

Oct.26, 2012

Mr. Tsunekazu Takeda, Chairman  
Tokyo 2020 Olympic/Paralympic Invitation Committee

Request and Inquiry on the Construction of the 2020 Olympic Canoe Slalom Stadium  
within Tokyo Municipal Kasai-Rinkai Park

Dear Mr. Takeda,

This letter represents our sincere request and inquiry related to the construction of the 2020 Olympic Canoe Slalom Stadium in the Tokyo Municipal Kasai-Rinkai Park that is included in the basic strategic plan of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic/Paralympic Invitation Committee. According to the website, the Tokyo Municipal Government is currently planning to build a canoe slalom stadium as part of its effort to invite the 2020 Olympic/Paralympic events to Tokyo. The plan indicates that the Stadium includes an auditorium for 12,000, with the total construction cost of 1.4 billion yen expected to be invested from public funding sources. We have a vital concern for the environmental impact that might be caused by this project. However, the current plan open to the public does not include specific results of any environmental impact assessments, and very limited information on this issue is available to the public.

The purpose of this request is to support the Tokyo 2020 Olympic/Paralympic invitation campaign by providing more objective supporting materials on the environmental impact and encouraging the Invitation Committee to disclose information on the decision making process to the stakeholders. We need to consider the fact that most of the local residents and supporters for this project do not have sufficient information on the continuing effort to recover the ecosystem around the Kasai-Rinkai Park/Kaihin Park area for more than 20 years, and they might not be aware of the potential environmental impact from the construction of the canoe slalom stadium in this area. These days, an environmental impact assessment is a pivotal issue in any public investment project, and is also a critical factor in obtaining a potential advantage against other competing cities in the Olympic invitation campaign. Below is our summary of issues of concern from the view point of the overall decision making process and environmental impact of this project. Your kind consideration of this matter would be highly appreciated.

- Issues of concern:

1. There are not sufficient opportunities for the local residents and stakeholders to be briefed and to understand the detailed project plan.
2. The decision making process for this project is not clearly stated, and we are not sure if the Invitation Committee is planning to create opportunities to communicate the environmental impact to the citizens and/or to environmental experts.
3. The project plan has a potentially high risk of severe environmental impact

- Our request to the Invitation Committee
  1. Explain in sufficient detail the specific plan for the project to local residents and the broader public.
  2. Clarify the decision making process for this project and arrange opportunities for communicating with the public and /or environmental experts after performing an environmental impact assessment.
  3. Reconsider the Canoe Slalom Stadium Construction Project within the Kasai-Rinkai Park if the results of the environmental impact assessment indicate the potential risk of severe impact on the ecosystem of this area
  
- Detailed description for above requests
  1. Explain in sufficient detail the specific plan for the project to local residents and the broader public.
 

According to the official announcement by the IOC, the national support rates for 2020 Olympic Invitation Campaign for Tokyo is only 47%, which is much less than that of the other candidate cities such as Madrid (78%) and Istanbul (73%). One of the major reasons for this lower support rate could be the lack of opportunities to explain the overall plan of the Olympic invitation campaign to the public and stakeholders. The overall planning area can be viewed in the 'Invitation Plan' which is downloadable from the Invitation Committee's website, but it is hard for readers to find the detailed plan for each project and to develop their opinions on whether they could support the project. It is said that the canoe slalom stadium has to provide 13 m<sup>3</sup> / sec of running water, requiring a huge amount of facilities and equipment to be developed. We request that you provide the following information based on your plan;

    - a. The overall plan of earth work within the Park in order to develop the difference in elevation for the running water in the canoe slalom stadium.
    - b. The drawings of the stadium waterway cross section and your future plans for the waterway after the 2020 Olympics are over.
    - c. The power supply plan for water pumping (electricity consumption and its power source)
    - d. The future plan of usage for the canoe slalom stadium with auditorium for 12,000.

All of the above information is required from the viewpoint of environmental impact. If you are not ready to provide all of the information in detail at this point in time, we strongly request that you provide your basic conceptual planning on these issues to local residents and stakeholders.

2. Clarify the decision making process for this project and arrange opportunities for communicating with the public and /or environmental experts after performing an environmental impact

According to your website, the general schedule related to the decision making process and public communication will be as follows;

January 7, 2013	Submission of the candidacy announcement documents to the IOC
March 4-7, 2013	IOC Evaluation Committee on-site survey of candidate cities
July, 2013	Presentation to the IOC Evaluation Committee
September 7, 2013	The 125th IOC Session (Decision making on the 2020 Olympic Venue)

However, we do not see a clear schedule for public involvement in this process with local residents and stakeholders that should be performed by the Tokyo 2020 Olympic/Paralympic Invitation Committee. We firmly believe that any decision related to hosting such an international sports event should not be made without having adequate prior communication with local residents and stakeholders.

The Kasai-Rinkai Park was developed more than twenty years ago. The tideland in the Park has been a habitat for a variety of wild birds, water creatures, vegetation, and insects, providing the local citizens with valuable opportunities to enjoy exposure to nature all the year around. We request that you ask for environmental expert opinions about the impact of the stadium construction on the surrounding environment and ecosystems which have been gradually recovered over the past twenty years. We strongly request that you clarify the decision making process for this project and arrange opportunities for communicating with public citizens and /or environmental experts as soon as you finish the environmental impact assessment.

3. Reconsider the Canoe Slalom Stadium Construction Project within the Kasai-Rinkai Park if the result of the environmental impact assessment indicates the potential risk of severe impact on the ecosystem of this area

We are concerned not only about the environmental impact from construction of the stadium, but also for the facility operation plan after the 2020 Olympics are over. The canoe slalom stadium requires 13m<sup>3</sup> /sec of running water, and the drainage water from the stadium would affect the salinity balance of brackish water. Although the running water for the stadium might be pumped up and circulated within the area, an unexpected change in pumping and drainage water volume might affect the surrounding ecosystems and geography of the seabed. We presume that you are already informed of the existence of diversified ecosystems around the Kasai-Rinkai Park, through the Letter of Request submitted by the 'Wild Bird Society of Japan' on August 23rd. Some of the species witnessed in this area are registered as 'endangered species' by the Ministry of Environment and Tokyo

Municipal Government. These ecosystems would be strongly affected by any facility operation plan after the 2020 Olympics are over. We request that you reconsider the Canoe Slalom Stadium Construction Project within the Kasai-Rinkai Park if the result of the environmental impact assessment indicates the potential risk of severe impact on the ecosystem of this area

Our recommendation for alternative candidates for the canoe slalom stadium is as follows;

- Use of existing facilities:

Mitake Keikoku (Oume City), Kajima-gawa River Area (Sakura City, Chiba),

Kuriyama-gawa River Area (Katori City, Chiba), Abukuma-gawa River Area (Nihon-matsu City, Fukushima)

- New Construction

Reclaimed land area behind the Chu-ou Breakwater

Finally, we are attaching photos of Kasai-Rinkai Park and the variety of its habitats as references. These photos were taken through the activities of 'Tokyo Sato-umi Aid, Nishinagisa-Hatsu'.

Reference 1: Diversity of the ecosystem

Reference 2: The project area

Your serious consideration of this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

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Keisuke Hashizume

President, DEXTE-K

(Organizer of Tokyo Sato-umi Aid, Nishinagisa-Hatsu)

Rinkai-cho, Edogawa-ku, Tokyo

Masanori Sugawara

Representative of the National Environmental Volunteer Leader's Organization

Hinata, Aoi-ku, Shizuoka

■ Biodiversity in the Kasai-Rinkai Park

【Flowers, insects, birds those have been identified in the area canoe slalom stadium plan】



Red-flanked bluetail



Daurian Redstart



Narcissus Flycatcher



Brown-headed thrush



Varied tit



Japanese Tit



Japanese White-eye



Brown-eared Bulbul



Sphingidae



Old World Swallowtail



Common Bluebottle



Japanese toad (Tadpole)



T. pallida 'Purpurea'



Iris pseudacorus



Japanese Cheesewood



Weigela coraeensis



Japanese wisteria



Abelia



Ligustrum obtusifolium



Crinum asiaticum



Japanese maple



Pyracantha angustifolia



Magnolia heptapeta



Prunus lannesiana

(Reference 1-2)



Lilac



Somei-yoshino



Spring star



Annual Blue Eyed Grass



Common henbit



Red Deadnettle



Houttuynia cordata



Creeping woodsorrel



Iris japonica



Pinkladies



Flowering Quince



Bletilla striata Reichb

**【Aquatic organisms, and birds those have been identified in the adjacent "Nishi-nagisa"】**



Little Tern



Chick of Little Tern



Kentish plover



Skylark



Black-necked Grebe



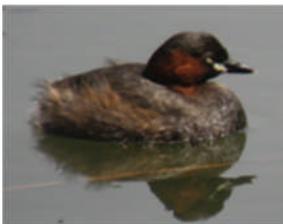
Great Crested Grebe



Osprey



Peregrine Falcon



Little grebe



Little egret

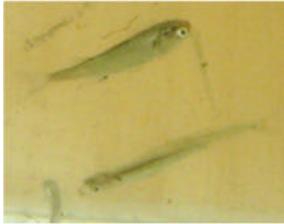


Common pochard



Herd of Greater Scaup

(Reference 1-3)



Ayu (Fry)



Nihonotrypaea japonica



Tidepool gunnel (Fry)



Japanese seabass



Fishes at the blue tide



Righteye flounder



Needlefish



Japanese black porgy



Backwater



Red stingray



Exoplaemon orientis



Yellowfin Goby

**【Aquatic organisms, insects and birds those have been identified in the park】**



Black-winged Stilt



Terek Sandpiper



Eastern Buzzard



European Kingfisher



Spotted Redshank



Water rail



Common snipe



Numenius phaeopus



Greenshank



Grey heron



Great Egret



Little ringed plover

(Reference 1-4)



Grey-tailed Tattler



Bull-headed shrike



Grey duck



Black Kite



Night heron (Chick)



Grey Wagtail



Great reed warbler



Azure-winged Magpie



Dusky thrush



White-cheeked Starling



Red-billed Starling



Chinese pond heron



Macrophthalmus japonicas



Helice tridens



Mudskipper



Freshwater Prawn



Migratory locust



Tenodera aridifolia



Hexacentrus japonicus



Scarlet Skimmer



Japanese Grass Lizard



Japanese Rat Snake



Japanese toad

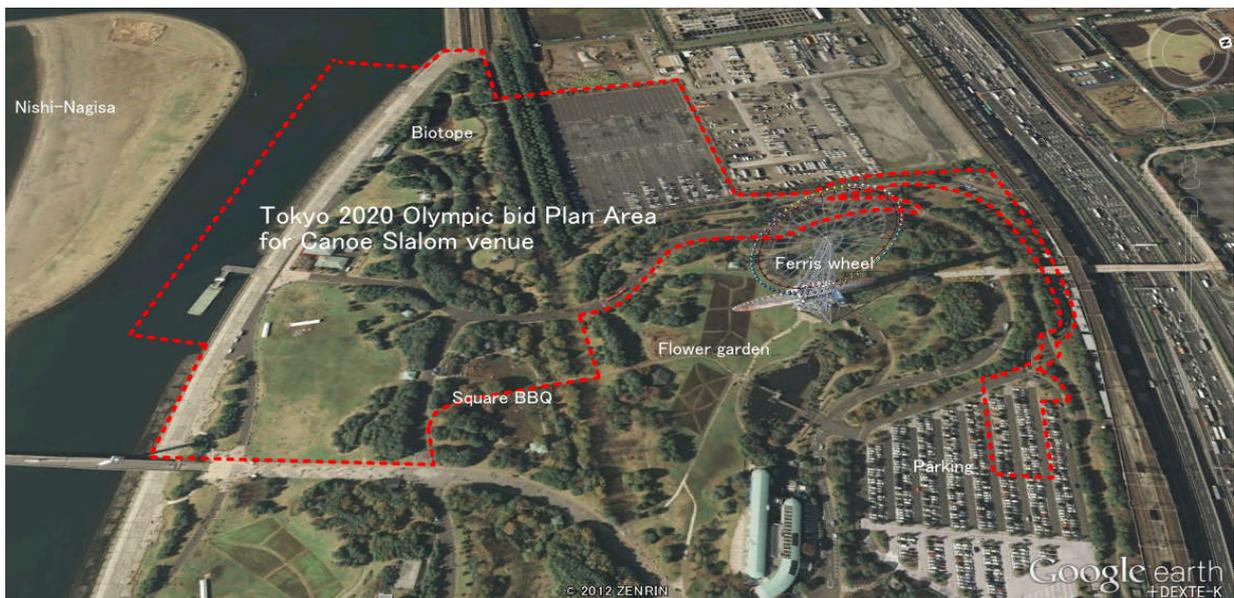


Ferocious water bug  
& Dragonfly larvae

(All photos were taken in the park by DEXTE-K)

■ Planning area of the stadium Canoe Slalom

Red dashed line is the stadium plan range / This map is edited on the materials of the Bid Committee by the Google earth and DEXTE-K.



■ Status of the park area canoe slalom stadium construction

【Square Shiokaze】



【Biotope area】



【Row of cherry blossom trees】

【Square BBQ】



(All photos were taken in the park by DEXTE-K On May 05 in 2012)