

Encouragement Ceremony for the Finnish Athletes to Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, Japan Embassy

Honoured Ambassador, Mr. Murata,

Dear Finnish Olympic and Paralympic Teams's Friends,

On behalf of Finnish Olympic Team and Olympic Committee, I truly thank You, Mr. Murata for your kind words and for your invitation to this Encouragement Ceremony for the Finnish Olympic and Paralympic Athletes who are prepared to Tokyo 2020.

Finnish Olympic Team will have 50 athletes in 15 different sports in Tokyo 2020.

We all know that global Covid-19 has changed the world. However, Tokyo 2020 Organizers as well as Government of Japan have made a great and huge work for safe and secure Olympic and Paralympic games Tokyo 2020 for everybody in this spirit of worldwide solidarity.

Also, our pre-training camp's Host Cities, Saga, Fukuoka and Sobetsu, have made a marvellous work for our Olympic Team. And we really looking forward our Olympic journey to Japan and Tokyo.

We thank you Ambassador, Mr. Murata, for your great support to us with the words of Finnish Olympic Team's slogan:

Täältä tullaan.

Pohjan tähden alta.

Löylyä kiukaalle!

Arigato Gozaimasu!

Leena Paavolainen

Deputy Chef de Mission

Finnish Olympic Team in Tokyo 2020

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Honoured Mr. Ambassador, Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all I would like to thank the organizers of the Tokyo Olympics and the Japanese state. Despite the difficult situation, they are not discouraged but are instead hosting the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Tokyo is a historic Paralympics city. The second Summer Paralympic Games ever were held in Tokyo in 1964. At that time, 266 athletes from twenty countries participated in the Paralympics.

This year, Tokyo will host the 16th Paralympics, which will be attended by 4400 athletes from more than 170 countries. The Finnish Paralympic team will have about 25 athletes from ten different sports. The size of the entire Finnish Paralympic team will be about 50 people.

The goal of the Finnish Paralympic team is to achieve seven medals from the Tokyo Games.

I believe that the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics will be a proof of the strength of the sports family and Tokyo city.

Many thanks to Tokyo and Japan.

Mika Vakkuri

Deputy Chef de Mission

Finnish Paralympic Team in Tokyo 2020