



Tokyo Marathon Foundation Press Release

Tokyo Marathon Foundation is delighted to announce that, today, on June 30 2015, the Race Information of Tokyo Marathon 2016 has been confirmed as attached at its board meeting. Other information including the projects to celebrate the 10th anniversary event was also announced as follows.

- Tokyo Marathon 2016 Race Information (*See the separate Race Information paper.)
- 10th Anniversary Projects (*See the following 10th Anniversary Projects pages.)
 - Race Logo Renewal
 - Internationalized Wheelchair Marathon
 - RUN as ONE - Tokyo Marathon 2016
- Toyo Marathon 2016 Charity Applications (Donations and Runners)

Charity runner applications and donation applications will open on July 1, 2015.

Application Period

Donations: July 1, 2014 10:00 a.m. JST - March 31, 2015 5:00 p.m. JST

Charity Runners: July 1, 2014 10:00 a.m. JST - November 4, 2014 5:00 p.m. JST

(*first 3,000 runners)

For more details, please go to <http://www.runwithheart.jp/en/>

- Official Partners (*See the Official Partners page at the end.)

For any enquiries, please contact below:
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E-mail: press_tm@tokyo42195.org

● **10th Anniversary Projects**

<p style="text-align: center;">Tokyo Marathon 2016 10th Anniversary Projects</p>
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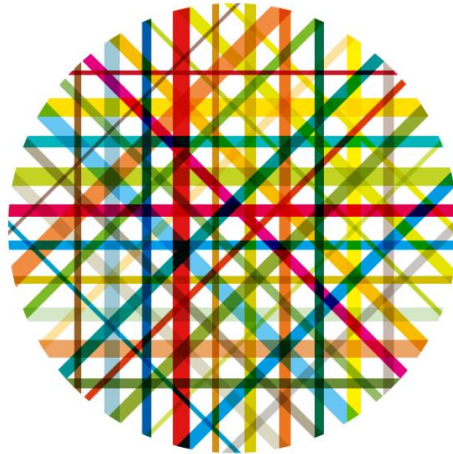
The Tokyo Marathon, first run in 2007, will celebrate its 10th anniversary milestone with the staging of the 2016 race. The Tokyo Marathon Foundation determined to commemorate this landmark occasion as a new start for its second decade, is gearing up to launch projects for the 10th anniversary event. Through the following projects, the Tokyo Marathon will put an even greater degree of energy and vision into the marathon movement in Japan.

1. Race Logo Renewal (See page 3.)
2. Internationalized Wheelchair Marathon Race (See page 4 and 5.)
Appointment of the top-ranked active wheelchair athlete, Masazumi Soejima as the Wheelchair Race Director has been announced.
3. Expanding Race Scale by 1,000 Runners (10th event only)
*Expanded from 35,500 (2015) to 36,500 (2016)
4. RUN as One - Tokyo Marathon 2016
In addition to the existing Semi-Elite category, the Semi-Elite (Overseas) and the general runners' categories are newly created.
For more details, please go to <http://www.marathon.tokyo/en/info/run-as-one/>
5. Strengthening the Hospitality for International Runners
Recruitment of approx. 700 foreign language volunteers (from mid-November)

Other special events for 10th anniversary are also planned to be held. Details will be informed once they are confirmed.

● 10th Anniversary Projects

**Tokyo Marathon 2016
Race Logo Renewal**



**TOKYO
MARATHON
2016**

The Tokyo Marathon Foundation has renewed the official race logo in the buildup to the 10th anniversary running of the Tokyo Marathon 2016 (to be held on Sunday, February 28, 2016).

Among the lines incorporated into this new logo are those that portrayed images of the runners, volunteers and cheering crowds along the course. They join to bring this event to life with their respective commitments to the “Joy of Running,” the “Pride of Supporting” and the “Delight of Cheering.” This logo, in which individual lines are woven together into a single integrated mark, symbolizes the image of the vast and rich range of stories that merge on the grand stage of the Tokyo Marathon. Fusing together, they give concrete expression to the thrills and inspirations inherent in the race theme “The Day We Unite.”

This logo is crafted to allow flexible changes through the recombination of its colors, lines and other components, which symbolizes the infinite potential of human beings to rise above confinement to certain set frameworks, unleashing the energy and the ability to constantly shift, adapt and evolve.

● 10th Anniversary Projects

Internationalized Wheelchair Marathon (to be IPC Sanctioned)
Top-Ranked Active Athlete, Masazumi Soejima Appointed as the Wheelchair Race Director

The Tokyo Marathon Foundation is pleased to announce that from the milestone 10th anniversary running of Tokyo Marathon 2016 (Sunday, February 28, 2016), the wheelchair marathon race is in the process of being officially sanctioned by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC).

Application has been made to the IPC for this standing, and once the race is sanctioned, its official times will serve as qualifying times for taking part in the Paralympics. To realize the world's top race, the renowned wheelchair athlete Masazumi Soejima, who is still active at the front line of international competitions, has been appointed as the Wheelchair Race Director. With his initiative, the Tokyo Marathon will welcome outstanding athletes from Japan and all around the world and maximize the level and quality of the competition to convey the rich appeal and inspiration of wheelchair races.

From the 2017 event, the race will also be included as the Abbott World Marathon Majors (AWMM) wheelchair marathon series, where the racers compete to earn points based on their respective performances.

(*For more details about the AWMM wheelchair series, please visit:

<https://www.worldmarathonmajors.com/news/wmm/show/abbott-world-marathon-majors-wheelchair-series-announced-series-format-begins-with-2016-boston-mara/>)

Race Overview

- 1 Category: Wheelchair marathon (Elite)
- 2 To be sanctioned by: International Paralympic Committee (IPC)
- 3 Course: Same as Tokyo Marathon 2016 course (sanctioned by the Japan Association of Athletics Federations, Association of International Marathon Road Races)
- 4 IPC classes: T53 · T54
- 5 Time limits: Men - 1 hours 50 minutes; Women - 2 hours
- 6 Capacity: 30 racers



○ **Message from the Wheelchair Marathon Director, Masazumi Soejima**

It is highly significant that top-ranked athletes from around the world will be gathering in the Japanese capital of Tokyo to compete in this race, and I feel truly overjoyed to be a part of such a high-profile event. I have personally competed in the Tokyo Marathon each year since its inaugural run. The very first marathon in this series particularly stands out in my memory, with the chilly temperatures and rainfall contributing to genuinely tough race conditions.

The racers were undaunted by such weather conditions, however, being buoyed by the cheers and other warm words of encouragement voiced by the waves of supporters. For

myself, I was exhilarated to emerge victorious in that historic first event. After the successful start for this event, I can truly report that each successive Tokyo Marathon has likewise proved to be a highly precious and rewarding experience.

At present, as we prepare for the milestone 10th running of the Tokyo Marathon, the internationalized wheelchair marathon race is to be sanctioned by the International Paralympic Committee. What's more, I have received the distinctive honor of being appointed to serve as the Wheelchair Race Director.

As my mission in addressing the heavy responsibilities in this regard, I am determined to do everything in my capacity to attract top-ranked athletes from around the world to take part in the race. My goal is to realize a stellar caliber of genuinely fierce competition encompassing participants from Japan and abroad, while constantly conveying the incredible excitement and appeal of wheelchair racing to the fans lining the course and others who tune into or otherwise follow this race.

Another obvious objective, as we gear up for the 2020 Paralympic Games in Tokyo, is to energize the Tokyo Marathon Wheelchair Race as an outstanding athletic event and environment, so that the young aspiring athletes could use the Tokyo Marathon as a vehicle to excel at even greater heights on the global competitive scenes.

Masazumi Soejima – Biography

Born in 1970, Soejima is an athlete based in Isahaya City, Nagasaki Prefecture.

At the age of 23, he suffered spinal cord damage when struck by a falling steel plate while employed at his family's ironworks business. That injury confined him to a wheelchair. His initial encounter with disability sports occurred during his hospitalization and rehabilitation, and he felt inspired by the appeal and challenge of such initiatives. Motivated by this sentiment, he began to train to take part in wheelchair marathons.

Since 2007, Soejima has been competing in the Abbott World Marathon Majors events every year. Over the years, he has emerged victorious in the Tokyo Marathon, Boston Marathon, TCS New York City Marathon, BMW Berlin Marathon and other prestigious events.

In April 2014, while continuing to personally excel as a world's top athlete, Soejima founded his own general incorporated association aimed at providing guidance to support the challenges of wheelchair-bound children to develop into world-class competitors.

Career Highlights

- Tokyo Marathon, 1st place (2007-2009, 2011, 2013)
- Athens Paralympics, 400m×4 relay, Bronze medal (2004)
- World Championships in Osaka, 1500m wheelchair race, Bronze medal (2007)
- London Paralympic Marathon, 4th place (Japanese top finisher) (2012)
- New York City Marathon, 1st place (2011)
- Boston Marathon, 1st place (2007, 2011)
- Berlin Marathon, 1st place (2007, 2010)
- Honolulu Marathon, 1st place (2005-2010, 2013-2014)

Toyo Marathon 2016 Official Partners

We would like to inform you of our official partners who support Tokyo Marathon 2016, scheduled on Sunday, February 28, 2016.

As of June 30, 2015

Presenting Partner Tokyo Metro Co., Ltd.

Official Partners STARTS CORPORATION INC.; Yamazaki Baking Co., Ltd.; ASICS Japan Corp.

Otsuka Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. ; BMW Japan Corp.;

KINTETSU INTERNATIONAL; The Dai-ichi Life Insurance Company, Limited ;

SEIKO HOLDINGS CORPORATION; Toray Industries, Inc. ;

Mizuho Bank, Ltd.; Seven-Eleven Japan Co., Ltd.; ASAHI BREWERIES, LTD.;

American Express International, Inc.; ALL NIPPON AIRWAYS Co., LTD;

KAGOME Co., Ltd.; Photocreate Co., Ltd.;

ZENROSAI (National Federation of Workers and Consumers Insurance

Cooperatives); KONICA MINOLTA, INC.; SECOM CO., LTD.;

Hisamitsu Pharmaceutical Co.,Inc.; Daiwa Securities Group ;

Shiseido Co.,Ltd ;

NIHON KOHDEN CORPORATION ; KOYOU HOLDINGS Co., Ltd.;

Shimizu Octo, Inc.; Tokyo Big Sight Inc.

For more details, please go to Tokyo Marathon 2016 official website (<http://www.marathon.tokyo/en/>).

For any enquiries, please contact below:
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E-mail: press_tm@tokyo42195.org