

### Plastic podiums, recycled medals, cardboard beds sustainability at Tokyo 2020

<https://www.reuters.com/lifestyle/sports/plastic-podiums-recycled-medals-cardboard-beds-sustainability-tokyo-2020-2021-08-03/>

#### 1. Introduction of the issue

Because of the covid crisis, the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games had not only to be postponed until this summer, but their format also had to be rearranged in order to take into account the fears of the Japanese population to experience a new surge of contamination. Even before the pandemic brought health concern in the organization of this mega event, the Japanese organizing committee had tried to design a 2020 edition that would be more respectful of the environment and thus promote a sustainable project.

#### 2. Presentation of the specificities of the document

This report from Kini TV an independent Malay online newspaper, was broadcast on Reuters, one of the leading international press organizations, during the Olympic games.

#### 3. Summary

The report accounts for all the initiatives that are meant to reduce the carbon footprint of the games. The goal being to reach carbon neutrality. As the title suggests, this year podiums were 3D printed from ocean plastic waste, the beds of the competitors were made of cardboard and the medals were made of old mobile phones and other recycled small appliances donated by the Japanese public ahead of the games. Moreover, hydrogen has been used to replace fossil fuels in order to power the Olympic village and the vehicles shuttling between venues.

Many venues used for competition already existed, some were built as temporary stadiums and will be dismantled after and the building material will be reused.

The absence of audience obviously helped the organizers meet their goal to make the OG a beyond carbon neutrality event, together with a carbon offset program to reach negative carbon output in which 200 Japanese businesses donated carbon credit of around 4.38 tons to the games to compensate the carbon emitted during the event.

Even if the journalist seems to make a simple list of all the measures that have been taken to make the games as green as possible, the tone sounds rather optimistic. The report also quotes environmentalists who are said to approve of the pared down approach of this year edition. The absence of fans, snack stands, tour buses and hotel booking are seen as reasonable solutions to organize such international meetings.

#### 4. Transition sentence to show the link between the document and the issue you are going to deal with.

So, it is crucial to ask if mega events such as the Olympic games can be sustainable. Are these international meetings obsolete in our modern world ridden by environmental concerns?

#### 5. Commentary

- a. Such events are likely to boost research about new sustainable processes=> encourage local companies to turn green=> local benefit + showcase for the rest of the world.
- b. Need for men to exchange, to meet // the games were originally meant to enable Greek cities to compete=> truce was declared so that the athletes could meet. Better to focus on these peaceful events than meet on the battlefield. It channels money into the right place. Political dimension of the games because of its worldwide size.
- c. It is obviously going to be necessary to find new ways of traveling, of using energy but man can rely on creativity, invent new forms rather than decide to cancel what exists. Degrowth vs green growth, which states that environmental integrity can be preserved at low or even negative costs, and degrowth, which argues that the natural environment can only be preserved by curtailing economic growth

