics. The Japanese public is furious about the Japan Sports Council's announcement of the current construction cost, ¥ 252 billion, 5 times the ¥ 50 billion for the Beijing National Stadium in 2008, and 4.75 times ¥ 53 billion for the Olympic Stadium, London 2012. JSC's cost estimate is the biggest ever in the history of the Olympics. Public opinion polls conducted by major Japanese newspapers about the exorbitant construction cost unanimously affirm people's objection. Over 90% respondents in the polls voted "No" to the JSC plan. Newspaper editorials, TV and radio reports and SNS communications bitterly criticize the shockingly poor project funding as well as the feud between the Japanese government and Tokyo City over who to foot the bills. Clearly, the JSC is ignoring the Japanese people's desire for a smaller, environmentally friendly and cost-effective stadium for the 2020 Olympics.

In their rigid adherence to the ridiculously expensive and risky new stadium, JSC Director Ichiro Kono and former President of Japan Rugby Football Union Yoshiro Mori, now President of the Japanese Organizing Committee, are targeting the 2019 Rugby World Cup. Both Kono and Mori, along with the recently appointed Olympic Minister Toshiaki Endo, are former university rugby players. Their dream is the Rugby World Cup in Tokyo at a brand new stadium. Therefore, they adamantly refuse to acknowledge the criticisms and to consider alternative proposals as their earlier 2019 deadline looms. They have interests other than the Olympics at heart.

Another excuse they use is that the Hadid design is an international commitment stated in the Candidature File in the Host City Election for the 2020 Summer Games, thus, irreversible.

We were pleased to learn from news reports on your recent visit to Tokyo that you lauded Tokyo's cost cutting efforts regarding venues for the 2020 Summer Olympics.

We understand your diplomatic reserve concerning the new national stadium since it is mainly the Japanese government's responsibility.

You are, of course, concerned about the new stadium being completed in time for the 2020 games. That is precisely the point we request you to make clear to the Olympic organizers of Japan and to the Japanese public. Please emphasize the

2020 (not 2019) deadline in your remarks and forthcoming press conferences. You have already tolerated modification of the “compact Games with the 85% of the venues within 8km radius,” Japan’s another commitment in the Candidature File. Please express IOC’s flexibility about the national stadium’s design change, too.

Japan Olympics Committee Chairman Tsunekazu Takeda said: “Considering what the IOC is carrying out for (cost-cutting) reform, the current cost (of the new stadium) is far from satisfactory,” according to the International Business Times, July 8, 2015.

We thoroughly understand your difficult position, but still fervently request that you clarify the IOC’s stance. There is still time to revise the present plan. A new stadium will be ready for the 2020 games. Eminent Japanese architects, including Pritzker laureate Fumihiko Maki, already have their workable options right on their desktops. We ask that you take note of the mounting criticism of the too big, too costly Olympic stadium in the news reports in Japan and overseas and help us switch to a simpler design that eliminates all the problems inherent to the JSC’s current plan.

Very truly yours,

Nobuko Shimizu
Co-chair
The Custodians of the National Stadium, Tokyo
URL=<http://2020-tokyo.sakura.ne.jp/>