

Olympic education programs related to the Sochi Olympics and Paralympics

Hisashi Sanada, Zubaidullo Ubaidulloev, Fumio Nemoto, Izumi Egami, Taro Obayashi

1. Introduction

From March 8 to 14, 2014, two groups visited Sochi to conduct a field study of Olympic education programs related to the Sochi Olympics and Paralympics held in Russia as a joint project of CORE and the Jigoro Kano Memorial International Sport Institute (hereafter Kano Center). One group visited from March 8 to 12 and the other from March 10 to 14.

Our actions, schedule and destinations were as follows:

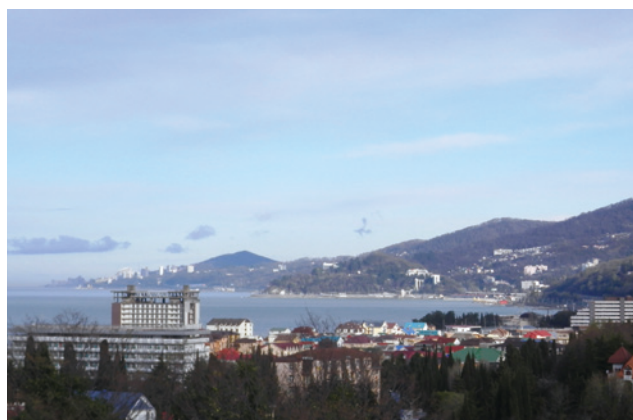
- (1) Visit the Russian International Olympic University (RIOU) to learn about programs conducted by the university and talk about beginning a joint project with CORE and the Kano Center in the future.
- (2) Visit the Gymnasium #15 of Sochi City to research its activities focusing on Japan as part of Sochi's One School - One Country program. Explore the possibilities for an international exchange program between the school and laboratory schools of the University of Tsukuba.
- (3) Research Olympic Park and the education and culture programs at the museums in Sochi.
- (4) Summarize the results of the three actions above to obtain some hints for planning and developing future Olympic education programs to prepare for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

Researchers

Name	Affiliation
Dr. Hisashi Sanada	Professor, Faculty of Health and Sport Sciences, University of Tsukuba, Executive director, CORE
Akiyo Miyazaki	Associate Professor, University of Tsukuba and Teacher, Senior High School at Otsuka, University of Tsukuba
Dr. Zubaidullo Ubaidulloev	Researcher, University of Tsukuba in charge of Team "Nippon" Multi-support Project, Sports Research & Development, CORE
Fumio Nemoto	Teacher, Special Needs Education School for the Mentally Challenged, University of Tsukuba
Yuta Hanaoka	Teacher, Special Needs Education School for the Physically Challenged, University of Tsukuba
Airi Suzuki	Teacher, Senior High School at Sakado, University of Tsukuba
Mario Nishihara	Jigoro Kano Memorial International Sport Institute
Yukiko Oguro	Jigoro Kano Memorial International Sport Institute
Izumi Egami	Representative, Global Manner Springs
Taro Obayashi	Graduate student, University of Tsukuba, CORE secretariat

Schedule

Date	Destinations
March 10	Krasnaya Polyana Area (mountain cluster)
March 11	Russian International Olympic University (RIOU), Sochi Art Museum, Ostrovskiy Literary and Memorial Museum
March 12	Gymnasium #15 of Sochi City, Museum of Sochi
March 13	Olympic Park (coastal cluster)



2. Research contents and results

(1) Russian International Olympic University (RIOU)

We visited the Russian International Olympic University (RIOU), which is located approximately 2 kilometers south of Sochi Station. RIOU was established in 2009 during the process of preparing for the Sochi Olympics to provide educational programs for the Olympics. RIOU is also expected to contribute to developing sports in Russia and overseas in the future.

We obtained contact information for RIOU via the IOC and arranged our visit to RIOU. During our visit, two vice presidents and the head of the Methodological Department of the university gave us a campus tour and a question and answer session.

Persons in charge

Irina Badayan, Ph.D., Pro-Rector and Head of the Sochi Office

Prof. Nikolay Peshin, LLD, JSD, Pro-Rector for Research

Ms. Tatyana Pomyatinskaya, Head of the Organizational and Methodological Department, in charge of the hospitality program

After the campus tour, we saw a video associated with RIOU in a hall, and the question and answer session followed.

We first talked about the one-year master sport administration program that started in September 2013. Currently, the first class of 29 students from 14 countries, including Olympic medalists, is enrolled in the program, which has 18 teachers from 10 countries. These students were carefully selected to include those from regions across the world based on their English abilities and essays on sports management.

Next, we asked about the hospitality program that started in 2010. Since its establishment in October 2009, RIOU had provided an educational program for local residents, mainly workers at hotels and other facilities in the service industry, to prepare for the Sochi Olympics. We learned that participants in the program studied how to serve many different Olympic guests, including VIPs and spectators, from specialists who are active internationally and were invited to teach in the program. These specialists included an Italian instructor who gave a workshop to people associated with the hotel businesses in Sochi on how to give good service.

In the end, we presented the university people with a booklet on Kano Center, the first volume of CORE's magazine on Olympic education, a booklet about the University of Tsukuba and goods from the university. Ms. Egami also presented her calligraphy work that writes wa (harmony) with a Japanese character. The university people presented us with lapel pins of the university and commemorative coins. We agreed to use this meeting to start mutual collaboration in the future.

(2) The Gymnasium #15 of Sochi City

We learned from an article published in The Shinano Mainichi Shimbun (Newspaper) on January 25, 2014 that the Gymnasium #15 of Sochi City focused on Japan in One school - One country program in which each school involved in the program supported a specific country participating in the Olympics and learned about that country. We contacted the school via e-mail and were able to visit



The Gymnasium #15 of Sochi City

the school. The school has approximately 1,100 students in 11 grades. We observed lessons and were also welcomed by a performance.

When we arrived at the school at noon as scheduled, students welcomed us by dancing. After that, we were brought to a reception room, where Principal Larisa Sergeyevna Pshenitsyna, the school principal, explained as follows about the One School - One Country program at the school.

Students at the school began learning about Japan in April 2012 as the school's One School - One Country program. The school emphasized hosting events involving students and their parents during summer camps. In the early stage, students made origami paper and temari balls using colorful threads. The school presented events in cooperation with the deputy mayor and the city's education and culture department. Students at the school made more than 300 types of booklets for presentations on Japan. The school hosted the One School - One Country program as extracurricular activities and also incorporated it in the regular school curriculum. Characteristic activities of the program included researching mathematics during the Edo period and drawing manga on Japanese culture. Parental support for the program was very helpful. Approximately 30 percent of the teachers there volunteered during the Olympics and Paralympics.



After listening to the principal's explanation, we observed classes for the One School - One Country program and had a campus tour. In some lessons, students experienced Japanese traditional culture such as the tea ceremony, flower arrangement, origami and making temari balls. Other students attended a discussion-style lesson on Japan's rapid economic growth period focusing on a case study of Panasonic Corp. and other businesses. In a lesson on Japanese literature, Matsuo Basho was described in the textbook. Students made haiku in Russian. After seeing these lessons, we listened to a concert and enjoyed a Russian Cossack dance, a Japanese dance by students wearing kimonos for maikos and a chorus of an Olympic song.



The local media covered our visit. Representing our group, the executive director Sanada were interviewed. We spoke about the purpose of our visit and talked of our impressions about this visit.

After the concert, we returned to the reception room and presented the school bags containing gifts we brought from Japan. We suggested we cooperate on the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics, particularly through exchanges between the school and laboratory schools of the University of Tsukuba in the beginning. We promised with Principal Pshenitsyna that we would work to realize the plan.



During the question and answer session, Principal said, "I felt children at the school had acquired tolerance through the One School - One Country program." She meant that the activities of the program brought knowledge about Japanese culture to students and also helped them understand different cultures and people with different backgrounds. We would like to thank her and the school for the activities at the Gymnasium #15 of Sochi City and their omotenashi hospitality.



(3) Olympic Park and education and culture programs at museums in Sochi

In Olympic Park, we saw an exhibition building where regional cultures in Russia were introduced. The facility symbolizes the Sochi Olympics, which are said to be intended for integrating ethnic groups in Russia. A building with a simple appearance displays pieces associated with the Circassians, an ethnic group that had lived in this region until the mid-19th century.

At the Sochi Art Museum in the city, exhibitions were under way, titled “Education of body power” featuring sports and the Romanov family and “Sport-art-Sochi” by Sochi city administration the Russian Union of Artists, and Sochi Art Museum. Also, we saw tactile pictures for the visually impaired and exhibits using information and communication technology.



The Ostrovskiy Literary and Memorial Museum, which honors Nikolai Ostrovskiy (1904-1936), displays an image of Ostrovskiy holding his masterpiece, “How the Steel Was Tempered,” which he wrote by overcoming his total paralysis and loss of eyesight.

The Museum of Sochi had a special exhibition titled “Ancient Gold of Kuban and Black Sea Coast.” The museum covers from the Stone Age to the modern times of Sochi and Russia. It also displays items associated with the universe.

3. Conclusion

Since its establishment in 2009, RIOU has hosted various projects. It is one of the most characteristic education programs related to the Sochi Olympics. The master’s program that was opened in September 2013 and visited by IOC President Thomas Bach has greatly attracted the attention of people concerned. During our visit, we were especially impressed with the hospitality program; this educational program for hotel and service workers has been conducted since 2010.

The program made us newly recognize social education for local residents as a role of universities in Olympic education in Japan, an Olympic host country, as part of preparing for the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics in 2020. Universities in Japan are expected to provide programs for citizens’ social education in line with the recent trend of opening university campuses to the local community, in addition to educating their own students. Particularly, approximately 90 universities that helped to win the bid to host the 2020 Olympics are expected to be model schools in their respective locations.

The program of the Gymnasium #15 was more diversified than we expected. The school has been highly evaluated in Russia, such as winning an award in the art division of the Hello Sochi Festival that was held with the support of the Ministry of Sports. We want to plan exchanges between the school and laboratory schools of the University of Tsukuba on a continuous basis and reintroduce the One School - One Country program, which started with the Nagano Olympics and has been extensively conducted in Sochi, to Japan to have a similar program again to prepare for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

Regarding cultural programs that we saw in Sochi, an exhibition of paintings for the visually impaired, which coincided with the Paralympics, was particularly impressive. The event indicates the Olympic movement has various approaches. We believe it gives a very useful suggestion for the 2020 Tokyo Games.

Although the field study only had a four-day visit, the experience was very useful and the exchange with the people at all of our destinations was fruitful. We want to work to further develop Olympic education by using the network we built this time and also strengthening the cooperation among the teachers of laboratory schools who participated in the visit to Sochi.