

JPC-JPSA : Business Meeting on January 29th, 2019 - Tokyo

The business trip to **Japan Paralympic Committee / Japan Para-Sports Association** (hereinafter “**JPC – JPSA**”) / <https://www.paralympic.org/japan> / <http://www.jsad.or.jp/>) at (〒103-0014 Tokyo, Chūō, Nihonbashikakigaracho, 2 Chome-13-6 ユニゾ水天宮ビル 3F) was part of the **TIAS 3rd Batch student, Celestin Nzeyimana**, initiative to deepen his understanding of the JPC-JPSA; and, who has been working towards development of Paralympics and Para-Sports in Rwanda and African Continent; and also as part of his research at TIAS Master’s program in Sport and Olympic Studies <http://tias.tsukuba.ac.jp/>). Further, the meeting involved working **towards the LEGACY** – as part of the TIAS vision, by its students, back in their home countries, and to also **connect the NPCs**; both of those objectives has been the focus of Celestin at TIAS.

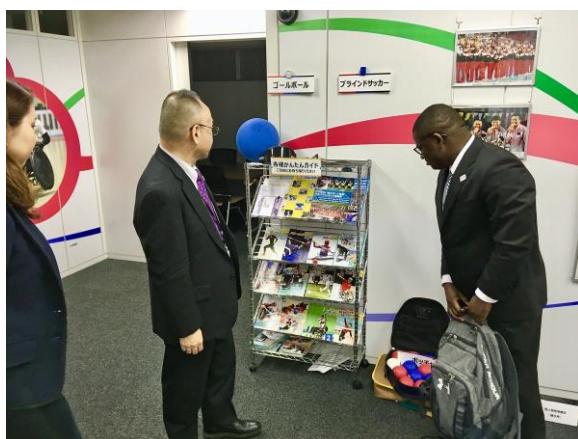
please also see - http://tias.tsukuba.ac.jp/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/2018_Workshop-IBSA-Judo-Africa-Development-and-Introduction-of-Judo-for-Blind-Athletes-in-Rwanda_Feb-28-to-March-4-1.pdf



Meeting with Mr. Tomohiro IDA, the Secretary General of JPC, and a staff member, Ms. Rio HORIZOE, at the Tokyo HQ, along with Celestin Nzeyimana and myself (Prof. Randeep Rakwal), the meeting started with exchange of materials related to TIAS and relevant external project (<http://tias.tsukuba.ac.jp/external-activities/projects/>) reports of TIAS activities by us and materials and booklets produced by JPC-JPSA and the work done the organization in Japan. It was a very fruitful discussion where it was informed that JPC-JPSA is working hard towards the enhanced ‘visibility’ of the Paralympics-Para-Sports, and hoping for more high-level competitions in Japan so that more and more of its citizens and others can attend and involve in the sports; moreover, it was also informed that there are initiatives involving holding of the Para-Sports/Events and Paralympians in/near Schools so that the children can have an opportunity and understanding of the field of Paralympics-Para-Sports. Moreover, it was felt that more work has to be done to take the word ‘inspiration’ to the level as desired by the IPC (<https://www.paralympic.org/>). Further explaining the vision of the JPC-JPSA, **Mr. IDA** mentioned that with TOKYO 2020, the pyramid will expand to cover all that is envisaged hopefully in the coming years to 2030.



It was also impressive to see how the HQ walkways were covered by panels depicting not the up-coming Tokyo 2020 games but also had a history of the Paralympics illustrated throughout; highly informative and appealing.





Celestin, as both a TIAS student and also as a representative of the NPC of Rwanda (and designated, **Chef de Mission – Tokyo 2020**, official spokesperson for NPC Rwanda) other than explaining about his activities for development of NPC Rwanda and Paralympics in Africa, and increasing the awareness of Para-Sports / Disability Sports – enquired about the role and involvement of JPC-JPSA internationally, and how it can use its partnership and sponsorship for helping other NPCs, especially the African NPCs. JPC-JPSA has goodwill in working with Rwanda through its sports federations and associations. There is a possibility of introducing new sports, holding exchange programs, initiating sport training programs and providing sports equipment through collaboration and networking for designated disability sports such as Judo for the blind, goalball, Boccia, wheelchair sports, sitting volleyball, etc. In Rwanda, disability sports are not yet widespread. There is an urgent need for not only increasing their awareness to the public but also to have an increase in the number of participants. This is not just for the sport-game as such; it is much more than that – **it is about inclusion**, a key word spoken very often.

From the meeting, it was learnt (and seen) that the **JPC-JPSA has developed excellent educational materials** per each disability sport that can help to spread the knowledge, awareness and interest people to join and support disability sports. This can be used by school teachers and community members.

JPC-JPSA has agreed to cooperate with TIAS and University of Tsukuba to consider the feasibility of sharing the sport educational materials for localization.



Thank you JPC-JPSA, the time and interaction are greatly appreciated.

Celestin Nzeyimana

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