Nippon Sport Science University and Olympics

Nippon Sport Science University

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The history of Nippon Sport Science University (NSSU) started in August 1891. That is, Tokichiro Hidaka (1856-1932) founded Taiikukai (the Association of Physical Culture), parent organization of NSSU. "Taiikukai" is literal translation of German "Turnverein", on which it modeled. In the following year, Taiikukai was named Nippon Taiikukai. Through several reforms, (it became to the educational foundation consisting of several institutions such as a university, a college, four high schools, two junior high schools, and a kindergarten.) Then, it was finally renamed to Educational Foundation of Nippon Sport Science University in 2012. Now it has 124-year-old history up to the present.

NSSU, the university it established, is known as university which paved the way from Japan to the Olympics, developed many Olympic athletes, and produced the greatest number of coaches in physical education and sport.

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International Olympic Committee was founded in 1894. Considering that Nippon Taiikukai Taisou Renshujo (the Gymnastic Practice School, the precursor of NSSU) was established around the same time, namely in 1891, it is not too much saying that we have walked along with the history of Olympics.

The relationship between NSSU and IOC dates back as far as to around the same time as IOC was established. We have the articles on Athens Olympic Games (1896) in our school organ magazines, and the letter requesting to dispatch a member to Bankoku Taiiku Kaigi (the International Sports Congress) in 1900 was sent to us. At that time, Yamane Masatsugu, the auditor of our parent organization and the medical director of Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department, was on official business trip to Paris Exposition, ordered by the Metropolitan Police Department, and he attended to the International Sports Congress following the letter above. Paris Olympic Games were held as parts of the 1900 Exposition. Therefore, it is presumed that he was the first Japanese who witness Paris Olympic Games.

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After the International Sports Congress, Yamane received the letter of request to participate in Athens Olympic Games from Constantinos, the Prince of Greece. It informed that the Olympic Games would be held in Athens again in 1906 as the 10th anniversary of the Olympics. According to this letter, it seems that Yamane was regarded as the first Japanese member of IOC, though not officially; he was called...
“Bankoku jousetsu taiiku iin/ Keishicho dai san bucho/ Nippon Taiikukai kanji”（the Permanent Member of International Sports Congress/ the Director of the Third Department of the Metropolitan Police/ the Auditor of Nippon Taiikukai）in the letter.

To respond to the request from the Prince of Greece, our parent organization Nippon Taiikukai needed to be reorganized, but abandoned it because of financial problems. We say, however, the letter was worthy enough to be the first page of the history of Olympics in Japan.

日本が初めてオリンピックに参加したのは1912年のスウェードのストックホルム大会で、カノジゴロ（1860-1938）は初のオリンピック選手として受任された。コンバルトゥールィントロニックのアガスタ・ペラルを通じてフランス大使を介してオリンピック委員会に推薦され、1909年に入選した。彼は直ちに受任を承諾した。

カノは東京師範学校の校長で、日本タイククカイの理事であった。IOCがオリンピック選手を選任させたが、その要望は断られた。その結果、カノは日本タイククアマチュアスポーツ協会を設立し、ハンエダで選考試を実施し、日本最初のオリンピックの出場選手を決定した。これらの活動はオリンピックの歴史に刻まれるべきである。

We have poured our efforts into producing Olympic athletes. From 5th to 8th Olympic Games, the relationship between NSSU and Olympics got weak. In 9th Olympic Games, however, Nakazawa Yonetaro, who had graduated from NSSU, won the 6th prize in pole vault. Since then, the athletes from NSSU have been seen in every Olympics which Japan competed for.

不幸にも、中国・日本戦争の勃発により、1940年の東京オリンピックが中止され、日本はスポーツ文化の発展に大いに打たれることになった。戦争はオリンピックの最終目標である「平和」の定義をも脱退させた。

日本は1952年のヘルシンキオリンピックに再び、1964年の東京オリンピック以来の競技力の向上が著しく、NSSUはその発展を続けている。オリンピック選手のための練習場を提供し、選手の能力を向上させる。 NSSUは1922年から体育教師の教育プログラムを開始し、その卒業生が309人を輩出しており、日本全体のオリンピックメダルの約2/5を獲得している。
never received training by them. Since many of our graduates bear the responsibility for improvement and progress of athletes, the change of our educational system and method for developing coaches in NSSU will make a great change in the educational interface.

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For Tokyo Olympic Games in 2020, NSSU is expected to lead new movement for developing coaches. Therefore, we aim at further development not only for 2020 but also for after 2020 by acquiring superior methods used worldwide through NSSU Coach Developer Academy. We will execute a mission to establishing field of Sport Coaching Science in course of Health and Sport Science in our graduate school.

Moreover, the final aim of Olympics is peace of the international society. We hereby declare that we sustain our efforts to fulfill the mission to promote the Olympic movement and be help for world peace.

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