



International  
Olympic  
Committee

The President

## Message for the Legacy Network for University Partnership in Japan

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For the founder of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), Pierre de Coubertin, the Olympic Games were much more than just a sporting event. When he revived the Olympic Games in 1894, he saw it as a way to promote greater understanding among all nations and people of the world. He was an educator himself, so from the very beginning, sport and education were linked to the Olympic Games. Coubertin wanted to make the world a better place through sport and its values. This remains the overarching mission of the Olympic Movement to this day.

With this educational mission in mind, the IOC established the Youth Olympic Games (YOG) in 2010. While the YOG shares the sports programme with the Olympic Games, it distinguishes itself through a focus on education. The YOG are a global sport competition for young people aged 15 to 18 with a specific focus on engaging them with Olympic values. The education programme is a central feature of every YOG edition and includes a variety of interactive activities, workshops and team-building exercises to give the participating athletes the opportunity to learn about the Olympic values, explore other cultures, develop the skills to become true ambassadors of their sport, and improve their training methods and performance. In this way, the YOG offer athletes a stepping stone to make an Olympic experience early in their career and support the development of athletes not only in sport, but also as responsible citizens.

Beyond the YOG, the IOC is actively pursuing its educational mission, as laid out by Coubertin nearly 130 years ago, by cooperating with universities and schools around the world. In this context, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the Legacy Network for University Partnership in Japan for the important work you are doing to promote Olympic education. Under the great leadership of President Sanada Hisashi, your partner universities and colleges, the Japan Olympic Academy, the Japanese Olympic Committee and the Japanese Paralympic Committee, are playing an essential role in inspiring the young generation with the Olympic values. Your commitment to Olympic education will ensure that the vision of Pierre de Coubertin will continue to live on in the hearts and minds of future generations.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be "Thomas Bach".