

Press release

WORLD BOWLING FINISH TOKYO 2020 INTERVIEWS WITH OPTIMISM

TOKYO, Saturday August 8th - World Bowling completed their final round of IF interviews with the Tokyo 2020 Additional Events Panel Organising Committee this morning. Incorporated in the campaign for inclusion, World Bowling highlight the sport's unique mix of performance and participation, its ability to reach new audiences and the sport's provision of a very strong platform for national and regional promotion within Japan. Included in the delegation were four representatives from World Bowling, two representatives from Japan Bowling Congress (JBC) including JBC President Mr Tsutomu Takebe, and two World Bowling athletes, world number one professional Bowler Jason Belmonte and Japan's own World Youth Champion Shion Izumune.

After two days of interviewing, World Bowling President Kevin Dornberger feels optimistic about the process "It would be a great honor to be included as an additional event in the Tokyo 2020 Games. We are certain that Bowling will provide a positive and unique impact on the Games and we are hopeful that Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee recognizes these benefits. Bowling is an exceptional sport that combines top level performance executed by extraordinary athletes but it also encompasses a high participation field that discriminates against almost no one. What is unique is that youth can gather to watch our top athletes in competition and then go and participate with their friends - on the same day!"

Bowling has recently been included in many multi-sport games including the 2014 Asian Games and the 2015 Pan American Games yet inclusion into the Olympic Games is no recent initiative for World Bowling with the aspiration being detailed in the Bowling World Plan strategic vision.

Also included in the World Bowling's campaign for Tokyo 2020 is the sport's connection to girls and women from the South-East Asian and Middle East regions where participation of women in sport is relatively low but where Bowling is already very popular. President Dornberger says "Bowling is one of the most practiced sports among girls and women in South-East Asia and the Gulf region making it a gateway for women's participation in sport."

President Takebe expands on Bowling's popularity in Japan and Asia by emphasizing the link that the sport has with regional areas and Japan's strong medal chances with exceptional upcoming talents. He said "Bowling is already a very popular sport in Japan and has the ability to connect the people within the extending provinces to the Tokyo Games."

For further information, please contact:

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