

INTERNATIONAL ANTI-DOPING SEMINAR IN ASIA AND OCEANIA

**‘Create Legacy Together: For Clean, Fair and True Sport with
the 2021 Code’**

Tokyo, Tuesday, 24 September 2019

**Partnership Declaration between WADA and the Government
of Japan for Clean Sport and Anti-Doping Movement in Asia**

Remarks by WADA President, Sir Craig Reedie

Dr Daichi Suzuki, Commissioner of the Japan Sports Agency at the Government of Japan, Prof. Hidenori Suzuki, Chairman of the Japan Anti-Doping Agency, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen.

It is a great pleasure, on behalf of the World Anti-Doping Agency, to be invited here to this important conference, which is being organized by the Japan Anti-Doping Agency, in partnership with the Government of Japan.



Japan has been contributing to the development of anti-doping on a global stage for many years as a leader in the Asian region as well as through hosting various anti-doping workshops, seminars and conferences such as this, not to mention the ongoing assistance it gives to nearby National and Regional Anti-Doping Organizations (NADOs and RADOs).

Indeed, it is that commitment to helping others that brings us here to sign this important partnership agreement as Japan has rightly decided to continue providing funding for the RADOs in Asia. The partnership means that the Japan Sports Agency will continue to strengthen its commitment to further develop RADOs in the Asia region beyond 2019.

The funding will assist RADOs with the development of anti-doping programs, and provide funds for WADA to help with the training of anti-doping officials in the region.

There are five RADOs in Asia working across 36 countries, with particular emphasis on compliance to the World Anti-Doping Code. The RADO program helps develop Code-compliant programs that encompass testing,



education and general awareness of anti-doping issues in smaller countries while reducing the individual responsibility and ensuring that resources can be pooled and used more effectively.

It means that the long-term sustainability and level of testing and anti-doping education worldwide can be enhanced and it ensures that athletes, regardless of their location or sport, are subject to the same anti-doping protocols and processes. Globally, the program includes 15 RADOs involving 130 participating nations.

Japan has been making a significant contribution to the Asian RADOs since 2008 and we are grateful to the Japanese Government for extending it by another 12 months at least. This close cooperation between Japan, WADA and the RADOs has borne fruit over the years, particularly as it relates to building anti-doping capacity. This has led to the RADOs establishing positive reputations and strengthening the overall program throughout the region. It really is crucial work and we are grateful to the Government of Japan for its leadership and vision in this regard.



Outside of this, it is also important to acknowledge the good work of JADA in this country and throughout the region, for being good partners to WADA and the global anti-doping program, and not least for hosting this symposium.

And this forum comes at a very opportune moment as we prepare to introduce a revised Code and associated International Standards. Following an exhaustive and collaborative process that has involved incorporating feedback from all stakeholders, the revised Code and Standards will be approved at the upcoming World Conference on Doping in Sport, which will take place in Katowice, Poland, in November. Over the next two days, we will learn more about the changes that are coming in the Code and various Standards and how to prepare for them in advance of their implementation in 2021. In addition to a revision of the existing Code and Standards, it will also be a chance to find out about two new Standards that will come into effect on 1 January 2021. These Standards cover the areas of results management and education, two crucial elements of any anti-doping program.



It is a comprehensive agenda and I'm happy to say that several directors and other members of WADA staff will be taking part in the symposium as we do all we can to ensure you are ready for the revised rules, when they come. There will also be time today to hear the perspectives from the regions – as we find out more about the challenges and opportunities that exist in different places around the world – and also what should be a fascinating athletes' panel session, which will explore the opportunities presented by the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games for athletes to create positive legacies for the ages. Among the athletes on that panel will be former Polish 400m runner Witold Banka, who will be taking over as President of WADA when I complete my term at the end of this year. I have no doubt that he – and the incoming Vice-President Yang Yang, who is also on the panel this morning – will continue to progress the good work of WADA as it fulfills its mission to lead a collaborative worldwide movement for doping-free sport.

Today's symposium follows on from an important WADA Executive Committee meeting here yesterday where, among other things, we signed a memorandum of understanding with major Japanese pharmaceutical



company Kyowa Kirin Co., which will ensure that the Agency is notified immediately of any new Kyowa compounds or substances in clinical development that have the potential for sports-related abuse.

It is important for WADA to continue to partner with leading pharmaceutical and healthcare research organizations around the world, such as Kyowa, for the benefit of anti-doping. We have a long tradition of collaboration with the pharmaceutical industry and this partnership will help WADA develop new strategies to identify substances that could be subject to misuse and abuse.

Coming here to Tokyo is always a pleasure. This city – and indeed the entire country – is perfect for major sporting events. Efficient infrastructure, excellent facilities and a population that loves sports guarantees success and so it's no wonder that major event organizers continue to entrust Japan with the running of the world's biggest tournaments. We have just enjoyed an excellent weekend of oval-ball action as the Rugby World Cup kicked off in Tokyo on Friday night with a popular and deserved win for the Brave Blossoms over Russia. It is great to see how the sports-loving people of



Japan have come out in droves to support, not only their own team, but all the players from across the world.

This bodes well for next year's summer Olympic and Paralympic Games, as Tokyo joins an exclusive list of cities to host the world's biggest sporting event for a second time. Along with Paris, London, Los Angeles and Athens, Tokyo will become the fifth global metropolis to earn that distinction.

With everything that is going on here, it's fair to say that Japan is the centre of the sporting world at the moment.

The Government of Japan has shown time and again that it is committed to clean sport and we all look forward to a spectacular Games played in the right spirit that will leave a tangible legacy, particularly as it relates to the values of sport. I know, for example, that since Tokyo was awarded the 2020 Games, the Government here has put in place a key project called 'Sport for Tomorrow' with its main legacy pillar, 'Play True 2020', focusing on anti-doping and the rights of athletes to compete on a level playing field.



I thank the Government for that demonstration of the fact that sports values are not merely notional ideas of a Corinthian spirit but a clear framework of what fair play, discipline and respect really mean in practical terms and how there is a place for those values, even at the highest level and the biggest sports event in the world.

I wish everyone involved in organizing and protecting next year's Olympic Games well and I again pledge WADA's full support in protecting them from those who would endeavor to cheat the system. To that end, our door is always open to you as we are united by a common goal, underpinned by integrity, sportsmanship and fairness.

From WADA's perspective, these are busy times for us. But, as we look back on 20 years in operation, there is nothing new about that.

Back in 1999, there was still no one single answer to tackling doping in sport. Every sport had different rules and countries had different laws so an athlete could, for example, be banned in one country but be able to compete in others (in 1998, a cyclist was suspended for two years in



Denmark, but was able to compete in every other country because there was no universal recognition of the Danish law).

The values of sport were being threatened and it was doping, above all else, that was providing the most serious threat to sports' future.

Accordingly, WADA was formed in 1999 and started operating as a unique 50-50 partnership between the sports movement and governments of the world.

What followed quickly in our first few years was the delivery of the first edition of the Code, which works in conjunction with the Standards.

Together, they detail the rules and aim to foster harmonization among anti-doping organizations (such as International Federations, major event organizers and NADOs, such as JADA).

The current Code review is the third in its short history, ensuring that it always remains fit for purpose. It is important that the rules are not static



but evolve depending upon sporting and societal changes as well as available medical and scientific data.

Today, we protect the clean athlete like never before. We have longer, four-year sanctions for intentional doping cheats; more effective testing that encourages organizations to test the right athlete for the right substance at the right time; rules that better recognize that rarely does an athlete dope alone, but more often doping is the result of their entourage (such as coaches, agents, doctors, even parents).

We have more effective education programs for athletes and we have developed an environment for whistleblowers to feel comfortable and supported in coming forward and speaking up.

While the strengthened Code and Standards don't come into effect until 2021, the Agency continues to reinforce the global anti-doping program by delivering on its priorities.



To that end, WADA works hard with anti-doping organizations all over the world to increase their capacity and so strengthen the overall system. It is also important that we ensure ADOs' compliance and further develop our already successful compliance monitoring program.

As you may have seen in the media in recent months, we continue to manage the outcomes of the various WADA investigations related to Russia so that we can continue to make good on the September 2018 WADA Executive Committee decision to reinstate RUSADA as compliant and, in the process, bring to justice those who cheated as part of that sorry episode. And apart from the Russia file, WADA Intelligence and Investigations is working tirelessly on behalf of clean sport to root out cheating in its various forms no matter where in the world it is happening.

Another WADA priority is to increase research-led education, in particular through the aforementioned new International Standard in Education that will come into effect in January 2021. We are also in the midst of improving the Anti-Doping Administration and Management System, known as ADAMS. Of particular note, improvements that will make life a lot easier for



elite athletes as they fulfil their whereabouts responsibilities under the Code will be launched in the coming weeks.

Elsewhere, WADA continues to make good progress in the areas of the Athlete Biological Passport and Therapeutic Use Exemption programs as well as identifying promising new methods for detecting doping, such as dry-blood-spot analysis and artificial intelligence.

The quality of WADA-accredited laboratories is another major priority as we work collaboratively with them to ensure the highest standards of lab performance are maintained.

Director General Olivier Niggli and other WADA staff will expand in more detail on these priorities and many other WADA activities later in this symposium.

In all these areas, WADA stands ready to assist JADA, the Government of Japan and all our stakeholders in Asia and in other regions of the world as we all work hard to ensure the effective implementation of the best anti-



doping programs possible so that athletes can compete on a level playing field.

As we at WADA reflect on 20 years of challenges and achievements, we are pleased to engage with our stakeholders at every opportunity, with everyone who is part of the clean sport movement to ensure that we are all heading the right way together.

Many thanks for the opportunity to speak to you this morning.

Thank you.