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## Tokyo Olympics

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On January 1, Japanese Prime Minister, Yoshihide Suga, announced that he would host the 2020 Tokyo Olympics in the summer of 2021, which was postponed for a year by the pandemic. The Olympic event is scheduled from July 23 to August 8, 2021; however, due to the continuation of the pandemic, there is a growing voice of disagreement for hosting the Olympics. Despite many internal and external arguments, the Japanese government strongly supports the Olympic holdings.

The majority of public opinions, other countries, and even the residents in Japan opposed the opening of the Olympics because it cannot guarantee the safety of both residents and foreign visitors. However, the Japanese government enforced hosting the Olympics to cover their economic loss. According to a professor at the University of Osaka, the postponement of the Olympics caused about six billion dollars of financial loss. In addition, the construction budgets for the game stadium, accommodation, and maintenance for buildings will cost a massive amount of money, the total economic loss will be about 4 billion dollars if the Tokyo Olympics is completely canceled. Moreover, the Japanese government will make tremendous financial losses for global enterprises, which sponsored the Olympics. Also, another key reason for enforcing the Olympics is that the Japanese government considers the Olympics to establish national status and economic opportunity. Japan has already experienced enormous economic growth resulting from the Olympics in 1964 and quickly rebuilt their economy through Olympic revenues. As a result, Japan became the world's second-largest economic power after the US in 1967. Therefore, Japan tried to make the Olympics successful, notify the outstanding results worldwide, and increase their national status and wealth.

Even though the Japanese government strongly supports the Olympics, the majority of opinions are negative. And the biggest reason for disagreement is safety for all participants. The Olympics are a huge worldwide event, and many participants will arrive in Japan from various countries. However, the current percentage of vaccination in Japan is only 11% of the population. Therefore, low vaccination rates and foreign visitors will cause a high possibility of severe mass infection. In addition, Japan is socially and economically infit to host the Olympics. Because Covid 19 infection rate in Japan is increasing, and the Japanese government paid a considerable amount of Olympic expenses through taxes and caused a negative economic situation. While the Japanese government firmly insists on hosting the Olympics, ironically, the residents in Japan are pessimistic about the government's opinion. According to a poll conducted by the Kyoto News Agency, about 80 percent of respondents responded that the Olympics should be stopped or postponed.

Regardless of various negative factors, the Olympics eventually started. As previously expected, the number of coronavirus cases in Japan has rapidly increased. Also, the Japanese government has issued an emergency in Tokyo, Okinawa, and Osaka. In Tokyo, the number of delta mutations rose from 30%, and at the end of June to 70%. According to the Japanese government, the highly contagious strain of the virus is rapidly spreading to young generations who have not yet been fully vaccinated. The IOC, International Olympic Committee, also claimed that the Olympics is not a reason for the recent spread of coronavirus in Japan. However, the experts point out that holding the Olympics in the Covid period itself is a factor that has eased tension in society as a whole. Moreover, there were many controversies during the Olympics. The first was a cardboard bed. Japan has placed

cardboard beds in the Olympic athlete's villages. This became controversial news because unlike a standard bed, all the bed's structures were made of cardboard. Meanwhile, on July 26, Israeli baseball team players, who were curious about cardboard beds, tested how many people went up to the bed and collapsed. When nine adult men jumped on the bed at the same time, the center of the bed collapsed utterly. The bed size is about 210 centimeters long, 90 centimeters wide, and 40 centimeters high and is known to withstand up to 200 kilograms of weight, however, concerns have been raised among players about the durability of the beds. The Organizing Committee of the Tokyo Olympics asserted that they made cardboard beds for saving the environment. However, this news raised suspicions that some public opinion has been made of cardboard to reduce Olympic costs. The second news happened in a Triathlon game. The athletes, who entered the finish line of the men's triathlon at Odaiba Marine Park in Tokyo, complained of pain and vomited because of the water quality. There were complaints among the players that the water smelled like toilets, and some games were suspended due to the detection of E. coli exceeding the standard level. However, the Japanese government asserted that they installed a triple screen device for water quality management, so there is no problem with the water quality.

On the 23rd of last month, when the opening ceremony was held, there were about 4000 confirmed Covid 19 cases per day, but on the closing day, the number of new confirmed cases in Japan became about 14000 per day. Also, as expected, the Japanese government has the highest cost of the Olympics ever. Due to the postponement of the competition for a year, Japan spent about three times as much as it had initially been planned. Still, as the competition was held without attendance, even eight hundred million dollars in entrance income was lost, and the deficit became higher than expected. Many people criticized that these negative results came from impractical plans for the Olympics under harsh circumstances. In conclusion, the 2020 Tokyo Olympics is expected to be remembered by the world as the most "unusual Olympics."

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