

Regarding the presentation of Ainu Culture and the Upopoy Symbolic Space for Ethnic Harmony at the Tokyo Olympics 2020

Cabinet Secretariat  
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism  
Agency for Cultural Affairs  
Hokkaido Government  
Sapporo City  
Foundation for Ainu Culture

1. Japan has been actively working on policies for the Ainu indigenous people. In April 2019, the Ainu Policy Promotion Act was passed, and in July 2020, the Symbolic Space for Ethnic Harmony (Upopoy)(\*) opened. It is extremely important to disseminate information about the Ainu both at home and abroad at the time of the Tokyo Olympics 2020.

\*Upopoy consists of the National Ainu Museum, the National Ainu Park, and a memorial site, and will play a central role in the revival and creation of Ainu culture in Japan.

2. In order to further promote Ainu culture and raise awareness of Ainu traditions, Japan will take advantage of the opportunities presented by the Marathon and Race Walk competitions in Sapporo this August and the public attention they will generate. We will do this by disseminating images of Ainu dance as part of the Olympic Games both domestically and internationally. (See attachment)

3. The Ainu dance program “Upopo yan rimse yan” (Let’s sing, let’s dance) embodies the concept of “Pararu” (Big road)(: road to unite as one), which expresses the following wish and efforts of the Ainu people: “Let’s solve various contemporary problems by uniting as one.” The dance represents specific elements of Ainu culture: civility, which is particularly cherished by the Ainu people; compassion for all things; and an attitude of connecting with the world and aiming for coexistence. This illustrates that the Ainu people have embodied the concept of the SDGs since time immemorial.

Men and women of all ages, including children, will perform 15 traditional Ainu dances from all over Hokkaido, in the aim of conveying the following message from the Ainu people to the world: “There is no meaningless existence in this world. Let’s create a more gentle and peaceful world by respecting each other.” This is in line with the Ainu Policy Promotion Act, which aims to contribute to the realization of a society in which all people live together in mutual respect for each other’s personalities and individuality. It is also consistent with the spirit of the Olympic Games and the “Tokyo 2020 Games Vision,” which attaches importance to diversity.

4. In addition, as the Tokyo Olympics 2020 is an opportunity to disseminate information about Ainu culture and Upopoy, a series of special TV programs regarding Ainu culture and Upopoy, as well as traditional Ainu dances, is scheduled to broadcast internationally on NHK WORLD-JAPAN/jibtv from July.

Note: Subject to change depending on future circumstances.

Attachment 1:

Ainu Dance on Marathon & Race Walk competition days at the Tokyo 2020 Games

(1) Outline

Venue: Open area in front of Sapporo TV Tower (Odori-Nishi 1-chome, Chuo-ku, Sapporo City, Hokkaido)

- The stage is approximately 400m<sup>2</sup>. (refer to the map attached)
- The number of performers per session is approximately 80
- The event will be held without an audience at a venue set up so that it cannot be seen from the outside to avoid crowds.

Date and time: The night of 5 August, the first day of the competition, and before the Marathon and Race Walk competitions from 5 August to 8 August

	Competition	Japanese broadcaster	Ainu dance performance
5 August	Men's 20km Race Walk (16:30-18:05)	NHK	5 August 15:30~16:10
	Evening Ainu dance Program	Undecided	5 August 19:00~19:40
6 August	Men's 50km Race Walk (05:30~10:00)	TV Asahi	<i>Ainu dance will be performed as Evening Program on 5 August</i>
	Women's 20km Race Walk (16:30~18:15)	Undecided	6 August 15:30~16:10
7 August	Women's Marathon (07:00~10:15)	Nippon Television	7 August 6:00~6:40
8 August	Men's Marathon (07:00~09:45)	NHK	8 August 6:00~6:40

On 6 August, Ainu dance will be performed only during the women's 20km race.

In addition, Ainu dances were recorded in advance at five locations including Upopoy (Akan, Kamikawa, Sapporo, Biratori, Shiraoui) and will be broadcasted as TV commercials.

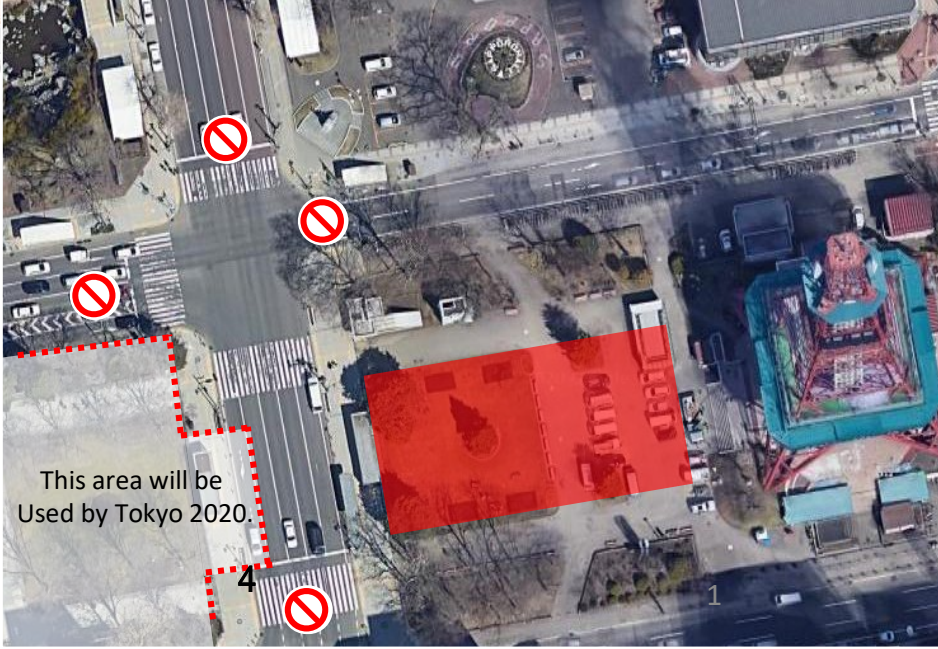
(2) This project is organized by the national government (Cabinet Secretariat, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Agency for Cultural Affairs), local governments (Hokkaido Government, Sapporo City), and the Foundation for Ainu Culture with the cooperation of the Tokyo Organizing Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games as part of the Tokyo 2020 Official Programme.

# Ainu Dance performances on Marathon and Race Walk competition days at Tokyo 2020 Games



Marathon Course

- 1st lap (Blue line)
- 2nd & 3rd lap (Red line)



## Attachment 2: Outline of the Ainu Culture Dissemination Performance

The Ainu dance program “Upopo yan rimse yan” (Let’s sing, let’s dance) embodies the concept of “Pararu” (Big road)(: road to unite as one), which expresses the following wish and efforts of the Ainu people: “Let’s solve various contemporary problems by uniting the world as one.” The dance represents specific elements of Ainu culture: civility, which is particularly cherished by the Ainu people; compassion for all things; and an attitude of connecting with the world and aiming for coexistence. This illustrates that the Ainu people have embodied the concept of the SDGs since time immemorial.

Ainu performers will dance and song for half an hour, hoping that the message from Ainu people, “There is no meaningless existence in this world. Let’s create the more gentle and peaceful world by respecting each other” will reach all over the world.

During the marathon and race walk at the Olympics, about 15 dances from each region of Hokkaido were performed for four days according to three themes, with members including local leaders, proficient dancers, beginners, children, elderly people, and people in wheelchairs. In addition, members from various regions pre-recorded Ainu dances in Akan, Kamikawa, Sapporo, Biratori, and Shiraoi.

### (1) Irankarapte:

It means “welcome, hello” in a special and polite manner. This is to express exceptional welcome to athletes and staff from all over the world with great respect.

To purify the evil spirits and welcome the guests, the performance will begin with a traditional Ainu ceremony, so that this performance will be a good encounter between you and us.

### (2) Kanto oro wa yaku sak no a=rankep sinep ka isam:

It means “nothing has come down from heaven without any role”. This represents the view of Ainu world that kamuy (spiritual/divine being) lives in everything, acknowledging and respecting the role of everyone and everything.

There is a heart that loves natural scenery and birds, a heart that values tools in daily life. There is also singing play in such daily life, which is cherished and conveyed by the Ainu people.

There is no meaningless creature in this world. The Ainu people think everything has meaning, even if it seems to be harmful to humans.

### (3) Urespa mosir: “the earth growing each other”

It expresses the Ainu way of thinking that this world is made up by growing each other and supporting each other with a wish of a world where we can respect and hold hands each other.