Tokyo 2020 Medal Project: **Towards an Innovative Future for All**

The Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee's ambitious objective of producing all 5,000 gold, silver and bronze Olympic and Paralympic medals from 100% recycled content - a first for the Olympic movement - is well on its way to becoming a reality.

The Tokyo 2020 Medal Project* was officially launched at the start of this year, to give the Japanese public an opportunity to make a direct contribution to the upcoming games by donating their old and used consumer electronic devices - such as mobile phones, tablets and laptops - and granting them a new lease on life as Olympic and Paralympic medals.

This "green" project is a joint initiative with NTT DOCOMO, the Japan Environmental Sanitation Center, the Ministry of the Environment and the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, and hopes to promote a sustainable society and secure a lasting legacy of the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo.

Medals made from 100% recycled content will be a first for the Olympic movement.

The organising committee aims to collect as much as eight tons of metal (gold: 40kg - silver: 4,920kg - bronze: 2,944kg), which after the production process will result in approximately two tons of usable material. According to official partner NTT DOCOMO, the project has already recycled 740,000 units in the first quarter of FY2017 and is on track to achieving its goal, as long as the donation rate remains consistent.

In order to maintain this momentum, the partners are renewing their nation-wide call for public participation and promoting the initiative directly through the business community and in local schools.

* Collections are within Japan only. See the Japanese language page for details https://tokyo2020.jp/jp/games/medals/project/

Australian Olympic swimming champion lan Thorpe contributed to the recycling initiative when he was in Tokyo in August.



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Tokyo is getting ready to welcome people from all around the world for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Paralympics.

Discovering Japan

Mr Brandon Yoon visited Japan in June this year. He won the senior division of the 2016 Australia-Japan Relations Essay Contest for Secondary School Students in New South Wales and the Northern Territory – his prize, a trip to Japan. Brandon's family took the opportunity to travel with him. Here he shares some reflections on his time in Japan.

Japan is a totally different society to that of Australia. The Japanese and Australians have their own unique lifestyles, not only in the language and ethnicity but also differing in their historical context and their distinct cultures and it's hard to appreciate other cultures without visiting the country itself. I was given the privilege to experience something special and I am truly thankful to the Consulate-General of Japan for providing me with the opportunity.

When we arrived at Narita Airport, the first thing we realised was the gargantuan number of people that filled the airport; everywhere we turned there was a crowd of both Japanese and foreigners coming our way. Indeed, Australia is twenty times bigger than Japan land-wise but has approximately 105 million fewer citizens! When we went to catch the train (Narita Express), I was astounded at the efficiency of the train system. All trains travelled quickly and this probably explained why every

Riding on the shinkansen trains was thrilling ... it just affirmed my stance in my essay for the contest: that Australia should introduce similar high speed trains.

three or five minutes there was another train to catch, something which the Australian train system is attempting to achieve. Not only this, riding on the Shinkansen trains

was thrilling. When we had to travel to Osaka from Tokyo, a similar distance from Sydney to Melbourne, the train took us a mere two hours. Having experienced riding the Shinkansen, it just affirmed my stance in my essay for the contest; that Australia should introduce similar high speed rails.

In Osaka, we travelled to Kyoto, a city famous for sightseeing. My favourite stop here was Arashiyama, a beautiful place with bamboo groves and a

monkey park along with a stunning scenery of mountains. Along with Arashiyama, there were numerous temples we visited on the one-day trip such as Kiyomizudera and the Kinkakuji temples which were grand in size and filled with a fascinating history.



Also in Osaka, we went to the Universal Studios, a place that was recommended by my peers. I had the best time there. Not only were the rides thrilling, but there was so much to see in the park. A favourite for my sister, mother and me was the Harry Potter World where the setting in the movie was brought to life. I had so much fun there and it is a must visit.

For a short seven-day trip, I learned a lot about the Japanese culture and society all while having such a fun time. All the memories I made in Japan I will never forget, eating the traditional Japanese dishes, visiting some of the historical landmarks of Japan and getting directions to the hotel from friendly passers-by. I am grateful to the Consulate-General of Japan for making this trip happen, and I hope that, in the near future, I will visit Japan again.

Taking a little of Japan into New **South Wales' schools**

The Consulate's school visit team hit the road in Terms 2 and 3 visiting schools studying Japanese to give calligraphy workshops. The team also gave several general presentations on Japan which include the ever popular kimono demonstration and Japanese toys.

The calligraphy workshops are new to 2017, an initiative of Consul-General Keizo Takewaka as a way of saying thank-you to schools teaching Japanese language. While other commitments and travel times mean that opportunities to schedule in workshops and presentations are somewhat limited, the school visit team was delighted to be able to visit several schools over the last four months.

Students taking part in the calligraphy workshops had varied experience studying the language, but no matter their level, all classes produced some very impressive first-time pieces of calligraphy. Permissions allowing, we post photos of students' work to our Facebook page. We have noted that some students are a little too harsh on themselves—the first time using brush and ink to write in Japanese is always a challenge! Students all did a great job.

Thank you to North Sydney Girls' High School, Central Coast Grammar School, Hunter Sports High School, St John the Baptist's Primary School, St Columba's Catholic College, St John's Park High School, Gosford High School and St Charbel's College for their warm welcomes.



Members of the school visit team are no masters of calligraphy themselves, but both Rafael and Jennifer enjoyed shuji lessons while living in Japan. Omae-san was impressed by what he saw in the workshops: "It was great to see so many students enjoying calligraphy."

Interested in applying?

Find details about the two types of visits and how to apply at

www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/english/education/school_visit.htm