

1st Conference of the Rugby World Cup 2019™ Kobe Preparatory Committee

~Major comments from committee members towards realizing the successful hosting of the World Cup matches by Kobe~

(Araki, Vice Chairman) Hyogo Prefecture

-While it is important for people to have the opportunity to come into contact with rugby, at the same time, it is important to raise awareness about the World Cup through sporting events and other opportunities held within the prefecture. Hyogo Prefecture would like to offer our support.

(Tanaka, Vice Chairman) Hyogo Rugby Football Union

-We hope to bring about the success of the World Cup by continuing to conduct promotional activities from the bottom up, such as towards the children's rugby activities, while also working together with staff who have experience in operating sports competitions.

(Tamada, Vice Chairman)

-We would like to bring exposure about the hosting of the World Cup through various events held in the city, and other such opportunities.

(Mizukami, Committee Member) Kobe Steel, Ltd., Rugby Club

-In the previous fiscal year, the board of education sent out information on rugby classes towards elementary schools in select wards. This year, we hope the information will be given to all areas throughout the city, and hope to conduct an increased number of such classes.

(Makiyama, Committee Member) Japan Broadcasting Corporation, Kobe Station

-I think that the hosting of the World Cup in Kobe has the following two aspects: one is getting the entire city of Kobe come together as one by having the residents enjoy rugby together, and the other is to use the event to promote the city of Kobe to those outside of the area.

-The most important thing is for the government and the local team (Kobe Steel) to work together, and provide opportunities for the residents to see practice sessions and matches. I think we need to find ways to get people to see rugby for themselves and become interested in it, and to have them promote it to the outside world. It would be best if we can promote Kobe to the world, together with the unique hospitality that Kobe has to offer.

(Irie, Committee Member) The Kobe Shinbun

-I am looking on with interest at the number of spectators that the Top League is able to attract. I think that rugby is facing challenges in terms of attracting spectators compared to professional baseball and J-League (soccer), but I think there is significant potential for Kobe.

-I hope that the city of Kobe, the Hyogo Rugby Football Union, and the teams come together as one in working together towards the hosting of the World Cup.

-I think there is great significance in being the site for the official training camps, and look forward to seeing concerted efforts being made by the city of Kobe and also Hyogo Prefecture to build a framework that would raise the excitement towards the World Cup.

-Instead of looking just at the success of the hosting of the World Cup, since Kobe is a city that has familiarity with rugby, we should look beyond the World Cup and work towards leaving a legacy of rugby towards the future.

(Okishio, Committee Member) Kobe Medical Association

-I would like to give full support in terms of medical care. Since we can expect to have many visitors come from outside of Japan, we would like to organize a system before the World Cup that will enable us to respond appropriately to emergency situations.

(Yamaguchi, Committee Member) Kobe University, Graduate School

-It is important to increase the number of people involved in the World Cup as much as possible, such as drawing the participation of the residents and enhancing their level of involvement.

-Instead of working just within the world of rugby, we should also work together with top sports in Kobe and promote a partnership to increase their level of involvement with the World Cup.

(Uetsuki, Committee Member) Hyogo Sports Association

-In addition to raising the excitement for rugby, I think we can tie in this World Cup towards the hosting of all other sporting events by establishing the image of Kobe City and Hyogo Prefecture as being a place that promotes culture and health, sharing volunteers amongst the different sporting events, and developing people who can serve as leaders of sporting event volunteers. I hope that we can give a concerted effort in achieving partnership and developing a legacy, in a broad sense, towards the hosting of the World Cup.

(Moriya, Adviser) Kobe City Assembly

-I hope that we can work together with Hyogo Prefecture so that training camps can be held in the vicinity of Kobe City.