

**The XVIII Olympic Winter Games**  
**Official Report**

**II**

**Sixteen Days of Glory**

**Official Report of the XVIII Olympic Winter Games**  
**Vol. II Sixteen Days of Glory**

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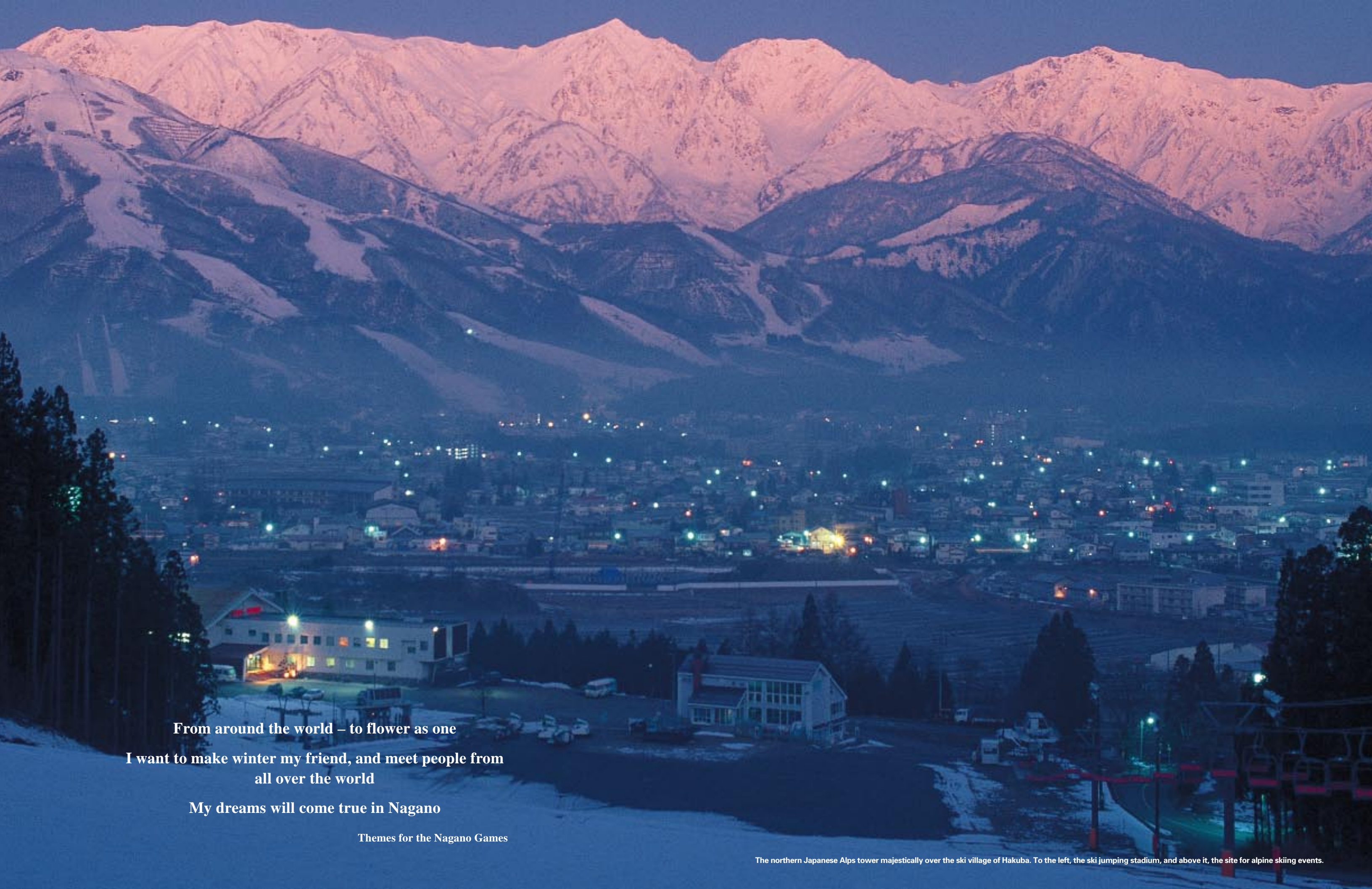
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Smiles – after flying down the giant slalom course, the gold and silver medallists celebrate together at the finish. Many friendships are born as the spirit of the Games transcends national boundaries.



**From around the world – to flower as one**

**I want to make winter my friend, and meet people from  
all over the world**

**My dreams will come true in Nagano**

**Themes for the Nagano Games**

**The northern Japanese Alps tower majestically over the ski village of Hakuba. To the left, the ski jumping stadium, and above it, the site for alpine skiing events.**



### **His Majesty the Emperor**

“I declare open the Games of Nagano celebrating the XVIII Olympic Winter Games.”



### **Opening Ceremony Greetings from IOC President HE Juan Antonio Samaranch**

Nagano e yokoso!  
Welcome to Nagano!

On behalf of the International Olympic Committee, the International Winter Sports Federations, and the National Olympic Committees, I greet the Japanese people, the members of the Olympic Family, and television viewers throughout the world.

These XVIII Olympic Winter Games are being celebrated in the year of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is therefore our hope that the appeal of the 185 member states of the United Nations to observe the Olympic Truce will foster international dialogue and diplomatic solutions to all conflicts, in an effort to bring human tragedies to an end.

The future of our society truly lies in our youth.

- Let us build together for them a peaceful and better world.
- Let us strive to provide an education for all in which sport and the Olympic ideal also play an essential role, based on the values of respect, dignity, tolerance, and solidarity.

As we look forward to the future, let us also salute the cultural legacy of our predecessors and pay tribute to Greece, the birthplace of Olympism; and to France, the country of Baron Pierre de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympic Games.

I would also like to express my sincere thanks to Japan, to the Nagano Olympic Organizing Committee presided over by Mr. Eishiro Saito and directed by Mr. Makoto Kobayashi, and to the volunteers for their dedication and their contribution to Olympism. We are sure that these Games will be a great success.

Arigato Nippon!  
Arigato Nagano!



## Opening Ceremony Greetings from NAOC President Eishiro Saito

We extend this hearty welcome to athletes and officials, to members of the world media, to spectators here in the stadium, and to the millions around the world who support the Olympic Movement and are watching us now. We give our heartfelt thanks to all those people whose advice and devotion over many years have turned our dream into reality. Especially, we offer our deepest thanks to the President of the International Olympic Committee, His Excellency Juan Antonio Samaranch, as well as to the members of the International Olympic Committee, for conferring Nagano with the honour of hosting the Games and for their dedication.

To celebrate the Nagano Games as a festival of sport and as a link to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we have set the concept of “Games from the Heart – Together with Love”. Love for sport, for children, for the richness and beauty of our natural environment, and for humankind transcending national and ethnic boundaries – all these faces of love form the foundation upon which we have built these Games. “Together” denotes the participation of athletes, officials, volunteers, and spectators – the participation of many is vital to the success of the Nagano Games.

“Participation of children”; “Respect for the beauty and bounty of nature”; “Festival of peace and friendship”. These three goals are the expression of our “Games from the Heart”. It is our fervent hope that the coming century will be an era of peace and friendship when children and all humankind will live in harmony with their natural surroundings.

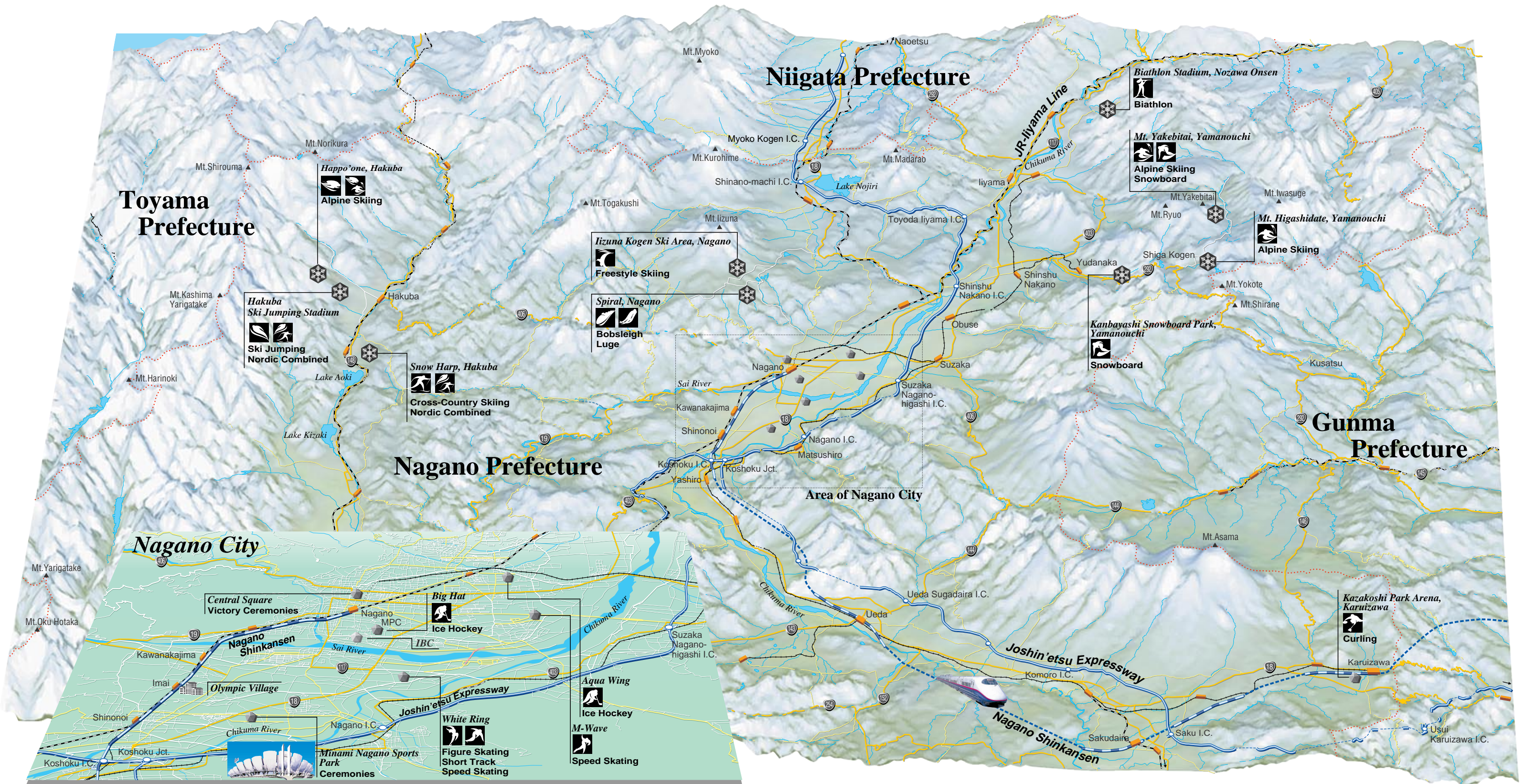
I sincerely hope that these “Games from the Heart” will achieve such splendid heights that they will leave a lasting impression to be talked of for generations to come.



The ski jumping stadium awash in a sea of people. The Nagano Games were characterized by large, enthusiastic crowds.



■ Map of Venues for the Nagano Olympic Winter Games



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LES XVIII<sup>ES</sup> JEUX OLYMPIQUES D'HIVER  
THE XVIII OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES



1  
Welcome to Nagano

NAGANO 1998

## From 72 Countries and Regions...

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Local schoolchildren join in a reception after a welcome ceremony at the Olympic Village.

A total of 2,305 athletes and 2,333 officials from 72 countries and regions gathered in Nagano in February 1998 to celebrate the XVIII Olympic Winter Games. With the greatest number of participants ever from a record number of countries and regions competing in a record 68 events in seven sports, these were the largest Olympic Winter Games in history.

They came to Japan, one of the most peaceful countries of the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, to embody the theme of the Nagano Games “From around the world – to flower as one”.

Nagano welcomed the five countries of Azerbaijan, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kenya, Uruguay, and Venezuela as first time participants in an Olympic Winter Games. At the official ceremony to open the Olympic Village on January 24, Village Mayor Shozo Sasahara urged staff and volunteers to welcome the athletes as members of their own families. To the raising of the Nagano Games and Olympic flags, Honorary Mayor Yasuko Konoe made the proclamation opening the Olympic Village, which would be home to the athletes and team officials for the next 33 days.

## ■ NOCs Participating in the Nagano Games

	Athletes	Officials	Total		Athletes	Officials	Total
Andorra	4	6	10	Kazakhstan	63	43	106
Argentina	2	3	5	Kenya	1	5	6
Armenia	7	7	14	Korea	38	39	77
Australia	24	27	51	Kyrgyzstan	1	3	4
Austria	104	94	198	Latvia	31	24	55
Azerbaijan	4	6	10	Liechtenstein	8	9	17
Belarus	62	53	115	Lithuania	7	10	17
Belgium	1	4	5	Luxembourg	1	3	4
Bermuda	1	1	2	Republic of Moldova	2	3	5
Bosnia and Herzegovina	9	7	16	Monaco	5	6	11
Brazil	1	1	2	Mongolia	3	6	9
Bulgaria	20	19	39	Netherlands	24	19	43
Canada	155	146	301	New Zealand	9	9	18
Chile	3	5	8	Norway	83	83	166
People's Republic of China	60	54	114	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	10	14	24
Croatia	6	8	14	Poland	41	42	83
Cyprus	1	1	2	Portugal	2	4	6
Czech Republic	66	59	125	Puerto Rico	7	7	14
Denmark	12	14	26	Romania	17	12	29
Estonia	20	23	43	Russian Federation	126	137	263
Finland	89	78	167	Slovakia	40	36	76
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	3	8	11	Slovenia	34	43	77
France	112	120	232	South Africa	2	4	6
Georgia	3	6	9	Spain	12	14	26
Germany	133	134	267	Sweden	104	90	194
Great Britain	35	36	71	Switzerland	74	75	149
Greece	13	13	26	Chinese Taipei	9	10	19
Hungary	19	19	38	Trinidad and Tobago	2	2	4
Iceland	8	6	14	Turkey	1	3	4
India	1	4	5	Ukraine	56	53	109
Islamic Republic of Iran	1	3	4	United States of America	195	202	397
Ireland	7	3	10	Uruguay	1	3	4
Israel	3	5	8	Uzbekistan	4	7	11
Italy	119	134	253	Venezuela	1	2	3
Jamaica	6	6	12	Virgin Islands	9	10	19
Japan	166	183	349	Yugoslavia	2	5	7
					2,305	2,333	4,638

\*Number of officials includes extra officials

\*Although they registered to participate in the Games, the following 14 NOCs eventually did not participate: Tajikistan, Bolivia, Kuwait, Lebanon, Bahamas, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guam, Netherlands Antilles, Cameroon, Guinea-Bissau, Cambodia, Gambia, and the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

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**Welcome ceremony  
at the Olympic Village**



### **The Best Environment Possible**

Competition officials, volunteers, and NAOC staff worked together with the common goal of creating conditions worthy of the world's best athletes competing at the world's greatest sports festival. At all the venues, minute attention to detail was paid to final preparations: at Spiral, where one thousandth of a second can make all the difference, millimetres of ice were shaved off the bobsleigh / luge track ; soft snow at the ski courses was packed down hard; operations personnel worked long into the night to ensure that everything was perfect. At the MPC and IBC, security, transportation, and

information systems were readied for the imminent arrival of the world media. At airports, train stations, and roads, decorations were affixed and banners hung to welcome visitors to Nagano.

The Olympic flame, lit by the sun's rays in Greece, was divided into three for its journey through every part of Japan, relayed by 6,901 people and cheered on by over five and a half million roadside supporters. Finally on February 6, the three flames converged on Nagano City, and were reunited at an emotionally-charged ceremony at Central Square. Everything was ready.

**Course workers in  
Hakuba worked  
around the clock to  
ready the courses for  
competition.**



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## Prelude to the Opening Ceremony

Local schools and communities opened their arms in welcome to the athletes and officials from around the world. At the Olympic Village, commemorative gifts handmade by the citizens of Nagano were presented to the athletes and officials. The highlight of the welcome ceremonies for the delegations was the children from the “One School, One Country” programme, who energetically sang the anthem of their partner country. Any nervousness or tension felt by the athletes was soon dispelled.

In preparation for the 50,000 spectators who would be attending the Opening Ceremony, some 2,000 local residents participated in a walk between Shinonoi Station and the stadium to discuss ways of welcoming visitors along the 2.7km route. Ideas that were implemented included distributing 5,000 portions of homemade soup and other hot drinks, as well as *taiko* drum and wind instrument performances by local children. On the day itself children of pre-school age lined the route, merrily waving flags of participating countries and regions .

Such efforts contributed immensely to the festive and cheerful mood on the streets, but they were only a prelude to the joyful scenes that were to be played out over the following



days. Thanks to the support of thousands of ordinary Nagano citizens, all the sports events were successfully held amidst an atmosphere of celebration and friendship.



Young people from around the world gathered at the International Youth Camp in Karuizawa.



## Welcoming the Imperial Family

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NAOC made a formal request through the Prime Minister of Japan and the Ministry of Education asking that His Majesty the Emperor serve as Honorary Patron of the Nagano Games, and after approval by the Cabinet, His Majesty graciously accepted to do so on November 20, 1997.

### Preparations

During the Games, Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress, and Their Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince and Princess attended a number of official ceremonies, functions, and sports events. In preparation for their visits, NAOC remained in close contact with the IOC, the national government, the Imperial Household Agency, the Nagano prefectural government, and the local governments of the host sites.

Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress hosted a reception



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NAGANO 1998



**Their Majesties applaud the efforts of the athletes at a figure skating event.**

**Their Majesties watch the skiing portion of the nordic combined competition.**

The prefectural government prepared a detailed daily schedule for the Imperial Family, including such information as parking places for vehicles and transportation routes, and this was distributed to the police and other relevant parties. Seating for the Imperial Family in the royal box at sports and ceremony venues was coordinated with the IOC. The president of the IOC and president of the relevant international sports federation escorted Their Majesties at sports competitions, where the president or other high-ranking official of the relevant Japanese winter sports federation provided commentary to the Imperial Family.





Their Majesties at the men's ice hockey final

### Visits by Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress

Their Majesties arrived in Nagano City on February 6, and hosted a reception that evening at the Saihokukan Hotel for approximately 350 guests including IOC members and IF presidents. Each guest was presented to Their Majesties, after which guests mingled freely.

Their Majesties attended the Opening Ceremony, where his Majesty the Emperor made the official declaration opening the XVIII Olympic Winter Games in Nagano.

Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress were in Nagano again from February 19 onwards, and attended various sports events as well as the Closing Ceremony on February 22.

#### *Schedule of Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress*

- February 6 Arrival in Nagano  
Hosted reception at Saihokukan Hotel
- 7 Attendance at the Opening Ceremony  
Departed Nagano
- 19 Arrival in Nagano

- Attendance at preliminaries of ladies' 500m in short track speed skating at White Ring
- 20 Attendance at cross-country portion of nordic combined team event at Snow Harp  
Attendance at the free skate of ladies' figure skating at White Ring
- 21 Attendance at the men's alpine slalom event at Mt. Yakebitai  
Attendance at the figure skating exhibition at White Ring
- 22 Attendance at the men's ice hockey final at Big Hat  
Attendance at the Closing Ceremony
- 23 Departed Nagano



Their Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince and Princess attend the women's singles luge event.

### Visits by Their Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince and Princess

Their Imperial Highnesses arrived in Nagano City on February 2, and His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince made the official declaration opening the 107<sup>th</sup> IOC Session.

Their Imperial Highnesses were in Nagano again from February 9 onwards, and attended various sports events.

#### *Schedule of Their Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince and Princess*

- February 2 Arrival in Nagano  
Attendance at the Opening ceremony of the 107<sup>th</sup> IOC Session  
Departed Nagano
- 9 Arrival in Nagano  
Attendance at Japan vs. France men's ice hockey game at Big Hat
- 10 Attendance at women's singles luge event at Spiral

Attendance at second race of men's 500m in speed skating at M-Wave

- 11 Attendance at normal hill ski jumping event at the Hakuba Ski Jumping stadium  
Attendance at the ladies' 3,000m event in speed skating at M-Wave  
Departed Nagano

A number of other members of the Imperial Family also attended various events during the Games.

## Hospitality Services for Foreign Dignitaries

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A total of 17 heads of state, royal family members, heads and vice heads of government, and 28 foreign ministers and sports ministers attended the Games. (These figures do not include IOC members.)

For these dignitaries and their entourages, NAOC issued accreditation cards and provided transportation and arrival / departure services at airports and train stations. Upon request, reservations for accommodations were also made. Accreditation privileges of accompanying persons were determined by the Accreditation and Protocol sections at NAOC. The Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs assigned aides to persons holding positions of vice head of government or above.

In cooperation with the ministry, NAOC held an information session for representatives from foreign embassies based in Tokyo in July 1997 and again in January 1998. Requests for accreditation, transportation, and accommodations continued right up until the Games reaching their peak in the week prior to the Opening Ceremony.

NAOC staff and volunteers guided guests and organized transportation of luggage at designated airports such as New Tokyo International (Narita) Airport, where a guest lounge was provided. Most guests travelled between Narita Airport and Nagano by Shinkansen bullet train, with NAOC covering costs and arranging tickets. Upon departure, most guests were escorted to Nagano Station.

Foreign dignitaries and their guests had many opportunities to experience Japanese culture, such as this tea ceremony.



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## ■ Foreign Dignitaries who visited Nagano

### • Heads of State, Members of Royal Families, Heads of Government / Delegations

The President of the Republic of Belarus

HE Mr. Aleksandr Lukashenko

The Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus

Mr. Vladimir Zametalin

The State Councilor of the People's Republic of China

HE Mr. Tieying Li

The Princess of the Kingdom of Denmark

HRH Princess Benedikte

The Prime Minister of the Republic of Estonia

HE Mr. Mart Siimann

The President of the Republic of Finland

HE Mr. Martti Oiva Kalevi Ahtisaari

The Vice President of the Islamic Republic of Iran

HE Mr. Seyed Mostafa Hashemi Taba

The Crown Prince of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

HRH Prince Henri

The Prince of Orange, Crown Prince of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

HRH Prince Willem-Alexander

The Crown Prince of the Kingdom of Norway

HRH Crown Prince Haakon

The Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Norway

HE Mr. Kjell Magne Bondevik

The President of the Republic of Poland

HE Mr. Aleksander Kwasniewski

The Vice Prime Minister of the Government of the Russian Federation

HE Mr. Oleg Sysuev

The President of the Slovak Republic

HE Mr. Michal Kovac

The King of Spain

HM King Juan Carlos I

The King of Sweden

HM King Carl XVI Gustaf

The wife of the Vice President of the United States of America

Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Tipper Gore

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## • Government Ministers

The Minister for Sport & Tourism of Australia

HE Mr. Andrew Peter Thomson

The State Secretary of the Federal Chancellery of the Republic of Austria

HE Dr. Peter Wittmann

The Minister for Youth & Sports of the Azerbaijan Republic

HE Mr. Aboulfas Karaev

The Chairman of the State Committee for Youth, Physical Education, & Sports of the Republic of Bulgaria

HE Mr. Tzviatko Rouskov Bartchovski

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Canada

HE Mr. Lloyd Axworthy

The Minister of Canadian Heritage

HE Ms. Sheila Copps

The Minister of the State Commission for Physical Culture & Sports of the People's Republic of China

HE Mr. Shaozu Wu

The Vice Minister of the State Commission for Physical Culture & Sports of the People's Republic of China

HE Mr. Yinsheng Xu

The Chief of the Cabinet Office of the Czech Republic

HE Mr. Roman Lesczynski

The Minister for Sports & Culture of the Kingdom of Denmark

HE Mr. Ebbe Lundgaard

The Minister for Sports & Youth of the French Republic

HE Ms. Marie-George Buffet

The Parliamentary State Secretary of the Ministry of the Interior of the Federal Republic of Germany

HE Mr. Eduard Lintner

The Parliamentary Undersecretary of State, Department for Culture, Media, & Sport of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

HE Mr. Tony Banks

The Alternate Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic

HE Mr. George Papandreou

The Deputy Minister of Culture responsible for Sports of the Hellenic Republic

HE Mr. Andreas Fouras

The Minister of Culture & Sports of the Republic of Korea

HE Mr. Tae-Ho Song

The Minister of Education & Science of the Republic of Latvia

HE Mr. Juris Celmins

The State Secretary for Health, Welfare, & Sport of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

HE Mrs. Erica Georgine Terpstra

The Minister of Culture & Sports of the Kingdom of Norway

HE Ms. Anne Enger Lahnstein

The Minister of Youth & Sports of Romania

HE Mr. George C. Antonescu

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The Minister for Sports & Tourism of the Russian Federation

HE Mr. Leonid Tyagachev

The Minister for Education & Science of the Slovak Republic

HE Mrs. Eva Slavkowska

The Minister of Education & Sport of the Republic of Slovenia

HE Dr. Slavko Gaber

The Chief of the Royal Household of Spain

HE Mr. Fernando De Almansa

The Minister for the Interior, the Minister responsible for Sports Issues of the Kingdom of Sweden

HE Mr. Leif Blomberg

The Federal Councillor, Minister of Defence, Civil Protection, & Sports of the Swiss Confederation

HE Mr. Adolf Ogi

The President, Committee for National Physical Education of Chinese Taipei

HE Mr. Jin Wu

The Chairman of the Ukrainian State Sports Committee, Sports Minister of Ukraine

HE Mr. Ivan Fedorenko

Names are in alphabetical order by country / region.



Some members of the Olympic Family try their hand at harvesting giant grapes.



## Hospitality Services for the Olympic Family

### Hospitality Areas

A lounge and spectator stands were provided for the Olympic Family at all competition venues, the stadium for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, and the Victory Ceremonies site (Central Square). Light refreshments were served in the lounges and start lists, results, and other information provided. The stands were located at the best possible vantage points, and the position and number of seats at each venue for special guests, officials, and federation officials were determined in consultation with the IOC. Small blankets were provided at all indoor venues.

An Olympic Family Protocol Manager and seven people with ability in English and / or French were assigned to each of the competition venues and the Victory Ceremonies site, and 40 people were stationed at the stadium for the

Opening and Closing Ceremonies.

### Assistants

Assistants were assigned to each Honorary IOC member and IOC member, presidents and secretaries general of the International Winter Sports Federations, and the president of each participating NOC. These assistants were responsible for providing administrative, logistical and language support and liaison with NAOC.

Each Honorary IOC member and IOC member, each International Federation president and secretary general, as well as each president and secretary general of NOCs with 50 or more athletes, was assigned a dedicated vehicle and driver (T1). Presidents and secretaries general of NOCs with fewer than 50 athletes used shared assigned vehicles (T2).

The minimum age requirement for an assistant was 20, and 240 people were recruited based on such criteria as availability to work for more than eight consecutive days, language

qualifications, and experience living abroad.

IOC members and IFs were assigned assistants speaking English, French, Spanish, German, Italian, or Russian. Each NOC completed a questionnaire relating to assistants and whenever possible an assistant speaking the first language of the NOC president was assigned. Assistants ate breakfast at their place of lodging and received a fixed daily allowance for lunch and dinner. In addition to the official NAOO staff uniform, assistants received a uniform consisting of a blazer, skirt or trousers, and scarf or necktie. All assistants were equipped with a cellular telephone.

At competition venues, assistants were given the same access privileges as the guest in their care.

The professionalism and dedication of the assistants made a significant contribution to the success of the Games.



A parade of flags (Mt. Yakebitai, Shiga Kogen)

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## Guest Programme

To introduce the nature, culture, traditions, and arts of Nagano and Japan, a guest programme was developed to entertain the spouses or partners of Honorary IOC members, IOC members, presidents and secretaries general of international sports federations and participating NOCs. Invitations were distributed by NAOC.

- Day Trip to Matsumoto
  - February 3, approx. 50 participants
  - Visit to Matsumoto Castle, the Japan Folklore Museum, Matsumoto City Museum, and Japanese Ukiyoe (woodblock print) Museum
  - Violin recital given by children learning under the Suzuki Method
- Day Trip to Yamanouchi
  - February 5, approx. 80 participants
  - Tour of traditional Japanese houses in Shiga Kogen, Kimono exhibition, grape harvesting

The guest programme was very well received as it succeeded in introducing participants to the essence of both Nagano and Japan.

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## Observer Programme

Unlike previous Games where Observers were offered programmes of venue tours and explanations, NAOC decided to arrange access and information for Observers upon request. In cases where this was not sufficient, a member of staff from NAOC International Relations would arrange a venue tour and meetings, and accompany Observers.

NAOC was able to satisfy Observer requests for visits and inspections, approval for which was first obtained from the venue manager and/or competition manager. A flexible approach to granting additional access rights and venue inspections was taken prior to and even after the start of the Games. A total of 609 people from 32 organizations applied to attend the Games as Observers, of which 491 people from 30 organizations actually came to Nagano and received accreditation.

A number of NOCs set up hospitality houses in Nagano City or Hakuba (Holland House).



## Receptions

Numerous receptions were held during the Games period in the Nagano area. In addition to the reception hosted by Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress, and one held by Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, receptions were hosted by NAOC, host sites, Sponsors, NOCs, embassies, media groups, and the Salt Lake Organizing Committee. Keeping track of such a large number of receptions proved to be a challenging task.

## Invitations to the Opening Ceremony

The Nagano Games received support and cooperation from a number of domestic organizations and agencies, and approximately 850 dignitaries were invited to the Opening Ceremony as guests. These included:

- NAOC Honorary Advisors, Advisors, Councillors, members of the Executive Board, Steering Committee, Commissions, and sub commissions
- Dignitaries who lent support to the torch relay and other events, including the governor and chairman of the prefectural assembly of every prefecture in Japan
- Members of the town / village assemblies of the sites hosting competitions; chairman of the Nagano Prefectural Assembly; mayors of every city / town / village in Nagano Prefecture; mayors and chairmen of municipal assemblies of major Japanese cities



A gift of traditional *mizuhiki* strings crafted in the Iida region of Nagano Prefecture was presented to all Games' participants.

Among the invited guests were:

The Prime Minister of Japan,	Mr. Ryutaro Hashimoto
The Chairman of the House of Representatives,	Mr. Soichiro Ito
The Chairman of the House of Councillors,	Mr. Jyuro Saito
The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court,	Mr. Shigeru Yamaguchi
The Minister for Foreign Affairs,	Mr. Keizo Obuchi
The Minister for Education,	Mr. Nobutaka Machimura
The Minister for Health & Welfare,	Mr. Junichiro Koizumi
The Minister for Construction,	Mr. Tsutomu Kawara
The Minister for Home Affairs,	Mr. Mitsuhiro Uesugi
The Director General of the Hokkaido / Okinawa Development Agency,	Mr. Muneo Suzuki
The Director General of the Defense Agency,	Mr. Fumio Kyuma
The Director General of the Economic Planning Agency,	Mr. Koji Omi
The Director General of the National Land Agency,	Mr. Hisaaki Kamei



LES XVIIIES JEUX OLYMPIQUES D'HIVER  
THE XVIII OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES



2

Celebrating the Games

NAGANO 1998

# Day One

## Saturday, February 7

**Schedule:** \* \* \* \* \*

Opening Ceremony; Ice Hockey Men (Austria vs. Slovakia, Italy vs. Kazakhstan; Germany vs. Japan, France vs. Belarus)

### Preliminaries – February 6

To rousing cheers and applause, the Olympic flame made its long-awaited entry into Nagano City. Lit in Olympia in December, the flame was brought to Japan and split into three for its one-month journey around the country. During the torch relay that visited every prefecture in Japan, hundreds of thousands of people lined the streets to cheer on the runners and share in the Olympic dream. Now, on the day before the opening of the Games, the flame was reunited in a special ceremony at Central Square.

At the venues, final touches were being made in readiness to welcome athletes and spectators from around the world. Athletes, officials, and the other members of the Olympic Family settled in for sixteen days of sport and celebration, and many athletes and dignitaries visited partner schools under the “One School, One Country” programme.

In the streets of Nagano, the mood was festive as years of preparations were finally brought to full fruition. A variety of events and exhibitions, including stamp exhibitions and opera, added to the air of joy and excitement. The final

“Countdown T-shirt” sold at auction for a staggering ¥1.55million.

Word came that the standoff between the United States and Iraq over nuclear site inspections had been resolved diplomatically, and the United Nations reiterated its support for the “Olympic Truce” declared for the Nagano Games.

### Let the Festival Begin!

February 7 dawned bright and clear in Nagano, and fifty thousand spectators crowded into the stadium for the Opening Ceremony of the XVIII Olympic Winter Games. The celebration began with the live broadcast of the ringing of the centuries-old bronze bell at venerable Zenkoji Temple. A spectacular series of ceremonies and festivities unfolded, including the raising of sacred *onbashira* pillars, and the ring-entrance ceremony of the sumo grand champion. Singer Ryoko Moriyama was joined onstage by “Snow Children” wearing costumes representing the flags of all participating countries and regions in a heart-warming rendition of the theme song for the Nagano Olympic Peace Appeal. The entrance of anti-landmine activist Chris Moon carrying the Olympic torch surrounded by the children of Nagano underscored the message of peace that these Games were presenting to the world. After the lighting of the Olympic flame, maestro Seiji Ozawa led the audience and a chorus of over 3,000 singers spread out over the five continents of the world in a celebratory performance of Beethoven’s “Ode to Joy.”

With a busy programme of 68 events in seven sports, competition began soon after the Opening Ceremony. First on the agenda was men’s ice hockey with preliminary round play. In the ‘A’ pool, Austria played Slovakia to a 2 - 2 draw, while Kazakhstan came from behind to beat Italy 3 - 1. In ‘B’ pool action, Germany defeated Japan 3 - 1 in a closely fought contest, and Belarus triumphed over France.

Girded in ceremonial aprons, maku-uchi division sumo wrestlers perform ring-purifying rites.



## Around Town

On the streets surrounding the stadium, local residents welcomed the thousands of visitors walking along the 2.7km route from Shinonoi Station with *taiko* drum and flute performances and offered hot drinks and homemade refreshment.

All over Nagano Prefecture, volunteer groups and children made “ice candles” to place along major roadways and enliven the Olympic mood. Closer to venues, area residents constructed imaginative snow and ice sculptures of temples or scenes of children playing in the snow to welcome visitors to Nagano.

Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto hosted a reception at a hotel in Nagano City to welcome the members of royal families, heads of state and government from over twenty countries who attended the Opening Ceremony. In his welcoming speech, he proposed a toast to “World peace in the coming century”.

## Quote of the Day

“The Opening Ceremony was nice and well coordinated. I liked the way that it emphasized the children. The seats were nice and warm and so was the crowd. I think it went off well – just excellent.”

- John Trowbridge, short track speed skating referee from Canada



Surrounded by “Snow Children”, Chris Moon holds aloft the Olympic torch.



Final torchbearer Midori Ito lights the Olympic cauldron.



Competition gets underway with the men's ice hockey game between Germany and Japan.





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*"Ode to Joy"*  
Spectators in Nagano are joined via satellite transmission by choirs on five continents.



Local residents offer hot soup to spectators on their way to the Opening Ceremony.

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## Day Two Sunday, February 8

**Schedule** \* \* \* \* \*  
Cross-Country Skiing Ladies' 15km Classical; Freestyle Skiing Men's & Ladies' Mogul Preliminaries; Snowboard Men's Giant Slalom; Speed Skating Men's 5,000m; Figure Skating Pairs' Short Programme; Ice Hockey Men (Austria vs. Kazakhstan, Slovakia vs. Italy), Women (Sweden vs. Finland, Canada vs. Japan, China vs. USA); Luge Men's Singles

### World Record in Speed Skating

The first gold medal of the Nagano Games was won by Russia's Olga Danilova in the ladies' 15km classical cross-country skiing event in Hakuba. Silver went to her teammate Larissa Lazutina and bronze to Norway's Anita Moen-Guidon.

In Nagano City, the first day of speed skating competition got off to a sensational start in front of more than 10,000 roaring spectators at M-Wave, with the world record in the men's 5,000m event falling not once but three times. Bart Veldkamp of Belgium became the first man ever to go under 6 minutes 30 seconds with his time of 6:28.31, only to see this eclipsed by 7/100ths of a second in the next pairing by Rintje Ritsma of the Netherlands. In the day's final pairing, Dutchman Gianni Romme reclaimed his world record with a stunning time of 6:22.20, a full six seconds quicker than Ritsma.

Ross Rebagliati of Canada claimed the

Olympics' first ever snowboard gold medal by winning the men's giant slalom in Shiga Kogen. Women's ice hockey also shared the spotlight on this day, making its official Olympic debut with three games at the Aqua Wing stadium.

Out at Happo'one, course preparations began at 2 a.m. for the men's alpine skiing downhill, and with clear skies early in the morning, everything looked promising for holding the race as scheduled. However, deteriorating visibility with snow and fog on the upper part of the course caused the race jury to postpone the race to later in the week. Unfavourable weather would continue to wreak havoc with scheduling throughout the fortnight of competition. For the crowd of 20,000 spectators who had come out to watch the race, disappointment was further compounded by traffic confusion on the roads leading out of Hakuba.

Speed skating men's 5,000m gold medallist Gianni Romme of the Netherlands (centre) is flanked by teammate Rintje Ritsma (left) and Belgium's Bart Veldkamp (right). All three skaters broke the previous world record.





Finnish players celebrate the first women's ice hockey game in Olympic history.

### Around Town

Nagano City reverberated to the sound of 2,000 Japanese *taiko* drummers, and the mood in the streets on the first full day of competition was one of festivity and celebration. A huge crowd gathered on Nagano's Chuo Dori Street as they celebrated along with the day's outdoor event medal winners at the evening Victory Ceremony held at Central Square.

At the Nagano Prefecture Cultural Hall, 1,300 youngsters studying under the famed Suzuki Method gave a special violin and cello concert. Among the performers were 80 children from overseas, helping to spread a musical message of global peace and friendship.

Strict restrictions on the usage of private vehicles resulted in packed trains heading for Nagano. Though there was some initial confusion among the thousands of spectators and tourists, eventually everybody made it to their destination safely.

At the Main Press Centre (MPC), the mayors of six Olympic Winter Games host cities and the mayor of Olympia gathered to formally sign a declaration urging proper consideration be given to the environment by all future Olympic host cities. Signing the declaration were the current mayors of Sapporo, Calgary, Albertville, Lillehammer, Nagano, Salt Lake City, and Olympia.

### Quote of the Day

"This is the happiest day of my life! I can't believe that I'm the champion – all my hard training has paid off!"

- Ladies' 15km classical gold medallist Olga Danilova



Russia's Olga Danilova on her way to winning the Nagano Games' first gold medal, in the ladies' cross-country skiing 15km classical.

A smiling Danilova waves to the crowd after receiving her medal.



## NAGANO 1998





Ross Rebagliati (Canada) concentrates on winning the first gold medal ever in Olympic snowboarding.

# Day Three

## Monday, February 9

**Schedule** \* \* \* \* \*  
Cross-Country Skiing Men's 30km Classical; Speed Skating Men's 500m (1st Race); Ice Hockey Men (Germany vs. Belarus, Japan vs. France), Women (Finland vs. Japan, USA vs. Sweden, Canada vs. China); Luge Men's Singles; Biathlon Women's 15km Individual; Curling Men's & Women's Preliminary Round

### Curling Debuts

Continuous heavy snow from the previous day forced the postponement of the men's combined slalom and ladies' snowboard giant slalom. Despite the inclement weather, fans turned out at Snow Harp to cheer on their favourites in the men's cross-country 30km classical event. On a day when course conditions made the selection of equipment critical, Finland's Mika Myllylae did everything right and ended his country's 35-year gold medal drought in men's cross-country skiing. Second place went to Norway's Erling Jevne, while Italy's Silvio Fauner finished third.

In the first race of the men's 500m event in speed skating, Hiroyasu Shimizu of Japan electrified the home crowd by charging to a new Olympic record of 35.76 seconds. With six skaters under 36 seconds, the next day's finale promised to be a thrilling spectacle.

At Spiral, Germany's remarkable Georg

Hackl clocked the fastest time on all four runs over the two-day men's singles luge event, and added Nagano gold to those he had won in Lillehammer and Albertville.

Out on the biathlon course in Nozawa Onsen, unheralded Ekaterina Dafovska of Bulgaria won the women's 15km event, capturing her country's first ever Winter Olympic gold medal.

With medal status granted to their sport, men's and women's curlers representing eight NOCs were in the town of Karuizawa to compete for a place in the history books. The first day of round-robin competition featured eight draws on the women's side and four on the men's agenda. Karuizawa, which hosted the equestrian events during the 1964 Tokyo Games, became the only town in the world to host events at both Olympic Summer and Winter Games.

Changes in competition scheduling caused

Curling made its official Olympic debut at the Nagano Games.



by bad weather also prompted NAOC to revise its ticket refund policy. While NAOC's original plan was to issue refunds only for events cancelled outright, the decision was made to extend this to cover postponed events as well and to adopt a flexible policy. Furthermore, spectators holding tickets for postponed events were allowed to attend an alternate event.

### Around Town

Road restrictions and programmes to encourage use of public transportation were hugely successful and led to a reduction in daily traffic volume in Nagano City by 32.6% during the Games. As a result, there were few problems with traffic congestion within the city limits.

In Nozawa Onsen and at other host sites, residents welcomed chilled spectators who braved the cold by passing out steaming bowls of soup and other local delicacies. In Hakuba, welcome festivities and a daily programme of music and dance were held in the "Hakuba Snowdome."

Their Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince and Princess of Japan were part of the enthusiastic crowd at Big Hat who helped to cheer on the Japanese men's ice hockey team in their game against France.

### Quote of the Day

"This was a perfect race for me – hard conditions fit me well."

- Mika Myllylae of Finland, winner of the men's 30km classical



Exhausted gold medalist Mika Myllylae (Finland) at the end of the men's cross-country skiing 30km classical race



Biathlete Ekaterina Dafovska (right) outsprinted her rivals in the women's 15km event to capture Bulgaria's first ever Olympic Winter Games gold medal.



Japan's Hiroyasu Shimizu led after the first race of the men's 500m in speed skating.

## NAGANO 1998







Georg Hackl of Germany on his way to winning his third consecutive Olympic gold medal in men's luge



Workers prepare the course at the alpine venue in Hakuba. Inclement weather hampered the scheduling of events throughout the Games.

# Day Four

## Tuesday, February 10

### Schedule

Alpine Skiing Men's Combined Slalom; Cross-Country Skiing Ladies' 5km Classical; Snowboard Ladies' Giant Slalom; Speed Skating Men's 500m (2nd Race); Figure Skating Pairs' Free Programme; Ice Hockey Men (Belarus vs. Japan, Italy vs. Austria, Kazakhstan vs. Slovakia, France vs. Germany); Luge Women's Singles; Curling Men's & Women's Preliminary Round

### The Small Giant is Crowned

For the first time, winners of speed skating's 500m event were determined by a two-race aggregate time over two days. After setting a blistering pace yesterday, the diminutive Hiroyasu Shimizu held off strong challenges from Canadians Jeremy Wotherspoon and Kevin Overland in cutting his Olympic record to 35.59 seconds to claim Japan's first gold medal of these Games and first ever in Olympic speed skating.

Larissa Lazutina (centre) waves to the crowd after winning the ladies' 5km classical in cross-country skiing. She would go on to collect a total of five medals at these Games, including three gold.



With no relief from the heavy snow in sight at Happo'one in Hakuba, organizers postponed the ladies' super-g. Ticket holders were allowed instead to watch the slalom portion of the men's combined event held lower down the mountain, where Mario Reiter of Austria recorded the day's best times ahead of Lasse Kjus of Norway and Andrzej Bachleda of Poland. At Snow Harp, Larissa Lazutina of Russia became the first double medallist of the Games, winning gold in the ladies' 5km classical cross-country race to add to her silver from two days earlier. Coming in second was the Czech Republic's Katerina Neumannova, who won her country's first Olympic Winter Games medal since the separation from Slovakia.

In ladies' snowboard action, France's Karine Ruby was more than two seconds ahead of her rivals over two runs of the giant slalom course at Mt. Yakebitai. Celebrating with her on the medal podium were Heidi Renoth of Germany and Austria's Brigitte Koeck.

At White Ring, the first figure skating medals were awarded to the winners of the pairs event. By taking gold, Artur Dmitriev of Russia became the first male skater ever to win the Olympic pairs competition with two different partners – with Oksana Kazakova in Nagano, and with Natalia Mishkutenok six years earlier at the Albertville Games.

Preliminary round play continued in ice hockey and curling. The Japanese men's ice hockey team fought Belarus to a 2-2 draw at Big Hat, while the men's curling team defeated 1997 world champion Sweden 6-5 in extra ends.

## Around Town

The colourful “Olympic Plaza” set up on the east side of Nagano Station became a hub of activity, with crowds of people visiting the sponsor tents, Volunteer House, and vendor stalls. At Olympic Plaza people had their picture taken at commemorative photo booths, tested their skills in ski jumping and bobsleigh simulators, or bought pins and other Olympic merchandise.

Nagano Station was a mob scene after the arrival of the Canadian men’s ice hockey team, including “The Great One” Wayne Gretzky. Thousands of fans turned out to catch a glimpse of the NHL stars.

Their Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince and Princess of Japan viewed a unique art exhibition at the Kaii Higashiyama Museum in Nagano City. As well, the artist Jordi Aluà of Barcelona was featured in the Nagano Olympic Festival of Culture and Art.

IOC Vice President Anita DeFrantz gave a keynote address on the theme of “Love and

Peace” in Karuizawa to the participants of the Nagano Games International Youth Camp.

A special “Fashion for the Earth” show of clothing made from natural plant fibres was staged at Central Square.

## Quote of the Day

“I didn’t try to escape the pressure, but rather, used it to feed my own energy. I want to tell my father in heaven that my dream of becoming Olympic champion has come true.”

- Japan’s Hiroyasu Shimizu



**Karine Ruby of France claimed snowboarding gold in the ladies’ giant slalom.**



The "Small Giant", speed skater Hirooyasu Shimizu (Japan) celebrates his win in the men's 500m.

Jubilant teammates share Shimizu's joy



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NAGANO 1998





Artur Dmitriev and Oksana Kazakova (Russia) put on a dazzling show to take pairs gold in figure skating.



Crowds pack the NAOC official shop at Olympic Plaza

# Day Five

## Wednesday, February 11

**Schedule** \* \* \* \* \*  
Alpine Skiing Ladies' Super-G; Ski Jumping Normal Hill; Freestyle Skiing Men's & Ladies' Mogul Finals; Speed Skating Ladies' 3,000m; Ice Hockey Women (Sweden vs. Canada, Japan vs. China, USA vs. Finland); Luge Women's Singles; Biathlon Men's 20km; Individual Curling Men's and Women's Preliminary Round

### Euphoric Spectators

After enduring two days of delays caused by snowy weather, the programme for ladies' alpine skiing finally got underway with the super-g competition as blue skies prevailed over northern Nagano Prefecture. Basking in the brilliant sunshine and in the cheers of over 15,000 spectators at Happo'one was America's Picabo Street, downhill silver medallist at the Lillehammer Games. By edging Michaela Dorfmeister of Austria by just 1/100th of a second for the gold medal, Street proved that she was back in form after two seasons plagued by injury.

"Three, two, one, NAGANO!" was the countdown given to the finalists in the men's and ladies' mogul competition by the boisterous crowd at Iizuna Kogen. Japanese fans had

particular cause to celebrate, as Tae Satoya surprised everyone including herself with a flawless run to become the first Japanese woman ever to capture Winter Olympic gold. In the men's competition, Jonny Moseley of the USA justified his season number one ranking by taking top spot ahead of Finnish cousins Janne Lahtela and Sami Mustonen.

It was a good day for Finland as well at the Hakuba Ski Jumping Stadium. In the normal hill competition, Jani Soininen disappointed the home crowd of 33,000 by snatching first place from Japan's Kazuyoshi Funaki on his final jump. Andreas Widhoelzl of Austria finished third.

At M-Wave, six-time world champion Gunda Niemann-Stirnemann of Germany edged compatriot and world record holder Claudia

Freestyle skier Jonny Moseley (USA) whoops it up after his gold medal run in the men's moguls competition.





Tae Satoya performs a "Twister-Spread" manoeuvre on her way to becoming the first Japanese woman ever to win gold at the Olympic Winter Games.



Tae Satoya – on top of the world after winning gold in the ladies' freestyle skiing moguls event

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Pechstein in the ladies' 3,000m. Niemann-Stirnemann was also the winner of this event at the Albertville Games.

After finishing in 46<sup>th</sup> place four years ago in front of his home crowd in Lillehammer, Halvard Hanevold made amends in Nozawa Onsen by winning the men's 20km biathlon. He was cheered all the way by spectators and children blowing on traditional bamboo "Nozawa horns."

At Spiral, Germany's Silke Kraushaar came from behind to edge teammate Barbara Niedenhuber by 2/1000ths of a second to claim gold in the women's single luge.

In developments off the course, Ross Rebagliati of Canada, who only three days previously was crowned snowboarding's first ever Olympic champion, was stripped of his medal by the IOC after drug testing revealed traces of marijuana in his system. The Canadian Olympic Association filed a protest, claiming that marijuana present in Rebagliati's urine sample was due to second-hand marijuana smoke. The case was referred to the Court of Arbitration for Sport for independent arbitration.

Traffic woes loomed on the roads between Nagano and Hakuba. Changes to ticketing policy allowed spectators holding tickets for postponed events to attend alternate events, and approximately 4,500 more people than expected tried to board shuttle buses for Hakuba.

## Around Town

Five thousand revellers jammed into Central Square a full two hours before the start of the evening's Victory Ceremony, and thousands more packed the streets of downtown Nagano to celebrate with freestyle skier Tae Satoya, ski jumper Kazuyoshi Funaki, and the day's other medal winners.

A fund-raising charity walk to benefit the Nagano Olympic Peace Appeal was held in the Odaiba waterfront area of Tokyo. Among the 1,500 participants was special guest Chris Moon.

## Quote of the Day

"I had to wait until the last skier had finished her run to see if I had won the gold medal. After that, I don't remember anything because I was in such a daze."

- Moguls champion Tae Satoya of Japan

Fans take advantage of a welcome day of good weather in Hakuba to pack into the ski jumping stadium.







Ski jumping normal hill gold medallist  
Jani Soininen of Finland in flight



Picabo Street (USA) and friends celebrate her victory in the ladies' alpine skiing super-g.

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## NAGANO 1998



Gunda Niemann-Stirnemann (Germany) powers her way to an Olympic record in the ladies' 3,000m event in speed skating.

Biathlon men's 20km gold medalist Halvard Hanevold (Norway)



Germany's Silke Kraushaar on her way to Nagano gold in women's luge

# Day Six

## Thursday, February 12

**Schedule** \* \* \* \* \*  
Cross-Country Skiing Men's 10km Classical, Ladies' 10km Free Pursuit; Snowboard Men's & Ladies' Halfpipe; Speed Skating Men's 1,500m; Figure Skating Men's Short Programme; Ice Hockey Men (Austria vs. Japan, Italy vs. France, Slovakia vs. Germany), Women (China vs. Sweden, USA vs. Japan, Finland vs. Canada); Curling Mens' and Women's Preliminary Round

### Snowboard Competition Draws to a Close

More than 1,000 people started work before dawn to prepare the 3,300m long course on Happo'one, all to no avail as unfavourable weather forced the delay yet again of the men's downhill and men's combined downhill.

At Snow Harp, Norwegian cross-country skier Bjørn Dæhlie made up for his poor showing in the opening 30km event by crossing the line first in the 10km classical, winning the sixth Olympic gold medal of his illustrious career. Finishing in last place some twenty minutes behind Dæhlie was an exhausted but jubilant Phillip Boit, the first athlete ever to represent Kenya at the Winter Games. In the ladies' 10km free pursuit, Russia's Larissa Lazutina won her second event of these Games.

The inaugural snowboarding competition drew to a close with the final of the halfpipe event in Shiga Kogen, in which Gian Simmen of

Switzerland and Germany's Nicola Thost were crowned men's and ladies' champions. With four events and a little controversy to spice things up, snowboarding proved to be an extremely popular addition to the Olympic sports programme.

Skating in the shadow of legendary compatriot Johann Olav Koss four years ago in Lillehammer, Norway's Aadne Sondral finally came into his own and stunned the heavily favoured Dutch squad by setting a new world record of 1 minute 47.87 seconds in the 1,500m event at the M-Wave speed skating oval. Reigning world champion Ids Postma and former world record holder Rintje Ritsma, both of the Netherlands, finished second and third.

In men's ice hockey, Belarus and Kazakhstan finished atop their pools to join Canada, the Czech Republic, Finland, Russia, Sweden, and the USA in the final round. Preliminary round action drew to a close as an

Bjørn Dæhlie of Norway grimaces in triumph at the end of the men's cross-country 10km classical.



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elated Japan team beat Austria in a penalty shootout for its first Olympic ice hockey victory since the 1976 Winter Games in Innsbruck.

On the judges' scorecards after the short programme of the men's figure skating competition at White Ring, Russia's Ilia Kulik held a slim lead over Canada's Elvis Stojko and Todd Eldredge of the US.

A smiling Ross Rebagliati greeted the media at the MPC after the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) overturned the IOC's decision to strip him of his gold medal for traces of marijuana found in his drug test. CAS ruled that the IOC medical code does not specify sanctions on marijuana usage unless specifically requested to by individual sports federations, and no such agreement with the International Ski Federation (FIS) existed. An IOC statement confirmed that it would abide by the CAS ruling.

## Around Town

Approximately 80 volunteers assisted with guiding the thousands of visitors at venerable Zenkoji Temple. The thoroughfares leading up to the temple were packed every day with exhilarated crowds soaking up the traditional and festive atmosphere.

During the Games, a number of NOCs opened hospitality houses at local restaurants, hotels, temples and traditional houses to give their visitors a taste of old Japan.

The 840 students of Sanbonyanagi Elementary School welcomed twelve athletes and officials from Bosnia and Herzegovina, their partner country under the "One School, One Country" programme. The children had been busy making letters and videos for exchange with an elementary school in Sarajevo, and the athletes were presented with ten soccer balls bought with money the students had raised for the children of their sister Olympic city.



Cross-country skier Larissa Lazutina (Russia) celebrates her second gold medal of the Games in the ladies' 10km free pursuit.

## Quote of the Day

"It was a very hard race for me today, but the conditions were the same for everyone. Of course I am very happy."

- Russia's Larissa Lazutina after winning her second gold medal of the Games



Gian Simmen of Switzerland catches some big air in winning the inaugural men's snowboard halfpipe competition.



Germany's Nicola Thost (centre) is all smiles after being crowned Olympic champion in the ladies' halfpipe event.

## NAGANO 1998



Norway's Aadne Sundral is a picture of determination as he skates to a new world record in the men's 1,500m.

# Day Seven

## Friday, February 13

**Schedule** \* \* \* \* \*  
Alpine Skiing Men's Downhill, Men's Combined Downhill; Nordic Combined Individual Event (Ski Jump); Speed Skating Ladies' 500m (1st Race); Figure Skating Ice Dance Compulsory Dance; Ice Hockey Men (USA vs. Sweden, Canada vs. Belarus, Finland vs. Czech Republic, Kazakhstan vs. Russia); Luge Doubles; Curling Men's and Women's Preliminary Round / Men's Tiebreak

### Downhill Drama

After days of postponement, the men's downhill finally got underway under sunny skies in Hakuba. The course at Happo'one proved daunting and only 28 of the scheduled starters managed to ski their way successfully to the bottom. Leading the pack was Jean-Luc Crétier, who became France's first Olympic downhill champion since the legendary Jean-Claude Killy 30 years ago. Finishing in silver and bronze medal positions were Lasse Kjus of Norway and Austrian Hannes Trinkl.

Mario Reiter of Austria finished only sixth in the downhill portion of the combined event, but it was good enough for him to win gold with a combined time of 3 minutes 8.06 seconds. Lasse Kjus picked up his second silver medal of the day, and Austria's Christian Mayer finished in third.

In speed skating action, Catriona Lema-Duan of Canada posted a new Olympic mark of

38.39 seconds in the women's 500m. Going into the next day's final race she led by a slim margin over teammate Susan Auch and Tomomi Okazaki of Japan, who set a new Japanese record.

In the luge doubles event, Stefan Krausse and Jan Behrendt of Germany took top spot ahead of two American teams and won Nagano gold to complement their gold medal from the Albertville Games. Germany took all three luge titles at the Nagano Games, while for the Americans, silver and bronze were the first Olympic luge medals ever for their country.

The much-anticipated arrival of star players from the NHL signalled the start of final round play in the men's ice hockey tournament. In a slight upset, Sweden downed the USA, while Canada, the Czech Republic, and Russia cruised to victories in their games against Belarus, Finland, and Kazakhstan.

The German duo of Stefan Krausse and Jan Behrendt speed their way down the track to claim luge double's gold.







## Around Town

At the practice rink next to the main curling arena, many visitors enjoyed trying their hand at curling and found it more challenging than they had anticipated.

As part of the Cultural Programme, an international snow-sculpting contest was held in the city of Iiyama north of Nagano. Beginning with Calgary, this was the fourth snow-sculpting contest held at the Games, and the enthusiastic participation of international teams and local volunteers created an atmosphere of fun and goodwill.

## Quote of the Day

“Many skiers fell at the eighth gate, which had been moved two metres since official practice. I was fortunate to find a good line through that section.”

- Downhill champion Jean-Luc Crétier commenting on why many of his rivals failed to finish the race

All in a day's work — Lasse Kjus (Norway) won two silver medals on the same day, in the men's alpine downhill and combined event.



Austria's Mario Reiter won gold in the men's combined event.



Jean-Luc Crétier  
(France) flying to downhill  
gold

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NAGANO 1998





Bjarte Engen Vik (Norway) soars to an early lead in the ski jumping portion of the nordic combined individual event.



Spectators give curling a try in Karuizawa.

# Day Eight

## Saturday, February 14

**Schedule** \* \* \* \* \*  
Cross-Country Skiing Men's 15km Free Pursuit; Nordic Combined Individual Event (Cross-Country); Speed Skating Ladies' 500m (2nd Race); Figure Skating Men's Free Skate; Ice Hockey Men (Belarus vs. USA, Sweden vs. Canada), Women (Japan vs. Sweden, Finland vs. China, Canada vs. USA); Bobsleigh Two-Man (1st Day); Curling Men's Tiebreak, Men's & Women's Semi-finals

### Sprint Queen Wins Gold

500m world record holder Catriona Lemay-Doan of Canada picked up where she left off the previous day by racing around the M-Wave speed skating oval in a blistering Olympic record of 38.21 seconds for a two-race aggregate time of 1:16.60 to win gold. Compatriot Susan Auch picked up silver, as she did in Lillehammer four years ago, and home favourite Tomomi Okazaki claimed Japan's first bronze at this distance.

At Snow Harp, conditions were appalling but this did not deter 20,000 fans from coming out to cheer on the athletes in the cross-country skiing portion of the individual nordic combined event. Building on his lead from the ski jumping round, Bjarte Engen Vik of Norway finished strongly ahead of Finland's Sampaa Lajunen and Russia's Valerji Stoljarov.

"We fight to be the best skier on our street," joked Norway's Thomas Alsgaard after coming from behind and nipping neighbour and ski legend Bjørn Dæhlie at the wire by just over a

second in the men's cross-country 15km free pursuit earlier in the day. Dæhlie still managed to pick up his second medal of these Games and the tenth of his remarkable career, with more events still to come.

Ilya Kulik of Russia put on a dazzling performance to George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" to take gold in men's figure skating. Despite skating with a torn groin muscle, three-time world champion Elvis Stojko of Canada managed to hang on for silver, ahead of crowd-pleasing Philippe Candeloro of France and his interpretation of "D'Artagnan".

In curling, identical won-lost records forced a tiebreak between Japan and the United States to determine which team would advance to the medal round. With the score even going into the final end, American skip Tim Somerville played a perfect last rock to defeat a valiant Japanese squad. For Japan, which had never before qualified a team for the world championships, three wins and fifth place overall at the Nagano

Norway's Thomas Alsgaard (centre) smiles at the flower ceremony after winning the men's cross-country 15km free pursuit.





Bjarte Engen Vik of Norway extended his lead through the cross-country portion on the nordic combined to capture gold.

Games was an impressive achievement.

### **Around Town**

A nightly charity auction was held at Central Square to benefit the Nagano Olympic Peace Appeal. Items on sale each night included one unique Nagano Games commemorative T-shirt signed by the gold medal winners up to the previous day, and other sports memorabilia.

### **Quote of the Day**

“It’s about 200m between our houses, and (Dæhlie) sends his kids down to my house throwing stones.”

- Norway’s Thomas Alsgaard speaking about close friend and ski rival Bjørn Dæhlie

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Tomomi Okazaki's bronze medal was Japan's first ever medal in ladies' sprint speed skating.

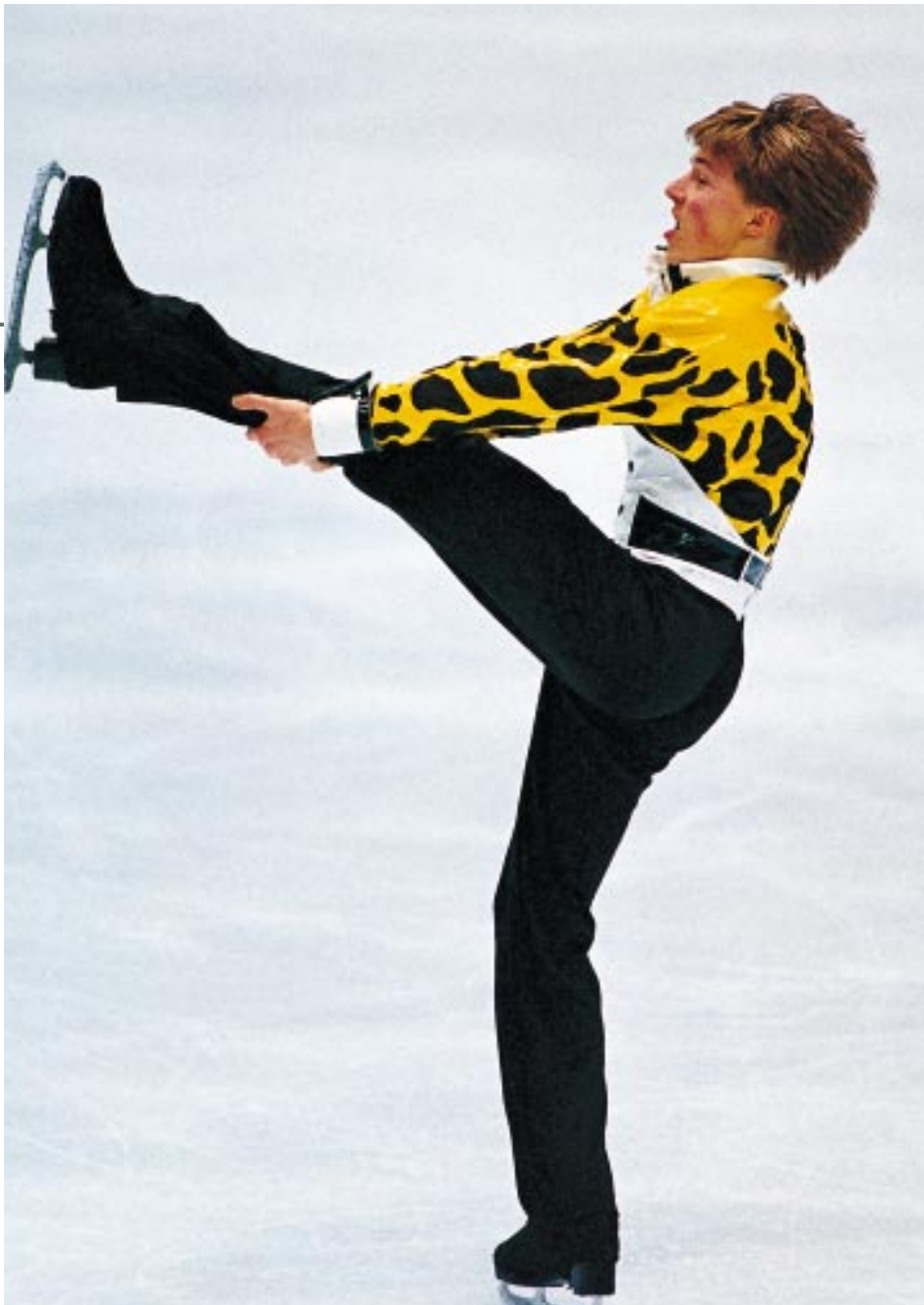


Canada's speed skating queen Catriona Lemay-Doan broke her Olympic record in the second race of the 500m and was crowned Olympic champion.

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## NAGANO 1998





Ilia Kulik (Russia) charmed the audience with his gold medal free skate.



The Japanese men's curling team lost a heartbreaking tiebreak to the squad from the US to finish fifth.

## Day Nine Sunday, February 15

### Schedule

Ski Jumping Large Hill; Biathlon Women's 7.5km Sprint; Speed Skating Men's 1,000m; Bobsleigh Two-Man (2nd Day); Ice Hockey Men (Russia vs. Finland, Czech Republic vs. Kazakhstan); Figure Skating Ice Dance Original Dance; Curling Women's Final (Denmark vs. Canada), 3 - 4 (Sweden vs. Great Britain), Men's Final (Canada vs. Switzerland), 3 - 4 (USA vs. Norway)

### "The roar of the crowd changed the wind for me"

Wild celebration broke out in the capacity crowd of 35,000 as Japan's Kazuyoshi Funaki came from behind on his final jump, earning perfect scores for technique from all five judges and gold in the large hill event in ski jumping. Also giving the crowd cause to cheer was veteran teammate Masahiko Harada, who soared to a hill record of 136m on his final jump to take third

place. Sandwiched between them was normal hill gold medallist Jani Soininen of Finland.

At the very same M-Wave arena in which he was crowned overall world champion exactly one year ago, Ids Postma of the Netherlands was back, this time to lay claim to the gold medal in the men's 1,000m. He finished ahead of countryman Jan Bos, and 500m champion Hiroyasu Shimizu of Japan.

Medals were awarded at the inaugural Olympic curling competition, with Sandra Schmirler's Canadian rink winning handily 7-5 against Helena Blach Lavrsen's Danish squad in the women's gold medal game. The silver claimed by Denmark's was its first ever medal at the Winter Games. In the bronze medal match, Sweden defeated Great Britain 10-6. In men's competition, Swiss skip Patrick Huerlimann's side surprised Mike Harris and the Canadians 9-3 to take gold. Norway took home bronze with a 9-4 win over the USA. With this, the curling programme was completed, and a ceremony was held to mark the close of competition.

In other action, Russian Galina Koukleva crossed the line just 7/10ths of a second ahead of Germany's Ursula Disl in the 7.5km sprint event in women's biathlon. Out in Izuna Kogen, there was a rare occurrence when the gold medal was shared in the two-man bobsleigh event, as four runs over the twisting track at Spiral failed to separate Canada and Italy, who recorded identical aggregate times of 3 minutes 37.24 seconds.

Russian Galina Koukleva on her way to gold in the women's 7.5km biathlon sprint







Skip Sandra Schmirler's Canadian rink called all the right shots to win the first ever Olympic gold medal for women's curling.

The Swiss team receives congratulations from the Canadians after their victory.

## Around Town

To ensure the safety of spectators and participants, over 6,000 police officers from around Nagano and neighbouring prefectures patrolled the streets and worked to secure manholes, rooftops, coin lockers, and other areas of potential danger. Courteous and always smiling, they also assisted visitors with directions and tracking down lost items.

Approximately 1,200 people paraded through the streets of Nagano carrying five portable festival shrines. Their joyous chants helped impart a festive mood to the celebrations.

The IOC issued special "Thank You" pins in appreciation of all the operations staff, volunteers, police, and other supporters of the Games. President Samaranch presented 22

representatives with these pins during a special ceremony.

At the Nagano Prefecture Cultural Hall, a spectacular performance of *noh* drama showcased one of the traditional arts of Japan.

## Quote of the Day

"The roar of the spectators changed the wind for me."

- Ski jumper Kazuyoshi Funaki of Japan



Japanese ski jumper Kazuyoshi Funaki soars to victory in the large hill event.



The crowd in Hakuba celebrates with Funaki.

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## NAGANO 1998



Ids Postma (Netherlands) skated to a new Olympic record in the men's 1,000m.



The two-man teams from Canada and Italy share the win in bobsleigh competition.

# Day Ten

## Monday, February 16

**Schedule** \* \* \* \* \*  
Alpine Skiing Men's Super-G, Ladies' Downhill, Ladies' Combined Downhill; Cross-Country Skiing Ladies' 4 x 5km Relay; Freestyle Skiing Men's & Ladies' Aerial Preliminaries; Speed Skating Ladies' 1,500m; Figure Skating Ice Dance Free Dance; Ice Hockey Men (Canada vs. USA, Czech Republic vs. Russia, Finland vs. Kazakhstan, Sweden vs. Belarus, )

### 3 Alpine Ski Events in Hakuba

Weather conditions in Hakuba cleared to allow three events to be held. In the men's super-g, Hermann Maier of Austria stormed back from his spectacular downhill fall three days earlier to claim gold, beating his nearest rivals by over 6/10ths of a second. Along with ten wins on the World Cup circuit this season he solidified his position as the dominant alpine skier in the world. Didier Cuche of Switzerland and Austrian Hans Knauss skied identical times to share silver. In the ladies' downhill, Germany's Katja Seizinger took top spot in this event for the

second straight Olympics. Later in the day, she also skied the fastest run in the combined downhill to take the lead going into the slalom portion. Second both times behind Seizinger was Sweden's Pernilla Wiberg.

Larissa Lazutina claimed her third gold medal of these Games by anchoring the Russian team to victory in the 4 x 5km cross-country relay. Silver went to the Norwegian foursome, and bronze to Italy.

The overwhelming success enjoyed by the male Dutch speed skaters spread to their female counterparts, as Marianne Timmer smashed the world and Olympic record in the 1,500m with a time of 1 minute 57.58 seconds. In skating a personal best by almost three seconds, she relegated pre-race favourite and 3,000m champion Gunda Niemann-Stirnemann to second place. American Christine Witty took bronze.

At White Ring, Russia's ice dancing duo of Pasha Grishuk and Evgeny Platov won an unprecedented second consecutive gold medal with their superlative performance entitled "Memorial". Silver went to another Russian pair, Anjelika Krylova and Oleg Ovsyannikov, and bronze to France's Marina Anissina and Gwendal Peizerat.

In a match up between teams stacked with NHL stars on the last day of ice hockey competition before the playoffs, Team Canada beat Team USA 4-1.



Austrian Hermann Maier (left) is congratulated by a teammate after winning gold in the men's super-g.



## Around Town

People eager to share in the excitement of the Games continued to pour into Nagano. With local hotels already at full capacity, a number of people could be seen dozing in their cars or in all-night coffee shops and restaurants. With the overwhelming enthusiasm for the Games, some venues set up zones where spectators could observe a part of the competitions for free.

For overseas visitors and store clerks, a telephone language support service operated by 40 volunteers was set up at stores around town.

At the final Olympic Winter Games of the century, a forum on the Olympic Movement in the new era was held in Nagano City. A keynote address by President Samaranch dovetailed neatly with a panel discussion with experts in various fields to discuss ideas for moving the Olympic Movement forward into the next century.

## Quote of the Day

“Cuche and myself, we are the fastest skiers on this planet. (Hermann Maier) is from out of this world.”

- Men's super-g co-silver medallist Hans Knauss in post-race comments

**Katja Seizinger (Germany) on her way to a second consecutive alpine downhill gold medal**



The Russian relay team celebrates victory in the ladies' 4 x 5km relay event. Russian women dominated the cross-country competition, winning all five events in Nagano.

"Take that!" – Action in front of the goal during the Canada vs. USA men's ice hockey game



Athletes were smiling after the snow stopped long enough to ski in Hakuba.



## NAGANO 1998



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**Marianne Timmer (Netherlands) surprised everyone by shattering the 1,500m world record in ladies' speed skating.**



**Seeing double: Pasha Grishuk and Evgeny Platov win Nagano gold to match their Lillehammer triumph.**

# Day Eleven

## Tuesday, February 17

**Schedule** \* \* \* \* \*  
Alpine Skiing Ladies' Combined Slalom; Ski Jumping Team Event; Speed Skating Men's 10,000m; Short Track Speed Skating Men's 1,000m, Ladies' 3,000m Relay; Ice Hockey Women 3 - 4 (Finland vs. China), Final (USA vs. Canada)

### Jump for Joy

Japan's Takanobu Okabe, Hiroya Saito, Masahiko Harada, and Kazuyoshi Funaki electrified the country with their win in the team ski jumping competition. After placing only fourth in the first round, Japan's jumpers came up big in the second round to finally claim that elusive team gold and erase the nightmare of their silver-medal finish in Lillehammer four years ago. Finishing behind Japan were Germany and Austria.

Germany swept the medal podium in the alpine ladies' combined event. Katja Seizinger won a second gold to go with the one she claimed in the downhill, while teammates Martina Ertl and Hilde Gerg took second and third spots.

In what had now become a familiar scene at M-Wave, Dutch speed skaters took top honours and smashed another world record, this time in

the men's 10,000m. Gianni Romme led his countrymen in a sweep of the medals and destroyed the world record by more than 15 seconds, clocking 13 minutes 15.33 seconds. Finishing in second was Bob De Jong, and in third, Rintje Ritsma. Dutch men won three of the five events in men's speed skating.

Some 7,000 fans turned out at White Ring to watch the short track speed skating action, and cheered as Korea's Dong-Sung Kim took gold in the men's 1,000m final. Silver went to Jia-Jun Li of China, and bronze to Canada's Eric Bedard. In the ladies' 3,000m relay, it was the Korean team which set the pace, speeding around the track in world record time ahead of their Chinese and Canadian rivals to capture their second consecutive Olympic gold medal in this event. The spirited crowd overheated the arena, causing problems for the ice-makers struggling to keep the ice in top condition.

In the women's ice hockey final, Team USA defeated arch-rival Canada in a thrilling game.







Katja Seizinger (centre) led a German sweep of the ladies' alpine skiing combined event.

The first Olympic gold medal ever for women's ice hockey went to the USA, who outscored arch-rival Canada 3-1 in a tensely fought game. Earlier, Finland defeated China 4-1 to take home the bronze.

### **Around Town**

A sea of people came out to pay tribute to the victory of the Japanese team in the team ski jump event at evening celebrations. Under falling snow, the largest crowd during the Games at Central Square roared its approval when the medallists took the podium.

Newly-elected IOC member HRH Crown Prince Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands paid a visit to Kawanakajima Elementary School, partner school for the Netherlands in the "One School, One Country" programme. The Crown Prince joined the students in singing the Dutch national anthem and other activities.

On the day of the International Youth Camp closing ceremony, participants adopted the Nagano Youth Camp Declaration on the Global Community.

### **Quote of the Day**

"We eat normal. We skate normal. We are just skating very well."

- Gianni Romme of the Netherlands on the success of the Dutch skaters



Ski jumping ace Kazuyoshi Funaki celebrates after his monster jump in the second round wins gold for Japan in the team event.

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## NAGANO 1998



Veteran team member Masahiko Harada's tears of joy wash away the memory of Lillehammer.

A sea of people overflowed onto the street in front of Central Square to celebrate the home victory in ski jumping.



The Japanese ski jump team (from left to right): Takanobu Okabe, Hiroya Saito, Masahiko Harada, Kazuyoshi Funaki





Gianni Romme of the Netherlands powered his way to two speed skating world records in the men's 5,000m and 10,000m events.

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## NAGANO 1998



The team from Korea celebrates their victory and world record in the ladies' 3,000m in short track speed skating.



Short track speed skater Dong-Sung Kim carries the Korean flag after winning the men's 1,000m race.

# Day Twelve

## Wednesday, February 18

**Schedule** \* \* \* \* \*  
Cross-Country Skiing Men's 4 x 10km Relay; Biathlon Men's 10km; Freestyle Skiing Men's & Ladies' Aerial Finals; Figure Skating Ladies' Short Programme; Ice Hockey Men Quarterfinals (Czech Republic vs. USA, Canada vs. Kazakhstan, Russia vs. Belarus, Sweden vs. Finland)

### Ski Tip Separates Gold from Silver

After racing for 40km over what many considered the toughest cross-country course in the world, Norway beat Italy by a ski tip in the men's 4 x 10km relay. Racing side by side over the last 10km, anchor Thomas Alsgaard outlunged Silvio Fauner at the line to avenge Norway's final sprint loss to the Italians at the Lillehammer Games. Skiing the third leg for the victorious Norwegians and claiming his third medal of these Games was the incomparable Bjørn Dæhlie.

Norway also had reason to celebrate in the men's 10km biathlon, as Ole Einar Bjørndalen and teammate Frode Andresen finished 1-2 atop the medal podium. Taking third was Finland's Ville Raikkonen.

In freestyle skiing, the USA took both gold medals in aerials, with Eric Bergoust setting a new world record points total of 255.64 in the men's division, and Nikki Stone topping the women's field. For Stone it was sweet redemption after suffering a serious back injury eighteen months previously. Finishing in second place was Nannan Xu of China, claiming her country's first ever Olympic medal in skiing.

In ice hockey quarterfinal action, the Czech Republic skated to a 4 - 1 victory over the US, and Canada defeated Kazakhstan by the same score. Russia rolled over Belarus 4 - 1, while Finland ousted arch-rival and defending Olympic champion Sweden 2 - 1.

In a thrilling finish, Thomas Alsgaard's (right) final lunge gives victory in the men's cross-country 4 x 10km relay to the Norwegians, ahead of Silvio Fauner and the Italians.



At White Ring, competition got underway in the eagerly-anticipated ladies' figure skating event, and by the end of the evening's short programme, Michelle Kwan of the United States was leading ahead of Tara Lipinski, also of the US, and European champion Maria Butyrskaya of Russia.

### Around Town

"A taste of Japan". Traditional Japanese home-style foods such as *soba* and *udon* noodles, as well as *oyaki* buns proved to be a popular choice on the Olympic Village menu. Oyaki buns were also a hit with international visitors at venue and roadside stands due to their healthy vegetarian ingredients and easy-to-eat size.

A group of junior ambassadors sent by the Salt Lake Organizing Committee were on hand at the freestyle skiing venue in Iizuna Kogen, and were thrilled to see American skiers claim gold in both men's and ladies' aerial events.

With the outdoor venues at the mercy of the weather, local citizens and supporters were disappointed by the postponement of the men's giant slalom in Shiga Kogen, not least because they had prepared some 2,000 servings of hot soup to welcome visitors.

### Quote of the Day

"It feels so amazing. I had doctors telling me a couple of years ago I would never even jump again, and coming out here and winning a gold medal, I proved you all wrong."

- A tearful Nikki Stone, ladies' freestyle aerials champion

"Yesterday I attended the Victory Ceremony at Central Square where medals were presented to the Japanese ski jumping team. I was very impressed. There was an enthusiastic crowd of thousands and thousands surrounding the plaza. But order was well maintained. I will not forget the ceremony for many years. Congratulations



Oyaki, a popular and nutritious snack, are baked over an open hearth (Olympic Village).

to Japan on the medal, and congratulations to NAOC on the fine organization."

- IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch at the Daily Coordination Commission meeting



Men's aerials gold medallist Eric Bergoust (USA) shows his stuff.

Nikki Stone (centre) won gold for the USA in ladies' aerials.



NAGANO 1998





USA vs. Czech Republic  
men's ice hockey action



Norway's Ole Einar  
Bjørndalen (centre)  
celebrates his win in the  
men's biathlon 10km race  
along with teammate  
Frode Andresen. Joining  
them on the podium is  
bronze medalist Ville  
Raikkonen of Finland.

# Day Thirteen

## Thursday, February 19

**Schedule** \* \* \* \* \*  
Nordic Combined Team Event (Ski Jump); Alpine Skiing Men's Giant Slalom, Ladies' Slalom; Biathlon Women's 4 x 7.5km Relay; Speed Skating Ladies' 1,000m; Short Track Speed Skating Ladies' 500m, Men's 500m Preliminaries, Men's 5,000m Relay Semi-Finals

### Maier Strikes Gold Again

Hermann Maier left his rivals shaking their heads in disbelief after winning the giant slalom in convincing fashion ahead of teammate Stefan Eberharter and Swiss Michael Von Gruenigen, giving the former bricklayer from Austria his second gold medal of these Games. In the ladies' slalom, Hilde Gerg of Germany continued her team's dominance of the alpine ski events by posting the best second run of all the competitors to upstage Italy's Deborah Compagnoni by just 6/100ths of a second and ruin her hopes of a third consecutive gold medal in the event. Zali Steggall took third spot for Australia's first ever skiing medal at the Winter Games.

For the first time in Olympic nordic combined team competition, the event was contested by squads of four athletes rather than three. At the end of the first day ski jump portion, Finland held a slim lead over second-place Austria and the team from Norway in third.

At M-Wave, Marianne Timmer continued the Dutch dominance of the speed skating oval by winning her second gold medal of the Games in the ladies' 1,000m event in Olympic Games record time. Second-place finisher Christine Witty of the US and third-place Catriona Lemay-Doan of Canada also bettered the old mark.

In the women's 4 x 7.5km biathlon relay, Germany finished ahead of Russia and Norway by more than eleven seconds, while in short track speed skating, Canada's Annie Perreault won the ladies' 500m race ahead of China's Yang Yang and Lee-Kyung Chun of Korea.

Spectators at the alpine giant slalom in Shiga Kogen are welcomed by blue skies and a magnificent mountain range.





Hilde Gerg rejoices after winning the ladies' slalom event.

### Around Town

The Nagano Olympic Festival of Culture and Art introducing traditional Japanese performing arts was an unqualified success with visitors to Nagano. Featuring performances of dance, music, and the dramatic arts, the Festival shows were well attended by the Olympic Family and the general public.

An Olympic Pavilion set up in a department store in front of Nagano Station showcased state-of-the-art 3D High Vision broadcasts of the Opening Ceremony, ski jumping, and other competitions in a purpose-built theatre.

### Quote of the Day

“It was a total surprise. I have to look at the medals to believe it or ask someone to pinch my arm.”

- Dutch revelation Marianne Timmer, who was not considered a medal prospect before the Games

“I was thinking that maybe I could get a medal, but not necessarily gold. The whole German team is going so well now. The trainers are saying they can't believe it. None of us know why we are so good.”

- Hilde Gerg (Germany) after snatching gold from Italy's Deborah Compagnoni



**Marianne Timmer (Netherlands) proves her first gold was not a fluke by going on to win the ladies' 1,000m in speed skating.**



**Annie Perreault (Canada) is elated with her victory in the 1,000m in short track speed skating.**

**NAGANO 1998**



Hermann Maier of Austria won two gold medals at these Games.



The German team dominated the women's biathlon relay.

# Day Fourteen

## Friday, February 20

**Schedule** \* \* \* \* \*  
Alpine Skiing Ladies Giant Slalom; Cross-Country Skiing Ladies 30km Free; Nordic Combined Team Event (Cross-Country); Bobsleigh Four-Man (1st Day); Speed Skating Ladies' 5,000m; Figure Skating Ladies' Free Skate; Ice Hockey Men's Semi-Finals (Canada vs. Czech Republic, Finland vs. Russia)

### Youngest Ever

In the battle between figure skating teen queens, 15-year old Tara Lipinski edged out gold medal favourite Michelle Kwan to go into the history books as the youngest individual Olympic Winter Games' champion ever. Skating last, Lipinski rose to the challenge and put on an exuberant and technically dazzling performance to overcome Kwan's superior artistic marks. 1995 world champion Lu Chen of China finished third.

Gunda Niemann-Stirnemann became the first woman to break the 7-minute barrier for 5,000m in speed skating. Her effort, however, was only good enough for silver, as skating in the next group, teammate Claudia Pechstein edged her by 4/100ths of a second to set a new world best of six minutes 59.61 seconds. For Niemann-Stirnemann, it was the eighth Olympic medal of her remarkable career. In two weeks of speed skating competition at the spectacular M-Wave arena, five world and 10 Olympic records

were set.

In Shiga Kogen, Deborah Compagnoni of Italy defended her Olympic giant slalom crown by besting the field by nearly two seconds over two runs of the icy Mt. Higashidate course. Alexandra Meissnitzer of Austria took silver and Katja Seizinger took bronze for her third medal of these Games.

Norway set a blistering pace in the cross-country portion to overhaul Finland and capture gold in the nordic combined team event. Third place went to France, while two-time defending Olympic champion Japan finished fifth.

It was a Russian again on the top step of the medal podium at Snow Harp after the ladies' 30km free technique race, only this time it was newcomer Julija Tchepalova, while teammate Larissa Lazutina added bronze to her three golds and one silver. Lazutina finished as the most successful athlete at these Games. Russian women dominated the cross-country competition at the Nagano Games by winning all five events and

**Giant killer:**  
Deborah Compagnoni (Italy) on her way to gold in the ladies' giant slalom



taking eight of a possible 15 medals.

In a nail-biting thriller to determine which team would go on to the gold medal game, Czech Republic goalie Dominik Hasek shut down Team Canada in a penalty shootout in the ice hockey semi-finals. In late night action, Russia defeated Finland 7 – 4 to clinch their spot in the final.

### Around Town

In response to an overwhelming demand from the general public, flower ceremonies were held for Japanese medalists Hiroyasu Shimizu and Tomomi Okazaki at Central Square.

The cuddly Nagano Games' Snowlets mascots were so popular that stores quickly ran out of stock. Other items that proved especially popular included T-shirts and tea towels. With no plans to produce any more of these products, those lucky enough to have obtained them should treasure them as true collectors' items.

Actor Kevin Costner visited Nagano to lend his support to the Peace Appeal. Proceeds from a special screening of his film "The Postman" and auction went to support victims of anti-personnel landmines.

Approximately 900 local elementary school-children were on hand to cheer on the competitors in the ladies' giant slalom at Mt. Higashidate in Shiga Kogen. The efforts of the children had been instrumental in collecting the thousands of recyclable PET bottles used in construction of part of the course.



Speed skater Claudia Pechstein of Germany shows off her gold medal in the women's 5,000m.



The popular Snowlets mascots sold briskly in stores.

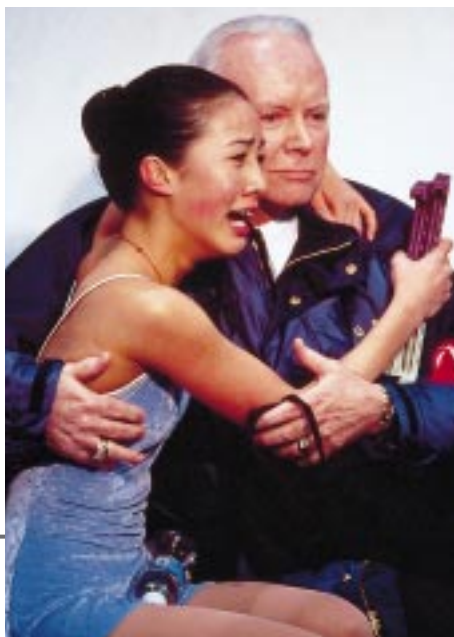
### Quote of the Day

"It's not the number of medals you win that's important. What counts is staying at the top. With today's race, I reckoned I had every chance of staying at the top."

- Claudia Pechstein (Germany) after retaining her Olympic crown in the 5,000m speed skating.



Figure skater Tara Lipinski (USA) became the youngest individual Olympic Winter Games' champion ever.



Michelle Kwan (USA) skated solidly and finished second.

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NAGANO 1998







Russia's Julija Tchepalova showed grit and determination in winning the ladies' 30km cross-country free technique race.

The Norwegian team came from behind to capture nordic combined team gold.

# Day Fifteen

## Saturday, February 21

**Schedule** \* \* \* \* \*  
Alpine Skiing Men's Slalom; Biathlon Men's 4 x 7.5km Relay; Bobsleigh Four-Man (2nd Day); Figure Skating Exhibition; Short Track Speed Skating Ladies' 1,000m, Men's 500m Finals, Men's 5,000m Relay Finals; Ice Hockey Men's 3 – 4 (Canada vs. Finland)

### German Biathletes Make it Three in a Row

Japanese athletes wrapped up their most successful Winter Games ever as Takafumi Nishitani skated to short track gold in the men's 500m while teammate Hitoshi Uematsu took bronze. Finishing in second was China's Yulong An. In the ladies' 1,000m it was gold and bronze for Korea's Lee-Kyung Chun and Hye-Kyung Won, while China's Yang Yang took silver. In the men's 5,000m relay, Canada set a new Olympic record ahead of teams from Korea and China.

In ice hockey, North America was shut out of the medals as Finland defeated pre-tournament favourites Canada 3 – 2 to claim bronze. The Finns also won bronze in Lillehammer four years ago.

In Shiga Kogen, neon-haired Hans-Petter Buraas of Norway skied a scintillating second run to win the men's slalom by almost one and a

half seconds over teammate Ole Christian Furuseth and Austria's Thomas Sykora. Italian legend Alberto Tomba pulled out after his first run, ending his bid to become the first skier to win alpine medals in four successive Games.

Germany had a big day and ended up atop the medal standings for the Nagano Games, as the German men took biathlon relay gold for the third successive Games, just ahead of Norway and Russia. Germany also took gold in the four-man bobsleigh, ahead of Switzerland. Bronze was shared by Great Britain, its first bobsleigh medal in 34 years, and France, which won its first medal ever in the sport.

Freed from the pressures of competition, athletes at the figure skating exhibition put on a graceful show which delighted the audience.

The German team celebrates after taking gold in the 4-man bobsleigh, as they did four years previously in Lillehammer.



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## Around Town

On the penultimate day of the Games, the streets of Nagano continued to revel in the festive Olympic mood. The road from Nagano Station to Zenkoji Temple was the scene of one big party.

Stricken with an incurable disease, a former official of the Sapporo municipal government asked from his sickbed that an Olympic flag made for the Sapporo Games be flown in Nagano. The flag, which was never used during the Sapporo Games, had been in his keeping for 26 years, and the request came from his family through NAOC's Internet site. As the flag differed somewhat from modern day specifications, NAOC requested and obtained special permission from the IOC to fly the flag at Central Square. With this gesture, the spirit of the Sapporo Games was reborn in Nagano.

Ryoko Moriyama, who sang the theme song at the Opening Ceremony, staged a benefit concert at the Nagano Prefecture Cultural Hall, with all proceeds going to the Peace Appeal. With the guest appearance of some of the "Snow Children" as well as several athletes, the ever-popular singer and the audience celebrated together the success of the Nagano Games and its clear message of peace.

## Quote of the Day

"Since Monday, everyone on our team has decided that anything edible is bad, so it will probably take a few days for us to get used to eating again."

- Crew member Marcus Jakobs after winning gold in the four-man bobsleigh, on his team's crash diet to meet weight restrictions.



A jubilant Hans-Petter Buraas of Norway celebrates his alpine slalom win in style.

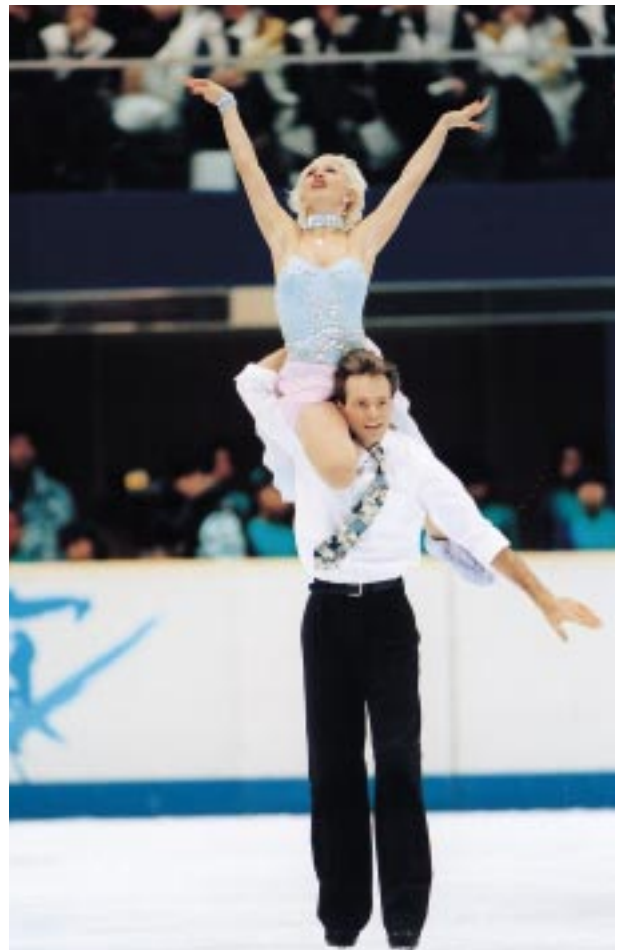
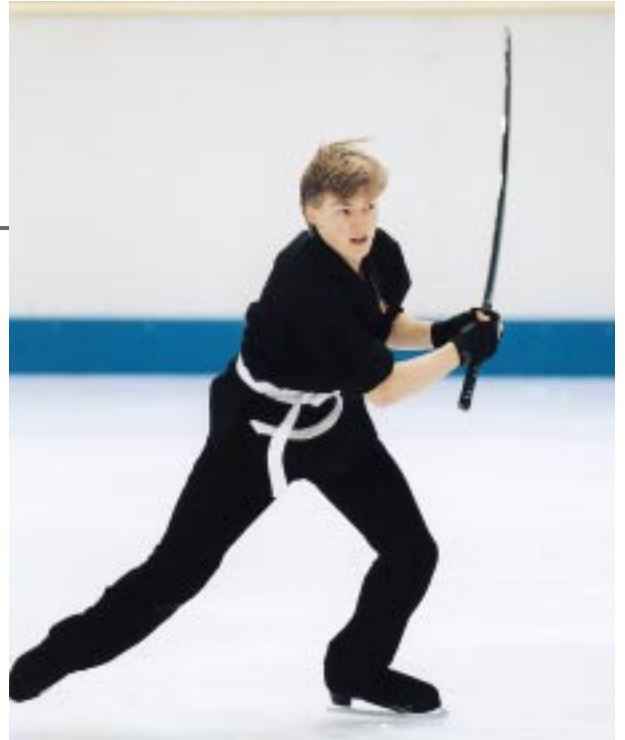
"I slept with the medal on my pillow and when I woke up, it was there, but I still can't believe it. There was a lot of pressure, but I think I handled it pretty well. As soon as I hit the ice, my only thoughts were about my programme."

- Ladies' figure skating champion Tara Lipinski of the USA



A member of the German team reloads during the men's biathlon relay. The German team went on to win gold.

Olympic champion Ilia Kulik (Russia) sliced up the competition in men's figure skating. Here, he performs during the Figure Skating Exhibition.



Russian pairs' champions Pasha Grishuk and Evgeny Platov demonstrate their style at the Figure Skating Exhibition.

## NAGANO 1998

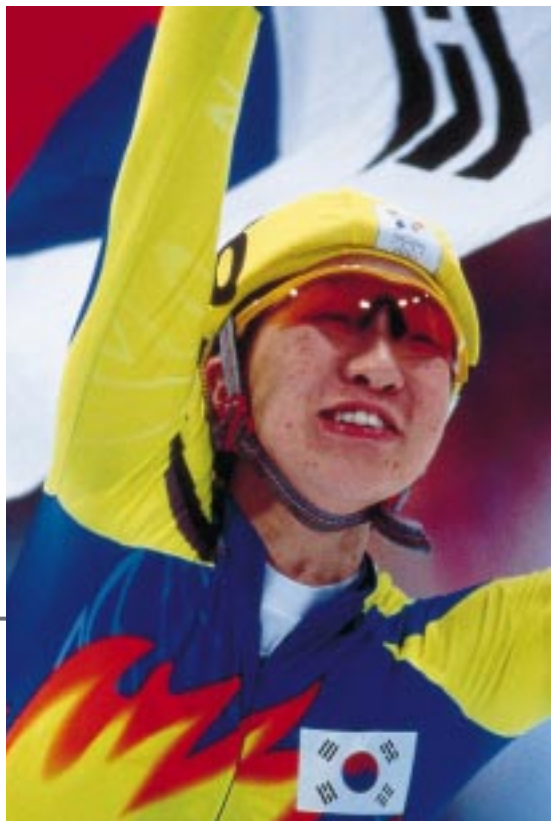
The Canadian men's squad whoop it up after setting a new Olympic record in the 5,000m relay in short track speed skating.



An Olympic flag from the Sapporo Games flies over Central Square.



Gold medalist Takafumi Nishitani of Japan (left) and bronze medalist Hitoshi Uematsu acknowledge the crowd after the men's short track 500m event.



Korea's Lee-Kyung Chun celebrates victory in the ladies' 1,000m race in short track speed skating.

# Day Sixteen

## Sunday, February 22

**Schedule:** \* \* \* \* \*  
Cross-Country Skiing Men's 50km Free; Ice Hockey Men's Finals (Russia vs. Czech Republic); Closing Ceremony

### The Incomparable Dæhlie

Fittingly, the final individual gold medal of the Nagano Games went to perhaps the greatest cross-country skier of all time, Bjørn Dæhlie of Norway. In taking gold in the 50km free, Dæhlie won his third gold and fourth medal of these Games, bringing his career Olympic medal total to 12 – eight golds and four silvers. Dæhlie became the most successful Winter Olympian ever, his eight gold medals surpassing the six won by Soviet speed skater Lydia Skolblikova and cross-country specialist Lyubov Yegorova, and his total of 12 medals two more than nordic great Raisa Smetania. “I’ve not been thinking about the record,” said Dæhlie. “It’s the journalists who focus on it. I think I will appreciate it more in a few years when I’m a grandfather and watching old videos.”

In the final of men’s ice hockey, it was the Russian “Pocket Rocket” vs. the Czech “Dominator”. Leading scorer of the tournament Pavel Bure, who buried Finland in semifinal play with a five-goal performance, led his Russian compatriots against goalkeeper

Dominik Hasek and the upstart team from the Czech Republic. When the smoke had cleared, defensive strategy had triumphed over offensive firepower, as the Czechs won their first-ever Olympic ice hockey gold medal by a 1 – 0 score. “The difference in the game has just one name – it’s Hasek,” said Russian defenceman Sergei Gonchar. “It’s impossible to fake him out. Not even Pavel could do it and who else could do it when Pavel couldn’t do it?” Hasek was named top goalkeeper of the tournament.

In the evening, 50,000 people took their seats at the Closing Ceremony stadium to pay tribute to all the athletes from 72 countries and regions and to bid farewell to the Nagano Games, the largest Olympic Winter Games in history. The mood was buoyant yet poignant at the closing of the Games, where an unforgettable show featured a collection of hometown festivals with traditions dating back hundreds of years from across Nagano Prefecture. Spectators in the stadium, as well as audiences around the world, joined together in celebrating the message of the

Members of the Czech Republic team celebrate their emotional victory over the Russians in the gold medal game in men’s ice hockey.



Man of the tournament, Czech Republic goaltender Dominik Hasek



An exhausted Bjørn Dæhlie of Norway at the finish of the men's 50km free technique cross-country race. Dæhlie won three gold medals in Nagano, bringing his career total to eight.

Closing Ceremony: "The earth is our home". In his closing remarks, IOC President Samaranch expressed thanks to the people of Nagano and Japan for presenting "The best organization in the history of the Olympic Winter Games." With that, the night skies above Nagano exploded into a kaleidoscope of over 5,000 fireworks, and the stadium reverberated to the sound of music and celebration as another chapter of the Olympic saga drew to a close.

### Around Town

Amidst the hurried preparations for departure, athletes at the Olympic Village said good-byes to their fellow competitors and to their home for the past sixteen days.

At the pin-trading centre on Chuo Dori Street, long lines formed for collectors hoping to obtain the last pin in Coca-Cola's special series of "day pins" commemorating each day of the Games. Pin-trading was amongst the most popular and colourful activities for people visiting the Games.

### Quote of the Day

"Conditions were very difficult, but I think the organizing committee pulled off a miracle. Even in horrendous weather at the alpine venues in Hakuba, course workers were out preparing the courses at one o'clock in the morning. In every way the cooperation was terrific and I want to express my deepest appreciation."

- FIS President, IOC Executive Board member, and IOC Coordination Commission for the Nagano Games Chairman Marc Hodler.



Performers from Salt Lake City give a taste of what to expect at the next Winter Games in 2002.



Chuo Dori Street on the last day of the Games. People from around the world celebrated the Games in Nagano.

**NAGANO 1998**







**SAYONARA** – 5,000 fireworks light up the Nagano night sky at the Closing Ceremony.



LES XVIII<sup>es</sup> JEUX OLYMPIQUES D'HIVER  
THE XVIII OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES



# 3

Ceremonies

NAGANO 1998

## Torch Relay

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The lighting of the Olympic flame at the Temple of Hera, Olympia

The chief goals of the torch relay were to allow as many people as possible to carry the flame, to promote participation in the Games, and to promote the Olympic Movement.

After being lit in a traditional ceremony in Greece, the Olympic flame was transported to Japan for its 33-day journey around the country. So that the relay could visit every prefecture within the relatively short time span, the flame was split into three and carried along separate routes. On January 6, the Eastern Japan route set off from Hokkaido, the Pacific Ocean route set off from Kagoshima, and the Japan Sea route departed from Okinawa.

A total of 6,901 people ran, skated, or skied the 1,162 one-kilometre sections over the three routes. The torch relay for the Nagano Games was cheered on by an estimated 5.5 million spectators nationwide, and was instrumental in galvanizing the mood of excitement during the final approach to the Games.

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## NAGANO 1998





**ATHENS AIRPORT - Nagano City Mayor Tasuku Tsukada holds the lantern to be used for transporting the flame from Greece.**

### Lighting Ceremony at the Temple of Hera

The lighting ceremony held on December 19, 1997 was the result of close collaboration between the IOC, the Hellenic Olympic Committee (HOC), and NAOC. NAOC's official delegation to Greece comprised 16 people, and was headed by Japanese Olympic Committee President Hironoshin Furuhashi and Nagano City Mayor Tasuku Tsukada. A plane was chartered, offering about 300 supporters the chance to witness the start of the Nagano torch relay.

The mystical ceremony at the Temple of Hera in ancient Olympia was held under a light drizzle at twelve noon on December 19. A flame fired by the sun's rays in a rehearsal on December 15 was transferred from the torch held aloft over the head of the high priestess to an urn, which was carried in procession from the ancient Olympic stadium to the forested grove named in honour of Pierre de Coubertin. At the grove, the flame was passed to the first runner, a Greek alpine skier, and the torch relay was launched.

The flame was relayed to Athens, where a ceremony was held in the Panathenean Stadium. Departing on December 22, the official delegation carried the flame to Japan on a chartered flight, and arrived on December 23. After a press conference at the airport, the flame was taken on a courtesy call to the Prime Minister's office. Its first public appearance was at a Christmas charity event held that evening at the New Tokyo International Airport.

From December 27 – 30, the flame was put on display in the Ginza district of Tokyo, and from December 31 – January 4 it was displayed at Yoyogi Athletic Park. A ceremony was held on January 4 to split the flame into three, which were then transported by air to the three departure points.



Several ceremonies were held to mark the passage of the flame from Olympia to Athens.

The Olympic flame arrives safely at New Tokyo International Airport. At right is Albertville Games silver medallist Midori Ito, who would light the cauldron in the Opening Ceremony.

OKINAWA - The Japan Sea route of the torch relay makes a stop at Shuri Castle.

### Ready, Set, GO!

The relay set off on all three routes on January 6. In Hokkaido and Kagoshima, the departure ceremonies were held in front of the offices of the prefectural government; in Okinawa, the ceremony took place in the Peace Park.

In general, fine weather prevailed during the torch relay outside Nagano Prefecture. On days when there was snow, the steering committees set up in each prefecture worked hard to ensure this would not disrupt the relay, and the police supervised traffic. Thanks to this cooperation, the relay was run according to schedule.

There were a number of occasions when the torch was extinguished because of strong winds. However, it was quickly re-lit using the backup flame riding in the support caravan, and the relay continued uninterrupted. The crowds that came out to cheer on the runners, which included a number of popular celebrities, were much larger than expected, and the atmosphere along the routes reverberated with fun and excitement.

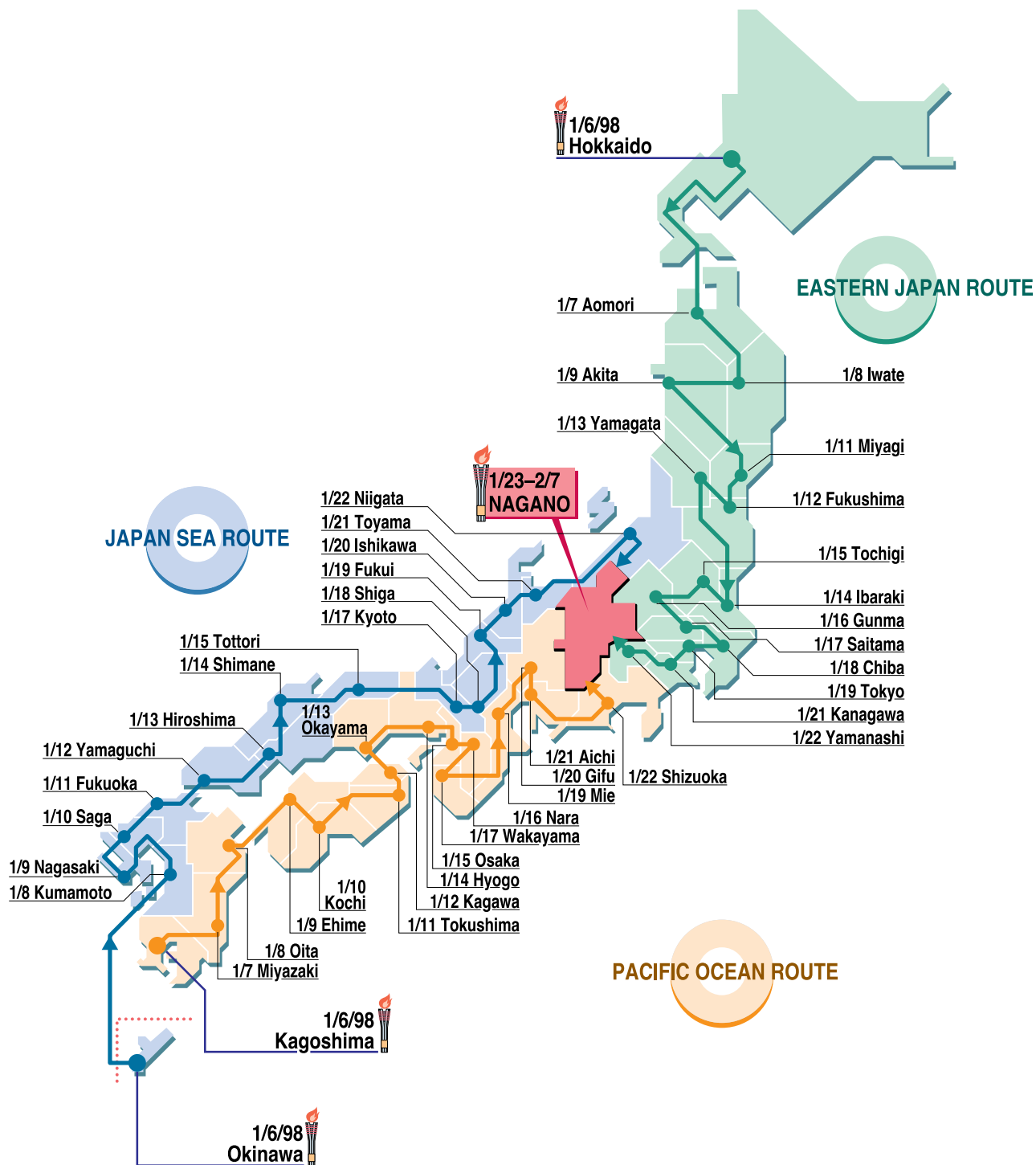


KAGOSHIMA - Actor Jun'ichi Ishida sets off on the Pacific Ocean route.

HOKKAIDO - Sapporo Games silver medallist Akitsugu Konno is the first torchbearer on the Eastern Japan route.



■ Route of the Nagano Games Torch Relay around Japan





Village children in Kawakami get a close-up look at the flame after it arrives in Nagano Prefecture.

## White Winter Relay in Nagano

The Nagano Prefecture portion of the relay began on January 23. A severe cold snap at the beginning of February made transportation in the mountains extremely hazardous, and there were times when the torch relay was jeopardized. However, large-scale snow clearance together with full cooperation from local organizations and police ensured that the torch relay continued. Contingency days had been structured into each of the relay courses, and these were used for much-needed vehicle maintenance and rest.

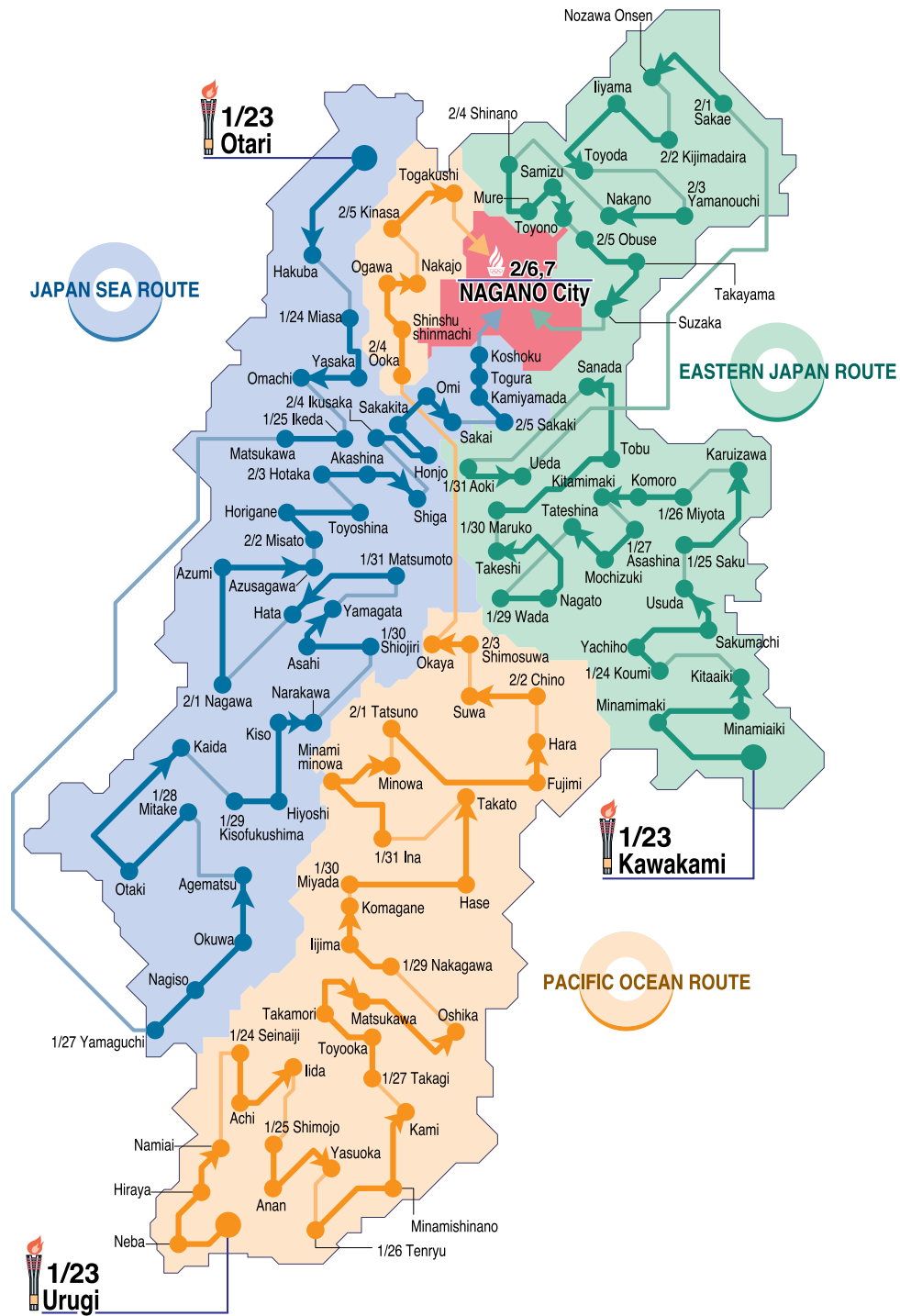
The flame from the Eastern Japan route arrived in the village of Kawakami on the evening of January 22. The following morning, the flame embarked on its journey through Nagano, where it was relayed by skiers in Yamanouchi and Nozawa Onsen, and on dog sled in the town of Shinano.

The flame from the Pacific Ocean route began the Nagano portion of its journey in the village of Urugi. Despite heavy snow, roadsides were packed with spectators in the city of Iida. The inhabitants of mountain villages turned out en masse to cheer the flame on its way.

The Japan Sea flame set off from the Otari Village Hall, passing by snow sculptures carved by the villagers, and bathed by the warm glow of fireworks on its way through Hakuba.



■ Route of the Torch Relay around Nagano Prefecture







(Right) Actress Ran Ohtori takes up the torch in the village of Otari;  
(Left) Former Olympian Susumu Sugiyama holds the flame aloft in Shiga Kogen.



The torch relay was a festive occasion for all.

NAGANO 1998





Amidst falling snow, a large crowd gathers to greet the flame in front of Iida Station.



HAKUBA - A Snowlet, snowman, and friends wait for the torch relay.

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## Arrival in the Host City

The flames from the three routes arrived in Nagano City on February 5, ready for the relay through every district of Nagano City on February 6. Finally, at 4:50 p.m., the flames converged on Central Square. Bringing in the three flames were Kristi Yamaguchi (figure skating gold medallist, 1992 Albertville Games), Masae Nakamura (gold medallist in women's volleyball, 1964 Tokyo Games) and Yuko Emoto (gold medallist in judo, 1996 Atlanta Games). They passed the flames to NAOC President Eishiro Saito, and to Vice Presidents Goro Yoshimura and Tasuku Tsukada, who joined their flames to light the torch held by IOC President Samaranch, and the flames which had travelled the length and breadth of Japan were reunited as one.

## Relay to the Opening Ceremony

On February 7, the flame was relayed from Nagano City Hall to the stadium for the Opening Ceremony. Hikaru Nishida, Nagano Olympic Ambassador for the Peace Appeal, set off at 10:00 a.m. carrying the torch high. For the 10km distance to the stadium, 10 torchbearers and 10 escort runners, each with a special connection to the Nagano Games, carried the flame over the final approach. At the climax of the Opening Ceremony, the flame was used by Midori Ito to light the cauldron.

## Cauldrons at the Host Sites

The flame was also used to light smaller replica cauldrons set up in Yamanouchi, Hakuba, Karuizawa, and Nozawa Onsen, to burn brightly for the duration of the Games.

A cauldron was also lit at the International Youth Camp.

With Matsumoto Castle in the backdrop, baseball player Yoshinori Ueda makes his way through the crowd.





In Nozawa Onsen, torchbearers on skis receive a warm hand of applause.

## Implementation

A total of 6,901 runners covered 1,162 one-kilometre sections over the three routes of the torch relay. Twelve sections were set in every prefecture, except for Tokyo where there were 15. Within Nagano Prefecture, an equal number of sections was set in each of the 120 cities, towns, and villages. To accommodate the thousands of spectators, the relay was run predominantly on wide roads with ample sidewalk space. In each prefecture, a ceremony attended by the prefectural governor was held to mark the flame's arrival and departure.

## Caravan

Each route was managed by two support teams of more than 20 people each, responsible for managing daily operations and liaising with local organizers. The teams alternated between accompanying the relay on its route and travelling ahead to make preparations for the following day.

## Operations

Under the direction of the Ministry of Education, every prefectural board of education in Japan set up a torch relay steering committee to organize support and coordination.

Within Nagano Prefecture, 10 regional Nagano Olympic / Paralympic support organizations coordinated preparations in their area.

A relay headquarters was established within the NAOC Secretariat to oversee operations, while an office was set up in Tokyo to coordinate the caravan.

## Traffic Restrictions

Through the cooperation of the National Police Agency, the police department in each prefecture provided escort vehicles and traffic / crowd control support.

At Central Square, three former Olympic champions hold their torches high before the flames are made one again.



### Torch Relay Presented by Coca-Cola

Negotiations were held to secure a company from among the Worldwide and Gold Sponsors to supply separate support for the torch relay. In exchange for financial and operational assistance, the Coca-Cola Company Ltd. received exclusive rights for promotions using the torch relay name, logo, pictogram, and merchandise, as well as rights to select a number of runners.

### Selection of Runners

Each 1-km section of the relay was run by a group of six people consisting of one torchbearer, one escort runner, and four support runners. However, only torchbearers and escort runners participated in the 10 sections within Nagano City on the day of the Opening Ceremony. Final approval of participants rested with NAOC, and was based on:

- Recommendations made by the relay steering committee in each prefecture
- Recommendations made by the Coca-Cola Company
- Selection through domestic public recruitment campaigns
- Selection through international public recruitment campaigns
- Selection through high schools

- Selection of a number of celebrities

As a guideline, NAOC requested that steering committees cast their nets wide in selecting participants for the relay, basing their recommendations not on age, gender, or nationality, but rather on interest and contributions to sport and culture.

In 1997, the Coca-Cola Company held two campaigns to recruit members of the public interested in running in the Nagano Games torch relay. This was the first time such a campaign had ever been conducted for an Olympics in Japan, and participants were selected without regard to age, gender, or physical disability.

In order to impart the wonder and thrill of the Olympic Games to the younger generation, the cooperation of high school physical education associations throughout Japan was enlisted in recruiting high school students to participate as escort runners. In Nagano Prefecture this was extended to include junior high and special school students to create as many opportunities as possible for children to join in.

Runners on the day of the Opening Ceremony were selected by NAOC for their dedicated service to the Nagano Games.

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## Equipment

- **Torch**

The torches were designed to be both environmentally-friendly and completely safe for the runners. They were manufactured by a leading maker of natural gas appliances, and were fuelled by clean-burning propane.

The shape of the torch recalled Japanese *taimatsu* torches used in olden days, but incorporated modern design elements as well. Crafted from aluminium, the 55cm-long torch weighed 1.3kg, and seen from above, resembled an ice crystal. The exterior was coloured silver, evocative of winter. A special torch holder was designed for wheelchair-bound relay participants.

- **Lantern**

A brass kerosene lantern was used to carry a backup Olympic flame during the relay. The lantern carried enough fuel to burn for 22 hours. It was transported in one of the support vehicles, and was used to re-light the torch if it was extinguished.

- **Crucible**

So that spectators could see the flame clearly during daily arrival / departure ceremonies, a crucible was used for transferring the flame between the torch and lantern. The crucible was 25cm in width and 40cm in height (150 cm including its base).

- **Taper**

A special 50-cm long taper with an attached wick was doused in lighter fluid and used for transferring the flame between the torch, crucible, and lantern.

The torch design was evocative of traditional Japanese *taimatsu*.





The Olympic flame arrives safely in Japan.

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#### • Transporting the Flame to Japan

To ensure safety aboard the flight from Greece to Japan, the flame was kept in a benzene-fuelled metal *kairo* flask, used traditionally as a hand and body-warmer during cold weather.

#### • Support Vehicles

Each caravan team was provided with the following support vehicles courtesy of Toyota, Gold Sponsor for the Nagano Games:

- One public relations vehicle equipped with a loudspeaker system travelling in advance of the relay
- One vehicle for media and photographers taking official NAOC photos
- One vehicle for transporting torch relay staff and backup flame
- One vehicle for transporting NAOC staff offering additional support
- One vehicle for medical staff and equipment
- One additional support vehicle
- Four 29-seat minibuses for transporting runners to and from arrival and departure points
- One vehicle for carrying the stage and equipment for the ceremonies



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## Design Concept and Uniform

The logo, uniforms, and decorations for support vehicles and ceremonies decorations were designed to express the enthusiasm and excitement of the runners. The general design motif represented celebratory confetti and paper ribbon.

### • Logo

The logo was a composite design incorporating the torch relay pictogram, Nagano Games emblem, and the logo of the Coca-Cola product “Georgia”. The torch relay logo was used on all merchandise and promotions.

### • Uniforms

Manufactured by Gold Sponsor Mizuno, the uniforms came in two styles: one for torchbearers, and another for the escort runners and support runners. Both uniforms featured the basic blue colour of the Nagano Games and white, representing snow. The torchbearers’ uniforms displayed the Nagano Games and Olympic emblems, while the escort / support

runners’ uniforms were decorated with the torch relay logo.

### • Support Staff Uniforms

All support staff were provided with a loose-fitting, poncho-style uniform decorated with the torch relay logo.

## Media Coverage

A press conference was held before the start of the torch relay in each prefecture to explain details of the relay and distribute armbands for press coverage. Local media representatives were allowed to ride in the media vehicle in the support caravan. The press conference was conducted by the public relations officer on each of the three routes, and NAOC staff were on hand at relay headquarters to answer any questions from the media.





## The Opening Ceremony

The Japanese team enters the stadium to the accompaniment of the song *Shinano no Kuni*.

### Bell to Symbolize Purification

February 7, 1998 - The sun rises over clear skies and the gates to the stadium open at 7:00 a.m. Four hours before the beginning of the Opening Ceremony, eager spectators are already making their way into the stadium. During the pre-Ceremony programme, Seiji Ozawa and Tsutomu Saito lead the gathering crowd in a rehearsal of the "Ode to Joy" from Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, which will be part of the grand finale. Gradually, the audience of 50,000 people settles expectantly into their seats for what promises to be a spectacular show.

At exactly 11:00 a.m., the sonorous bell at Zenkoji Temple tolls, proclaiming the opening of the Olympic Winter Games in Nagano. The solemn ring of the sacred Buddhist bell symbolizes the purification of the souls of all participants, and offers up a prayer for the success of the Games.

### Raising of *Onbashira* to Consecrate "Sacred Ground"

To the sound of celebratory chanting, more than 1,000 people from the Suwa region of Nagano Prefecture make their entrance into the stadium carrying eight ceremonial wooden pillars weighing over two tonnes apiece. Above the chanting of the bearers, these *onbashira* are raised by pulling on ropes to form four gates guarding the north, south, east, and west. Originating in Suwa, the *Onbashira* Festival is a rite which, according to ancient Japanese beliefs, appeals to the gods residing in the forests. Tradition dictates that erecting pillars cut from the surrounding mountainside purifies the ground. Thus does the raising of the *onbashira* transform the Olympic Stadium into a sacred place, ready to welcome the athletes.





## The *Dohyo-iri* Ceremony: Sumo Wrestlers Consecrate the Stadium

Sumo wrestlers clad in ceremonial aprons enter from the east and west gates and process to the centre stage, where they turn to face the royal box for the *dohyo-iri* ring-entering ceremony. After the top-level *maku-uchi* wrestlers finish their portion of the ceremony they move aside for the entrance of *yokozuna* grand champion Akebono from the south gate. Led by a referee and a herald and accompanied by a swordbearer, Akebono ascends to the *dohyo*, and Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan take their seats in the royal box. Accompanied by shouts of “*Yoisho!*” from the 50,000 spectators in the stands, the grand champion performs the ring-entering ceremony, and brings it to its climax by stamping his bare feet to drive away evil spirits and purify the ground for the athletes.

To the haunting cries of the log-bearers, the massive *onbashira* pillars are raised into position.



Sumo grand champion Akebono performs the ring-entering rites.

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A dancer clothed in straw performs as a *dosojin* guardian deity.



### The Children of Nagano Welcome the Athletes

Next, four giant straw figures known as *dosojin*, guardian deities celebrated in the folklore of Ooka Village, are brought into the stadium. Dancers emerge from the straw figures and are joined by 150 local schoolchildren dressed as *yukinko* (Snow Children) in traditional straw winter coats and hats. The children, participants in the “One School, One Country” programme, throw off their coats and hats to reveal brightly-coloured costumes embellished with the flags of the participating countries and regions.

Singer Ryoko Moriyama takes the stage and leads the children in an emotional rendition of the Opening Ceremony theme song “When Children Rule the World”. The children’s smiling faces and spirited performance convey a message of hope for global peace in the century to come, and the audience responds to the message with showers of enthusiastic applause.



Cloaked in *mino* straw raincoats and hats, the “Snow Children” make their appearance.



Dressed in costumes evoking the flags of the participating countries and regions, the Snow Children surround the centre stage and singer Ryoko Moriyama.



Sumo champion Takanonami and two Snow Children lead in the Greek delegation.

### Sumo Wrestlers and Snow Children Escort the Delegations

To an accompaniment of folk songs from around Japan, the largest number of participating teams ever at the Olympic Winter Games make their way into the stadium headed by Greece, birthplace of the Olympic Games. Each team is led into the stadium by a sumo wrestler in full formal dress, accompanied by children wearing a placard with the country name. With one of the Snow Children riding on his shoulders, and holding another by the hand, *ozeki* champion Takanonami leads the Greek delegation into the stadium. Half the teams enter through the east gate, while the other half enter through the western gate.

As host country, Japan's team is the final team to enter the sacred ring. Escorted by *ozeki* Wakanohana and two Snow Children, the Japanese athletes enter the stadium to the refrains of the Nagano song *Shinano no Kumi*, and the crowd joins in the singing.



The teams from Spain and Sweden make their entrance.

The Canadian contingent waves to the crowd.



The parade of athletes - a veritable show of style and fashion





Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress acknowledge the crowd.

The Olympic flag is brought into the stadium by eight Japanese Winter Games Olympians.

## Games Declared Open by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan

After the athletes take their seats, NAOC President Eishiro Saito invites all present to celebrate the Nagano Games as a festival of sport and a bridge to the 21st century, to join together for a “Games from the Heart”. He is followed by IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch, who expresses his hopes that the Olympic Truce will “... foster international dialogue and diplomatic solutions to all conflicts, in an effort to bring human tragedies to an end... Let us build together... a peaceful and better world”. All spectators rise to their feet as His Majesty the Emperor of Japan declares the XVIII Olympic Winter Games officially open.

Next, the Self-Defense Force Musical Cooperation Band performs the “Winter Light Fanfare” composed for the Games by Joji Yuasa, and this heralds the entry of the Olympic flag.

Carrying the flag into the stadium are eight Winter Games medalists and Olympians - Seiko Hashimoto, Chiharu Igaya, Yukio Kasaya, Yoshihiro Kitazawa, Yuko Kobayashi (nee Otaka), Akitsugu Konno, Hatsue Nagakubo (nee Takamizawa), and Hiromi Yamanaka (nee Yamamoto). The raising of the Olympic flag at the west gate of the stadium is accompanied by the Nagano City Children’s Choir singing the Olympic anthem. Two musicians enter from the south gate and proceed to centre stage for a rendition of the Japanese national anthem on a *ryuteki* (dragon fife) and a *sho* (reed instrument) in the *gagaku* style of ancient Imperial court music. The *gagaku* style was chosen for its distinctively Japanese flavour and for its appropriateness to the dignity of the occasion.



Midori Ito lights the cauldron.



## Olympic Torchbearers Enter the Stadium

The Ceremony begins to build to its climax, as finally the Olympic torch makes its entrance. It is brought into the stadium by anti-landmine activist Chris Moon surrounded by children singing the theme song “When Children Rule the World”. They are joined by Atlanta Olympian and World Championships 10,000m bronze medallist Masako Chiba. The group passes the torch to Takanori Kono, Masashi Abe, and Reiichi Mikata, nordic combined gold medallists at both the Albertville and Lillehammer Games. With Takanori Kono carrying the torch, the trio makes their way from the front of the stadium to centre stage. Waiting for them is Atlanta Olympian and world champion marathon runner Hiromi Suzuki, dressed in traditional costume. Receiving the torch, she turns and runs up the 159 steps to the Olympic cauldron.

## Lighting of the Olympic Flame

As Suzuki climbs the final few steps, fan-shaped doors open just below the cauldron to the music of Puccini's “Madame Butterfly”. Revealed is Albertville Games figure skating silver medallist Midori Ito, clothed in a costume styled on ancient Japanese court attire. As the final torchbearer, Ito accepts the torch, and the dais upon which she is standing begins to rise. Smiling, she turns on the rising dais to ignite the cauldron with the Olympic flame that was kindled in Olympia, Greece and hand-carried to Nagano by almost 7,000 runners throughout the country.

## 1,998 Dove Balloons

On behalf of all the athletes who have trained so diligently for the Games, Japanese team captain Kenji Ogiwara stands before the world and takes the athletes’ oath to uphold the spirit of the Olympic Games. Likewise judges’ representative

Junko Hiramatsu swears an oath of fairness on behalf of all competition officials. Suddenly, 1,998 dove-shaped helium balloons are released to fly into the Nagano sky. The dove balloons, made of a biodegradable material containing potato fibres, carry written messages of peace and friendship from the children of Nagano, to be scattered by the four winds.

## A Choral Performance Linking Five Continents

The finale for the Opening Ceremony is a grand performance of the “Ode to Joy” from Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony, a call for solidarity for all peoples, by choirs on the five continents represented by the five Olympic rings. On the giant video screens at the stadium live images are broadcast of Seiji Ozawa conducting the Nagano Winter Orchestra, eight soloists chosen from around the world, and the Tokyo Opera Singers at the Nagano Prefecture Cultural Hall. A performance of “Ode to Joy” on this scale, held simultaneously on five continents, is unprecedented. Images from each location—in front of the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, on the



The chorus in front of the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin joins in the performance of Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" at the finale of the Opening Ceremony.



Singers of the Sydney Philharmonia Choir on the steps of the Sydney Opera House.

Trailing smoke in the colours of the five Olympic rings, the "Blue Impulse" jet team performs a flyby of the stadium.



steps of the Opera House in Sydney, in the General Assembly Hall of the United Nations in New York, in front of the Shenwu Gate of the Forbidden Palace in Beijing, and at False Bay near Cape Town — are carried live via satellite to the Opening Ceremony audience. The 2,000-member choir in the stadium joins in the singing, as do many of the spectators, as ballet dancers perform on and around the centre stage.

"All men will become brothers". The global performance of "Ode to Joy" is the embodiment of the Games' message to the world of hope for peaceful harmony in the coming century. A giant earth-shaped balloon is released as a symbol of that solidarity, from the hands of the dancers straight up into the bright sky. As the Opening Ceremony draws to its close, five Air Self-Defense Forces T4 jet airplanes fly over the stadium, leaving a trail of smoke in the five Olympic colours.

## NAGANO 1998



## Preparations

### Executive Producer Keita Asari

Keita Asari, director of the famed Shiki Theatrical Company, was appointed as Executive Producer for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies in January 1995. In addition to his outstanding reputation, proven directing ability, and international sensibility, Asari typically spends a quarter of each year in Nagano. Upon his appointment, Asari expressed his desire to create an Opening Ceremony focusing on “Harmony of culture and nature, of history and tradition, and among all the peoples of the world,” and these ideals were realized in splendid fashion.

Working with the Executive Producer were Seiji Ozawa (Musical Director), Haruhiko Hagimoto (Senior Producer), Man Arai (Image Director), Tsutomu Konno (Director / Visual Design Producer), and Kiyoyuki Kikutake (Space Design Producer).



Executive Producer for Ceremonies, Keita Asari

### Simple, Dignified, and Spiritual

Based on the concept “Games from the Heart – Together with Love”, constructed to be a bridge linking people in harmonious friendship, and as a depiction of humankind’s hopes and aspirations for the future, the theme of the Opening Ceremony was born of the three ideals of *Hope*, *Prayer*, and *Appeal*. These were embodied in the three keywords “Simple”, “Dignified”, and “Spiritual”.

*Hope*—From the city of Nagano, a city rich in history and tradition, a hope to share the culture of Japan with people all around the world.

*Prayer*—The 20<sup>th</sup> century was characterized by poverty and intolerance. A “prayer” for a new century of peace, abundance, and kindness shown to others.

*Appeal*—An appeal to people everywhere to unite in solidarity to effect true peace in the world.

The stadium for Opening and Closing Ceremonies was designed in the image of a *sakura* cherry blossom, Japan's national flower.



### Venue for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies

Located in the Minami Nagano Sports Park in southern Nagano City, the multipurpose stadium for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies was built for future use as a baseball stadium. For the Games, temporary spectator stands were constructed in the outfield area to increase the stadium's seating capacity to 50,000. The stadium was designed in the image of Japan's national flower, the *sakura* cherry blossom, and is the physical expression of the Game's theme "From around the world—to flower as one."

The Sports Park covers an area of 300,000m<sup>2</sup>, with the stadium occupying 36,000m<sup>2</sup>. The highest point on the three-storey structure is 28.5m. The vast grounds of the park include ample parking, and for the Games, the

indoor gymnasium and pool were set aside for use by the athletes as a training centre. Construction costs came to approximately ¥9.5 billion.

### The Olympic Cauldron

To evoke Japan and Nagano, interactive sculptor Kiyoyuki Kikutake designed a cauldron based on the traditional Japanese *kagaribi* bonfire. The cauldron stood 6m high on top of a support 25m in height, and its mouth was inclined at a 30-degree angle to allow the entire flame to be seen from anywhere within the stadium. A computer-controlled mechanism produced a lively flicker, and made it possible to reduce the amount of fuel used while not sacrificing the size of the flame. The flame was fuelled by environmentally-friendly natural gas.



Italian supporters in the stadium

Three giant video displays carried images of the singers on the five continents to the audience at the stadium.



### **A Sumo *Dohyo* at Centre Stage**

Directly in the centre of the circular performance area 80m in diameter was a stage 18m long x 1.5m high, patterned after a sumo *dohyo* or ring. Portions in the centre of the stage could be raised and lowered as needed for production, and storage space for equipment was incorporated under the stage. A north stage set up inside the stadium near the Olympic Family seats served as a dais for speaker equipment during the Ceremonies, as well as a waiting area for performers and additional storage space.

### **Giant Video Displays**

Looking out from the royal box at the front of the stadium, one 550-inch screen was set up to the left of the Olympic cauldron, and 380-inch screens set up at both ends of the stadium between the infield and outfield seats. The two 380-inch video screens were moved to the competition stadiums following the Opening Ceremony, while the 550-inch screen remained for the Closing Ceremony.

### **Live Satellite Broadcast of Beethoven's "Ninth Symphony"**

The choirs on five continents were linked by the single baton of Seiji Ozawa. This was the first-ever attempt at an undertaking of this magnitude, and conventional satellite broadcasting would have resulted in a transmission time lag of as much as four seconds due to the widespread locations. To compensate for this, a Time Lag Adjuster (TLA) was developed by NHK that reconciled the continuously recorded signals from all the locations according to the greatest time differential, and reconstructed it into one coherent transmission. Using this new technique, Nagano and the five locations around the world were joined in real time for the choral performance of the century.



## The Closing Ceremony

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“For creatures sharing the same irreplaceable earth, war is the most unsuitable action imaginable. Let there be peace on this earth in the coming century, when the children of today will be the world’s leaders”. With this prayer in mind, under clear night skies in front of 50,000 spectators, the Nagano Games said goodbye on February 22.

Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan are shown to their seats in the royal box at 6:00 p.m., and small bonfires are lit around the Closing Ceremony stadium. Girls in flower-covered hats from the Bessho Onsen district of Ueda City enter through the east gate and scatter a carpet of flower petals to welcome the athletes. Dressed in colourful top hat and coat, popular comedian Kin’ichi Hagimoto ascends the centre stage to act as master of ceremonies.

### The Smiling Faces of the Athletes

First of the athletes to enter the stadium through the east gate are the flag bearers for each country, accompanied by the Snow Children of Nagano. Scattered along the line of

athletes are six huge, coloured balloons. Waving the flags of the 72 countries and regions, the flag bearers and children surround the centre stage and cheer the arrival of the athletes. They enter as a sea of colour, freely mixing and mingling with the athletes of other nations. The six giant balloons come together on the centre stage to form the Snowflower emblem of the Games.

The last team to enter the stadium is the Japanese team and, as in the Opening Ceremony, the processional music changes to “Shinano no Kuni”. The Japanese athletes make a circuit of the stadium, smiling with the satisfaction of a fine athletic performance in front of their home crowd. Once all the athletes have taken their seats, Kin’ichi Hagimoto takes the stage to offer words of thanks to the athletes for sixteen glorious days of excitement.

Girls in colourful costume spread a carpet of flower petals to welcome the athletes.



First to enter are the flag bearers from each country and region.





The Japanese contingent waves to the crowd as giant balloons are assembled into the Nagano Games Snowflake emblem at centre stage.

The closing celebration was a collection of hometown festivals from around Nagano Prefecture. Here, colourful *take-no-nobori* banners from the Bessho Onsen district of Ueda City are raised.

## A Traditional Festival Honouring the Athletes

Numerous festivals have been lovingly preserved and handed down over the ages in Nagano. These are times when people pray for peace, safety, and good fortune for themselves, loved ones, and neighbours. It is this spirit that pervades the Closing Ceremony – honouring and thanking the athletes with a grand staging of many of the festivals of Nagano. Girls in flower-covered hats perform the *Sasara* dance on the centre stage, while four horses decorated with bright paper flowers of the town of Nagiso’s *Hanauma* festival parade around the stadium under a rainbow of banners.

Reverberations fill the air as four *taiko* drummers are joined by more than 100 others in pounding out the lively rhythms of “Shinano Dengaku”, while 300 brightly-coloured cloth and bamboo banners are being raised around the stadium.

A sudden change in the rhythm signals the entrance of three large lion dance floats, followed by a giant 30m-long float from Iida City. The four lions pounce vigorously to their left and right, in a dance believed to drive away the evil spirits that hinder everyday well-being.





From Iida City, a lion-tamer and his giant lion float perform a dance traditionally staged to ensure a successful harvest.

### Next Stop: Salt Lake City

As the sounds of the festival celebration pause, the flags of Greece, Japan, and the United States – the birthplace, host country, and next host country of the Games respectively – are raised to the accompaniment of their national anthems.

Following this, Mayor Tasuku Tsukada of Nagano carries the “Oslo” Olympic flag up to centre stage, where it is received by IOC President Samaranch, who hands it to Salt Lake City Mayor Deedee Corradini. Floats of red rock arches and tall mountains make their appearance accompanied by riders on horseback and a stagecoach for Salt Lake City’s performance entitled “Contrast, Culture, and Courage”. A message from the children of Salt Lake City calling out “See you in 2002!” is flashed on stadium video displays.

### “Arigato Nagano”

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, NAOC Vice President Goro Yoshimura takes the stage, and expresses thanks to all for helping to realize, through their love and participation, the triple goals of encouraging the “Participation of children”, “Respecting nature”, and celebrating a “Festival of peace and friendship”.

Finally, it is time to declare the Games closed. In his closing remarks, IOC President Samaranch thanks organizers and supporters for a Games that exemplified the ideals of the Olympic Movement. “Congratulations Nagano and Japan. You have presented to the world the best organization in the history of the Olympic Winter Games...*Arigato Nagano! Sayonara Nippon!*”

The audience rises to its feet as the Olympic anthem is sung by the Nagano City Children’s Choir, and the Colour Guard of the Japanese Self-Defense Forces lowers the Olympic flag, carries it around the stadium, and departs through the west gate.

The American delegation makes its entrance, with promises to meet again four years hence.



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## “The Earth is Our Home”

The lights in the stadium fade, and Kin'ichi Hagimoto begins speaking. “An astronaut on a journey in space once said, ‘*On the first and second days, we all pointed to our own countries. On the third and fourth days, we pointed to our continents. But on the fifth day, the only thing in our minds was the earth, just one earth...*’ He was right—we have only one earth, our home, and it is irreplaceable”. With these words, the Olympic flame is gently extinguished.

In the darkened stadium, singer Anri and the Nagano City Children’s Choir begin to sing *Furusato*, a nostalgic song about home with lyrics penned by Tatsuyuki Takano, a poet from Nagano. An ethereal glow bathes the stadium, as the audience of 50,000 spectators light up small, handheld lanterns and add their voices to the song. For the athletes and spectators, swaying in time to the music, all are filled with a sense of unity that the earth indeed is our home.

Finally, the grand finale of the last Olympic Winter Games of the 20<sup>th</sup> century: from a corner of the stadium, two flames shoot through the air and ignite a row of fireworks handmade in the same traditional manner for hundreds of years in the mountain village of Seinaiji, in southern Nagano Prefecture. Fountains of fire sparks light up the night sky. Seinaiji villagers, illuminated from head to toe by the sparks overhead, link their arms and dance in celebration.

## 5,000 Aerial Fireworks

Suddenly, the stadium erupts in a starburst of aerial fireworks. Launched from five points, the spectacular fireworks show envelops the entire stadium. The theme is “four seasons”, with spring represented by *sakura* cherry blossoms, summer by sunflowers, autumn by chrysanthemums, and winter by snow. The spectators cheer loudly as they enjoy the seemingly endless display of 5,000 aerial fireworks launched during eight minutes. The finale is a spectacular firework rendition of the Nagano Games’ Snowflower emblem.

As the fireworks draw to a close, the Japanese pop group AGHARTA performs the Snowlets’ theme song “ILE AIYE - Let’s Make a Circle and Dance” from centre stage. Children garbed in space-gear like costumes dance exuberantly around the stage. Athletes rush from their seats and join in the fun and dancing. All the participants in this gala pageant, from banner



“The Earth is our home”. Kin'inci Hagimoto charmed the audience with his wit and style.

Awash in sparks of traditional fire works





Bathed in the ethereal light from handheld paper lanterns, the 50,000 people at the stadium join in the singing of *Furusato* (My Hometown).

“Let’s Make a Circle and Dance!” Costumed children celebrate with the American team to the tune of the Snowlets’ theme song.



holders to flower-decorated horses, from lion dance floats to the wild west riders of Salt Lake City, are wreathed in smiles as they pour into the stadium to share in the celebration to the song which has reverberated at all the venues over the past two weeks.

The spectators join in by dancing in the stands, and emotion washes over the entire stadium. Amidst athletes’ promises to meet again, the performers and spectators thank the athletes

for sharing the thrill of competition with them.

The Closing Ceremony draws to a close at approximately 7:40 p.m.

### **The Closing Ceremony Concept**

The Closing Ceremony was planned around a simple concept: a prayer for peace as enshrined in the Olympic Spirit. Often referred to as the “Roof of Japan” for its towering mountains, Nagano Prefecture is blessed with deep rivers, rich foliage, and abundant harvests. The people of Nagano have carefully preserved festival traditions, and in sharing these local traditions, a message of caring and love was shared as well. The love of family and friends and of a beautiful and abundantly blessed home are understood by all people, no matter where they may be. A prayer for peace on this precious earth, which is home to us all, was the guiding concept behind the Closing Ceremony.





### **Closing Ceremony Speech by NAOC Vice President Goro Yoshimura**

To the athletes of the world – I offer you our grateful thanks. Over the past sixteen days, you have shown supreme dedication, excellence, and sportsmanship.

Thanks to the love and dedicated participation of all those involved, the curtain falls on a highly successful Olympic Games, which have truly been a “Games from the Heart”. I am especially pleased that we fully achieved our three goals of encouraging the “participation of children”, “respect for the beauty and bounty of nature”, and hosting a “festival of peace and friendship”. It is my particular hope that our friends in Salt Lake City, hosts of the XIX Olympic Winter Games, will keep our torch of peace burning and further promote our aim of building a society where there is no armed conflict, as expressed in the Nagano Peace Appeal. I am convinced that the practice of sport contributes to a peaceful and better world.

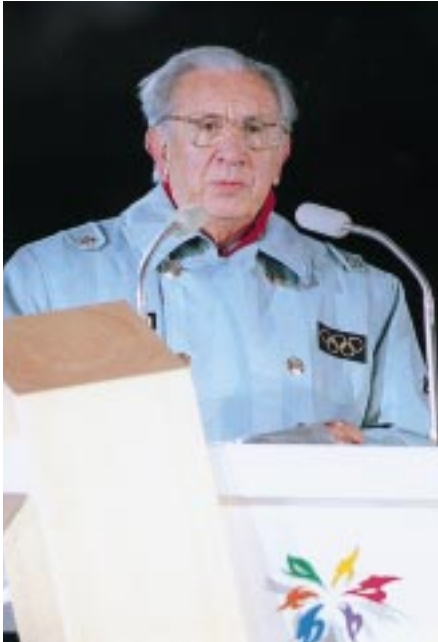
We have been the fortunate recipients of support from many quarters:

- From the officials, staff, and volunteers, who have worked so hard;
- From the media, who so expertly transmitted the excitement of the Games to the world;
- From the spectators, who cheered on the athletes so wholeheartedly;
- From people worldwide, who supported the Games so warmly
- And from the IOC, who have given us such expert advice and steadfast support since they conferred Nagano with the honour of hosting the XVIII Olympic Winter Games.

Without you, the Games would not have been a success. It is therefore a special joy for me to express my deepest appreciation to you all for your support and cooperation.

Last but not least, I would like to express my profoundest gratitude to His Excellency Juan Antonio Samaranch, President of the International Olympic Committee, for his benevolent and inspiring leadership.

Thank you all – and farewell!



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## Closing Ceremony Speech by IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch

The ringing of the bell in the Zenkoji Temple will always bring to mind that Nagano, with its Snowflower a symbol of the bounty of nature, is already an Olympic city.

We have all admired the beauty of the Games and the values they represent for youth, and appreciate the talent and efforts of all the athletes, and the Japanese cultural traditions.

Thank you all for your support of the Olympic Movement.

We hope that the observance of the Olympic Truce during the Nagano Olympic Winter Games has served the purpose of searching for peaceful and diplomatic solutions to the conflicts we are facing today. The Olympic Games demonstrate that friendship, solidarity, and cooperation among all peoples is possible if there is goodwill. The Nagano Olympic Winter Games also highlighted the commitment of the Olympic Movement to the well-being of our children, the promotion of women, the protection of the environment, and humanitarian concerns. Let us all strive for sport for all; education for all; health for all; and peace for all.

On behalf of the Olympic Movement, I would like now to express our gratitude:

- To His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, to His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince, to the government, the people of Japan, and its National Olympic Committee;
- To the Governor, the Mayor, and citizens of Nagano; our sincere thanks and congratulations to the athletes, the seven International Olympic Winter Sports Federations, and the seventy-two National Olympic Committees that participated in these Games;
- To the media for their important contribution to promoting sport and the Olympic ideal;
- To all our Sponsors and partners for their initiatives and support of these Games and of the Olympic Movement;
- And finally, our sincere thanks and warmest congratulations to the Nagano Committee for the Olympic Games and also to the wonderful volunteers.

Congratulations Nagano and Japan – you have presented to the world the best organization in the history of the Olympic Winter Games.

I now declare closed the XVIII Olympic Winter Games, and in accordance with our tradition, I call upon the youth of the world to assemble, four years from now, in Salt Lake City, United States of America, to celebrate with us the XIX Olympic Winter Games, the first of the new millennium.

*Arigato Nagano!*  
*Sayonara Nippon!*



Nagano City Mayor passes the "Oslo" flag to IOC President Samaranch. Waiting to receive the flag is Salt Lake City Mayor Deedee Corradini.



A promise to meet again is displayed on the giant video screen.

## Victory Ceremonies

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Fans and athletes celebrated together at the nightly Victory Ceremonies at Central Square.

As a chance to pay tribute to and applaud the achievements of the athletes, the Victory Ceremonies are an essential and fitting close to the drama of competition. Victory Ceremonies for all indoor events (i.e. skating events, ice hockey, curling) were held at the venue after the end of competition. Conversely, for outdoor events (i.e. skiing, bobsleigh, luge, biathlon), a simple flower ceremony was held on site immediately following competition and the Victory Ceremonies were held later in the evening at Central Square in Nagano City. In this way, athletes competing in outdoor events were able to

enjoy a celebration of their achievements basking in the adulation of enthusiastic crowds.

The IOC President or an IOC member presented athletes with their medals, and the sport's International Federation President or representative presented the floral bouquets, with the IOC Secretariat making all final decisions on who would make these presentations. All announcements at the venue were made first in French, then English, followed by Japanese. The order of the Victory Ceremonies was as follows:

- Fanfare
- Entrance of medallists and award presenters
- Introduction of gold medallist(s), ascent to podium, presentation of medal and bouquet
- Introduction of silver medallist(s), ascent to podium, presentation of medal and bouquet
- Introduction of bronze medallist(s), ascent to podium, presentation of medal and bouquet
- Playing of NOC anthem of gold medallist(s), raising of NOC flags of all medallists

A special case was made for the Victory Ceremonies for men's ice hockey after it was decided in consultation with the IOC to hold a Victory Ceremony for the team winning the bronze medal directly after the conclusion of the bronze medal game. The Victory Ceremony for the gold and silver medal teams was held following the final, and the flags of all three medal-winning teams flown.

### Victory Ceremony Volunteers

The athletes and presenters were not the only participants at the Victory Ceremonies – many volunteers contributed to making the ceremonies a truly memorable affair. Volunteers from the Nagano Olympic Winter Games Volunteer Kimono Association dressed in traditional kimono lent a touch of colour and elegance to the ceremonies, acting as escorts and assistants to the presenters. Boy scouts from the Nagano Council of the Boy Scouts of Nippon were put in charge of the raising of the NOC flags, and spent hours rehearsing flying the flags in time with the playing of the gold medal winner's anthem. During the Games, all ceremonies were conducted flawlessly. For ceremonies held at Central Square, the Nagano Olympic Ambassadors escorted the winning athletes into the venue, while local musicians played the fanfare. Children were also encouraged to play a role in the ceremonies, and elementary and junior high school students presented the bouquets

to athletes at the flower ceremonies for outdoor events.

### Sharing the Celebration with Spectators

Central Square, site for the Victory Ceremonies, was completed in October 1996 and is situated along the central avenue linking Nagano Station with Zenkoji Temple. Victory Ceremonies were scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m. on the day of competition, however there were occasions when, due to competition rescheduling, they were held on the day following competition. The day's outdoor event medallists were escorted by NAOC staff from the various competition venues to Central Square in specially assigned cars.

In order that as many people as possible





Flower ceremonies were held at the conclusion of outdoor competitions.

might join in the Victory Ceremonies, entry to Central Square was free of charge. Before and after the Ceremony, spectators were entertained by cultural performances of music and dance and joined in events such as the Peace Appeal Auction. The venue manager was responsible for ensuring the smooth running of all aspects of the Victory Ceremony.

Approximately 167,200 people attended the Victory Ceremonies at Central Square. On numerous days, spectators were turned away from the packed venue; they did not seem to mind, as celebrations spilled out onto the surrounding streets. Roads near Central Square were made

into pedestrian precincts from shortly before the Ceremony until after it had ended, and the whole neighbourhood came alive with the sights and sounds of Olympic festivity.

## Medals

To present the athletes with unique medals distinctive to Nagano, the traditional lacquering technique known as “japan” in English was employed. The medal design was rendered onto a lacquered brass core through a combination of *makie* technique, where layers of gold precious metal powder are applied to the wet lacquer, cloisonne, and precision metalwork.

On the front of the medal, a *makie* morning sun rises over a cloisonne Nagano Games emblem ringed with a border of olive leaves. The words “The XVIII Olympic Winter Games” are lettered onto the lacquered surface in intricate metalwork. The reverse side features a *makie* depiction of Nagano’s mountains aglow in the morning sun below the Snowflower emblem of the Games, and a metal inlay of the pictogram for the sport in which the medal was won.

Skilled artisans from the Kiso region of Nagano Prefecture handcrafted the lacquered portion of each medal while the final steps requiring a high level of precision technology and expertise were carried out by the Mint Bureau of the Ministry of Finance. Measuring 80mm in diameter and 9.7mm in thickness, gold medals weighed 256g, silver medals 250g, and bronze 230g.

## Patterns in Snow and Ice

Commemorative medals were made by the Ministry of Finance’s Mint Bureau in cooperation with NAOC and were presented to all Games participants. The obverse side features snow-clad mountains and forest. Against this background, the edge of a snowboard, bobsleigh, or luge has been etched. The gentle curve on the right depicts the traces of an ice skate and can



The medals were created using a unique combination of modern and traditional techniques.

also be seen as a sheet of ice. Taken as a whole, this represents the melding of snow and ice sports. The reverse side of the medal is decorated with the Nagano Games emblem and the words “XVIII Olympic Winter Games, Nagano 1998”.

Over 19,000 commemorative medals were struck and distributed to participating athletes and officials, IOC members, media personnel, participants at the Youth Camp, and others. The medals were made of metal alloy (90% copper, 10% zinc), measured 60mm in diameter and weighed 145g.

### Victory and Commemorative Diplomas

Victory diplomas for the top eight finishers in each event were presented on the day following competition at the NOC Service Centre in the Olympic Village. The event, athlete’s name, and placing were inscribed on the diplomas, which were A-4 size and printed in French, English, and Japanese. The diplomas were

presented in a russet and black case reflecting the colours of the lacquerware winners’ medals.

Commemorative diplomas attested to each recipient’s participation in the Nagano Games, and were printed in French, English, and Japanese.



Presentation of an Olympic medal - the dream of any athlete

# NOC Flags and Anthems

## Delegations' Flag

Due to the symbolic significance of each country's or region's (hereafter "NOC") flag, great care was exercised in the handling and displaying of flags. Production of the flags began two years before the Nagano Games, and advice was obtained from the foreign embassies in Japan.

Information from a variety of different sources was relied on in producing the flags: each NOC provided data on specifications, various regulations concerning flags were consulted, and designs for flags used at Olympic Games since the Tokyo Games were referred to. The specifications and colours for each flag were tentatively set in November 1996. Flag dimensions were set in accordance with the code of the United Nations at a height : width ratio of 2 : 3. As some flags were to be flown for more than 30 days in adverse weather conditions, durable 100% acrylic fabric was chosen for the material. Flag prototypes were made for 80 countries and regions and sent to each respective

NOC for confirmation in April 1997. Approximately 20 NOCs requested that corrections be made, mainly minor adjustments to the colour, and specifications were finalized in June.

Right until the opening of the Games, NAOC continued to collect the most up-to-date information about each NOC's flag, both from the NOC itself and from relevant embassies in Tokyo. Although the new flag for Bosnia and Herzegovina was officially recognized only three days before the Games, it was still prepared in time for the Opening Ceremony.

Approximately 1,500 flags were made for the NOCs, along with about 120 Olympic flags, 70 extra flags for Japan as host country, approximately 120 flags with the Nagano Games emblem, 35 United Nations' flags, and 35 International Federations' flags. After considering numerous factors including the scale of the venue where the flags were to be displayed, the height of flagpoles, and correct protocol, the following five size categories were determined:

- For display (NOC flags)  
1.2m height x 1.8m width
- For display (Olympic flags)  
1.4m height x 2.1m width
- For outdoor Victory Ceremonies / Closing Ceremony  
1.8m height x 2.7m width
- For indoor Victory Ceremonies  
2.0m height x 3.0m width
- For Opening and Closing Ceremony main poles  
3.0m height x 4.5m width

A complete set of flags along with their specifications was kept at NAOC HQ, and flags used at venues were checked against these. The flag of every NOC attending the Games was flown outside the stadium for Opening and Closing Ceremonies, the Victory Ceremonies site, the Olympic Village, the IOC hotel, and the

Boy scouts raised flags at the Victory Ceremonies.





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NOC hotel. At the competition venues and the Satellite Village in Karuizawa, the flags of NOCs with athletes competing or in residence were flown.

In principle, flags were flown from the day a venue opened until it officially closed. They were raised at the beginning of each day and lowered at the appropriate time of closing. Protocol regarding usage of flags as well as standard IOC protocol was strictly and carefully observed; as a result during the Games, not a single complaint concerning flags was received.

### **NOC Anthems**

The New Japan Philharmonic Orchestra under the direction of conductor Seiji Ozawa began recording the anthems in June 1997. CD and MD were the main media, while DAT was used for backup. Musical scores and sample tapes were obtained from the NOCs or their embassies in Tokyo, then the music was re-scored so that, in principle, each anthem was no longer than 75 seconds in length. Anthems were recorded separately and samples sent to each NOC for confirmation and comment.

Each NOC anthem was recorded on an individual CD and placed with its backup DAT tape in its individual case. The Ceremonies Manager was responsible for ensuring that the anthems were readily available for the Victory Ceremonies, and for the welcome ceremonies at the Olympic Village, while the venue Sound Manager was responsible for ensuring that the correct anthem was played. Due to this detailed preparation, no musical mistakes were made at any venue.



Seiji Ozawa conducts the recording of the NOC anthems.





LES XVIII<sup>es</sup> JEUX OLYMPIQUES D'HIVER  
THE XVIII OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES



4

Games Operations

NAGANO 1998

# NAOC Operations Headquarters

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During the preparations stage, each department or section within NAOC was responsible for a specific area of Games planning. For the Games themselves, it was decided to adopt a venue-specific structure with coordination provided by a central headquarters. Restructuring began soon after the 1996 / 97 winter sports season. By April, all staff had been given their Games-time assignments, and began venue and role-specific preparations in addition to their ongoing responsibilities.

On October 1, the NAOC Secretariat was restructured as NAOC Operations Headquarters (NAOC HQ) and staff took up their placements at the headquarters set up at each venue. Games-time organization involved a total of 44,066 people.

## Games-time Operations

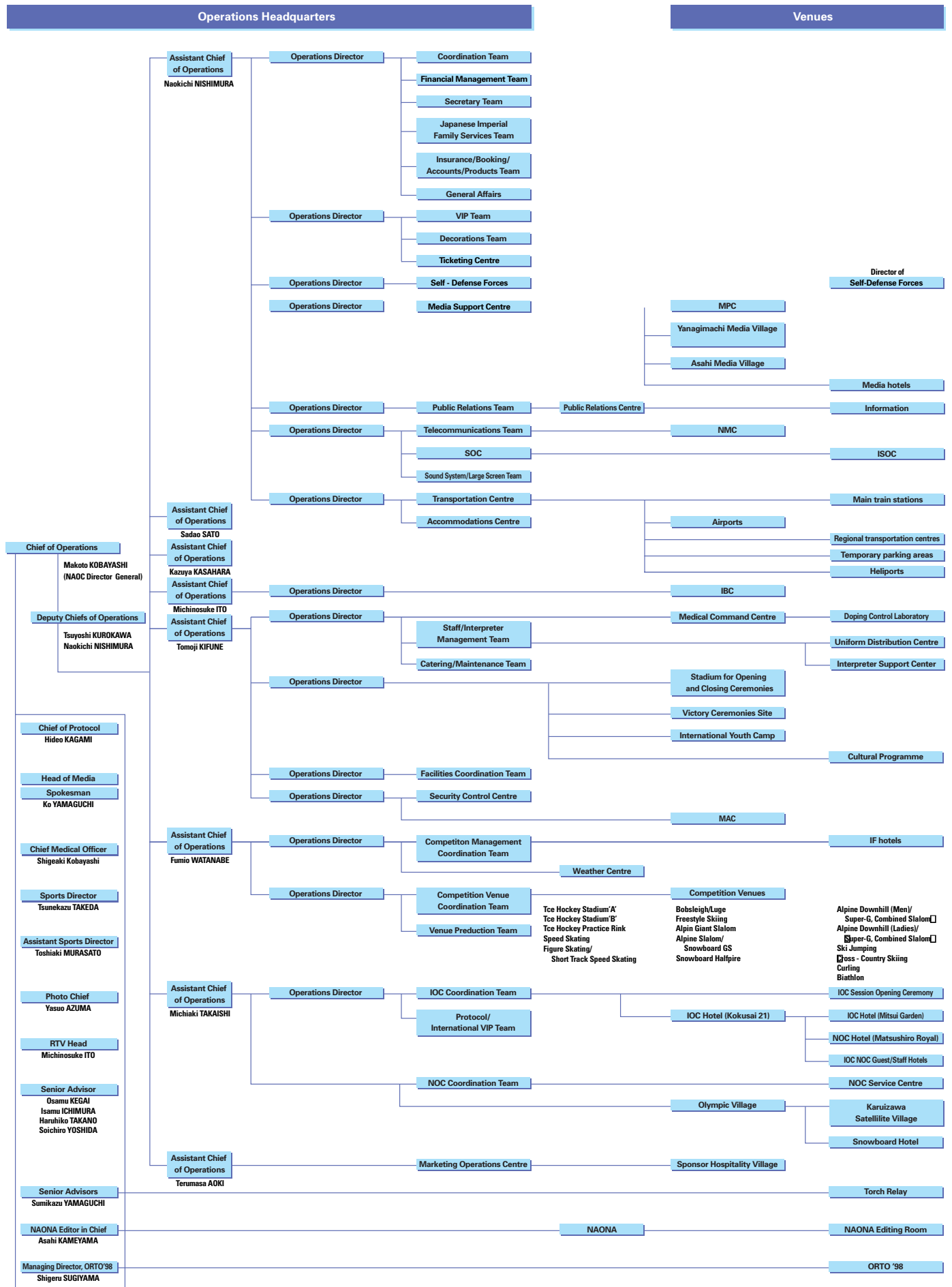
A total of 60 venue teams operated under the overall direction of NAOC HQ, headed by Chief of Operations Makoto Kobayashi (NAOC Director General). To ensure that any problems were resolved swiftly and efficiently, each venue manager was given authority to make decisions on venue-specific issues without referring them to NAOC HQ.

Based on totalling the maximum number of staff required at each venue on its peak day, initial projections were that approximately 20,000 staff (excluding contracted personnel) would be needed for Games operations. As plans solidified and each department made its requests for volunteers and local government and administrative support staff, this number was revised to 21,417. However, in order to ensure that the burden on staff would not be too great, a shift system was introduced, and the actual number of operations personnel during the Games totalled 44,066 comprising NAOC staff, host site government employees, volunteers, competition officials, ORTO '98 staff, and Self-Defense Force personnel (see p.149). In addition, as many as 6,000 police officers were on duty on any given day of the Games.

More than 44,000 staff and volunteers worked in Games operations.



# Organizational Chart for Games Operations (NAOC)



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## **NAOC Operations Headquarters**

Under the Chief of Operations were two Deputy Chiefs of Operations, the Chief of Protocol, Head of Media, Chief Medical Officer, Sports Director and Assistant Sports Director, Photo Chief, Radio and Television (RTV) Head, NAONA Editor in Chief, and the Managing Director of ORTO'98. In addition, several teams and centres dealing with specific areas of operations such as transportation and security were set up at NAOC HQ under the direction of various Assistant Chiefs of Operations.

NAOC HQ functioned as the command / crisis management centre for all Games operations, and all information from the venues was forwarded to NAOC HQ to help staff deal with any emergencies. Fortunately however, no major incidents occurred during the Games.

Close contact was maintained with the IOC and the IFs through meetings of the IOC / NAOC Daily Coordination Committee (CC) and Scheduling Committee, where respectively issues related to Game operations and the Sports Programme schedule were discussed. A joint IOC / NAOC daily press briefing was held at the MPC to relay information to the media.

### **• Daily Meeting**

During the period January 24 - February 22, a daily meeting was scheduled at 8 p.m. to discuss operations and any matters raised at the CC meeting. Attending the meetings were the Chief of Operations, two Deputy Chiefs of Operations, Head of Media, Chief Medical Officer, Sports Director and Assistant Sports Director, Photo Chief, Senior Advisors, NAONA Editor in Chief, ORTO '98 Managing Director, seven Assistant Chiefs of Operations, and fifteen Operations Directors.

### **• Information Network**

Venue staff filed a daily report to the operations teams / centres at NAOC HQ, and a special report was submitted describing any unexpected incidents, the action taken, and the outcome.

### **• Crisis Management**

The plan for crisis management emphasized taking preventative measures wherever possible, yet provided a common organizational structure for dealing with emergency cases. Response teams were set up for different types of emergency, and the effective communication system ensured that team members and relevant organizations could be contacted quickly. To establish an appropriate plan of action, the response teams participated in simulations of emergencies, such as natural disasters, accidents, and terrorist incidents. An emergency procedures manual was prepared for each venue.

## ■ Games Personnel

Venues	NAOC	Competition		Volunteers		Support staff from Host Sites	Subtotal	ORTO staff	Self-Defense Forces	Total
	Staff	Officials	Operations	Language	Total					
NAOC Operations Headquarters	102		206	5	211		313		59	
Ice Hockey Stadium'A'	16	137	795	262	1,057	54	1,264			
Ice Hockey Stadium'B'	13	137	599	195	794	69	1,013			
Ice Hockey Practice Rink	1		79	29	108	30	139			
Speed Skating	15	112	687	231	918	53	1,098			
Figure Skating / Short Track Speed Skating	21	215	590	225	815	56	1,107			
Biathlon	14	313	311	125	436	48	811		70	
Cross-Country Skiing	14	410	387	154	541	41	1,006		90	
Ski Jumping	17	308	421	154	575	55	955		130	
Alpine Downhill / Super-G (Men)	14	396	393	171	564	40	1,014		} 960	
Alpine Downhill / Super-G (Ladies)	11	396	311	99	410	45	862			
Alpine Giant Slalom	11	300	173	122	295	19	625		} 750	
Alpine Slalom / Snowboard GS	16	300	399	137	536	29	881			
Snowboard Halfpipe	11	103	194	102	296	15	425			
Freestyle Skiing	15	165	256	126	382	70	632		40	
Bobsleigh / Luge	16	190	525	105	630	54	890		70	
Curling	11	88	584	114	698	85	882			
Ticketing Centre	6		3	2	5		11			
NAONA	16		42	2	44		60			
Public Relations Centre	13		95	22	117		130			
Weather Centre	2						2			
Accommodations Centre	14		41	3	44		58			
Transportation Centre	62		11,917	231	12,148	204	12,414			
Security Control Centre	5		99		99		104			
Media Support Centre	7		37		37		44			
Marketing Operations Centre	17						17			
Stadium for Opening and Closing Ceremonies	16		319	138	457	378	851			
Victory Ceremonies	8		582	92	674	3	685			
Olympic Village	44		1,057	750	1,807	376	2,227			
Karuizawa Satellite Village	2		45	73	118	26	146			
Media Village (Asahi)	28		190	72	262		290			
Media Village (Yanagimachi)	32		372	114	486		518			
Main Press Centre (MPC)	47		464	248	712		759			
International Broadcasting Centre (IBC)	177		314	319	633		810			
Network Management Centre (NMC)	11		23	2	25		36			
Main Accreditation Centre (MAC)	33		51	92	143		176			
Sponsor Hospitality Village	6		92	95	187		193			
IOC hotel	23		417	280	697		720			
NOC hotel	6		34	44	78		84			
Other Games hotels	1		72	67	139	1	141			
Nagano Station	1		233	19	252	34	287			
Karuizawa Station	1		13		13	6	20			
Tokyo / Ueno Stations	1		67	74	141		142			
Other stations			7		7	18	25			
New Tokyo International Airport	5		222	214	436		441			
Kansai International Airport	3		206	45	251		254			
Nagoya International Airport	2		41	37	78		80			
Matsumoto Airport	3		26	37	63		66			
Temporary parking areas (Nagano)			402	8	410	8	418			
Temporary parking areas (Hakuba)	2		895	25	920		922			
Temporary parking areas (Yamanouchi)	2		485	16	501	1	504			
Temporary parking areas (Nozawa Onsen)			13	7	20	2	22			
Temporary parking areas (Karuizawa)			974	14	988	7	995			
Systems Operations Centre(SOC)	21		35	2	37		58			
Data Centre	5						5			
Medical Command Centre	11		83		83		94			
Doping Control Laboratory	15						15			
Uniform Distribution Centre	2		50		50		52			
International Youth Camp	5		97	52	149	7	161			
Cultural Programme sites	7		2		2		9			
Torch Relay	15						15			
<b>Total</b>	<b>995</b>	<b>3,570</b>	<b>27,027</b>	<b>5,552</b>	<b>32,579</b>	<b>1,834</b>	<b>38,978</b>	<b>2,919</b>	<b>2,169</b>	<b>44,066</b>



**YAMANOUCHI** - By January, all staff had taken up their Games-time assignments.



**ZENKOJI TEMPLE** - On New Year's Day, NAOC executives pray for the success of the Games.

## NAGANO 1998

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## Changes to the Competition Schedule

To minimize the impact of any changes to the competition schedule, a manual was written clarifying procedures in the event of such changes. For minor delays to competition start times, the venue manager made the final decision after consultation with the competition jury. Requests for major schedule changes were taken before the eight-member Scheduling Committee, which was chaired by NAOC Sports Director Tsunekazu Takeda, and included IOC Executive Board member and AIWF President Marc Hodler, IOC Sports Director Gilbert Felli, and IOC Radio and Television Advisor Manolo Romero.

The Committee met 14 times at the IOC hotel, and a teleconference system was utilised to link the meeting room with the venue, enabling officials there to contribute to the decision-making process. The revised schedule was sent via a fax network from NAOC HQ to a total of 450 locations, including venue headquarters, host sites, the national government, the prefectural government, and media groups. This ensured that all concerned were made aware of any changes as quickly as possible. Staff at NAOC HQ made alterations to plans for ticketing, transportation, parking permits, and broadcast this information to the public. Although inclement weather did result in several changes to the competition schedule, the impact on Games operations was minimal as a result of swift and effective action.

## Daily IOC / NAOC Coordination Committee

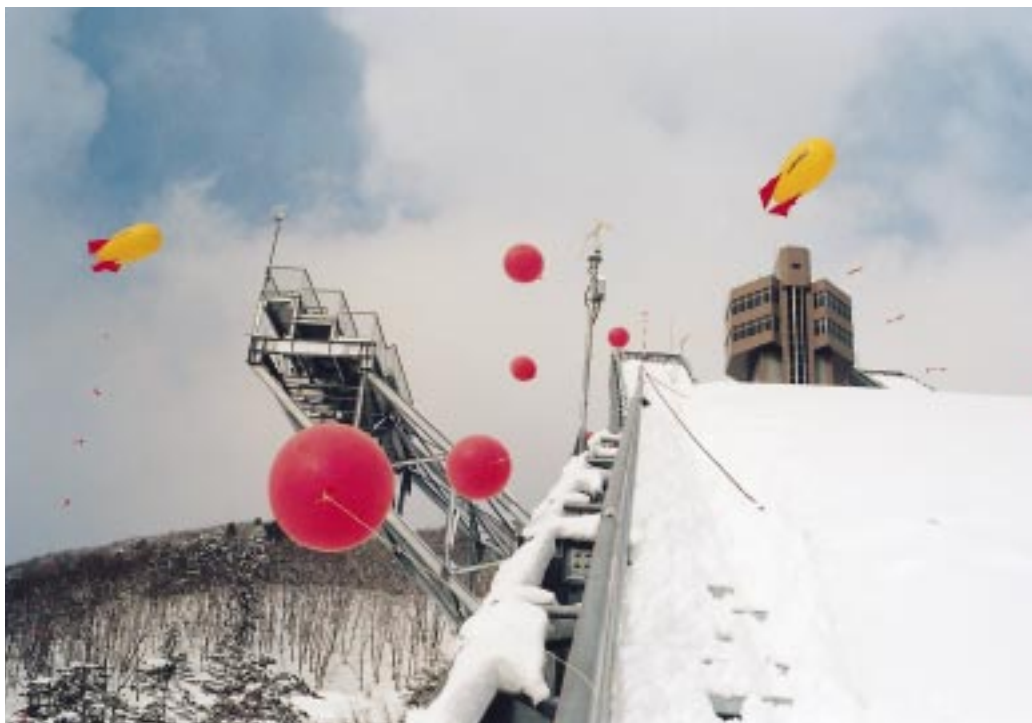
Meetings of the Coordination Committee, the highest decision-making authority for the Games, allowed the IOC and NAOC to discuss all aspects of operations. The meetings were held daily February 6 - 22 at the IOC hotel. Those in attendance at the meetings included: from the IOC, the President, Vice Presidents, members of the Executive Board, various IOC members, representatives from the Athletes' Commission, and department directors; from NAOC, the Chief of Operations and his two Deputy Chiefs, Chairman of the International Relations Commission, Head of Media, and Sports Director. Also attending were representatives of the winter sports IFs and NOCs. Discussions focused on the weather reports, concerns with regard to issues such as transportation and security, and problems at the Olympic Village or other facilities. NAOC submitted an action report on issues raised to the following day's CC meeting.

## NAOC Spokesman

The official spokesman for the Organizing Committee was Head of Media Ko Yamaguchi. Under his direction, a team worked to gather vital information, plan press conferences, and write press releases in Japanese, English, and French. In addition to the daily IOC / NAOC joint press briefing at 10 a.m. at the Main Press Centre, the Head of Media held a number of unilateral NAOC press conferences to keep the world media up-to-date on the latest developments. Altogether, the Head of Media convened 48 press conferences during the Games.



In order to provide the most accurate weather forecasts possible, comprehensive data was collected from every venue (Feb. 1995, ski jumping venue).



## Weather Forecasting

NAOC engaged the help of the Japan Meteorological Association (JMA) to develop an accurate forecasting system. The JMA began studying weather patterns at all competition venues several years before the Games to establish forecasting techniques.

The latest computer equipment was used to formulate forecasts (Japan Meteorological Association, Nagano Centre).



### • High-tech Forecasting System

Computers were linked to equipment measuring temperature, humidity, wind speed, and wind direction at each outdoor venue. In addition, cameras at the alpine and freestyle skiing courses were set up to constantly monitor changing conditions. Along with terminals linked to the Ministry of Construction's radar weather network, a Doppler radar system was used to track weather in the skies above Nagano City, and a laser radar utilised at the downhill course in Hakuba.

### • Weather Centre

The weather centre was set up within NAOC HQ. The 45-person staff, which included specialists from the JMA, produced reports and forecasts based on around-the-clock monitoring of weather conditions. These included:

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- **Local Report**

Reports specific to competition venues were released three times daily at 06:00, 12:00, and 16:00 predicting weather patterns for the following 48 hours in one-hour increments, covering temperature, humidity, wind speed and direction, and snowfall. The reports included half-day assessments of snow accumulation and visibility.

- **One Week Forecast**

Seven-day forecast for each competition venue, giving a day-by-day prediction of weather patterns, min. / max. temperatures, and snowfall. Released daily at 12:00.

- **General Area Weather Report**

Three-day forecast of min. / max. temperatures and snowfall for Nagano City and Karuizawa, released twice daily.

- **Lightning Information**

Released twice daily with constant updates during storms.

- **Warnings**

Reports and warnings for extreme weather patterns, such as heavy snow or strong winds.

- **Weather Updates**

Hourly reports on current temperature, humidity, wind speed and direction, and snow accumulation.

Weather information was faxed to each competition venue and released on Info'98, the Olympic Newspaper, and Olympic Radio. The director of the weather centre gave an update at the NAOC Daily Meeting, and the meetings of the Scheduling Committee and Daily Coordination Committee. A meteorological expert was assigned to the race office at all outdoor venues to provide the latest weather information



**Inclement weather forced organizers to postpone some events, however all events were eventually held.**

to competition officials, and to produce and distribute additional forecasts for the hours ahead.

Though unusually variable and rapidly-changing weather conditions during the Games made predicting weather difficult, the forecasts were extremely precise and were of great help to the Scheduling Committee when making decisions regarding changes. Reports produced by the weather centre were highly praised at the Daily Coordination Committee meetings.



## Uniform

Designed and manufactured by Mizuno, Gold Sponsor of the Nagano Games, the official uniform worn by operations personnel embodied the spirit of the Nagano Games and served to strengthen the feeling of group identity and teamwork among staff and volunteers.

Functional in design, the comfortable unisex uniforms were made from quality materials, provided outstanding protection against the elements, and looked attractive on people of all ages. In addition to blending in with the natural environment, the monotone silvery grey colour of the uniforms was easy to distinguish from winter wear worn by spectators. The uniforms featured patterns depicting athletes in each of the sports at the Games in a simple yet elegant multi-layered design, and were fully recyclable in accordance with one of the tenets of the Nagano Games – “Respect for the beauty and bounty of nature”. An environmental message from IOC President Samaranch was sewn inside the uniforms. The uniforms were unveiled on “Olympic Day” (June 23) in 1997.



**New technology was used to create fully recyclable uniforms. The distribution of uniforms meant that the Games were near at hand!**

<i>Item</i>	<i>Distributed to</i>
Overcoat	VIPs
Over-jacket	Outdoor staff
Over-trousers	Outdoor staff
Windbreaker	Indoor staff
Fleece jacket	All staff
Cap	All staff
Gloves (fleece)	All staff
Gloves (waterproof)	Outdoor staff
Sports shoes	All staff
Outdoor shoes	Outdoor staff
Armband	All staff

## Language Services

With thousands of Olympic Family members and overseas visitors coming to Nagano, language services took on a particularly crucial role. The services of approximately 5,800 language professionals and volunteers were utilised in all aspects of Games operations.

### Professional Language Services

Over 300 language professionals from translation / interpretation companies were contracted to provide simultaneous interpretation at meetings, interpretation at press conferences and for venue managers, and translation of official documents. Four language services companies were contracted based on the quality of their staff and experience with managing personnel. Interpretation services in other areas were handled by volunteers, although some professional French interpreters were dispatched as necessary. The IOC supplied interpreters at venues and meetings where interpretation services from languages other than Japanese into English were required.

### Assignments

Interpreters were stationed at non-competition venues such as the IBC, MPC, and Olympic Village for the entire January 24 – February 25 operating period. At the competition venues, interpreters met with venue officials several times to clarify their roles, and were on call from the first day of official training until the final day of competition.

To effectively manage interpreting services, a support centre was set up in Nagano City to coordinate schedules for simultaneous interpreters dispatched to meetings at the IOC hotel, IBC, Olympic Village, and to press conferences at the MPC and SPCs.



MPC – Simultaneous interpreters at work. At the Nagano Games, language services played a vital role.

## Simultaneous Interpretation in Six Languages

For press conferences at the MPC, simultaneous interpreting service was provided for French, English, German, Russian, Chinese, and Japanese, supplemented by Spanish and Korean language services as the occasion demanded. In general, press conferences at the SPCs were held in English, however consecutive interpretation from the athlete's native language into English, was provided as necessary. Interpretation from

English into Japanese was also available upon request. Simultaneous English – Japanese interpretation was provided at the ski jump, cross-country, speed skating, and figure skating venues in consideration of the large number of journalists and frequent number of press conferences expected.

Simultaneous English – Japanese service was available for daily meetings of the Rights Holders held at the IBC, while English, French, and Japanese simultaneous interpreting service was provided for Chefs de Mission meetings at the Olympic Village.

For NAOC reports at the IOC Session, meetings of the IOC Executive Board, Daily Coordination Committee, and Medical Commission, simultaneous interpretation was available for English and Japanese, while the IOC provided interpreting services for other languages.

MPC – distributing earphones before a press conference.



### ■ No. of Contracted Interpreters and Translators

	English	French	German	Russian	English	Coordinators	Total
	Japanese	Japanese	Japanese	Japanese	Other		
Competitions	87	11	29	3	0	0	130
Venue operations	44	11	7	0	0	9	71
Press conferences	32	0	0	0	23	0	55
Simultaneous interpreters	11	0	0	0	21	0	32
Translators	15	14	0	0	0	0	29
IOC interpreters	0	0	0	0	20	0	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>337</b>

## Assistance from the French Government

Providing adequate language services in French, along with English one of the two official languages of the Olympic Movement, was a concern for Games organizers. The French Embassy in Japan generously offered to assist in language training for NAOC staff, and a cooperation agreement between NAOC and the French government was signed in March 1997.

The French Ministry of Youth & Sports initiated a number of projects to provide NAOC with assistance, including:

- An employee of the French Embassy was seconded to NAOC from June 1996 to February 1998.
- A total of nine students from the *Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales* in Paris were dispatched to NAOC at various times between April 1997 - February 1998.
- With assistance from the *Institut National du Sport et de l'Education Physique* (INSEP), NAOC published an English/French/Japanese lexicon of Olympic Sports.
- At the invitation of the French government, a total of 12 NAOC staff and volunteers took part in language courses in Bordeaux.
- French-language volunteers were given the opportunity to enrol in courses and examinations at language schools across Japan free of charge.
- General advice on the use of French was given by the Cultural Affairs Department of the French Embassy in Japan.



French Ambassador Jean-Bernard Ouvrieu (second from left) pays a visit to the NAOC Secretariat.

With this generous support and cooperation from the French government during the preparations stage, the level of French-language services at the Games was raised, and earned wide praise from Games participants.



LES XVIII<sup>es</sup> JEUX OLYMPIQUES D'HIVER  
THE XVIII OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES



5  
Volunteers

NAGANO 1998

## Games Operations Volunteers

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Thousands of volunteers devoted their time and energy to assisting with operations and to welcoming spectators and guests from around the world. A total of 32,579 volunteers helped at venues with maintenance, security, transportation, and other duties, while 15,489 volunteers participated in the Cultural Programme. Team '98 was formed to provide a network to promote independent volunteer activities. The Olympic Family was especially effusive in their praise of the volunteers, without whose dedicated help and enthusiasm the Games would not have been a success.

Volunteers played a key role in assisting with operations at the venues.

### Over 30,000 Volunteers

A volunteer recruitment drive was held from May 16 to September 30, 1994. The goal was to register 10,000 volunteers to work in 18 different areas of Games operations, including information services, hospitality, accreditation, venue security, driving, and information systems. The only restriction placed upon volunteers was that they be at least 16 years of age.

The response was overwhelming. Including 29 volunteers who registered from overseas, 32,261 volunteers – 18,005 Games operations volunteers, and 14,256 Cultural Programme volunteers – answered the call.



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NAGANO 1998



After surveying the skills and preferences of those who had registered, it became apparent that there was an insufficient number of volunteers with foreign language ability and in the driver and information systems categories. To secure drivers used to driving under adverse winter conditions and with good geographical knowledge of the area, NAOC obtained assistance from four employers' federations in Nagano, the Nagano branch of the Japanese Trade Union Confederation, and the Regional Development Council. Volunteers were also recruited from various local governments in Nagano Prefecture. Additionally, for information systems, the technology department of Shinshu University, the Nagano National College of Technology, and computer-related businesses all agreed to supply volunteers.

Due to the shortage of locally-based language volunteers, advertisements were placed in language study magazines. Companies with business links overseas, universities and schools specializing in language training, and local groups promoting international relations were all approached for help. The final number of volunteers registered for the Games totalled 32,579.

### ■ No. of Registered Volunteers 32,579

General public volunteers	21,887
Company / government volunteers	10,692

### ■ Gender

Male	21,097	64.8 %
Female	11,482	35.2 %



Beginning two years before the Games, volunteers at the information booth in front of Nagano Station offered a friendly word to those seeking information.

### ■ Age

16 - 19	993	3.0%
20 - 29	8,853	27.2%
30 - 39	7,606	23.4%
40 - 49	7,038	21.6%
50 - 59	5,201	16.0%
60 - 69	2,426	7.4%
70 +	462	1.4%
Total	32,579	100.0 %

\*The youngest volunteer was 16 ; the eldest was 83

### ■ Occupation

Company employee	31.9%
Public servant	23.8%
Student	21.5%
Housewife	11.1%

### ■ Place of Residence

Nagano Prefecture	27,244
Tokyo	1,636
Kanagawa Prefecture	794
Chiba Prefecture	463
Saitama Prefecture	389
Other 42 prefectures	1,993
USA	36
France	4
Germany	4
Other	16



The appreciative crowd at Big Hat gives the volunteers a round of applause.

### Volunteer Seminars

Registered volunteers were required to attend three general seminars beginning in January 1995. A total of 107 seminars were held in various locations throughout Japan. Two thousand five hundred and thirty-seven (2,537) of the registered volunteers assisted with the ICPGs held between December 1996 and March 1997, thus gaining valuable firsthand experience.

After notice of volunteer assignment was sent out in September 1997, specialized seminars were held to give volunteers specific details and information about their venue location and volunteer responsibilities. The various seminars played a crucial part in the success of the Games by ensuring that volunteers were clear about their roles and responsibilities.

### Volunteer Leaders

In addition to the seminars, volunteer leaders were chosen to help facilitate effective communication amongst the volunteers and NAOC. Applicants who were willing to take on this added responsibility were interviewed by NAOC staff, and those best qualified were selected. Volunteers who had registered as a group chose their own representative. Approximately 400 leaders were chosen and leaders' seminars were held in various locations in September and October 1995.

### Assignments

Whenever possible, volunteers' requests were given priority when making assignments. Upon registration, volunteers filled out a supplemental questionnaire detailing their availability, health condition, language skills, and transportation and accommodation status. This information was stored in a computerized games staffing system used for determining volunteer placements and issuing accreditation cards. Preliminary assignments were made in November 1996, but some volunteers were subsequently reassigned in accordance with their wishes.

Of the 32,579 volunteers, 31% were assigned as drivers, 16% as parking lot or shuttle bus attendants, 9.8% as security personnel, 8.9% in traffic control, and 4.9% dealt with ticketing and venue maintenance.

Volunteers were responsible for their own travel expenses to Nagano, while NAOC provided accommodations and shuttle bus transportation during the Games. Those who worked eight days or more were issued with uniforms, which included jacket, trousers, windbreaker, fleece, cap, gloves, and winter shoes according to their assignment. For those working less than eight days, these items were loaned out. In thanks for their participation in the Games, volunteers were presented with a certificate of appreciation signed by IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch and NAOC President Eishiro Saito,



**Volunteer leaders discuss ideas for training workshops.**

a Team '98 commemorative pin, an IOC "Thanks" pin, a complimentary ticket to the rehearsal of the Closing Ceremony, and a complimentary ticket to an outdoor sporting event.

### **Team '98 Activities**

Volunteers for the Lillehammer Games went under the moniker of "Team '94" and volunteers for the Nagano Games continued this tradition by calling themselves "Team '98". A Team '98 committee was formed in July 1994 to focus on how best to prepare sporting event volunteers. This committee played an important role given the long period between the volunteer recruitment stage and actual assignment.

A volunteer centre was set up in the NAOC Secretariat, and a quarterly four-page volunteer newsletter distributed. A volunteer chat room was established on NAOC's home page where views and ideas could be discussed freely.

Volunteers helped out from early on in the Games preparation stage, for example, by selling Nagano Games souvenirs at Olympic-related events, and operating the Games information booth in front of Nagano Station. The sense of camaraderie that developed amongst the volunteers was treasured by all.

Volunteer leaders in the various districts initiated discussions to consider ways of welcoming athletes and spectators to Nagano and how to create a festive atmosphere in the streets and at the venues. In cooperation with Amway Japan, a Volunteer House was set up at the Olympic Plaza near the east exit of Nagano Station during the Games, where volunteers could relax and interact. Cultural volunteers staged a variety of performances that were enjoyed greatly by visitors. The Volunteer House proved to be a vibrant base for the volunteers to savour the spirit of the Games.

**Concerts at a Volunteer House let the volunteers join in the fun.**



## Language Volunteers



Language expertise was indicated on armbands.

The efforts of some 5,500 language volunteers played a large part in ensuring smooth operations. In all, services were offered in 25 different languages across many areas of Games operations, including interpretation.

During the volunteer recruitment process, no separate “language volunteer” category was established; this was because NAOC wanted to ensure that a wide variety of volunteers applied. Rather, those volunteers with sufficient ability who wished to use their language training were assigned to areas of Games operations, including interpretation, where their skills could best be utilised.

Registration began in May 1994, and volunteers were categorized according to geographical area, i.e. Nagano Prefecture, other areas of Japan, and outside Japan. Volunteers were also recruited from among language students registered with the Association of Nagano Prefecture for the Promotion of International Exchange (ANPIE) and other public and private language groups. In areas outside Nagano Prefecture, requests for cooperation were relayed to various

international groups and language schools.

A total of 5,056 volunteers who were expected to have extensive contact with overseas visitors underwent a language evaluation process. Some 3,985 people took the standard Test of English for International Communication (TOEIC), with an emphasis on conversational ability. For languages other than English, conversation evaluations were carried out over the telephone for 1,071 volunteers.

### Languages Other Than English

In 1996, there was some concern over insufficient numbers of volunteers who could speak Russian and French, as these are not languages widely studied in Japan. To rectify the situation, recruitment efforts focused on Russian exchange students studying in Japan and additional assistance was also obtained from Japanese-Russian international organizations. For French, NAOC received help from Japanese-French international organizations and through various language schools, and enough volunteers were recruited to provide full language support at the IOC hotel, MPC, IBC, and the Media Villages. While the level of French support at the competition venues and Olympic Village was relatively low compared to English, it was still adequate. Thanks to the tremendous support of the French Embassy in Japan, enough French-speakers were found for Victory Ceremonies, information counters, medical clinics, etc.

It was difficult to determine how much demand there would be at the venues for support for Turkish and eastern European languages, such as Polish, Czech, Slovakian, Hungarian, Romanian, Bulgarian or Serbo-Croatian. During the Games, at least one person who spoke one or more of these languages was stationed full-time at the Language Support Centre in the Olympic Village, and support in these languages was available by calling the centre by using the Olympic network’s three-way calling system.

## Placements

Data from volunteer language evaluations included information on recognized language qualifications, experience living overseas, and personal evaluations. Volunteer assignments were not based solely on language criteria: for example, volunteers assigned to the MPC general information counter were selected as well for their knowledge of the geography and culture of Nagano Prefecture, and their familiarity with media-related terms. However, as not all of them could fully meet these requirements, volunteers were paired according to strengths and weaknesses. During the Games, language volunteers and contracted interpreters wore coloured armbands indicating their language expertise.

No specialized language training was conducted for volunteers. Training to enable volunteers to fulfill assignment responsibilities took top priority.



Welcoming travellers at the New Tokyo International (Narita) Airport

### ■ No. of Language Volunteers

English	4,579
French	404
German	190
Russian	136
Spanish	74
Chinese	62
Korean	26
Italian	22
Portuguese	15
Other*	44
TOTAL	5,552

\* Czech, Swedish, Finnish, Mongolian, Hungarian, Norwegian, Romanian, Arabic, Polish, Bulgarian, Slovakian, Dutch, Serbo-Croatian, Hebrew, Latvian, and Turkish.



A number of language classes were held for volunteers in areas around Nagano Prefecture.

## Cultural Volunteers

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Dressing in kimono proved a hit with visitors to the Olympic Village.

One year before the Games, cultural volunteers began a colourful programme to introduce visitors to the culture and traditions of Japan and Nagano. During the Games, 188 groups totalling 15,489 volunteers gave performances and demonstrations at 31 locations throughout Nagano, including the competition and non-competition venues.

The activities of the cultural volunteers were a part of the Cultural Programme, which through the support of volunteers, Games personnel, and many others, made everyone feel welcome in

Nagano and helped to realize the theme of “Games from the Heart – Together with Love”.

### Participation of 188 Groups

Although a large concentration of cultural volunteers came from areas that hosted competitions, people from all parts of Nagano and around Japan responded to the recruitment drive, with the majority registering in groups.

Cultural volunteers were divided broadly into demonstration groups and performance groups. Nagano area schools / groups practising the traditional Japanese arts of *ikebana* (flower arranging), *sado* (tea ceremony), and wearing of kimono established three support networks, one for each traditional art. Once established, each of the support networks was independently run, and conferred with NAOC to plan and finalize activities. Performance groups, meanwhile, put on shows of traditional Japanese music and dance, including performances of *taiko* drums (26), and Shinto music and the ritual lion dance (17). Other performance groups put on performances ranging from jazz dance (4) to choirs (15) to instrumental music (18). The activities of the volunteer groups reflected the type of performance, and orientation was also offered.

### Prior to the Games

Cultural volunteers launched their programme one year before the start of the Games, and took an active part in the ICPG events. These events allowed the volunteers to gain a clearer picture of their responsibilities and were also the start of many friendships between the volunteers and the athletes, officials, and spectators, which contributed later to the success of the Nagano Games.

The volunteers gave performances to welcome visitors at competition venues, and members of kimono groups added a special touch as assistants at indoor Victory Ceremonies. Guests at receptions were greeted with tea service and



At Mt. Yakebitai in Shiga Kogen, a giant "snake" rears its head.

entertained by a variety of musical performances. Through their activities, the cultural volunteers contributed to the mounting excitement as the Games drew nearer.

Volunteers performed at the countdown events and Games-related events, as well as at receptions of Olympic-related meetings. At White Ring, tea ceremony groups staged one of the largest tea parties ever, while the various kimono groups worked together to present a special kimono show. The *ikebana* support network arranged daily displays of fresh flowers in the lobby of Nagano City Hall.

### Preparations for the Games

In consultation with the various groups, NAOC assigned the cultural volunteers and formulated a manual for each venue. Meetings with operations staff were held, and orientation sessions organized. Cultural volunteers were given performer passes in order to access the venue.

Cultural volunteers did not receive any compensation for transportation, accommodations, or meals, although NAOC arranged insurance for them. Each volunteer received a certificate of participation and a commemorative cultural volunteer pin.

Every day at the Hakuba Snow Dome, volunteers put on performances of traditional performing arts.





*Sado* (tea ceremony) groups served traditional green tea to thousands of participants.

### During the Games

In addition to the performances staged at the venues, many performances were held in the streets of Nagano City and at other sites hosting competitions. Many of these street performances were staged at the request of local organizers, giving local cultural groups opportunities to join in the festivities.

### • Competition Facilities

Cultural volunteers braved all kinds of weather to entertain spectators with stirring performances featuring *taiko* drums, Shinto music and dance (*kagura*), and ritual lion dances (*shishimai*). These were a big hit with overseas spectators and athletes alike. At the curling venue, the town of Karuizawa arranged for the use of a stage in an adjacent gymnasium that served as a spectator rest area, where local volunteer groups performed during breaks in competition to the delight of visitors.

*Ikebana* groups created flower displays in reception areas and at the Olympic Family lounges of the indoor competition venues, while members of kimono groups acted as assistants at the Victory Ceremonies.

Volunteers from kimono groups were a colourful part of the Victory Ceremonies.





### • Non-Competition Facilities

Activities at the non-competition venues proved equally popular. At the Olympic Village and the Sponsor Hospitality Village, volunteers put on daily hour and a half performances of traditional Japanese music and dance, and many posed for commemorative photos with the athletes. At the Olympic Village welcoming ceremonies, athletes and officials were served green tea and treated to a *koto* (Japanese harp) recital. Cultural volunteers also performed in the Olympic Village restaurant during the evening meal hours. At the International Youth Camp, a “Japanese Culture Night” was staged, giving the camp participants an introduction to Japanese traditions. Kimono groups put on shows at two of the venues, while flower-arranging groups created displays at 12 of the venues and facilities including accommodation facilities and the media facilities. At seven of the venues, visitors had opportunity to dress in kimono or try their hand at making tea or arranging flowers. All of these activities created opportunities for friendships to flourish.



*Ikebana* groups set up flower displays at many of the venues.



Cultural volunteers took part in promoting the Nagano Games at a number of events, including at the Centennial Games in Atlanta.

Dancers keep the crowd entertained before the Victory Ceremonies at Central Square.



#### • On the Streets

At Central Square, a festival to celebrate the culture of Nagano was staged. The performances the cultural volunteers gave before and after the Victory Ceremonies, together with guest appearances by celebrities from the world of Japanese entertainment, helped to spread the word that “Nagano” is a very special place indeed.

With the cooperation of Japan Railways, a stage was set up in the main foyer of Nagano Station, the gateway to Nagano. The performances four times daily offered visitors a friendly welcome. At the Olympic Plaza on the east side of the station, two daily performances were held to entertain volunteers at the Volunteer House and to help them unwind.

In Yamanouchi, cultural volunteers from professional singers to local groups and schoolchildren performed Japanese music and dance to welcome the athletes and spectators.

The “Matsuri in Hakuba” celebration featuring a compilation of local performing arts was held the night before the opening of the Games, while a two and a half-hour musical and dance extravaganza titled the “Olympic Hakuba Culture Festival” was staged every day at the Hakuba Snow Dome.

## ■ No. of Cultural Volunteers Involved in Activities During the Games

Site	Performances	Ikebana (Flower arranging)	Sado (Tea ceremony)	Kimono	TOTAL
Speed Skating	2,150	87			2,237
Ice Hockey 'A'	277	50			327
Ice Hockey 'B'	179	46			225
Figure Skating / Short Track	853	65			918
Bobsleigh / Luge	111				111
Freestyle Skiing	38				38
Alpine GS	36				36
Alpine Slalom / Snowboard GS	72				72
Snowboard HP	44				44
Alpine DH / Super-G	140				140
Cross-Country Skiing	193				193
Ski Jumping	120				120
Curling	598	32			630
Biathlon	131				131
Olympic Village	590	336	286	120	1,332
Karuzawa Satellite Village	6	60	55	30	151
Opening and Closing Ceremonies		34			34
Victory Ceremonies		54			54
MPC		60			60
IBC		107	138		245
Yanagimachi Media Village		95			95
Asahi Media Village		100			100
IOC Hotel		200	141	124	465
NOC Hotel		50	52		102
Sponsor Hospitality Village	521	40	143	72	776
Youth Camp	338	79	45	47	509
Central Nagano	3,589				3,589
Nagano Station	826				826
Volunteer House	528				528
Shiga Kogen area	177				177
Hakuba Snow Dome	1,224				1,224
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,741</b>	<b>1,495</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>15,489</b>



LES XVIII<sup>ES</sup> JEUX OLYMPIQUES D'HIVER  
THE XVIII OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES



6

The Competition  
Environment

NAGANO 1998

# Venue Preparations and Operations

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Detailed planning was crucial for preparing the finest competition facilities for the athletes. Despite inclement weather that resulted in programming changes at certain venues, all scheduled competitions were completed within the given time thanks to the cooperative efforts of the venue staff and Games personnel, including volunteers and the Self-Defense Forces. The thorough preparations allowed the athletes to push their strength and skill to the limits, and their exploits were relayed in vivid detail to the rest of the world by the television and print media.

## Fundamental Guidelines

The following guidelines provided the framework for planning and operating the competition venues:

- **Harmony with Nature**

As one of the tenets of the Nagano Games was “Respect for the beauty and bounty of nature”, all facilities were prepared with full regard to preserving and protecting the natural environment.

- **Offering the Best Competition Environment**

Competitions were run smoothly and in strict accordance with international standards and

regulations to ensure fair competition for all. The best venues possible were prepared in order to allow the athletes to showcase their skills.

- **Offering a Pleasant Environment for Spectators**

Spectators from around Japan and all over the world were welcomed to clean, comfortable venues where they could savour the distinctive characteristics of each sport and site. Along with the thrill of live competition, staff provided warm and friendly service to ensure that spectators fully enjoyed the experience .

- **Transmitting the Games to the World**

Utilising the latest technology, the images and sounds that comprised the international signal captured the skill and agility of the athletes and the splendour of the venues, while the excitement and energy conveyed to audiences worldwide made them feel as if they were actually at the venues.

## Organization

Preparations at each competition venue were divided into three areas: venue operations, competition management, and production of the international signal. Spearheading the effort at each competition venue in these areas respectively were the venue manager, competition director, and ORTO venue manager, all of whom were professionals with a wealth of related experience.

Venue managers were appointed in April 1997 from among members of the NAOC staff. The venue manager was given overall authority and responsibility for coordinating operations with the competition director and the ORTO venue manager. The competition director was appointed upon the recommendation of the relevant Japanese sports federation, while the ORTO venue manager was a broadcasting professional

To prepare the best venues possible, staff regularly worked late into the night (Spiral).



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appointed from among the organizations that comprised ORTO. The three managers at each venue worked together closely during the preparations stage as well as during the Games to resolve any problems. Also working under the venue manager was a director in charge of venue productions, such as the Victory and flower ceremonies, and announcements during events.

### **Communication with NAOC Operations Headquarters**

To coordinate operations, each venue manager maintained close contact not only with NAOC HQ, but also with other competition venues, practice sites, parking areas, the Olympic Village, and the Medical Command Centre. NAOC HQ was kept abreast of any events or incidents at the individual venues through daily and supplementary reports.

### **Communication with other Organizations**

For venue and course maintenance as well as other aspects of venue operations during the Games, close contact was maintained with the host site governments, private companies, and other owners or managers of leased property. In addition, a network linking the national government, local governments, and local tourism and hotel associations was formed to ensure that information and emergency relief efforts in case of natural disaster or traffic problems would be shared. The network also provided the necessary resources for transporting the sick or injured and for snow removal efforts.

### **Information Management and Emergency Response**

The success of venue operations and emergency response depended largely upon the effective coordination of all activities and the quick relay of accurate information throughout the venue, allowing organizers to take



**At the alpine skiing venues, courses were painstakingly tramped down by wave after wave of support staff.**

necessary action.

Each venue was supplied with manuals for information management and for dealing with emergencies. The information management manual placed the venue manager at the apex of the information network and clearly delineated the categories, timing, and recipients of information transmissions, including channels



Competition officials at the side of the landing zone of the ski jumping stadium in Hakuba

for keeping NAOC HQ and other venues or organizations informed.

The emergency response manual categorized various emergency situations and designated persons or organizations responsible for responding to each incident. Clear procedures for handling incidents and relaying information throughout the network were also established. Emergency response simulations were held at each venue in January prior to the Games in order to verify methods and procedures.

## Competition Management

Staff and personnel made extraordinary efforts to prepare the best possible venues and conditions to ensure fair competition for the athletes. Outdoor course preparations were extremely vulnerable to changing weather conditions, but all events were successfully completed due to the magnificent cooperation of all involved in competition management. Their efforts earned wide praise from the athletes and international federations.

### Preparation

#### • Coordination with International Federations

Close communication and coordination with the IFs ensured that competition venues met international standards set by the federations.

#### • Coordination with the IOC

NAOC maintained close contact with the IOC Sports Department on matters such as the competition schedule and the number of athletes and officials able to participate under the IOC's participation and qualification criteria. A Scheduling Committee was set up to respond to schedule changes during the Games and worked in close coordination with the IOC Sports Department to develop practical operational procedures for implementing any changes.

#### • Sports Director

Japanese Olympic Committee (JOC) Executive Board member Tsunekazu Takeda was appointed NAOC Sports Director in June 1995, and Ski Association of Japan (SAJ) Director of International Affairs Toshiaki Murasato was appointed as his assistant. They were entrusted with heading the coordination efforts with the IOC, IFs, and NOCs.

#### • Technical Advisors

In June 1994, NAOC appointed a technical advisor for each sport to provide expert competition management guidance and assistance. Technical advisors took part in site inspections to exchange ideas and advice with the technical delegates designated by the IFs. Recommendations from the technical advisors were particularly vital in the writing of the competition management manuals.

#### • Competition Management Manual

Based on the plan for competition management drawn up by NAOC's Sports Commission in November 1994, the national and prefectural sports associations drafted detailed plans for administration of the various competitions.

During the ICPG events, competition officials were assigned to the positions they

would fill during the Nagano Games, and these pre-Games competitions allowed staff to adjust operational plans where necessary. The competition management manual and official list of competition officials were finalized after the ICPG events.

- **Technical Booklets**

Technical booklets were published with summary information on the staging of competitions and sent to the IOC, the IFs, and all NOCs. Fourteen booklets covering each of the sports and disciplines were written in English, French, and Japanese. Each included an organizational chart of the competition management, the competition schedule, rules of participation and competition, and an introduction to the competition venue. Contents were approved by the IOC and the relevant IF before publication.

Although the Olympic Charter stipulates that the technical booklets should be distributed one year before the Games, the IOC approved publication of the books in July 1997 after the competition schedule and participation criteria had been finalized.

## Games-time Operations

Under the auspices of the relevant international federation, operations for each competition relied largely upon officials from the Japanese winter sports federations.

- **International Competition Officials**

In addition to appointing technical delegates to the competitions, each IF also appointed jury members and referees. These competition officials arrived in Nagano one week before the start of competition to finalize preparations through discussions with the competition director and other officials.

- **Competition Director**

A competition director responsible for overall management of competition in each sport was appointed upon recommendation from the affiliated national winter sports association. For the skiing competitions, an additional post of technical coordinator was also created to

Resurfacing the ice at White Ring





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facilitate work with the IF and venue management.

- **Competition Officials**

Officials from both the national and local winter sports federations played a key role in competition management. The ICPG events gave officials valuable opportunity to train for their roles, and appointment of these officials was finalized in the autumn of 1997 based on the recommendation of the national sports associations, with some officials starting work at the venues as early as the beginning of January.

- **Competitions Operations Centre**

The Competitions Operations Centre was established at NAOC HQ to facilitate the exchange of regular reports and maintain contact with competition management at each venue. The centre also worked closely with other NAOC staff to maintain a strong support network.

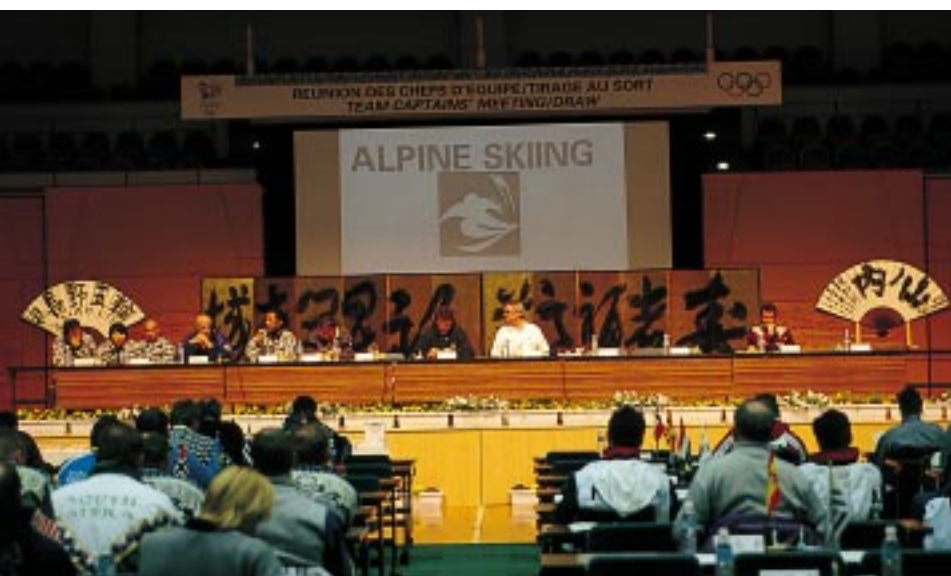
- **Meetings**

Around the start of competition, meetings were held with members of the competition jury and other IF officials to finalize steps to be taken in case of scheduling changes caused by unfavourable weather or unforeseen circumstances. Meetings between IF officials and team representatives (i.e. team captain and

team leader meetings) were held to confirm competition rules or draws.

These meetings were essential for ensuring fair competition, and were held before and throughout the Games at either the competition venue or the Olympic Village. Interpretation service was available at these meetings.

Team captains' meetings were held to clarify rules and procedures.



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## Venue Operations

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### Structure

To establish some degree of uniformity among the venues, guidelines for administration and management of competition venues were set up in 1996. These served as the basis for developing a model plan for venue operations. Each area of venue operations was headed by a manager responsible for directing staff and volunteers, and included the following:

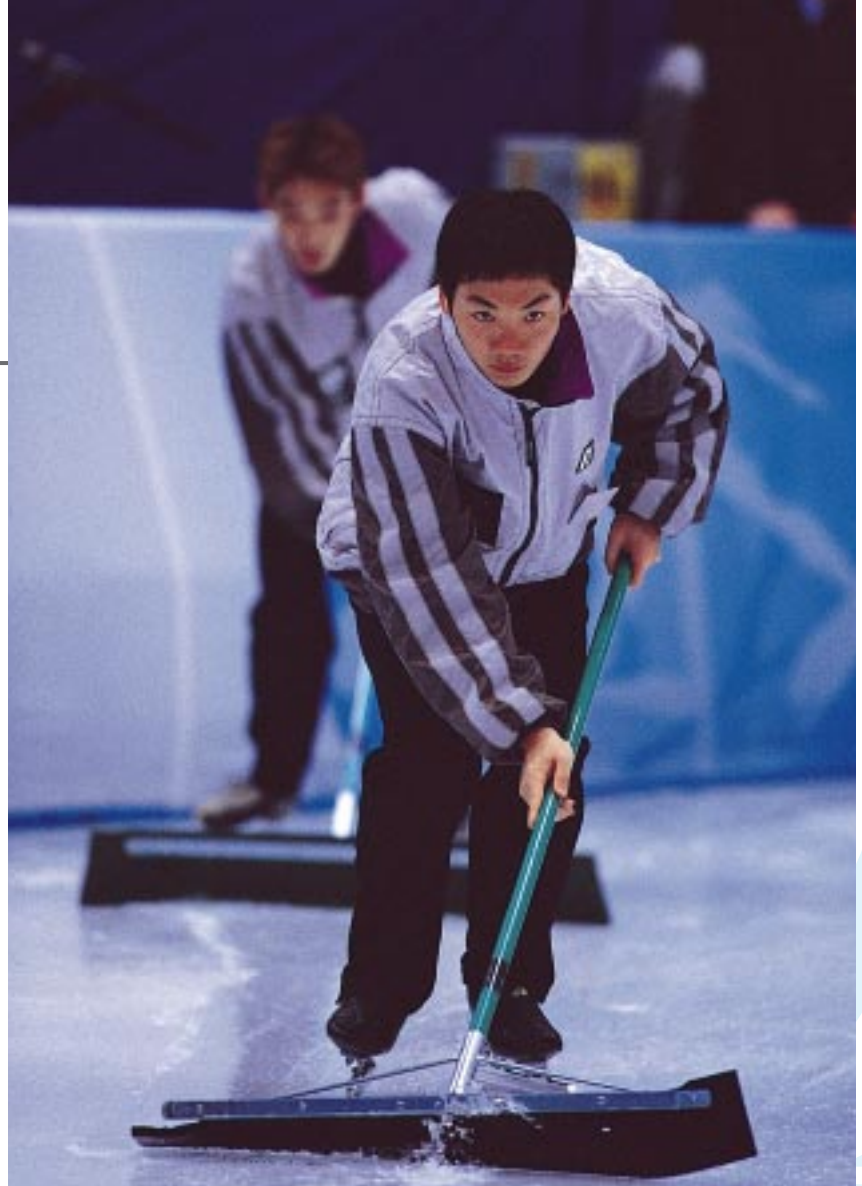
- General affairs – administration and guest services
- Venue management – ticketing and spectator services
- Media – news coverage and media services
- Medical services
- Doping control
- Telecommunications – equipment maintenance and user support for information systems
- Security – security and zone control
- Transportation – management of vehicles

### Manuals

Venue-specific operations manuals were based on the model plan, adjusted as necessary to reflect differences at the venues, and incorporated lessons learned at the ICPG events. These venue-specific manuals were completed in the autumn of 1997.

Each manual contained an overview of the venue, details of the competition schedule, and general information on venue operations. In addition, all operations personnel were issued with a separate handbook containing specific information on his or her work area.

Inevitably during the Games, circumstances arose which were not covered in the manual. However, thanks to the flexibility and dedicated efforts of operations staff and experience gained through the ICPG events, solutions in the



Ice rinks were carefully maintained (White Ring)

manual were quickly modified and disruption to the competition kept to a minimum.

### Venue Manager Meetings

From June to December 1997, more than 10 meetings were held at which the venue managers from each competition site met with their counterparts and supporting departments at NAOC to discuss preparations.



Preparing the downhill course at Happo'one

### Staff Orientation

From October to December 1997, general as well as specific orientation sessions were conducted systematically for venue staff and volunteers. At orientation sessions in January 1998, uniforms and accreditation cards were issued. Operations manuals were continually fine-tuned right up until the Games by on-site staff.

### Accreditation Zoning

Based on the IOC's Competition Entry and Accreditation Guide, each venue followed a standard zoning plan, and zoning maps were created through computer-aided design (CAD) technology. Important factors in establishing the routes within a venue included providing easy access between zones and smooth, effective security checkpoints. Equally important was the establishment of convenient access routes for the physically disabled.

Coloured armbands and bibs were used to control entry to limited access zones.

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## Welcoming Spectators

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Over the sixteen-day Games period, more than 1.27 million spectators were welcomed at the competition venues. Huge crowds attended ski jumping and maximum capacity was reached at many of the venues. To accommodate the fans, careful attention was paid to guiding spectators as well as offering them a friendly welcome. A variety of entertainment was held before events to create a lively atmosphere immersing both athletes and fans in the spirit of the Games. The experience gained through the ICPG events proved invaluable for finalizing safety measures and preparations for welcoming spectators.

- **Preparing the Venue for Spectators**

To safely and efficiently guide spectators to designated areas and maintain order within the venues, information was posted on signboards and venue announcements were utilised for relaying information. The difficulty of transporting the physically challenged at outdoor venues was a topic of particular concern, and this was resolved by using snowmobiles and wheelchairs operable on snow.

- **Information**

Information booths were set up to handle inquiries from spectators, and information on transportation as well as on the competition was disseminated through signboards, daily programmes, official maps, and other printed material. The general information booths also handled lost and found inquiries and took care of children who had become separated from their parents. While there was initially some confusion concerning ticketing for events that had undergone schedule changes, NAOC HQ quickly determined refund policies and rapidly relayed such information to spectators via the venue manager and staff.

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- **Enforcement of Venue Regulations**

Strict regulations prohibited bringing potentially hazardous materials such as cans and bottles into competition venues, and these regulations were printed on tickets, information flyers posted on signs, and otherwise relayed to the general public through public service announcements. As well, in the tradition of a smoke-free Olympics, smoking was banned throughout the venues.

- **Snow Removal and Slip Prevention Measures**

Snow removal was carried out utilising snowploughs, snow compression vehicles, and by hand. Staff began clearing snow from early in the morning and were often under tremendous time pressure to ensure that snow was removed before the venue opened 1 – 3 hours before competition. Snow removal on the streets around the venue was made possible with generous assistance from town and village offices and local support groups.

At outdoor venues, extra care was taken to prevent spectators from slipping. Walking paths which presented a danger were spread with straw mats and sand while steps were carved out of icy slopes to provide safer access.

- **Opening Official Training to the Public**

Although in principle official training was closed to the general public, some figure skating sessions were opened for a nominal charge in an effort to ease the disappointment of spectators who had difficulty acquiring tickets to this popular sport.

## Venue Productions

To create a festive atmosphere, the venue productions director coordinated all aspects for entertainment at the venue, as well as the Victory Ceremonies (indoor venues) and flower ceremonies (outdoor venues). The venue productions director was responsible for managing sound and giant video display systems, scoreboard information, announcements, and copy-right arrangements. Production plans were based around the following four themes:

- Staging “big” productions effectively utilising the giant video displays and scoreboards
- Encouraging audience participation
- Emphasizing Japan’s rich history and cultural heritage
- Utilising music (and mini-FM technology at the curling venue) to enhance enjoyment of the competition

Many productions were designed to strengthen the bond between spectators and athletes and included short videos starring the Snowlets explaining the competition rules and introducing the venues screened on the giant video displays before, during, and after events. Cultural programme performances also helped to enliven the atmosphere, and disc jockey-style venue announcements and videos entreated spectators to cheer for their favourite athletes. The Snowlets’ theme song “ILE AIYE – Wa ni Natte Odoro” (Let’s Make a Circle and Dance) was played regularly at the venues to encourage spectators to join in the fun.

Production companies contracted to stage venue entertainment were selected based on past experience with international sporting events. Under the direction of the venue productions director, production staff and announcers met regularly with the sports federation to discuss creative plans and scripts.

## ■ Attendance at the Venues (Olympic Family and Spectators)

	Feb 7 (Sat)	8 (Sun)	9 (Mon)	10 (Tue)	11 (Wed)	12 (Thu)
<b>Ceremonies</b>						
• Stadium for Opening and Closing Ceremonies (Minami Nagano Sports Park, Nagano)	48,937					
<b>Skiing</b>						
• Alpine Downhill / Super-G / Combined Event (Happo'one, Hakuba)				8,399	15,682	
• Alpine Giant Slalom (Mt. Higashidate, Yamanouchi)						
• Alpine Slalom / Snowboard Giant Slalom (Mt. Yakebitai, Yamanouchi)		12,724		4,000		
• Cross-Country (Snow Harp, Hakuba)		5,095	4,355	3,917		7,901
• Ski Jumping (Ski Jumping Stadium, Hakuba)					33,141	
• Freestyle (Iizuna Kogen, Nagano)		7,985			7,996	
• Snowboard Halfpipe (Kanbayashi Snowboard Park, Yamanouchi)						9,282
<b>Skating</b>						
• Speed (M-Wave, Nagano)		9,780	9,806	9,912	9,897	9,690
• Figure (White Ring, Nagano)		7,301		7,261		7,310
• Short Track (White Ring, Nagano)						
Ice Hockey (Big Hat, Nagano)	19,375	18,558	18,252	18,185		27,070
Ice Hockey (Aqua Wing, Nagano)	7,908	13,126	11,326	7,733	15,202	11,976
<b>Bobsleigh (Spiral, Nagano)</b>						
Luge (Spiral, Nagano)		6,366	4,744	4,906	6,502	
Biathlon (Biathlon Venue, Nozawa Onsen)			4,786		5,153	
Curling (Kazakoshi Park Arena, Karuizawa)			5,500	5,622	5,584	5,755
<b>Total</b>	<b>76,220</b>	<b>80,935</b>	<b>58,769</b>	<b>69,935</b>	<b>99,157</b>	<b>78,984</b>



Playing to the crowd at M-Wave



Joining in the sledding action at Spiral

13 (Fri)	14 (Sat)	15 (Sun)	16 (Mon)	17 (Tue)	18 (Wed)	19 (Thu)	20 (Fri)	21 (Sat)	22 (Sun)	Total
									49,257	98,194
19,608			10,328	5,848						59,865
						18,349	16,805			35,154
						13,314		19,878		49,916
	19,577		6,011		7,462		18,223		10,229	82,770
34,925		34,958		34,542		41,619				179,185
			10,957		10,287					37,225
										9,282
9,990	9,964	9,975	9,958	9,923		9,748	9,912			118,555
7,082	7,341	7,266	7,285		7,302		7,340	7,343		72,831
				7,282		7,342		7,328		21,952
20,004	19,968	19,915	19,953	16,112	19,451		19,539	9,888	10,036	256,306
8,879	17,718		9,829		9,715					113,412
	9,569	9,257					8,675	9,835		37,336
7,943										30,461
		7,074			1,748	6,512		8,202		33,475
5,686	5,749	5,714								39,610
114,117	89,886	94,159	74,321	73,707	55,965	96,884	80,494	62,474	69,522	1,275,529



A group of Austrian volunteer performers demonstrate the fine art of skiing with one pole at the freestyle skiing venue.



Drumming up a storm at Snow Harp

# Facilities Preparations

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- **Harmony with the Natural Environment**

As damage to the environment continues to be a genuine cause for concern, construction of Olympic facilities took into careful consideration the need to blend in with the natural surroundings, as well as the concerns of local residents. Implementing policies mapped out by the Nagano Prefecture Nature Conservation Study Council, NAOC endeavoured to design, create, and operate ideal facilities.

- **Cooperation with Related Organizations**

Facilities used during the Games were leased from the prefectural government, host sites, or private businesses and remodeled to Olympic standards. The use of temporary or portable facilities gave staff additional room. A close relationship with the owners of the facilities was therefore especially important for preparations and maintenance.

- **Facilities Planning**

The latest technologies were utilised in preparing venues to allow the athletes to showcase their strengths and talents and to aid Games operations. Practicality, safety, and

cost-effectiveness were emphasized and thoroughly considered throughout the planning stages. Staff also endeavoured to provide convenient and easy access for as many spectators as possible, including the elderly and the physically challenged.

## Venue Construction

Venue construction began in 1990 and continued until just prior to the Games. Extra challenges were created through the addition of new sports and events to the Sports Programme after the decision awarding the Games to Nagano, but the full gamut of conditions demanded by the Olympic Winter Games was admirably fulfilled.

- **Assistance from the National Government**

Financial assistance was extended beginning in 1992, based on authorization given by the Cabinet in June 1989. Conditions for financial assistance were as follows:

1. Existing competition facilities should be utilised wherever feasible; any construction of new facilities must be carried out on a modest scale, and the national government

Temporary commentary booths and other operations facilities were set up at many venues.



will provide up to half the funding.

2. Maintenance and operation of new facilities and any other related costs will be the responsibility of the local government.

• **Assistance from Prefectural Government**

Building costs for the ski jumping hills were shared equally by Nagano Prefecture and the village of Hakuba, with Hakuba financing construction of the normal hill, and Nagano Prefecture financing the large hill and common facilities such as the start tower. Construction began in 1990.

Beginning in 1992, host sites which needed to remodel or construct competition facilities received up to half of the necessary financing from the prefectural government.

• **Construction of Temporary Facilities**

From the very beginning, Games organizers emphasized utilising existing facilities wherever possible, and construction of any new competition facilities was carried out based on the condition that the host site open the facility for public use after the Games. For skiing competitions, existing ski areas were leased from their owners.

At each venue, temporary structures were constructed for many necessary functions, including competition headquarters, finish house, sub press centre, RTV house for the production of the international signal, security gates, ticket office, athletes' waiting area, and commentary booth tower. To ensure a consistent supply of electrical power, structures to house power failure safeguard devices and

electric generators were also necessary. Temporary stands, walkways, and pedestrian bridges were built. NAOC endeavoured to keep costs low by renting or leasing temporary facilities wherever possible.

Some temporary facilities were set up from October 1996 for use at the ICPG events. These were built in their Games-time location and evaluated for their effectiveness. Construction of other temporary facilities began in June 1997 and all major structures, excluding tents and other facilities to be set up on the snow, were completed by October.

Care was taken so as not to damage facilities leased from private businesses, and after the conclusion of the Games, facilities were returned to their original condition as quickly as possible.



■ **Venue Construction Costs (¥ billion)**

Host Site	Venue	Spectator capacity	Cost		
			Construction	Land	Total
Nagano	Speed Skating (M-Wave)	10,000	26.4	8.4	34.8
	Ice Hockey Stadium "A" (Big Hat)	10,104	14.3	4.8	19.1
	Ice Hockey Stadium "B" (Aqua Wing)	6,000	9.1	0	9.1
	Figure / Short Track Speed Skating (White Ring)	7,351	11.5	2.7	14.2
	Bobsleigh / Luge (Spiral)	10,000	9.5	0.6	10.1
	<b>Total</b>		<b>70.8</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>87.3</b>
Hakuba	Cross-Country Skiing (Snow Harp)	20,000	4.6	2.4	7.0
	Ski Jump (Large Hill)	45,000	5.8	0.9	6.7
	Ski Jump (Normal Hill)		1.4	0.5	1.9
	<b>Total</b>		<b>11.8</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>15.6</b>
Nozawa Onsen	Biathlon	20,000	2.8	0.9	3.7
<b>Total</b>			<b>85.4</b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>106.6</b>

■ **Financing for the Venues (¥ billion)**

	Cost			Expenditure		
	Construction	Land	Total	National Govt.	Prefectural Govt.	Host Site Govt.
Nagano	70.8	16.5	87.3	40.5	23.4	23.4
Hakuba	11.8	3.8	15.6	9.4	5.2	1.0
Nozawa Onsen	2.8	0.9	3.7	1.6	1.0	1.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>85.4</b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>106.6</b>	<b>51.5</b>	<b>29.6</b>	<b>25.5</b>



# Alpine Skiing Downhill, Super-G, and Combined Slalom Venue

## Location

Happo'one, Hakuba Village (44km from the Olympic Village; 49km from the MPC and IBC)

## Events

Men's and Ladies' Alpine Skiing Downhill, Super-G, Combined Downhill, Combined Slalom

## Facilities

The events were held at the Happo'one ski area. Office space for Games operations, including venue and competition management headquarters, was leased in the village of Hakuba or

set up in temporary facilities. As courses for both men's and ladies' events ran parallel with adjacent finish areas, they were treated as a single venue.

In the finish area for the men's course, spectator stands with a capacity of 3,232 seats, commentary booths, finish house, operations room, doping control room, and media waiting room were set up. At the ladies' finish area similar facilities were established, including spectator seating for 2,838 people and a sub press centre.



## ■ Course Profile

Olympic Course I	Downhill (Men)	Combined DH (Men)	Super-G (Men)
Starting altitude	1,765m	1,680m	1,490m
Finishing altitude	840m	840m	840m
Vertical drop	925m	840m	650m
Course length	3,280m	2,923m	2,423m
Av. gradient	29.5% (16.3°)	30.0% (16.7°)	27.8% (15.5°)
Max. gradient	65.0% (33.0°)	65.0% (33.0°)	65.0% (33.0°)
Min. gradient	0%	14.3% (8.1°)	14.3% (8.1°)
FIS Homologation No.	4516/27/96	4516/27/96	4517/28/96
Olympic Course II	Downhill (Ladies)	Combined DH (Ladies)	Super-G (Ladies)
Starting altitude	1,680m	1,590m	1,486m
Finishing altitude	899m	899m	899m
Vertical drop	781m	691m	587m
Course length	2,653m	2,381m	2,080m
Av. gradient	31.0% (17.2°)	30.6% (17.0°)	29.9% (16.6°)
Max. gradient	51.7% (27.3°)	51.7% (27.3°)	51.7% (27.3°)
Min. gradient	7.5% (4.3°)	7.5% (4.3°)	7.5% (4.3°)
FIS Homologation No.	4836/19/97	4836/19/97	4836/19/97
Hakuba Kokusai Course	Combined Slalom		
Starting altitude	995m		
Finishing altitude	830m		
Vertical drop	165m		
Course length	473m		
Av. gradient	37.5% (20.6°)		
Max. gradient	65.0% (33.0°)		
Min. gradient	15.0% (8.5°)		
FIS Homologation No.	5092/043/98		



A common RTV house and other facilities for producing and broadcasting the international signal for both men's and ladies' events, team cabins, and ski manufacturers' cabins were set up at the "Sakka" finishing area for ladies' events, with access routes from both courses including three temporary tunnels.

- **Temporary facilities**

Men's course : 57 structures covering 4,062m<sup>2</sup> with 5,917m<sup>2</sup> of floor space

Ladies' course : 73 structures covering 6,112m<sup>2</sup> with 10,027m<sup>2</sup> of floor space

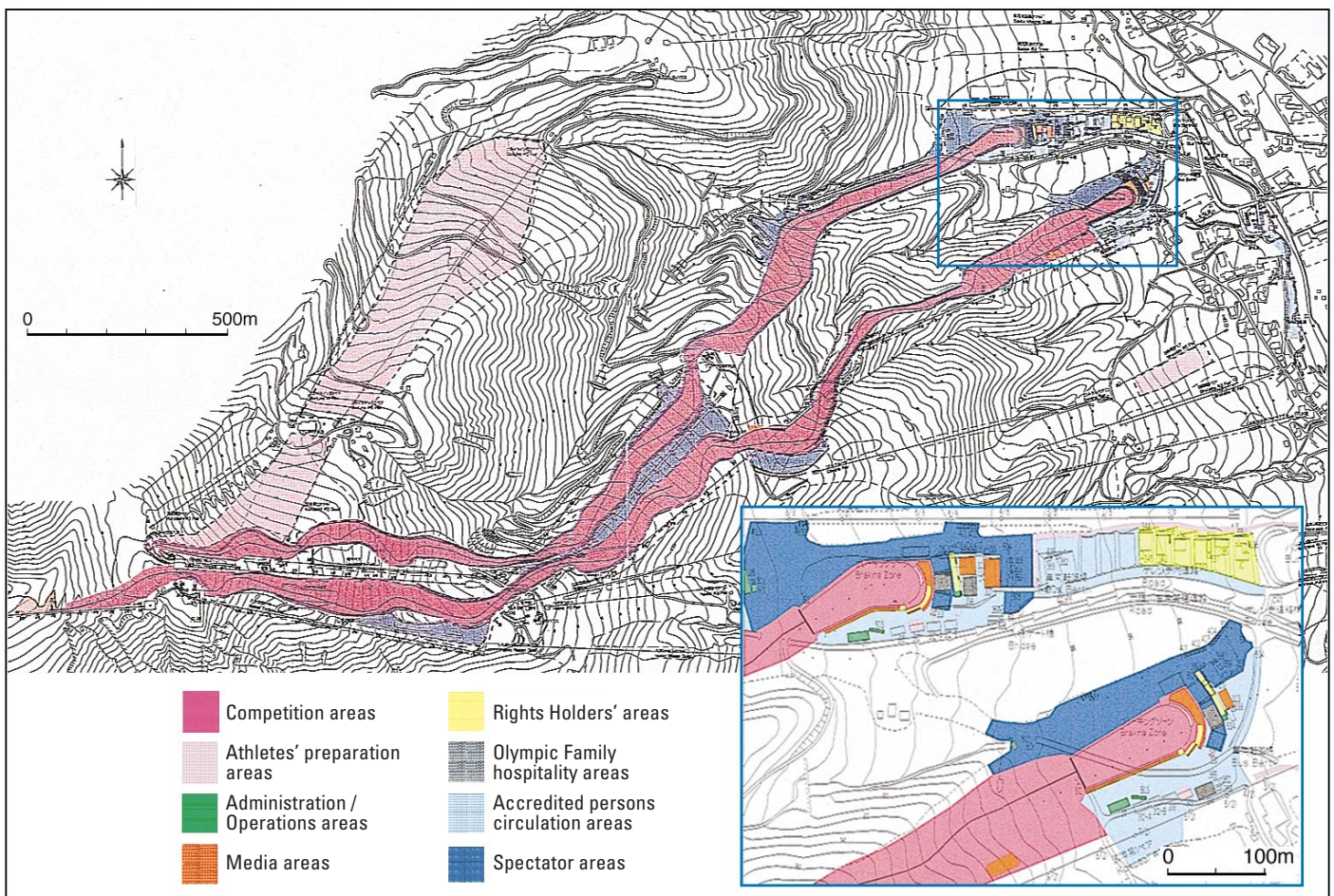
- **Giant video display**

Men's course : one temporary 380-inch colour screen

Ladies' course : one temporary 340-inch colour screen

- **Spectator capacity**

Approximately 20,000





## Environmental Measures

To preserve the natural environment, existing courses were used and construction kept to the bare minimum. As the forest located at the finish area of the men's downhill course is a breeding ground for the protected Gifu butterfly, a total of 4,400 *miyama'aoi* plants upon which the butterflies feed and 870 rare yellow flower barrenwort plants were transplanted to a different location. Char living in the river running through the area were captured and released upstream, and part of the finish area was replanted with a variety of alpine grasses after the Games.

## Summary of Operations

Excluding ORTO'98 personnel, a staff of 1,876 comprising 25 NAOC personnel, 792 competition officials, 974 volunteers, and 85 Hakuba village employees worked in venue operations. Assistance was provided by 960 Self-Defense Force (SDF) personnel. Attracted by the spectacle of high speeds and spectacular jumps, a total of 37,835 people turned out to watch the men's events, while 22,030 came out to cheer on the ladies. An additional 1,250 fans braved the cold on February 5 – 7 to watch official training for the men's downhill free of charge.

From the first scheduled day of competition, inclement weather caused disruptions and forced changes to the race programme. With a combined total of over six kilometres of course, more than 2,000 competition and SDF personnel made great efforts to prepare and maintain the men's and ladies' courses. For the men's downhill course alone, more than 1,000 course workers toiled until the early morning hours for days in a row to prepare the course to Olympic standards. In more accessible areas, use of water injection cannons reduced the labour-intensive effort. The result of this tiring exertion was top-notch courses that garnered high praise for their challenging combination of gradient changes and sweeping turns. The difficulty of the



Water was sprayed onto the courses...



before workers prepared the courses one step at a time.



courses, was highlighted in the men's downhill event, when one-third of the best skiers in the world were unable to successfully negotiate the course.

Weather-induced rescheduling forced organizers to hold three alpine events on February 16, but despite the hectic agenda, operations personnel and volunteers coped admirably and all three events were successfully run.

### **Start Point for the Men's Downhill Set at 1,765m**

Plans in the host city contract called for the start point of the men's downhill to be set at an altitude of 1,680m - below the national park class one special zone located at the top of the mountain. However, during course evaluations FIS officials repeatedly requested that the start point be raised to 1,800m in order to lengthen the time required to ski the course.

In response to the statement presented by commission chairman and FIS President Marc Hodler at the IOC Coordination Commission meeting held in Nagano on November 1 and 2, NAOC President Eishiro Saito set up a special advisory committee chaired by JOC President and NAOC Vice President Hironoshin Furuhashi to study possible solutions. The

five-person committee inspected the course along with FIS course designer Bernhard Russi. In its report submitted to President Saito, the committee suggested raising the start to 1,765m to a point outside the national park class one special zone, but that the extended course include a jump over the national park, and that other environmental measures be implemented to protect the delicate area. President Saito convened a meeting with the NAOC Vice Presidents, NAOC Director General, and JOC Secretary General and the recommendations were adopted.

### **Special Advisory Committee**

#### *Chairman*

- Hironoshin Furuhashi (JOC President, Vice President of NAOC)

#### *Members*

- Yushiro Yagi (Secretary General JOC and Ski Association of Japan)
- Toshiaki Murasato (SAJ Director of International Affairs)
- Fumitaka Ikeda (Vice Governor of Nagano Prefecture)
- Makoto Kobayashi (NAOC Director General)

## Alpine Skiing Giant Slalom Venue

### Location

Mt. Higashidate in Shiga Kogen, Yamanouchi Town (55km from the Olympic Village; 49km from the MPC and IBC)

### Events

Men's and Ladies' Alpine Skiing Giant Slalom

### Facilities

Due to its location inside a national park special zone, no permanent facilities were constructed, and all temporary facilities had to be approved by the Environment Agency. In fact, all facilities were temporary except for the gondola station at the top of the mountain used as an athletes' waiting room, and space at inns and hotels located beside the "Bunadaira" course which were leased as venue operations offices and waiting rooms. In order to minimize construction inside this environmentally-sensitive area, a single prefabricated six-storey structure was built to accommodate the RTV house, Rights Holders' cabins, commentary booths, and other facilities. In addition temporary stands for 2,018 spectators, a finish house, a race office, and a sub press centre were also established.

A rope tow lift was set up in the start area, and two more installed in the finish area to allow athletes access to the slope. Two temporary

tunnels were built to facilitate access to adjoining slopes, but were reserved for use by the athletes during the Games.

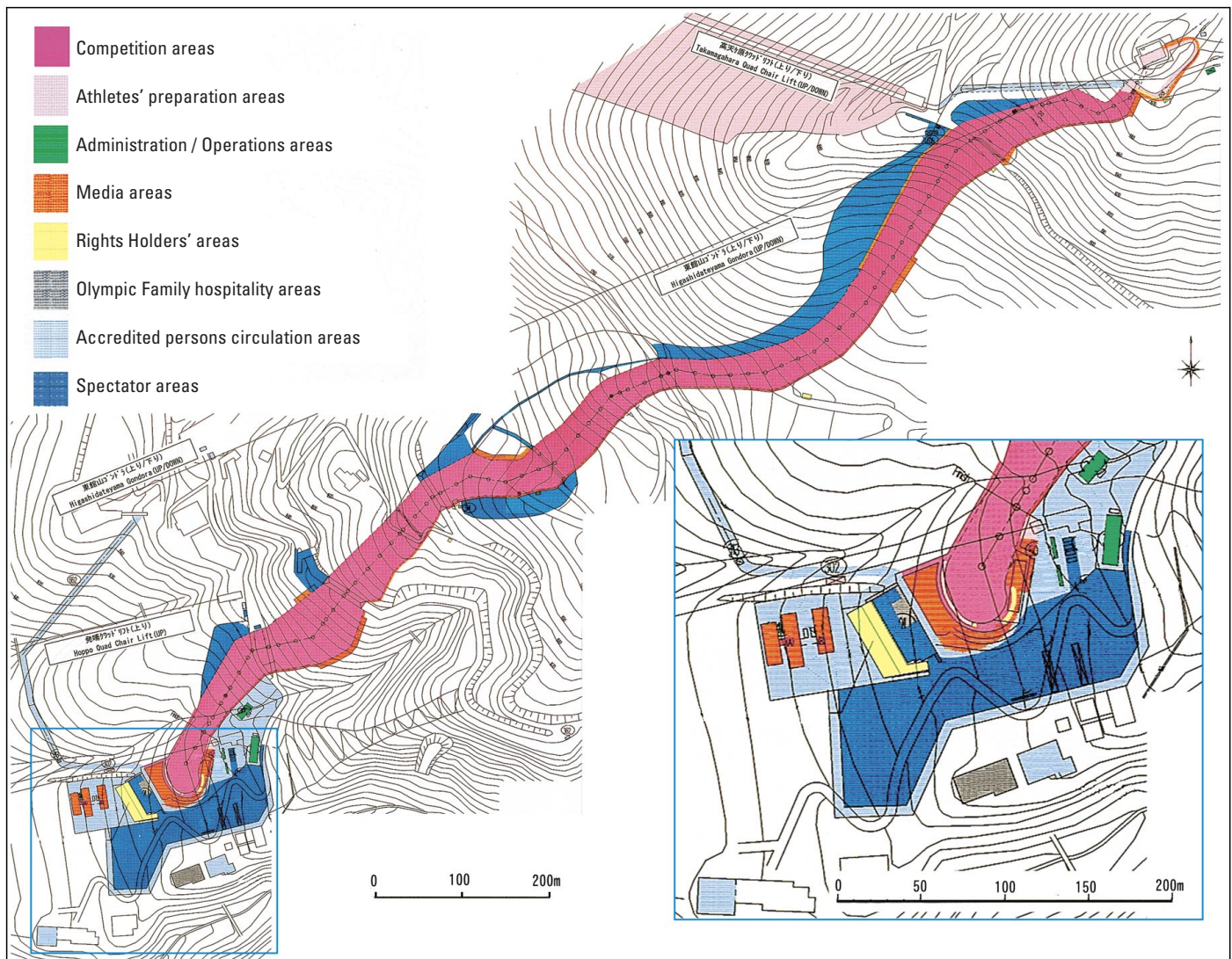
- **Venue area (incl. course)**  
approximately 44ha
- **Temporary facilities**  
48 structures covering 2,500m<sup>2</sup> with 6,170m<sup>2</sup> of floor space
- **Giant video display**  
one temporary 380-inch colour screen
- **Spectator capacity**  
approximately 20,000

### Environmental Measures

During preparations, maximum consideration was given to preserving the natural environment. Gaps between the sides of the temporary tunnels and sloping ground were packed with sacks of used plastic PET bottles, rather than disturb the environment by piling up soil. PET bottles were chosen as building material for their minimal impact on the environment, for their light weight and manageability, and because they could be recycled after use. A total of 122,000 PET bottles were collected from Yamanouchi and other areas of Nagano Prefecture and packed into approximately 2,600 sacks.

### ■ Course Profile

	Men's Giant Slalom	Ladies' Giant Slalom
Starting altitude	1,969m	1,923m
Finishing altitude	1,530m	1,530m
Vertical drop	439m	393m
Course length	1,487m	1,329m
Average gradient	31.1% (17.3°)	31.2% (17.3°)
Max. gradient	59.8% (30.9°)	59.8% (30.9°)
Min. gradient	10.0% (5.7°)	10.0% (5.7°)
FIS Homologation No.	4367/45/95	4367/45/95



Workers remove snow from the course after a heavy snowfall

No concrete was utilised in construction, and structures were built on top of the snow base wherever possible so as not to disturb the soil bed. In areas where buildings were constructed on soil, a topsoil restoration programme was implemented, whereby topsoil rich with nutrients was carefully stored and returned to its original site after the Games. Impact on the ecosystem was thereby minimized and a quick return to greenery encouraged. Seeds from indigenous varieties of flora were planted to repair any scars caused by construction.

Designs and colours for temporary structures were chosen to blend in to the surroundings and buildings were kept as low as possible in order not to detract from the natural scenery.



"I did it!"

## Summary of Operations

Excluding ORTO'98 personnel, a staff of 625 comprising 11 NAOC personnel, 300 competition officials, 295 volunteers, and 19 Yamanouchi town employees worked in venue operations. Further support was provided by 590 SDF personnel.

Over the two days of competition, a total of 35,154 spectators came to watch the men's and ladies' races. Although the men's race was held one day later than scheduled due to poor weather conditions, the performance of Japanese athletes as well as Austrian Hermann Maier claiming his second gold medal of the Games gave the capacity crowd much to cheer about.

Spectator areas were located on a slope where snow packing machinery could not be used. Access routes were therefore cleared every day by staff and volunteers using shovels and packing the paths by hand. As facilities for Games operations were located on the slope,

equipment and machinery necessary for Games operations was moved on and off the slopes at night to avoid interfering with regular skiers.

Three vehicles for on-snow transportation were utilised to shuttle members of the Olympic Family. For spectators in wheelchairs, organizers borrowed five special on-snow vehicles developed by a private group for use at the Nagano Winter Paralympic Games, and these proved very popular. They were also used at other alpine skiing and cross-country skiing venues.



# Alpine Skiing Slalom/Snowboard Giant Slalom Venue

## Location

Mt. Yakebitai in Shiga Kogen, Yamanouchi Town (59km from the Olympic Village; 55km from the MPC and IBC)

## Events

Men's and Ladies' Alpine Skiing Slalom, Snowboard Giant Slalom

## Facilities

Both competitions were held on the slalom course on Mt. Yakebitai in Shiga Kogen. Due to the venue's location inside a national park, all structures for Games operations were temporary in accordance with requests from the Environment Agency.

In the finish area, a six-storey prefabricated building was erected to house the venue

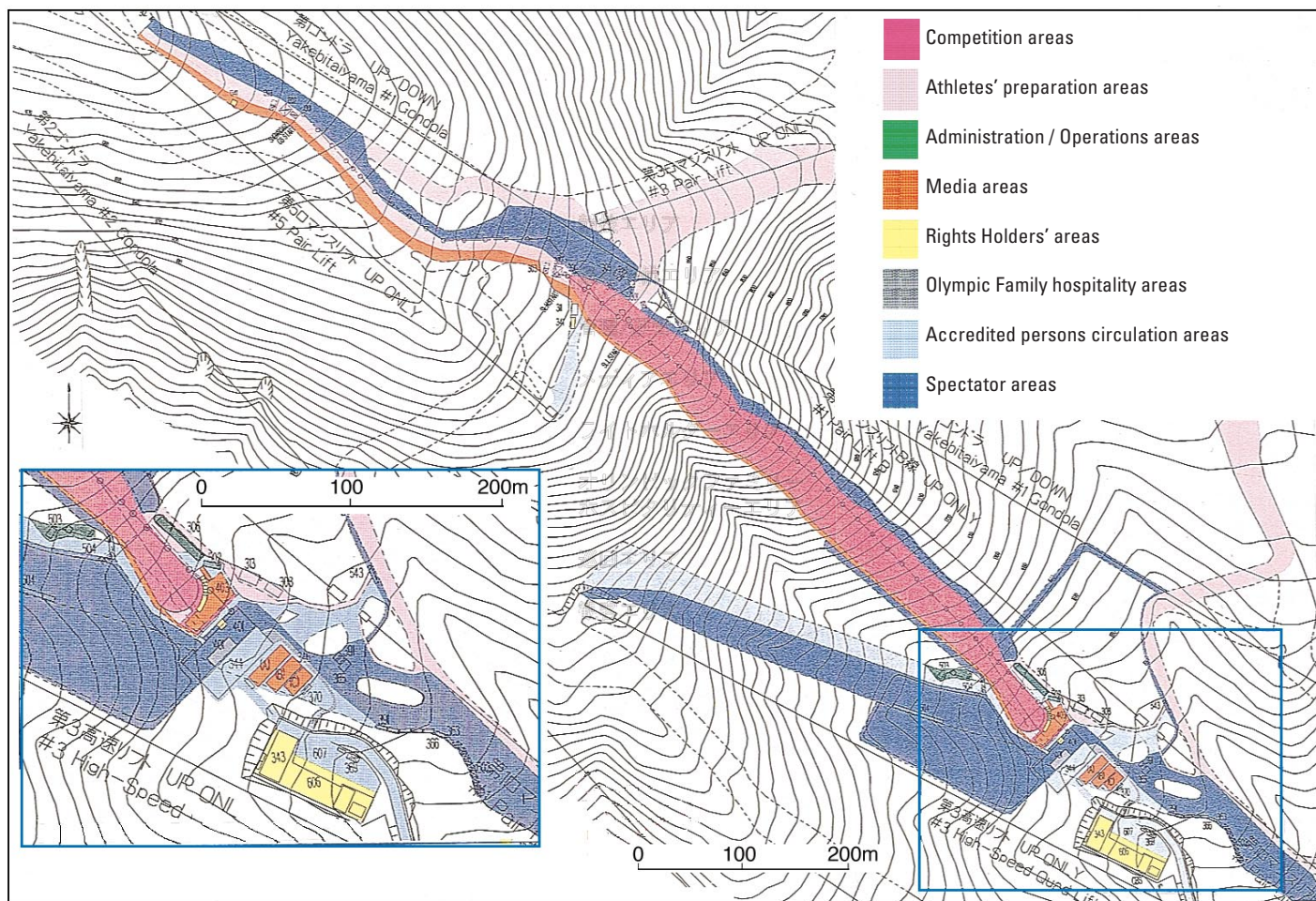
operations headquarters, Olympic Family lounge, commentary booths, and other facilities. In addition to the 2,076-seat spectator grandstand, a finish house, sub press centre, RTV house, television Rights Holders' cabins, three team cabins, and ski / snowboard manufacturers' cabins were also constructed.

- **Venue area**  
approximately 7ha
- **Temporary facilities**  
52 structures covering 4,920m<sup>2</sup> with 8,600m<sup>2</sup> of floor space
- **Giant video display**  
one temporary 380-inch colour screen
- **Spectator capacity**  
approximately 20,000

## Course Profiles

Alpine Skiing	Men's Slalom	Ladies' Slalom
Starting altitude	1,890 m	1,870 m
Finishing altitude	1,670 m	1,670 m
Vertical drop	220 m	200 m
Course length	607 m	530 m
Average gradient	39.0 % (21.3°)	40.9 % (22.2°)
Max. gradient	58.0 % (30.1°)	58.0 % (30.1°)
Min. gradient	26.7 % (14.9°)	27.7 % (15.5°)
FIS Homologation No.	4368/46/95	4368/46/95
Snowboard	Men's/Ladies' Giant Slalom	
Starting altitude	1,960 m	
Finishing altitude	1,670 m	
Vertical drop	290 m	
Course length	936 m	
Average gradient	32.8 % (18.2°)	
Max. gradient	58.0 % (30.1°)	
Min. gradient	16.2 % (9.2°)	
FIS Homologation No.	4834/17/97	

Snowboard made its Olympic debut at the Nagano Games.





The alpine slalom and snowboard giant slalom courses at Mt. Yakebitai.

## NAGANO 1998



Before the event, a parade of flags

## Environmental Measures

Nature conservation policies included extensive restoration of topsoil after course modifications, and building structures on top of the snow base wherever possible. Water from toilets installed at the venue was purified and re-used in toilets or snowmaking equipment.

## Summary of Operations

Excluding ORTO'98 personnel, a staff of 881 comprising 16 NAOC personnel, 300 competition officials, 536 volunteers, and 29 Yamanouchi town employees worked in venue operations. Further support was provided by 160 SDF personnel.

Over the two days of slalom competition, a total of 33,192 spectators watched the men's and ladies' events. A total of 16,724 fans attended the two days of the first snowboard competition in Olympic Games history.

They came to cheer on Italy's Alberto Tomba in the slalom, trying to become the first alpine skier to win medals in four successive Games, as well as local favourite Kiminobu Kimura. In the end, it was neon-haired Hans-Petter Buraas of Norway who stole the show. In snowboard, Canadian Ross Rebagliati's gold medal in giant slalom was stripped by the IOC because of a positive drug test, although it was subsequently reinstated upon appeal by the Court of Arbitration for Sport. Heavy

snow caused a one-day delay in the ladies' competition, but once the weather had cleared, France's Karine Ruby was all smiles as she was crowned Olympic champion.

With Games operations facilities being located on the ski slope, all staff helped to transport equipment quickly and safely. Spectators in wheelchairs, elderly spectators, and young children were transported with the aid of three snow vehicles, and special snowmobile lanes were set up to maximize efficiency and avoid accidents.

To avoid cutting down trees and disturbing the delicate soil in the finish area, spectator stands were built out of snow on a hill at the side of the course. Volunteers and staff from NAOC, ORTO'98, and the SDF worked tirelessly in all kinds of weather to pack the snow by hand, and the closeness of the stands allowed spectators and athletes to celebrate together.

For the Olympic Family, a shuttle bus service was set up to take guests from the venue drop-off point to as near the spectator stands or Olympic Family lounge as possible.

## Cross-Country Skiing Venue (Snow Harp)

### Location

Kamishiro, Hakuba Village (37km from the Olympic Village; 44km from the MPC and IBC)

### Events

Cross-country skiing:

Men's 10km Classical, 15km Free Pursuit, 30km Classical, 50km Free, 4 x 10km Relay  
Ladies' 5km Classical, 10km Free Pursuit, 15km Classical, 30km Free, 4 x 5km Relay

Nordic combined:

Individual event (15km Free)  
Team event (4 x 5km Free)

### Facilities

Also known as "Snow Harp", the cross-country skiing venue was situated in the southern part of Hakuba. Both the start and finish points were located in the main stadium. Three courses (A, B, C) were constructed, with a total

of 19km of trails and a course width of 6m. An environmental assessment conducted in August 1992 discovered nests of goshawks, a species of raptor protected under the Washington Convention. Giving top priority to preserving their habitat, the initial plan for four 5km circuits was scaled back to three. These were combined for races ranging from 5 – 50km in length.

The venue operations headquarters, competition office, timing / results room, and other facilities were set up in the administration building, while temporary prefabricated structures were constructed for the athletes' rest area (including shower room and lounge), RTV house, sub press centre, team cabins, etc. Other temporary structures included the main stadium with Olympic Family grandstand seating for 406 people, the media stands with a capacity of 308, photo positions, commentary booths, commentary adjustment room, a bridge over the course for spectators, and throughways crossing the course.

### ■ Course Profile

	Course A (A1)	Course B (B1)	Course C (C1)
Start/finish altitude	770m	770m	770m
Max. altitude	860m	835m	804m
Min. altitude	762m	760m	747m
Difference in altitude	98m	75m	57m
Max. climb	44m	67m	40m
Total climb	195m	214m	180m
Total length	5,006m	5,025m	4,990m

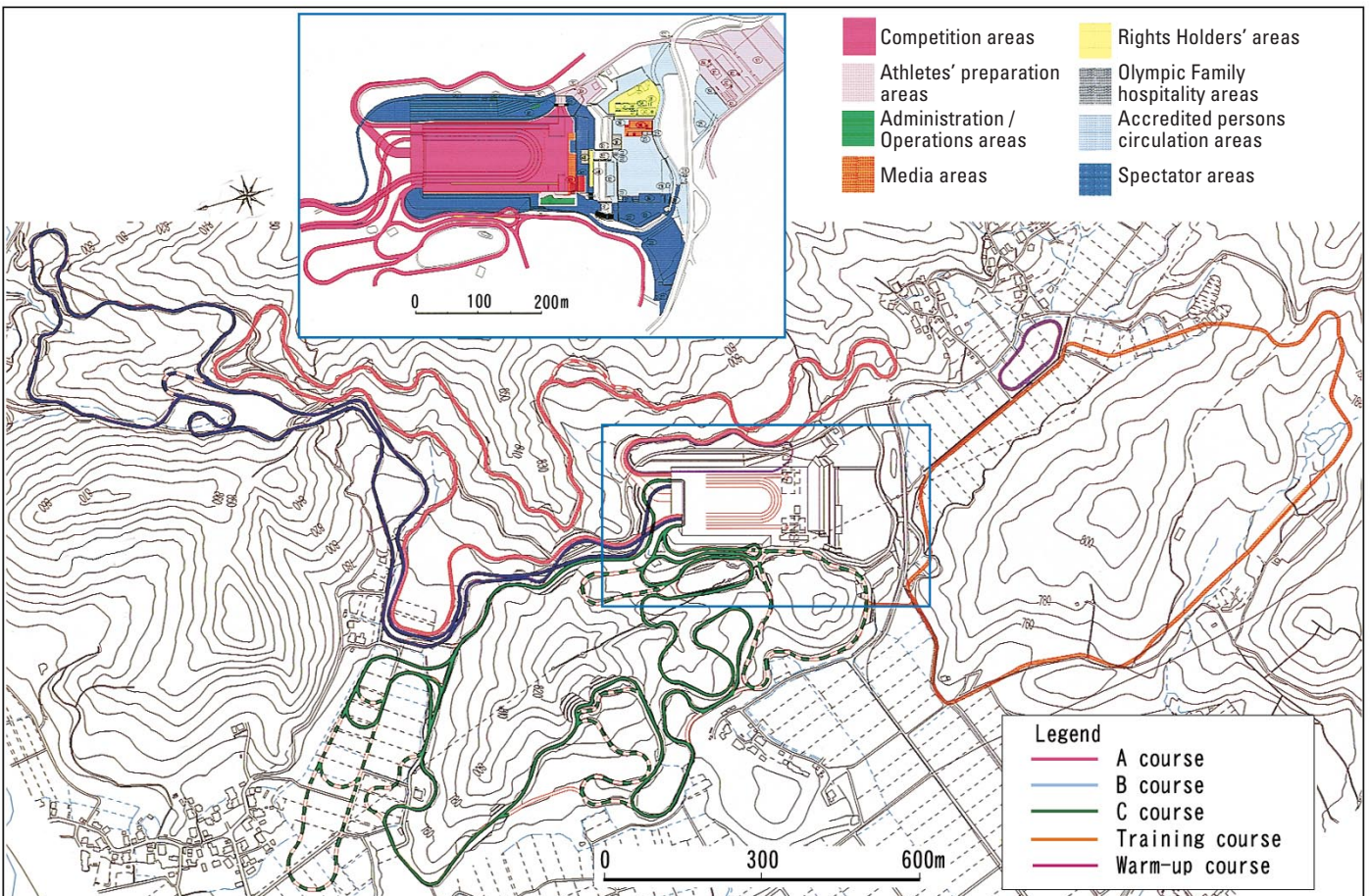
### FIS Homologation

*Cross-country*

Men:	97/03.05/10 (10km Classical)	97/03.07/15 (15km Free Pursuit)
	97/03.09/30 (30km Classical)	97/03.11/50 (50km Free)
	97/03.03/10 and 97/03.04/10 (4 x 10km Relay)	
Ladies:	97/03.01/05 (5km Classical)	97/03.06/10 (10km Free Pursuit)
	97/03.08/15 (15km Classical)	97/03.10/30 (30km Free)
	97/03.02/05 (4 x 5km Relay)	
<i>Nordic combined</i>	97/03.12/15NC (15km Free)	97/03.13/4 x 5NC (4 x 5km Free team event)



Snow Harp





The start of the men's  
4 x 10km relay

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# NAGANO 1998





A 4km training course, a long wax testing course, and a wax testing area were set up to the south of the main stadium, linked to the 'C' course by a temporary 70m x 6m x 4m steel-framed bridge.

- **Venue area**  
approximately 39ha (main stadium 10ha)
- **Course length**  
'A' (approx. 4.8km), 'B' (approx. 4.8km),  
'C' (approx. 7.8km),  
main stadium (approx. 1.2km)
- **Course width** 6 m
- **Permanent facilities**  
Admin. building: 3 storeys, steel-framed,  
1,271m<sup>2</sup>  
Equipment building: 1 storey, steel-framed,  
634m<sup>2</sup>
- **Temporary facilities**  
59 structures covering 6,177m<sup>2</sup> with 8,207m<sup>2</sup>  
of floor space
- **Giant video display**  
one temporary 340-inch colour screen
- **Spectator capacity**  
approximately 20,000

### Environmental Measures

Prior to construction, topsoil was removed and carefully stored for restoration after work was completed. Approximately 42,000 broadleaf saplings were planted throughout the area. Timber from trees felled during construction was used for bridges and other works at the venue.

In order to minimize noise and disturbance to wildlife, low-noise construction machinery was utilised. Sodium vapour lamps, which do not attract insects, were used in security and night lighting. To preserve the natural habitat of the green tree frog, a pond was constructed and trees transplanted. Indigenous flora such as the dog-tooth violet, upon which the protected Gifu





The start of the Ladies' 4 x 5km relay

butterfly feeds, was transplanted. To preserve the natural landscape, utility cables were laid underground.

### Summary of Operations

Excluding ORTO'98 personnel, a staff of 1,006 comprising 14 NAOC personnel, 410 competition officials, 541 volunteers, and 41 Hakuba village employees worked in venue operations. Further support was provided by 90 SDF personnel.

A total of 82,770 spectators watched the skiing action at Snow Harp. Originally, because of space limitations due to the undulating nature of the terrain, there were no plans to provide spectator areas outside of the main grandstand. However, after consultation with FIS and the IOC Coordination Commission, it was decided to set up access paths and observation areas along the courses to allow spectators to watch and cheer on the skiers up close. Because the three courses started and finished in the main stadium, spectators in the stadium grandstand were able to observe the athletes close up numerous times, adding to the excitement of the competition.

Due to the low altitude of the venue and its location on the southern edge of Hakuba, there were some concerns about a possible lack of snow. At the end of December, the courses were laid with straw matting and covered with manmade snow. By mid-January however, there was still not enough snow for competition to be held. On January 25, approximately 500 local

residents and 90 SDF personnel worked to transfer enough snow from the surrounding forests onto the courses. A dump truck from a neighbouring ski area was utilised for transporting snow onto the long wax testing course.

During the Games, three days of rain created challenging conditions for the athletes, however thanks to the hard work of those maintaining the courses, all races were held as scheduled. Both the FIS Technical Delegates and the athletes praised venue personnel for their dedicated efforts in providing excellent courses.

## Ski Jumping Venue

### Location

Hokujo, Hakuba Village (43km from the Olympic Village; 48km from the MPC and IBC)

### Events

Ski Jumping:

Individual Normal Hill event (K=90)

Individual Large Hill event (K=120)

Team Large Hill event (K=120)

Nordic Combined:

Individual event (K=90)

Team event (K=90)

### Facilities

Constructed on the southern edge of the Happo'one ski area in the alpine village of Hakuba, this was Japan's first parallel large hill (K=120) and normal hill (K=90) ski jumping facility. The turret-like design of the in-runs and landing slopes exhibits a unique architectural form, and is equipped with a start tower, lift, clubhouse, and snowmaking machines. Both hills can be used in any season, and have become popular venues for year-round training and competition. The clubhouse was used for Games operations, while other operations-related facilities were housed in temporary structures.

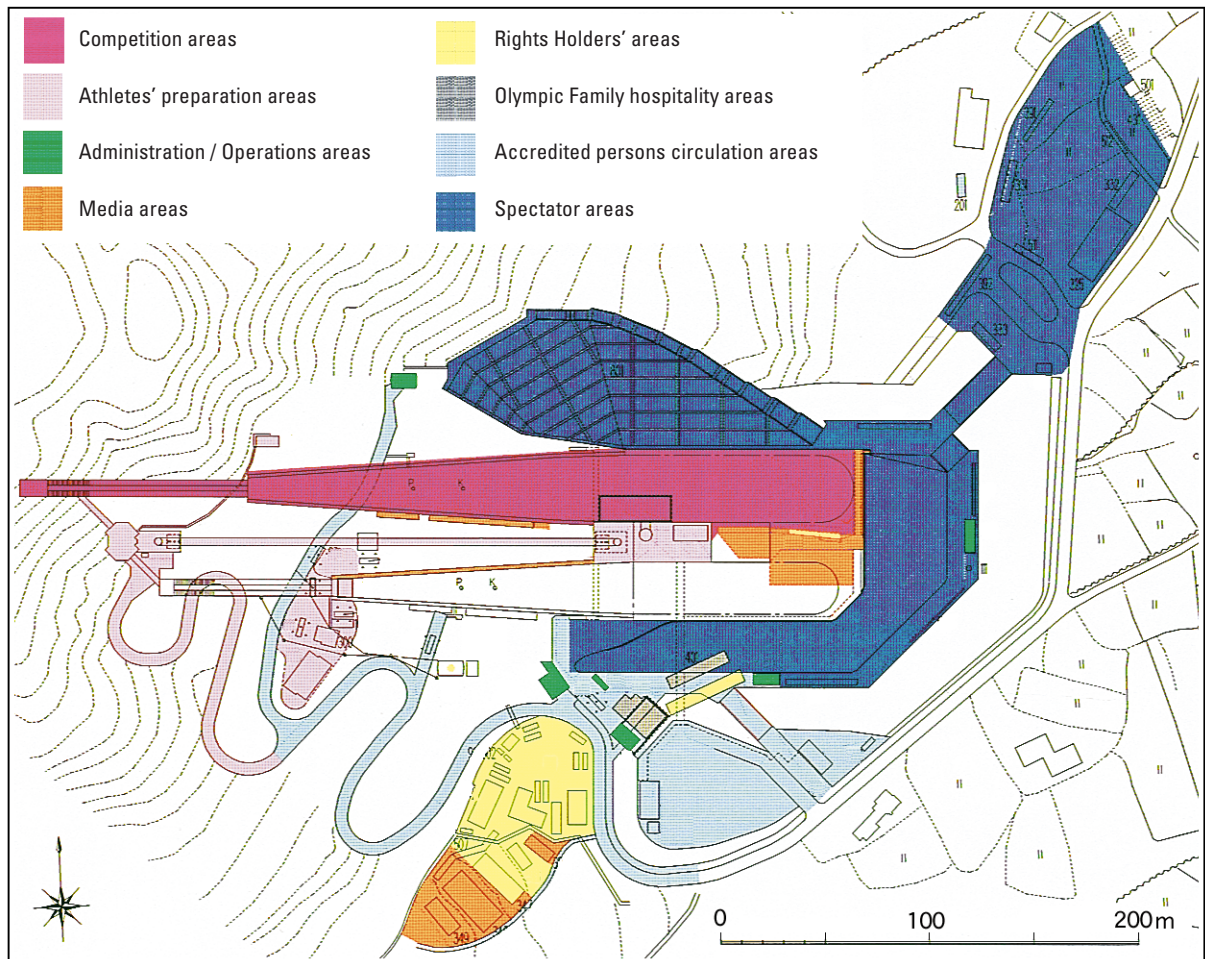
Raised platforms were needed for camera crews, photographers, and commentators to view the athletes in flight. The needs of these professionals were met, while at the same time

### ■ Hill Profile

	Normal Hill	Large Hill
'P' point	70m	90m
'K' point	90m	120m
Max. gradient	36.5°	37.5°
In-run	86.45m	108.8m
Landing slope	90m	120m
Outrun	98m	110m
FIS Homologation No.	306/JPN8	305/JPN7



The parallel normal and large hill ski jumping facility in Hakuba was the first of its kind in Japan.



ensuring that construction work did not detract from the natural surroundings. Main television shots were taken by cameras suspended from cranes; the size of photo platforms was kept to the feasible minimum, with as many photographers as possible stationed on the snow itself; commentary booths were built on raised platforms behind spectator seating.

- **Venue area**  
approximately 12ha
- **Structure**  
Large hill: 138m, steel-framed (S), reinforced concrete (RC)  
Normal hill: 107m, S, RC  
Start tower: 59.1m, S, 4 storeys (846m<sup>2</sup>)  
Clubhouse: RC, 2 storeys (555m<sup>2</sup>)
- **Judges' tower**  
Large hill: RC, 2 storeys (223m<sup>2</sup>)  
Normal hill: RC, 4 storeys (350m<sup>2</sup>)

- **Temporary facilities**  
38 structures covering 4,195m<sup>2</sup> with 6,954m<sup>2</sup> of floor space
- **Giant video display**  
one temporary 260-inch colour screen
- **Spectator capacity**  
approximately 45,000

### Environmental Measures

Nearly 10,000 broadleaf trees and azaleas were planted to replace the approximately 5,000 trees felled during construction. Local junior high school students and volunteers transplanted *miyama'aoi* grass, upon which the area's protected Gifu butterfly feeds. Butterfly eggs were found later at the new site, confirming that the transplant was a success.



## Summary of Operations

Excluding ORTO'98 personnel, a staff of 955 comprising 17 NAOC personnel, 308 competition officials, 575 volunteers, and 55 Hakuba village employees worked in venue operations. Further support was provided by 130 SDF personnel.

Crowds at ski jumping were among the largest of the Nagano Games. Over the three days of ski jumping competition, a total of 102,641 spectators came to cheer on the athletes. An additional 76,544 fans watched the two days of nordic combined ski jumping. Thousands more watched from outside the stadium, and 7,606 local residents were allowed in to observe official training sessions. Expectations for medal

performances by Japanese athletes in ski jumping were high, and tickets sold out early.

For organizers, much effort was focused on clearing snow from spectator seating. This included clearing snow by hand, covering seats with plastic sheeting, and pumping hot spring water through a sprinkler system to melt the snow.

Temporary lighting was installed along the in-runs and portable lighting on the landing slopes, which would allow competitions to be held in late afternoon if necessary. Wind netting was also installed to protect the athletes against cross winds.

Operations ran smoothly, and the ethereally illuminated ski jumping stadium became a symbol of the village of Hakuba.

# Freestyle Skiing Venue



Iizuna Kogen

## Location

Iizuna Kogen, Nagano City (23km from the Olympic Village; 17km from the MPC and IBC)

## Events

Freestyle Skiing

Men: Moguls, Aerials

Ladies: Moguls, Aerials

## Facilities

The freestyle skiing events were held on existing courses at the Iizuna Kogen ski area. Due to its location inside a special zone of the Joshin'etsu National Park, no permanent facilities were built and all temporary facilities had to be approved by the Environment Agency. Consequently, except for three existing ski lifts and a rest house used as an office for team information, all other operations facilities were temporary.

Every consideration was given to the environment and minimizing the impact of construction on the delicate soil. For the mogul competition, a five-storey prefabricated structure was assembled to house the judges' room, results / timing room, commentary booths, cable camera operations room, and so on. Seating for 104 people was set up for use by the Olympic Family.

At the aerials competition area, operations facilities were located in a four-storey prefabricated structure. Similarly, Olympic Family seating for 116 was set up. A judges' house was

## Course Profile

Moguls		Aerials			
Course length	250m	In-run	Gradient	Length	Width
Average gradient	26°	Table	25°	55m	–
Course width	18m	Landing	–	25m	22m
Finish area length	27m	Finish	37°	35m	–
FIS Homologation	7007/010/91	FIS Homologation	–	30m	30m
					7009/008/91

established next to the kickers. To facilitate access to the slope from the athletes' rest area, two rope tow lifts were installed. A satellite medical office was set up beside the finish area.

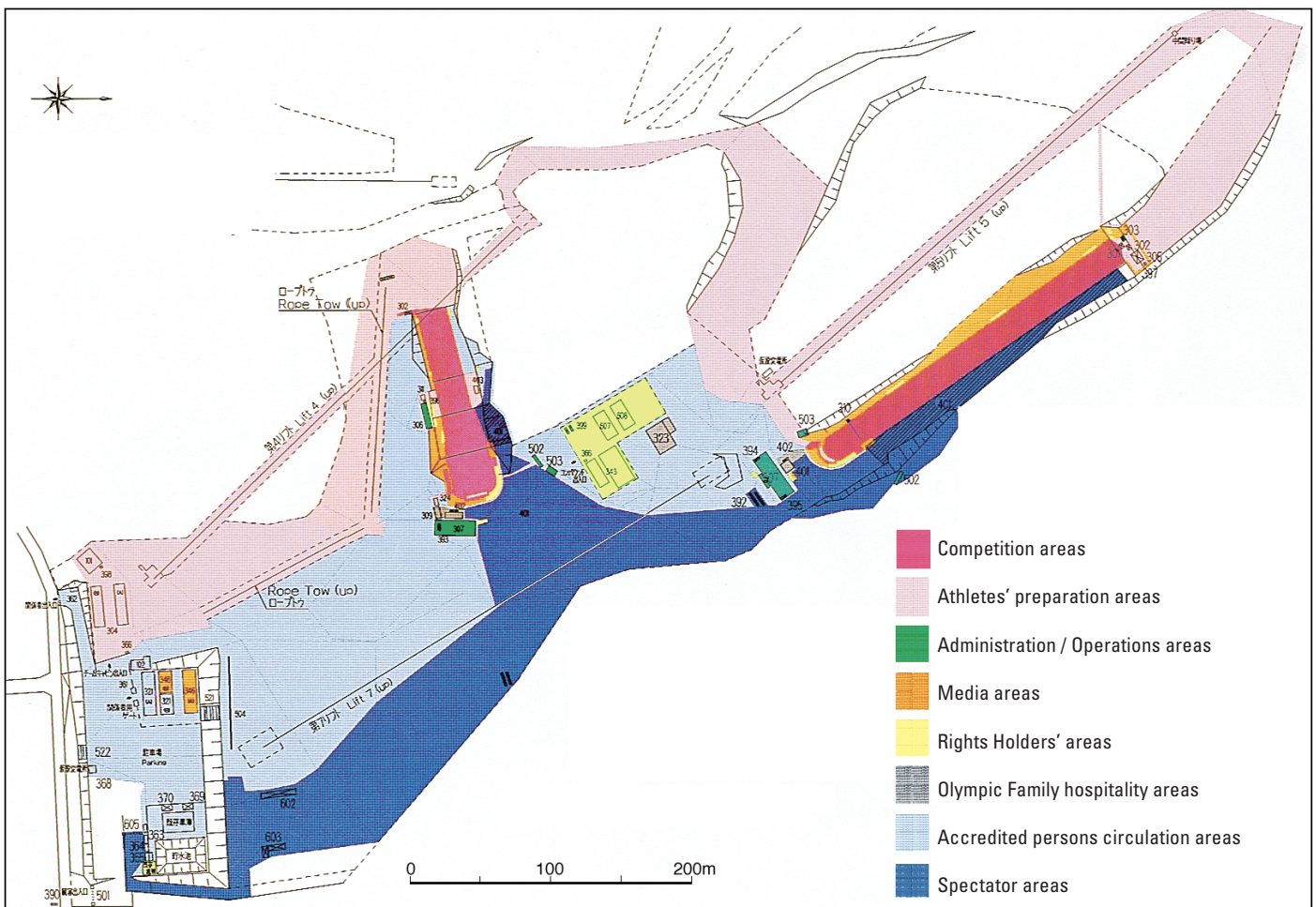
- **Venue area**  
approximately 18.8ha (incl. course)
- **Temporary facilities**  
49 structures covering 3,535m<sup>2</sup> with 5,717m<sup>2</sup> of floor space
- **Giant video display**  
one portable 260-inch colour screen
- **Spectator capacity**  
Moguls: approximately 8,000

Aerials: approximately 12,000

### Summary of Operations

Excluding ORTO'98 personnel, a staff of 632 comprising 15 NAOC personnel, 165 competition officials, 382 volunteers, and 70 Nagano municipal employees worked in venue operations. Further support was provided by 40 SDF personnel.

A total of 37,225 spectators came out to watch the speed and dynamic manoeuvres of the moguls competition, and the twists and daring acrobatics of aerials. An additional 2,800 local residents were allowed in free of charge to watch





Building an aerial kicker

official training sessions. Local residents helped to create a festive atmosphere by building 11 giant snow sculptures on nearby roads to welcome spectators.

In moguls, Tae Satoya of Japan was the surprise gold medallist in the ladies's event, capturing the first Winter Games gold medal ever by a Japanese woman. The popular Jonny Mosely of the USA capped his season with gold in the men's division. The atmosphere was buoyed by the use of live music played on an Electone synthesizer, and this undoubtedly enhanced the enjoyment of the crowd. Musical performances were staged close to the spectator galleries, and these also proved very popular. In the aerials

events, it was the USA's Nikki Stone and Eric Bergoust who took top honours.

A scarcity of snow at the venue was a source of concern for organizers. However, extensive utilisation of snowmaking equipment beginning in early December, coupled with natural snow falling from mid-January onwards, provided abundant snow and good conditions. While securing as much standing room as possible for spectators, venue operations staff also worked to build steps and pack the snow on the slope in viewing areas to prevent snow slides and accidents. Two on-snow vehicles were available for transporting Olympic Family members and physically challenged spectators.

Spectators entering and leaving the venue along the approximately 10-minute walk between the ticketing gate and the viewing area were entertained along the way by *taiko* drummers and other cultural performers. Not only did this entertain spectators, but it also helped to alleviate crowding at the exit upon conclusion of competition by staggering crowd movement.

Eager moguls fans began queuing at the venue from the night before competition, and night patrols were implemented to prevent illegal roadside parking from causing a disturbance to area residents.

The 260-inch giant video display set up for the moguls competition was moved to the aerials site after the conclusion of the moguls programme. In order not to interfere with athlete training sessions or other venue operations, this was done at night utilising a giant sled.

# Snowboard Halfpipe Venue

## Location

Kanbayashi in Shiga Kogen, Yamanouchi Town (41km from the Olympic Village; 34km from the MPC and IBC)

## Events

Men's and Ladies' Snowboard Halfpipe

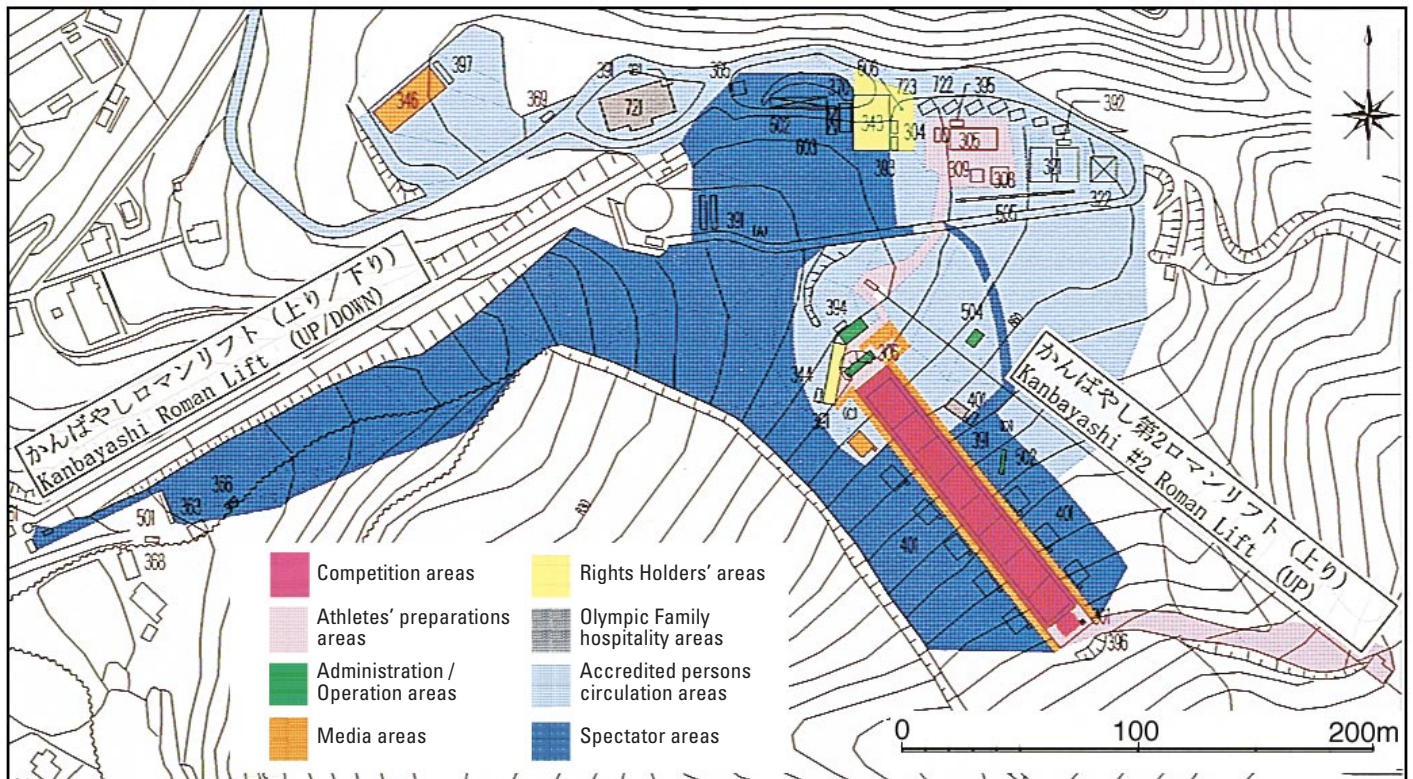
### ■ Course Profile

Course length	120m
Average gradient	18°
Width	15m
Ht. of inner wall	3.5m

## Facilities

The halfpipe events were held at the Kanbayashi Snowboard Park in the town of Yamanouchi. Other than an existing restaurant leased for use as a lounge for the Olympic Family, all other facilities were temporary.

In the finish area, a five-storey steel-framed prefabricated structure was erected to house an administration office, jury room, results room, and commentary booths. Olympic Family seating for 1,096 people, a judges' house, athletes' waiting room, venue operations headquarters, RTV house, and sub press centre were also set up.







- **Venue area**  
approximately 3.22ha
- **Temporary facilities**  
38 structures covering 2,080m<sup>2</sup> with 3,400m<sup>2</sup> of floor space
- **Giant video display**  
one temporary 380-inch colour screen
- **Spectator capacity**  
approximately 10,000

### **Environmental Measures**

Sacks of recyclable plastic PET bottles were used to fill gaps between the sides of temporary structures and sloping ground. This avoided disturbing the soil as well as compensated for lack of snow. Wherever possible, structures were built on the snow base instead of on the ground.

### **Summary of Operations**

Excluding ORTO'98 personnel, a staff of 425 comprising 11 NAOOC personnel, 103 competition officials, 296 volunteers, and 15 Yamanouchi town employees worked in venue operations.

A total of 9,282 eager fans came out to cheer on the competitors in the Olympic debut of snowboard halfpipe. An additional 1,035 local residents were allowed in free of charge to watch one of the five official training sessions. The combination of explosive jumps and aerial tricks proved popular with the crowd.

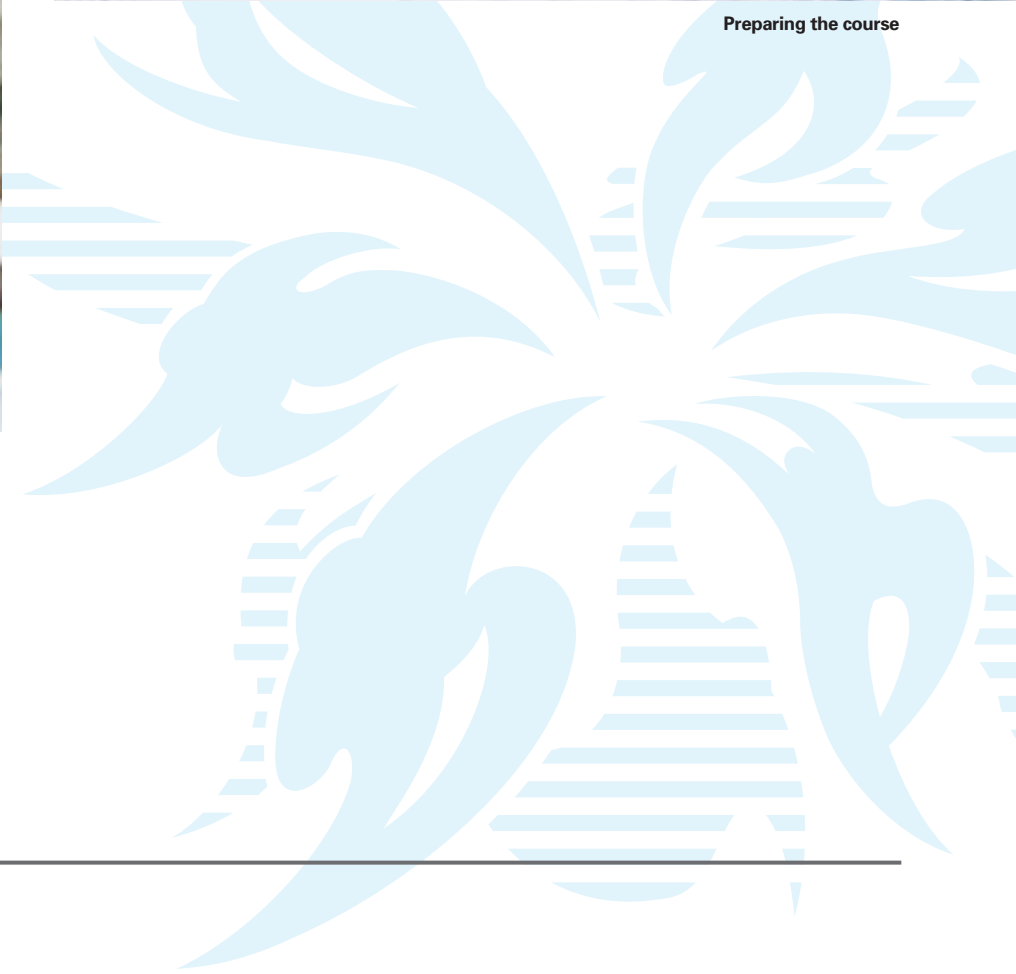
A new pipe dragon was brought in to construct the halfpipe course to international competition standards. Initially, one standing area for spectators by the side of the course was planned, however this was altered to two smaller standing areas on either side of the course when it was realized that the view from seating located behind would be partially obstructed. To prevent spectators from slipping, steps were carved into the snow on the slope, and 1,500 pairs of crampons were lent out to course-side spectators.



Big air !



Preparing the course



# Speed Skating Arena (M-Wave)

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## Location

Kita Nagaïke, Nagano City (12km from the Olympic Village; 6km from the MPC and IBC)

## Events

Speed Skating

Men: 500m, 1,000m, 1,500m, 5,000m, 10,000m

Ladies: 500m, 1,000m, 1,500m, 3,000m, 5,000m

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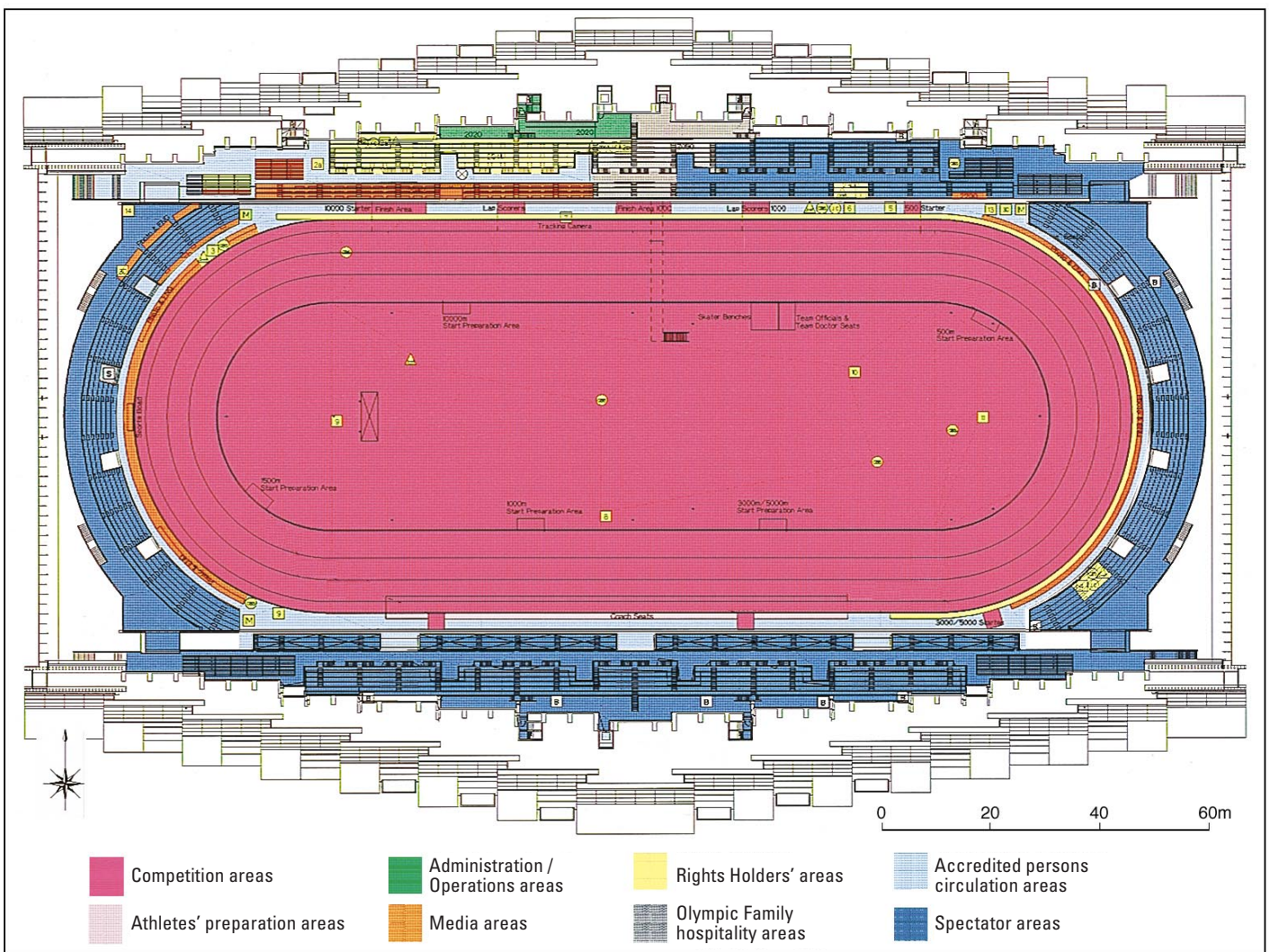
## ■ Oval Specifications

- 400m standard double-track
- Curve radius: inner lane 26m; outer lane 30m
- Lane width 4m (warmup lane 5m)

## Facilities

Japan's first indoor rink with a 400m standard double-track, M-Wave is one of the world's largest covered rinks. Local larch timber was used in the construction of the suspended roof, and the interior design is reminiscent of Japanese lattice work. Combined with the fragrance of larches, this emphasizes the soft, warm ambience associated with wooden structures. Seen from the outside, the arena features a roof echoing the rugged peaks of the Japan Alps surrounding Nagano. It was named "M-Wave" because of the resemblance of the roof to waves on the ocean. The innovative design of the facility formed a lasting impression worldwide, and in February 1998 received the Special Award "for structural engineering excellence" from the





United Kingdom-based Institution of Structural Engineers.

The multi-purpose M-Wave arena has two movable spectator grandstands, allowing the interior space to be configured in a variety of ways. It is also possible to install artificial turf or other flooring to maximize versatility. Indirect ammonia refrigeration is used in making ice, with embedded sensors to regulate ice temperature. A 60m x 30m ice hockey rink can also be installed in the area within the speed skating oval.

Offices for venue operations, a press conference room, a sub press centre, and other facilities were set up within existing rooms in the arena. Temporary structures included the RTV house and television Rights Holders' cabins.

After the Games, the arena will continue to be used for skating in winter and a variety of other events year-round. It will also be home to

the Nagano Olympic Museum.

- **Venue area**  
approximately 11.15ha
- **Permanent facilities**  
Building area: approx. 31,300m<sup>2</sup>  
Total floor area: approx. 76,000m<sup>2</sup> (including basement parking)  
Upper section steel-framed construction, with a lower section of reinforced concrete and a wooden suspended roof  
Storeys: 3 above ground, 1 underground  
Maximum height: approx. 43m
- **Giant video displays**  
two permanent 394-inch colour screens
- **Temporary facilities**  
17 structures covering 940m<sup>2</sup> with 1,005m<sup>2</sup> of floor space
- **Spectator capacity**  
approximately 10,000



Resembling the letter "M" and waves on the ocean, the M-Wave arena also brings to mind the surrounding mountain landscape.

## Environmental Measures

Soil excavated during construction was reused in exterior landscaping. Rainwater was collected in underground tanks and innovative technology enabled rain and groundwater to be utilised in a variety of ways, including making ice, running the air conditioning system, and melting snow around the venue. As at all the ice rinks for the Nagano Games, ice resurfacing vehicles were powered by electricity.

## Summary of Operations

Excluding ORTO'98 personnel, a staff of 1,098 comprising 15 NAOC personnel, 112 competition officials, 918 volunteers, and 53 Nagano municipal employees worked in venue operations.

With high expectations of record-breaking performances on the fast ice surface, a total of 118,555 fans turned out to cheer on the athletes during the 12 days of speed skating competition. They were not disappointed as new records were set in every event. Aided by the introduction of the revolutionary "slap" skates to Olympic competition, a total of five world and 10 Olympic records were set. Medal performances by Japanese favourites Hiroyasu Shimizu and

Tomomi Okazaki helped to set the tone for celebrations in the streets of Nagano. In the stands, a brass band from the Netherlands and local dance groups helped to entertain spectators between races and celebrate the strong performance by Dutch skaters.

Despite the low altitude and high humidity of Nagano City, ice makers were able to create a fast surface that garnered high praise from all quarters. Proprietary methods included using distilled water and keeping the rink surface free of dust and other impurities. Through the experience of the ICPGs, ice makers learned to compensate for temperature changes caused by thousands of spectators.

For audiences watching at home, a new type of tracking camera installed on the second curve of the track, as well as microphones embedded in the ice, conveyed a thrilling sense of the speed and power of the skaters.

At the beginning of the Games, there was a degree of initial confusion when some Olympic Family members tried to access the venue without the Prime Event Limitation (PEL) tickets needed in addition to accreditation. These PEL restrictions were imposed on some high demand events with limited seating.

A series of 500m and 3,000m time trials were held on February 2, and approximately 6,000 area residents came out to watch this final rehearsal for venues operations.

Victory Ceremonies were held in the centre of the oval, which had been decorated with some 300 planters donated by local community groups.

## Figure Skating/Short Track Speed Skating Arena (White Ring)

### Location

Mashima, Nagano City (6km from the Olympic Village; 4km from the MPC and IBC)

### Events

Figure skating

Men's Singles, Ladies' Singles, Pairs, Ice Dance, Exhibition

Short track speed skating

Men: 500m, 1,000m, 5,000m Relay

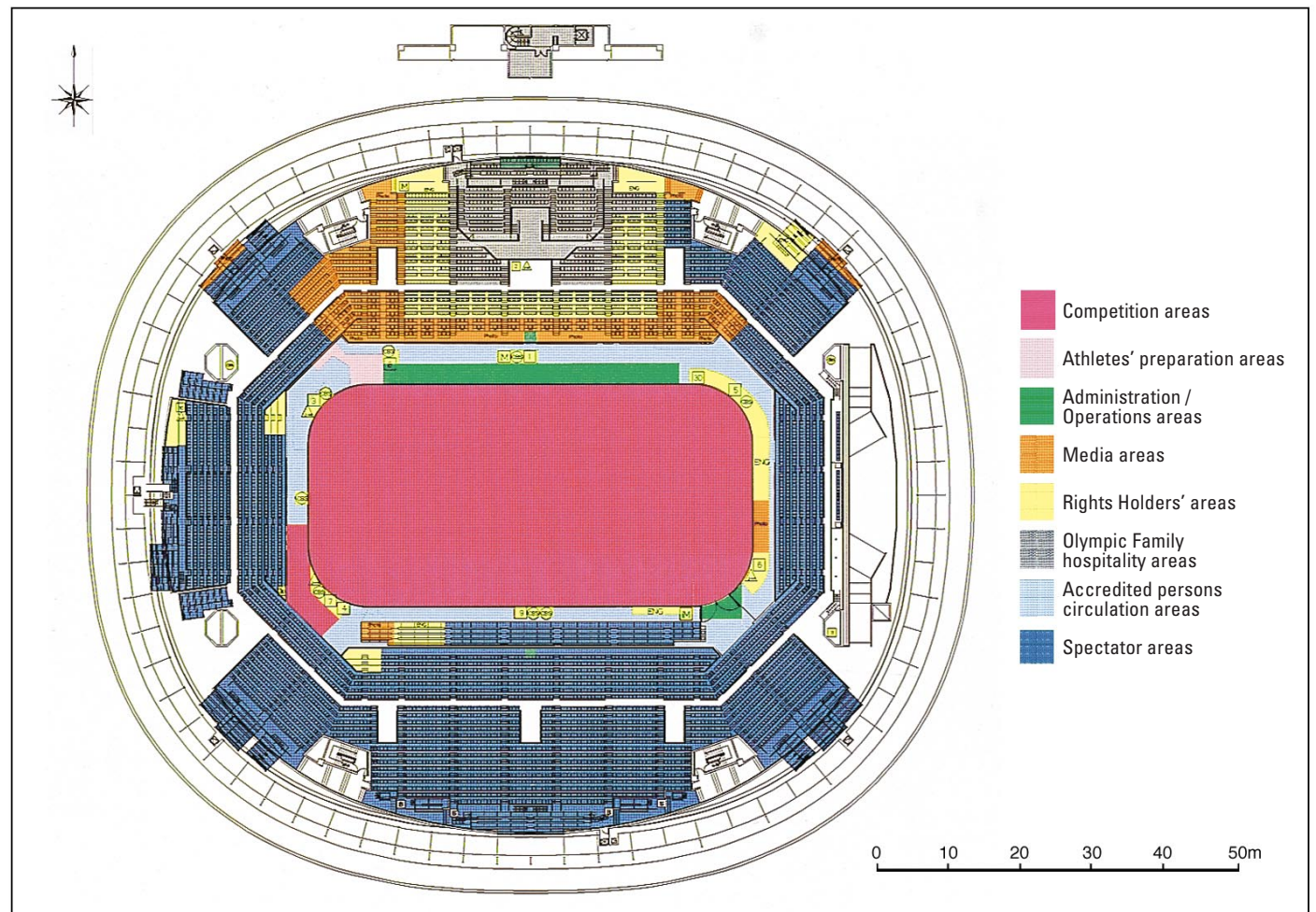
Ladies: 500m, 1,000m, 3,000m Relay

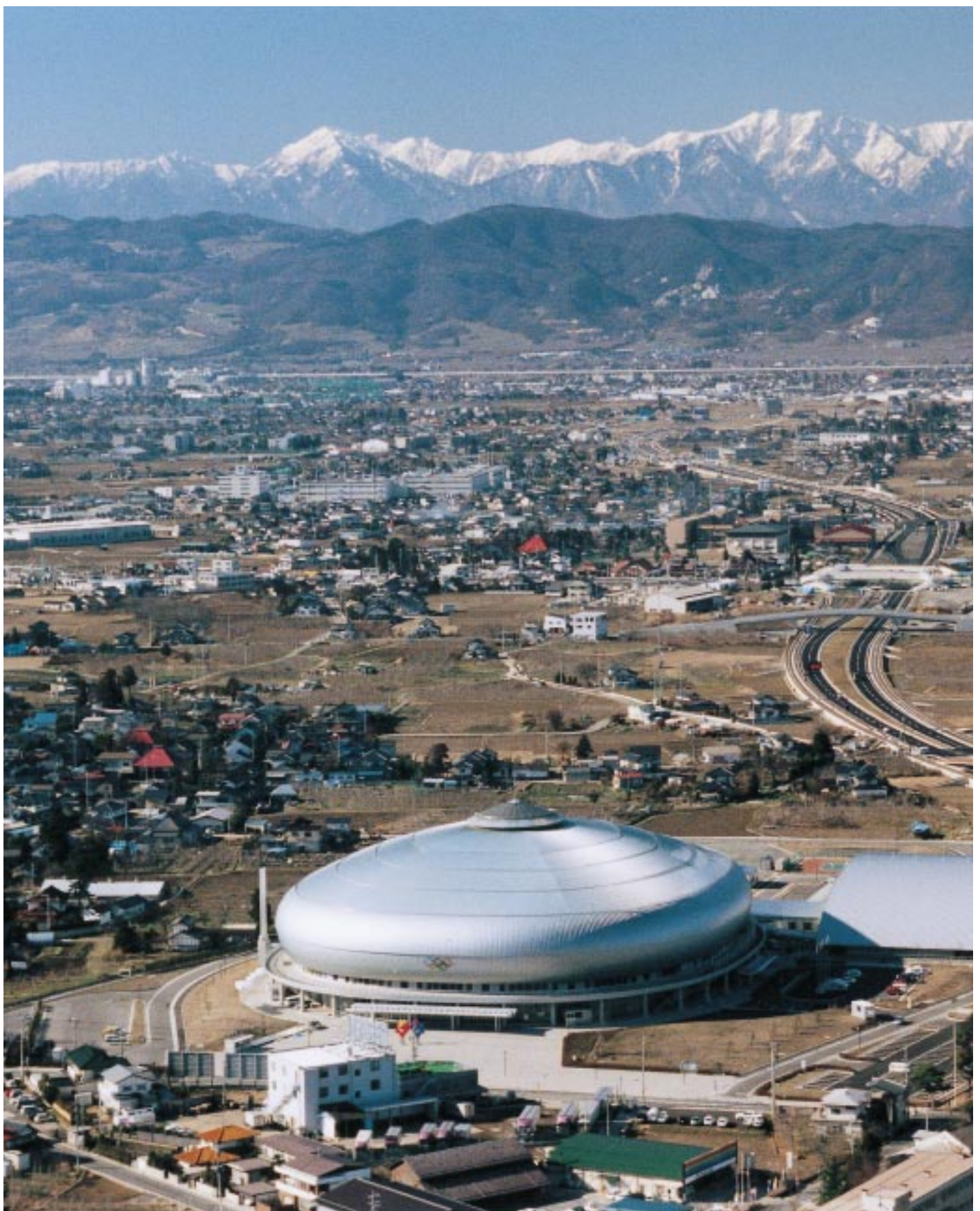
### Rink Specifications

One indoor temporary 60m x 30m ice rink

### Facilities

Located on the Zenkoji plain, the arena resembles a water droplet and was named "White Ring" for the shape of its gently sloping, shiny roof symbolizing the grace and beauty of figure skating. The expansive elliptical dome reaches a maximum height of 39.7m, and the integration of the arena, spectator seating, and outer gallery creates a unifying, distinctive open space.





White Ring – a water droplet on the Zenkoji plain

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## NAGANO 1998



During the Games, temporary facilities including additional changing rooms, a sub press centre, and an RTV house were set up. Part of the spectator seating was moved to accommodate commentary positions and press seating on the second and third floors, and additional temporary seating was added to the first and third floors, bringing the total spectator capacity to 7,351.

Temporary 60m x 30m rinks were installed in the main arena and in the adjacent sub arena used as a practice rink. Ice was made using indirect refrigeration.

After the Games the arena will be used as a public gymnasium.

- **Venue area**

approximately 6 ha

- **Permanent facilities**

Main arena: Building area of 10,788m<sup>2</sup> with total floor area of 16,049m<sup>2</sup>  
Three storeys, steel-framed

reinforced concrete; max. height 39.7m

Sub arena Building area of 3,110m<sup>2</sup> with total floor area of 3,446m<sup>2</sup>  
Two storeys, steel-framed reinforced concrete; max. height 15.8m

- **Giant video displays**

centre cubic display with four 160-inch colour screens

- **Temporary facilities**

21 structures covering 2,141m<sup>2</sup> with 3,030m<sup>2</sup> of floor space

- **Spectator capacity**

7,351

## Environmental Measures

Cranes were used to install the roof of White Ring after it was fully constructed on the ground, thus reducing the need for temporary scaffolding. Other measures included collecting rain and groundwater for use in making ice, cooling





systems, and melting snow around the venue. As at all the ice rinks for the Nagano Games, ice resurfacing vehicles were powered by electricity.

### **Summary of Operations**

Excluding ORTO'98 personnel, a staff of 1,107 comprising 21 NAOC personnel, 215 competition officials, 815 volunteers, and 56 Nagano municipal employees worked in venue operations.

Always one of the most popular sports at the Olympic Games, a total of 72,831 spectators came to White Ring for the figure skating events. In particular, fans were enthralled by the captivating performances given by American teenagers Tara Lipinski and Michelle Kwan.

In short track speed skating on the penultimate day of the Games, Japan's Takefumi Nishitani and Hitoshi Uematsu captured gold and bronze respectively in the men's 500m race, sending the home crowd into delirium. A total of 21,952 fans attended the short track speed skating competition.

PEL restrictions for the Olympic Family seating met with some initial confusion, as some Olympic Family members tried to access the

venue without PEL tickets. Staff and volunteers dealt with these situations professionally, and the issue was resolved for later events.

With events at White Ring finishing late at night, shifts and transportation schedules for both indoor and outdoor staff and volunteers had to be planned with great care and consideration.

An overlapping Sports Programme of figure skating and short track events scheduled on alternate days created a logistical challenge due to the different hardness of ice required. This was complicated by the fact that a sudden change in the temperature of the ice could cause it to crack. Using research and data from the ICPG competitions, ice makers were able to successfully adjust the ice to create optimum conditions for both competitions.

Because of the popularity of figure skating, a limited number of tickets was made available to the general public for four days of official training sessions. An additional 13,144 fans took this opportunity to watch the skaters make their final preparations.

## Ice Hockey Stadium 'A' (Big Hat)

### Location

Wakasato, Nagano City (7km from the Olympic Village; adjacent to the MPC, 0.2km from the IBC)

### Events

Ice hockey

Men: preliminary round – 11 games;  
final round – 8 games;

playoffs – 6 games (2 quarterfinal games, 2 semifinals, bronze medal game, gold medal game)

Women: playoffs – 2 games (bronze medal game, gold medal game)

### ■ Rink Specifications

- One temporary indoor 60m x 30m rink set to IIHF standards

### Facilities

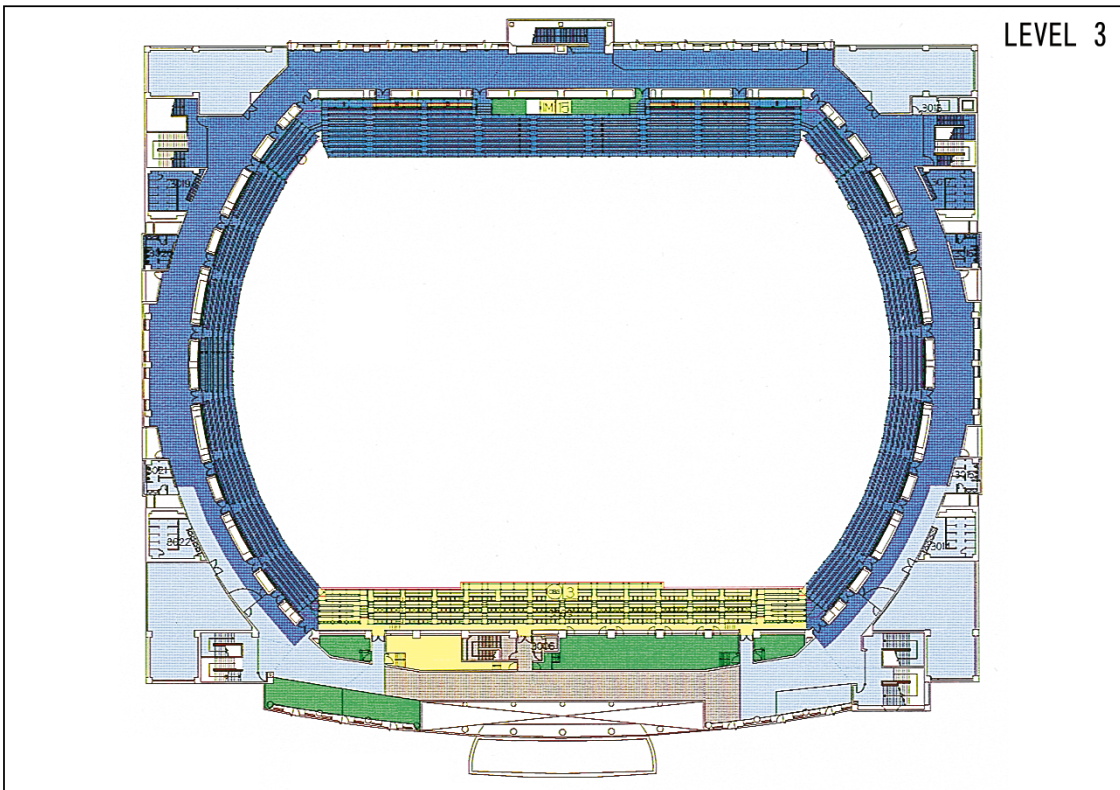
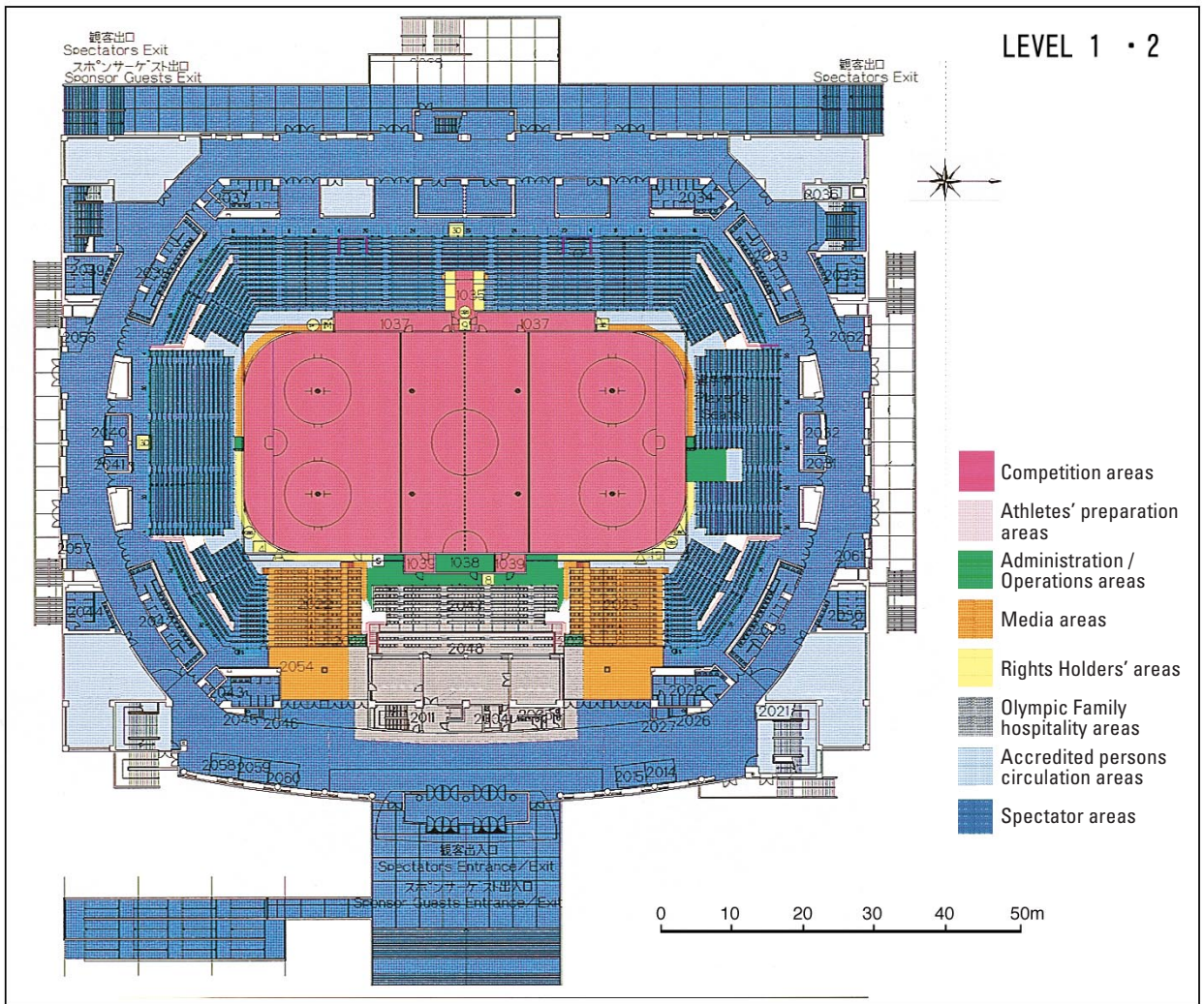
The sloping roof was designed to express continuity with the vast expanse of mountains surrounding the city. “Big Hat” was so named because the distinctive design of the entire stadium resembles a large hat. The height of the building was purposely kept low so as to blend in with the surrounding landscape.

The interior features a bare ceiling with exposed steel frames creating a sense of strength and dynamism. Movable spectator grandstands on the ground floor allow the interior to be configured in a number of ways for holding a variety of events.

All venue operations facilities were incorporated into the existing building, except for a temporary RTV house, press conference room, and Rights Holders’ cabins.



Resembling a large hat, the “Big Hat” Stadium was the main venue for ice hockey.





The participation of star players from the NHL helped to draw over 250,000 fans to Big Hat.

On the first floor, temporary benches were installed to augment spectator seating. On the second and third floors, temporary seating was also installed, with standing room available behind.

Since the arena was designed for post-Games use as a multi-purpose event facility, permanent ice making equipment was not installed. Instead, a temporary rink was built and ice made using indirect ammonia freezing methods that do not damage the ozone layer nor contribute to the greenhouse effect.

- **Venue area**  
approximately 4.45 ha
- **Permanent facilities**  
Building area: approx. 12,050m<sup>2</sup>  
Total floor area: approx. 25,240m<sup>2</sup>  
Reinforced concrete, steel-framed construction  
Storeys: 4 above ground, 1 underground  
Max. height: approx. 35m
- **Giant video displays**  
two permanent 220-inch colour screens

- **Temporary facilities**  
16 structures covering 1,130m<sup>2</sup> with 1,610m<sup>2</sup> of floor space
- **Spectator capacity**  
10,104

## Environmental Measures

In addition to the use of ozone-friendly ice making methods, rain and groundwater were collected for use in making ice, air conditioning systems, and for melting snow around the venue. As at all the ice rinks for the Nagano Games, ice resurfacing vehicles were powered by electricity.

## Summary of Operations

Excluding ORTO'98 personnel, a staff of 1,264 comprising 16 NAOC personnel, 137 competition officials, 1,057 volunteers, and 54 Nagano municipal employees worked in venue operations. Competition officials worked at both the 'A' and 'B' stadiums, as well as at the practice arena. As men's ice hockey was one of the more popular sporting competitions, all tickets sold out. A total of 256,306 people attended the

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The thrilling victory of Japan's men's team over Austria was its first in Olympic competition since the 1976 Innsbruck Games.



hockey games at Big Hat, the most spectators at any venue.

The majority of the women's ice hockey games were held at Aqua Wing, with the bronze and gold medal games played at Big Hat, which served as the main arena for the men's tournament. With the first time participation of professional players from the National Hockey League, a "dream tournament" was eagerly anticipated. In the end, it was the team from the Czech Republic that took home the gold medal.

On the operational side, a demanding programme of 27 games scheduled on 14 of the 16 days of the Games, with sometimes two or even three games per day, took its toll on staff and volunteers. Three shifts were organized, and with several games going into extra periods, time to usher the capacity crowds in and out of the arena and for cleaning between games was at a premium. The area required for the Olympic Family lounge far exceeded initial expectations, but sufficient space was eventually secured.

For final round play, the high-density plastic used for the lower part of the boards around the players' benches was replaced with wood to protect against damage from skates and the intense speed and physical action of the players.

### **Practice Rink (Nagano Skate Centre)**

Official practice sessions were held at the nearby Nagano Skate Centre, maintained by a staff of 139 including 30 Nagano municipal employees. Temporary facilities, including four changing rooms and additional lighting, were set up the previous season. During the Games, the arena was used by as many as 12 teams per day, and no problems were experienced with scheduling or operations.

## Ice Hockey Stadium 'B' (Aqua Wing)

### Location

Nagano Sports Park, Nagano City (12km from the Olympic Village; 5km from the MPC and IBC)

### Events

Ice hockey

Men: preliminary round – 4 games; final round – 4 games ; playoffs – 2 games (2 quarterfinals games)

Women: preliminary round – 15 games

### ■ Rink Specifications

- One temporary indoor 60m x 30m rink set to IIHF standards

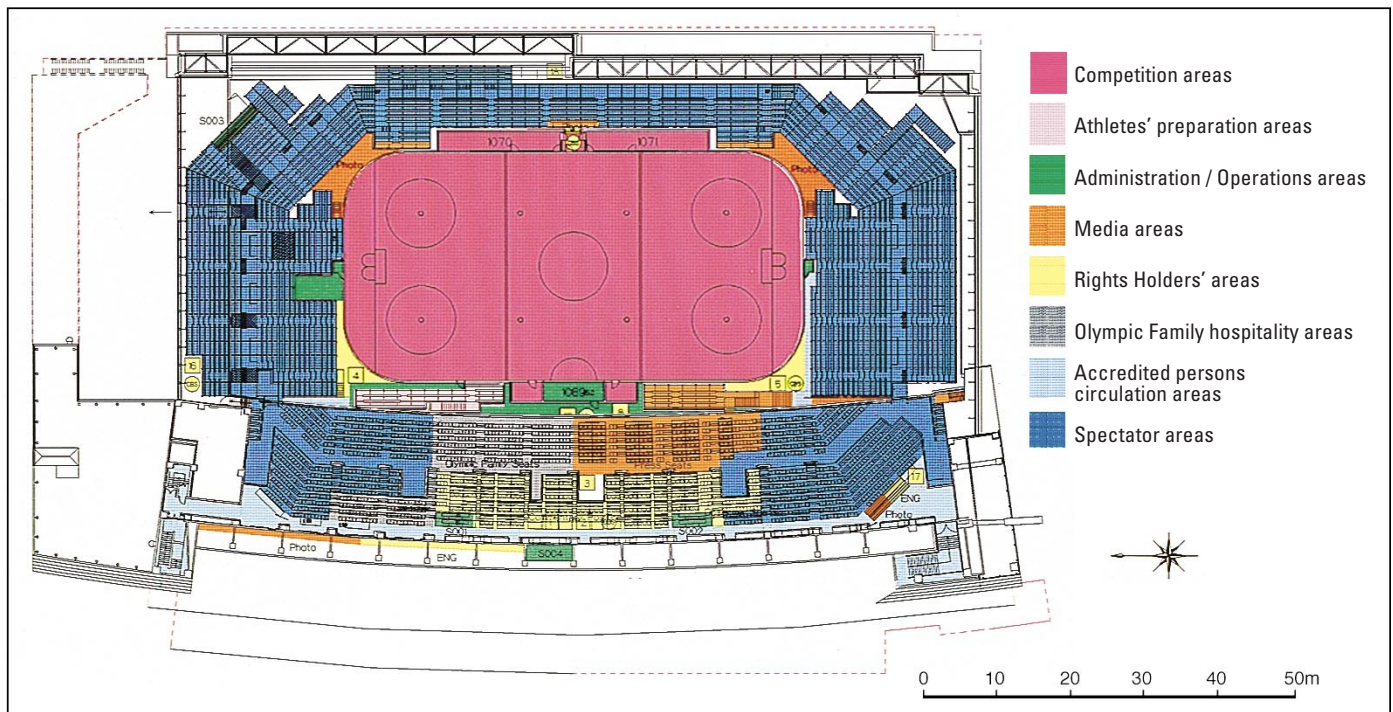
### Facilities

With flowing lines expressing the fresh, clean breezes and cool streams of the Nagano region, the facility was named “Aqua Wing”

because of its resemblance to a wing. The roof is retractable, and its supporting V-shaped pillars create a design that manifests the ferocity of ice hockey and the dynamism of Nagano City.

Temporary facilities included an RTV house and changing rooms. Additional temporary seating was installed on all three floors of the building to supplement the permanent seating, providing capacity for 4,134. Standing room areas were set up behind temporary seating.

Aqua Wing will reopen in the spring of 1999 as an indoor swimming facility with 50m and 25m swimming pools and a diving pool. Ice for the temporary rink was made by indirect ammonia refrigeration, and freezing equipment was installed on a false floor built on top of the 50m swimming and diving pool. As the rink was situated on top of an expanse of empty space, sound damping measures were utilised. The sub press centre was built on top of the 25m pool.





Aqua Wing was the last competition venue to be completed.

- **Venue area**  
approximately 5.2 ha
- **Permanent facilities**  
Building area: approx. 10,100m<sup>2</sup>  
Total floor area: approx. 13,500m<sup>2</sup>  
Reinforced concrete, steel-framed construction  
Storeys: 3 above ground, 1 underground  
Max. height: approx. 31m
- **Giant video displays**  
one permanent 400-inch colour screen
- **Temporary facilities**  
16 structures covering 2,390m<sup>2</sup> with 4,690m<sup>2</sup> of floor space
- **Spectator capacity**  
approximately 6,000

### Environmental Measures

All electricity for the venue was generated by gas engines. An innovative co-generation system utilising heat generated by the gas engines and freezing equipment was installed to power the heating system; in the future, the

co-generation system will be used to heat water used for the swimming pool. This led to a substantial reduction in the release of carbon dioxide, and effectively utilised 80% of the heat that would have been wasted with older systems.

### Summary of Operations

Excluding ORTO'98 personnel, a staff of 1,013 comprising 13 NAOC personnel, 137 competition officials, 794 volunteers, and 69 Nagano municipal employees worked in venue operations. Competition officials worked at both the 'A' and 'B' stadiums, as well as the practice arena.

Women's ice hockey made its Olympic debut at the Nagano Games, and the majority of the games were played at Aqua Wing. Many of the 113,412 spectators who came to watch were new to the game, and were enthralled by the thrilling pace and high level of play.

Doors opened one hour before the opening face-off, and *taiko* drum and other musical performances were staged to entertain the waiting crowd and enliven the mood.

With a hectic schedule of official practice sessions in the morning, and up to three games in the afternoon and evening, staff and volunteers were extremely busy guiding spectators, cleaning and maintaining the venue, conducting security and baggage checks, and other duties. As at all the indoor venues, staff also checked spectator banners to ensure that they did not interfere with the Olympic Games Identity (OGI) project. Because of the long hours, the day was divided into three shifts rotated regularly, and a rest area was provided for staff.

Aqua Wing was completed in October 1997 and was the only venue not to stage an ICPG event. Instead, a number of Japan League ice hockey games were staged in December for staff to test systems and procedures. Just prior to the Games on February 4, local residents were invited to observe three practice games played by the



**Aqua Wing will be used as a swimming pool after the Games.**

women's teams, and 7,500 people turned out to cheer on the athletes. These games also served as the final practice run for staff and volunteers.

One problem encountered was that electric equipment such as skate sharpeners and heaters brought by teams from overseas overloaded the venue's electrical capacity. Supplemental wiring was installed and the problem resolved overnight.

Local residents came up with a number of creative ideas to welcome visitors and lend the area a festive air, from illuminating the exterior of the building and nearby roads, to hanging traditional lanterns and setting up rest stops along the walking route from the train station to the venue. They also cooperated by clearing roads and footpaths of snow and ice.





# Bobsleigh / Luge Track (Spiral)

## Location

Asakawa, Nagano City (21km from the Olympic Village; 15km from the MPC and IBC)

## Events

Bobsleigh: Men's Two-man, Four-man

Luge: Men's and Women's Singles, Doubles

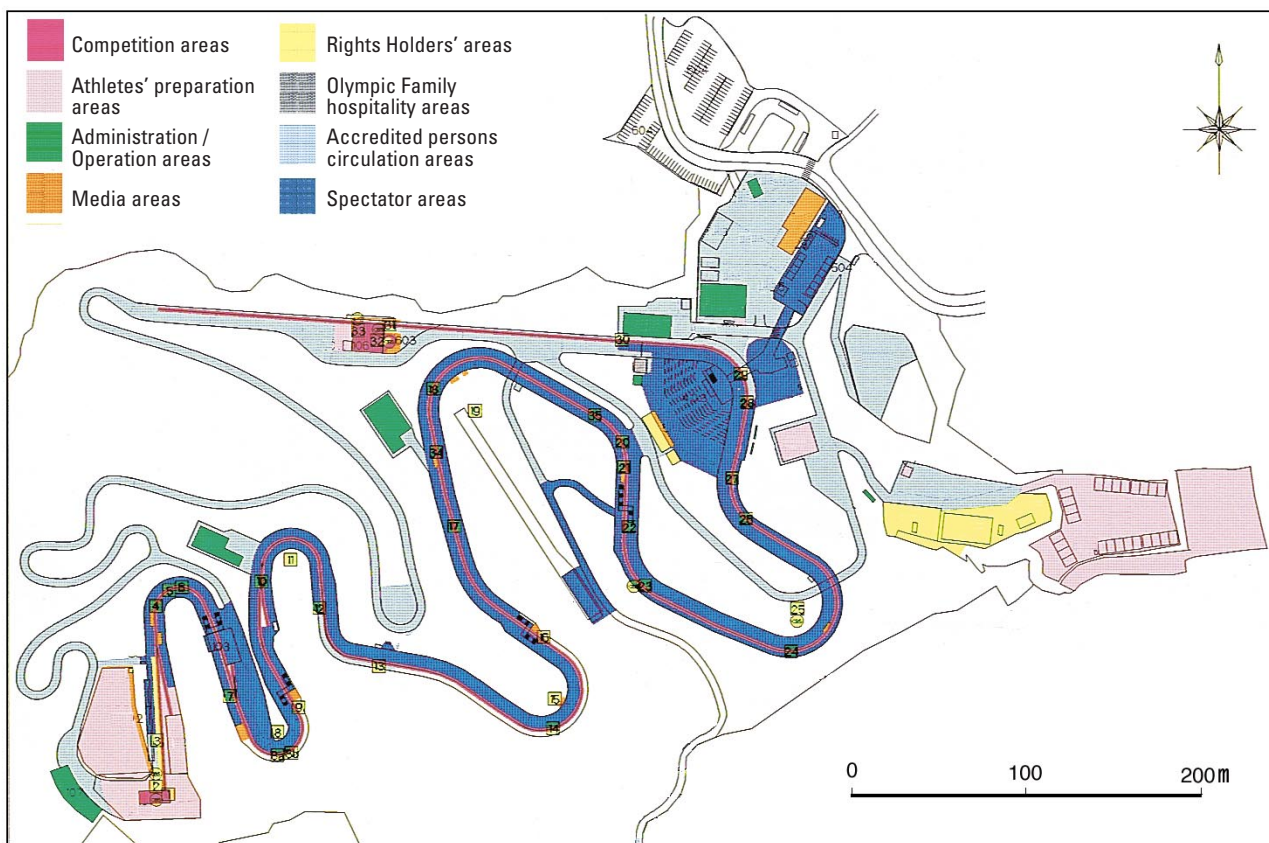
## Track Specifications

Bobsleigh:	FIBT Homologation	28/03/1996
Course length: 1,360m		
Vertical drop: 113m		
Luge:	FIL Homologation	24/06/1997
Course length		
Men	1,326m	Vertical drop: 114m
Women Doubles	1,194m	Vertical drop: 96m

## Facilities

The bobsleigh and luge competitions for the Nagano Games were held on Asia's first artificially iced track. The venue name "Spiral" was inspired by the winding track and dynamic movements of the sleds. Respect for nature is reflected in a course design that conforms to the natural topography of the mountain, making this the first track in the world to have two uphill sections.

Temporary structures erected included a venue operations facility, RTV house, sub press centre, and bobsleigh storage facility. Commentary booths and commentary editing booths were set up adjacent to the track itself. Temporary spectator grandstands for the Olympic Family, with approximately 154 seats





Following the contours of the terrain, the bobsleigh / luge course goes spiralling down the mountain. In the background, Mt. Lizuna and the freestyle skiing venue.



near the bobsleigh start house, and 132 seats at the finish area were set up.

Spiral will continue to be used post-Games for competitions in winter, and as a family leisure park in summer.

- **Venue area**

approximately 18 ha  
*Track length*  
 approximately 1,700m  
*Vertical drop*  
 approximately 114m

- **Permanent facilities**

Bobsleigh start house: wood construction,  
 1 storey approx. 100m<sup>2</sup>  
 Start House 1: reinforced concrete, wood  
 construction, 2 storeys  
 approx. 500m<sup>2</sup>  
 Start House 2: reinforced concrete, wood  
 construction, 2 storeys  
 approx. 350m<sup>2</sup>  
 Storage facility: steel-framed, 1 storey  
 approx. 400m<sup>2</sup>  
 Admin. building / Finish House:  
 reinforced concrete  
 construction, 3 storeys  
 approx. 1,010m<sup>2</sup>  
 Weighing House:  
 wood construction approx.  
 220 m<sup>2</sup>

Equipment sheds (3):

reinforced concrete, 2 storeys  
 approx. 1,400m<sup>2</sup>

- **Giant video displays**

one temporary 260-inch colour screen

- **Temporary facilities**

50 structures covering 3,648m<sup>2</sup> with 5,194m<sup>2</sup>  
 of floor space

- **Spectator capacity**

approximately 10,000

## Environmental Measures

A revolutionary indirect refrigeration system was installed utilising a freezing agent run through multiple pipes embedded in the concrete course. As well as being much safer, the amount of ammonia used was under 800kg, which represents a huge reduction from direct refrigeration methods in which ammonia itself runs through the pipes in the track. Freezing equipment was installed at three points along the track to reduce the effect of any equipment malfunction to the absolute minimum.

Rocks and trees dug up during construction were used as materials for building settling ponds and retaining walls to prevent landslides. To restore the original vegetation at the venue as rapidly as possible, topsoil removed during construction was preserved and returned to the site once the groundwork was completed. Approximately 40,000 indigenous broadleaf

beech and oak saplings were planted two per square meter. Furthermore, rare wild plants were transplanted and space left under perimeter fencing to allow small animals to pass through freely.

### Summary of Operations

Excluding ORTO'98 personnel, a staff of 890 comprising 16 NAOC personnel, 190 competition officials, 630 volunteers, and 54 Nagano municipal employees worked in venue operations. Additional support was provided by 70 SDF personnel. Approximately 37,336 people attended the bobsleigh competitions, and 30,461 spectators took in the luge action during the Games.

As very few bobsleigh or luge events had been held in Japan since the 1972 Sapporo Games, there was some concern over the lack of experience of staff preparing the ice track. To address this problem, an expert ice maker from Germany was invited to Nagano to train staff in proper ice making techniques for test runs and the ICPG event held during the 1997/98 winter season.

In an Olympic first, at the two-man bobsleigh competition on February 15, the Italy '1' sled and Canada '1' sled recorded identical times over four runs to share the gold medal.

An unseasonable thunderstorm on February 20 blew sand and rain onto the track, forcing cancellation of the second run of the four-man bobsleigh competition. Fortunately, fine weather prevailed the following day, and the third and fourth runs were held as scheduled. In accordance with the rules, medals were awarded for the aggregate time over three runs instead of four.

As most of the spectator vantage points were located on sloping ground lining the course, special attention was paid to clearing snow and spreading sand on access paths to prevent accidents. Cultural Programme events were staged to entertain spectators before and in



between races.

Official training for bobsleigh and luge competitors was held on the same days. Because of the long hours involved, three rest areas were set aside for staff and volunteers, and outdoor staff were issued with ponchos to protect them from inclement weather.

# Biathlon Venue

## Location

Toyosato, Nozawa Onsen Village (56km from the Olympic Village; 49km from the MPC and IBC)

## Events

Men: 10km Sprint, 20km Individual, 4 x 7.5km Relay

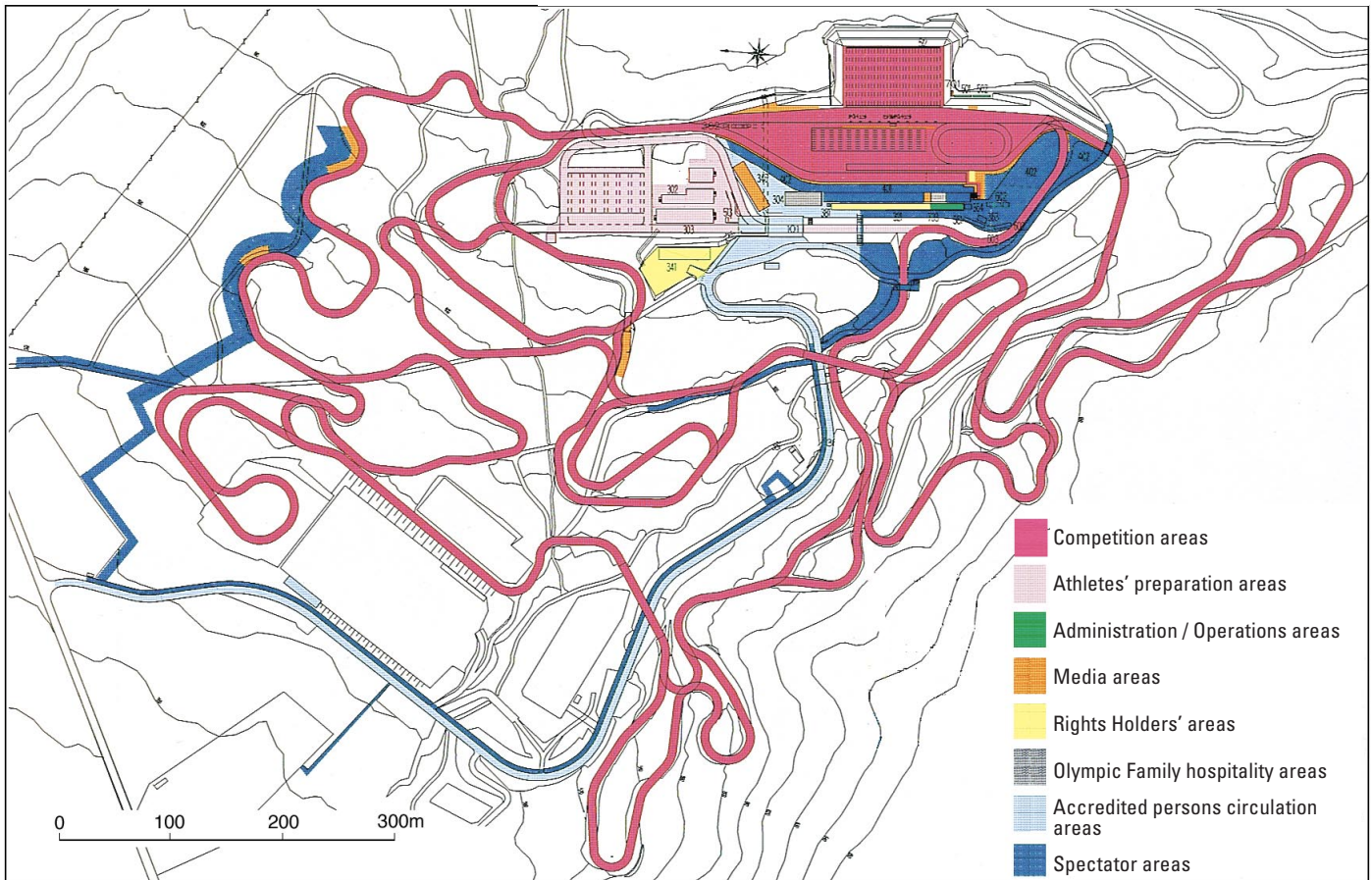
Women: 7.5km Sprint, 15km Individual, 4 x 7.5km Relay

## Course Profile

	Course A	Course B
Start / Finish altitude	627m	627m
Max. altitude	662m	632m
Min. altitude	584m	570m
Difference in altitude	78m	62m
Max. climb	25m	25m
Total climb	145m	142m
Length	4km	4km



NAGANO 1998



## Facilities

Built on an existing cross-country ski course located in the southern part of the Nozawa Onsen ski resort, the biathlon venue centred on the main stadium and featured two 4km courses located within an approximately 1km radius.

Facilities such as the venue operations headquarters and doping control station were set up in an existing administrative building, while temporary structures were built to house the Olympic Family lounge, sub press centre, team cabins, and RTV house. A rest area for the athletes was rented at the Nozawa Onsen Arena International Conference Centre.

The steel-framed main stadium also housed the commentary booths, results room, timing room, and sound room. Bench seating for 210 Olympic Family members and standing room for approximately 3,251 people were prepared.

Because of strict domestic gun control laws, the shooting range, and rifle and ammunition storage facilities were securely guarded by the prefectural police and other groups. A rifle storage facility had been prepared in the Olympic

Village in Nagano, however because some of the athletes were staying in accommodations in Nozawa Onsen, an additional storage facility was set up at the venue. A reinforced concrete and wood facility was used for storing rifles and ammunition at the athletes' preparation areas.

At the shooting range, steel frames for holding the targets were set up, as well as a 5m x 50m wooden wall to prevent stray bullets from causing any accidents.

- **Venue area**  
approximately 14.5ha (incl. course)
- **Main stadium**  
approx. 4ha
- **Course length**  
A – 4km; B – 4km
- **Course width**  
7m
- **Permanent facilities**  
Admin. building: reinforced concrete construction  
2 storeys above ground,  
1 underground, approx. 1,366m<sup>2</sup>



- **Giant video display**  
one temporary 340-inch colour screen
- **Temporary facilities**  
36 structures covering 5,138m<sup>2</sup> with 6,878m<sup>2</sup> of floor space
- **Spectator capacity**  
approximately 20,000

### **Environmental Measures**

Settling ponds were built to preserve the water quality of small streams running through the venue. In addition, night lighting was restricted to avoid disturbing animals in the area.

Local elementary schoolchildren participated in tree planting programmes and wood from trees felled during construction was used to build birdhouses that were set up in the surrounding forest.

### **Summary of Operations**

Excluding ORTO'98 personnel, a staff of 811 comprising 14 NAOC personnel, 313 competition officials, 436 volunteers, and 48 Nozawa Onsen village employees worked in venue operations. Further support was provided by 70 SDF personnel. Approximately 33,475 spectators attended the biathlon events.

All aspects of Japan's stringent domestic firearms laws and regulations were strictly enforced. From the airport, athletes were required to carry their own rifles and to place them in designated storage upon arrival at their destination, no matter what time of day or night. Ammunition was transported separately by truck. Storage facilities were placed under 24-hour guard.

As Japanese law prohibits those under the age of eighteen from handling firearms, at the behest of the International Biathlon Union NAOC made request to the Ministry of International Trade and Industry for a special exemption, granted in March 1996, to allow competitors under this age to take part in the Nagano Games and ICPG event.

In the women's 15km race on February 9, Bulgaria's Ekaterina Dafovska was the surprise winner, capturing her country's first gold medal ever at the Winter Games. On February 17, the men's 10km event was abandoned partway through because of inclement weather and re-run in its entirety the following day. Due to the dedicated efforts of operations personnel, the full competition programme was run with few difficulties.

## Curling Venue

### Location

Nagakura, Karuizawa Town (7km from the Satellite Village in Karuizawa; 90km from the MPC and IBC)

### Events

Men's and Women's Curling

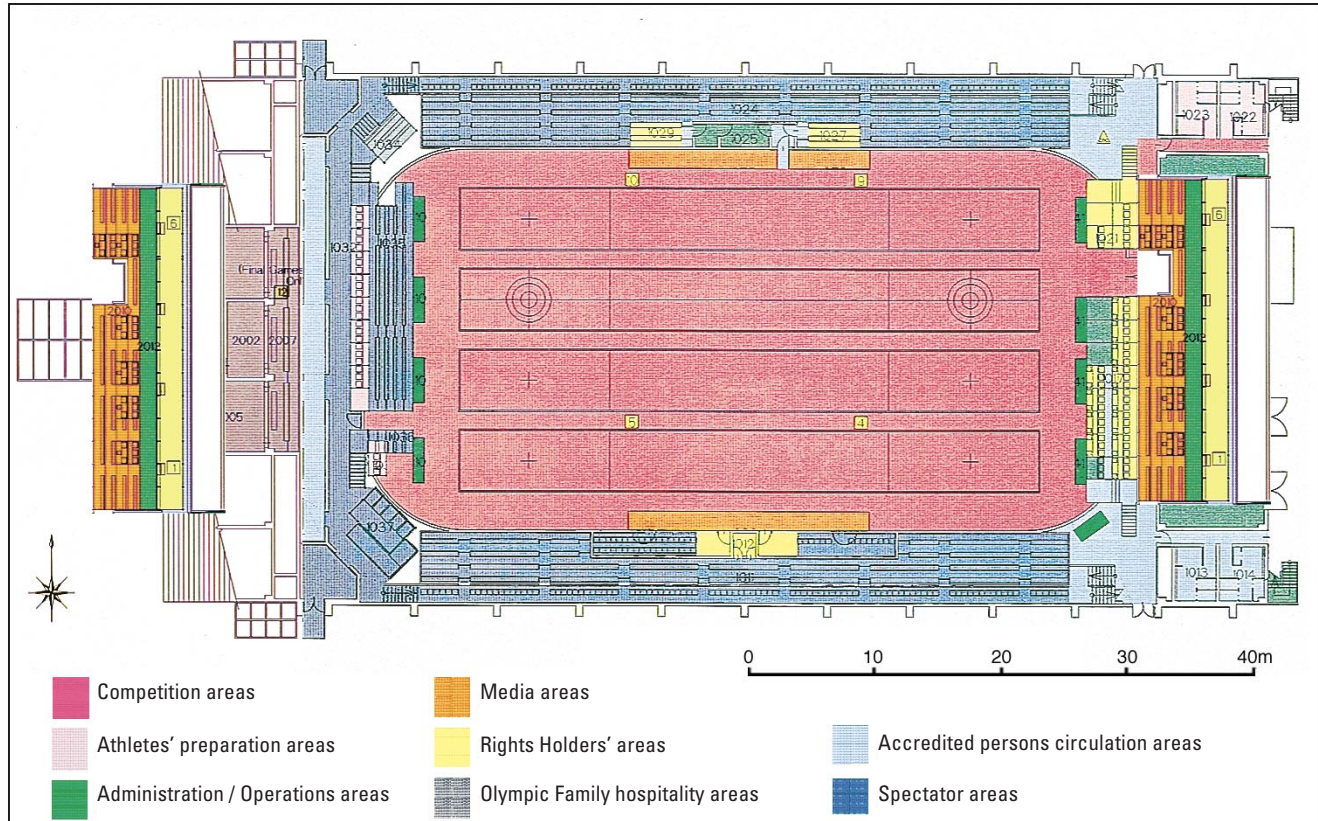
### ■ Rink Specifications

One indoor 60m x 30m rink

### Facilities

Located in Kazakoshi Park, the Kazakoshi Park Arena was built in 1990 as a multi-purpose facility for a variety of indoor sporting events. During the Games, the venue operations headquarters, results room, and sub press centre were set up within the arena and three other existing buildings within the park, including an adjacent building with a sheet of ice for spectators to try their hand at curling, and a public gymnasium used as a rest facility.

Temporary structures included facilities for competitors and officials, venue operations, and an RTV house. In addition to existing seating, approximately 229 temporary seats, commentary positions, photo and press seating, seats for timekeepers, and ENG positions were set up. Ice was made using equipment already at the venue.





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- **Venue area**

approximately 8.7ha

- **Permanent facilities**

Kazakoshi Park Arena: 2 storey steel-framed, reinforced concrete structure covering 4,271m<sup>2</sup>

SCAP Karuizawa: 1 storey underground, 2 storeys above ground, steel-framed, reinforced concrete construction covering 2,609m<sup>2</sup>

Public gymnasium: 2 storey steel-framed construction covering 1,346m<sup>2</sup>

- **Giant video display**

one temporary nine-screen multivision display

- **Temporary facilities**

18 structures covering 1,500m<sup>2</sup> with 2,248m<sup>2</sup> of floor space

- **Spectator capacity**

1,924

## Summary of Operations

Excluding ORTO'98 personnel, a staff of 882 comprising 11 NAOC personnel, 88 competition officials, 698 volunteers, and 85 Karuizawa town employees worked in venue operations. Approximately 39,610 spectators attended the curling competitions. During the official training session on February 8, area residents were allowed in free of charge to watch the

The Kazakoshi Park Arena in Karuizawa



Curling made its official debut as an Olympic sport at the Nagano Games.



teams during their final tune-up.

The Nagano Games marked the debut of curling on the official Sports Programme at the Olympic Games. Other than in Hokkaido, the sport was relatively unknown in Japan. However, thanks to Karuizawa's designation as host site, the town has become a hotbed of curling activity, and a local team participated in the 1997 World Junior Curling Championships.

In order to provide commentary to curling neophytes and add to the fun, FM receivers were distributed to spectators for tuning into an exclusive venue-wide broadcast.

Staff and volunteers were kept busy ushering spectators into and out of the arena and picking up any trash between competitions. In order to help while away the waiting time, a rink for spectators to try their hand at curling was set up at the SCAP Karuizawa facility next door. In addition, the local community arranged performances of traditional arts and music at the adjacent public gymnasium, where activities such as *origami*, *ikebana*, and kimono-dressing

proved highly popular.

For the 1997 World Junior Curling Championships, the World Curling Federation sent expert ice makers to train venue staff in proper ice making techniques, and with this experience, the curling sheets during the Nagano Games were of the highest standard.

For television broadcasts, a panorama camera was positioned above the "house" at either end to record the exact positions of the stones, and a tracking camera was utilised along the side to follow the play. With close up views of the players and their tactics, the images successfully conveyed a real sense of being at the venue and won universal praise.

Often referred to as "chess on ice", teams alternate shots and plan intricate strategies.



LES XVIII<sup>es</sup> JEUX OLYMPIQUES D'HIVER  
THE XVIII OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES



# 7

## The Olympic Village

NAGANO 1998

# The Olympic Village

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Aerial view of the Olympic Village

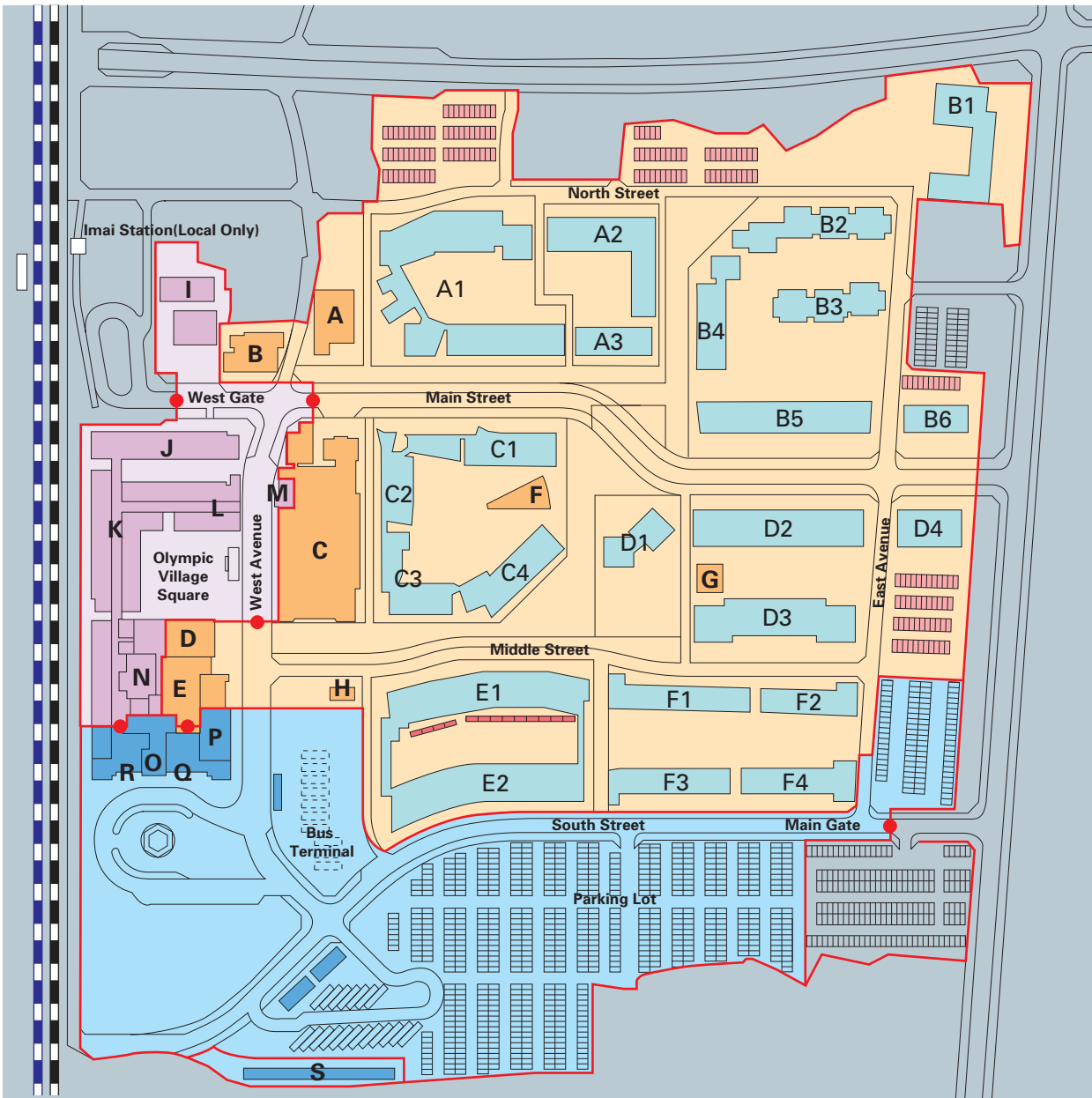
For one month, the Olympic Village was home to some 3,200 athletes and officials from the 72 countries and regions participating in the Nagano Games. The village served as an area for athletes of all sports in which to rest, relax, dine, and be entertained, where friendship overcame boundaries of nationality or creed.

The Olympic Village opened its doors at noon on January 24, 1998. A total of 2,652 people checked into the village prior to the start of the Games. As this was the first time in Olympic history that accommodations were provided free of charge for the entire period, the majority of athletes arrived earlier than at previous Games.

As more and more teams arrived at the village, the atmosphere became increasingly lively. The village was transformed into a kaleidoscope of colours as participants in their team uniforms strolled around the grounds and dropped into the recreation facilities to check out the games room and disco, or visited the souvenir shop, television lounge, and library. Queues forming outside the free-of-charge games room and IBM Internet “Surf Shack” attested to the popularity of these facilities, and Olympic souvenirs were also a big hit with village residents, with items like pins selling out early. Many athletes got a taste of Japanese culture by joining in activities

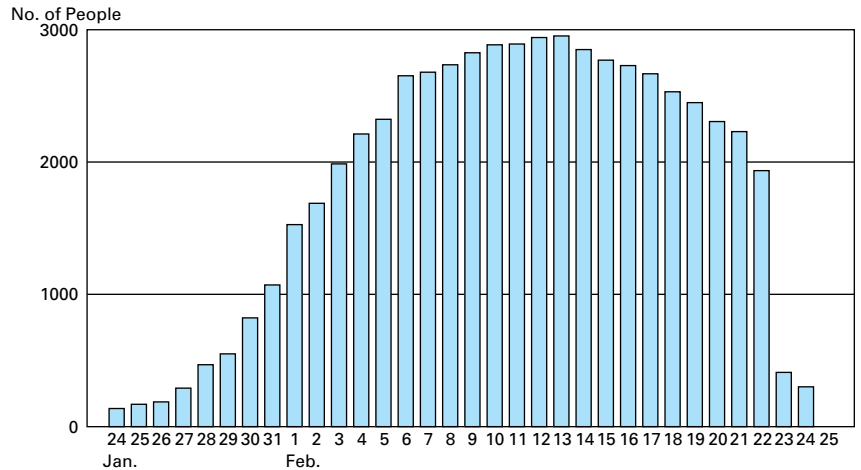


■ Olympic Village Map



- |          |                                 |          |   |
|----------|---------------------------------|----------|---|
|          | Fence                           |          | International Zone  |
|          | Village Gates                   |          | International Zone Facilities   |
|          | Residential Zone                | <b>I</b> | Fire Station  |
|          | Residential Zone Facilities     | <b>J</b> | Maintenance Facilities  |
| <b>A</b> | Polyclinic                      | <b>K</b> | Shopping Centre   |
| <b>B</b> | Fitness Centre                  | <b>L</b> | Disco, Movie Theatre, Games Room                                      |
| <b>C</b> | Resident Dining                 | <b>M</b> | Visitor Dining  |
| <b>D</b> | NOC Service Centre              | <b>N</b> | Television Lounge, Olympic Museum, Conference Room, Management Office |
| <b>E</b> | Residential Lobby               |          | Transportation Area   |
| <b>F</b> | Religious Centre                |          | Transportation Area Facilities  |
| <b>G</b> | Cultural Activities Centre      | <b>O</b> | Reception   |
| <b>H</b> | IOC Athletes' Commission Voting | <b>P</b> | Baggage Check   |
|          | Residential Facilities          | <b>Q</b> | Resident Entrance   |
|          | NOC Storage                     | <b>R</b> | Visitor Entrance  |
|          | Hokuriku Shinkansen             | <b>S</b> | Dry Shooting Range  |
|          | JR Shin'etsu Line               |          |   |

## ■ Number of Residents at the Olympic Village



Honorary Mayor of the Olympic Village Yasuko Konoe welcomes the athletes.

construction and equipping of the village. The second plan covered overall operations and centred on creating a village where everyday life would be relaxed, in an environment conducive to building international friendships, and where residents would feel welcome and secure. These two plans were approved by the NAOC Executive Board in March 1995. The plan for implementation of Games-time management of the village included specific details, such as the operations period, hours and types of services to be offered, general affairs, reception services, facilities, media support, security, transportation, technology, and medical services, and was finalized in July 1997.

including demonstrations of tea ceremony, flower arranging, kimono dressing, traditional dance, and *koto* (Japanese harp) put on by volunteers at the cultural activities centre.

Within this friendly and relaxing environment, the athletes were able to concentrate fully on their final preparations, and residents were effusive in their praise of village staff and facilities.

Approximately 1,500 residents checked out of the village on February 23, the day following the Closing Ceremony, and the Olympic Village was declared officially closed in the afternoon of February 25.

### Preparations

With the aim of making the stay for the athletes and officials as comfortable as possible, two plans for village operations were presented in January 1995. The first plan dealt with

The Olympic Village was located in the Imai district of Nagano City, approximately 7km from the city centre. The city of Nagano built a brand-new residential complex for post-Games use as public housing and leased this to NAOC. Situated on 19 hectares of land, the village comprised 23 buildings containing a total of 1,032 apartment units, as well as temporary restaurant, shopping, and recreation facilities covering approximately 12,000m<sup>2</sup>. Shuttle bus service to the venues and parking were provided. In addition to the fitness centre inside the village, athletes were given exclusive use of a gymnasium and swimming pool at the nearby Minami Nagano Sports Park.

The village was divided into two zones. Within the residential zone were the accommodation facilities, NOC offices, residents' dining facility, NOC Service Centre, polyclinic, fitness centre, religious centre, and centre for cultural

## Layout of 3-bedroom Unit (4-person occupancy)

activities. In principle, this area was off-limits to non-residents. Visitors or media personnel were, however, able to access the international zone, where the bank, post office, shops, disco, games room, video room, laundry, meeting rooms, and NAOC offices were located, provided they obtained permission.

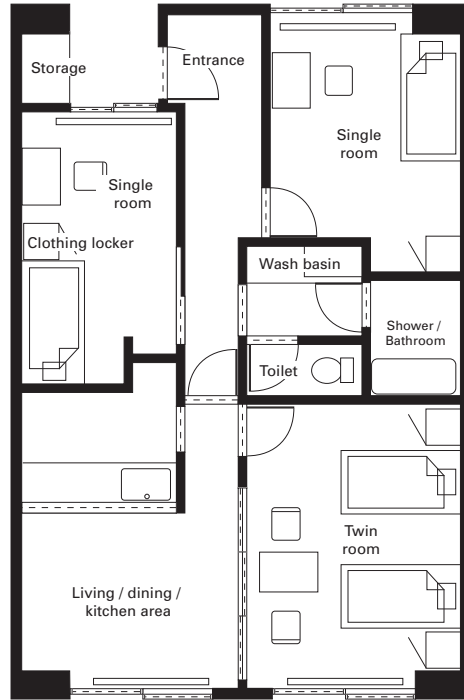
### Accommodations / NOC Offices

Temporary partitions, additional toilets and shower units, and carpeting were installed in each apartment unit, and walls and ceilings were solidly constructed. Each unit consisted of a living / dining / kitchen area and up to four bedrooms, with approximately 70% of the units configured with three bedrooms. All bedrooms were comfortably furnished with single or twin beds, clothing locker, table, chair, lamp, and curtains.

NOCs were allocated office space adjacent to their team residential quarters according to the size of their delegation. A typical NOC office suite contained an office for the Chef de Mission plus rooms for administration, team and medical personnel, massage, and meetings. Standard office furniture, telephones, Info'98 terminals and other equipment were provided. Additional equipment was available for rent through the rate card.

### Allocation of NOC Office Space

Delegation Size	Chef de Mission Office	Team Office(s)	Medical Office(s)	Massage Room(s)	Meeting Room(s)
1 - 4	1	-	1	-	-
5 - 25	1	1	1	1	1
26 - 50	1	1	1	1	4
51 - 100	1	1	2	2	4
101 - 200	1	2	2	3	8
201 +	1	3	3	4	8



Bedrooms for residents were either single or double occupancy.





(Top) Orientation seminars were held for the cumulative total of 1,800 volunteers assigned to the village;  
(Centre) In the common facilities area, athletes could have their uniforms embroidered with their names;  
(Bottom) A Japanese-style tea room was just one of the many places where residents could relax.



## Facilities for Common Use

A wide range of temporary amenities was provided within the 12,000m<sup>2</sup> common facilities area: a 1,000-seat cafeteria restaurant for the athletes and officials, shops, bank, post office, disco, games room, recreation room, fitness centre, polyclinic, meeting rooms, and offices. A religious centre and a cultural activities centre were established in the residential zone. Temporary facilities were constructed from prefabricated and recyclable materials.

- **Olympic Village Plaza**

A 1,200m<sup>2</sup> space was set aside in the middle of the international zone for holding welcome ceremonies for each NOC. Flagpoles and a stage with decorative pine trees and bamboo reminiscent of a Japanese garden were prepared for the ceremonies.

- **Bus Terminal / Parking Lots**

Shuttle bus service to all of the competition venues was provided. In addition, parking space for 600 visitor and NOC vehicles was set aside. Flags for participating NOCs were displayed along the south side of the rotary.

- **Other Facilities**

A 2.5m-high fence was erected around the village perimeter to ensure the safety of residents. Each NOC was allotted storage space near their residential quarters according to the size of their delegation. A separate area was maintained as a shooting range, for biathlon competitors to practice dry shooting.





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## Furnishings

A large number of beds, lockers, desks, and other furnishings was needed for the village. NAOC rented as many furnishings as possible to reduce excessive cost.

Beds used at the 1994 Hiroshima Asian Games and the 1995 Fukuoka World University Games were purchased inexpensively. Coat hangers were donated to the village by department stores and residents in Nagano City.

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## Operations

NAOC's Olympic Village department was formed in April 1995 with seven members of staff. In October 1997, they were bolstered by staff from the following NAOC departments and sections: NOC Relations, Security, Accreditation, Facilities, Transportation, and Medical Services, to make a total of 14 divisions with 28 sections. By the close of the Games, 44 staff members and a cumulative total of over 1,800 volunteers had worked at the village.

As the "faces" of the Olympic Village and Satellite Village in Karuizawa, a number of prominent men and women were appointed as mayors and deputy mayors, based on their international experience, contribution to sports, and enthusiasm.

## The Honorary Mayor, Mayor, and Deputy Mayors

- **Honorary Mayor**  
Yasuko Konoe (Imperial Family member)
- **Mayor**  
Shozo Sasahara  
(JOC vice president; gold medallist in wrestling, 1956 Melbourne Games)
- **Deputy Mayors**  
Shun'ichi Hirai  
(Senior Advisor, Japan Skate Federation and Japan Ice Hockey Federation)



Beauty care and hairstyling services were also available.

Hiroko Chiba  
(Board member, Nagano Prefectural Board of Education; athlete in cross-country skiing, 1972 Sapporo Games)  
Takanori Kono  
(Gold medallist in nordic combined team event, 1992 Albertville Games and 1994 Lillehammer Games; silver medallist in nordic combined individual event, 1994 Lillehammer Games)

IOC President Samaranch on his tour of the village, accompanied by Honorary Mayor Konoe (second from right).





The village restaurant offered residents many opportunities to make friends.

## Accommodations

The room allocation plan was drawn up in October 1997 but remained flexible to cope with any changes. The Chef de Mission was responsible for checking in his or her delegation, at which time any final changes were made and the keys to rooms handed over. In total, 3,283 beds were occupied by the 72 NOCs.

A Japanese-style "garden" at the village restaurant.



The cost of any damage was deducted from damage deposits paid in advance. To ensure that there were no discrepancies, NAOC staff and the Chef de Mission of each NOC inspected apartment units before check-in and after check-out to assess the condition of rooms and furnishings. Overall, the athletes and officials demonstrated great care in using the facilities, and there was little damage. There was some damage caused to equipment by members of the US men's ice hockey team, however this was resolved satisfactorily.

## Meal Service

Careful consideration was given to devising a menu reflecting religious and cultural food preferences, as well as providing ample nutrition for athletes. A total of 206,586 meals were served, and garnered universal acclaim for their quality, quantity, and variety.

The residents' dining facility covered an area approximately 2,000m<sup>2</sup> and had seating for 1,000 athletes and officials. There were four different lines for hot items such as pasta, meat, and



fish, and two lines for salads and cold items. A McDonald's counter, a fruit counter, and drinks bar were also set up. All meals were provided at no cost and participants were free to eat as much or as little as they wished at the cafeteria-style restaurant. The restaurant remained open 24 hours a day. Menus were illustrated simply and printed in English, French, and Japanese, and were devised along the following guidelines:

- Offering balanced meals with approximately 5,200 calories and ample carbohydrates, vitamins, and minerals.
- Providing 75% European cuisine, 15% Japanese, and 10% Chinese. Over 200 different menu items were available each day.
- Catering for religious and vegetarian preferences by providing halal (kosher) meat and utilising illustrations showing contents.
- Providing a wide variety of items for long-term residents (e.g. daily specials on a five-day cycle).

Japanese foods such as sushi, tempura, and Nagano specialities such as *soba* noodles, *oyaki* buns, and apples were a hit with residents, and *udon* noodles proved especially popular.

A separate restaurant was set up for visitors, NOC guests, and media, with a set menu based on items offered at the residents' restaurant. The visitors' restaurant served a total of 2,560 meals and also offered catering for receptions or meetings.

Lunchboxes were provided free of charge to athletes and officials who were unable to eat at the village due to competitions or practice scheduling. Extra officials not staying at the village were also able to order lunchboxes for a small charge. At past Olympic Games, there was demand for hot meals high in carbohydrates and complex sugars, such as pasta. NAOC fulfilled such requests by devising a lunchbox that generated heat through a chemical reaction of calcium

oxide and water. Lunchboxes consisted mainly of a variety of pasta including vegetarian options rotated on a five-day cycle. A total of 6,386 lunchboxes were distributed during the Games, six percent of which were vegetarian.

A range of environmentally-friendly tableware was utilised at village restaurants. "Applate" tableware was fabricated from a mixture of paper and apple pulp left over from juice production, and was recycled as solid fuel after use. For liquids, special plastic bowls which could be converted post-use into light oil were utilised. Biodegradable "ecoplates" made from potato starch were also used for serving food. Use of this tableware reduced costs and energy needed for washing and storing dishes and helped to promote recycling.

Menus reflected the food customs of many different regions.





Space was set aside for surfing the Internet or playing computer games.

## Shopping and Other Services

In order to meet the everyday requirements of the athletes and officials, the following services were available at the village. (Figures in brackets indicates the approximate number of customers.)

- Hachijuni Bank (5,000): currency exchange, cashing of travellers' checks, bank account deposits & withdrawals, electronic transfers throughout Japan and overseas
- Post office: domestic and international mail service, stamps

Almost 25,000 visits were made to the village general store.



- General store (24,900): magazines, confectionery, Nagano Games souvenirs
- Shipping counter: express mail and cargo delivery within Japan and abroad
- Camera shop (9,000): developing services, film, instant cameras, batteries
- Travel office (500): airline tickets, Japan Rail tickets, tours
- Dry-cleaners (500): dry-cleaning, laundry and ironing services
- Barbershop / beauty salon (700 / 400): hair-styling services
- Laundry (4,000): laundry service carried out by volunteers
- Espace Mizuno (2,900): sports equipment, licensed Nagano Games products
- IBM Surf Shack (approx. 7,400): Internet access, fan mail, computer games
- Brother Sewing Studio (3,000): embroidering names on uniforms, clothing repairs and alterations, etc.
- Amway Beauty Studio (500): cosmetic and hairstyling services

## Recreational Facilities

A large hall did double-duty as a movie theatre during the daytime and a discotheque at night. Altogether, 55 different films were screened, and a variety of popular dance music played. Events were held to commemorate special days such as the Japanese festival of *setsubun* (February 3) and St. Valentine's Day.

The games room was a popular place to try the latest electronic games. Within the TV lounge, a Japanese-style tea room was set up in one corner, and an exhibit of items from the Olympic Museum in another. A small library was also available, featuring a reading lounge, books on culture, sports, and art, magazines, domestic and international newspapers, and a video room where one could review or dub tapes.

A fitness centre allowed the athletes to stay in peak condition for their events.



All the latest video games were available at the games room.



## Training Facilities

A fitness centre equipped with 50 training machines and separate saunas for men and women was established within the village. In particular, the running machines, stationary bikes, and saunas were well-utilised.

Shuttle bus service was provided to the Minami Nagano Sports Park 4km away, where athletes had the exclusive use of the gym and heated pool. Exercise equipment was installed at the gymnasium, as well as a court for ball games. However the pool saw little use during the Games.

## Religious Centre

Participants of all faiths and religions had access to the Religious Centre, which was equipped with three prayer rooms and a lounge, copies of the bible in many languages, the Koran and prayer rug with directional compass, books related to Buddhism, Judaism, Hinduism, and maps of churches in Nagano. On Sundays, Russian Orthodox and Protestant services were held.

Staffed by volunteers and former athletes with experience in religion and languages, the

centre proved to be a valuable resource for the athletes to relieve nervous tension or anxieties before their competitions.

## NOC Services

Functioning as the focal point for communications between NAOC and the NOCs, the NOC Services Centre was open daily from 7:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m. Regular meetings were also held with the Chefs de Mission to disseminate information and resolve any problems.

The NOC Services Centre consisted of the NOC Relations section and a service counter. Staff in the NOC Relations section coordinated information and handled any questions or complaints from the Chefs de Mission. The service counter handled reservations for meeting rooms, facsimile services, orders for and distribution of rate card items, distribution of mail and parcels, distribution of medals / diplomas of participation, distribution of competition results, applications for complimentary competition tickets for athletes and officials, orders for lunchboxes, transportation arrangements, and telecommunications equipment.

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Clearing snow and ice from paths in the village.

Fire drills were conducted to familiarize staff with emergency procedures.



distributed to each NOC's mailbox on the same day. During the last meeting on February 21, a commemorative group photograph was taken.

### **Polyclinic**

The polyclinic was open 24-hours every day and offered the following services: general medicine, orthopaedics, ophthalmology, and dentistry. In addition, physical therapy was available. Gender verification tests were performed for those who required the necessary documents.

The first of 12 meetings for Chefs de Mission was held on January 27. A joint meeting with the IOC / Chefs de Mission was held on February 5, where NAOC officials were on hand to answer questions from the NOCs regarding the village, sports, Opening and Closing Ceremonies, ticketing, transportation, and security. Minutes from the meetings were translated into Japanese, English, and French and were



## Cultural Programme

An exciting cultural programme was developed to introduce the athletes and officials to aspects of Japanese and Nagano culture and as a conduit for developing friendships with the local community. At the Cultural Activities Centre, participants had opportunities to observe or practice *ikebana* (flower arranging), *sado* (tea ceremony), and kimono-dressing. The *ikebana* and kimono activities proved especially popular, as participants were allowed to take their flower arrangements with them, and have their pictures taken dressed in traditional kimono. Performances of *koto* (Japanese harp), *nihon buyo* (traditional dancing), *minyo* (folk song ballads), Chinese *taichi*, and a kimono fashion show were all well-attended.

## Visitor Passes and Security

Visitors wishing to enter the village were required to obtain a visitor pass, day pass, or performer pass from the accreditation office. There were visits to the village every day by heads of state, presidents, and ambassadors. IOC President Samaranch toured the village on February 13, 1998.

A sub press centre and interview rooms were set up within the Olympic Village for the media. To minimize disturbance to the athletes, interviews were conducted in the international zone and a limit placed on the number of media passes issued each day. Interview hours were set from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Fulltime 24-hour security was implemented from January 8 – February 25, 1998, a period of 49 days. Perimeter fencing surrounding the village was equipped with an intruder warning system and security cameras were installed at strategic points. Vehicles were checked at the main entrance gate. Accreditation cards of persons entering the village were checked with handheld bar code readers at the zone gates, and bags checked with X-ray equipment and metal

detectors. Security guards made regular patrols to secure areas.

Facilities and Security staff responded to 379 cases of fire alarms accidentally being set off, circuit breakers being tripped, and residents unused to working electronic hot water controls.

## Transportation and Snow Removal Within the Village

The City of Nagano lent 200 bicycles for NOC and NAOC personnel to use within the village. For removing snow, a large snowplough, a small snowblower, shovels, and anti-freeze were prepared.

## Election of Representatives to the IOC Athletes' Commission

Space was set aside for the election February 8 – 19 to vote for three new representatives to the IOC Athletes' Commission.

Encouraging athletes to vote in the IOC Athletes' Commission election



Opening ceremony at the Karuizawa Satellite Village



Satellite Village Mayor Miwa presents an athlete with a gift on his birthday.



## Karuizawa Satellite Village

NAOC agreed to set up a Satellite Village for the curling competitors in Karuizawa at the Karuizawa Skate Centre Hotel, located approximately 7km from the curling venue. One of Japan's leading resorts, the hotel offered a stunning view of Mt. Asama.

All the hotel facilities were fully utilised for the Satellite Village, and as at the Olympic Village, a restaurant for athletes and officials, NOC Service Centre, shop, leisure room, and a games corner were established. Around-the-clock security was implemented for the international and residential zones.

In order to minimize interference with the daily running of the hotel, installation of outside telecommunications and security equipment did not begin until January 6, 1998. Preparations on the inside did not begin until February 1, when the entire hotel was taken over for Games' use. With the cooperation of hotel staff and town officials, preparations were completed in short order. After the conclusion of competition, the same degree of cooperation was received in post-Games cleanup.

## Karuizawa Satellite Village Mayor and Deputy Mayor

- **Mayor**

Nobue Miwa

(Master, Ohara school of flower arrangement)

- **Deputy Mayor**

Yoshinobu Miyake

(Executive Board member, JOC Competitive Development Committee; gold medallist in weightlifting at the 1964 Tokyo and 1968 Mexico Games)

The Karuizawa Satellite Village was open for a period of 13 days from February 4 to February 16, 1998. Athletes arrived in good time to practice at the venue, with eight out of the nine participating NOCs checking in on the first day. In contrast to the smoothness of check-in procedures, there was some degree of hurried activity upon check-out on the day following the conclusion of competition, with athletes, officials, and staff busy with packing luggage and inspecting rooms from midnight until the closing of the village.

Mayor Miwa made official opening and closing addresses on February 4 and 16 respectively to the assembled competition officials and local dignitaries. A welcome ceremony was held on February 5 in the main Olympic Square, followed by a reception.



Village operations during the Games consisted predominantly of answering inquiries for information about the Karuizawa area, and delivery of fan mail to the athletes.

The souvenir shop located in the service facility sold out of Games merchandise almost as soon as it opened. Athletes made full use of recreation facilities, often until midnight, and participated in *ikebana* (flower arranging), *sado* (tea ceremony), and kimono-dressing arranged as part of the Cultural Programme.

## Hotel for Snowboard Athletes

Part of the west wing of the Shiga Kogen Prince Hotel was reserved for the approximately 180 snowboard athletes and officials. Located near the base of Mt. Yakebitai in Shiga Kogen approximately 58km from the Olympic Village, 17km from the halfpipe venue at Kanbayashi, and a mere 1km from the Mt. Yakebitai giant slalom venue, the hotel is typical of Japanese ski resorts. Within the hotel, NAOC set up a restaurant for the athletes and officials, administrative offices, a lounge, and an information counter. The hotel was in use for a period of 12 days, from February 3 until February 14, 1998.



The outdoor hot spring bath, with a view of Mt. Asama in the background, was a favourite gathering place for the athletes staying at the Karuizawa Satellite Village.



LES XVIII<sup>es</sup> JEUX OLYMPIQUES D'HIVER  
THE XVIII OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES



NAGANO 1998

8

**The International  
Youth Camp**

## “Share Love, Share Peace”



Youth Camp Mayor Tomoko Matsushita welcomes the participants at the opening ceremony of the International Youth Camp.

From February 4 to 19 for a period of 16 days, the Nagano Olympic International Youth Camp, named the “Snowlets Camp”, was held in the town of Karuizawa. While an international youth camp has been a regular feature of every Summer Games since the Tokyo Games in 1964, this was the first youth camp at an Olympic Winter Games to have received official IOC approval. A total of 217 campers (102 male and 115 female) between the ages of fifteen and twenty from 51 NOCs participated in the Nagano camp. Among the NOCs were 16 that did not send athletes to compete in the Games. The main theme of the camp was “Global Community”, with the sub-theme of “Share Love, Share Peace”.

Activities during the Youth Camp were various and diverse. All of the camp participants attended the Opening Ceremony of the Games and also watched some of the events to cheer on the

athletes and experience the excitement and skill of Olympic competition firsthand. For those unfamiliar with winter sports there were opportunities to try skiing and skating. Campers gained a deeper appreciation and understanding of Japanese culture and of Nagano through a variety of cultural activities, exchanges with the local community, field trips, and homestays.

A Youth Forum was held to discuss how to create a global society in which people from all walks of life can share in the ideals of love and peace. For all the youthful participants from around the world, who will shoulder the responsibilities of building a better tomorrow, the opportunity to share their views with people from many countries was particularly significant and inspirational.

Through this programme of activities, the International Youth Camp did more than allow participants to share the thrill of the Olympic

Games and sport – it also played a key role in promoting winter sports, in furthering the Olympic Movement, and in reinforcing the message of world peace.

### Camp Facilities

Nagano Games organizers first announced their intention to stage an international youth camp during the bidding stage for the Games. In March 1995, the decision was taken to hold the camp in Karuizawa, and an executive committee including representatives from youth groups and past participants of youth camps was established in September to oversee planning and preparation. The name, theme, and logo for the Youth Camp were chosen in June of 1996, and in May of the following year, Tomoko Matsushita, General Director of the Shinshu-Takato National Children's Centre, was appointed as Mayor of the Youth Camp.

Situated in the grounds of Nihon University's Karuizawa Seminar House, the campsite totalled 37,000m<sup>2</sup> in area. From June 1997, Nihon University spent over ¥600 million on remodelling the existing facilities. A miniature Olympic cauldron and a monument engraved with all the participants' names were erected at



The Olympic flame is used to light a miniature Olympic cauldron at the camp.

the site, courtesy of the town of Karuizawa.

### Building Bridges of Friendship for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

To further the ideals of the International Youth Camp, the Snowlets Camp operated under four thematic pillars: 1) Sharing Olympic Excitement; 2) Promotion of Winter Sports; 3) Understand the World, Understand Japan; 4) Building Bridges of Friendship for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century



The emblem of the Youth Camp depicts a young person laughing with hands raised in the air. It represents young people gathering and interacting in Nagano, as well as showing a welcoming heart and the sharing of joy. Designed by Masami Suzuki, a volunteer.



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## 51 NOCs and 217 Participants

NOCs were asked to select participants for the camp between the ages of fifteen and twenty with the ability to communicate in English. In August 1996, a survey was sent to all NOCs, and based on the response, 2 – 10 places were allotted to each of the 67 NOCs that expressed interest. Invitations were sent, and although the registration deadline was March 1997, additional places were later given to those NOCs that had relatively large numbers of prospective participants. Each NOC was required to subsidize ¥75,000 towards the expenses of each camp participant, with additional costs covered by NAOC. One participant from each NOC was presented with a round-trip ticket to Japan through the IOC's Olympic Solidarity programme.

## Participating NOCs

- **Africa** 6 NOCs 7 Participants  
Benin, Gambia, Lesotho, Mauritius, Mozambique, Sudan
- **The Americas** 8 NOCs 28 Participants  
Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bolivia, Canada, Cayman Islands, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America
- **Asia** 9 NOCs 89 Participants  
Hong Kong-China, Japan, Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, United Arab Emirates
- **Europe** 24 NOCs 84 Participants  
Armenia, Austria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Republic of Moldova, Monaco, Netherlands, Poland, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, Yugoslavia
- **Oceania** 4 NOCs 9 Participants  
Australia, Cook Islands, Guam, New Zealand

NB: 63 of the participants were from Japan.

The colourful welcoming party after the opening ceremony at the Youth Camp





Youth Camp participants attending the Opening Ceremony of the Nagano Games

## A Multitude of Programmes

Camp participants were divided into seven groups of approximately 30 members each. While the schedule of activities for each group was more or less fixed, participants also had the opportunity to select from a wide range of options. Among the activities were:

- **International Youth Camp Opening and Closing Ceremonies**

Members of the IOC and other guests were invited to join the campers at the camp opening ceremony followed by a welcome party. At the closing ceremony, the “Nagano Youth Camp Declaration on the Global Community”, which was written by the Youth Forum participants, was adopted and entrusted to the care of IOC Vice President Pal Schmitt. Festivities such as the Miyota Town “Dragon Dance” and a campfire made the farewell party an unforgettable event for all participants.

- **Olympic Competitions, International Exchange, and Day Trips**

Tickets were set aside for each camp participant to attend the Opening Ceremony of the Games as well as take in three sports events. Campers were also welcomed by community groups at events to experience traditional Japanese performing arts and deepen international and cultural exchange.



Cultural volunteers perform a lion dance to drive away evil spirits at the Youth Camp.

- **Sports Activities**

Participants were given lessons in either skiing or ice skating. For many, it was their first opportunity to try a winter sport, and they revelled in the wonder and enjoyment of the activities. Many participants also took pleasure in trying other sports such as curling, bowling, and Japanese martial arts.



(Top) Joining in the festivities with students from the Okinawa University of Fine Arts  
(Centre) For many of the participants, it was the first time they had seen snow.

(Bottom) Trying their hand at curling



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- **National Day**

Over a period of three days during the camp, participants were given the opportunity to introduce their home country and its culture to their peers. Japanese campers hosted a “Japan Night” which was particularly well received by the other participants.

- **Youth Forum**

After listening to a keynote speech given by IOC Vice President Anita DeFrantz entitled “Love & Peace – Give Our World Your Dream”, participants engaged in discussions and drafted the “Nagano Youth Camp Declaration on the Global Community”. As representatives of the leaders of tomorrow, the youths declared their intention to create a truly global community in which all peoples will share love and share peace. They also expressed the desire to contribute to the future development of the Olympic Movement and to world peace. The IOC later sent copies of the Nagano Youth Camp Declaration to all NOCs worldwide.

- **Homestay Programme and Cultural Activities**

Campers took part in two or three-night homestays with local families, furthering their understanding of Japan and Nagano. For both campers and host families, the shared experience was undoubtedly a rewarding one.

At the campsite, local cultural exchange volunteers taught participants the fundamentals of flower arrangement, kimono dressing, and Japanese tea ceremony. Among the many activities, the campers watched a lion dance performance and were introduced to other traditional performing arts by students from the Okinawa University of Fine Arts.

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## Operations

A total of 161 personnel were involved in the daily operations of the Youth Camp programme, including five staff members from NAOC. Among the key personnel were the venue manager from NAOC, and a camp director who coordinated the many activities. Orientation sessions for volunteers and other personnel were held twice prior to the start of the camp; a separate orientation was held for those assigned as chaperones (“Escorts”) for the campers.

## Service from the Heart

An “Orientation Handbook” with useful general information was also published and distributed. Seven dedicated coach buses were utilised for transporting participants during the camp, and for transportation to and from the airport. Additional time was required for some participants to complete necessary visa procedures for entry into Japan, since the Olympic Identity Card did not apply to Youth Camp participants.

Separate accommodation wings were designated for young men and young women, and four to five youths were assigned per room. Every effort was made to ensure that participants from different countries shared a room. A large lounge was provided to give campers ample space to interact and socialise.

Great care was taken with regard to the meals provided at the Youth Camp, which were based on the menu offered at the Olympic Village. Meals were prepared on a five-day cycle, and received high marks from the Youth Camp participants for quality and quantity. For lunch, campers were provided with prepared lunchboxes and mineral water.



The town of Karuizawa held a welcome event for the participants, which was enjoyed by all.

A daily newspaper entitled “Snowlets Camp News” carried information on each of the camp participants as well as a schedule of events and was delivered to each room. Other information about the Games, Karuizawa, or Nagano in general, was available through the information desk, bulletin board, and Info’98 terminals.

Campers were provided with a set of outerwear that included a knee-length parka, cap, and daypack, all embellished with the Youth Camp logo. Through the generosity of the Nagano Olympic Cooperation Association, telephone cards were presented to each of the participants, and these also proved very popular.

For security purposes, all Youth Camp participants were issued with “Y” category accreditation cards that also served as identification throughout the period of the Camp. Security checks for campers and visitors were conducted at the camp entrance. Around-the-clock security measures were implemented, and a security company contracted to provide night time protection. Furthermore, local police and fire department personnel regularly patrolled the area surrounding the camp to ensure the safety of participants.



## Nagano Youth Camp Declaration

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A Youth Forum was held on the seventh day of the camp (February 10), during which the participants drafted a declaration expressing their

hopes for building a better future. The declaration was released on February 17, the day of the camp closing ceremony in Karuizawa.

### Nagano Youth Camp Declaration on the Global Community

We, the members of the 1998 Nagano Winter Olympic International Youth Camp, brought together by the Olympic Ideals, by the desire for peace, and as representatives of the youth of today and the leaders of tomorrow, do hereby declare our intention to create a truly global community in which all peoples, regardless of nationality, culture, language, economic standing, race, gender, physical handicap, or religious belief, will share love and share peace. We strongly believe that a well-rounded education consisting of, but not limited to, academics, extracurricular activities, sports, cultural exchanges, and other life experiences, is imperative to fulfilling our stated goal.

Whereas the main problems which hinder our progress towards this goal include apathy, discrimination, a breakdown in effective communication, and education systems that are poorly suited to the challenges of our changing societies,

Recognizing that a lack of self-worth, resulting from the perception that an individual cannot make a difference, leads to apathy,

Realizing that discrimination stems from a lack of knowledge and respect for the welfare of others which can result in premature judgements and misunderstandings,

Recognizing that education can be a key contributor in promoting self-esteem and a broader

IOC Vice President Anita DeFrantz delivered the keynote address at the Youth Forum.





**Participants promise to meet again at the Youth Camp closing ceremony.**

understanding and acceptance of diverse cultures and peoples, as well as helping to break down communication barriers between people,

It is resolved that the following steps should be taken to encourage a commitment to a more complete education system, encompassing all life experiences, which will play a critical role in tackling these problems, and creating global harmony:

1. Children need to be encouraged to have an active involvement in sports, volunteer work, and group activities. Such activities encourage teamwork and social interaction, showing the need for human community, and inspire positive actions.
2. International youth programmes such as the 1998 Nagano Winter Olympic International Youth Camp promote the understanding of different cultures and beliefs. Such programmes need to be held on a regular basis and be expanded to include as many nations and regions as possible. People who participate in these programmes have a responsibility to share their increased understanding of the world with others in their community, thereby compounding the impact of their personal experiences.
3. Individuals in every community must agree to go beyond superficial differences and settle problems peacefully by talking and acting on substantive ideas. All people, regardless of socio-economic and cultural backgrounds, need to recognize the dignity and worth of every human being, and show goodwill in their dealings with other people.
4. Multilingual education must be a part of every education system, and language must be taught as a tool of communication, not as simply an academic endeavour. An effective multilingual education must include various cultural exchanges, as language is an integral part in every world culture.
5. A well-rounded education must be made available to each person with opportunities to strengthen human community and understanding on a local, national, and international level. All people, at all levels, play an important part in the creation of such a community.

Made in Nagano, Japan, on the 17th of February, 1998.



LES XVIII<sup>ES</sup> JEUX OLYMPIQUES D'HIVER  
THE XVIII OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES



9

**A Wide Sphere of  
Cooperation**

NAGANO 1998

# The Role of the Japanese Olympic Committee

NAOC was established by the Japanese Olympic Committee (JOC) in partnership with Nagano City, and JOC President Hironoshin Furuhashi and Honorary JOC President Yoshiaki Tsutsumi both assumed roles as vice presidents of NAOC.

The Japanese Olympic Committee fulfilled its responsibilities as the host country NOC by selecting the bid city within Japan, promoting Nagano's candidacy at IOC Sessions, establishing NAOC, and carrying out other activities in preparation for the Nagano Games.

## Assignment of Specialist Staff

JOC Secretary General Yushiro Yagi and IOC members in Japan Chiharu Igaya and Shun'ichiro Okano joined NAOC as members of the Executive Board.

JOC board members and officials were also assigned to work as staff on various advisory commissions, which were set up to advise on Games management. Eight of the 14 advisory

commissions were chaired by JOC personnel, listed below with their JOC titles in parentheses.

- Sports  
Ken'ichi Chizuka (Executive Board member)
- Marks Protection  
Yoshiro Okai (Executive Board member)
- Marketing  
Muneyoshi Ueda (Executive Board member)
- International Relations  
Eiichi Kawatei (Executive Board member)
- Public Relations  
Tsunekazu Takeda (Executive Board member)
- Media  
Tsuneharu Kida (Chairman, Media Division)
- Olympic Village  
Ken'ichi Chizuka (Executive Board member)
- Medical Services  
Yoshio Kuroda (Medical Commission member)

In addition to the duties of chairing his advisory commission, each chairman was nominated to the NAOC Steering Committee. Additionally, one JOC employee was assigned to work for the NAOC Secretariat to advise on relations with the NOCs.

During the Games, JOC Vice President Shozo Sasahara and Executive Board member of the JOC's Competition Development Committee Yoshinobu Miyake served as the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of the Olympic Village and Karuizawa Satellite Village respectively.

NAOC approached the issues it faced with expert advice from specialists such as these. The combination of specialist sports personnel and a capable administrative staff in the NAOC Secretariat served to make Games operations a success.

The Japanese team assembles for the first time at a ceremony in Tokyo on January 27.



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## Technical Cooperation

Providing technical support to NAOC was another major role fulfilled by the JOC. From the outset, NAOC was encouraged by the IOC to appoint a sports director for the Nagano Games to coordinate necessary decisions between the competition venues and the Organizing Committee and help ensure the smooth running of the Games. JOC Executive Board member Tsunekazu Takeda was appointed as Sports Director, and proved to be an excellent choice with his skillful management of the alpine skiing schedule, which was thrown into disarray by inclement weather. Toshiaki Murasato of the Ski Association of Japan (SAJ), also a member of the JOC's advisory committee on international relations, was appointed as Assistant Sports Director. It was in large part thanks to the tireless efforts of both men that all events on the Sports Programme were held without mishap.

The JOC also placed strong emphasis on responding to media needs. During the Games, there were more than 600 people working for Japanese print media, and over 2,000 involved with broadcasting. To cope with this demand, the JOC established a nine-person office within the Main Press Centre.

## Athletes Deserving of the Highest Praise

It goes without saying that the success of the host country athletes played the key role in raising excitement within Japan to an astounding level. The Japanese team had their best Olympic Winter Games ever, winning five gold medals, including victories in the ever-popular ski jumping competitions. IOC President Samaranch added his congratulations to the Japanese athletes, and was quoted as saying that the success of the Games was due in large part to the efforts of the host country athletes.

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**Developing training programmes to support Japanese athletes is one of the most important functions of the JOC.**

The Japanese Olympic Committee performs two roles within Japan: developing training programmes to support athletes, and promoting the ideals of the Olympic Movement. The JOC succeeded in achieving both these goals at the Nagano Games. The greater awareness of the role of the JOC, and sense of closeness to the people of Japan that was attained through the Nagano Games, are certainly developments to be welcomed.

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### **Support for Japanese Athletes**

To offer support to Japan's 313-member team of 166 athletes and 147 officials staying in the Olympic Village, the JOC set up a JOC House at the Miel Parque hotel near Nagano Station. In addition to supporting the athletes, the 12-person staff at the JOC House handled relations with other NOCs and preparations for the party on February 18 at the Hotel Kokusai 21 hosted by the team Chef de Mission.

### **Fundraising in Cooperation with NAOC**

Based on the IOC's recommendation that the host country NOC and the Games' Organizing Committee reduce confusion in the market by cooperating in Olympic-related fundraising activities, the JOC and NAOC established Japan Olympic Marketing (JOM) in 1993. With support from an advertising agency and other companies, JOM worked to sign up domestic sponsors and handle marketing arrangements within Japan.

### **Another Olympic Event**

Another Olympic event, the International Youth Camp, was staged in Karuizawa. The camp, held February 4 – 19, was organized by NAOC, and the JOC handled applications, selection, and pre-Camp events for Japanese participants.

Some 217 youths from 51 different NOCs took part, experiencing the excitement of international exchange and making new friends. Among these were 63 young participants from Japan. All camp participants were between the ages of 15 and 20 and were required to be able to converse in English. JOC Events Division Chairman Toshio Asami directed pre-camp training and a number of members of the JOC Secretariat's Olympic Movement section acted as chaperones.

To select Japanese participants for the International Youth Camp, the JOC set a series of exams.





Schoolchildren in the “One School, One Country” programme. It can be said that there have been few Olympic Games in which the bond between sports fan and athlete was so intensely felt as at the Nagano Games.

### Support from the People of Japan

It can perhaps be said that there have been few Olympic Games in which the bond between sports fan and athlete was so intensely felt as at the Nagano Games. The efforts by NAOC to promote good public relations were a large part of this, but the role of the JOC was also important in winning the wholehearted support of the citizens of Japan.

The JOC’s “Nagano Olympics” Internet home page recorded 4.3 million hits during the Games, more than twice the number of hits recorded during the 1996 Atlanta Games. Particularly impressive were the 300,000 hits recorded on February 15, the day after Japan won gold in the large hill ski jumping team competition. Approximately 80,000 requests were received at the fax service set up to provide copies of Japanese athletes’ autographs, despite the ¥200 user fee.

Japanese reporters and photographers inundated the venues to capture the exploits of the home country athletes. Many requested opportunities to talk with athletes and coaches, and 306 requests for on-camera interviews and 92 requests for print interviews were granted.

The JOC made significant strides forward with the Nagano Games. The successful results of the 313-member Japanese team were certainly a great positive, and thanks must be given to the hard work of volunteers, Self-Defense Forces personnel, local officials, and other Games operations staff who set the stage for the athletes.

The Japanese Olympic Committee celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a non-profit entity in 1999. With the support of the Japanese people experienced at the Nagano Games as a forward impetus, the JOC looks forward to even greater achievements in the coming century.

# The Host City

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## Support from the Host City Government

At the 97<sup>th</sup> IOC Session held on June 15, 1991, the XVIII Olympic Winter Games were awarded to the City of Nagano. In preparation for the Games and for ushering in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, a variety of town planning policies were adopted to remodel Nagano and to welcome the world for the Games.

New competition and non-competition facilities were built and the transportation and public infrastructure, including Shinkansen bullet train, expressways, parks, and waterworks, was expanded. Through the diligent utilisation of innovative environmentally-friendly technologies, methods, and materials, environmental impact was kept to the bare minimum.

Projects such as the “One School, One Country” programme and the “Hearty Nagano” network were created to foster international friendship and understanding. The Nagano

Olympic Harmony Fund was established to provide less fortunate children around the world with educational materials and support. Links and confidence engendered by such projects ensured that the citizens of Nagano offered the athletes, officials, and other visitors a friendly and warm welcome that won the hearts and admiration of the world.

## Preparations

### • Olympic Bureau

In October 1991, the Olympic Winter Games office at Nagano City Hall was expanded into a bureau comprising a general affairs division and a facilities division. The main role of the bureau was to maintain close contact with NAOC, conduct publicity, procure suitable land, and coordinate the building of Games facilities.

A peewee ice hockey team from Canada payed a visit to Matsushiro Elementary School as part of the "One School, One Country" programme.





- **Nagano Olympic and Paralympic Games Preparation Coordination Committee**

Established at the same time as the Olympic Winter Games bureau to collectively promote and coordinate the city council's preparations for the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games. The committee was headed by the deputy mayor of Nagano City, while the directors of the city government's departments were invited to sit on the committee. Subcommittees were formed to formulate policies for public relations, finances, facilities, traffic, hospitality, environment, fire and disaster prevention / first aid, and cultural activities.

- **Extraordinary Committee for Promotion of the Olympic Winter Games**

A committee of 11 members of the Nagano City Council was formed in October 1991 to investigate ways of promoting the Games.

- **The Association of Nagano City Councillors for the Promotion of the XVIII Olympic Winter Games**

All 44 members of the City Council formed this group in May 1994 to coordinate efforts with NAOC in promoting the Olympic Movement and the Nagano Games.

- **Office for Promoting Use of Nagano Games Facilities**

This office was set up in April 1996 to promote post-Games usage of the major facilities.

- **Nagano City Headquarters for the Promotion of the Nagano Olympic and Paralympics Games**

In June 1996, the Nagano Olympic and Paralympic Games Preparation Coordination Committee was dissolved and a new headquarters set up under the authority of the mayor to coordinate policy and assistance

during the Nagano Olympic and Paralympic Games. Like its predecessor, officials filling major posts within the city government were appointed to extra duties at the headquarters.

Eight different departments were set up to support Games-time operations in the areas of general affairs, facilities, environment, cultural activities, crowd control, traffic, Olympic Games venues, and Paralympic Games venues.

- **Nagano Olympic and Paralympic Games Fire & Disaster Prevention Headquarters**

Set up within the Nagano City Fire Department in October 1997 to plan and implement emergency procedures for the Nagano Olympic and Paralympic Games. Comprehensive plans for fire prevention, fire fighting, first aid, and rescue were developed to protect the lives of the athletes, officials, and spectators.

To facilitate communications with overseas visitors in need of emergency assistance, a manual covering 11 languages was produced. During the Games, emergency calls were linked to the fire department and interpreters assigned with cellular telephones for three-way communication.

## **Assistance to NAOC**

- **Financial Support**

In addition to covering costs for the construction and preparation of competition and non-competition facilities and temporary parking lots within Nagano City, the municipal government granted subsidies to cover the salaries of city employees seconded to NAOC and contributed to the funding of Games operations.

• **Representation on the Organizing Committee**

The following Nagano City officials held senior positions at NAOC:

- Mayor  
(Vice President)
- Chairman, City Council  
(Executive Board member)
- Chairman, Extraordinary City Committee  
(Executive Board member)
- Deputy Mayor  
(Steering Committee member)
- Various department & division directors  
(Advisory Commission members)
- Deputy Superintendent of Education & Fire Chief  
(Advisory Commission members)

• **Dispatch of Staff**

The city government dispatched a total of 72 employees to work full time at the NAOC Secretariat. During the Games, a further 1,402 city employees assisted with the torch relay, cultural programme, preparations for visits by the Imperial Family, staffing of the Games information booth at Nagano Station, and

emergency snow removal from roads. Further support was provided by a cumulative total of 2,532 fire fighters from the 13 fire departments within Nagano Prefecture and the Tokyo Fire Department.

• **Facilities Leased to NAOC**

A number of multi-purpose arenas, sports and cultural facilities, and residential complexes were constructed and leased to NAOC for competitions and Games operations. In addition, a former textile mill was extensively renovated for use as the International Broadcasting Centre (IBC). An area of 98,000m<sup>2</sup> alongside the Chikuma river was used for Games shuttle bus parking, and parking space for 1,800 cars was set aside at the Minami Nagano Sports Park.

A nationwide contest was held to choose names for the competition facilities. By the March 1995 deadline, a total of 3,008 suggestions had been submitted, and winning entries were selected by a panel of junior high and high school students in Nagano City.

The Nagano Olympic Museum opened in M-Wave in 1999 on the one-year anniversary of the Opening Ceremony of the Games.

■ **Facilities Funded by Nagano City**

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Games Usage</i>	<i>Post-Games Usage</i>
M-Wave	speed skating	winter season: ice rink other seasons: multi-purpose facility
Big Hat	ice hockey	multi-purpose sports and events facility
Aqua Wing	ice hockey	year-round indoor pool
White Ring	figure skating / short track speed skating	city gymnasium
Spiral	bobsleigh / luge	bobsleigh / luge competitions
Imai New Town	Olympic Village	housing complex
Minami Nagano Sports Park	Opening / Closing Ceremonies	multi-purpose sports stadium
Wakasato Citizens' Culture Hall	Main Press Centre	cultural convention facility

## Realization of the Goals for the Nagano Games

### Participation of Children

#### • “One School, One Country” Programme

The Games provided an ideal opportunity to further international awareness among schoolchildren in Nagano City. In 1995, the 76 elementary, junior high, and special schools in Nagano City were paired with countries and regions expected to send teams to Nagano. Students studied the history and culture of their partner country and engaged in a variety of educational exchanges. Before the Games, children received visitors and cheered on athletes from their adopted country during the ICPG events. During the Games, students welcomed their partner country with performances of its anthem at the Olympic Village welcome ceremonies and voiced their enthusiastic support at the venues, while athletes and officials from a number of NOCs visited the schools. For the children, who will be the leaders of tomorrow, it was a cherished experience which will surely have a positive influence on their outlook of the world.

Out of this programme a Children’s International Exchange Fund was established to promote international exchange among children and to encourage the development of international education throughout the world.

The mayor of Salt Lake City was very impressed with the programme, and pledged to continue it at the 2002 Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City.

#### • Essay Contest for Elementary Schoolchildren

In 1994, an essay contest was held throughout Nagano Prefecture on the theme of children’s dreams and expectations for the Nagano Games.

#### • Olympic Girls’ and Boys’ Club

This club was established in January 1989 to nurture friendly ties between the children of the cities of Asahikawa, Morioka, Yamagata, and Nagano, which were the four cities involved in the domestic bid to select a candidate city for the 1998 Olympic Winter Games. Every year, children from the three other cities were invited to Nagano to develop friendships with local children through sports and other fun activities.

During the Games, the children were taken to watch an ice hockey game, and celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the club.

Many people lent a hand laying straw mats to reduce slipperiness on access paths used by spectators.



## ■ Schools in the “One School, One Country” Programme

Andorra	Shinonoi-Nishi, Wakaho JH	New Zealand	Komaki, Sakuragaoka JH
Argentina	Yanagimachi JH	Norway	Shinonoi-Higashi, Kyowa
Armenia	Yanagihara		Shiozaki
Australia	Shinonoi-Nishi JH, Naniai JH	Democratic People's	Hoshina
Austria	Mashima	Rep. of Korea	
Azerbaijan	Susobana	Poland	Kiyono
Belarus	Yoshida	Portugal	Shinonoi-Higashi JH
Belgium	Nanbu, Matsugaoka, Shimohigano	Puerto Rico	Tobu JH
Bermuda	Tohoku JH	Romania	Tokuma
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Sanbonyanagi	Russian Federation	Susobana JH
Brazil	Saijo, Tohoku JH, Nagano Sch. for the Handicapped	Slovakia	Hokubu JH, Wakatsuki Sch. for the Handicapped
Bulgaria	Kotoku JH	Slovenia	Sairyō JH
Canada	Serita, Matsushiro	South Africa	Wakatsuki
Chile	Nobuta	Spain	Kofu
People's Rep. of China	Terao, Matsushiro JH	Sweden	Kawada, Hoshina
Croatia	Tojo	Switzerland	Tsumeï, Nobusato
Cyprus	Sanno	Chinese Taipei	Toyosaka
Czech Republic	Shimohigano	Trinidad and Tobago	Nabeyata
Denmark	Shinonoi-Nishi, Wakaho JH	Turkey	Seibu JH
Estonia	Serita, Midorigaoka	Ukraine	Naganuma
Finland	Asakawa	United States of America	Wakatsuki, Tobu JH, Shinonoi-Nishi JH, Nagano Sch. for the Deaf and Mute
Former Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia	Nagano Sch. for the Blind	Uruguay	Nagano Sch. for the Deaf and Mute
France	Amori		
Georgia	Naniai	Uzbekistan	Watauchi
Germany	Aokijima, Kawanakajima JH	Venezuela	Mamejima
Great Britain	Gocho, Joto	Virgin Islands	Matsugaoka
Greece	Showa	Yugoslavia	Matsushiro, Nagano Sch. for the Blind
Hungary	Yuya, Asakawa		
Iceland	Kamo, Imoi JH		
Islamic Rep. of Iran	Watauchi, Shindai-Fuzoku Sch. for the Handicapped	<b>NOCs which did not participate in Nagano</b>	
Ireland	Yanagihara	Algeria	Shinonoi-Higashi JH
Israel	Asahi, Toyosaka	Bahamas	Nagano Sch. for the Handicapped
Italy	Nabeyata, Asahi, Nagano Sch. for the Blind	Bolivia	Komaki
Jamaica	Susobana	Cameroon	Komaki
Japan	Gocho, Yanagimachi JH	Costa Rica	Sanyo JH
Kazakhstan	Mamejima	El Salvador	Matsushiro JH
Kenya	Midorigaoka	Gambia	Joto
Korea	Furusato, Tsumeï	Guam	Shinonoi-Higashi, Aokijima, Kawanakajima JH
Kyrgyzstan	Kohoku JH	Guinea-Bissau	Kawada
Latvia	Seibu JH, Otagiri JH	Kuwait	Imoi
Liechtenstein	Miwa	Lao People's Rep.	Watauchi
Lithuania	Imoi, Imoi JH	Lebanon	Nobusato
Luxembourg	Shindai-Fuzoku JH, Shindai-Fuzoku Sch. for the Handicapped	Mexico	Nanbu
Rep. of Moldova	Shindai-Fuzoku, Yanagimachi JH	Netherlands Antilles	Shinonoi-Higashi JH
Monaco	Shinko JH	San Marino	Shindai-Fuzoku JH, Shindai-Fuzoku Sch. for the Handicapped
Mongolia	Joyama, Yuya	Senegal	Sanyo JH
Netherlands	Kawanakajima	Tajikistan	Wakatsuki Sch. for the Handicapped

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## Respect for the Beauty and Bounty of Nature

- **Native Forest**

With the enthusiastic support of local residents, numerous tree planting programmes were carried out to commemorate the Games and to restore natural forest areas within the city. For example, approximately 40,000 tree saplings were planted around the bobsleigh/luge venue.

- **International Environmental Expedition**

At the closing ceremony of the XVII Olympic Winter Games in Lillehammer, an International Environmental Expedition set off for Nagano bearing an “environmental message” from the mayor of Lillehammer and the president of the Lillehammer Olympic Organizing Committee (LOOC) urging consideration for the environment in the staging of the Games. In addition to dogsled, the expedition travelled by sailboat and bicycle for over two and a half years, arriving in Nagano on September 25, 1996, exactly 500 days before the opening of the Nagano Games. A welcome parade was held along the streets of Nagano, and the environmental message was handed over to Mayor Tsukada in front of Nagano City Hall.

A similar “Nagano to Salt Lake” (NASL) International Environmental Expedition of volunteers carrying a message from Mayor Tsukada left Nagano on March 12, 1998 bound for Salt Lake City. The team will journey on foot, by bicycle, sailboat, and other means of clean energy travel. It is hoped that this appeal for environmental awareness will spread to all Olympic host cities around the world.



Children take part in a tree planting outing at M-Wave.

## Festival of Peace and Friendship

- **“Hearty Nagano”**

The “Hearty Nagano” programme was formed in 1995 out of the desire of local citizens to support the Games at the community level. Groups were set up in each of the 26 districts of the city to give a “hearty” welcome to athletes, officials, and spectators, and to introduce visitors to local specialties and culture. Activities included local cleanup and snow removal during the Games, growing flowers for decorating the venues, producing handmade souvenirs and gifts for Games’ participants, and participating in “One School, One Country” activities.

- **Hospitality, Foreign Language Seminars**

Beginning in 1994, a total of five training seminars were held for local residents and employees of hotels, shops, and restaurants and bars, to discuss ways of welcoming visitors to the city. Industry experts were invited to speak to participants and share their experiences of offering friendly hospitality to international guests.

The city also organized language classes for Games volunteers beginning in 1993. Nine courses in English and one in French were held for a cumulative total of 1,068 participants.

During the Nagano Games, a conference for Olympic Games host city mayors was held for the first time at either the Summer or Winter Games.



#### • Nagano Olympic Harmony Fund

The Nagano Olympic Harmony Fund was set up in May 1997 by Nagano City with cooperation from the JOC, Unicef Japan, and Nagano Prefecture to assist children living in poverty-stricken and war-torn partner countries in the “One School, One Country” programme receive a primary education and help realize their dreams of a better tomorrow. Monies were raised through donations from thousands of individuals, groups, private businesses, and the sale of Harmony Fund merchandise and telephone cards. More than ¥210 million was raised, well exceeding initial fundraising targets.

US \$100,000 has been donated to each of 15 countries for building and renovating school facilities, and buying school equipment, educational materials and sporting equipment.

#### • Host City Mayors' Conference

Mayor Tsukada of Nagano City invited the mayors of past and future Winter Games' host cities to take part in a conference to discuss ideas for the Olympics in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This was the first such meeting to be held at either the Summer or Winter Games. Joining the conference were the current mayors of Sapporo (XI Winter Games), Calgary (XV Winter Games), Albertville (XVI Winter Games), Lillehammer (XVII Winter Games), and Salt Lake City (XIX Winter Games), while the mayor of Olympia participated as an observer. Many constructive opinions were put forward, and the mayors drafted a declaration outlining these ideas for presentation to the world. [See Page 277]

#### • Resolution for World Peace

In January 1998, the city council adopted a resolution declaring February 7 every year “Nagano Games Commemorative Peace Day”, a day for realizing world peace. The resolution was presented to IOC President Samaranch. The city council also established a fund for promoting international exchange among children.

In recognition of his immense contributions to the development of sports and culture in the city, IOC President Samaranch was presented with a special award of honour from the citizens of Nagano City at an extraordinary city council meeting.

Nordic combined world champion Kenji Ogiwara shows off the logo of the Nagano Olympic Harmony Fund.



## High Tech Olympics

The Nagano City Fullnet Centre was built as part of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications' "Fullnet" pilot project to develop regional information transfer systems. During the Games, footage from past and present Olympic Games was accessible through Video on Demand (VOD) terminals linked to the Fullnet Centre's server. Utilising the latest retrieval technology, the system allowed instantaneous access to Games' footage on demand, and was the first time such a system was available at the Olympic Games. VOD terminals were set up at the competition venues and in public buildings, and proved especially popular with the athletes and media.

An information system helped to alleviate traffic congestion by displaying availability of parking in the city centre on electronic signboards.

## Preparing the City

As the transportation hub for the city, Nagano Station was the main gateway for visitors arriving in Nagano for the Games. It also served as the main terminal for the spectator shuttle bus service.

The "Olympic Plaza" set up on the east side of the station with a Volunteer House and a variety of sponsor showrooms, souvenir tents, and food stalls attracted thousands of people every day. Advertising billboards were restricted so as not to detract from the city skyline, and trees were planted to provide the area with a natural look.

In cooperation with local residents, the Olympic Plaza, main train stations and roads were decorated with colourful banners and the flags of participating countries and regions, while residential dwellings displayed a trio of flags adorned with the emblems of the Nagano Games, Paralympic Games, and the JOC.



Members of the International Environmental Expedition (IEE) from Lillehammer to Nagano take part in an environment seminar.



(Top) At festivities the night before the opening of the Games, performers render a *kiyari* log-carrying chant in a parade along Chuo Dori St.

(Bottom) Special "Olympic" apples were grown to celebrate the Games in Nagano.

## Public Relations

### • Games Information

In May 1989, an "Olympic Centre" was established in the Nagano City bus terminal to gain the support of local citizens for the bid, and promote volunteer activities to create an Olympic mood in the city. After Nagano was selected as host city, the centre set up displays, distributed information, and offered a range of Nagano Games' merchandise for sale, while providing the latest information for those interested in volunteering. During the Games, information was also made available at the Nagano City Tourist Information Centre inside Nagano Station, as well as at Central Square and other points around the city.

### • Nagano City Newsletter

Beginning in 1993, information regarding Nagano's preparations for the Games was published in Nagano City's bimonthly newsletter. Distributed to every household, the newsletter was an effective medium for keeping citizens informed and gaining their cooperation and support. As well, a variety of maps and information pamphlets for citizens and overseas visitors were published.

The City of Nagano produced an educational video for distribution to elementary and junior high schools and community centres to raise awareness of the Olympic Movement.





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## Declaration of the Olympic Winter Games Host Cities

Modern Olympism was conceived by Baron Pierre de Coubertin, and the first Olympiad took place in Athens, Greece in 1896. In addition, beginning in 1924, the Olympic Winter Games have been held. As a festival of peace and friendship, the Olympic Games, the largest festival of sport and culture in the world, have been working for the realization of world peace.

We have had the honour of hosting the XI Olympic Winter Games (Sapporo), the XV Olympic Winter Games (Calgary), the XVI Olympic Winter Games (Albertville), the XVII Olympic Winter Games (Lillehammer), the XVIII Olympic Winter Games (Nagano), and will be hosting the XIX Olympic Winter Games (Salt Lake City), and we hope to further promote the Olympic Movement and world peace. In this context, we underline the importance of the Olympic Truce.

In this conference on the occasion of the Nagano Games, the last Olympic Winter Games of the twentieth century, we reaffirm the over one hundred-year-old Olympic Movement, and search for ways to continue this movement in to the next century.

In order to further the Olympic Movement, the Nagano Games have been based on the guiding principle of being a “Games from the Heart – Together with Love”, and aims to achieve three goals: “Promoting the Participation of Children”, “Paying Homage to the Beauty and Bounty of Nature”, and “Hosting a Festival of Peace and Friendship”.

Through hosting the Olympic Winter Games, Sapporo, Calgary, and Albertville have contributed to the promotion of the Olympic Movement. During the Lillehammer Games, the “Olympic Aid” campaign was founded in order to help the children of Sarajevo. Schoolchildren in Nagano have had the opportunity to deepen their international perspective through the “One School, One Country” programme. The “Nagano Olympic Harmony Fund” supports children in underprivileged countries by providing educational materials and sports equipment. We hope that future Olympic Winter Games host cities will take their own specific actions in order to work toward the realization of peace and the support of children throughout the world.

Recently, environmental concerns have become a theme of serious discussion around the world. The depletion of the ozone layer and global warming are two examples of issues affecting our natural ecosystem on a worldwide scale. Therefore, striving to host the Olympic Winter Games in harmony with nature is especially important, and we ask the IOC and future Olympic Winter Games host cities to pay close attention to the environment. Existing facilities should be used as much as possible in order to lessen the impact on the environment, and the construction of new facilities should be minimized.

We, the mayors of seven cities that have come together here in Nagano, have achieved meaningful discussion. We propose that future Host Cities continue to host Olympic Winter Games Host City Conferences.

Finally, as members of the Olympic Family, we offer our best wishes for the success of the final Olympic Winter Games of this century, that it may serve as a bridge of peace to the next century.

## Host Sites



Children play a medley of tunes on special ocarinas made from trees felled during construction for roads in Shiga Kogen.

The need to protect the environment was an integral part of plans for the Nagano Games from the bidding stage. As a result, it was decided to use existing facilities and courses wherever possible to avoid unnecessary new development. Nagano City, therefore, was chosen as the host city, with events to be held within a larger region encompassing the town of Yamanouchi and the village of Hakuba. The town of Karuizawa was added as a host site after curling was added to the Sports Programme, and the number of host sites increased to five when environmental concerns prompted changing the location of the biathlon venue from Hakuba to the village of Nozawa Onsen.

Distance as the crow flies from Nagano City Hall to the town / village hall of other competition host sites: Yamanouchi 22km (northeast); Hakuba 32km (west); Karuizawa 48km (southeast); Nozawa Onsen 40km (northeast).

### Regional Programmes

The Games provided impetus for local development to meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The mayors of the host sites were nominated to NAOC's Executive Board and advisory commissions to help oversee Games operations; as well, a number of local government employees from the host sites were dispatched to work at the NAOC Secretariat. The

town and village governments and NAOC organized events with the help of local citizens' groups to stir up popular support for the Games. In addition, the host sites offered NAOC usage of local sports, cultural, and recreational facilities for Games operations.

As the majority of the host sites' local government employees were involved in Games operations, budgetary and council meetings were rescheduled to avoid conflicting with the competitions. The groundswell of support for the Games was clearly evident, and local citizens participated in the torch relay and the Nagano Olympic Festival of Culture and Art, carved snow and ice sculptures to lend a festive air to roads near the venues, and distributed hot homemade soup and other local delicacies.

Each host town and village savoured the excitement of the Games in its own unique way, and the close ties formed between local communities and the athletes and officials is one of the Nagano Games' greatest legacies. Visionary plans for after the Games continue to be drawn

up, from establishing museums at the competition venues, to holding exhibitions to commemorate the Games.

### Preparations

After Nagano won the bid to host the Games, the local government sections responsible for supporting the bid were expanded to begin practical preparations for hosting the sports competitions. Local government employees from nearby towns and villages were dispatched to supplement staff at the host sites, and a network of local governments implemented to support the work of each group.

Support committees were formed comprising members from local town councils, private enterprise, groups, and individuals with pertinent experience or skills. In addition, several District Support Headquarters were established to field questions from the general public, provide emergency support and snow removal, and formulate plans to beautify the environment.



**HAKUBA** – Local residents helped to clear snow around the venues at all hours of the night.

Residents of Nozawa Onsen prepared a variety of local delicacies to welcome visitors.



• **Yamanouchi Town**

- June 8, 1987 Establishment of the Yamanouchi Committee to Support the Bid for the Nagano Games
- Oct. 1, 1991 Establishment of Olympic Promotion Office within Yamanouchi Town Hall
- Oct. 22 First meeting of Olympic Promotion Committee
- Dec. 16 First meeting of Olympic Support Committee
- Mar. 12, 1992 First meeting of District

- May 26 Olympic Liaison Committee  
First meeting of Olympic Facilities Study Commission
- Nov. 1, 1993 Establishment of Olympic Policy Committee
- Apr 1, 1995 Establishment of Olympic Section within Yamanouchi Town Hall
- Nov. 27, 1996 Establishment of Nagano Olympic and Paralympic Games Support Headquarters
- Jan. 8, 1998 Establishment of Venue Support Headquarters

• **Hakuba Village**

- July 1, 1986 Establishment of Hakuba Olympic Games Bid Support Office
- July 1, 1991 Establishment of Olympic Preparations Office
- Dec. 5 First meeting of Nagano Olympic and Paralympic Games Support Committee  
First meeting of Olympic Facilities Preparation Support Council
- Apr. 1, 1992 Establishment of Olympic Section within Hakuba Village Hall
- Apr. 1, 1996 Establishment of Olympic Competitions Section within Hakuba Village Hall
- Jan. 16, 1998 Establishment of Support Headquarters

• **Karuizawa Town**

- Jan. 21, 1994 First meeting of Karuizawa Olympic Support Committee
- Apr. 1 Establishment of Olympic Section within Karuizawa Town Hall

- **Nozawa Onsen Village**

Dec. 17, 1993 Establishment of Olympic Support Office

May 16, 1994 First meeting of Olympic Support Committee

Apr. 1, 1995 Establishment of Olympic Section within Nozawa Onsen Village Hall

July 12 First meeting of Nagano Olympic and Paralympic Games Support Committee

positions within NAOC, contributing both specialized knowledge and their viewpoint as local residents.

Town / Village Mayor  
Executive Board  
Deputy Mayor, Treasurer  
Steering Committee, Commissions, sub commissions  
Various section / department directors  
Sub commissions

## Support for NAOC

- **Financial Assistance**

In addition to paying salaries for host site personnel seconded to NAOC, the local governments of the host sites granted financial support and assisted with the implementation of projects related to the Nagano Games, in particular the construction of competition and operations facilities.

- **Dispatch of Local Government Staff to NAOC**

	No. of Staff Dispatched	Period of Service
Yamanouchi	2	Nov. 27, 1991 – Mar. 31, 1998
Hakuba	1	Nov. 27, 1991 – Mar. 31, 1998
Karuizawa*	4	Sept. 1, 1993 – Mar. 31, 1998
Nozawa Onsen	1	April 1, 1994 – Mar. 31, 1998

\*maximum at one time

- **Representation on the Organizing Committee**

Local officials were appointed to senior

In addition, the host sites provided staff for numerous other responsibilities including emergency snow removal, organization of the torch



At the welcome party at the curling venue in Karuizawa, guests break open an ice barrel of sake.

## ■ Facilities Leased to NAOC by the Host Sites

Host Site	Facility	Games Usage	Post-Games Usage
Yamanouchi	Shiga Kogen,	snowboard/alpine skiing	multi-purpose public building;
	Sogo Kaikan 98	competition headquarters	nature conservation centre; auditorium
	Hoppo Plaza	parking area, bus stops	parking area
Hakuba	Hakuba Ski Jumping Stadium	ski jumping venue	ski jumping competition facility
	Snow Harp	cross-country skiing venue	cross-country skiing area
	Wing 21	Operations headquarters for Hakuba	multi-purpose public gymnasium
Karuizawa	Kazakoshi Park Arena	curling venue	winter: ice rink
			other: multi-purpose arena
	SCAP Karuizawa	sub press centre	winter: curling rink
Nozawa Onsen	Fureai no Mori Park	biathlon venue	other: indoor swimming pool
			winter: cross-country ski area
			other: multi-purpose sports ground

relay and cultural programme, preparations for visits by the Imperial Family, and distribution of information. Members of local volunteer fire departments and traffic safety committees were also called upon to lend their assistance.

	No. of Additional Support Staff
Yamanouchi	65
Hakuba	186
Karuizawa	131
Nozawa Onsen	50

At the Sogo Kaikan 98 in Shiga Kogen, a “friendship plaza” was set up to welcome visitors.



The host sites refurbished and provided additional facilities to NAOC for use as parking areas, rest areas, information booths, and vehicle depots. Hakuba also installed equipment for making snow at each competition venue within the village.

Following the Games, the “Norway Village” facility in Hakuba that served as the Norwegian NOC’s hospitality house reopened as a hall to commemorate the Nagano Games. Plans are also in the works for the establishment of Nagano Games museums at both the Kazakoshi Park curling venue in Karuizawa and the Fureai no Mori Park biathlon venue in Nozawa Onsen, as well as a Nagano Games commemorative hall in the Shiga Kogen Sogo Kaikan ’98 in Yamanouchi.

## ■ Rest and Information Facilities

<i>Host Site</i>	<i>Facility</i>	<i>Games Usage</i>	<i>Post-Games Usage</i>
Yamanouchi	Public gymnasium	training centre	public gymnasium
	Ryokan information centre	general information centre / ticket office	train station information office
	Town Culture Centre	rest facility for Emergency Response Unit of the Self-Defense Forces	community centre
	Honami Fureai Centre	rest facility for Emergency Response Unit of the Self-Defense Forces	community centre
Hakuba	Kanbayashi sports ground	staff parking area	sports ground
	Hokubu sports ground	spectator parking area	sports ground
	Nanbu sports ground	staff parking area	sports ground
	Happo gymnasium	alpine skiing operations headquarters	gymnasium
Karuizawa	Sawayaka Hut	information centre/transportation HQ	information office at train station
	Workers' Physical Training Centre	rest facility for spectators	gymnasium
	Kokusai shooting range	vehicle depot	shooting range
	Kazakoshi Park	parking area	tennis courts, sports ground
Nozawa Onsen		Nozawa Onsen Arena	team captains' meetings, indoor swimming pool,

## Realizing the Goals for the Nagano Games

“Respect for the beauty and bounty of nature”; “Participation of children”; “Festival of peace and friendship”. These triple goals provided the framework within which organizers made preparations. Extensive programmes for restoring topsoil removed during construction and tree planting were carried out, while local materials were used wherever possible. Particular attention was also paid to encouraging exchanges that would build friendships and strengthen ties between the athletes and officials and the local community.

### • Yamanouchi Town

Formed in March 1991, the Yamanouchi Ski Resort Committee formulated a self-restriction agreement that effectively banned the use of hardening agents such as ammonium sulphate used to pack snow on competition courses. As well, more than 130,000 recyclable PET bottles were collected for use

in course construction at the Mt. Higashidate alpine skiing giant slalom venue and the Kanbayashi Snowboard Park halfpipe venue. In another project to increase awareness of nature conservation, ocarinas (Hungarian folk music whistles) were made from the trees felled for road construction and distributed to elementary schoolchildren in Yamanouchi.

**NOZAWA ONSEN –**  
Young friends take a  
break in front of a snow  
sculpture of a dove.



- **Hakuba Village**

Goshawk nesting sites were discovered during an environmental assessment survey of the planned biathlon site, leading to the subsequent relocation of the venue to Nozawa Onsen; as well, the cross-country course was redesigned so as not to encroach on the nesting sites. These actions resulted in the enactment of the nation's first goshawk protection ordinance in April 1994. Moving the downhill venue to Happo'one in Hakuba from the originally planned site in Shiga Kogen, in fact acted as a catalyst for increasing awareness for the need to conserve rare plants and animals.

- **Karuizawa Town**

A parade and ceremony were held on February 4, 1998 to mark the official opening of the Karuizawa Satellite Village. Festivities continued with a welcome reception held the following day and the opening of the curling arena on February 8. After the conclusion of the curling competition, a venue closing ceremony and gala farewell party were held where all participants celebrated the winning teams' victories and the end of a successful competition.

- **Nozawa Onsen Village**

Elementary schoolchildren in the village

made use of timber cut down during the renovation of the biathlon venue to make birdhouses, which they attached to trees in the area around the venue in the autumn of 1995. The village children were delighted to observe a new generation of songbirds leave their nests the following spring.

## Publicity for the Games

A comprehensive campaign to raise awareness of the Nagano Games across Japan and to spread the excitement throughout the hosting region was launched well in advance of the Games. From the time of the ICPGs, Nagano Games banners were displayed near train stations to catch the attention of visiting skiers, and banners and other decorations were draped tastefully on lampposts along main roads and on public buildings. As well, the Nagano Games emblem was displayed on facility buildings. Decorations in Hakuba and Karuizawa were standardized in line with local ordinances against excessive outdoor advertising.

## Miniature Olympic Cauldrons

One-third size models of the main Olympic cauldron at the stadium for Opening and Closing Ceremonies were erected at each of the host sites. After the main cauldron was lit during the Opening Ceremony in Nagano on February 7, the Olympic flame was transported to each

YAMANOUCHI - At Yudanaka Station, local junior high school students play a tune to greet visitors.





*Dosojin roadside guardians and towering lanterns welcome visitors to Nozawa Onsen.*

site, where commemorative ceremonies to light the mini cauldrons were held.

## Hospitality

### • Yamanouchi Town

The local junior high school brass band serenaded spectators arriving at Yudanaka Station in Yamanouchi, and free samples of local sake and apple juice were passed out in welcome. The Yamanouchi Culture Centre was set up as a facility for volunteers and was equipped with a 50-inch High Vision television screen for spectators and townspeople alike to watch the exciting action going on at the venues. Local volunteer interpreters and high school students with English language ability made a number of information signboards and provided language assistance.

### • Hakuba Village

To prepare residents for welcoming visitors from overseas, classes were held in English, German, and French for staff of local administration offices, businesses, and local residents. Junior high school students enthusiastically cheered for athletes from all nations and made giant-sized national flags with brightly-coloured placards.

### • Karuizawa Town

Members of the Japanese team hosted curling workshops for elementary school children and a competition was staged for local residents. During the Games, a curling sheet was set up in the rink next to the main arena to allow spectators to try their hand at this new Olympic medal sport. Along with the athletes and officials, spectators were welcomed with tea sweetened with locally-produced jam and freshly made *mochi* rice cakes. Local residents and members of the town council employees' union used recycled milk cartons to make "ice candles" to illuminate the area



around the venue and the train station.

### • Nozawa Onsen Village

Each of the 20 neighbourhoods in Nozawa Onsen welcomed visitors with handmade snow sculptures and bonfires, and created a "One Neighbourhood, One Product" programme, with each neighbourhood preparing a local product to welcome visitors. Villagers happily displayed the friendliness of Japan's snow country, enthusiastically supporting all athletes irrespective of nationality.



The Snow Dome in Hakuba was a place for people from all nations to gather and relax.

### Events, Advertising, and Information

Each host site created a variety of activities to include everyone in the fun. Events such as countdown celebrations, cultural programme events, talk shows, and panel discussions featuring former Olympic athletes were held to publicize the Games. There was an exhibition of children's artwork based on the theme of Olympic dreams, and some official training sessions were opened to the public. Information campaigns were broadcast on local cable television, countdown boards were set up, and each host site created their own publicity posters, pamphlets, and merchandise. During the Games, numerous information booths were set up in outlying areas to keep visitors informed.

#### • Yamanouchi Town

In cooperation with the local Games support network, various goods including an annual

calendar (1994 – 1997), a newsletter, pamphlets, and posters were printed. A sepia poster of the town in 1924 proved especially popular with overseas visitors. During the Games period, welcome events with presentations of traditional folk art were held at the Shiga Kogen Sogo Kaikan '98 building on February 6 and 16. Honorary citizen Seiji Ozawa was a special guest at the welcome events.

#### • Hakuba Village

A shop selling Nagano Games merchandise was set up at the Hakuba ski jumping stadium. Village employees helped publicize the Games by wearing specially-designed Nagano Olympic Winter Games sweatshirts. The "Hakuba Olympic Festival of Culture and Art" featuring local traditional folk arts was held in the Hakuba Snow Dome after the end of competition each day.

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- **Karuizawa Town**

As the first town ever to host events at both the Summer and Winter Games, Karuizawa developed a “Karuizawa: Olympic Town, Curling Town” slogan and staged a special exhibition entitled “The Olympics – Yesterday and Today”. The exhibition featured photographs of the 1964 Tokyo Games’ equestrian events held in Karuizawa, as well as photographs from the 1997 Karuizawa World Junior Curling Championships, and a display of curling equipment.

- **Nozawa Onsen Village**

Nozawa Onsen designed its own racoon mascot and produced a variety of biathlon merchandise such as tie tacks and sweatshirts to galvanise excitement.



Welcoming the Olympic flame at the biathlon venue.

## Support from the Prefectural Government

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Proposals to bid to host the Olympic Winter Games of 1940 and 1968 in Nagano Prefecture had been discussed, but on those occasions it proved difficult to put together a compact bid satisfactory to all prospective host sites. For the XVIII Olympic Winter Games however, there was a popular groundswell of support for the bid with Nagano as host city and Yamanouchi and Hakuba as host sites.

Many policies such as expansion of the road infrastructure were implemented to welcome the Games and improve the standard of living of citizens. “Respect for the beauty and bounty of nature” was set as one of the fundamental goals for the Games, and the prefectural government played its role by establishing the Nature Conservation Study Council and the Nature Conservation Research Institute to ensure that every method was employed to protect the natural heritage of Nagano Prefecture.

To welcome international visitors to Nagano, language classes were set up and numerous events and activities planned to create an atmosphere where local residents and overseas guests would have opportunity to mingle and create friendships.

From the beginning, widespread cooperation and support was extended by the prefectural government. Government employees were dispatched to NAOC, financial assistance provided, facilities loaned, and transportation routes set up. The prefecture also assisted with snow removal, security, public relations and information, and welcoming the Imperial Family during the Games.

The wholehearted support of the people of Nagano Prefecture ensured the success of the Games, and along with visitors from around the world, a grand festival of sport and friendship was celebrated.

**The Nagano Prefecture Nature Conservation Study Council made onsite inspections and recommended ways of protecting the environment.**





The Nagano Prefecture Nature Conservation Research Institute in Iizuna Kogen played a key part in conservation efforts.

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## Preparations

### • Olympic Division

In September 1991, the prefectural government office that had worked on the bid was dissolved, and a new division established within the general affairs department. With an initial staff of six, the Olympic Division was involved in coordinating construction of competition facilities, public relations, and carrying out liaison activities. By Games-time, the staff had increased to eight, with an additional two personnel dispatched to Hakuba and one to Nozawa Onsen in order to maintain close contact with the host sites.

### • Olympic Desk, Civil Engineering Division

Set up in July 1994 to oversee public works such as transportation projects and snow removal.

### • Olympic and Paralympic Games Policy Committee

With representation from each department and bureau within the prefectural government, this committee was responsible for formulating the government's overall plans for the Games. Set up in September 1991, the committee met daily during the Games period.

### • Nagano Prefectural Assembly Extraordinary Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games

An extraordinary committee of 17 assembly members was established in September 1996 and charged with conducting inquiries into the state of preparations for the Games, including construction of competition venues, and transportation planning.

### • Association of Nagano Prefectural Assembly Members for the Promotion of the Nagano Olympic and Paralympic Games

Comprising every prefectural assembly member, the association was formed in March 1994 to discuss plans for effecting the success of the Nagano Games. Regular briefings on the status of Games preparations were given to every assembly meeting.

### • Liaison Committee with Host Site Mayors

This committee comprised the mayors of Nagano City and the other host sites, as well as representatives from NAOC and the prefectural government. It met a total of 53 times between October 1991 and January 1998 to exchange information on the state of preparations and discuss any problems or issues related to Games operations.

A policy committee was set up to formulate the prefectural government's overall plans for the Games.





With cooperation from the prefecture, streets around the IOC hotel were decorated with lights.

## Assistance to NAOC

### Financial Support

#### • Facilities Construction Subsidies

Financial assistance of ¥106.6 billion was provided to the host sites for the construction of competition facilities. In principle, Nagano Prefecture provided up to 50% of the cost of construction (excluding national government grants), and up to 50% of the monies for redeeming municipal / town bonds.

#### • Financial Assistance for Games Operations

In addition to granted subsidies to cover the salaries of all prefectural employees seconded to NAOC, the prefectural government covered some of NAOC's costs associated with constructing temporary facilities. Furthermore, Nagano Prefecture distributed its share of income from three national "Green Jumbo" lotteries held 1995 – 1997, and from the prefectural "Numbers" lottery held

annually 1995 – 1998 to NAOC, which utilised these monies to subsidize construction and maintenance of temporary facilities.

### Tax Exemptions

The national and prefectural governments agreed to grant special exemption for regional consumption taxes to all athletes and officials in Nagano during the Games.

### Representation on the Organizing Committee

The following officials from Nagano Prefecture were appointed to senior positions within NAOC:

Governor of Nagano Prefecture

(Vice President, Chairman of the Steering Committee)

Chairman, Prefectural Assembly

(Executive Board member)

Chairman, Extraordinary Committee

(Executive Board member)

Vice Governor

(Steering Committee member)

Chief of Prefectural Police

(Steering Committee member)

Various department & division directors

(Advisory Commission members)

Deputy Superintendent of Education

(Advisory Commission member)

### Dispatch of Staff

A maximum of 348 prefectural government employees including teachers and police officers were seconded to NAOC at any one given time. In March 1997, a system was introduced to allow prefectural government employees to take time off to volunteer for the Games. A total of 2,931 staff made use of this system.

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## Realizing the Goals for the Games

### Respect for the Beauty and Bounty of Nature

In response to the great concern shown by the citizens of the prefecture for environmental issues, the prefectural government enacted a series of policies in 1995 and 1996 that became the framework for the prefectural government's conservation efforts.

- **Nature Conservation Study Council**

Comprising 28 environmental experts across various fields, the Nature Conservation Study Council was set up as a forum for frank discussion and wide-ranging debate regarding ways of protecting the environment during construction and maintenance of Games facilities. Between July 1992 and March 1998, the council met 13 times to advise on environmental protection measures.

- **Nature Conservation Research Institute**

The prefecture set up the Nature Conservation Research Institute in Iizuna Kogen in October 1996, the first such institute in the country. Its mandate is to study methods for preserving the environment, and to educate the citizens of Nagano in these areas. The institute is also responsible for following up on recommendations made by the Nature Conservation Study Council.

- **Planting Trees From Around the World**

To welcome athletes and officials from around the world and as a project to commemorate the Games, 1,600 saplings of 64 representative species of trees from around the globe were planted at the competition venues beginning in 1993.

### Participation of Children

With the Games offering myriad opportunities to experience top-level sports and learn about different countries and the value of peace, a variety of curricular activities was implemented to involve children in the excitement of the Games.

- **Educational Textbooks**

Readers giving an overview of the Nagano Olympic Winter Games and Paralympic Games were produced and distributed to students in elementary and junior high schools throughout the prefecture to enhance participation and knowledge of the Nagano Games.

- **One School, One Country Programme**

Taking its cue from the overwhelming success of the "One School, One Country" programme implemented by Nagano City, a scaled-down version of the programme was developed for the 728 elementary, junior high, senior high, and special schools across the prefecture.

As well as studying about the various countries competing at the Games, students at the schools were given opportunities to attend competitions and participate in the torch relay and the Cultural Programme. They also assisted with venue decorations and neighbourhood cleanup activities, and developed creative projects at their schools.

The participation of the students in these events deepened their understanding and interest in other cultures, and helped them to develop a positive, broader outlook on the world around them. This experience will surely remain with them and encourage them to grow into mature adults with a wide outlook on the world.



The prefectural board of education created a number of Olympic readers for elementary and junior high school students

## Towards the Success of the Games

The prefectural government made full use of the opportunities offered by staging the Games and implemented a wide range of dynamic programmes to encourage international exchange and understanding, as well as to promote a sense of civic pride and promote Nagano as a tourist destination.

### • Developing Local Athletes

Programmes for developing athletes from Nagano Prefecture and helping them to reach their goals of winning medals were implemented from 1992. Twenty-nine of the 166 athletes on the Japanese team were from Nagano, and along with the rest of the team, made impressive strides forward in achieving their personal goals.

### • Measures for Enhancing Scenic Beauty

In an effort to enhance Nagano's appearance, the prefectural government implemented guidelines in 1992 regulating construction and restricting advertising billboards. Cities, towns, and villages throughout the prefecture responded by reducing the number and size of billboards and laying utility cables underground. In October 1997, the prefectural government hosted a symposium on the theme of "Introducing the Scenery of Nagano (Shinshu) to the World" as part of the Cultural Programme.

### • Public Relations Activities

Radio, television, and print media were utilised to keep the general public informed of the latest Games developments and to encourage public participation in creating a mood of festivity and hospitality throughout the Nagano region. In addition, the prefectural government set up an Internet home page with general and tourist information about the Nagano area.

All 728 elementary, junior high, senior high, and special schools across the prefecture were involved in the Games. Here, students grow potted flowers for decorating the venues.



NAGANO 1998



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- **Promoting International Awareness Within Nagano**

Beginning in 1991, a series of meetings was held to discuss proposals for promoting an international environment within Nagano Prefecture. Two of the recurring themes of these meetings were the need to increase the exposure of local citizens to international people and ideas, and the need to implement measures for easing life in Nagano for foreign residents. Language training classes and information booths were established, and a set of handy language guides published.

Classes for volunteers were set up from 1992 onwards to provide language training and to encourage volunteer activities. In 1997, a total of 197 classes were being offered in English, French, German, Spanish, Russian, Portuguese, Korean, and Chinese to approximately 2,400 people. Fifty Coordinators for International Relations (CIRs) were invited from North America, Europe, and Asia to implement these classes. CIRs were also seconded to NAOC to assist with preparations for the Games.

A telephone interpretation service called "LAVONET" was also implemented through the cooperation of the prefectural government and various groups, and information booths set up in the host sites during the Games.

- **Welcoming Visitors with Open Arms**

To ensure that a warm and friendly welcome would be extended to people coming to Nagano for the Games, workshops were hosted for people working in tourism and hospitality-related industries. Guidelines and suggestions were printed and widely distributed. Foreign language training seminars were conducted for hotel and inn staff beginning in 1994.



- **Accommodations and Sightseeing**

The prefectural government hosted meetings in April 1997 to discuss ways of dealing with the high demand for accommodations near competition venues. These meetings brought together representatives from NAOC, the hotel industry, travel groups, and the host site governments, and it was ascertained that the most pressing need was for a single point of contact for information on accommodations and sightseeing.

In response to this, a telephone and facsimile hotline was set up in May 1997. With the number of inquiries increasing as the Games approached, a separate Nagano Olympic Winter Games Accommodations & Sightseeing Centre was established in October. In addition to handling domestic and international telephone and fax inquiries, the centre offered information through a nationwide system of inter-linked computer terminals, and through an Internet web site. Approximately 105 inquiries were received per day, for a cumulative total of 10,775 inquiries during the centre's period of operations.

In accordance with prefectural town planning guidelines, utility cables along Chuo Dori St. were laid underground so as not to detract from the scenery.

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- **Public Health and Sanitation**

Including temporary cafeterias and restaurants set up at the Olympic Village and other competition and non-competition venues, a total of 12,935 hotels, inns, restaurants, and other establishments served food within the Games area. The prefectural government implemented a series of food hygiene and sanitation guidelines, surveys, and workshops before the Games, and no food-related illnesses were reported during the Games.

The prefectural government prepared a medical vocabulary in French, Spanish, and Russian to complement one in six other languages, and these were distributed to all hospitals and clinics in Nagano. With the cooperation of the Red Cross Blood Centre, ample supplies of blood were also secured.

Furthermore, the prefectural government coordinated with the relevant authorities to expedite clearance for medical supplies brought into Japan by the NOCs.

**Coordinators for International Relations (CIRs) and Assistant Language Teachers (ALTs) assisted with foreign language preparations.**



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- **Visits by the Imperial Family**

The prefectural government maintained close contact with the Imperial Household Agency, NAOC, and other related organizations to coordinate visits by Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress, Their Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince and Princess, and other members of the Imperial Family.

During the Games, Their Majesties visited Nagano twice for a total of seven days and five nights, while Their Imperial Highnesses stayed four days and two nights during their two visits. [See Vol. II, “Welcoming the Imperial Family” for more details.]

- **Snow Removal Measures**

Because of the importance of snow removal for ensuring smooth transportation for the Games, the prefectural government held meetings with the Ministry of Construction, the Japan Highway Public Corporation, and NAOC to formulate appropriate measures for ensuring that all roads within the Olympic area would be cleared of snow.

For the Games, a snow removal headquarters was set up within an area covering 675km of roads (excluding expressways), 79 parking lots, and 36km of pedestrian walkways. Snow removal workers at five regional snow removal centres located at the host sites were on standby 24 hours a day, and went into action whenever 5cm of snow had accumulated.



Special snow removal measures covered some 675km of roads during the Games.

## Support from the National Government

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A network of high speed expressways was completed in time for the Games.

The national government gave official recognition to Nagano City's bid for the XVIII Olympic Winter Games at a cabinet meeting on June 6, 1989 and lent its full support to the Games effort after Nagano was selected as host city. Government agencies cooperated in a variety of ways, including providing subsidies in the national budget, refurbishing facilities, striking commemorative coins, and selling premium postage stamps.

### Organization of Government Cooperative Body

The Council for Preparatory Measures for the Olympic Winter Games in Nagano made up of vice ministers and others of similar rank from relevant ministries and agencies was established under the authority of the Prime Minister's Office by a cabinet order on February 18, 1992.

- Chairman  
Chief Cabinet Secretary
- Vice Chairmen  
Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary  
Vice Minister of Education

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- Council Members

- Vice Minister for Justice
- Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs
- Vice Minister for Finance
- Vice Minister for Health & Welfare
- Vice Minister for Agriculture, Forestry, & Fisheries
- Vice Minister for International Trade & Industry
- Vice Minister for Transport
- Vice Minister for Posts & Telecommunications
- Vice Minister for Labour
- Vice Minister for Construction
- Vice Minister for Home Affairs
- Commissioner General for the National Police Agency
- Vice Minister for the Management & Coordination Agency
- Vice Minister for the Defense Agency
- Vice Minister for the Environment Agency
- Vice Minister for the National Land Agency

- Council Secretaries

- Director of Domestic Affairs Planning, Office of the Prime Minister
- Deputy Vice Minister, Ministry of Justice
- Director General of Cultural Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Deputy Vice Minister, Ministry of Finance
- Director General of Physical Education Bureau, Ministry of Education
- Director General of Environmental Health Bureau, Ministry of Health & Welfare
- Deputy Vice Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries
- Deputy Director General of Commerce and Distribution Policy, Ministry of International Trade & Industry
- Director General of Transport Policy Bureau, Ministry of Transport



Bullet trains on the Asama Shinkansen line cut travel time between Nagano and Tokyo.

- Deputy Vice Minister, Ministry of Posts & Telecommunications
- Deputy Vice Minister, Ministry of Labour
- Director General of Construction Economic Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Construction
- Deputy Director General of Policy Coordination, Ministry of Home Affairs
- Director General of Traffic Bureau, National Police Agency
- Director of Youth Policy Bureau, Management & Coordination Agency
- Director General of Education & Training Bureau, Defense Agency
- Director General of Nature Conservation Bureau, Environment Agency
- Deputy Vice Minister, National Land Agency

- **Ministry of Education, Science, Sports, & Culture**

In January 1992, the Ministry of Education established a ten-person Olympic Winter Games Office. An Olympic Games Planning Director was also designated as of October 1996 to direct those duties best performed by government agencies, such as direction of facilities preparations, provision of information and advice to the Organizing Committee, and assistance with immigration procedures for NOC delegations.



The opening of new roads and tunnels helped improve the traffic infrastructure around Nagano Prefecture.

- **Ministry of Posts & Telecommunications**

The Ministry of Posts & Telecommunications assigned a high-level official responsible for Olympic-related duties to the Shin'etsu Regional Bureau of Postal Services in July 1994, followed by the establishment in September 1996 of the Shin'etsu Postal Bureau Olympic Promotion Office. An Olympic Policy Office was also set up in July 1994 as part of the Shin'etsu Bureau of Telecommunications. In September that year, an Olympic Policy Headquarters was established, augmented in January 1998 by the creation of a General Policy Headquarters for

Prevention of Telecommunication Interference to monitor use of frequencies.

In addition, the ministry made every effort to support the development and actual implementation of the information systems infrastructure with the establishment of its Nagano Olympics Information Systems Infrastructure Promotion Council in August 1994.

- **Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

With the establishment of its Nagano Olympic Winter Games Cooperation Office in September 1997, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs lent assistance to Nagano Games officials travelling overseas on Olympic business, and helped coordinate communication with VIP guests coming to Japan, the governments of participating countries, their NOCs, the IOC, and NAOC.

### **Assignment of Government Personnel to NAOC and Related Committees**

- **Executive Board and Steering Committee**

The Chief Cabinet Secretary and the Minister of Education were appointed to the Executive Board of the Organizing Committee, while the Director for the Domestic Affairs Planning of the Office of the Prime Minister, the Director of the Cultural Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Director of the Physical Education Bureau of the Ministry of Education served on the Steering Committee.

• **Advisory Commissions and Sub Commissions**

Members of government agencies were assigned to contribute in their areas of expertise on each of NAOC's advisory commissions, with the exception of the Media Commission. Similarly, civil servants acted as members of sub commissions on Transportation, Security, Medical Services, Medical Controls, the International Youth Camp, and the Torch Relay, cooperating on both Games preparations and management.

• **Nagano Prefecture Nature Conservation Study Council**

Officials of the Environment Agency were appointed to work with the council to ensure that proper consideration was given to nature conservation during the preparation of Olympic competition facilities.

• **Assignment of Government Personnel to the NAOC Secretariat**

Employees from the ministries of Foreign Affairs, Education, Posts & Telecommunications, as well as from the National Police Agency, Defense Agency (Ground Self-Defense Force), Shinshu University Medical School, and Shin'etsu Telecommunications Control Bureau, were dispatched to work for the NAOC Secretariat.

National Government Civil Servants at NAOC Secretariat

(as of April 1 each year)

1992	1
1993	1
1994	3
1995	10
1996	9
1997	10
Games period	12
1998	2

In addition, one person was assigned from the Ministry of Education to serve as the International Youth Camp Village Mayor, and one person from Hiroshima University's School of Education worked as NAOC's representative on the IOC Medical Commission's biomechanics sub commission.

The national government gave financial assistance for the construction of Games facilities, such as the Aqua Wing stadium.



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## Legislation Pertinent to the Nagano Games

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- **1992**

A bill was passed allowing the production and sale of commemorative postcards, a portion of the proceeds to be donated to the Games. Special provisions were also made allowing long-term assignment of civil servants and local officials to NAOC without loss of retirement pension.

- **1996**

Monetary contributions to NAOC were made tax deductible.

To allow foreign athletes under the age of 18 competing in biathlon to participate in Japanese competitions, age restrictions on the handling of firearms for use in international competitions were removed. Legislation was also passed for the minting of commemorative coins for the Nagano Games.

- **1997**

Legislation was passed in March exempting international visitors from the regional consumption tax levied on the price of lodging and meals at local hotels during the period January 1 – March 31, 1998. Facilities constructed by NAOC at competition venues and those provided for use by athletes and officials participating in the Games were exempt from real estate taxes for fiscal 1998. Other legislation in 1997 provided for motorbike races, proceeds from which were contributed to the Nagano Games.

- **1998**

Bills were passed exempting IOC, NOC, or NAOC personnel working in Games operations from standard road tolls on the Joshin'etsu Expressway between the Komoro and the Toyoda-Iiyama Interchanges, the Hakuba-Nagano toll road, the Shiga-Nakano toll road, or the Shin-Nagano Ohashi toll road during the period between January 24 and February 25, 1998.

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## Funding and Cooperation

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### Allocation of Subsidies and Other Funding

- **Assistance with Funding for Main Competition Facilities**

The national government contributed ¥40.8 billion between 1992 and 1997 towards the construction of competition facilities, including the ice hockey arenas, figure skating arena, bobsleigh / luge venue, speed skating arena, cross-country venue, curling arena, and the stadium for Opening and Closing Ceremonies.

- **Funding from Publicly-run Sports Competitions**

Between 1995 and 1997, a total of 13 regional horse races were held to raise monies for the Nagano Games. Fund-raising motorbike races were also held over a period of five days in October 1997 at the Kawaguchi Motorbike Stadium. Both the Japan Keirin Association and the Nippon Foundation contributed monies for use in the Games.



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- **Lotteries for the Olympic Games**

Three separate lotteries were held in February 1996 – 98 in cooperation with the Ministry of Home Affairs to raise funds for the Nagano Games.

## Extensive Cooperation

- **Road Construction and Maintenance**

The Japan Highway Public Corporation extended construction of the Joshin'etsu Expressway north to the Nakago Interchange in Niigata Prefecture. The Ministry of Construction expanded roads between Nagano City and the host sites of Yamanouchi (Shiga Kogen) and Hakuba, as well as access roads to the venues within the city.

To help alleviate traffic congestion and provide drivers with the latest real-time information, various electronic traffic information systems including the Vehicle Information and Communication System (VICS) were put in place.

- **Public Parks, and Waterworks**

The Ministry of Construction assisted with construction of the Minami Nagano Sports Park where the stadium for Opening and Closing Ceremonies is located, and Kazakoshi Park where the curling venue is located. The ministry also facilitated improvements to the waterworks system in and around Nagano City and Hakuba.

- **Olympic Village and Media Villages**

The Ministry of Construction provided support for the construction of the Olympic Village and Media Villages, which were converted into publicly-operated housing after the Games.

- **Asama Shinkansen**

The Japan Railway Construction Public Corporation moved the construction schedule for the Asama Shinkansen high-speed train line forward, and consequently the line between Tokyo and Nagano opened for passenger travel on October 1, 1997. During the Games, many visitors to Nagano made use of smooth Shinkansen transportation service.

- **Matsumoto Airport**

In July 1994, the runway at Matsumoto Airport was lengthened to 2,000m to enable small jet airplanes to land and takeoff.

- **Nature Conservation**

Experts from the Environment Agency were on hand during construction of Olympic facilities to provide guidance and ensure strict adherence to relevant laws. The agency provided a low-emission natural gas car to NAOC for three fiscal years beginning in 1995, requested local natural gas dealers to make adequate preparations to ensure fuel would be available, and helped to locate post-Games users for the 60 natural gas vehicles that NAOC used during the Games.

- **Procedures for Entering and Leaving Japan**

The ministries of Justice, Foreign Affairs, Finance, Health & Welfare, and International Trade & Industry worked in cooperation with NAOC to designate the New Tokyo International Airport, Nagoya International Airport, and Kansai International Airport as the three official airports of entry for Games participants. The four ministries also worked to simplify and speed up entry paperwork, to provide access to the CIQ area for NAOC employees, and to relieve congestion at the airports during the Games.

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The Ministry of Justice exempted holders of the NAOC combined identity and accreditation card from requiring a separate visa for entry into the country. All Combined Cardholders with a valid passport were granted a 90-day stay upon entry. The ministry also arranged for an exclusive Games personnel immigration counter to be set up at the New Tokyo International Airport. Further support was also provided at the Tokyo Immigration Bureau Information Corner set up at the Olympic Village.

- **Olympic Truce Resolution**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs drafted a resolution calling for cessation of all armed hostilities throughout the world during the period of the Nagano Games. Mikako Kotani, a member of NAOC's Public Relations Commission, was designated as an official representative of the Japanese government to present the peace resolution to the 52<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly of the United Nations.

- **Foreign Dignitaries**

Two senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were assigned to assist NAOC with its preparations. The former Ambassador to the United Nations was

appointed as Chief of Protocol, while the former Ambassador to Australia was appointed as Special Representative of the Director General for External Affairs.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in cooperation with NAOC held information sessions for the staff of foreign embassies in Tokyo to outline services available to dignitaries during their stay in Japan for the Nagano Games. Every head of state, royal family member, head of government, and deputy head of government was assigned an aide for the duration of their stay.

- **Overseas Publicity**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs made great efforts to promote the Nagano Games overseas, not only through the distribution of public relations videos and Games' guidebooks and posters through its representative offices overseas, but also by creating a "NAGANO '98 Kids' Info" home page on the Internet aimed at children.

- **Nagano Games Commemorative Coins**

The Ministry of Finance's mint bureau struck three denominations of commemorative coins for the Games – a ¥500 coin, a ¥5,000 coin, and a ¥10,000 coin. The coins were minted in three separate issues, in February and August 1997, and again in February 1998. The ¥10,000 coin was Japan's first ever premium coin, with the value of gold used to make the coin worth more than the coin's face value.

The mint bureau also assisted with the final fashioning of the winners' medals, as well as the production of commemorative medals for Games participants.

Mikako Kotani presents the "Olympic Truce" resolution on behalf of the Japanese government to the United Nations' General Assembly (Nov. 26, 1997).



**Nagano Olympic Winter  
Games' commemorative  
coins**

• **Sharing the Olympic Spirit**

In an appeal to solicit support from the general public and to promote the ideals of the Olympic Movement, the Ministry of Education produced a series of readers about the Olympic Winter Games. In 1993, a reader was distributed to all elementary and junior high schools, and in 1994, a “Winter Olympic Reader” aimed at high school students and adults was distributed to all high schools, universities, and libraries around the country. Between fiscal 1995 and 1997, the ministry also produced and distributed to relevant organizations around Japan an information poster series called “Olympic News”, which explained the Nagano Games using photos.

• **Cultural Programme**

A total of 21 events were held at 13 national cultural facilities under the auspices of the Ministry of Education and the Cultural Affairs Agency as part of the Cultural Programme for the Games.



■ **Nagano Games Commemorative Coins**

Denomination	¥10,000	¥5,000	¥500
Metal	gold	silver/copper alloy	nickel / copper alloy
Diameter	26mm	30mm	26.5mm
Weight	15.6g	15g	7.2g
Design on obverse			
February 1997	ski jump	ice hockey	snowboard
August 1997	figure skating	biathlon	bobsleigh
February 1998	speed skating	Paralympic alpine skiing	freestyle skiing
Design on reverse			
All issues	gentian	Japanese serow (antelope)	ptarmigan
Total no. coins minted	165,000	15 million	60 million

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- **Assignment of Medical Staff**

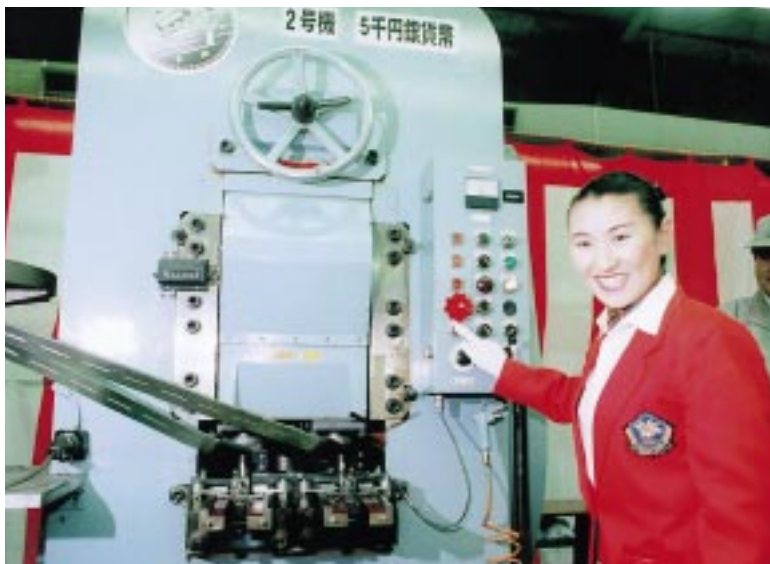
Doctors, nurses, pharmacists, physiotherapists, radiologists, and clinical technicians from the medical school at Shinshu University administered by the Ministry of Education formed the core of the medical staff that handled NAOC's medical services for the Games.

The polyclinic at the Olympic Village was staffed by doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, and clinical technicians from hospitals and clinics administered by the Ministry of Health & Welfare within Nagano Prefecture.

- **Increased Transportation Service**

The Ministry of Transport made arrangements to augment transportation services for Games personnel and spectators. Flights between Kansai International Airport and Matsumoto Airport were increased, as were shuttle bus services, the number of long-distance buses linking Nagano with other transportation hubs, and taxi services.

Midori Ito pushes the switch to begin the minting of commemorative coins.



- **Voluntary Restrictions for Small Aircraft**

To allow for the smooth staging of competitions and ceremonies and to reduce the hazard for aircraft involved in Games operations, the Ministry of Transport conducted an active campaign distributing information at airports requesting pilots of small aircraft to refrain from flying over competition and related venues during the Games.

Special permission was also received from the ministry to transport the Olympic flame on a commercial flight.

- **Exemption from Road Tolls for Games Personnel**

Between January 24 and February 25, 1998, the Japan Highway public Corporation and the Nagano Prefectural Roads Corporation exempted 31,828 Games-related vehicles from expressway and road tolls.

- **Commemorative Stamps, Postal Service, and Other Assistance**

The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications (MOPT) lent its support and cooperation to the Games effort in a wide variety of ways.

(1) On February 7, 1997, a total of 40 million commemorative stamps were produced in two sets of designs. One set featured the official Nagano Games emblem with silhouette images of four different sports – figure skating, alpine skiing, short track speed skating, and ski jumping. The other set portrayed the Snowlets mascots. Both designs were premium stamps, with the difference between the ¥80 postal value and the ¥90 price paid contributed to the Games effort.

To commemorate the staging of the Games, a series of 53.5 million stamps was released for sale on February 5, 1998. The publicity effort was also enhanced with the installation of a number of commemorative postboxes.



#### ¥80 Commemorative Stamp Designs

Snowboard  
Curling  
Speed skating  
Cross-country skiing  
Alpine skiing

#### ¥50 Commemorative Stamp Designs

Miyama gentian  
Cowslip  
Black lily  
Japanese peony  
Dogtooth lily

(2) MOPT made great efforts to provide a convenient postal service for Games personnel and spectators alike. Postal service employees were dispatched to temporary counters at 19 Games facilities, including the Olympic Village, IBC, MPC, both Media Villages, and the IOC hotel. Hours at major post offices providing currency exchange services were extended, and a Nagano Games Stamp Service Centre was opened in Nagano City. Leaflets explaining postal services in English were widely distributed.

(3) The possibility of explosive devices concealed in packages was taken very seriously. The police and other experts were called upon to carry out strict inspections of all items and ensure safety for all persons.

(4) The Shin'etsu Regional Postal Training Institute dormitory, the Institute's temporary headquarters, and the former Nagano Postal Savings Bureau Building were all lent for use as lodging by Games personnel.

(5) The postal service created a "Hello Bear" campaign to encourage students at schools involved in the "One School, One Country" programme to correspond with children in other countries and expand their international horizons. Gifts of Hello Bear teddy bears



were presented to schools, and Hello Bear would be sent to visit elementary and junior high schools in the partner country with a message from the schoolchildren in Japan. Hello Bear would then urge the children abroad to send letters back to the Japanese children, sparking international friendships that will hopefully continue in the future.

(6) MOPT was also involved in the Nagano Games Cultural Programme, with its "Stamps from Around the World" exhibition, "Dream Postcards" competition, and "International Pressed Flower Design" exhibition.

**A part of proceeds from commemorative stamps went to funding the Games.**

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### • Telecommunications

The Ministry of Posts & Telecommunications contributed greatly to the development and application of the telecommunications network for the Olympic Games.

(1) MOPT handled allocation and authorization of radio frequencies for all Games participants. In particular, the ministry was heavily involved in the set-up of the trunked radio network and lent some 2,500 terminals free of charge. In addition, radio inspection stations were set up at the Olympic Village, the IBC, and the main competition venues to enable speedy inspection and authorization of radios brought to the Games by overseas participants.

(2) MOPT carried out strict frequency controls on radio use at each competition venue, and was able to prevent any occurrence of radio interference.

(3) MOPT authorized the Olympic Radio Station, which provided information to the competition venues and throughout the Olympic area.

(4) Effective use of the Vehicular Information

Communication System (VICS) was facilitated by MOPT authorization of radio beacons for use by the Ministry of Construction and similar licensure for use of multichannel FM / text broadcasting by the VICS Centre.

(5) From fiscal 1995 through fiscal 1997, MOPT provided subsidies for constructing and equipping the Nagano City Fullnet Centre, where video footage was stored and made available through Video on Demand (VOD) technology.

(6) During the Games, MOPT worked in cooperation with NAOC to provide 3-D High Vision television service, including experimental transmission to Tokyo of 3-D High Vision images of Olympic competition.

(7) Technical support was also provided as part of ongoing telecommunications and broadcasting research at the alpine skiing downhill venue at Happo'one in Hakuba. A mobile medical van equipped with a medical support communications system was dispatched to the venue, from where CT images of injuries could be transmitted to hospitals for analysis by specialists.

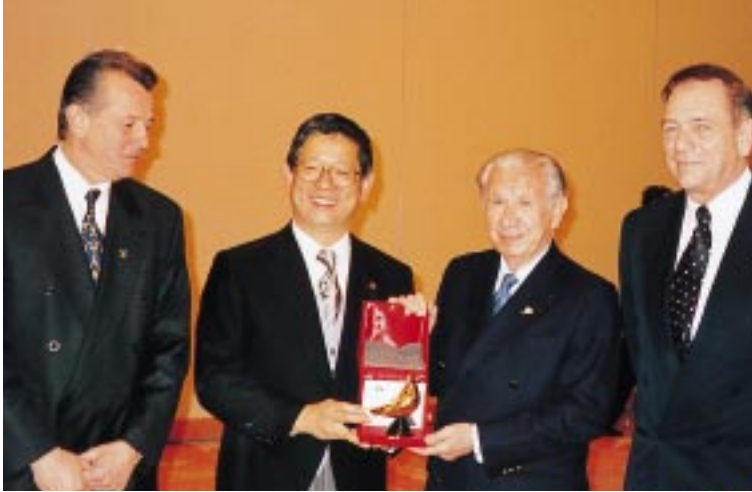
The latest information systems are on display at Nagano City's Fullnet Centre.



### Awards

On February 22, 1998, a number of special awards were announced. IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch was conferred with the prestigious Emperor's Trophy for his efforts in promoting sports around the world and in Japan, as well as marking his contribution to the success of the Nagano Games. By order of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, the Order of the Sacred Treasure (2<sup>nd</sup> Class) was conferred on former IOC Vice President Prince Alexandre de Merode of Belgium, and current IOC Vice Presidents Pal Schmitt of Hungary, Richard W. Pound of Canada, and Anita L. DeFrantz of the United States for their contributions to the

**Minister of Education  
Nobutaka Machimura  
presents IOC President  
Samaranch with the  
Emperor's Trophy. Looking  
on are IOC Vice President  
Pal Schmitt (left) and former  
IOC Vice President Prince  
Alexandre de Merode  
(right).**



preparations and management of the Nagano Games.

On the following day, for their contributions to Japanese sport, by order of His Majesty the Emperor the Japanese gold medallists at the Nagano Games were presented with the Emperor's Trophy. Awarded were Masahiko Harada (ski jump: team event), Kazuyoshi Funaki (ski jump: large hill, and team event), Hiroya Saito (ski jump: team event), Takanobu Okabe (ski jump: team event), Tae Satoya (freestyle skiing: ladies' moguls), Hiroyasu Shimizu (speed skating: men's 500m), and Takafumi Nishitani (short track speed skating: men's 500m). As well, the Minister of Education, Science, Sport & Culture, presented 22 special awards to the Japanese athletes who placed in the top three in their event at the Games and to their trainers.

**Prime Minister Ryutaro  
Hashimoto greets the  
medallists from the  
Japanese team at his  
official residence.**

# Transportation Network

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Affectionately known by its ancient name of Shinshu, Nagano has long been a favourite destination for tourists, who flock to the prefecture to enjoy the magnificent scenery and the beautiful natural environment. Despite this popularity however, Nagano has never been easily accessible from the rest of Japan.

As host city of the XVIII Olympic Winter Games, the city of Nagano was to be the centre of activity with many competition venues located within the city itself. An effective transportation network to prevent congestion in the city and guarantee easy access to competition venues in Nagano and elsewhere was undoubtedly crucial to the success of the Games.

The spectacular Shinkoji loop bridge facilitated access to Iizuna Kogen.



The Games provided an opportunity for the rapid expansion of the infrastructure serving the people of Nagano Prefecture, and particular attention was paid to establishing an effective transportation network, including extension of the Shinkansen bullet train line, expressways, and roads.


As well as creating suitable access routes for the Olympic Winter Games, the improved transportation network would also serve to connect Nagano to major metropolitan areas, eliminate rush hour congestion in Nagano City, and ease traffic problems associated with the ski and the summer tourist season.

With one of the main tenets of the Nagano Games being respect for the natural environment, the transportation network was constructed following a policy of “road building in harmony with nature”. The amount of soil displaced and the area affected by new roads was kept to a minimum. Wherever possible, stones uncovered in the area were re-used in road building in a bid not to disturb the local environment. Excess soil was not simply piled up in one place, but was divided into smaller amounts and dispersed in a proper manner. All these measures minimized changes to the natural landscape.

## Construction of the Shinkansen Bullet Train Line

The Japanese government had been planning to extend the Tokyo – Takasaki stretch of the bullet train line as far as Karuizawa. In August 1991, two months after Nagano was chosen as host city for the Games, it was decided to extend the line to Nagano, and work began in September of the same year. Construction took six and a half years, with the official opening on October 1, 1997.

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# 新幹線「あさま」出発式



Celebrations to mark the beginning of "Asama" Shinkansen train service, cutting journey time between Nagano and Tokyo to as little as 79 minutes (Oct. 1, 1997).

## Takasaki – Nagano Line

Total track length	125.7km
Takasaki – Karuizawa	42.1km
Karuizawa – Nagano	83.6km
Tunnels	63.4km
Stations	6 (Takasaki, Annakaharuna, Karuizawa, Sakudaira, Ueda, Nagano)
Planned max. speed	260km/h

The extension of the bullet train line reduced journey time between Nagano and Tokyo by half, to approximately one-and-a-half hours with the fastest trip taking only 79 minutes. From a financial perspective, the Nagano Economic Research Institute estimated that reduced journey time would be converted into an economic benefit of approximately ¥10.5 billion per year. This would increase Nagano Prefecture's overall gross product of approximately ¥7.7 trillion (1994 figure) by 0.14%.

During the Games, extra trains supplemented regular service. The "Asama" bullet train made as many as 49 return trips a day, carrying a total of approximately 655,000 passengers over the Games period. The line made an enormous contribution to spectator transportation and significantly reduced overcrowding on the roads.

A supplementary express train ran at night from Himeji in Hyogo Prefecture, bringing spectators from the Kansai area of western Japan. In addition, two extra trains a day with a capacity of 472 passengers were placed on standby on the Hakuba to Matsumoto line, and extra high-speed trains were provided according to the competition schedule. Some 137,000 passengers used this service, approximately 3.4 times more than the previous year.

The newly-built Imai Station next to the Olympic Village provided quick and convenient service for athletes and officials into and out of central Nagano City.

## Expressway Network

Data from the Japan Highway Public Corporation shows that when Nagano was chosen to host the Games in June 1991, only 43% of the high-quality trunk road network called for in long-term development plans for Nagano Prefecture had been completed. The Olympic Winter Games provided the catalyst for accelerating road construction. In May 1993, a 75.8km extension of the Nagano Expressway was completed, and in October 1997, 111.4km of the Joshin'etsu Expressway traversing Nagano Prefecture was officially opened. With this, 86% of the long-term transportation plan for Nagano Prefecture had been implemented.

In order to bring Nagano into the modern era of high-speed transportation, it was crucial to reduce travel time to and from major metropolitan areas. Effective transportation could be achieved not only by means of rail travel, but also by coach buses transporting passengers rapidly on high-quality roads. The reduction of congestion on Routes 18 and 19, the major trunk roads giving access to Tokyo and western Japan respectively, would significantly benefit the haulage business and long-distance coach service.

Over 40km of the Chubu-Jukan expressway which traverses the central mountains of Japan and connects the Kanto area of central Japan with the Hokuriku area, falls within Nagano Prefecture. The Abo tunnel, a major section of

this expressway, was officially opened in December 1997.

During the Games, the newly-constructed expressways were vital in improving access to the competition venues from the rest of Nagano Prefecture, and from Tokyo and western Japan.

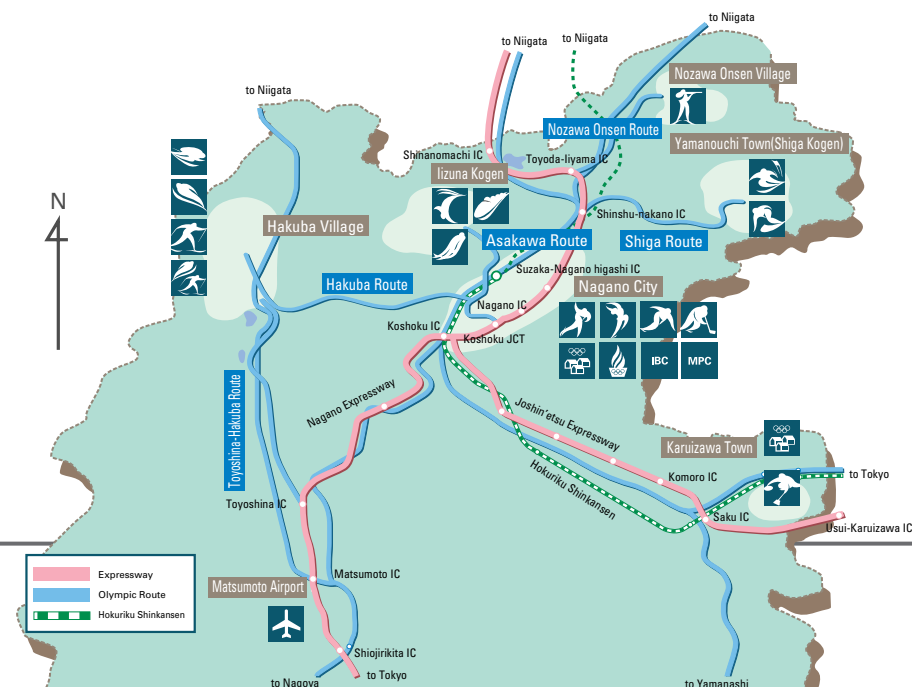
Expressways Opened in Nagano Prefecture  
*Nagano Expressway*

- Okaya Junction – Okaya Interchange (I.C.) (3.7km)  
March 25, 1986
- Okaya I.C. – Matsumoto I.C. (22.1km)  
March 5, 1988
- Matsumoto I.C. – Toyoshina I.C. (7.3km)  
August 3, 1988
- Toyoshina I.C. – Koshoku Junction (42.7km)  
March 25, 1993

*Joshin'etsu Expressway*

- Gunma Prefecture border – Saku I.C. (11.8km)  
March 27, 1993
- Saku I.C. – Komoro I.C. (10.8km)  
November 7, 1995
- Komoro I.C. – Koshoku Junction (36.8km)  
November 14, 1996
- Koshoku Jct. – Suzaka East Nagano I.C. (15.9km)  
March 25, 1993
- Suzaka East Nagano I.C. – Shinshu Nakano I.C. (11.5km)  
November 30, 1995
- Shinshu Nakano I.C. – Niigata Prefecture border (24.6km)  
October 16, 1997

■ Transportation Network Between Venues



## Local Road Network

An effective road network linking the Olympic venues in Nagano City and the Olympic area was vital for smooth operations. All construction was carried out in accordance with a policy of “harmony with nature”, minimizing the impact on flora and fauna and the natural landscape.

The road system within Nagano City underwent significant improvement and Olympic routes were created which included new or widened roads linking all the competition venues in the city. In addition, the Olympic road network substantially reduced the journey time to the host sites. A total of 114.9km of road was upgraded, 95.2km of which belonged to the national and prefectural governments, and 19.7km to the local governments.

### • Routes in Nagano City

The routes constructed within Nagano City covered approximately 19km on 11 prefectural roads, and 15km on 14 municipal roads. The ring road around the perimeter of the city included a toll bridge (Gorin Bridge), and the southern Nagano bypass on Route 19. Roads giving access to both regular public roads and major trunk roads were built or widened to improve access to all competition and non-competition venues in Nagano City.

Access roads linking key transportation hubs such as Nagano Station and expressway interchanges with Olympic facilities were created. These included a road connecting the east and west exits of Nagano Station, a four-lane road linking the east exit of Nagano Station with the Suzaka East Nagano I.C. of the Joshin’etsu Expressway, and a four-lane road in front of Ice Hockey Stadium ‘A’.

The Asakawa Line gave access from Nagano City to the Asakawa dam, as well as to the competition venues in Iizuna Kogen. To overcome the steep gradient there, a spectacular

loop bridge was constructed, and this has become a striking feature of the area.

### • Shiga Route

Several factors were taken into consideration in constructing the 25.2km Shiga Route, such as the necessity for anti-ice and anti-slip measures to combat freezing conditions, and the problems of steep gradients and tight curves. The road provided a direct connection to competition venues within the Joshin’etsu National Park, reducing travel time by car from the Nakano I.C. to the central area of the park by almost half to 40 minutes. The road leading from the Okushiga Kogen park line to Hoppo Onsen passed directly in front of the main entrance gate to the giant slalom venue at Mt. Higashidate, and served as the access road during the Games.

### • Hakuba Route

The 26.5km Hakuba Route linked the Olympic Village in Imai with the Happo’one area of Hakuba. After Nagano was selected as the Japanese candidate city for hosting the Games, work began on two sections of road linking Nagano to Hakuba. In addition, the Sasadaira tunnel was built on Route 19. The Hakuba Route made it possible to travel

Parade to celebrate the opening of the Shiga Route (Nakano City)





Bridges such as this eliminated the need for a succession of hairpin turns on the Shiga Route.

smoothly from Nagano to Hakuba, and was a significant improvement over the previous narrow mountain road.

- **Nozawa Onsen Route**

The Nozawa Onsen Route began at the Toyoda-Iiyama interchange of the Joshin'etsu Expressway, and continued to the village of Nozawa Onsen. Approximately 10.6km of this route was upgraded.

- **Karuizawa Route**

Some 2.9km of road leading from the Usui-Karuizawa interchange on the Joshin'etsu Expressway to Kazakoshi Park was upgraded, improving access for many spectators and Games personnel.

- **Road Building in Harmony with Nature**

As some of the roads constructed for the Nagano Games were in national parks, great attention was paid to preserving the natural environment. Top priorities included environmental impact studies, protection of flora and the habitat of wildlife, preservation of water purity and of the natural landscape.

To preserve the indigenous flora, soil was disturbed as little as possible. Where construction was unavoidable, topsoil was carefully stored and returned to its original location after work had been completed or was used in areas where plant life was replanted. Any remaining soil was divided up and dispersed or used in other areas. Trees unavoidably felled were recycled as construction material or charcoal.

To protect wildlife, special tunnels were built for use by animals. To minimize disturbance to wildlife, road lighting for night driving was only installed on roads where it was essential for safety.

To avoid spoiling the landscape in the countryside, care was taken in choosing the colour and finish of bridges.

## Airports

The prefecturally-run Matsumoto Airport opened in 1965. In July 1994, the airport was expanded to include a runway to handle small jet passenger planes, thus enabling the airport to accommodate domestic jets from international airports such as Kansai, Fukuoka, and Sapporo.

New Tokyo International Airport (Narita), Kansai International Airport, and Nagoya Airport welcomed the vast majority of overseas athletes, officials, and media personnel, while Matsumoto Airport received mainly domestic and some overseas visitors, particularly those on connecting flights from Kansai International. Daily flights between Kansai International and Matsumoto were increased as follows:

Period of operation:	Jan. 31 – Feb. 7 Feb. 22 – 24
Extra flights:	13 return flights (1 per day, 3 on Feb. 23)
Total no. of passengers:	1,410 (Jan. 24 – Feb. 25)



Flights linking Matsumoto Airport with Kansai International Airport were utilised extensively during the Games.

## Support from the Self-Defense Forces

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Rows of SDF personnel worked arm-in-arm with NAOC staff to prepare competition courses (alpine downhill venue, Hakuba).

### Ground Self-Defense Force (GSDF)

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NAOC first approached the Defense Agency with a formal request for assistance in December 1993. In May 1995, the Agency assigned the 12<sup>th</sup> Division of the Ground Self-Defense Force (GSDF) based in Gunma Prefecture to provide Games operations support. A formal cooperation agreement to provide 1,708 persons to support Games operations and ceremonies was signed by NAOC President Saito and the Director General of the Defense Agency on June 25, 1997. On Sept. 24, a detailed agreement was signed by NAOC Director General Kobayashi and the Commander of the 12<sup>th</sup> Division.

The 12<sup>th</sup> Division established its Nagano Olympic Games Cooperative Brigade Headquarters and dispatched a cumulative total of 4,937 personnel during the ICPGs held in February – March 1996, and a cumulative total of 16,270 personnel during the ICPGs in January – March 1997.

In consideration of extreme weather due to the effects of the *El Niño* weather phenomenon, provisions were made for as many as 1,000 extra personnel to transport snow and bolster Cooperative Brigade manpower.

For 37 days between January 19 and February 24, 1998, the Cooperative Brigade dispatched units to assist with operations at 44 events in four sports, as well as at the Opening and Closing Ceremonies. Extreme weather ranging from heavy snow and blizzards to warm temperatures and thunderstorms plagued the competition venues in Hakuba and Shiga Kogen from the day following the Opening Ceremony until February 18. It was thanks to the outstanding efforts of the SDF under these adverse conditions that it was possible to create optimum course conditions for the athletes.

Signing of the detailed cooperation agreement between NAOC and the GSDF.



#### • Alpine Downhill

An SDF unit of 960 personnel (including 420 supplemental members) was dispatched to the alpine skiing downhill venue. To prepare the men's downhill course (3,300m), the ladies' downhill course (2,700m), and a training course (1,500m), personnel transported extra snow, sprayed water to ice the courses, and marched in waves down the courses to tramp down and pack the snow. The SDF also set up safety nets to protect athletes and spectators.

Maintenance of the courses proved to be a tiring task, with numerous weather-induced schedule changes. The men's course had to be reconstructed on eight occasions, and the ladies' course five times. Safety nets and mats were dug out of the snow and reset a total of seven times on the men's course and four times on the ladies' course. Despite the extreme weather conditions however, top-notch course conditions were maintained thanks to the round-the-clock efforts of the SDF unit.

SDF personnel also assisted with maintaining the courses between each run, resetting gates knocked down by the racers, and

verifying correct passage through the gates. Other members made certain that safety nets and mats in the start and finish areas were properly set, while SDF medical officers were assigned to aid and transport injured persons.

#### • Cross-Country Skiing

On January 25, approximately 400 local residents and volunteers from Hakuba joined an SDF unit in dispersing additional snow along the cross-country course. The cooperative unit assisted by setting up safety netting along the competition and training courses, preparing the main arena, and helping with cable laying.

#### • Ski Jumping

Because of heavy snow, an SDF cooperative unit began assisting with work on the ski jumping hill on February 1, some five days ahead of schedule. Thanks to this cooperation, and additional reinforcement from the unit helping out at the cross-country venue, all ski jumping events were carried out according to the original Sports Programme schedule.



The GSDF Cooperative Brigade gathers at the stadium for Opening and Closing Ceremonies (Jan. 20).

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Rainfall on February 12 and 14 resulted in deteriorating snow quality on the approach section of the hill, and the unit worked to replenish approximately 140m<sup>3</sup> of snow with the assistance of 70 backup personnel. As well, safety fences and mats were set up in the braking zone to provide protection for spectators.

- **Alpine Skiing Giant Slalom**

Despite complications caused by extremely heavy snowfall, the unit completed preparations for the course in Shiga Kogen by the scheduled date. However, a heavy snow warning issued on February 17, the night prior to the scheduled running of the men's event, necessitated the mobilization of reinforcements from the 250-person Emergency Cooperation Unit that had just left Hakuba the previous day.

Between 60 – 100cm of snow fell overnight. The unit worked through the night to clear snow from the course and was joined by ECU personnel immediately upon their arrival at 1:30 a.m. on February 18. Despite their best efforts, less than one-third of the competition course had been cleared by morning.

Taking into consideration the competition schedule and the pace of progress, as well as the exhaustion level of personnel, an extra 200 SDF personnel were called in to help on February 18 and 19. With an all-out overnight

effort by the unit, which now numbered 590 personnel, the competition course was completed by 8:00 p.m. on February 18, allowing events to be held from the following day.

- **Freestyle Skiing**

The cooperative unit at the freestyle skiing venue built 10 jumps and 175 bumps inside the 250m x 18m mogol course. As there was insufficient snow on the course, the unit worked for eight days manually transporting snow from areas alongside the course. A snowcat was utilised to groom the basic mogol bumps, and the final shaping was done by hand to ensure uniformity of placement and size.

The landing area of the aerials course was prepared by adding snow and tramping it down. The kickers were formed by constructing wooden 1.5m-wide x 2.1 – 3.5m-high frames, then filling and covering these with snow using a snowblower. Cooperative unit personnel withstood the deluge of blowing snow to pack snow onto the kicker frames, and completed a total of seven kickers.

- **Bobsleigh and Luge**

Loose snow was removed from the track and a cover erected whenever necessary to shield the track from blowing snow and direct sunlight. Any snow falling during competition was removed quickly in the intervals between racers.

Course preparations continued through the night







- **Snowboard Giant Slalom / Alpine Slalom**

With the Mt. Yakebitai venue doing double-duty, preparations for the slalom course could not begin until the snowboard giant slalom competition had been completed. The men’s snowboard giant slalom was held on February 8 according to schedule. However, the weather began deteriorating that evening and though the SDF cooperative unit successfully cleared 30cm of fresh snow from the 1,000m-long course in time for the ladies’ snowboard giant slalom the following day, poor visibility forced postponement of the event. Another 30cm of snow fell during the night of February 9; the unit began clearing snow from the early morning hours of February 10 and the ladies’ giant slalom was successfully run later in the day.

Alpine slalom events were scheduled for February 19 and 21, however 60 – 100cm of snow fell on the 700m-long course on February 17 and 18. With the additional support of 70 more workers, the unit worked around-the-clock to prepare the course, enabling the events to be held as scheduled.

- **Biathlon**

The SDF cooperative unit assigned to the biathlon venue assisted with transporting snow to areas along the course. Unit personnel also assisted with setting up the shooting range and stadium, and installing safety nets, mats and communications lines.

- **Ceremonies**

Approximately 50 members of the GSDF Musical Cooperation Band performed the

“Winter Light Fanfare” at the Opening Ceremony. During the Closing Ceremony, they performed the fanfare again, as well as the Japanese, Greek, and American national anthems.

The GSDF Colour Guard was put in charge of raising the Olympic flag at the Opening Ceremony. At the Closing Ceremony, in addition to presenting the flags of Japan, Greece, and the United States, the Colour Guard lowered and solemnly escorted the Olympic flag in a procession around the stadium.

(Left) After lowering the Olympic flag during the Closing Ceremony, the GSDF Colour Guard escort it around the stadium.

(Right) The GSDF Musical Cooperation Band perform before the start of competition (alpine skiing venue, Hakuba).

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## Mobilization of the Emergency Cooperation Unit (ECU)

- **Downhill Venue**

Heavy snowfall on February 8 and 9 necessitated dispatch of the 250-member ECU to Hakuba. The period of their original assignment was extended twice because of continuing snowfall, and they remained in the area until February 16.

- **Giant Slalom Venue**

After leaving Hakuba on February 16, the ECU had to set off at 5:00 p.m. the following day, when their assistance was required in Shiga Kogen. The unit members had little time to rest, as they began work immediately upon arrival at 1:30 a.m. on February 18.

## Mobilization of the Emergency Snow Transportation Unit (ESTU)

Originally, the ESTU was assigned to transport supplemental snow to the cross-country venue, but due to changing weather conditions, they began working to remove snow at other venues instead.

- **Downhill**

In addition to the ECU personnel already assigned to the downhill venue to assist the downhill cooperative unit, another 70 persons were dispatched from February 9 – 11 due to continued bad weather.

- **Ski Jumping**

From February 14 – 17, some 70 persons were dispatched to assist the SDF cooperative unit with snow removal at the ski jumping stadium. Although the supplemental personnel were scheduled to return to their base on February 17, they were instead sent that evening to Shiga Kogen to help deal with predicted heavy snowfall that night.

At the biathlon venue, courses were meticulously checked.





Even the Snowlets were fixed up to look their best at Spiral.

- **Alpine Slalom**

ESTU personnel were dispatched to the slalom venue in Shiga Kogen in the evening of February 17. After working to remove snow from the competition course, they assisted with competition management on February 19.

### **Mobilization of Emergency Reinforcements**

Even the full support of the Cooperative Brigade was not enough to deal with the continuous heavy snowfall, and therefore NAOC requested additional GSDF assistance. Although not provided for in the agreement signed between the Defense Agency and NAOC, a further 100 persons were dispatched to the downhill venue in Hakuba on February 9 – 11, and 200 persons dispatched to the giant slalom venue in Shiga Kogen from February 18 – 19. It was thanks to this emergency assistance that all of the events in the Sports Programme were successfully completed before the scheduled end of the Games.

### **Air Self-Defense Force (ASDF)**

Upon NAOC's request, the Air Self-Defense Force agreed to provide a flying exhibition by the five-member "Blue Impulse" team at the Opening Ceremony. Well-known for its showy rendition of the five Olympic rings in coloured smoke at the opening ceremony of the 1964 Tokyo Games, the Blue Impulse team did not, however, perform at the Sapporo Games, and none of the current pilots had experience flying exhibition shows in the dead of winter. After careful consideration, it was decided that the team would perform a "level opener" manoeuvre.

### **A Rainbow of Smoke**

For their performance at the Opening Ceremony, the five Blue Impulse jets took off on time into a sky greyed by high clouds. The jets arrived at the specified waiting zone, scheduled to fly over the stadium 20 seconds after the conclusion of Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" conducted by Seiji Ozawa. Orders from the ground were relayed to the team leader, all the while confirming the progress of the musical performance. It was decided that the time of arrival at the stadium would be precisely at 1:03 p.m., to compensate for the two minute 40 second delay in the Opening Ceremony programme.



**“A blossom in the skies”. Much work was done behind the scenes to put on this winter aerial display.**

At the instant maestro Ozawa lowered his baton, the five jets entered their final flight path into the stadium airspace. Exactly on schedule, brightly-coloured smoke in the five Olympic colours was released from each plane, painting a rainbow that arced over the applauding Opening Ceremony audience.

### **Behind the Scenes Activity**

In order to provide the necessary communications support, an E-2C plane from the Warning Flight Unit circled nearby. The Air Control Headquarters and Misawa Air Control Unit set up a portable TACAN station at the Opening Ceremonies venue to ensure that, even with limited visibility, the jets could ascertain their bearings and distance to the stadium. It was thanks to this navigation equipment and quality meteorological information that the Blue Impulse team members were able to time their arrival to within a few seconds of perfection.

Black smoke, which had not been used since the performance in 1964, was successfully mixed from red, blue, and yellow elements after much trial and error and a number of practice flights, and provided a splendid display.

## Police Operations

The Olympic Games is the most widely scrutinized sports festival in the world. For these Games in Japan, with its reputation as one of the world's safest countries, one of the major concerns for organizers was that the Nagano Games pass without untoward incident. From the early stages of preparations, the National Police Agency, the Nagano Prefectural Police, and police departments countrywide coordinated efforts to introduce an effective, proactive security policy. Wide-ranging security measures were implemented to ensure the safety of all those gathered in Nagano, including members of royal families, heads of state, and other dignitaries from Japan and overseas. Efforts focused on countering all forms of terrorism, preventing accidents and criminal incidents, and guaranteeing smooth transportation for Games personnel and spectators.

### Organization

After Nagano was chosen in June 1988 to represent Japan in the bid for the Olympic Winter Games, a committee was created at the Nagano Prefectural Police headquarters. This was followed in April 1992 by the establishment of the Nagano Games preparations office to coordinate overall activities. In April 1994, the prefectural police expanded operations with the creation of a section responsible specifically for Olympic-related security. Overall coordination was consolidated two years later in April 1996 with the establishment of its Olympic Control Headquarters.

Regular meetings were held at police headquarters to discuss matters such as liaison with NAOC and other organizations within the Olympic area, measures for traffic control, the number of security personnel and escorts necessary for the Games, and the secondment of police officers from other prefectures. The Nagano Prefecture Communications

**Holding back the tide -  
making way for the  
medallists at Central  
Square.**





Simulation exercise at the stadium for Opening and Closing Ceremonies.

Department of the Kanto Area Police Bureau worked in close cooperation with the Nagano Prefectural Police to prepare an effective communications system and facilities for police operations at the Games.

In August 1996, Nagano Games preparations offices were set up within the National Police Agency and the Kanto Area Police Bureau to handle coordination within the 10 prefectures of the Kanto area. These and other related offices were responsible for liaising with NAOC and other groups to formulate security and traffic control plans for the Nagano Games, as well as for the ICPGs, which began in December 1996. The hands-on experience gained at the ICPGs enabled staff to analyse and improve the security plan for the Games.

Since it was crucial that NAOC and the police department work together on issues such as security, transportation, and traffic control, two officers from the Nagano Prefectural Police were dispatched to the NAOC Secretariat in April 1993, and 16 officers were stationed there by the time of the Games.

On August 7, 1997, a “Security Agreement for the Nagano Games” was signed between the Director General of NAOC and the Chief of the Nagano Prefectural Police, guaranteeing full cooperation and support from the police during the Games.

Specialist police squads from around Japan were dispatched to Nagano between January 23 and February 26 to bolster Games’ security. A maximum of 6,000 police officers were mobilized each day during this period for a cumulative total of approximately 110,000 shifts worked.



“Open for business” – the prefectural police set up its Olympic Control Headquarters in April 1996.

## Security for the Torch Relay

The torch relay for the Nagano Games visited every prefecture in Japan. In order to guarantee smooth operations and the safety of relay participants, the National Police Agency issued a set of memoranda to the police departments in each prefecture. These stipulated that the head of the traffic control section within the prefectural police force sit on the steering committee set up within each prefecture to organize the torch relay, and that effective advice be provided to organizers on advance public relations activities. Others referred to the allocation of police motorbike and patrol car escorts, management of traffic along the route, and the necessity to inform organizers of application procedures for vehicle access permits.

Each prefectural police force followed the National Police Agency memoranda in discussions with the torch relay steering committee to formulate a policy for police escorts, routes, and traffic control, thereby preventing delays or incidents during the event.

Police officers stationed in key areas directed spectators and assisted in crowd control to eliminate anticipated problems on major roads and at relay arrival / departure points. This effectively prevented any accidents due to overcrowding and minimized the disruption to traffic flow.

## Police Operations During the Games

The Nagano Prefectural Police drew up a comprehensive plan to deal with all manner of security-related matters. Although inclement weather led to several changes in competition scheduling, this and other potential problems were covered in detailed advance planning, and contingency measures were arranged in close liaison with NAOC and other organizations. The result was that the goal of hosting a safe and trouble-free Games was realized, with no major challenges to security.

A citizens' group called the "White Angels" contributed to security in each region of the prefecture, setting up patrols of their local areas to maintain a safe environment.



Thorough security checks were conducted at the venues.



Meetings of the Nagano Olympic and Paralympic Games Security Committee helped to set policy (June 1997).

#### • Guards and Escorts

Their Majesties, the Emperor and Empress of Japan made two trips to Nagano, for a total of seven days and five nights, to attend the Opening Ceremony, Closing Ceremony, and other events. Their Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince and Princess also visited Nagano over four days and two nights, and 10 other members of the Imperial Family visited over a cumulative total of 27 days. Security was meticulously planned and protection personnel assigned. The security staff helped maintain a respectful distance between the general public and the Imperial Family while preserving a friendly atmosphere, prevented accidents when crowds turned out to greet them, and minimized the inconvenience caused to other road users by effectively policing routes and accommodation facilities used by the Imperial Family.

A total of 47 security guards were assigned to 21 foreign dignitaries from 16 countries and one worldwide organization, and 26 Japanese VIPs. The presence of security guards enabled guests to keep to their schedules and go about their business in safety.

#### • Security at Competition and Non-competition Venues

At competition venues, potential confusion was avoided by separating access routes used by guests, athletes, and spectators, and security staff were on hand to guide people. A security team was stationed at the Olympic Village from January 23 to provide tight security for athletes and officials.

The police worked in very close cooperation with NAOC to counter potential terrorist activities and bomb threats.

#### • Firearms and Ammunition

Prior to the Games, NAOC sent details of Japanese firearms regulations, application procedures for firearms permits, and customs clearance procedures to all NOCs with participants in the biathlon competition. Meticulous coordination with regard to the handling of guns and ammunition was also carried out.

A total of 211 athletes from 32 NOCs entered in the biathlon competition came to Japan with 242 guns and approximately 230,000 rounds of ammunition. Each athlete had to personally collect his or her gun at customs control, where the manufacturer's serial number and gun type were checked. Upon

Assistance was received from a cumulative total of some 110,000 police officers from all over the country.





confirmation of ownership, a firearms permit was issued.

After transportation to Nagano, weapons and ammunition were taken to storage facilities at the Olympic Village or the competition venue in Nozawa Onsen, where they were heavily guarded. Guards were present when weapons and ammunition were taken in and out of storage by volunteers from the Japan Rifle Association.

In order to prevent the theft, loss, or illicit use of firearms and ammunition, and dangerous poisons or drugs, people handling such items were given detailed and precise guidance on how to manage them. The prefectural authorities provided strict guidelines on the carrying and transportation of guns and ammunition. During the Games, some of the biathlon events overlapped with the shooting season, and a special ban was placed on hunting in the vicinity of the venue.

#### • Traffic Control

Strict traffic control measures were introduced to eliminate traffic congestion in Nagano City and reduce the number of vehicles driven by skiers and spectators. The police set a goal of reducing overall traffic volume by 30% during the Games to eliminate congestion and ensure smooth traffic flow, and the achievement of this goal contributed immensely to the success of Games operations. A traffic control guide printed in Japanese, English, and French containing relevant information on traffic restrictions was released to the general public one year before the Games. A cumulative total of 18,960 police officers and 6,235 volunteers worked in traffic control.

During the Games, 74km of road was designated off-limits to those without permits, and another 137km was designated temporarily off-limits as necessary to ease the flow of



The Communications Command Centre was a vital link for police activities.

Olympic traffic. In addition, Olympic lanes were established along 13km of road to guarantee safety and smooth transportation for Games personnel. In restricted areas where there were no alternative routes for local residents, special permits were issued to predetermined vehicles, allowing access only when absolutely necessary. In all, 24,000 of these passes were issued.

Representatives from 65 groups, including officials from the city of Nagano, nearby towns and villages, and local organizations and businesses formed a committee to

establish ways of controlling traffic volume in Nagano during the Games. Measures included reducing the number of work vehicles, staggering working hours, increasing bus service and promoting the use of public transportation, and conducting a proactive campaign to encourage people not to use their own vehicles and make alternative arrangements for commuting to work. The committee also looked into plans for road construction, implemented traffic reduction trials, and launched a traffic reduction campaign. Representatives of the committee visited companies and businesses to obtain their cooperation in reducing congestion during the Games.

Seventy-five large banners, 28 banners on poles for use at expressway interchanges, as well as 2,177 free-standing signboards, were erected to inform the public of traffic flow and restrictions, and to give information on alternative routes. Additional guidance was

provided by means of 107 assorted road information boards, and three electronic boards for expressway information.

The Traffic Management Centre for Nagano Prefecture dealt with such issues as expanding the area covered by traffic control, installing additional traffic signals, and setting the most suitable timing for traffic signals. The centre also assigned priority to Olympic vehicles, managed traffic flow, and directed vehicles to alternate routes using light beacons as part of the newly-developed nationwide UTMS traffic management system. The centre was also responsible for overseeing high-tech traffic management systems, such as the AMIS system providing route information, the DRGS system for traffic guidance, the PTPS system giving priority to public transport vehicles, and the MOCS traffic management system.

During the Games, traffic information was collated using surveillance cameras, infrared beacons, reports from police officers, patrol cars, helicopters, and control monitors. This information was channelled to the Traffic Management Centre, where it was relayed in real time via the UTMS, the fax network, or the Internet to the public.

Some 3,860,000 information brochures and government pamphlets on traffic control, traffic reduction, and the elimination of congestion were printed and distributed to the general public. The same information appeared in newspapers eight times, and on TV and radio 23 times.

The active promotion of the traffic control plan resulted in the enthusiastic cooperation of the people of Nagano. Traffic volume was reduced by 7% overall for each day during the Games, and by 20% during peak hours between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. The policy proved so effective that it was necessary to temporarily declare roads off-limits a total of only 11

Implementation of comprehensive traffic regulations helped to smooth transportation for the Games.





Police helicopters were used to patrol the skies above Nagano.

times. In some cases, the duration of traffic restrictions was even reduced. Happily, there were no major accidents during the Games.

- **Telecommunications**

Since some of the events at the Nagano Games were held in mountainous areas over 2,000m above sea level, supplementary wireless communications equipment was needed by the police. Temporary wireless radio centres were set up for communication over a wider area, the number of lines and channels for wire and wireless communications was increased, satellite systems and picture-relay devices were introduced, and equipment for use in low temperatures was utilised. During the Games, the National Police Agency, the Nagano Prefectural Police, venue security staff and security divisions were able to maintain effective contact as a result of this communications system.

- **Public Cooperation**

One of the main goals for the Nagano Games was to stage a festival of peace and friendship, and to offer a warm welcome to visitors from around the world. In a public-spirited attempt to keep the peace and guarantee safety, a “White Snow” plan was formed involving citizens working together with local authorities, town assembly members and crime prevention advisors. Local residents carrying out patrols in various regions of Nagano Prefecture went by the name of the “White Angels”, and were easily distinguishable by specially-designed windbreakers. Members were assigned to police boxes, from where they went out on patrol, collected trash, and checked for any untoward incidents in their area.



LES XVIII<sup>es</sup> JEUX OLYMPIQUES D'HIVER  
THE XVIII OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES



10

Wholehearted Support  
from the Local  
Community

NAGANO  
1998

## Wholehearted Support from the Local Community

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An overwhelming number of visitors from all over Japan and around the world came to Nagano for the Games. The 4,638 athletes and team officials and 8,329 representatives of the media – the most ever at the Olympic Winter Games – and some 1,440,000 spectators transformed the city into a festival of international exchange and friendship.

Visitors to Nagano were greeted warmly by local citizens, who supported Games operations in myriad ways as volunteers, and by offering a helping hand and a friendly smile. Children taking part in the “One School, One Country” programme charmed overseas guests and heightened the atmosphere at the venues with their eager and infectious enthusiasm. The participation of such a large number of people in a wide variety of tasks made it possible to host a “Games from the Heart”, promoting love and participation among peoples of the world.

### Team '98

Recruitment of volunteers began in the early stages of Games preparations, and the recruitment activities of the host sites were consolidated under the direction of NAOC in May 1994. In July of that year, Team '98 was formed to oversee all aspects of the volunteer programme, including training and publication of a newsletter. Over the years, volunteers participated in public relations events and the hosting of international sports competitions, helping to promote the Games while gaining valuable experience in operations.

Initially it was estimated that 10,000 people would sign up as volunteers, however the overwhelmingly enthusiastic response resulted in 32,579 volunteers participating in the Games.

**HAKUBA - At the “1,000 Days to Go” event at the ski jumping stadium, villagers and children form the Olympic rings.**





During the Games, the citizens of Nagano City gave their steadfast support in keeping roads clear for Olympic traffic.

## 10. Wholehearted Support from the Local Community

### Promotional Activities

After Nagano was awarded the Games, groups such as the “Nagano Olympic WAVE” and the “Support Association for the Nagano Olympic Winter Games”, which had offered a broad range of support for the bid, were joined by 10 promotional councils set up around Nagano Prefecture. The groups expanded their activities to include projects and promotional activities, and worked to reinforce the partnership between citizens’ groups and NAOC; many countdown events, for example, were organized jointly by NAOC and citizens’ groups.

### Accommodations and Transportation

Providing adequate accommodation for the Olympic Family and Games personnel was a major challenge from the very beginning. NAOC worked with hotel industry associations to secure rooms in the competition areas, and hotels and inns responded by putting the success of the Games before business interests. Hotel staff also participated enthusiastically in training sessions sponsored by NAOC.

Traffic congestion within Nagano City during the daily commuter rush was another source of concern. The Nagano Prefectural Government and other local authorities implemented major road improvements, but overall plans hinged on the cooperation of the local populace. A goal of reducing overall traffic volume in the city by 30% during the Games was set. To achieve this, representatives from business associations and labour organizations visited local companies and businesses to encourage them to set a staggered work schedule, provide shuttle buses for employees, or allow vacation time. Along with this cooperation from the local business community, local residents also refrained from using vehicles, and traffic reduction targets were successfully met.

Children enthusiastically participated in many promotional events, including here at the “1,000 Days to Go” event in Nagano City.





The smiling faces of people from around the world were a common sight in Nagano.

## Volunteers

Volunteers made an invaluable contribution by supporting the Games in countless ways, from performing repetitive yet crucial tasks, to fulfilling the need for more expert skills.

Local Shinshu University allowed students who volunteered to count their activities towards their degree, and as a result, many students with specialized knowledge in areas such as information systems helped out with Games operations. As overcoming language barriers was a particular challenge for these Games, numerous language students taking courses set up by the Association of Nagano Prefecture for International Exchange (ANPIE) were recruited as volunteers. ANPIE also arranged homestays for the families of overseas athletes and other participants, with valuable support from the Nagano International Friendship Club.

An initial shortage of volunteer drivers was successfully resolved with cooperation from volunteers from local business and labour groups. Members of the “Nagano Olympic Friends Club”, active since the bid stage, extended hospitality to IOC members. Local road safety associations enforced traffic

measures around venues in cooperation with the police. These types of volunteer activities contributed greatly to the success of Games logistics.

## Snow Removal and Cleaning

The task of keeping roads and venues clear of snow demanded great physical effort and irregular hours. The Nagano Prefectural Construction Association and many other groups coordinated activities with the local authorities to guarantee trouble-free transportation for the Games. Local residents, from the young to the old, also contributed by picking up trash and keeping things clean.

## The City Celebrates

With people gathered from around the world, the city of Nagano erupted into a huge celebration. At venues, hotels, restaurants, and in the streets, overseas visitors and local residents joined in the festivities together.

Volunteers gave daily musical performances at Nagano Station, while shows and events were staged at the venues and around town to add a splash of local colour to the festival of sport. Olympic Plaza, on the eastside of Nagano Station, became a fairground with its sponsor tents and food stalls, and enormous crowds flocked there every day to sample its attractions.

Central Square was another magnet attracting huge crowds. At the Victory Ceremonies held there, those who had been unable to attend the sports events had the opportunity to join in the celebration with the medallists. The success of the Japanese athletes contributed immensely to the daily throng at the square, and large queues formed up to three hours before the venue opened, with joyous crowds spilling over onto the streets of central Nagano. Some 20,000 Games supporters had their names inscribed on commemorative tiles for a Nagano Olympic Winter Games wall monument.

## Games from the Heart

Local groups did much to offer a warm reception to visitors from around the world and to impart to their guests some of the traditions of the host country. Activities included the city-wide “Hearty Nagano” programme, with projects aimed at making overseas visitors feel at home in their community. Demonstrations of Japanese culture were staged by tea ceremony, flower arranging, and kimono associations, and the “One Store, One Country” programme offered a way for local shops to promote a particular country. Each district in Nozawa Onsen prepared a local product with which to welcome visitors. As well, food and tourist industry groups sponsored a cooking contest using local ingredients to introduce the food culture of Nagano. The Nagano Restaurant and Bar Association held workshops on how to welcome overseas visitors, helped restaurants with translating menus, and published a guide in English

on Nagano City restaurants for distribution to Games participants.

The “One School, One Country” programme offered students at all elementary, junior high, and special schools in Nagano City the chance to learn about a partner country, and broaden their outlook on the world. Schools were visited by embassy officials, athletes, presidents, and members of royal families. The school partnered with Slovakia was honoured with a presidential visit, while HRH Willem-Alexander, Crown Prince of the Netherlands, called on the school supporting his country. The children responded by offering homestays to pupils from their partner schools, and by learning the songs and language of their partner country, which touched the hearts of the visitors far from home.



Large crowds packed Central Square every night, whatever the weather.



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Children learned lessons of peace as well: pupils at Sanbonyanagi Elementary School, paired with Bosnia and Herzegovina, discovered that children of their own age had lost legs or suffered other horrific injuries after stepping on landmines. Discussions focused on the landmine issue, and the children joined in the fight to eradicate landmines from the world. With lessons such as these, there is bright hope for the new century.

### **The Games Legacy**

Without a doubt, the enthusiastic participation of volunteers, local residents, and citizens' groups contributed greatly to making the Nagano Olympic Winter Games a success. The outstanding hospitality offered to visitors was highlighted every day in reports by the world media. The words of thanks offered by IOC President Samaranch at the Closing Ceremony meant a great deal to the thousands who contributed to the Games, and will remain forever engraved in their hearts.

With the Games now over, Nagano has, on the surface, regained its quiet serenity. However, there has been an awakening in the city, and its people are eagerly awaiting another opportunity to use their volunteer experience. The "One School, One Country" programme won international acclaim and admiration. Its effects are even now being felt as schools continue to include the study of the world's countries in their curriculum. A sense of pride has led to a movement towards the regeneration of local areas throughout Nagano. The commitment of the people of Nagano and their enthusiastic determination to make the Nagano Games a success has been rewarded by the valuable and multi-faceted legacy of the Games.

**Making bamboo decorations along Chuo Dori St.**





Pin collectors from around the world joined in the fun.



At the bobsleigh 1997 FIBT World Cup, area residents threw a farewell party for the athletes at a local elementary school, which included traditional activities such as pounding rice for rice cakes.

Flags decorate the storefronts of shops participating in the "One Store, One Country" programme in central Nagano.

Local residents offered hot homemade soup to warm up visitors.





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## Games from the Heart

Makoto Kobayashi  
Director General of NAOC

For more than half a century, it was the dream of the people of Nagano to host the Olympic Games. This dream, to welcome people from all over the world to a glorious celebration of sport, culture, and peace, has been realized.

“Citius, altius, fortius”. The Olympic motto epitomizes the coming together of the world’s top athletes at the world’s premier sporting festival. The Organizing Committee set out with a mission to create an environment and conditions favourable for the athletes to achieve their quest of soaring ever “faster, higher, stronger”. To fulfill this great task, our plans for staging the Games revolved around these three pillars:

1. Enabling athletes from around the world to enter competition in top condition, with sports facilities of the highest standard and an Olympic Village offering a safe and relaxing living environment.
2. For the thousands of spectators in Nagano and millions more watching on television around the world, creating an atmosphere in which the Games can be truly enjoyed, with the fastest and most reliable information and broadcast technologies conveying the thrill and spirit of the Games.
3. Games that are run smoothly and efficiently, with security and peace of mind for all participants, including safeguards against terrorism and crime, and protection against accidents at venues and on winter roads.

Through the dedicated efforts of thousands of Games staff, volunteers, and supporters the high expectations we set for ourselves were successfully achieved.

Director General  
Makoto Kobayashi  
accompanying IOC  
President HE Juan  
Antonio, Mrs.  
Samaranch and Nobel  
laureate Ms. Jody  
Williams on the Peace  
Appeal Walk.





The soft glow of paper lanterns and the sweet melody of the song *Furusato* signals that the Nagano Games are drawing to a close.

Each of the ski courses at the Nagano Games offered up a myriad of challenges to the athletes that made for thrilling and exciting competition. The gorgeous skating venues, perhaps best represented by the stunning M-Wave arena, witnessed the birth of several new world and Olympic records, thanks in part to innovations such as “slap” skates. The tremendous success of Japanese athletes helped to draw huge crowds the likes of which had never before been seen in Nagano, and the whole country celebrated as one. For the approximately 10.7 billion people who tuned in during the sixteen days of the Games, new technology helped bring them closer to the action than ever before. Overcoming poor weather that caused several changes in scheduling, all events and ceremonies were successfully completed, and no accidents marred the celebrations.

The dynamic new events of men’s and women’s curling, women’s ice hockey, and men’s and women’s snowboard were added to the Olympic sports programme to make a total of sixty-eight events in seven sports, the most in Olympic Winter Games history. The first-time participation of the National Hockey League allowed all the best hockey players in the world to represent their homelands in one of the most exciting tournaments ever.

Nagano welcomed delegations from five National Olympic Committees – Azerbaijan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia,

Kenya, Uruguay, and Venezuela – as first-time participants in the Olympic Winter Games. The total of 2,305 athletes and 2,333 officials from 72 NOCs was another record high for the Winter Games. For sixteen days the athletes demonstrated their speed and skill in testing their physical limits, and thereby captured the hearts and imaginations of the world.

As the last Olympic Winter Games of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Nagano Games served as a bridge to the new era. For this, we set our sights on hosting a “Games from the Heart – Together with Love”, and to support this fundamental concept, established three goals: encouraging the participation of children, who will be the leaders of the new era; harmony with nature, perhaps the greatest challenge facing mankind in the 21<sup>st</sup> century; and hosting a festival of peace and friendship to lead us to a new century without war or armed conflict. In striving to achieve these goals, our hope was to light a path of peace and goodwill.

Of particular note was the “One School, One Country” programme, which gave thousands of schoolchildren throughout Nagano the opportunity to participate in the Games and encouraged them to dream. The successful and amicable resolution of relocating the biathlon venue and moving the start point for the men’s alpine downhill exemplifies the priority given to preserving the natural environment. The last-minute



(Left) Director General Kobayashi providing commentary to Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress at the Opening Ceremony

(Right) Accompanying the FIS course designer on a final inspection of the downhill site (Nov. 1997)

diplomatic defusing of tensions between Iraq and the United States over weapons inspections helped preserve the Olympic Truce, and the introduction of the “Peace Appeal” to call attention to the scourge of anti-personnel landmines contributed significantly to the promotion of peace worldwide.

In Games operations and logistics we gave special attention to hosting a simple and efficient Olympic Games, welcoming visitors from around the world with traditional Nagano hospitality, and offering a showcase for state-of-the-art technology. By avoiding excessive commercialization and making the most effective use of capital and staff, we produced a reliable and smoothly-run Games as a model for the future. Our desire to simplify operations is perhaps best illustrated by the “Combined Card” introduced at these Games, which greatly reduced the complexity and time required for processing separate Olympic identity and accreditation cards.

In Games preparations and management, some of the most talented and capable people from Nagano and around the country were employed to ensure that operations ran efficiently. Including the invaluable support and assistance of volunteers, competition officials, Self-Defense Forces, and police, some 50,000 people worked diligently in every facet of Games operations, never forgetting to smile despite a minimum of sleep and rest. Enough cannot be said of the people of Nagano, who embraced the Games in every way imaginable, and opened their hearts to athletes and visitors with inimitable hospitality and warmth.

Even within a country as advanced as Japan, Nagano stands on the cutting edge of new technologies. Some of the featured technologies at the Nagano Games included full digital images, 3-D High Vision, and giant video screens at every venue. A newly-developed Info’98 system set the standard for quick and reliable delivery of information and results. A special time lag adjuster coordinated choirs spread out on the five continents of the world in the spectacular “Ode to Joy” finale of the Opening Ceremony. The most advanced weather forecasting equipment was utilised for critical decisions for event scheduling.

The Nagano Games are now a chapter in the history of the Olympic Games. When future generations look back on these Games they will, I think, see a Games that sparkled with the traditions of Japan and Nagano, a Games that exemplified the thrill and excitement of sports competition, a Games that appealed for world peace.

President Samaranch praised the people of Nagano for presenting “the best organization in the history of the Olympic Winter Games”. These kind words have been echoed by many others – Olympic Family members and members of the media worldwide. For us as hosts, these are, indeed, words to be treasured.

Finally, I would like to offer our deep thanks and gratitude for the tremendous support and cooperation that we have received from the IOC, the NOCs, the IFs, the Sponsors, and countless others who extended us encouragement over the years, and to offer our best wishes for the continued development of the Olympic Movement in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

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## The Olympic Cup

In 1906, Baron de Coubertin created the Olympic Cup for presentation to groups or organizations making great contributions to amateur sport and the Olympic Movement. Among the many awards presented by the IOC, it is the highest honour that the IOC can bestow.

In February 1999 on the anniversary of the Games, the Olympic Cup was presented to the people of Nagano on a specially declared “Nagano Games Commemorative Peace Day”. The presentation of the Olympic Cup in eternal thanks to the people of Nagano reflects the high reputation earned by the Nagano Games, the excellence of facilities and operations, but most of all the dedicated efforts of more than 32,000 volunteers and thousands of other Games supporters.



## Present from the Olympic Museum

A sculpture from the IOC Olympic Museum in Lausanne was presented to the City of Nagano as a token of appreciation. Entitled “L’élan”, the 190cm x 143cm x 59cm bronze sculpture created by Swiss artist Nag Arnoldi depicts the Olympic flag carried aloft by five stylized athletes, and will be placed on permanent display outside the M-Wave arena.

## ■ Appendix

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■ Chronology 344





## Chronology

### 1985

March 25 The Nagano Prefectural Assembly approves a proposal to bid for the XVIII Olympic Winter Games

### 1986

June 10 The local assemblies of the city of Nagano, the town of Yamanouchi, and the village of Hakuba approve proposals to bid for the XVIII Olympic Winter Games

July 4 Initial meeting held on forming a bid committee

24 Nagano Bid Committee for the XVIII Olympic Winter Games established, with offices inside Nagano City Hall

Nov. 26 A bid emblem and slogan are chosen from suggestions submitted by the general public

28 Official bid proposal is submitted to the Japanese Olympic Committee (JOC)

### 1987

Jan. 14 Nagano Prefecture Bobsleigh / Luge Association established

Feb. 27 Junior Chamber of Commerce liaison committee for the Nagano Olympic Winter Games Bid established

March 27 Support committee of local volunteers for the Nagano Olympic Winter Games Bid formed

June 8 Nagano Olympic Winter Games Bid Yamanouchi Committee set up

August 8 Former athletes form a committee to support the Games bid

Dec. 2 "Let's Bring the Games to Nagano" steering committee formed by local businesses to organize support events for the bid

23 Draft of plans for staging the 1998 Olympic Winter Games submitted to the JOC

### 1988

March 25-28 Ski Association of Japan (SAJ) conducts on-site inspection

April 16-17 JOC Evaluation Committee conducts on-site inspection

26 JOC receives recommendations from sports groups and petitions signed by 2,411,868 people in support of Nagano's bid

May 17 Bid Committee sets up its nature conservation advisory commission

June 1 Nagano is selected by JOC members as the Japanese candidate city for the 1998 Olympic Winter Games

July 11 Bid Committee expands

13 Outline of Nagano Games bid submitted to Ministry of Education, Science, Sports and Culture

JOC submits request to the Minister of Education for formal guarantees from the government

### 1989

Jan. 6 Olympic Girls' and Boys' Club for children in the four candidate cities of Asahikawa, Morioka, Yamagata, and Nagano established

March 8-12 FIS World Cup held in Shiga Kogen

April 2-7 5th International Ski Instructors Association congress held in Shiga Kogen

June 1 Application to bid for the Games submitted to the Ministry of Education, Science, Sports, & Culture

6 Cabinet grants application to bid for the Games

August 1 Liaison office of the Bid Committee is set up in the Kishi Memorial Hall, Tokyo

7 JOC is established as a non-profit foundation, with Yoshiaki Tsutsumi as its founding president

Oct. 12 Bid Committee restructured

Dec. 9-10 ISU Speed Skating World Cup held in Karuizawa

### 1990

Feb. 12 Official bid documents submitted to the IOC

15-18 FIS Freestyle Skiing World Cup held in Izuna Kogen, Nagano City

March 6-14 Asian Winter Games held in Sapporo

April 5 JOC President Hironoshin Furuhashi and Bid Committee Chairman Goro Yoshimura hold press conferences to announce the cancellation of plans to build a new downhill course on Mt. Iwasuge in Shiga Kogen

## NAGANO 1998




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May	11	Japanese Ambassador to the United Nations Hideo Kagami is appointed by the cabinet as Special Ambassador at Large for the Bid
June	14	House of Representatives approves Nagano Games bid
	15	House of Councillors approves Nagano Games bid
July	13	Nagano Olympic Friends Club formed
	16	Tokyo liaison office restructured and enlarged
	19	National Governors' Association offers support for the bid
	20	National Association of Chairmen of Prefectural Assemblies offers support for the bid
	24	National Association of Chairmen of Town and Village Assemblies offers support for the bid
	27	National Association of Towns and Villages offers support for the bid
		National Mayors' Association offers support for the bid
Sept.	13-20	IOC Executive Board meeting and 96th IOC Session, Tokyo
	16	Presentation on Nagano's bid to the IOC Executive Board
Oct.	30	Bid Committee submits replies to the IOC Questionnaire
Nov.	20	National Association of Chairmen of City Assemblies offers support for the bid
	27	Replies to questions from the IOC Study and Evaluation Commission submitted
	28	Official bid mascot is dubbed "Snowple"

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**1991**

Jan.	17-21	Evaluation committees from the IOC, IFs, and NOCs visit Nagano
March	15	Outline of Nagano's bid proposal sent to all IOC members
May	7-8	IOC President Samaranch visits Nagano
June	10-12	IOC Executive Board meeting in Birmingham, England
	13-16	97th IOC Session in Birmingham, England
	15	Nagano is selected as host city for the XVIII Olympic Winter Games
	17	Ground-breaking ceremony for construction of the Hokuriku Shinkansen (Bullet Train) line between Karuizawa and Nagano
Nov.	27	Organizing Committee for the XVIII Olympic Winter Games (NAOC) established

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**1992**

Jan.	1	Preparation Office for the Olympic Winter Games established in the physical education bureau of the Ministry of Education
Feb.	9-24	XVI Olympic Winter Games, Albertville, France
	18	Preparation Committee for the Nagano Olympic Winter Games established in the Prime Minister's Office
July	25	Games of the XXV Olympiad, Barcelona, Spain (until Aug. 9)
August	17	Events to mark "2,000 Days to Go until the Nagano Games" held in Nagano, Tokyo, and Nagoya. Letters are collected and placed in a "time capsule" to be opened in January 1998
Nov.		Donations totalling ¥5.12 million collected from a three-month Olympic Aid appeal sent to the Lillehammer Olympic Organizing Committee (LOOC) to aid the children of Sarajevo
	16-17	1st meeting of the IOC Coordination Commission for the Nagano Games (chaired by FIS President Marc Hodler), Nagano City
	26	Vision for the Nagano Olympic Winter Games adopted
Dec.	18	Ski jumping stadium in Hakuba is the first Olympic facility to be completed (Construction began in July 1990)

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**1993**

Jan.	26	Nagano Games emblem unveiled
March	29	Themes for the Nagano Games chosen from entries in a public competition launched in Dec. 1992
June	17	2nd meeting of the IOC Coordination Commission for the Nagano Games, Lausanne
	21	NAOC announces its willingness to add men's and women's curling, and women's ice hockey to the Sports Programme for the Nagano Games at the IOC Executive Board meeting in Lausanne

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Sept.	10	International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Assembly in Berlin chooses Nagano as the host city for the Winter Paralympic Games to be held in March 1998
	17	The official Nagano Games' mascots "Snowlets" make their first public appearance
Oct.	4	Olympic Radio & Television Organization '98 (ORTO '98) established

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#### 1994

Jan.	19	Agreement reached with CBS regarding television rights in the United States (contract signed June 24)
	26	First Nagano Games' poster released
Feb.	5	IOC Executive Board meeting in Lausanne approves relocation of biathlon venue to Nozawa Onsen
	10	Goals for the Nagano Games announced
	12-27	XVII Olympic Winter Games, Lillehammer, Norway
March	2	Olympic flag arrives in Nagano <i>SHARE</i> , official song of the Nagano Games, released
	28	Games' pictograms unveiled (pictograms for the Cultural Programme, volunteers, and torch relay unveiled on Nov. 21)
April	20-21	3rd meeting of the IOC Coordination Commission for the Nagano Games, Nagano City
May	16	Recruitment campaign for Games volunteers begins (until Sep. 30)
June	27	"Total Olympic Ladies" (TOL), a group of Olympians headed by House of Councillors member Kiyoko Ono, register as volunteers
July	7	"Team '98" established to coordinate volunteer activities; volunteer centre opens
	26	Jet air service begins at Matsumoto Airport
August	4	Mizuno becomes the first Gold Sponsor for the Nagano Games
	28	IOC Executive Board convenes in Paris; changes to the sites for alpine skiing events approved; IOC President Samaranch requests that NAOC consider adding snowboard events to the Sports Programme
Oct.	18	Eastman Kodak becomes the first international sponsor
Nov.	8	NAOC appoints 17 technical advisors
	10-11	4th meeting of the IOC Coordination Commission for the Nagano Games, Nagano City
	11	First licensed Nagano Games product (calendar) goes on sale
Dec.	15	IOC Executive Board meets in Atlanta; Basic Plan for the Nagano Games' Cultural Programme approved

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#### 1995

Jan.	21	Volunteer training begins
Feb.	4	A support team of Nagano Olympic volunteers is sent to the city of Kobe to help with relief efforts in the wake of the Jan. 17 earthquake; they remain in the area until April 22
	7	Keita Asari is appointed Executive Producer for Ceremonies
March	22	Nagano City announces popular names for some Games facilities
	23	The Games' concept "Games from the Heart – Together with Love" and the Basic Plan for Games Operations are adopted
	31	Ice Hockey Stadium 'A' ("Big Hat"), the first Olympic facility in Nagano City, is completed
May	10	Second and third posters released
	12	The songs <i>Shiroi Daichi Kara</i> and <i>Nagano Toki Sports Ondo</i> are designated as support songs for the Nagano Games
	14	"1,000 Days to Go" events held in Tokyo and Nagano; 10,000 people celebrate the event at Big Hat
	15	The "Snowlets Club" begins its membership campaign (until Aug. 25)
June	1	Construction of the Asahi Media Village begins
	8	5th IOC Coordination Commission meeting, Lausanne
	12-14	IOC Executive Board meeting and 104th IOC Session, Budapest, Hungary; Basic Plan for Games Operations presented
Sept.	26	Steering Committee for the Nagano Games International Youth Camp established
Oct.	19	The Coca-Cola Company signs on as a TOP IV Partner
	26	1st World Broadcasters' Meeting, Nagano
	28	Construction of housing wings in the Olympic Village begins

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## NAGANO 1998



Nov.	22	NAOC receives a natural gas low-emission vehicle
	28	Ministry of Finance announces it will mint commemorative coins for the Nagano Games
Dec.	5	Snowboard events are added to the Nagano Games' Sports Programme at the IOC Executive Board meeting in Nagano
<b>1996</b>		
Jan.	31	Tokio Marine and Fire Insurance Co. becomes the first Official Supplier Partner countries for schools in the "One School, One Country" programme finalized
Feb.	5-7	6th IOC Coordination Commission meeting, Nagano City Janet Lynn is named as "Ambassador" for the "Two Years to Go" Countdown campaign Snowlets Family Club inaugurated, and the first certificate of membership is presented to judo World Champion Ryoko Tamura
	7	Under the theme "From Sapporo to Nagano", the "Two Years to Go" Countdown campaign kicks off in Nagano, Sapporo, and Tokyo; a giant snow sculpture of the Snowlets is carved at the Sapporo Snow Festival The Nagano Games information booth opens in front of Nagano Station
	9	Agreement reached with the Japan Consortium for domestic television rights
	10	"Two Years to Go" Countdown event held at Big Hat with 4,000 participants
	16-17	2nd IOC Athletes' Commission for the Nagano Games meeting, Nagano City
	28	Test runs held at Spiral, the bobsleigh / luge venue (until March 2)
March	3	'96 FIS World Cup (Men's Super-G) event held in Hakuba
	14	Spectator Transportation Simulation Tests
	23	Games budget approved at the 14th NAOC Executive Board meeting; consensus reached on a 1,680m start point for the men's downhill
April	3	The "Snowlets' House", the first official merchandise shop, opens on the concourse level of Nagano Station
May	30	Forty-eight events are selected for the first part of the Nagano Olympic Festival of Culture & Art
June	2	Construction begins on the MPC
July	19	The Games of the XXVI Olympiad, Atlanta, USA (until Aug. 4)
Sept.	25	"500 Days" Countdown event; daily countdown T-shirt auctions begin, with the first design created by musician Fumiya Fujii; poster created by Hiro Yamagata released International Environmental Expedition (IEE) from Norway arrives in Nagano
Oct.	1	The Nagano Olympic and Paralympic Caravan begins its nationwide tour (until Jan. 30. 1997) with a courtesy call at the residence of the Prime Minister
	5	Central Square, the Victory Ceremonies venue, is completed
	17	Shinto ground-breaking ceremony held at the site of the IBC
	23	The Nagano Monument Steering Committee launches the Nagano Olympic Winter Games Commemorative Tile programme
	25	Second part of the Nagano Olympic Festival of Culture & Art finalized with a programme of 122 events
Nov.	5	Ceremony to mark the first minting of Nagano Games' commemorative coins
	8	Official NAOC Internet home page goes on-line in cooperation with IBM
	14	Komoro – Koshoku section of the Joshinetsu Expressway opens
	15	At the IOC Executive Board meeting in Cancun, Mexico, plans concerning ticket sales, the sports schedule, and a new combined Olympic identity and accreditation card are confirmed
	20	His Majesty the Emperor of Japan agrees to act as Honorary Patron of the Nagano Games
	22	Design for the medals unveiled
	26	The cross-country skiing venue in Hakuba is dubbed "Snow Harp"
	28	Construction of "Snow Harp" is completed
Dec.	2	Construction of the biathlon venue in Nozawa Onsen is completed
	5	Nagano Prefectural Police announce regulations and plans for traffic control during the Games
	6	Official song <i>Dream</i> composed by Masashi Sada released
	9	"400 Days" Countdown T-shirt design by Hajime Tachibana unveiled



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- 14 Ceremony to mark the completion of M-Wave; exhibition of bronze bas reliefs designed by children participating in the "One School, One Country" programme
  - 18-22 International Ice Hockey NAGANO Cup '96 at Big Hat
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## 1997

- Jan. 3 "400 Days" Countdown event at Central Square
  - 11-12 FIS Cross-Country Skiing World Cup in Hakuba (Snow Harp)
  - 25-26 FIS Ski Jumping World Cup in Hakuba
  - 30 FIS Nordic Combined World Cup in Hakuba (until Feb. 2)
  - Feb. 4-9 FIS Freestyle Skiing World Championships (Iizuna Kogen)
  - 6 Poster for the Opening Ceremony released
  - 7 Ceremony for the Dispatch of Invitations to the Nagano Olympic Winter Games, Lausanne  
Sumo grand champions Takanohana and Akebono join in "One Year" Countdown event festivities in Tokyo, with a live Internet linkup to the Dispatch Ceremony in Lausanne  
Nagano Olympic Festival of Art & Culture commences; festival poster released  
Domestic subscription ticket lottery begins (until March 14)  
Nagano Olympic Club recruitment drive begins  
Sales begin for Nagano Games commemorative stamps and coins (first issue)  
First recruitment drive for torch relay runners (until March 22)
  - 14 Poster created by Koji Kinutani released
  - 14-16 1997 World Speed Skating Championships (M-Wave)
  - 14-16 1997 FIS Snowboard World Cup (Shiga Kogen)
  - 15-16 1997 FIL Luge World Cup (Spiral)
  - 17 Nagano Olympic Winter Games "Green Jumbo" Lottery tickets go on sale (until March 6)
  - 22-26 FIBT Bobsleigh World Cup (Spiral)
  - 27 IOC Athletes' Commission working group make their third visit to Nagano
  - 28 1997 FIS Alpine Skiing World Cup in Hakuba (until March 2)
  - March 6-9 1997 Biathlon World Cup in Nozawa Onsen
  - 8-9 1997 FIS Alpine Skiing World Cup in Shiga Kogen (giant slalom, slalom)
  - 10-11 8th IOC Coordination Commission meeting, Nagano City
  - 18 NAOC Cultural Programme Commission finalizes 253-event programme for the Nagano Olympic Festival of Culture & Art
  - 22-30 1997 World Junior Curling Championships (Kazakoshi Park Arena, Karuizawa). FM broadcast at the venue
  - 24 17th meeting of the NAOC Executive Board approves the revised Games operations budget of ¥103 billion, and the transfer of the slalom portion of the combined event from Yamanouchi to Hakuba
  - 28-30 World Short Track Speed Skating Championships (White Ring)
  - April 3 NAOC receives a fleet of 104 natural gas low-emission vehicles
  - 11 Steering Committee for the "One Store, One Country" programme established
  - 13 "300 Days" Countdown events at Central Square and Tokyo
  - 17 Nagano Games' promotion signboard set up at Zenkoji Temple
  - 19-21 120 delegates from 57 NOCs take part in the Chefs de Mission seminar
  - May 2 1st meeting of the traffic reduction committee
  - 6 Results from subscription ticket lottery released: 6,460,282 ticket applications were received from 287,302 people, of which 70,790 applicants were successful  
Second torch relay recruitment drive (until June 27)
  - 11 The Snowlets and 50 Japanese dancers take part in the "Year of Japan in France" opening parade through the streets of Paris
  - 15 Steering Committee for the Nagano Olympic Harmony Fund established
  - 16 Honorary mayors and mayors for the Olympic Village and Youth Camp announced
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## NAGANO 1998



	21	Sports Programme schedule finalized
		Design for the torch relay torch presented
June	2	Advance tickets go on sale domestically
	3	Torch relay route and names of first 47 torchbearers announced
	5-16	Conductor Seiji Ozawa and the New Japan Philharmonic Orchestra record anthems for use during the Games
	10	79 NOCs accept the IOC's official invitation to participate in the Games
	18-20	9th IOC Coordination Commission meeting, Nagano City
	23	Presentation of the official staff uniform, the first in the world to feature completely recyclable material
		In a speech to the United Nations, Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto introduces Nagano's environmental efforts
	25	Cooperation agreement signed with the Self-Defense Forces to provide 1,715 persons to support Games operations and ceremonies
	28	5th Nagano Games commemorative tree planting, Nagano City
July	11	Design for the Games' cauldron unveiled. Based on the traditional Japanese <i>kagaribi</i> bonfire, the cauldron was created by sculptor Kiyoyuki Kikutake
		NAOC announces plans to use a state-of-the-art Doppler radar to forecast weather
	12	Live cybercast of the "Amway Special Shinshu Rose Exhibition and One Million Roses concert" featured on NAOC's official home page
	19	Official support song for Games volunteers, <i>Silver Dreams – All Over the World</i> by DEEN, is released
	20	Official song for the Nagano Olympic Festival of Culture and Art, <i>One Heart, One World / FOR EVERMORE</i> by Yuichiro Oda, is released
		500 children and 100 Snowlets Club members participate in the 6th Children's Olympic Forum in Hakuba
	22	As part of the "200 Days" celebrations, a live Internet link between event sites in Nagano, Tokyo, and Sydney is set up. In Sydney, four children designated as Nagano Olympic Special Envoys deliver a message from Mayor Tsukada of Nagano to the Lord Mayor of Sydney
	23	Nagano Coca-Cola Bottlers announces a special drive to recruit students for the torch relay from all 323 junior high, senior high, and special schools in Nagano Prefecture. Groups of four students will participate as support runners in the relay
	24	Meeting between the public relations teams at NAOC, Worldwide Partners, and Rights Holders, New York, USA
August	7	Security agreement signed with the Nagano Prefectural Police
	13	The city of Osaka is selected by the JOC as Japan's candidate city for the 2008 Summer Games
	26	At the giant slalom venue, the first 36,000 recyclable PET bottles are set in place. (Coursework using 122,000 bottles is completed on Oct. 15)
	27	Nagano Games sports posters released
		Snowlets theme song <i>ILE AIYE – Wa ni natte odoro (Let's Make a Circle and Dance)</i> released
Sept.	1	Editing office of Nagano Olympic News Agency (NAONA) begins operations
		Set up work begins at the International Broadcasting Centre (IBC)
	2-6	106th IOC Session, Lausanne
	17-18	Shinkansen bullet train test ride and tour of Games facilities for 40 members of the international media
	24	Detailed agreement on Self-Defense Force cooperation signed
	28	Charity figure skating event at White Ring raises ¥10 million for the Nagano Olympic Harmony Fund
Oct.	1	NAOC Secretariat is re-organized as NAOC Operations Headquarters; staff take up their Games-time posts
		Asama Shinkansen bullet train begins service between Nagano and Tokyo
		Nagano Prefectural Tourism Association opens the Nagano Games Accommodations and Sightseeing Information Centre
	9	Plans and route for the torch relay through each of the 46 prefectures outside Nagano are announced over the following days (until Nov. 28)
	11-12	IOC Press Commission meeting held in Nagano
	13	Sports Journalist Forum in Nagano City, including address by Fekrou Kidane, Director of the Executive Office of the President of the IOC
		Construction of Aqua Wing finished, marking the completion of all competition venues
	20-21	FIS President Marc Hodler attends 12th meeting of the Nagano Prefectural Nature Conservation Council to discuss the start point for the men's alpine downhill. Council recommends starting point remain at 1,680m
	21	2nd round of domestic advance tickets go on sale at Ticket Pia agencies (until Nov. 28)



	22	Special parking permits issued for the Opening Ceremony and events in Hakuba
Nov.	1	“100 Days” Countdown event, including parade of 2,500 supporters through the streets of Nagano
	1-2	10th IOC Coordination Commission meeting, Nagano City Akira Miyawaki, Director of the Nature Conservation Research Institute, gives presentation on environmental efforts for the Nagano Games at the IOC-sponsored Sports and Environment Forum, Kuwait City
	4	Construction of Main Press Centre (MPC) completed
	5	Tour of facilities and briefing on Games-time press services for 21 members of the international press
	7	Torch relay route within Nagano Prefecture is announced
	20	NAOC Executive Board formally establishes a special committee under the chairmanship of NAOC Vice President and JOC President Hironoshin Furuhashi to study methods for resolving the issue of the men’s downhill Final list of 2,432 torchbearers selected by the torch relay steering committees in each prefecture released
	24	Special committee for the men’s downhill conducts on-site inspection together with course designer Bernhard Russi
	25	At the United Nations’ General Assembly, NAOC Public Relations Commission member Mikako Kotani presents a resolution on behalf of the government of Japan calling for an “Olympic Truce” during the Nagano Games
	25-28	Public information campaign about Games-time traffic reduction
	27-30	International Figure Skating Competition NHK Trophy at White Ring
Dec.	1	Meeting of NAOC President Saito and the four vice presidents adopts the special advisory committee’s recommendation that the start point for the men’s downhill be set at 1,765m
	8	Nagano Olympic Peace Appeal launched
	19	The Olympic flame is lit in Olympia, Greece
	23	The Olympic flame arrives in Japan and makes its first public appearance at a Christmas event at the New Tokyo International Airport
	27-30	The Olympic flame is put on display at the Mikimoto Pearl Co. main store in Tokyo’s Ginza district
	31	The Olympic flame is put on display at the Shibuya Plaza in Tokyo (until Jan. 4)

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Jan.	4	The Olympic flame is split into three for its journey around Japan at a ceremony in front of the Shibuya Plaza
	6	Nagano Olympic Winter Games torch relay sets off on three routes from Hokkaido, Okinawa, and Kagoshima
	7	Main Accreditation Centre (MAC) opens; Yanagimachi Media Village opens with limited service
	14	Olympic Radio begins broadcasting
	15	Online tickets for the competitions go on sale
	19	The Self-Defense Force sets up its operations headquarters for the Games
	23	The torch relay enters Nagano Prefecture
	24	The Olympic Village, MPC, IBC, and Media Villages open; Info’98 goes online and the first issue of the official Nagano’98 newspaper is published
	28	Welcome ceremonies at the Olympic Village (until Feb. 9)
	29	Meeting of the IOC Juridical Commission
	30	IOC Executive Board meeting (until Feb. 1)
	31	Nagano Olympic Peace Appeal Exhibition (until Feb. 22)
Feb.	1	Opening of the “Olympic Plaza” at the east exit of Nagano Station Peace Appeal Charity Walk in Nagano
	2	Their Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince and Princess arrive in Nagano and attend the opening ceremony and reception of the 107th IOC Session
	3-5	107th IOC Session
	4	Opening of the Karuizawa Satellite Village
	6	The Olympic flame arrives in Nagano City and is reunited at a ceremony at Central Square Opening ceremony for the International Youth Camp Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress visit Nagano (until Feb. 7)

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## NAGANO 1998




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7	The Opening Ceremony of the XVIII Olympic Winter Games Cauldron lighting ceremonies are held at the International Youth Camp, ski jumping stadium in Hakuba, and in the town of Yamanouchi The first of the Peace Appeal Charity auctions is held at Central Square (until Feb. 22)
8	Conference of Olympic Winter Games Host City Mayors at the MPC Opening ceremony for the curling venue; the cauldron is lit in Karuizawa
9	The cauldron at the biathlon venue in Nozawa Onsen is lit Their Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince and Princess visit Nagano (until Feb.11)
10	Youth Forum held at the International Youth Camp
11	Peace Appeal Charity Walk held in Tokyo
15	Closing ceremony for the curling venue
16	World Youth Meeting at the International Youth Camp
17	Closing ceremony of the International Youth Camp
19	Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress visit Nagano (until Feb. 23)
21	Peace Appeal Benefit Concert in Nagano City
22	Closing Ceremony of the XVIII Olympic Winter Games IOC President Samaranch is awarded the Emperor's Cup Four IOC Vice Presidents are awarded with decorations
23	The seven Japanese gold medallists are awarded the Emperor's Cup Japanese medallists and their trainers (22 people) are given special commendation by the Minister of Education
24	The Self-Defense Forces' Nagano Games Cooperation Brigade is dissolved
25	Olympic Village closes
March 5-14	1998 Winter Paralympic Games in Nagano
29	Report on the Games to the 20th meeting of the NAOC Executive Board
April 1	NAOC Secretariat is downsized (7 departments, 14 sections, ORTO '98, 161 staff)
29	Report on the Games to the IOC Executive Board, Sydney, Australia
May 11	The Governor of Nagano presents special awards to 14 groups and individuals for their contributions to the Games
14	Team '98 is dissolved
June 23	To commemorate the success of the Nagano Games, NAOC donates US\$1 million to the Olympic Museum in Lausanne
July 8	Creation of the Nagano Olympic Commemorative Foundation is approved at the 21st meeting of the NAOC Executive Board
Sept. 15	Report on the Games to the IOC Executive Board, Seoul, Korea
Oct. 1	NAOC secretariat is downsized (4 departments, 10 sections, ORTO '98, 73 staff)
19	NAOC donates a 3-D High Vision theatre to the Olympic Museum in Lausanne
23	NAOC distributes Peace Appeal patchwork blankets at old folks' homes and refugee camps in Sarajevo
Nov. 12	NAOC is presented with a special commendation from the Minister of International Trade and Industry (MITI) for promoting traditional crafts in its medal design
Dec. 19	The steering committee for the Peace Appeal travels to Cambodia to express active support for anti-landmine activities

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Feb. 7	Ceremony to celebrate the One Year Anniversary of the Nagano Games; ceremony to accept the Olympic Cup
28	Dissolution of NAOC approved at the 22nd meeting of the NAOC Executive Board
(Tentative)	
March 31	NAOC dissolved

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