

Statement by the Prime Minister
on the Announcement of the Host City for the Games of
the Thirty-First Olympiad in 2016

[Provisional Translation]

At the General Assembly of International Olympic Committee (IOC), Rio de Janeiro was selected as the host city for the Games of the Thirty-first Olympiad in 2016.

I attended the presentation at the IOC General Assembly and personally appealed on behalf of the Japanese Government, which fully supported Tokyo's bid to host the Games, that Tokyo's plans for the Games attached great importance to the environment. I believe that the Tokyo Team did their very best and made a good appeal on the attractiveness of hosting the Games in Tokyo under a new concept.

However, I am very disappointed that the Tokyo's bid was ultimately unsuccessful. I wish to extend my sincere congratulations to Rio de Janeiro as the chosen host city for the 2016 Olympics and to the people of Brazil. I also earnestly hope that the Games, which aim to promote a peaceful society, continue to develop in the future.

I express my sincere respect to all concerned for the efforts they have made until today, including to members of the Tokyo metropolitan government, various sports organisations including the Japanese Olympic Committee, and the many people in Japan who supported the Tokyo campaign.