

公益財団法人 松園尚己記念財団

東京 2020 オリンピック・パラリンピック大会ボランティア活動支援事業 参加者レポート

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担当: BMX/管理チーム (有明アーバンスポーツパーク)

Hello! My name is Altay Myssayev.

My journey to Tokyo 2020 Olympic started long time ago.

The first Olympic Games I watched were Sydney games in 2000. At that moment I was only 7 years old, but the Games caught my attention and I became very interested, I wanted to know more about Olympic games. My father told me that Olympic games are not only summer, but also winter games. I learned that the Olympic Games began to be held many centuries ago in Ancient Greece. Named the Olympics after Mount Olympus. The very first competition was in running. When the Olympic Games were held, even wars were suspended. The Olympic Games were held to appease the gods, it was for the glory of Zeus that these games were held. It was believed that if the celebration of the Olympic Games is magnificent, many athletes take part, many people from all over Greece came to watch the games, then the gods of Olympus will be kind to the Greeks and they will win all wars.

Now the Olympic Games are held to determine the best athletes from all over the world, from all continents. Even the symbol of the Olympic Games are the rings that represent Australia, Africa, Asia, America and Europe.

Since then, I try not to miss and watch every Games and cheer for my team. With the whole family we get together and watch the opening and closing ceremonies of the Olympic Games. I remember all the games I watched with excitement: Sydney 2000, Salt lake 2002, Athens 2004, Torino 2006, Beijing 2008, Vancouver 2010, London 2012, Sochi 2014, Rio 2016. In 2018 I lived in Japan and since Korea is very close to Japan I couldn't miss the opportunity to attend the winter games in Pyeong Chang 2018. Unfortunately, I couldn't buy tickets to the venues, but I visited Seoul at that time. The Games were not held in Seoul, however even in Seoul you may feel the atmosphere of the Games. Many people, many guests and tourists from different countries on the streets, wearing uniforms and cheering their teams. Spirit of the Olympic is very unique. This spirit inspired me a lot to join Tokyo 2020 Olympic as a volunteer.

In addition, there is another reason why I wanted to be a volunteer. I am living in Japan for more than 5 years. During all this time I met many nice people, which were very kind to me, I learned a lot, I become a scientist and professional in my area. I am grateful to Japan for all this experience and all this wonderful time and I want to repay with kindness for kindness. Therefore, another reason why I wanted to be a volunteer is to help Japan to host Tokyo 2020 Olympic, do my best to make these games successful.

In the March 2020, International Olympic Committee announced the postponement of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics to 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic. When I heard this news I had mixed feelings. From one side I was worry that coronavirus pandemic may last longer and situation get worse and in that case Olympic

will be cancelled completely. However, from another side, I was trusting to Japanese government and IOC, they prioritize and take into account first safety and health of athletes and audience. And in my opinion, they fully justified the high trust extended to them by the international community and the Japanese population. The highest security measures have been taken at every Olympic venue.

My first shift day was July 28th at Ariake Urban Sports Park as an Administration Team Member from 8:00AM until 4:00PM. My main role as the Member of Administration team was supporting competition operation at a competition venue or a training venue. All the volunteers arrived to their duties 30 minutes earlier. After I enter the venue, I made my check in and register myself and made a PCR test. After all the administration team members gather in break/dining room and receive tasks and schedule for day. Other members were very friendly, I joined with them in teams and we distribute our duties. At 8:00AM I started my duty at ACP-1 (Access Control Point). We supported other teams, checked of access permission of staff and overall management, including general administration of the sport. At 9:30AM I moved to my next ACP-A2 which was next to BMX racing field. After, 11:20-12:10 we had lunch break and at 12:20-14:40 I continue my duty at ACP-B. We were checking ACP control in area and support other teams. After that, at 15:00 we join all the members together for meeting and taking group photos. At 16:00 we finished our day.

Next day, July 29th I started my shift from 7:00AM. After doing my check in, registration and morning team meeting, we started our ACP check at 7:30AM at ACP-A2. At 8:30AM I moved to ACP-B and at 10:30AM to ACP-A1. Same as on previous day, we checked ACP control in area and support other teams. After the activity, at 12:20 we had lunch break. After that we have our last group meeting. At 14:00 I finished my shift.

I am very thankful and grateful to all my teammates, to our volunteer leaders, to our supervisor for support during these two days. It was my first time volunteer experience on such big level event as Tokyo 2020. I am proud to be part of the big team, who worked together to make this Games possible. I am thankful to Matsuzono Hisami Memorial Foundation for the opportunity to participate in Olympic as a volunteer. In my opinion, these Games will be remembered as a historical moment, when Japan held games in spite of the global coronavirus pandemic.

One of the difficulty I had as a volunteer during the Games is the weather. Weather was very hot during Olympic. Tokyo Olympic Organizing Committee prepared a lot of rehydration drinks and we were using hats and parasols, even considering this was very hot to work all day outside under the sun. But even after hot weather, I am happy to be there, to participate, to see Olympic behind the scenes and get this experience which I will never forget. I am happy and proud that even my little help from participation has helped make such a big sports event happen. The Olympics unites people. Unfortunately, there was not that atmosphere due to the absence of guests in the stands. But we did our best. The Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games happened. I am proud to be part of it!

I am proud to be a volunteer!